

smdp

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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State of the City to be presented Wednesday night

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Tickets are still available for Santa Monica's annual State of the City presentation on Wednesday afternoon at the SGI World Peace Auditorium.

The annual event is hosted by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and features a panel of City officials and/or industry experts discussing some of the city's most pressing issues.

"This year, the theme is shaping a changing world," said Chamber CEO Laurel Rosen. "Working with the City of Santa Monica, the emphasis is really looking at how we are preparing ourselves for 21st century government. How do we work together to prepare for this changing disrupted future impacting all sectors of industry and how we live and how we work?"

Panelists include City Manager Rick Cole and Anuj Gupta, Deputy City Manager and Director of Policy for the City of Santa Monica, Jesse Draper (a women-forward venture capitalist and president of Halogen Ventures), and DJ Peterson (CNN commentator and top business consultant at Longview Global Advisors).

"This year's State of the City Economic Sustainability Summit showcases trends, projects, and people that are shaping our city's economic future," said Rosen. "There are more than 9,500 businesses in Santa Monica. The Summit will help us gauge where we've been and identify where we are going and inspire us to work together to help our community thrive."

She said the it's important to facilitate communication between businesses, residents and city officials.

"There isn't another event like the state of the city," she said.

SEE **SOC** PAGE 3

Murder charges filed in stabbing death

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Stephen Lloyd Fader, 42, has been charged with murder after stabbing his mother, father and himself last week.

Fader is accused of stabbing his mother and father on Jan. 24 at their Sunset Ave. home. His mother died at the scene but his father survived and remains hospitalized. Fader was also transported to a hospital

that evening with self-inflicted stab wounds and he was officially charged last week following his release from the hospital.

"He's been detained by us since the inception of the crime but this process only began when he got out of the hospital," said Lt. Saul Rodriguez.

According to SMPD, Fader's father called officers to the home at about 6:23 a.m. Upon arrival, officers found all three individuals

with stab wounds.

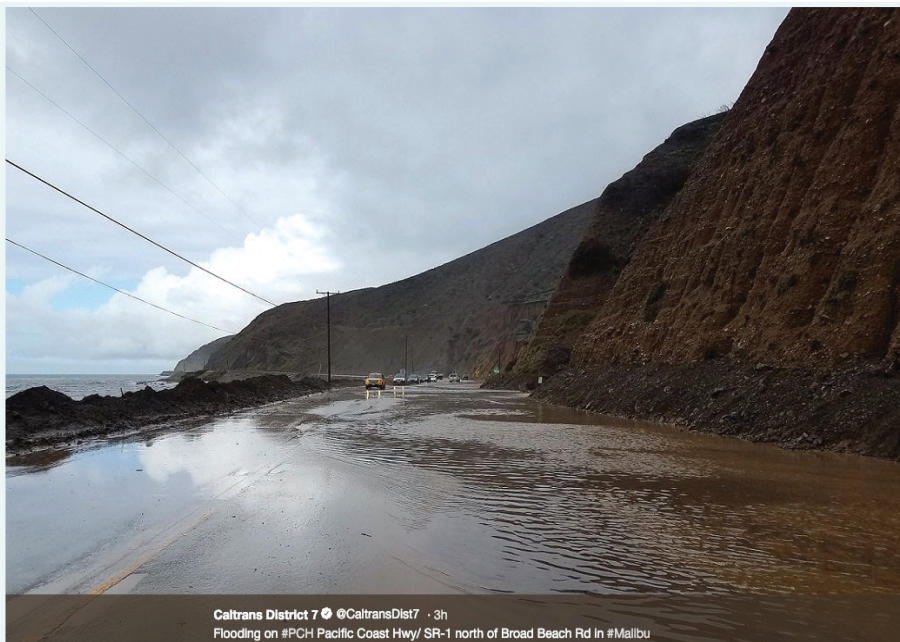
"The preliminary investigation by SMPD Detectives revealed the three individuals are related: mother, father, and adult 42 year-old son," said a statement from SMPD. "Detectives developed information leading to Stephen Fader as the suspect involved in the crime. Stephen Fader has been charged with 187(a) PC – Murder; and 664/187 PC – Attempted Murder. Fader remains in custody

pending future court proceedings with a bail option of \$2 million."

Fader has had past contacts with local law enforcement for mental health issues.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is encouraged to call Detective Elias at (310) 458-8943; Sgt. Skogh at (310) 458-8992; or the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491.

editor@smdp.com



Caltrans District 7 • @CaltransDist7 • 3h
Flooding on #PCH Pacific Coast Hwy/ SR-1 north of Broad Beach Rd in #Malibu

RAIN

CalTrans and the National Weather Service

Santa Monica was spared any serious damage during the weekend rain but the PCH was closed due to sporadic flooding and debris flows.



Caltrans District 7 • @CaltransDist7 • Feb 2

Parents petition for later school start time

ANGEL CARRERAS

Daily Press Staff Writer

Several Santa Monica parents are rounding up support to change the start of school days.

Carrie Davies, a parent of two students in the Santa Monica Malibu

Unified School District, launched a Change.org petition last week to ask the school district to move school start times for all middle and high schools to 8:30 a.m. or later for the benefit of students' well-being. The petition has over 600 signatures at time of publication.

The petition was created in response to a new schedule being piloted at Santa Monica High School that would move the school start time from 8:15 to 8:08. For students taking zero period, the start time would move from 7:12 to 7:08. Davies says the move to an

8:30 a.m. or later start time, which may seem negligible to some, would improve student's lives for the better.

"It may not seem like a big change but for a teenager, you can feel that

SEE **PETITION** PAGE 3

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Calendar

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Santa Monica Daily Press

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Wilmont Meeting

Join Wilmont members/residents at our
February monthly meeting. We will
have speakers on water and homeless-
ness and updates on City/Neighborhood
issues. Montana Ave Branch Library,
1704 Montana Ave., 6:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Gentle Yoga at Fairview

In a class that is safe for seniors and
beginners, as well as relaxing and
stress-releasing for pros, veteran
instructor Raghavan guides you through
a gentle session of yoga and meditation.
Space is limited. Please bring a mat or
towel to the program. Fairview Branch
Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 6:30 p.m.

Black History Month Inspirational Movie Series: Lean On Me

A dedicated but tyrannical Joe Clark is
appointed the principal of a decaying
inner city school and he is determined
to improve by any and all means. (108
min.) Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico
Blvd, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Ocean Park Film Series: A Raisin in the Sun (1961)

Film historian Elaina Friedrichsen
screens and introduces this film starring
Sidney Poitier about a poor black family
who discovers they may receive a sub-
stantial insurance payment which could
bring them financial salvation. (Film
runtime: 128 min.) Ocean Park Branch
Library, 2601 Main St, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Chinese New Year Crafternoon: Year of the Pig

Find out what animal represents you in
the Chinese Zodiac and make crafts to
celebrate the year of the Pig! For kids
and families. Main Library, 601 Santa
Monica Blvd. 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Movie: The Leisure Seeker (2018)

Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland star
as a runaway senior couple, who set out
on a road trip in their beat-up old RV to
visit the Ernest Hemingway Home in Key

West. (112 min.) Fairview Branch Library,
2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 - 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

Westside Writers Mingle

A monthly meeting of SCBWI, an organi-
zation of children's writers and illustra-
tors. Open to all. What are the appropri-
ate and inappropriate topics and where
do you draw the line in middle grade and
young adult stories? Ocean Park Branch
Library, 2601 Main St. 7 - 8:45 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting

The Santa Monica Planning Commission
normally meets on the first and third
Wednesdays of every month in the City
Council Chamber. City Hall, 1685 Main
St. 7 p.m.

Field Sports Advisory Council Regular Meeting

Regular monthly meeting of the Field
Sports Advisory Council (FSAC). FSAC
is an advisory council to the Recreation
and Parks Commission. Virginia Avenue
Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

GED/HiSET Prep Class

Get prepared to take the Language Arts
subject test of the GED or HiSET. Main
Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 6:45 -
8:45 p.m.

Venice Chamber Happy Hour at Cryohealthcare

Join us at our monthly happy hour
at Cryohealthcare! Mix and mingle at
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in health, athletic performance, and
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use an indirect method of cooling nor-
mal room air to cryogenic temperatures
of -220 F, in between enjoying deli-
cious drinks and bites with colleagues
and friends. Members: \$5. Prospective
members: \$10. For more information
and to register, visit www.venicecham-
ber.net. 6 - 8 p.m. 4256 Lincoln Blvd.,
Marina del Rey, CA

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

SOC
FROM PAGE 1

“This is the most important event where you’re bringing industry, city leaders and residents to understand what’s being done and what the goals moving forward are to find solutions to important issues.

She said more than 700 people are expected to be in the audience. “It’s important for the business community to join with city leaders and understand the challenges we’re facing today and how we’re going to move as a city,” she said. “And to hear from the mayor and city manager about what they’re doing to address some of our most pressing

issues today.” The 9th annual State of the City Economic Sustainability Summit will be held on Wednesday, February 6 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 525 Wilshire Blvd. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and the program begins at 5 p.m. A networking reception with exhibitors and sustainable tastings from local restaurants will take place immediately following the

event. Tickets are \$50 for Santa Monica Chamber members, \$60 for non-members, and \$10 for students and seniors. More information is available at www.smchamber.com/SOTC or by calling (310) 393-9825. SMDP Staff Writer Madeleine Pauker contributed to this story.

editor@smdp.com

PETITION
FROM PAGE 1

difference,” Davies said in a phone call. “Science is clear that adolescents experience a shift in their natural sleep cycle that causes them to fall asleep later,” Davies continued in an email to the Daily Press. “Since they also need 8.5-9.5 hours sleep each night, early school start times contribute to an epidemic of sleep-deprived teens.” This sleep deprivation, Davies says — backed up with research articles from organizations such as the American Medical

Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the RAND Corporation and American Academy of Sleep Medicine, who all advocate for later school start times — leads to negative health and learning impacts such as impaired cognitive performance, impeded judgment and decision-making ability, and mood swings and behavior problems. The petition names numerous positives associated with later start times, including being more efficient and alert in class, having greater motivation and a significant increase in academic performance, with benefits roughly twice as great in disadvantaged students. In response to the petition, the SMMUSD

school board released a statement from Board President Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein who said all schools currently start at 8:15 a.m. or later but some middle and high schools offer an early “Period A” that starts before the first regular class of the day. “We strive to give families choices and for some the Period A works for parent and student schedules,” he said. “Period A is optional and does not reflect the regular start times. These classes are available for students who have extracurricular activities, need an extra class, or may need to work part-time or care for a sibling after school.” Tahvildaran-Jesswein said the Board is

continuing to study school start times in collaboration with teachers, parents and students. “Adjusting times require consideration of various programs and services that may be impacted including bus transportation, extra-curricular opportunities, including athletics, music and arts, child care, and consideration for the impact on working parents,” he said. “The difference of the time start for regular days for our middle and high school students is currently 10-15 minutes earlier than the recommended 8:30 am start, as suggested in the petition.” angel@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide
Guthy-Renker, Which Sold Proactiv Acne Medicine and Wen Hair Products, Settles \$8.5 Million Automatic-Renewal Case with California Prosecutors

Guthy-Renker LLC, one of the world’s largest direct marketing companies, has agreed to change its websites and sales practices to protect California consumers. The El Segundo-headquartered company also will pay \$1.2 million in penalties and up to \$7.3 million in restitution to customers who got automatically-renewed charges without their consent. The terms are part of a final court judgment negotiated with a task force of local prosecutors that included the Santa Monica City Attorney’s Office and the district attorneys of four California counties: Santa Clara, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Santa Cruz. The task force learned that Guthy-Renker was allegedly charging its customers for repeated shipments of Proactiv and Wen products, without their prior consent as required by law. “Automatic renewal is one of the critical areas in consumer protection today,” said Santa Monica Chief Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky, head of the Consumer Protection Division. “Consumers always have the right to know where their money is going.”

THE JUDGMENT REQUIRES GUTHY-RENKER TO HAVE FULL TRANSPARENCY WITH CONSUMERS ABOUT AUTOMATICALLY RENEWING PAYMENTS. THE COMPANY NOW MUST:

- Conspicuously disclose automatic-renewal terms;
- Get consumers’ explicit consent for renewals, through a separate check-box;
- Send consumers a clear summary of the auto-renewal terms after they pay; and
- Allow consumers to easily cancel the subscriptions.

Guthy-Renker paid nearly \$8 million to settle another recent lawsuit over its automatic renewals, for buyers of Proactiv products prior to July 2014. In that class action case, *Habelito v. Guthy-Renker LLC*, the company paid out \$2.5 million in restitution and over \$5 million in attorneys’ fees to the plaintiffs. In this case, Guthy-Renker will pay restitution to customers who were re-charged at least once without their consent: Wen customers charged after May 2012, and Proactiv customers charged between July 2014

and August 2016. “The separate check-box is the key,” said Radinsky. “Otherwise, it’s too confusing. Companies have too many ways to hide the auto-renewal terms.” The judgment was filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court on February 1, 2019. Online “subscriptions” and other automatically recurring charges have proliferated in the U.S. in recent years. Some renewals come after “free trials,” where consumers need to cancel in time to avoid the charges. Federal and state law requires businesses to make these automatic renewals clear to consumers, and to get their “express, affirmative consent” - before collecting any money. However, many businesses still don’t follow this law. Guthy-Renker is the latest in a series of judgments against leading online companies brought by California prosecutors, resulting in penalties, restitution, and injunctions: In October 2018, the same task force, led by Santa Monica, obtained a \$1.5 million settlement against Spark Networks, the parent company of dating websites JDate and Christian Mingle, for similar automatic-renewal violations in California. In January 2018, the Santa Monica City Attorney helped a similar task force of California prosecutors obtain a \$2.2 million judgment against eHarmony, one of the nation’s most popular dating websites, for violating the automatic-renewal laws. In August 2017, the Santa Monica City Attorney obtained a \$3.6 million settlement with Beachbody, one of the largest sellers of exercise videos, supplements, and weight-loss programs. That settlement included the first injunction in California to require the separate check-box to ensure that consumers knowingly consent before they are enrolled in auto-renewals. “The Santa Monica City Attorney’s Office is committed to protecting consumers from unfair and unlawful business practices,” said City Attorney Lane Dilg. “This joint effort is an important victory to ensure that consumers will not be subject to recurring charges without their clear approval.” Santa Monica Deputy City Attorney Gary Rhoades also worked on the case. The settlement applies only to Guthy-Renker, and not to other entities selling Proactiv or Wen products. The case addressed the company’s sales practices but not the products themselves. The Santa Monica City Attorney’s Consumer Protection Division promotes fairness through awareness and enforcement of the law. To report a consumer issue, go to smconsumer.org or call 310-458-8336.

SUBMITTED BY MIRANDA IGLESIAS, PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Unfair lawsuit

To the Editor:

Did you recently receive a letter and email from SMMUSD about a lawsuit called de Baca , et al. vs. SMMUSD? Are you wondering what it's about?

This group of recent and current SMMUSD parents wants to know: why aren't Ms. de Baca and her co-plaintiff using the simple process the District has for any fee complaints?

We don't know. What we do know is that unless we opt out of having our contact information released, the lawyer behind that suit will try to assemble us all into a class action lawsuit against our own school District . The plaintiff Ms. de Baca is a longtime board member of the Pico Neighborhood Association (PNA) with Oscar de la Torre and Maria Loya. Do those names ring a bell? Mr. de la Torre is a longtime SMMUSD School Board member, and Maria Loya is his wife. She is also the name behind a very expensive lawsuit ongoing against the City, Pico Neighborhood Association and Loya vs. City of Santa Monica.

What else do these two lawsuits have in common, besides the fact that we, the taxpayers, are stuck with the bill? They were both filed by attorney Kevin Shenkman, who is working closely with Ms. Loya and Mr. de la Torre in the litigation against the City. This lawyer is suing cities and school districts up and down California, making millions in the process.

Kevin Shenkman is a Malibu parent. Why is he working on a case that will take dollars out of the classroom? Why isn't his friend School Board Member Mr. de la Torre working to oppose or mediate this claim to protect the District he supposedly represents?

We'd like to know what Board Member de la Torre's priorities are – they don't appear to be protecting District resources to best serve the children of SMMUSD.

We recommend that everyone OPT OUT of the class action lawsuit Mr. Shenkman is putting together.

And next time there's a School Board election, we all need to step up so our kids can have better representation from their elected officials.

Sincerely,

GRACE PHILLIPS, Current SMMUSD Parent

JOE PERTEL, Current SMMUSD Parent

RAQUEL VALLEJO, Current SMMUSD Parent

ERIC SHEPNICK, SMMUSD Graduate and Current Parent

JILL BOBERG, Recent SMMUSD Parent

STEFANIE GAZZANA, Current SMMUSD Parent

JULIE PEARL SLATER, Current SMMUSD Parent

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BEVERLY HILLS

Stars start to mingle ahead of Oscars nominees' luncheon

Glenn Close, songwriter Diane Warren and "Free Solo" climber Alex Honnold are among the stars mingling ahead of this year's luncheon for Oscar nominees.

Close, Honnold and director Phil Lord spoke in a circle for about 20 minutes as other guests, including best original song nominee Warren and actor Chris O'Dowd, entered the gathering at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Close sampled appetizers and Lord wondered aloud if it was too early for a cocktail. The event includes a class photo of this year's nominees.

The private luncheon is a chance for nominees to get to know one another ahead of the Feb. 24 Academy Awards ceremony. It comes without fear of winning or losing, and producers often offer tips for how to navigate the ceremony.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO

Assemblymember Bloom Introduces Legislation to Modernize Animal Blood Banking in California

Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) introduced Assembly Bill 366, also known as the California Pet Blood Bank Modernization Act, aimed at allowing animal blood banks in California to utilize a donor blood collection system for dogs and cats.

Existing California law requires animal blood banks to collect blood exclusively from so-called "closed colonies" – which confine donor animals to cages and kennels for months or years. By contrast, other states allow blood banks to collect animal blood in a community-based, voluntary setting. These programs don't rely on confined animals and lead to greater access and reduced waiting times, which can be critical in emergency situations.

Volunteer animal blood donor programs have now been established in many University-based veterinary teaching hospitals, including UC Davis, as well as at larger urban veterinary referral and emergency clinics.

"We can do so much better for the animals in our state," said Assemblymember Bloom. "California's pet blood banking system is outdated and inhumane; this bill balances animal welfare and the need for safe, essential animal blood through voluntary, community-based collection methods."

"California has the opportunity to showcase its ethical and humane treatment of animals by allowing a dog and cat volunteer blood donor program, so that these animals are not held captive in cages," said Shannon Keith, California attorney and president of Rescue + Freedom Project. "Every other state in the U.S. allows this volunteer model, and it has proven not only successful, but efficient and a wonderful way to enhance the human-animal bond."

Richard Bloom represents California's 50th Assembly District, which comprises the communities of Agoura Hills, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Hollywood, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Topanga, West Hollywood, and West Los Angeles.

SUBMITTED BY NARDOS GIRMA, OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMAN RICHARD BLOOM

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What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Can we be Americans first?

Wisdom comes from experience. Experience comes from a lack of wisdom.

I did a lot of stupid, okay really REALLY stupid things in college. I was immature, insensitive, arrogant, condescending, egotistical, a hormonal bag of lust and certainly there are things that I think about and shudder with the memory of. I think most of us who lived through their teens and 20s have things they would prefer to never speak of, or see the light of day again.

The person I was 30 years ago, is not the man I am today. How many of us are? And what does it say about a person if they haven't changed in 30 years?

Those freewheeling college days of beer and cigarettes were a blast. I have many fond memories of them. I also have moments of sheer humiliation, embarrassment and flat out mortification. That's what our 20's are supposed to be on some level. We're supposed to be individuating from our families, trying new things, exploring our likes and dislikes. We're supposed to make a lot of stupid mistakes to learn from.

So the current Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia is caught up in a scandal that is trying to paint him as a vile racist because a couple decades ago, he did something profoundly stupid. Or not. He can't recall now if the picture on his yearbook page are him or not, because the people shown are in either in full blackface or a kkk hood.

I'm not a person of color, so I'm treading as lightly as I possibly can while trying to explore a tough topic. The history of blackface and the KKK is well known and certainly has been hurtful over the past couple of centuries or so. As a form of 'entertainment' blackface has been out of favor since around the 40's.

As an attempt at humor blackface doesn't just fall flat, it's acutely unfunny in today's environment of equality. What I'm curious about is, how should we judge art, actions and events? Through what lens should we evaluate or more properly, re-evaluate, the past?

Yes the governor did a stupid thing – blackface or a kkk hood in college is inane. Was it behind a drunken party? Probably. And there in lies a factor that I think is important. The picture was not taken at a Klan rally, or one of those terroristic events they held on a regular basis. The context of this picture is of stupid college kids, being drunk and/or stupid in what appears to be a college dormitory.

I think context matters when we are

judging someone or something. There are few absolutes in this world and when we try to impose them we get into trouble.

Should we judge the governor? Yes. How so? He's handled this stupidly. He should have come out and said, "Yup, I was 20 and drunk and did a stupid thing that I would not do today. I did not know better, but today I do. That does not reflect the person I am or the values I hold." He'd have been lambasted for a day or two, and people would move on. Instead he waffled, and backtracked, and in doing so, is proving himself a public relations buffoon.

But what does this have to do with Santa Monica? Well it's the environment we live in. People are judged now by the most exacting of standards. Our past mistakes are judged by today's standards and that prevents us from sincere consideration, and leads to the goal of who can get to the outrage fastest.

I don't think it is helpful to solving problems or handling complex emotional topics like race, sexuality or gender.

There are many times as a gay man that someone says or does something that is hurtful but unintended. I have found that it does not serve me to go into outrage mode, I am better served and so are they, when I explain and explore why something is hurtful or inconsiderate. When I can explain to them the hurt, the history and how it impacts me, most of the time, I receive a sincere apology and a changed set of behaviors.

The current controversy will likely end badly for the governor of Virginia (and things aren't looking too good for his African American Lt. Governor who has now been accused of sexual assault!) but hopefully it will be a teaching moment for that state, as I hope it is for our city.

We are all Americans and we need to remember that first. One of the things that made the Greatest Generation was their pulling together in times of strife. Yes we had race problems then as well, far worse than today, but we were still Americans pulling together to stop injustice.

Hopefully we'll get back to that soon.

David Pizarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpizarra

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NEW YORK

Tesla buys battery technology company

Tesla is buying the battery company Maxwell Technologies Inc. about \$218 million in stock. The deal gives Tesla a boost in battery technology as it tries to cut costs and mass produce electric cars. Those improvements involve improving battery capacity and cutting down on recharging time.

David Lyle, the chief financial officer at Maxwell Technologies Inc. told analysts last month that because of recent technological developments, the San Diego company expected to form new partnerships within six months.

Tesla Inc. expects to deliver 360,000 to 400,000 vehicles this year, a growth rate of 45 percent to 65 percent compared with 2018. The company recently announced a 7 percent cut to its workforce.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Santa Monica Daily Press

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More Grammy nominees makes winning a greater challenge

KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

When the Grammys added more nominees to its top four categories, the Recording Academy said the expansion from five to eight nominees would add more “flexibility” for voters. But for those artists competing for the night’s biggest awards, the change made it a little harder for any one nominee to win, statistically speaking.

For the first time in the history of the awards, eight nominees will compete in album of the year, record of the year, song of the year and best new artist. The change came after the Grammys were criticized for the lack of female winners on last year’s awards show and often rap and R&B artists don’t end up winning in the all-genre categories even when they are considered favorites.

Here’s a look at how expanding the number of nominees will affect the 2019 Grammys, airing live Sunday from Los Angeles.

ADDING DIVERSITY

When the nominations came out in December, the immediate effect was that women were a majority of the nominees in two of the top categories. In record of the year, five nominees are rap songs.

Neil Portnow, the academy’s president and CEO, said they wanted to expand the all-genre categories because those were the categories that got the most entries and had the largest number of voting members. Academy voters are performers, songwriters, producers, engineers, musicians and others

currently working in the music industry. Last year, the academy also invited hundreds of new people to become voting members, which can also affect voting this year.

Portnow said adding three more slots for voters to choose from would “broaden the ability of entries to be more diverse,” not only in terms of gender and ethnicity but also the genres of music.

“I do think it’s had the positive change and impact we’re looking for,” he said.

ADDING COMPETITION

But just increasing the nominees doesn’t necessarily mean women and rap artists have a greater chance of winning. In fact, adding competition has made it harder for any single nominee to win, explains Ben Zauzmer, an awards analyst. Zauzmer is a freelance journalist who works for The Hollywood Reporter and has been using data to predict, often correctly, the winners of the Academy Awards.

Zauzmer says that these award shows are often hard to predict because they don’t release their vote totals, so he can’t predict winners with certainty, but uses logic and voting patterns to make speculations.

By increasing the number of nominees, the minimum percentage of the total votes an artist or song or album needs in order to win falls from a little over 20 percent to a little over 12.5 percent. But Zauzmer explains those numbers are misleading because that only happens when there is

SEE GRAMMYS PAGE 7



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GRAMMYS

FROM PAGE 6

a near perfect tie among all the nominees, which is very unlikely, Zauzmer said.

“Even though you probably need fewer votes to win, there’s now a lot more competition in order to get those votes,” he said. “My best guess is this will reward songs or artists that have a truly devoted following.”

UNEQUAL ODDS

In the best new artist category, six female acts (H.E.R., Margo Price, Dua Lipa, Bebe Rexha, Chloe x Halle and Jorja Smith) are up against a male singer and male rock group (Luke Combs and Greta Van Fleet), which looks like good odds for a woman to win.

“If we assume that every artist has an equal chance of winning that category, it would be a 75 percent chance that a female artist wins new artist,” Zauzmer said. “That said, starting from the assumption that every artist has an equal probability is likely incorrect.”

For instance, one new artist nominee, the R&B singer H.E.R., is also nominated for album of the year, which would indicate a higher probability of being a Grammy voter favorite, Zauzmer noted.

VOTE SPLITTING

The Grammys’ top categories are different than an awards show like the Oscars, in which voters rank their best picture nominees. Zauzmer said that a ranked choice voting system often results in rewarding movies that have a lot of consensus among the voters.

“A voting system that allows each person to vote for one favorite tends to reward songs

that have a truly passionate following,” he said.

By expanding the nominees, vote splitting along genre lines or between two artists or songs that are similar becomes a real risk, Zauzmer said. Record of the year nominees include five rappers — Drake, Cardi B, Kendrick Lamar, Post Malone and Childish Gambino — competing against Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper’s “Shallow,” Brandi Carlile’s “The Joke,” and the Zedd-Maren Morris-Grey collaboration “The Middle.” That’s a scenario where a split vote could hurt a rap song’s chances of winning.

Portnow noted that vote splitting happens whether there are five or eight nominees and is always a dynamic of the voting process.

UPSETTING RESULTS

But one long-term effect of the expansion of the nominees in these categories is a greater chance for upsets, Zauzmer said, although he doesn’t expect that to happen right away.

“I think a lot of people expect ‘Shallow’ to win at least one in the song or record categories,” he said. “But let’s give it time. If you watch the Grammys for the next decade, two decades, three decades, I do believe in the long run more nominees should lead to more surprises. The fact that you probably don’t need as many votes to win, the fact that some nominees might be splitting votes with each other who might otherwise be favorites, that can definitely lead to more so-called upsets.”

Portnow said until the results are announced, there’s no way to know how the additional nominees might affect the voting long-term. But he said they will definitely be looking at the results and evaluating how the process worked.

“Time will tell,” Portnow said.



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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON JANUARY 23, AT ABOUT 9:20 P.M.

Officers responded to a radio call for service at the Apple Store - 1415 3rd Street Promenade - regarding a shoplifting. Officers spoke with loss prevention staff. Officers were told a male subject entered the store and selected a pair of EarPods from the sales floor and placed them in his pant pocket. The subject walked out of the store without paying for the merchandise. The subject was detained outside of the store and the merchandise was recovered. The store was desirous of prosecution. Amir Abdul-Hakeem, 29, from Philadelphia, was arrested for shoplifting. Bail was set at \$5,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To Calls For Service.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Encampment 1500blk 4th St 6:59 a.m.
Indecent exposure 2700blk Main St 8:53 a.m.
Battery 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 9:42 a.m.
Suicide 1300blk Grant St 10:46 a.m.
Petty theft 1500blk 4th St 10:55 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:02 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:03 a.m.
Lewd activity 32nd St / Pearl St 11:14 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:17 a.m.
Petty theft 700blk Pier Ave 11:29 a.m.
Petty theft 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:52 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 900blk 20th St 12:00 p.m.
Drunk driving 18th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:05 p.m.
Injured person 2400blk 2nd St 12:09 p.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries Neilson Way / Pacific St 12:35 p.m.
Grand theft auto 900blk Ocean Ave 12:45 p.m.
Indecent exposure 00blk Seaview Ter 1:12 p.m.
Speeding Ocean Ave / Broadway 1:22 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1500blk Lincoln Blvd

1:31 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1300blk Yale St 1:41 p.m.
Theft suspect in custody 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 3:02 p.m.
Construction noise 2nd St / Ashland Ave 3:39 p.m.
Hit and run Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 5:10 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1100blk 9th St 5:46 p.m.
Threats /s 1500blk Franklin St 6:31 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 6:44 p.m.
Person down 25th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:54 p.m.
Burglary 1500blk Hill St 7:12 p.m.
Fight 1700blk Ocean Ave 7:27 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 2300blk Ashland Ave 7:33 p.m.
Auto burglary 2600blk 28th St 7:35 p.m.
Trespassing 1300blk 15th St 7:44 p.m.
Encampment 800blk Pacific St 8:19 p.m.
Party complaint 1200blk 9th St 10:26 p.m.
Battery 100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:33 p.m.
Overdose 600blk Strand St 10:51 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To Calls For Service.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Emergency Medical Service 2000blk Ocean Ave 12:47 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:23 a.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 2:41 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 3:47 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:39 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 6:25 a.m.
EMS 3100blk Neilson Way 6:31 a.m.
EMS 800blk 4th St 6:42 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 11th St 6:57 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Stewart St 7:01 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 8:11 a.m.
Odor of natural gas 900blk 12th St 8:12 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2600blk Main St 10:39 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Grant St 10:46 a.m.
EMS 100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:49 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:02 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 9th St 11:12 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:16 a.m.
EMS 2400blk 2nd St 12:07 p.m.

Traffic collision with injury Neilson Way / Pacific St 12:35 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Arizona Ave 1:00 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1900blk 11th St 1:43 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2400blk Centinela Ave 2:49 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1400blk 6th St 3:23 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:35 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Euclid St 6:20 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1400blk 7th St 6:23 p.m.
EMS 900blk 9th St 6:43 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Wilshire Blvd 6:54 p.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 7:10 p.m.
Automatic alarm 300blk 23rd St 7:12 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 2nd St 7:23 p.m.
Broken water main 18th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:34 p.m.
EMS 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:52 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 800blk Pacific St 9:30 p.m.
EMS 900blk Euclid St 10:27 p.m.

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Draw Date: 2/2
10 17 18 43 65
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 204M



Draw Date: 2/1
2 37 48 66 68
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 139M



Draw Date: 2/2
3 34 37 45 47
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 16M



Draw Date: 2/3
15 16 31 33 34



Draw Date: 2/3
MIDDAY: 7 7 0
Draw Date: 2/3
EVENING: 1 3 2



Draw Date: 2/3
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:44.23

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WORD UP!

rigmarole
noun [rig-muh-rohl]
1. an elaborate or complicated procedure: to go through the rigmarole of a formal dinner.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LALEE

Number Cruncher
■ A Dunkin' Donuts bacon, egg and cheese English muffin breakfast sandwich (100 grams) contains 290 calories, 90 from fat. It has 10 grams of total fat, or 15 percent of the recommended total fat intake for a 2,000-calorie daily diet, according to the Calorie Count database.
■ It also contains 70 milligrams of cholesterol (23 percent); 700 milligrams of sodium (29 percent); 32 grams of total carbohydrates (11 percent); 7 grams of dietary fiber (28 percent); 2 grams of sugar and 16 grams of protein.

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■ The body's bone marrow produces 3 million blood cells every second – while destroying the same amount.

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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

	A	T	M	S		S	C	A	M		B	B	L	
A	R	R	O	W		A	L	T	O		A	L	A	N
R	E	E	S	E		L	E	O	N		K	A	T	E
M	A	K	E	A	S	T	A	N	D		E	C	H	O
		S	T	L		R	E	A	W	A	K	E	N	
W	H	O		E	E	E		S	Y	N	C			
O	A	K	T	R	E	E	S			W	A	S	P	S
L	I	R	A		P	R	I	O	R		K	E	E	L
F	L	A	K	E				R	O	U	L	E	T	T
		E	L	M	S			H	B	O		S	E	W
S	P	E	A	K	O	U	T		I	C	E			
O	R	A	L		B	R	E	A	K	A	R	U	L	E
L	O	G	O		B	E	R	G		L	O	R	E	N
O	S	L	O		E	L	S	E		E	D	G	E	D
	E	E	K		D	Y	E	S		S	E	E	K	

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

4	9	7	3	6	5	8	2	1
8	5	1	2	9	7	3	6	4
6	2	3	8	1	4	9	5	7
7	8	4	1	5	9	6	3	2
9	6	5	4	2	3	1	7	8
3	1	2	6	7	8	4	9	5
1	3	9	5	4	2	7	8	6
5	4	8	7	3	6	2	1	9
2	7	6	9	8	1	5	4	3

2		8		5		1		
						7		6
5			9		1			3
		9		1			3	7
			4		2			
4	3			6		5		
9			6		3			5
8		2						
		4		8		9		2

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS
1 Heroic saga
5 Durable trousers fabric
10 Twirled
14 Nevada casino city
15 Egret cousin
16 Leaning Tower city
17 Dog's warning sound
18 Get out of bed
19 Line on a list
20 Sure thing in a courtroom
23 Get off your feet
24 Opposite of post-
25 Lukewarm
28 ___ Majesty (address for a queen)
31 "You're wrong about me!"
35 Spoken, as an exam
36 Old TV antenna
38 Pester
39 Beatles or Beach Boys
42 Poetic tribute
43 Chinese temple
44 Solemn ceremony
45 Passover meal
47 Poet's "before"
48 Brother of Moses
49 Caviar, e.g.
51 ___-shaped (oval)
52 Capture/escape activity
61 "How sad!"
62 Evening dresses
63 Give off
64 Sulk
65 Bert's *Sesame Street* pal

DOWN
1 Therefore
2 Criminal, to a cop
3 Concerning, in memos
4 Strand around a cob
5 Repetitive cry
6 Group of cattle
7 Eye part
8 Snack
9 Slightly ahead
10 With zesty seasoning
11 Bread with a pocket
12 Puts to work
13 Specify
21 Lend a hand to
22 Songbird's sound
25 Bulls, in Barcelona
26 Wear away over time
27 Walked back and forth
28 Line of bushes
29 Blunder
30 ___ Janeiro, Brazil
32 Radio booth sign
33 ___ Domingo (Caribbean capital)
34 Poet Nash
36 Get ___ (ace the test)
37 Pie ___ mode
40 Kitchen cover-up
41 Boastful ones
46 Pencil tip
48 Era
50 Landscaper's tool
51 Double-curve letters
52 Pitch a tent
53 Soothing ingredient in lotions
54 Gift wrapper's roll
55 Extra
56 Holds the deed to
57 Army group
58 French female friend
59 After-dinner candy
60 Approx. takeoff hours



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TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 5)

This year starts off like a Sheryl Crow song in that “every day is winding road,” but there’s a real sense that you’re getting closer to regular contentment, and you’ll achieve it, mostly through the building of healthy daily habits. Big strokes of luck will drop in, but it’s day-to-day improvements that will matter. Scorpio and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 46, 8, 13, 40 and 11.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

City dwellers know that to drown out the noise everywhere, you have to listen to your own. White noise can help you sleep. Talk can comfort you. Beats can move you. Choose your sounds; choose your environment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You can tell when someone is being competitive with you, and unless you’re actually in an official competition, there’s no reason to let the race go on. Sidestep. Don’t engage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

There’s something that won’t be right until you fix it, and the time to fix it has come. As the Roman poet Horace said, “He who postpones the hour of living rightly is like the rustic who waits for the river to run out before he crosses.”

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

One secret to your success is that you have talent, and yet you don’t rely on it. Consistent work is more important than talent, and the magic mix of both things together makes for an absolute unstoppable success.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

To avoid a thing is a way of focusing on it, and thus attracting it. So avoidance is attraction. Instead, keep your eye on the prize. Imagine what you do want, not what you don’t.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You’re skeptical, and it’s a beneficial quality right now. There’s too much out there to believe and it can’t all be true. Someone needs to sort it out, and that someone is you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Loud and clear is a good way to communicate; it usually works mighty fine. But if you have to choose between the two, take clear. It will outdo loud even at the faintest volume.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Though it may seem that you’ve been at a certain stage for a while now, you cannot be contained where you are. You’re extending your spirit beyond it, outside it, above it and around it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You have an excellent sense about how to best lead people today. You’ll get a feeling about when you should go easy and when you should push things along, perhaps with a hard truth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

It’s said that crime doesn’t pay, and yet there are still criminals at large who would beg to differ – if it didn’t count as an official confession. But what about honesty? Of course honesty pays, immediately if not amply.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You’ve censored yourself to accommodate those younger, older, more formal, more pious... but when you’re at home with your nearest and dearest, you want to feel you can just be yourself. Lift the ban.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Maybe you won’t solve a problem by walking away from it, but you’ll solve it after you walk away from it. Movement and a new environment will juice your mind’s problem-solving capabilities.

Happy New Earth Pig Year!

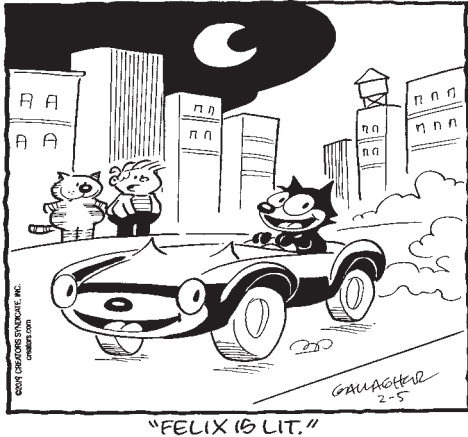
According to myth, the Jade Emperor invited a number of animals to his party and the order in which they arrived became the order of the Chinese Zodiac. The pig was last because either she overslept or was busy rebuilding her house, depending on whom you believe. Nonetheless, her omen bodes well for a year of abundance and progress.

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Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



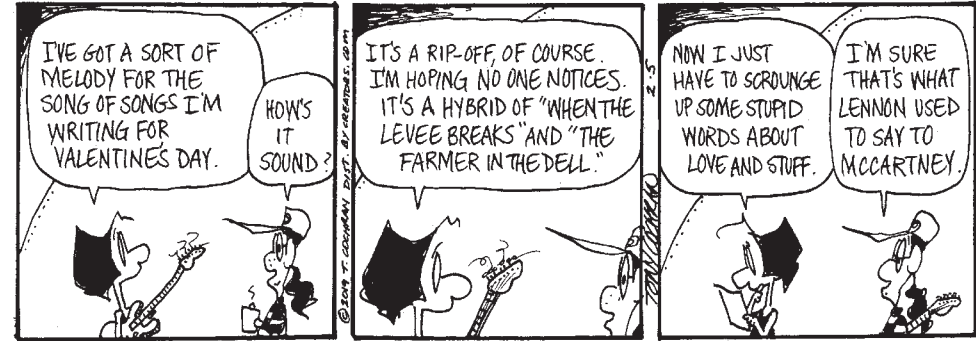
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



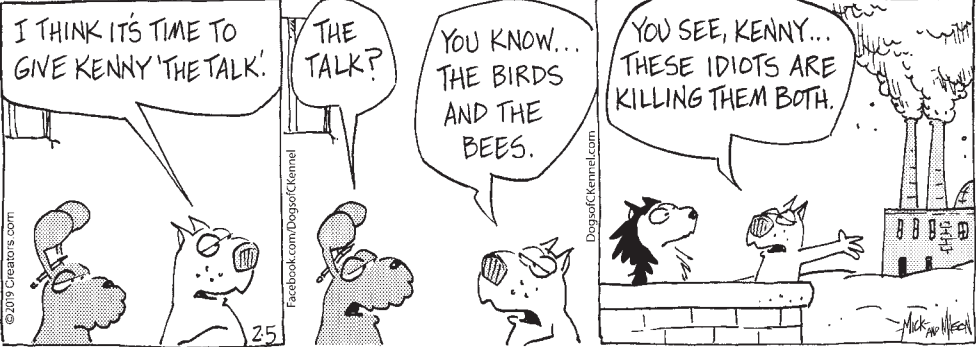
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



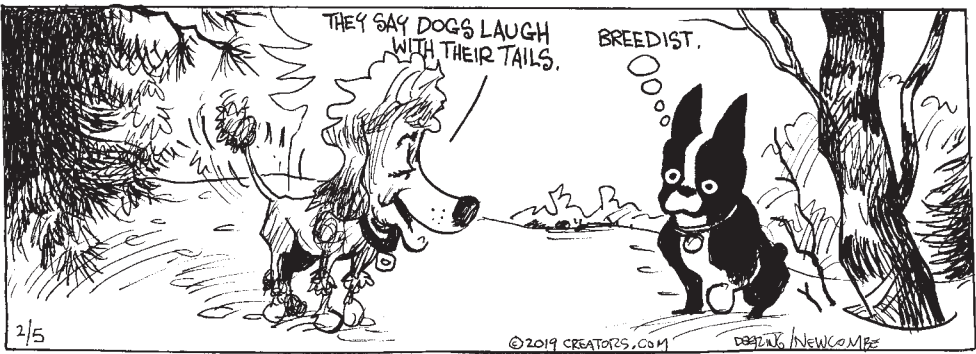
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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Employment

engineering, 2D and 3D, 3D math skill, multiplayer development, and core understanding of Mecanim animation, using Git, Perforce, Jira. Must have published a mobile game on Android or IOS. Email resumes to nicola@superbitmachine.com

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Plane breaks apart over California neighborhood, 5 killed

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

Dave Elfver was getting ready to go to a friend's house to watch the Super Bowl when he heard a whining sound in his Southern California neighborhood "like a motorcycle going a hundred miles per hour."

Then, he said, came the explosion from a twin-engine plane that broke apart in flight and crashed, setting a home on fire in the Los Angeles suburb of Yorba Linda, killing five people and injuring two.

"The whole house shook. I thought it was an earthquake, but the whining sound didn't make any sense."

Elfver, 75, said he ran to his backyard and saw a house engulfed in flames. He ran toward it along with a crowd of neighbors, and only then he saw an airplane wing in the street.

"I didn't realize what it was until I ran around the corner," he said Monday.

Across the street, one of the columns of a neighbor's home was collapsed and debris from the plane was strewn throughout the street. Another home had broken windows.

The four people on the ground who died were all in the house that burned. The pilot was also killed and was the only person on the plane, Orange County Sheriff's Lt. Cory Martino told reporters.

Martino said the dead occupants of the home were two males and two females but he did not further identify them.

The Cessna 414A, which can carry up to eight people, took off from the Fullerton Municipal Airport about 12 miles (19 kilometers) west of the blaze, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

According to preliminary radar data, the plane reached an altitude of about 7,800 feet (2,377 meters) and then made a rapid descent, said Elliott Simpson, an aviation accident investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board.

The debris field spanned about four blocks, he said.

The main cabin of the airplane and one engine came to rest at the bottom of a ravine in the backyard of a house and the other engine landed on a street, creating a hole, Simpson said.

"During the impact sequence one house caught fire and that's where we have the four fatalities," he said.

It was not immediately clear what set the two-story house ablaze. The property where the fuselage ended up is about three houses down from the home that burned.

Aerial footage from news helicopters showed plane parts, including side panels and a propeller, scattered on rooftops and driveways near the burned house.

Shawn Winch, 49, said he was out in his backyard when he heard a loud sound.

"It sounded like a missile coming at my house," he said.

He said he saw the plane veer off and debris falling.

"It wasn't intact," he said of the plane as it was coming toward the neighborhood. "It was already breaking up."

The crash sent panicked neighbors into the streets.

Some tried to run into the flaming house but explosion sounds came from its garage and other neighbors called them off, Winch said.

"It was a boom. It sounded like something exploded. It shook our house," said John Wolbart, who lives a block away.

He said he ran to the burning house and saw a woman come out with singed hair.

The injured were taken to a hospital with burns, said Pokey Sanchez, an assistant chief with the Orange County Fire Authority. A firefighter was also treated for a minor injury.

Clint Langford, who lives about a half-mile (0.8 kilometer) away, said he was in his living room when he heard a low rumbling.

"It's the eerie, low rumbling sound that keeps getting lower and louder. It was scary," he said. "And then all of a sudden boom. It shook the house."

He looked out his front door and could

see plane parts falling out the sky in the distance.

Pat Rogers, who lives about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the crash site, told the Orange County Register he saw the plane on fire and coming apart.

Video posted on Twitter showed panicked residents running to the house as it became engulfed in flames and dark smoke. One man used a garden hose to douse a burning wing that landed on the street.

Catherine Paulson, 78, said she considered herself lucky because she was not home when the debris crashed down and a piece of the plane landed in a tree right above her roof.

"It's just devastating," she said.

The National Transportation and Safety Board will investigate the cause of the crash.

Simpson said it will take some time to determine the maintenance history of the aircraft, which was built in 1981.

Representatives of the manufacturers of the airframe and engines were expected on the scene Monday.

The wreckage will be transported to Phoenix, Arizona, for a forensic examination, Simpson said.

Associated Press writer John Antozak in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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