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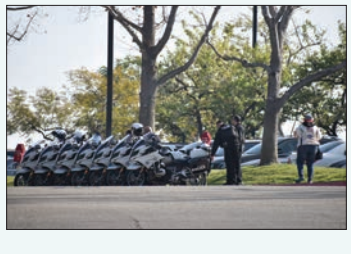
smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY
02.19.20
Volume 19 Issue 84
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Voting in the Trump Age
It's Election Season in California.
Page 6

Purse Punching
A woman was arrested for assaulting a victim and stealing a purse.
Page 7





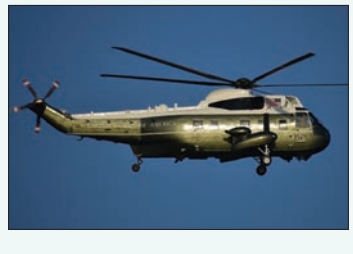


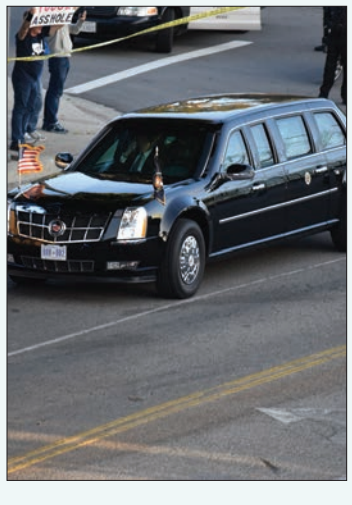


Brennon Dixson

TRUMP: President Trump was met by a small protest yesterday as he flew through Santa Monica Airport on his way to a Los Angeles fundraising trip.







Bloomberg, Steyer open field offices in Santa Monica

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Two presidential candidates opened campaign offices in Santa Monica in the last couple of weeks to court Westside voters ahead of Super Tuesday.

Former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg and hedge fund manager Tom Steyer opened field offices a few blocks away from each other this month, becoming the first and potentially only 2020 candidates to set up shop within city limits. The Bloomberg campaign opened an office on Feb. 8 at 1639 11th St. and the Steyer campaign held a launch party Sunday at 1448 15th St. Both offices are employing six full-time staffers, campaign organizers said.

While both candidates are billionaires, Bloomberg has sunk an unprecedented proportion of his personal net worth of $63 billion to his campaign and is polling at 10% nationally, while Steyer, worth $1.6 billion, is polling at 1%.

Jamarah Hayner, Bloomberg's senior advisor for Los Angeles, said the campaign has drawn substantial support on the Westside. The field

SEE **OFFICES** PAGE 11



Courtesy Photo.

CAMPAIGN: Tom Steyer's campaign held a launch party for its Santa Monica field office Sunday.

Affordable housing and certain market-rate housing could be built by-right

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Local officials could allow affordable housing to be built by-right to incentivize the production of 6,000 units of housing for low and moderate-income households over the next eight years.

Santa Monica and other Southern California cities rich in jobs and public transit will be required to accommodate more housing than ever before under a forthcoming state mandate aimed at addressing the state's housing crisis. Santa Monica will likely receive a mandate to zone for about 9,000 new units between 2021 and 2029, two-thirds of which must be affordable for low and moderate-income households.

City Hall could take its first step toward meeting that goal Wednesday, when the Planning Commission will meet to discuss recommending that City Council vote to permit 100% affordable housing projects to bypass the city's public review process.

The city's Land Use and Circulation Element requires development taller than two stories to undergo a discretionary review process that includes several public hearings at the Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board.

Housing projects that contain only affordable units are exempt from that process, as long as they have 50 or fewer units and are deed-restricted to households earning less than 80% of the area median income. In all areas of the city except for Downtown, 100% affordable housing projects containing more than 50 units still have to go through discretionary review.

City planners now recommend that all affordable housing for households earning up to 120% of the area median income that complies

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 11


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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Text of the Santa Monica Municipal Code Related to Housing Legislation and Family Daycare Homes for Consistency with State Law.

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider a Resolution recommending to the City Council the adoption of an Ordinance recommending amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance to update provisions related to accessory dwelling units, density bonus standards, the City's housing project approval procedures, and family daycare homes for consistency with State law.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

Address your letters to: Jing Yeo, City Planner Manager
Re: Housing Legislation
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project, please contact Jing Yeo, City Planning Manager, at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at jing.yeo@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.smgov.net.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, Rapid 3, 7, 8, 9, Rapid 10, and 18 serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street and is a short walk to Ken Edwards Center. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free), and at Ken Edwards Center (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, February 19

Planning Commission
The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning. Civic Auditorium - East Wing, 7 p.m.

Santa Monica Farmer's Market
Fresh seasonal produce sold direct from California farmers. The Wednesday Farmers Market is widely recognized as one of the largest and most diverse grower-only farmer's markets in the nation, with 9,000 shoppers and many of L.A's top chefs in attendance each Wednesday. 2nd Street & Arizona Avenue, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Montana Book Discussion Group: Just Mercy
Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 7 p.m.

Pajama Story Time: Friendship
Wear PJs and come with a friend (stuffed animal or human) to enjoy stories and songs about friendship. Ocean Park Branch Library, 6:30 - 7 p.m.

Senior Computer Club
Practice the skills learned in computer basics, keyboarding, and beyond in this informal session. Main Library, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Documentary Screening and Discussion: Always in Season
In Always in Season, descendants of the victims and perpetrators of lynching are working together to heal a violent history. Blending observational footage with first-person testimonies and expert input, Always in Season examines the lingering impact of lynching and the link between this historic form of racial terrorism and the racial violence that exists today. Pico Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 20

The Recreation & Parks Commission Special Meeting
A special meeting of the Recreation & Parks Commission is relocated from Council Chambers to Thelma Terry Auditorium, Virginia Avenue Park. 7:30 p.m.

Primary Election 101
Get ready for the upcoming primary election! Representatives from the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica describe how the presidential primary election and top-two election system works, and rules on non-partisan offices and judges. There will also be a Q&A on vote centers, same day registration, and other changes to voting systems. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 6 - 7 p.m.

L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now
One-on-one access to volunteers available to help students with homework assignments and reading comprehension. Bilingual volunteers available. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 - 6 p.m. Pico Branch Library

Get Started With 3D Printing
Learn the basics of 3D printing and design by completing a guided project. To register, email ideashappen@smgov.net. Ocean Park Branch Library, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Artful Toddler
Explore the open-ended art technique of collage using paper and glue. Fairview Branch Library, 3:30 - 4 p.m.

Friday, February 21

Fireside at the Miles - Rope: An an evening of intertwined dances
Curated by Suchi Branfman. An evening of dance, movement and spoken word. 8 - 10 p.m. Tickets at https://suchibranfman.eventbrite.com

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

Trump to use 'big voice' to boost GOP on 4-day Western trip

ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he's ready to use his "big voice" to bolster Republicans' 2020 campaign hopes as he heads west for a four-day visit mixing policy and politics.

Trump's trip will be packed with big-dollar fundraisers, a trio of campaign rallies meant to energize his base and a sprinkle of official presidential events where he can showcase administration actions and offset some of his travel costs.

The trip to California, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado is an unusually long domestic trip for Trump, who prefers to sleep in his own bed but is stepping up his political travel now that his impeachment trial is over. He was expected to raise $14 million at two California campaign fundraisers, according to a Republican official familiar with planning of the events. That money will be split among his campaign, the Republican National Committee and 22 Republican state parties.

Trump will spend his overnights in Las Vegas just as Democrats have descended on the state ahead of a debate there Wednesday and Nevada's Democratic caucuses on Saturday. The rallies will take him to two states with vulnerable Republican senators — Cory Gardner of Colorado and Martha McSally of Arizona. Both stood by Trump during the Senate's impeachment trial.

Trump also announced that he will soon head to South Carolina to campaign, likely the day before Democrats in the state hold their primary on Feb. 29.

"Look — we have a big voice, and we might as well use it," Trump told reporters before departing Washington.

In Los Angeles on Tuesday, Trump is also set to meet with the Los Angeles Olympic committee "for an update on their efforts to prepare for the 2028 Summer Olympic Games," the White House said. He is scheduled to attend a campaign fundraiser in Beverly Hills before continuing to Las Vegas, where he is expected to stay at his private hotel just off the Las Vegas Strip.

On Wednesday, Trump will fly to Rancho Mirage, California, to billionaire Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison's estate, which includes a private golf club, where his campaign is hosting a golf outing and fundraiser. Ellison previously hosted President Barack Obama at the course, which, like others in the arid Coachella Valley, has faced scrutiny for high water usage.

Trump will then visit Bakersfield, California, the hometown of House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, "to speak with hardworking farmers in the Central Valley about efforts to dramatically improve the supply and delivery of water in California and other Western states," the White House said.

Trump will then hold a rally in Phoenix before returning to Las Vegas.

On Thursday, Trump will speak at the Hope for Prisoners Graduation Ceremony held at the Las Vegas police headquarters, the White House said, adding that the president intends to focus on efforts "to provide previously incarcerated Americans with second chances." He will hold another rally in Colorado Springs, Colorado, before flying back to Las Vegas.

He will hold a final rally in Las Vegas on Friday.

The trip comes as he is stepping up his campaign activity before the November election and as pro-Trump groups raised a combined $60 million in January, shattering fundraising records.

Before departing, Trump also could not help but tweak his Democratic presidential rivals, and he feigned concern that Democratic front-runner Sen. Bernie Sanders is getting a raw deal from party leaders.

The Democratic National Committee announced earlier Tuesday — following a change of debate qualification rules — that former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg has qualified to take part in Wednesday's debate in Nevada. The billionaire Bloomberg is self-financing his campaign and has faced criticism from Sanders and other Democratic rivals that he's attempting to buy the party's nomination.

"Always be careful what you wish for, and I'm not wishing for anything," said Trump, who insists he doesn't have a preferred Democrat he'd like to face in November. "Whoever it is, I'll be very happy."



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Text of the Santa Monica Municipal Code and the Bergamot Area Plan to Create a Use Classification and Parking Regulations for Food Halls and Permit Food Halls in Commercial Districts and Districts Subject to the Bergamot Area Plan

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider Resolutions recommending to the City Council the adoption of Ordinances recommending amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance and the Bergamot Area Plan to create a use classification and parking regulations for Food Halls and permit Food Halls in commercial districts and districts subject to the Bergamot Area Plan.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

Address your letters to: Tony Kim, Principal Planner
Re: Food Halls
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project, please contact Tony Kim, Principal Planner, at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at tony.kim@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.smgov.net.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, Rapid 3, 7, 8, 9, Rapid 10, and 18 serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street and is a short walk to Ken Edwards Center. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free), and at Ken Edwards Center (validation free).

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 296 CALLS ON FEB. 17

Threats Report/Investigations 1100blk 2nd St 12:43 a.m.
Arson 100blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:01 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 1:14 a.m.
Encampment 400blk Santa Monica Pier 1:59 a.m.
Battery Now 00blk Pico Blvd 2:23 a.m.
Person With A Gun 2500blk Wilshire Blvd 6:15 a.m.
Encampment 1300blk 6th St 6:35 a.m.
Domestic Violence Now 300blk Pico Blvd 6:46 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2900blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:18 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk Ocean Ave 7:25 a.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk 20th St 7:29 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 7:38 a.m.
Silent Burglar Alarm 1400blk 2nd St 8:06 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2300blk Oak St 8:42 a.m.
Smoking Violation 500blk Washington Ave 9:27 a.m.
Burglary Report 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 9:47 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Pearl St 9:48 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 10:06 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 10:07 a.m.
Burglary Report 200blk San Vicente Blvd 11:11 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Pearl St 11:12 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 19th St 11:29 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 300blk Santa Monica Pier 11:43 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 23rd St 12:01 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1200blk 10th St 12:16 p.m.
Valet Zone Violation 1300blk 2nd St 12:34 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900blk 4th St 12:37 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 800blk Wilshire Blvd 12:43 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk 4th St 1:19 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 400blk 22nd St 1:25 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 4th St / Interstate 10 1:50 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 3100blk Donald Douglas Loop S 1:55 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 3rd St / California Ave 2:27 p.m.
Battery Report 2900blk 31st St 2:42 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 200blk Montana Ave 3:20 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1400blk Montana Ave 3:42 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:48 p.m.
Person With A Gun 6th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:55 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1900blk Michigan Ave 3:57 p.m.
Burglary Report 400blk San Vicente Blvd 4:06 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:21 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1500blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:26 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2800blk Neilson Way 4:45 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2100blk Ocean Ave 4:50 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2300blk Wilshire Blvd 4:54 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1000blk Idaho Ave 4:54 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:54 p.m.
Valet Zone Violation 1300blk Ocean Ave 5:18 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1900blk 19th St 5:20 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 300blk Santa Monica Pier 5:47 p.m.
Domestic Violence Just Occurred 900blk 3rd St 6:07 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:10 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 2600blk Main St 7:04 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:22 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 3rd St / Pico Blvd 7:35 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Harvard St / Wilshire Blvd 7:36 p.m.
Armed Robbery Just Occurred 900blk Montana Ave 7:45 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 10th St / Colorado Ave 8:39 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2100blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:43 p.m.
Public Intoxication 2nd St / Colorado Ave 8:54 p.m.
Public Intoxication 400blk Broadway 9:02 p.m.
Runaway 1400blk Oak St 9:29 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 10:30 p.m.
Panhandling 700blk Broadway 10:36 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk The Beach 10:49 p.m.

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Following gain, California to reopen health coverage signups

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

More than 1.5 million people in California have purchased health insurance through a taxpayer funded marketplace, state officials announced Tuesday, the first increase in enrollment after three years of decline.

It's a 1.6% increase over last year, a jump that comes after the state Legislature imposed a new tax on the uninsured and offered new subsidies to help middle-income earners pay their monthly health insurance premiums. Both changes were aimed at boosting enrollment at a time when the federal government under Republican President Donald Trump has seen enrollment fall nationwide.

But even though the open enrollment period ended Jan. 31, California's numbers could still increase this year. State officials say many people still don't know about the new tax on the uninsured, despite a robust state marketing campaign. Most who don't know will find out when they file their state and federal income taxes by April 15.

That's why state officials have decided to give anyone who did not know about the tax another chance at signing up for coverage. This "special enrollment period" will end April 30. But anyone who signs up after March 31 would still have to pay the tax. People who did not know about the new state subsidies would also be eligible to enroll.

"I encourage everyone who does not have qualifying health insurance to take advantage of the special enrollment period," State Controller Betty Yee said in a news release. "I like signing tax refund checks, not assessing penalties."

Former President Barack Obama's health care law lets people who don't have health insurance through their jobs buy coverage through a marketplace, where insurance companies sell individual plans. The law also requires the federal government to help some of those people pay their monthly health insurance premiums, depending on how much money they make.

Most states let the federal government run the marketplace for them. But California has its own marketplace, called Covered California. Nationwide, the number of people purchasing health insurance through these marketplaces has been dropping since Trump took office and the federal government reduced its marketing budget and Republicans in Congress eliminated a tax on people who refuse to buy health insurance.

But last year, under new Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, California doubled down on its efforts to boost enrollment. They spent millions of dollars to offer new subsidies to people — so much that families of four earning up to $154,500 could be eligible for assistance. They passed a law that taxes people for not having health insurance, a penalty that could cost a family of four up to $2,000.

California gave people more time to sign up for coverage, extending its deadline through Jan. 31, more than a month after the federal deadline. And they spent a whopping $121 million on marketing and outreach, including $47 million on TV and radio in multiple languages.

The result, announced Tuesday: a 1.6% increase in enrollment in Covered California, while enrollment on the federal marketplace dropped 0.5%.

State officials say a closer look at the numbers shows more reasons to celebrate. California has gotten its enrollment almost back to where it was in 2016. Total enrollment in Covered California is down 2% since 2016, while enrollment in the federal marketplace is down 14%.

But state officials are the most excited about the number of people who signed up for coverage this year who did not have coverage last year. That number — more than 418,000 — is a 41% increase over last year. Covered California Executive Director Peter Lee said new enrollments are important because they tend to be people who are healthier, which helps keep rates down for everyone.

This year, health insurance rates on Covered California increased 0.8%, the lowest increase in five years.

The federal government offers subsidies to people who earn up to 400% of the federal poverty level, or about $100,000 for a family of four. This year, California became the first state in the country to offer subsidies to people who earn up to 600% of the federal poverty level, or $154,500 for a family of four.

State officials said 32,000 people qualified for those first-in-the-nation subsidies, which average about $500 per month. But they estimate at least another 40,000 people are eligible for those subsidies. State officials hope those people will sign up during the special enrollment period.

"Our goal was always to leave no one behind," Lee said.

Anthony Wright, executive director of consumer advocacy group Health Access California, praised the state for continuing to allow enrollments but urged state lawmakers to spend even more money on subsidies.

"We have more work to do to ensure that every Californian can afford and access care," Wright said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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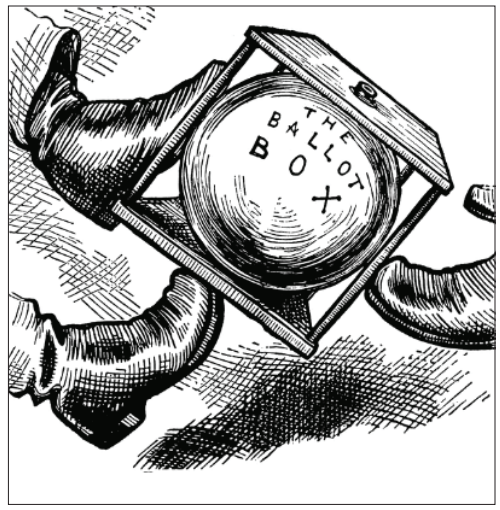
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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Voting in the Trump Age



Courtesy image
BALLOT BOX: It's election season in California.

IT'S ALMOST THAT TIME

I'll never forget walking down Hill Street in November 2012 to go vote in the national election, at the Church in Ocean Park, for years the place where my family cast their votes.

But this stroll down the hill was special because it was the first time my daughter had come of age to vote, and she was excited, happy and proud as we talked about it. She had shown an interest in politics from a young age and was at that time a big fan of the Obamas, had thrilled to watch the returns come in for the previous election and the joyous celebration by the huge crowd in Grant Park in Chicago, the jubilation for so many that a black man could finally be elected President of the United States. And now, she got to cast her vote for his second term. To feel a part of it all.

I have always cherished our right and responsibility to vote, and the ritual of showing up on voting day at our local polling place, manned by our volunteering neighbors, to punch and hand in that paper ballot. I could look around the room and see many friends and acquaintances. As a lifelong student of history and world affairs, I took pride in this great privilege that so many fought and died for. That so many, in other parts of the world, could only dream of.

VOTING

The most precious of all our rights as Americans, because all else flows from that. I served in the Army during the Vietnam War, as did my father during WWII, and in the Navy when he was a teen. I am personally affronted by the ignorance or insensitivity of anyone who disparages that hard-won license. I had friends who died, and not in a pretty way, for the principle of our right to vote. So did my father.

And now, a day I never could have imagined would come, when we have someone in the White House who believes it's just fine to have foreign nations, our sworn enemies, enemies of freedom and democracy, interfere in our elections, choosing our leaders. And a lapdog Republican Party who has blocked all bipartisan attempts to fight that interference.

They understand that fair elections will sweep them from power, and they are willing to do anything, it seems, including a campaign of terrorism against immigrants, most of whom, as citizens, wind up voting for Democrats. They have waged for more than a century and a half a legislative war to suppress and disenfranchise legitimate voters — Jim Crow, Stacy Abrams in Georgia and so many more. To this day.

PRIMARY VOTING HERE STARTS SATURDAY

And goes through March 3. So much for a universal election day. But that's not the only change. There are lots of them, including the "ballots" or electronic devices you will be voting on. Too many changes to name.

But one thing I found interesting. Despite assurance that these new voting methods were fool proof because everyone will be able to check over their printed ballot that comes from their electronic voting, a study showed that the average voter spends less than a quarter of a second looking over that ballot.

What a tragic mess. And we thought hanging chads were dicey. (Of course, the Republicans went to court to stop the recount on those ballots in Florida. And we wound up with George Bush and the longest war in our history, in Afghanistan, and a totally screwed up and highly dangerous Middle East.)

I've received notice of the six places where I may vote in person, but it does not include the Church in Ocean Park. They would have needed to dedicate their main room for 10 straight days, and that would interfere with so many of their other programs, it wasn't possible.

It makes me really sad to think that if this were my daughter's first time to vote, she would not be very excited, happy and proud. If she is, this time, it will be because she, like so many young people, strongly supports Bernie Sanders. In the age of Trump, authenticity, moral values and consistency count for a lot.

TWO LAST POINTS

Neither about voting. Some may think I want to blame everything that goes wrong in Santa Monica on City Hall. Not so. I am logical, and reasonable. But I also like to look at the big picture, cause and effect, ripples.

When the city dismisses the making of a porn film in our library during public hours as a misdemeanor that nothing can be done about, I think, I would have much rather heard an official statement that says this is reprehensible, we care more about our residents and especially our children than to let this happen again, and we will immediately try to find ways to address it with new regulations or practices.

When your stance is, can't be helped, you have taken out a billboard that says, Come to our Santa Monica libraries, cheaper than having to rent a hotel room in the Valley! It is part of the vast web of serious problems we have here that partly stem from our reputation as a city that does not enforce its laws. My

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 11

Trump delivers on pledge for wealthy California farmers

ELLEN KNICKMEYER AND ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

Hoisting the spoils of victories in California's hard-fought water wars, President Donald Trump is directing more of the state's precious water to wealthy farmers and other agriculture interests when he visits their Republican Central Valley stronghold Wednesday.

Changes by the Trump administration are altering how federal authorities decide who gets water, and how much, in California, the U.S. state with the biggest population and economy and most lucrative farm output. Climate change promises to only worsen the state's droughts and water shortages, raising the stakes.

Campaigning in the Central Valley farm hub of Fresno in 2016, Trump pledged then he'd be "opening up the water" for farmers. Candidate Trump denounced "insane" environmental rules meant to ensure that enough fresh water stayed in rivers and the San Francisco Bay to sustain more than a dozen endangered fish and other native species, which are struggling as agriculture and development diverts more water and land from wildlife.

Visiting Bakersfield in the Central Valley on Wednesday, Trump is expected to ceremoniously sign his administration's reworking of those environmental rules. Environmental advocates and the state say the changes will allow federal authorities to pump more water from California's wetter north southward to its biggest cities and farms.

The Trump administration, Republican lawmakers, and farm and water agencies say the changes will allow for more flexibility in water deliveries. In California's heavily engineered water system, giant state and federal water projects made up of hundreds of miles of pipes, canals, pumps and dams, carry runoff from rain and Sierra Nevada snow melt from north to south — and serve as field of battle for lawsuits and regional political fights over competing demands for water.

Environmental groups say the changes will speed the disappearance of endangered winter-run salmon and other native fish, and make life tougher for whales and other creatures in the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean.

After an initial study by federal scientists found the rule changes would harm salmon and whales, the Trump administration ordered a new round of review, California news organizations reported last year.

The overall effort "ensured the highest quality" of evaluation of the rule changes, Paul Souza, Pacific Southwest director for the Fish and Wildlife Service, which is under the Interior Department, said in a statement Tuesday.

"We strongly disagree that the proposal will reduce protections for endangered species," Souza said.

Beyond operational changes in the federal Central Valley Project water system, the administration's changes allow for more habitat restoration, upgrades in fish hatcheries and the water system itself, monitoring of species and other improvements, Souza said.

Careers of California politicians can rise and fall on water issues. It's often rancorous, as when Republican Rep. Devin Nunes in 2017 celebrated passage of a House resolution weakening environmental protections by tweeting a photo of cupcakes decorated with Delta smelt, a Northern California fish nearing extinction.

Trump mocked environmental limits on water deliveries in California in his 2016 campaign visit, saying they were all about "a certain kind of 3-inch fish," the smelt.

Conservation groups have promised new rounds of water lawsuits to try to block the redone environmental rules.

"The species really are in much worse shape" than in earlier years, Doug Obegi with the Natural Resources Defense Council said. "We are at the point where we may watch them wink out ... potentially in the next few years."

Another big change alarming conservation groups and some water agencies outside of Southern California is the pending award of a permanent federal contract from the Bureau of Reclamation to Westlands Water District, a Central Valley-based water agency that is the nation's largest irrigation water district.

The Bureau of Reclamation is under the Interior Department, led by Secretary David Bernhardt, who was a lobbyist of Westlands Water District in Washington through 2016. Trump nominated Bernhardt to join the Interior Department, initially as deputy secretary, the next year.

The then-Republican-led Congress in 2016 approved legislation allowing California water agencies to pay to make their federal water contracts permanent. Westlands has jumped toward the front of the line, closing its public comment period last month.

Interior officials said Westlands still owes around $200 million from the initial cost of nearly a half-billion dollars.

Conservation groups and some Northern California water agencies fear Westlands' permanent contract — and political power — will help it claim a bigger share of water when drought and over-demand reduce supplies, said Patricia Schifferle, an California water-law expert and activist.

In December, Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration said it planned to sue the Trump administration over their proposed new rules, saying they do not do enough to protect endangered species.

That lawsuit still has not been filed. Wade Crowfoot, secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, said state officials are still negotiating with the Trump administration about whether they would change the proposed rules to address the state's environmental concerns.

"From our perspective, if we can resolve our concerns and ensure adequate protection of these endangered species, then we think it would be important to do so and we could avoid probably years of litigation," Crowfoot said.

Beam contributed from Sacramento.

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 FEB. 3 AT 8:23 P.M.

Officers responded to the Jack in the Box, 802 Santa Monica Blvd, regarding a robbery investigation. Officers learned that the suspect approached the victim from behind and attempted to grab the victim's purse. The suspect then punched the victim in the back and pushed the victim. The victim was in fear for her safety and gave up the purse. The suspect fled the location; however, officers were able to obtain a detailed description of the suspect. As other officers were approaching the area, they were able to locate the suspect involved in the robbery in the 700 block of Broadway Avenue. The suspect was detained without incident and questioned about the robbery. The suspect was positively identified as the one involved in the robbery.
Khamila Victoria Garcia, 25, from Rancho Cucamonga, was booked for robbery and held on $50,000 bail.



File photo
KHAMILA VICTORIA GARCIA

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Underage Decoy Sting

On February 13, 2020, officers from the Santa Monica Police Department's Vice Unit conducted a minor decoy operation to check on compliance at on-sale alcohol retail establishments within the City of Santa Monica. The Minor Decoy Program uses supervised individuals under the age of 20, who attempt to purchase alcohol at licensed premises. Any sale of alcohol to a minor decoy may result in criminal and administrative sanctions for the employee and the licensee.

The team visited six alcohol retail establishments within the city of Santa Monica. Four of the establishments did a commendable job and used proper protocol as the minor decoy was denied alcohol at each location. Violations were obtained at two locations and the employee was issued a citation for selling alcohol to a minor.

The following locations engaged in responsible sales of alcohol by asking for the decoy's age, identification and refusing to sell alcohol upon determining the minor was under 21:

Del Frisco's - 1551 Ocean Avenue
Red O - 1541 Ocean Avenue
Lowes Hotel - 1700 Ocean Avenue
Le Merigot Hotel - 1740 Ocean Avenue.

The following locations sold alcohol to the minor decoy and the involved employee was issued a citation:

Blue Plate Taco - 1515 Ocean Avenue
Jimmy's Famous Tavern - 1733 Ocean Avenue.

The Minor Decoy Program has proven to be an effective tool in promoting responsible practices in the sales of alcoholic beverages by licensees, reducing substance abuse and enhancing community welfare by limiting underage access to alcohol.

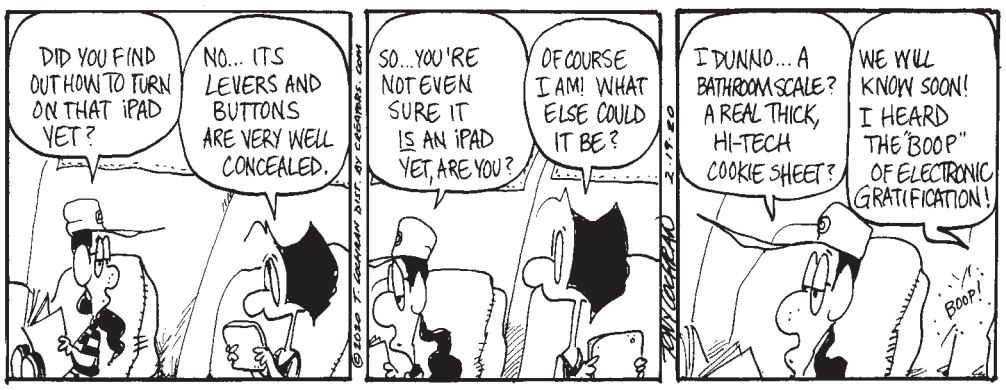
This project is part of the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control's Alcohol Policing Partnership Program.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT JOSEPH CORTEZ



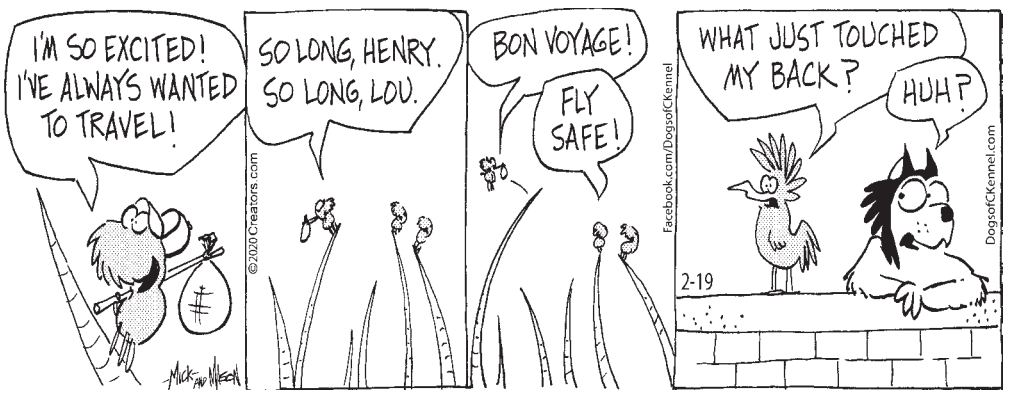
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



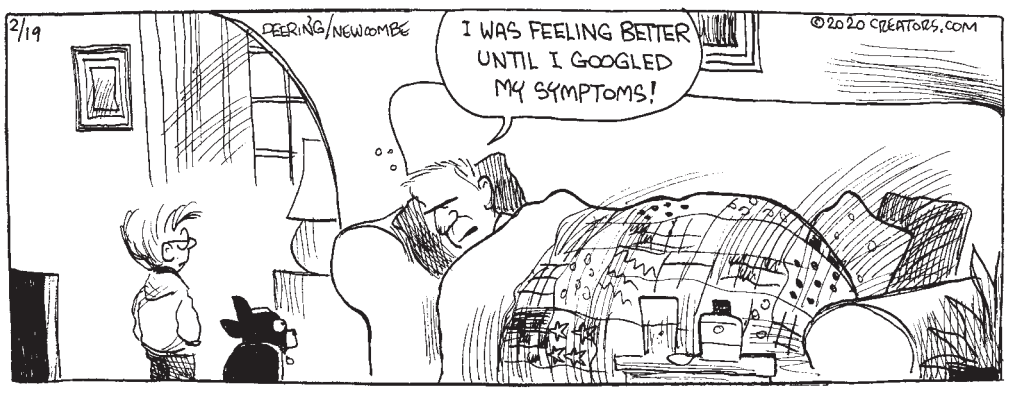
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



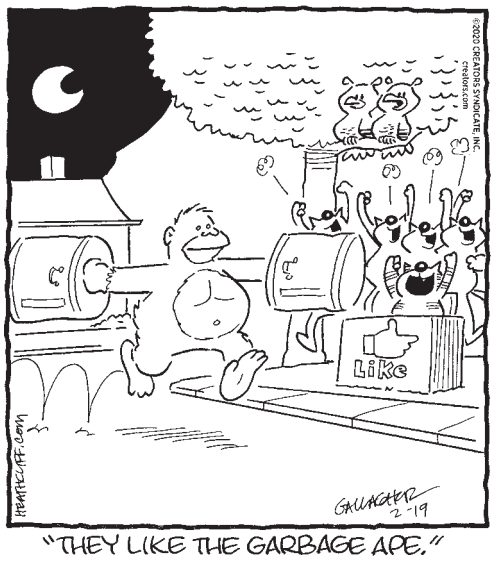
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THEY LIKE THE GARBAGE APE."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.0°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft knee to waist high
Small blend of SW swell and lingering NW swell-mix. Deep early AM high tide.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft+ ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
Fading NW swell-mix. Small SW swell. Deep early AM high tide.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 64. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 70.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.
Friday Night: A slight chance of showers after 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.
Saturday: A chance of showers, mainly before 10am. Partly sunny, with a high near 65.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 68.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/02/19	Wed	12:11 AM	2.29	L
2020/02/19	Wed	06:19 AM	5.48	H
2020/02/19	Wed	1:37 PM	-0.82	L
2020/02/19	Wed	8:13 PM	3.77	H
2020/02/20	Thu	01:00 AM	2.07	L
2020/02/20	Thu	07:05 AM	5.64	H
2020/02/20	Thu	2:13 PM	-0.93	L
2020/02/20	Thu	8:41 PM	3.92	H
2020/02/21	Fri	01:40 AM	1.83	L
2020/02/21	Fri	07:44 AM	5.72	H
2020/02/21	Fri	2:44 PM	-0.91	L
2020/02/21	Fri	9:06 PM	4.02	H
2020/02/22	Sat	02:13 AM	1.62	L
2020/02/22	Sat	08:18 AM	5.70	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date:02/15
16 32 35 36 46
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 50 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 02/11
4 6 32 52 64
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 40 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 02/15
1 6 29 34 37
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 02/17
19 24 31 33 36

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 02/18
Midday: 2 9 4
Draw Date: 02/17
Evening: 3 2 5

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 02/17
1st: 11 - MONEY BAGS
2nd: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
3rd: 07 - EUREKA
RACE TIME: 1:47.59

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

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DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 19)

Your ability to make others feel comfortable is epic and will be the reason for so many big wins. The next three weeks will bring a training of sorts. April is your chance at a prize, and you'll have two more shots for a similar win. A real trajectory is forming here, momentum gathering, your inner drive fortifying. Cancer and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 44, 35, 11 and 4.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The first secret to being a fantastic conversationalist is to choose a topic that will bear fruit. What would they love to talk about? This is hard to deliver on, but get good at learning what people want to talk about and you're golden.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Know who has your back, and who will go out of the way to promote and help you. Rule out anyone too jealous to be truly supportive. Seek alliances with people who have complementary strengths.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're so often controlled and careful about giving the thing that's appropriate and necessary to the moment. That's why when you do give a show of emotion, it's totally irresistible.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People like people who they are like. Can they be blamed? Who doesn't want their opinions validated with living proof such as another nodding head can provide?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your life is filled with different story lines, and you know where you are in each one. Certain things feel like the start; others feel like the beginning of an end. A lagging middle could use an enlivening dance number.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To take them very seriously, listen closely to the nuances, and act accordingly -- this is a gift from you to them. Later you'll realize it's also a gift from you to you, an attention investment that can't help but pay off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The stumbling, bumbling, dropping and spilling -- that's the way of the living. It's foolish to worry or be embarrassed by the knock around and knock it over; this is the privilege of life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are things in life that are not about the context in which they live -- most things, actually. The ability to extract yourself from context will make you the sovereign of your own attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A family matter will settle favorably. When things go this smoothly in the personal realm, everything else feels good to you -- simply breathing, for instance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Here you are making money, teaching what you know and being a person of influence. This is what you've been headed toward for a very long time, so pause and let yourself really feel what's going on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is the moment of production you've been waiting for. Once you start, you will quickly fall into a rhythm and make excellent use of a stretch of uninterrupted flow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Maybe you'll call out the untruth when you hear it -- you always hear it. And then again, you might let it slide. People need their defenses. The lie is so small next to your big heart.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

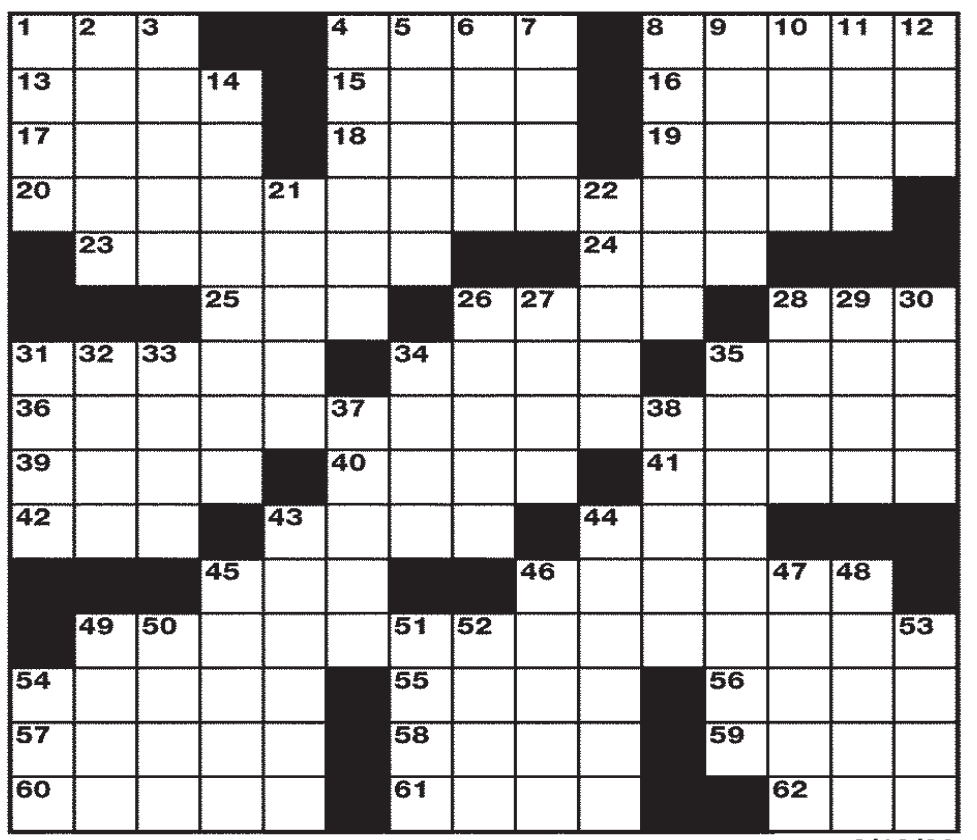
	6		4	1	5			
7				9		2		1
		3			2			
	1					4		
8			5	7	4			6
		2					9	
			3			7		
5		1		4				8
			6	2	1		5	

Newsday Crossword

SWEET STUFF by Pam Klawitter
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Portion of corn
4 Resorts with hot springs
8 Fragrance
13 Stop up
15 Complain incessantly
16 All-weather, as stadiums
17 Be optimistic
18 All at ___ (suddenly)
19 Things to avoid
20 Tenacious person
23 Donations from foundations
24 ER staffers
25 Soldiers at a USO show
26 Bikini tops
28 Center of a peach
31 '70s veep Agnew
34 Corkscrew's shape
35 Very uncommon
36 Being forced to apologize
39 Get ready, for short
40 Granola tidbits
41 "No bid"
42 President pro ___
43 Build-it-yourself buys
44 NL city on the Mississippi
45 Light brown
46 Garden pests
49 Attractive enhancement
54 Catches sight of
55 High wind
56 Vicinity
57 Bearlike Aussie beast
58 Deceitful person
59 Catches sight of
60 Doesn't do anything
61 Besides that
62 Home for hogs

DOWN
1 Sonic bounce
2 Go ___ for the ride
3 Lasso thrower
4 Baseball talent seekers
5 Feelings of hunger
6 Part of the foot
7 Proposal detail, for short
8 They cost extra
9 Chess castles
10 Prefix meaning "everything"
11 Ration (out)
12 Words from the sponsor
14 "Calm down!"
21 Slice on a burger
22 Colgate competitor
26 Ring matches
27 Frames of eyeglasses
28 Dad
29 Part of the eye
30 Golf pegs
31 First mo. of fall
32 Remove rind from
33 Line on a shopping list
34 Casual conversation
35 Facsimiles
37 About to leave
38 Thin and graceful
43 State south of Nebraska
44 Shape of a globe
45 Name of a book
46 Book of cartography
47 Shows courage
48 Clay pigeon sport
49 Digital player brand
50 Fuel for an old furnace
51 Stare at
52 Hammer's target
53 "Nothing to it!"
54 Glide down snow



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/19/20

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

411 Ocean Park Boulevard, (Variance, Minor Mod. Fence Wall Hedge Modification (19ENT-0121, 19ENT-0122, 19ENT-0357) Approval of Variances to allow for construction of a new Single Unit Dwelling with reduced front and rear setbacks and increased parcel coverage. The request also includes a Minor Modification to reduce the interior parking requirement to 18' x18' with a modified turning radius and a Fence Wall Hedge Modification to retain an existing 5' front retaining wall. The subject property is located in the Ocean Park Low Density Residential (OP2) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.42.020, Variances may be granted with respect to development standards upon the discretion of the Planning Commission. Additionally, pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Sections 9.43.090 and 9.43.080(B), Minor Modifications and a Fence, Wall, Hedge Modification may be granted in conjunction with the Variance request upon the discretion of the Planning Commission. APPLICANT: Jean-Paul Buchanan. PROPERTY OWNER: Jean-Paul Buchanan

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

LOCATION: Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

Address your letters to: Regina Szilak, Associate Planner
Re: 19ENT-0121, 19ENT-0122 & 19ENT-0357
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project, please contact Regina Szilak, Associate Planner, at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at regina.szilak@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.smgov.net.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, Rapid 3, 7, 8, 9, Rapid 10, and 18 serve Ken Edwards Center The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street and is a short walk to the Ken Edwards Center. Parking is available beneath the Ken Edwards Center (validation free) and in Santa Monica Place (no validations).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 35 CALLS ON FEB. 17

EMS 1000blk 11th St 12:00 a.m.
EMS 500blk Ocean Ave 4:38 a.m.
EMS 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:38 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 12th St 5:55 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 7:36 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 8:45 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 10:34 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 23rd St 11:02 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Cloverfield Blvd / Pearl St 11:12 a.m.
EMS Stewart St / Olympic Blvd 11:24 a.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 1500blk 12th St 11:30 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Pico Blvd 11:36 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 11:55 a.m.
EMS 2900blk 31st St 12:07 p.m.
EMS 3000blk Wilshire Blvd 12:16 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 12:46 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1500blk Harvard St 12:50 p.m.
Vault Fire 200blk Broadway 1:10 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 2nd St 1:33 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 1:50 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Interstate 10 1:50 p.m.
EMS 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:12 p.m.
EMS 900blk 11th St 2:30 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1300blk 18th St 3:12 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Kansas Ave 3:55 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 26th St 4:08 p.m.
EMS 2500blk 2nd St 4:18 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 4:50 p.m.
EMS 300blk California Ave 5:04 p.m.
EMS 500blk Ocean Ave 7:55 p.m.
EMS 2000blk 20th St 7:57 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:25 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Expo Line 9:17 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 11:16 p.m.
EMS 2100blk 7th St 11:34 p.m.

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HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

with existing zoning and design standards should only undergo administrative review.

To comply with the 2017 Housing Accountability Act, city planners are also recommending that market-rate housing projects that conform to existing standards be reviewed by city staff.

Officials say exempting many housing projects — both affordable and market-rate — from the discretionary review process, which adds substantial time and cost to new development, would help Santa Monica satisfy its 9,000-unit mandate.

Planning Commissioner Richard McKinnon said earlier this month that some conditions the Planning Commission often adds to projects, such as corporate housing restrictions and sustainability features, should be incorporated in the standards applied to all housing projects.

McKinnon also said the city should revisit its height and density standards in transit-rich areas such as downtown or Bergamot in order to accommodate 9,000 new units — an idea City Council expressed support for in December.

"We should set those standards, make it very clear and then take ourselves out of the process," he said.

The Planning Commission will meet Wednesday, Feb. 19 in the East Wing of the Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St.

madeleine@smdp.com

OFFICES

FROM PAGE 1

office is one of six throughout the Los Angeles area and dozens across California, she said.

"The Westside and certainly Santa Monica is one of the highest-turnout communities in L.A., and there's a tremendously strong progressive voter base there, so it's exciting to see my fellow progressive responding to the work Mike has done on gun safety, climate change, public health and investing in communities of color," Hayner said.

Hayner said the office has been integral to the campaign's efforts to make more than 100,000 calls to California voters each day. She said it brings in an intergenerational mix of volunteers who are particularly passionate about gun safety reform.

"A lot of the young people getting involved are getting into Mike's campaign because they have been affected by gun violence, and it's the same thing with parents and grandparents who want to make sure their kid or grandkid can come home safe from school every day," she said. "For them, there's no one else who comes close to Mike's record on actualizing gun safety reform."

Tom Steyer, whose top platforms include combating climate change and curbing the political influence of corporations, finished seventh in the Iowa caucuses and sixth in the New Hampshire caucuses, and will likely fail to qualify for Wednesday's Democratic debate.

Anne Wile, Steyer's Los Angeles regional organizing director, said the campaign added a Santa Monica office in addition to its Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles offices in order to canvass communities of color on the Westside.

"People assume the Westside is white and rich but there are a lot of people of color in places like Oakwood in Venice and Pico in Santa Monica, and low-propensity voters in those neighborhoods don't get outreach from campaigns," Wile said. "We're going to reach into those areas when we canvass over the next several weekends."

Rebekah Salgado, Steyer's California press secretary, said Steyer has a significant following on the Westside because residents are deeply invested in climate and environmental issues.

"He's the original climate candidate, and that's an area of great concern to people in Venice, Santa Monica, Malibu and West L.A.," she said.

Wile said the Santa Monica office draws volunteers from Malibu who were affected by the Woolsey fire and rank climate change as their top priority.

"For them, it's personal," she said.

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CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 6

email inquiry to Mayor McKeown was not answered by deadline time.

The NBA All-Star game Sunday was nothing short of breathtaking, from Common's introductions to Jennifer Hudson's incredible performance to that final nail-biter last quarter, decided by one point. But here's another thing I noticed, with sadness. The superb tribute to host city Chicago showed a lot of striking murals. Like so many cities they apparently value and preserve them. Santa Monica trashes them.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealm-rmusic@gmail.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Montana Ave.

Montana Robbery

On Monday, February 17, at approximately 7:45 p.m., there was a robbery at 912 Montana (Greens Up). The suspect entered the store, walked to the cash register and demanded money. The suspect removed the entire cash drawer from the register and exited. A witness observed the suspect flee southbound in the alley from the store.

The loss is approximately $1,000 dollars.

Suspect is described as a Male White, 20-40, 508, thin build, wearing a black or gray hoodie, with some type of black covering over the bottom portion of his face.

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