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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY
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Volume 19 Issue 85
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Flair Cares
The local cleaner is hosting a food drive.
Page 3

Mardi Gras at Harvelle's
Tuesday at 9 p.m.
Page 6

Samohi graduate spreads mental health awareness from coast to coast



Courtesy photo

HEALTH: A Samohi grad is now working to promote mental health.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

When Samohi alum Olivia Lubarsky left the sunny skies of Santa Monica for the snowy streets of Maryland to continue her training in gymnastics at Towson University, the 21-year-old never believed she'd find herself in the position she is today.

This past weekend, Lubarsky was invited to speak at a TEDx Conference in San Luis Obispo, where she spoke about "Own Your Roar," which is an initiative started by Lubarsky that seeks to unite mental health and athletics.

"I started off (the speech)

SEE **AWARENESS** PAGE 5

SMMUSD's project-based learning program now accepting applications

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Described as a unique and exceptional high school educational program, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Personalized Project-Based Learning pathway is currently accepting admissions for the 2020-21 school year.

Parents of current eighth-grade students who attend Lincoln Middle School, John Adams Middle School, SMASH and Malibu Middle School, along with eligible 10th-graders living in the SMMUSD boundaries are invited to attend one of the many upcoming information sessions and tours scheduled for February and March.

Similar to last year, the campus, located at the new Barack and Michelle Obama Center for Inquiry and Innovation, is looking to accept

SEE **PROGRAM** PAGE 10

School district receives 625 claims for reimbursement in school fees settlement

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District received 625 claims for reimbursement for educational materials after settling a class action lawsuit over school fees, district officials said Wednesday.

Attorney Kevin Shenkman initiated the lawsuit in 2017 on behalf of parents Vivian Mahl and Gina de Baca, who claim that SMMUSD had required students to pay for expensive calculators, field trips and athletic uniforms and therefore violated the constitutional guarantee to a free education.

The district settled the lawsuit last August, agreeing to reimburse families for supplies they have purchased that the district is obligated to provide and cover the plaintiffs' attorneys' fees. Mahl and de Baca each received $5,000.

The settlement also required local schools to publish "free school guarantee" notices in course

SEE **CLAIMS** PAGE 10

California governor: Lower bar for forced mental health care

ADAM BEAM AND DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California should lower the legal bar for providing forced treatment to the mentally ill and building more homeless shelters, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Wednesday in his second State of the State address.

He took the unusual step of devoting most of the annual speech to just two related issues: affordable housing shortfalls and homelessness. They have quickly eclipsed the state's other problems since the Democratic governor took office a year ago.

He called it "a disgrace, that the richest state in the richest nation ... is falling so far behind to properly house, heal and humanely treat so many of its own people."

While homeless populations in most states have declined recently, California's jumped 16% last year to about 151,000 people, a problem that the governor said disproportionately affects

SEE **LOWER BAR** 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 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).

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

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

Main Library Docent Tours
Docent led tours are offered the third Friday of each month. Docent led tours of the Main Library cover the library's gold LEED rating of sustainability, its art, architecture and even the library's collection. Docents are able to adapt the tour to fit your interest and time. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 22

Read & Play
A story time for the very young (Babies to Preschool), followed by play activities designed to cultivate key developmental skills. 3:30 - 5 p.m. Fairview Branch Library

CoderDojo Workshop
Practice computer science and coding skills with volunteer mentors. Use our laptops or bring your own. Register at the library. Main Library, 3 - 5 p.m.

Roberto Devereux: A Multimedia LA Opera Talk
LA Opera Community Educator Len Lipman gives background/highlights of Donizetti's tragic opera. Roberto Devereux features Queen Elizabeth I of Tudor England as the diva extraordinaire. Learn about the opera before seeing the performance. 2 - 3 p.m. Main Library.

SAT Test Prep Workshop Series & Practice Exams
This guided workshop by Study Smart Tutors outlines all of the important information you need to know about the SAT test so you can prepare correctly, reduce your stress, and get your best score. Registration required. Register at (310) 458-8684 or via email at pbuser@smgov.net. Presented in collaboration with Virginia Avenue Park. 9 -10:30 a.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Westside Stories: Life in the Four Corners Photo Exhibit

In the face of rapid gentrification the Pico Youth & Family Center (PYFC) and West Los the Documentary have teamed up to present: Westside Stories: Life in the Four Corners Photo Exhibit. The exhibit will be hosted at Bergamot Station Arts Center– 2525 Michigan Ave. Santa Monica, Ca. 90404 on Saturday, February 22, from 7-10 p.m. and Sunday, February 23, from 10 p.m. -1 a.m.

This culturally empowering photo exhibit, showcasing the work of thirteen Westside photographers (Merrick Morton, Arlo K, Josh "bagel" Klassman, Nick Bradley, Rod P. Bradley, Alex Castaneda, Paulo Freire Lopez, Carlos Cortez, Celena Cadena, Paco Araiza, Lou Eli Santana, Johnny Zepeda, Cindy Morales) is being headlined by legendary Los Angeles photographer Estevan Oriel, who recently published a book that captures a powerful up front view of Los Angeles' urban culture. Mr. Oriel's father Eriberto Oriel will also be exhibiting his work.

"I am honored to participate in the Westside Stories: Life in the Four Corners photo exhibit. I always try to give relevance to the stories of people who society attempts to criminalize. I'm also looking forward to exhibiting my work next to my father's work as he is responsible for getting me my first camera, "stated Estevan Oriel.

More than 200 images will be exhibited and many of them will be for sale. A portion of the proceeds on each sale will support PYFC's programming in digital art, film and photography for underserved youth. The event will also feature music, classic cars, food and drinks. Admission is $5.00 to support PYFC programs for youth.

"There is a rich culture, in many cases hidden, on the Westside of Los Angeles that is being threatened with extinction and we want to celebrate the unique arts, people and culture of our community, " stated Charlie Chacon, West Los the Documentary Director.

"We want to celebrate culture and art but also bring unity to the Westside through this event. Everyone is invited to join the fun and celebrate our communities past, present and future. It will be a historic event for sure, "stated Alex Aldana, PYFC Executive Director.

SUBMITTED BY OSCAR DE LA TORRE

Citywide

5th Annual Flair Cares Food Drive Through 29,

Flair Cleaners, Southern California's leading eco-friendly dry cleaner, is hosting its 5th Annual Flair Cares Food Drive, Hang Up Hunger, through Feb. 29. The drive benefits the Westside Food Bank, the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, and the Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry. Flair is matching donations up to 1,000 pounds of food donated by customers at each location. All customers who donate will receive a coupon for 50% off dry cleaning on a future visit.

"Nearly 30 percent of low-income individuals in Los Angeles County struggle with food insecurity and aren't sure when they'll get their next meal," said Gary Futterman, owner of Flair Cleaners. "At Flair, we believe that no one should go hungry, which is why we are committed to collecting as much food as possible, and to matching donations up to 1,000 pounds per location, during our 5th Annual Flair Cares Food Drive."

Flair customers and community members may bring unopened, non-perishable commercially prepared, canned or boxed food to any Flair Cleaners – Redondo Beach, Santa Monica, Studio City, or Valencia. Food that has passed its expiration date and items in glass jars cannot be accepted. For a complete list of the food items needed by local pan-tries, visit Flair Cleaners' Facebook page.

Donations will be delivered by Flair Cleaners to the following charities:

· Westside Food Bank is an independent nonprofit corporation that provides food, which enables low-income people to stay in their homes, deterring the problem of homelessness, and saving them from making the agonizing choice between paying for rent or food when they can't afford both.

· Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry strives to alleviate hunger throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. Their dynamic group of volunteers sources donations, packages nutritious food to stretch a family's food supply, and distributes that food to qualifying residents of the Santa Clarita Valley.

· Established in 1983, the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry is a 100% volunteer coalition of diverse religious institutions working together to address the problem of hunger in the community.

For more information on Flair Cleaners, its community outreach, or its environmental commitment, visit FlairCleaners.com, or like us on Facebook at Facebook.com/FlairDryCleaners.

SUBMITTED BY PHYLLIS GRABOT



City of Santa Monica

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).

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ESPAÑOL

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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WINNER

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 319 CALLS ON FEB. 18

Handicap Zone Violation 1000blk Hill St 12:23 a.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 100blk Wilshire Blvd 12:23 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 700blk Broadway 1:33 a.m.
Public Intoxication 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 1:54 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Navy St 3:15 a.m.
Construction Noise 1500blk 9th St 4:54 a.m.
Loitering 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:11 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2500blk Wilshire Blvd 5:46 a.m.
Loitering 1400blk Ocean Ave 5:52 a.m.
Construction Noise 1500blk 9th St 6:25 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1100blk Berkeley St 6:32 a.m.
Encampment 2300blk Centinela Ave 7:28 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 21st St / Pearl St 7:45 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk Harvard St 7:58 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1500blk 11th St 8:16 a.m.
Critical Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 8:19 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk Harvard St 8:32 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1400blk 7th St 8:47 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Montana Ave 8:48 a.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper Report 2600blk Main St 9:06 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 3300blk Olympic Blvd 9:12 a.m.
Person With A Gun 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:22 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk 9th St 9:24 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1100blk 18th St 9:28 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2500blk The Beach 9:57 a.m.
Fight 21st St / Ocean Park Blvd 9:58 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2400blk Ashland Ave 10:04 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2200blk 22nd St 10:07 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 15th St 10:10 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 3000blk Prospect Ave 10:11 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2700blk Highland Ave 10:13 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1600blk Euclid St 10:16 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1600blk Euclid St 10:17 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100blk 17th St 10:19 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 6th St 10:39 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1900blk The Beach 10:58 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 11:10 a.m.
Domestic Violence Report 1300blk Franklin St 11:28 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2000blk Hill St 11:41 a.m.
Burglary Report 200blk San Vicente Blvd 11:45 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk 12th St 12:11 p.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1100blk Broadway 12:11 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 900blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:23 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2900blk Urban Ave 12:25 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1500blk Harvard St 1:03 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 1500blk Montana Ave 1:31 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400blk Stanford St 1:47 p.m.
Fraud Suspect There Now 2700blk Main St 2:06 p.m.
Burglary Just Occurred 2400blk Pico Blvd 2:11 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 11th St / Colorado Ave 2:21 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 4th St / Montana Ave 2:27 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000blk 7th St 2:41 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Lincoln Blvd / Michigan Ave 3:19 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold Harvard St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:23 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 300blk Santa Monica Pier 3:28 p.m.
Fraud Suspect Just Left 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 3:31 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1200blk 16th St 3:36 p.m.
Lost Property 2500blk Kansas Ave 3:39 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2100blk Oak St 3:48 p.m.
Loitering 2800blk Pico Blvd 3:50 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200blk 18th St 3:53 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1400blk Broadway 4:13 p.m.
Loitering 1000blk 12th St 4:14 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk Harvard St 4:27 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 4:28 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1800blk 7th St 5:24 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2100blk Oak St 5:25 p.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 1300blk Ocean Ave 6:08 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1400blk 11th St 6:20 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 23rd St / Pier Ave 6:30 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold Euclid St / Arizona Ave 6:37 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 20th St / Olympic Blvd 6:40 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 6:43 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:51 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2200blk Delaware Ave 6:59 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:13 p.m.
Fraud Report 800blk 10th St 7:13 p.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1100blk 15th St 7:40 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200blk Harvard St 7:44 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk Harvard St 7:48 p.m.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

Tourism Talks

By Misti Kerns

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lucky Santa Monica Resident Rubs Elbows with Celebrities at Film Independent Spirit Awards

On Saturday, February 8 a host of filmmakers and performers gathered on our local shores for the Film Independent Spirit Awards. Held annually the night before the Oscars®, cinematic talents gathered beachside in Santa Monica for a casual celebration of independent films. Those in attendance included Scarlett Johansson, Laura Dern, Renée Zellweger and Parasite director Bong-Joon Ho, among many others.

The star-studded ceremony was also attended by Santa Monica resident Yulia Morris, the winner of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism's Film Independent Spirit Awards contest. During the contest, Santa Monica residents were invited to submit photos of their favorite way to spend a winter day at the Santa Monica Pier on Facebook and Instagram. Full submissions are on view at https://www.santamonica.com/contest/.

"It was a great to see Nicolas Cage, Scarlett Johansson, Robert De Niro ... and many more," said Morris. "I was able to take some autographs for my sister. Thanks Santa Monica and Film Independent for a memorable experience at the Spirit Awards."

The Spirit Awards are produced by Film Independent, a non-profit that also produces the L.A. Film Festival and whose stated mission is to "champion creative independence in visual storytelling and support a community of artists who embody diversity, innovation, and uniqueness of vision." As a long-time partner to the community, Film Independent graciously donated the tickets for the contest and heavily featured Santa Monica footage and praise in the broadcast of the ceremony.

As has often been the case in recent years, a number of Spirit Award winners also went on to pick up Oscars® the following night. Renée Zellweger took home the best female lead prize for her performance in Judy. Also presaging the Academy's pick, Parasite won for Best International Film.

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism Film Independent Spirit Awards ticket giveaway is an annual event. Be sure to check back in winter 2021 for full contest details and your chance to attend next year's celebration.

AWARENESS

FROM PAGE 1

sharing a piece of wisdom that I believe is the best piece of wisdom that's been shared with me so far, and that's the phrase: "Perfectionism paralyzes potential,'" Lubarsky said in an interview this week.

Citing high school as the start of her experiences with high-functioning depression, the 21-year-old said her mental health only got worse as time went by.

After sitting out her freshman year to focus on her health, Lubarsky was ready to compete her sophomore year but suffered an injury before the season started. While recovering, Lubarsky realized athletes have access to a lot of resources for healing physical injuries but there was a lack of support for their mental and emotional wounds.

"And so for me, one of my main messages that I wanted to push and what 'Own Your Roar' really strives to teach is that mental illness is just as valid and just as detrimental to your performance as a physical injury," Lubarsky said.

As she described the setbacks she's encountered since leaving Santa Monica, Lubarsky said, "My whole mindset was: 'I'm not depressed. I'm being dramatic, and I'm just using this as an excuse to justify why I'm falling short of perfection.' I became so afraid of failure, that I wasn't acting at all and I wasn't functional."

These experiences during her trying time led Lubarsky to believe that not only should there be an increase mental health education for student-athletes, "but that also needs to be coupled with resilience, leadership and mindfulness curriculum to teach people to cope with their emotions, cope with stressors, cope with failure, and learn to appreciate failure as a tool to learn," she said.

Only minutes after walking off stage, Lubarsky said she received a few social media messages from people in the audience who shared how much they appreciated the discussion.

"So, I'm really excited for the platform that 'Own Your Roar' is now going to be able to reach," Lubarsky said as she described her vision for the future.

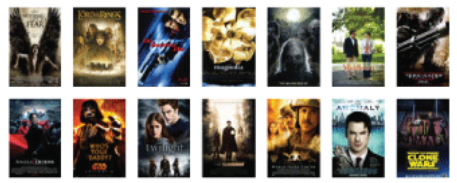
"Last December, right around winter break. I was approached by a few of the gymnasts on UCLA's team, who were looking at starting like a similar initiative and I've had a few conversations with administrators at the NCAA and at Mental Health America to see if there's opportunities for collaboration," Lubarsky said. "I do also envision furthering Own Your Roar by comprising a panel that would create an official curriculum that would accompany the program and allow others to see the perspectives of current and former student athletes, coaches, trainers and clinical professionals."

And while the next step is to be determined after the completion of competition season, Lubarsky said, no matter what comes next, she is appreciative of the opportunities she has already been afforded.

"I'm very thankful to really have the support of a whole community of people who helped me when I first launched 'Own Your Roar,' and who have seen it grow to what it is today," Lubarsky said. "I had no idea it would expand like this."

brennon@smdp.com

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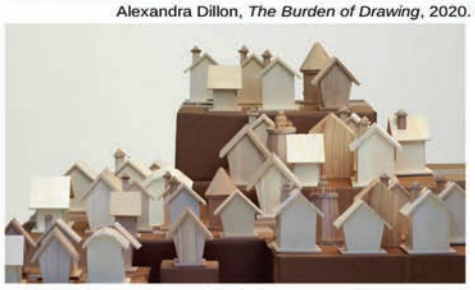
18

DRAWING CONNECTIONS | LAS HIJAS DE LOS DÍAS: 7 FEMALE VIEWS FROM THE MARGINS

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Alexandra Dillon, *The Burden of Drawing*, 2020. Oil on big padlock, rustic pencils, chain. 15 x 2 in.



Luciana Abait, *Displacement*, 2016



Doni Silver Simons, *Like a Homing Pigeon*, 2014

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's Mardi Gras At Harvelle's!

BEACH BOY BRIAN GETS IT RIGHT, LOVE DOESN'T

In 1988 Beach Boys founder and legend Brian Wilson recorded his very first solo album, a quarter century after the first BB LP. A nervous breakdown and subsequent drug use took him to the precipice that many feared he wouldn't come back from, but he did, and has slowly made his way toward "normalcy" all the while creating music.

I got the assignment to do the second interview and magazine piece for that album, through a strange route. My son Chris had a good friend in high school, Randy Bookasta, who launched an alt music magazine, Contrast, while in his teens, and when Bookasta got the call from Warner Bros. for the landmark story he immediately, excitedly said Yes! then realized he knew next to nothing about Wilson, and called on me. It was a bizarre situation and it took me two months to create a cogent piece out of the fractured interview, but it ran 12 pages without a single word changed.

So I got to know Brian a little and his genius and how much he is beloved by anyone who knows him, and that good heart that has driven all of his music making continues as he recently criticized original BB Mike Love, who now owns rights to the Beach Boys name for touring, for Love's decision to perform at the upcoming Safari Club International Convention, where Donald Trump Jr. will be the keynote speaker. Donny Jr. is a well-known killer of elephants, leopards, crocodiles, endangered big horn sheep.

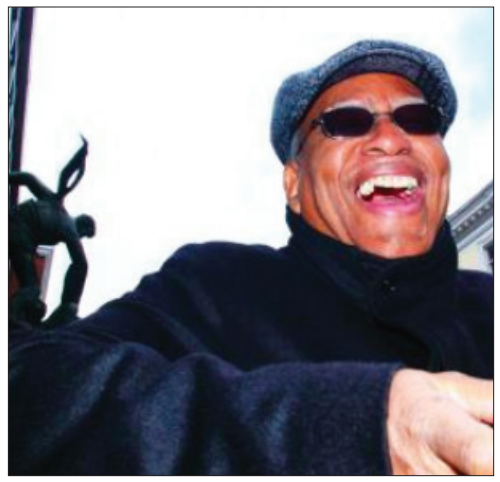
Wilson is telling fans to stop buying Beach Boys music until the group stops supporting trophy hunting. Thank you, Brian. And Love maintains his decades-long reputation as being one of the biggest jerks in showbiz.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

LONNIE LISTON SMITH, CUT CHEMIST (second show added! One of the most versatile, legendary jazz-soul-funk keyboardists to ever grace the scene, known for playing with Miles Davis, Max Roach, Art Blakey, Roland Kirk, Pharaoh Sanders, many more giants, Lonnie Smith will be getting cosmic this Sunday, backed by Inglewood jazz-funk collective Katalyst, plus a very special opening set by highly esteemed turntablist Cut Chemist, and DJ sets by KCRW's Garth Trinidad.) — Sun 9 p.m., Lodge Room, Highland Park, $30.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Mardi Gras with THE DAMN WELL PLEASE ORGAN TRIO (wait, HIGHLY RECOMMENDED over the LA Phil, Gerald Clayton, The Band, LA Opera, Jazz Bakery? oh yeah, and it isn't even a trio though there may be 6-12 players on stage this show is all keyboard dynamo Darius Holbert, simply one of the most talented musician-entertainers I've ever seen and he doesn't do live shows any more... only this, do ya hear what I'm sayin'?, plus Mardi Gras beads, N'Orleans drink specials, King cake, best party this side of the bayou, last year the last set was the best, after most of the crowd went home so prepare to party into Lent) — Tues 9 p.m., Harvelle's, SM, $10.



Courtesy photo

SECOND SHOW: Lonnie Liston Smith will play in Highland Park.

RECOMMENDED:

THIS AFTERNOON!! — DR. STRANGELOVE (yup, put the SMDP down and run right over to our beloved Aero to catch one of my favorite films ever, early Kubrick plus George C. Scott, the brilliant Sterling Hayden, Peter Sellers x3, and who could ever forget Slim Pickens riding that bronco into oblivion) — Thurs aft 1 p.m., Aero Theatre, SM,

TONIGHT! — LA OPERA - EURYDICE (last performances! - LA Opera goes after the Orpheus tale, young bride dies of snakebite on her wedding night, descends to underworld, meets up with Pop but gets a chance to rejoin Land of the Living and husband Orpheus but this time it's told from the woman's POV, rising wunderkind composer Matthew Aucoin partners with librettist-playwright Sarah Ruhl, a world premier) — Thurs 7:30 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, DTLA, $49-$284.

TONIGHT! — MELISSA MORGAN (never seen her, watched a couple of videos, read some rave reviews, trust the booking at Sam First, her pianist last night was the great Gerald Clayton, so I think I'm on solid ground with this recommendation) — Thurs 8, 9:30 p.m., Sam First, LAX, $15-$20.

TONIGHT! — DVORAK 7, IVES 1 - DUDAMEL (oh Gustavo, you crazy Venezuelan you, pairing Ives and Dvorak in a series, starting with possibly Dvorak's best, and my fave, the 7th, though the "New World" is most performed, and Ives, how, after all, can you take anyone named Charles seriously, he was a flop for most of his lifetime as a composer but a star life insurance salesman, Mahler loved him so that's good enough for me) — Thurs, Fri 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, $64-$209.

DVORAK 8, IVES 2, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 10

Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Havel's "Largo Desolato" At City Garage

You're a popular dissident, your political writings spur action against a totalitarian government, your admirers depend on you, begging you not to weaken, as you sit in your house paralyzed by fear of the knock at the door that could take you away at any minute. Oh, and you're not writing anything these days, either. That's the "action" in Vaclav Havel's semi-autobiographical play, "Largo Desolato," in a stellar production at City Garage (Bergamot Station).

For those of you who might need the history lesson, Havel was an intellectual and playwright who became a President: the last one for the nation of Czechoslovakia, and after it broke apart, the first one for the new Czech Republic. He'd been a political activist whose writings were banned in his own country. He was part of Charter 77, a manifesto calling for the government to honor its commitments to human rights, leading to creation of the Civic Forum party that sparked the "Velvet Revolution," which helped bring down the Iron Curtain across Eastern Europe.

But in a police state, writing and signing such a document, considered a political crime, will get you locked up, and in Havel's case, it did, a number of times, the longest for four years, 1979-1983. The play was likely written following his release; he was under continual surveillance by the state.



Photo by Paul M. Rubenstein

HAVEL: L-R: Aaron Bray, Troy Dunn, Anthony Sannazzaro in the City Garage production of Largo Desolato by Vaclav Havel.

FALLING SLOWLY

"Largo Desolato," a musical reference, means a slow, grand, solitary phrase. And that's what Leopold Nettles, a professor whose writing has made him a target of the authorities, is experiencing: a very dark night of the soul, when those who look up to him want too much of him, while others worry about his state of mind or are fed up with his self-isolation; when those who love him find him unable to reciprocate, while authorities threaten punishment if doesn't deny he was the writer of his own words. He's questioning himself and definitely leaning neurotic.

To put it mildly, he's paranoid and anxious, he's not the man he used to be, and he's drinking and taking drugs to ease the fear. Troy Dunn does an extraordinary physical and verbal job of conveying Leopold's tightly wound OCD behaviors, and his jittery interactions with the friends who stop by. One question here is: do they? Or does this play take place entirely in Leopold's mind? Regardless, it works on all levels.

Apparently separated but still living with someone who may be his wife, Suzanna (Emily Asher Kellis) and her boyfriend Edward (Gifford Irvine) stop by, asking if he's eaten, if he's gone out, if he's "gone" (as in, to the toilet). They can't stay, they've got a date for the symphony or maybe it's the ballet. Next up it's the two Sidneys (well-played by Anthony Sannazzaro and Aaron Bray). In their blue uniforms and caps, they're "men of the people" from the paper mill, who've come to let Leopold know how much he's loved and counted on, and how important he is to everyone. In a neat casting trick, we'll see them again.

Next his lover Lucy tries hopelessly to pull him out of his rut through love and seduction, but he's an empty vessel, and his anxieties prevent him from performing. Angela Beyer gives a superb and convincing performance.

Another friend from the political sphere Bert (a woman, played by Trace Taylor), does a monologue about how Leopold needs to buckle down and get back into the game. I interpreted her as his conscience.

Then the two Sidneys, now in black trench coats and fedoras, come back as the "the chaps," aka the government goons. If Lionel wants his situation to improve, all he needs to do is sign a document disavowing that he wrote what he wrote. He asks for time, and they drag Lucy away.

REPUDIATE YOUR BEING

In Act II, an adoring student Marguerite (Marissa DuBois), inspired by his philosophical writing on love, comes to "rescue" him, attempting to do what Lucy could not. Again, unsuccessfully.

The two Sidneys return with paper from the mill for him to write on, and documents they've stolen for him to write about, hoping to reenergize Leopold's political writing career.

Later, after Lionel makes up his mind that he'd rather go to prison than sign the document, the two goons return to further dehumanize him by saying his case has been adjourned "for the time being"—leaving him in limbo—and making him superfluous. Now not even his signature matters.

Definitively directed by Frederique Michel, with beautiful production design by Charles Duncombe, Largo Desolato was translated by Tom Stoppard, an English playwright who was born in Czechoslovakia; Havel dedicated the play to him.

SEE CULTURE WATCH PAGE 11

flavor
magazine

Spotlighting the finest restaurateurs, recipes from culinary innovators and the latest dining trends, as well as parties and events throughout the season.

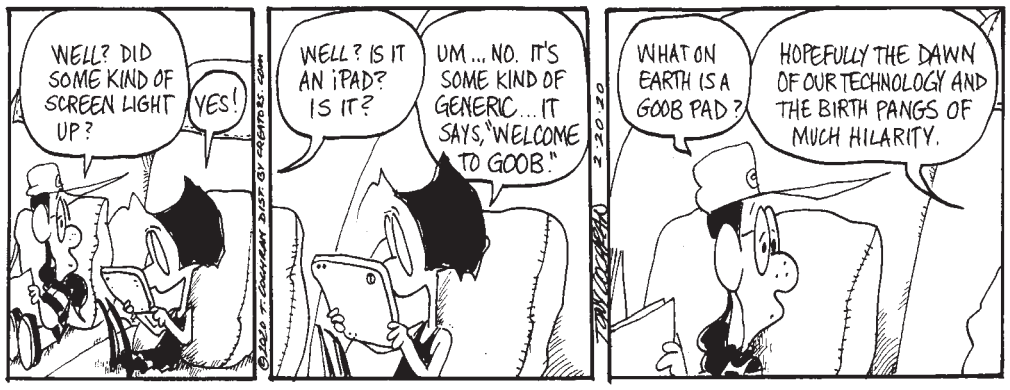


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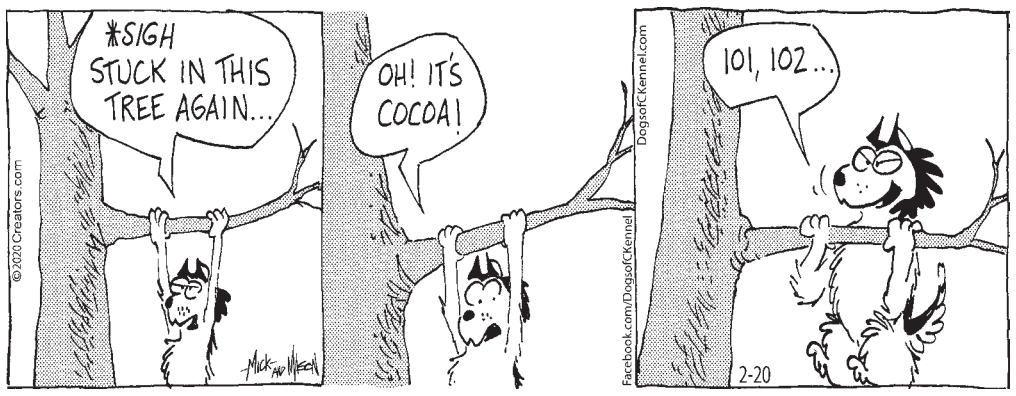
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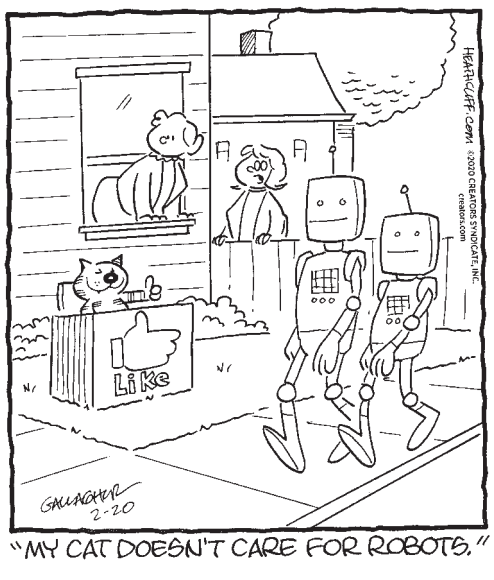
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.6°

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

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft ankle to knee high
Small SW swell. Fading old NW swell. Deep early AM high tide.

WEATHER

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.
Monday: Sunny, with a high near 69.
Monday Night: Clear, with a low around 52.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 69.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2020/02/22	Sat	3:12 PM	-0.79	L
2020/02/22	Sat	9:30 PM	4.10	H
2020/02/23	Sun	02:45 AM	1.44	L
2020/02/23	Sun	08:49 AM	5.58	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 02/18
6 12 39 61 70
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 50 M

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

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 02/18
3 11 28 34 36

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

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 02/18
1st: 09 - WINNING SPIRIT
2nd: 01 - GOLD RUSH
3rd: 07 - EUREKA
RACE TIME: 1:41.70

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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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 20)

Your cosmic birthday gift is an attitude you can wear like an outfit – an easy approach to life that naturally balances, puts things in an order that makes sense, gives you the space to create in a rhythm that feels good to you. The key thing here is to remove excess, incorporate silence and leave room for felicity. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 50, 17, 2 and 8.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). None will question your ability to lead. The thing is that you're not yet sure about where, why and how you want them to go. Get clear on that and the expedition will be a given.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a mystery to solve, and you'll love getting to the bottom of it. You're equipped with all the right tools for the job, namely diplomacy and curiosity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've a solid feel for one part of a deal, and then there are other parts in which you're not so surefooted. With study and repetition, you will master every aspect of the interaction. Keep at it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Remember the time reality was better than your dreams? It happens rarely, but that's only because of the amazing breadth of your imagination. Rest assured, it will happen again. You're due.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you can't find what you need, what does it matter if it's inside of you or outside of you? The point is that it's not in your hand. There's someone who can help you with this. Start asking around.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You think you know what enough love is, but you're already loved so much more than that. You are loved beyond what you could measure. What will you get busy on, knowing that love is already covered?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be dealing with people who are great in different ways. It makes no sense to value one way more than another. Assume there is merit across the board and look for ways to bring people together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You see the problem that is standing in your way but what you might not see is that this problem is the way. Right now it looks like an obstacle instead of the grand opportunity it really is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being an excellent team member is a useful skill and one you should be quite proud of now. What you accomplish in the group will be more satisfying and meaningful than what you accomplish alone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Joy is not something to guard or hoard, rather it's something to participate in. This joy you feel is not your own. It belongs to the larger body of joy, as ocean spray belongs to the ocean.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It takes the same amount of energy to do a very positive thing as it does to do a very negative thing. People generally do the thing that is most readily available to the moment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just because yours is a spiritual sign doesn't mean you're always inclined to meditate, pray and the like. Practical action can do just as much to put you in a beautiful mindset and expand your spirit.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

E	A	R			S	P	A	S		A	R	O	M	A
C	L	O	G		C	A	R	P		D	O	M	E	D
H	O	P	E		O	N	C	E		D	O	N	T	S
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	I	C	I	N	G	O	N	T	H	E	C	A	K	E
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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

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

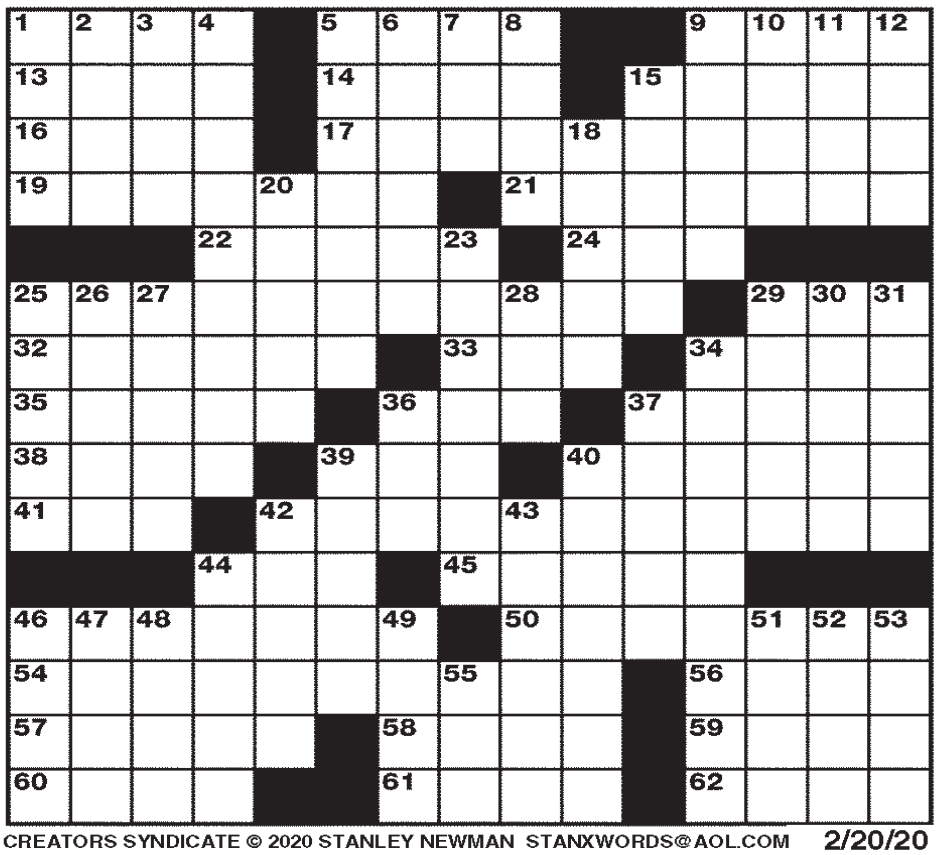
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	8			2				5
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	6	2			7	5		
	1		5	6	8		7	
		5	9			6	8	
	2				9			4
6				5			2	
5		1		7		9		8

Newsday Crossword

TRIPLE-IZED by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Fabled Friar
5 Latch on to
9 Upscale clothing brand
13 Wistful feeling
14 Clods
15 Confectioner of fiction
16 Acrobatic move
17 Daily paper employee
19 Parlor creations
21 Dessert cart
22 Heart chambers
24 No particular
25 Usual diamond denouement
29 WWII president
32 How some antics are done
33 The South's "Natural St."
34 Taunter's comment
35 Plant in a patch
36 Foundation garment
37 Rather blah
38 Hard to pin down
39 London's "Old" theatre
40 Maryland state bird
41 SLC-based church
42 Glee
44 Grid great Marino
45 "Omigosh!"
46 Grasping nature
50 More high-minded
54 Urban extremities
56 Star Wars series sage
57 Mess hall servings
58 "Oh, of course!"
59 Organ with air
60 Whirlpool
61 Fictional Sweeney
62 Biblical twin

DOWN
1 Wilson predecessor
2 Pac-12 team
3 Voucher
4 Held off
5 Take a shot
6 Trail mix tidbit
7 CIO partner
8 Real estate ad abbr.
9 Lacy mat
10 Descriptor for LAX or JFK
11 Tulsa resident
12 Somewhat improper
15 Misguided
18 Car starter of yore
20 "Everything else" choice
23 Lawless state
25 Oslo's __ Peace Center
26 How a loss is often entered
27 Does perfectly
28 Keogh cousin
29 Southeast Asian capital
30 Old-style "will"
31 Some Poe writings
34 Bob or bun
36 Very important
37 Court submission
39 Leonardo's hometown
40 Intending to vote no
42 Flags down
43 With obstructive sediment
44 Sans pizazz
46 Culmination
47 Was a competitor
48 Very slightly
49 Send forth
51 Notes in a pot
52 Buchanan of crime fiction
53 Classico competitor
55 "Same" starter



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NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 6

p.m., Disney Hall, DTLA, $78-$223.

"ONCE WERE BROTHERS: Robbie Robertson and THE BAND" (film - I'm tempted to give this a HIGHLY RECOMMENDED sight unseen because I am such a huge, longtime fan of The Band, and so are a few other credible people like exec producers Martin Scorsese, Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, Van Morrison, Clapton, Springsteen, etc etc, Scorsese opined what I thought the first time I heard the new Big Pink album, "This didn't sound like anything else," a confessional, cautionary, and occasionally humorous tale of Robertson's young life and the creation of one of the most respected and enduring groups in the history of popular music) — Fri, Landmark Theater, WLA, $12-$15.50.

LA OPERA - ROBERTO DEVEREUX by Gaetano DONIZETTI (talk about divas, how about strongwoman Elizabeth I, her formidable public persona hiding a fragile heart aching to reconnect with a suitor whose loyalties are uncertain, bouncing from rage to heartbreak) — Sat, next Thurs 7:30 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, DTLA, $24-$329.

SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends (it's Sarah Silverman, a preeminent comedian of our time, I adore her for so many reasons so I think you should go, no matter who her Friends are) — Sat 8:30 p.m., Largo, LA (sold out? - go beg!).

GERALD CLAYTON and Marcel Camargo Duo (we are so fortunate that jazz pianist Gerald Clayton has the energy and desire to play everywhere because if you miss one gig because it's way across town or wrong date or time, just wait a week or two, I've been dying to see this rocknroll gallery and this is the best excuse possible) — Wed 8 p.m., Mr. Musichead Gallery, LA, $15-$25.

LEO KOTTKE (I saw him not too long ago at Pepperdine, after some 50 years, and he was as superb an acoustic guitarist as he was in the '60s but had also honed great patter and comedy asides, he gives great show) — Wed 8 p.m., Largo, LA, $50.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: DVORAK 9, IVES 4 2/28, 29, Disney Hall, DTLA; MARIA MULDAUR 2/28, TOM PAXTON 2/29, McCabe's, SM; DUSTBOWL REVIVAL 2/29, Troubadour, WHwd; CHIEFTAIN'S IRISH GOODBYE TOUR 3/1, Disney Hall, DTLA; LYRIS QUARTET & Mezzo-Soprano JESSICA RAUCH perform New String Quartets by LA-Based Composers 3/3, In Sheep's Clothing, DTLA; BURTON CUMMINGS, 3/3, ROSEANNE CASH 3/6, Pepperdine, Malibu; SARAH SILVERMAN & ALL STARS 3/22, Largo, LA; FARTBARF 3/6, The Sardine, San Pedro; LIQUID KITTY'S PUNK ROCK BBQ - Spring Forward Edition 3/8, Harvelle's, SM; BUDDY GUY 3/8, The Saban, Beverly Hills, 3/11, The Canyon Montclair; SOUL ASYLUM 3/11, Teragram Ballroom, DTLA; KINKY FRIEDMAN 3/13, McCabe's, SM; AARON NEVILLE 3/13, The Rose, Pasadena, 3/14 The Canyon Agoura Hills; GRACE POTTER 3/19, El Rey Theatre, LA: TAJ MAHAL QUARTET 3/20, The Canyon Agoura Hills. 3/21 The Canyon Montclair, 3/22 The Canyon Santa Clarita; SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS 3/28, Teragram Ballroom, DTLA.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He 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 therealmrmusic@gmail.com

PROGRAM

FROM PAGE 1

only 100 ninth-graders and a limited number of 10th-grade students, so prospective students are encouraged to apply soon. The application deadline is March 20, 2020, district spokeswoman Gail Pinsker said in a news release.

"The district's objective is for all students to graduate ready for college and careers from schools that are safe, socially responsible and academically rigorous. This is accomplished at PPBL through a self-reflective, shared system of accountability that consistently uses culturally relevant best practices to maximize equitable student outcomes," Pinsker added, mentioning the program is designed to serve students of all abilities, interests, aspirations, and socio-economic backgrounds. At PPBL, students engage in internships and multi-disciplinary projects based on their interests, which allow them to graduate with a Samohi diploma and real-world experience that has prepared them to thrive in any two- or four-year college or career.

During its first year of operation, the district's PPBL pathway had close to 50 students enrolled, according to Pinsker. The district originally had around 100 children signed up but some choose not to move forward. Some parents determined it was not a good fit for their student because of music or art responsibilities, while other prospective enrollees might have wished to see how the first year went before committing to the program.

"My son was hesitant at first... (but) through this program, he has found unyielding support by each of his teachers — each of them encouraging his ideas and passions to help guide his learning experience while getting the required rigorous education that we expect from high school," said Cindy Short, a parent of a PPBL ninth-grader.

"The PPBL pathway is a place where students excel through inquiry, doing, and reflection. Students and teachers collaborate in personalized, student-driven, passion-based, experiential learning," Principal Jessica Rishe said.

Tours are currently scheduled to occur on campus from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Friday, Feb. 21 and Feb. 28, as well as March 13 and March 20, according to district officials. Those who attend the upcoming sessions should expect to learn about the curriculum, rollout plan, location of the program, application process, availability of electives, extracurricular activities and more.

Parents and local residents can also visit bit.ly/2SiSDX3 to learn more about the program. Additionally, brochures are available through all SMMUSD middle schools and online at samohi.smmusd.org/PPBL/.

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CLAIMS

FROM PAGE 1

descriptions and syllabi.

Families with students enrolled in SMMUSD between July 2016 and November 2019, the time period in which Mahl and de Baca say they were charged illegal school fees, were able to file claims for reimbursement until Feb. 10.

The district provided the claim forms in English and Spanish to more than 12,000 families via mail and email, said SMMUSD spokesperson Gail Pinsker.

She said the district is now reviewing claims and supporting documents to determine whether families are eligible for reimbursement and may contact families for more information.

If SMMUSD disputes a claim, it is submitted to a neutral attorney who is well versed in the law concerning the free school guarantee and the California constitution, Pinsker said. The attorney, who has been agreed upon by the plaintiffs and the district, may also request information from families.

"To date, there is a significantly larger number of disputed claims than expected, and the district's claim review process has confirmed that many parents were led to believe that they only needed to fill out the form and not provide any supporting documents, which is inaccurate," Pinsker said.

Earlier this month, 261 parents, students and community members filed an objection to the settlement that asks the court to reject families' claims for reimbursements unless they can show receipts for the educational materials they purchased.

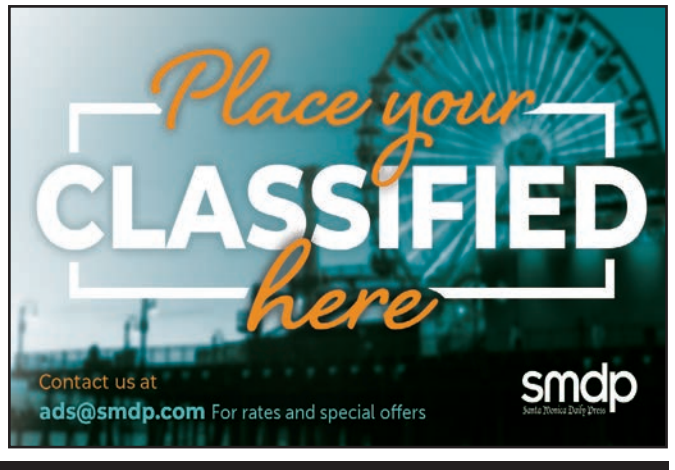
Joel Koury, a local attorney with children in SMMUSD schools, said he thinks the plaintiffs should have gone through the district's complaint process for educational fees rather than initiate an expensive lawsuit. The district created a process to remedy illegal educational fees after a 2010 American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit revealed that more than 50 school districts in the state required students to pay for textbooks, art supplies and physical education uniforms.

The objection also urges the court to audit Shenkman's stated billable hours and cap any attorney fees awarded at $1 per hour. Shenkman is requesting $560,000 from the district for 993.1 hours of work, but said he will donate the majority of his fee to create a scholarship that will fund college tuition for SMMUSD students who have demonstrated a commitment to social and racial justice.

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 43 CALLS ON FEB. 18

EMS 100blk Wilshire Blvd 12:47 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:19 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Lincoln Blvd / Navy St 3:15 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Civic Center Dr 4:18 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 21st St 8:18 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:02 a.m.
EMS 700blk 14th St 9:23 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 9:56 a.m.
Vehicle Into A Structure 3000blk Prospect Ave 10:12 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 2nd St 10:29 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 10:38 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk Woodacres Rd 10:47 a.m.
EMS 500blk Ocean Ave 11:06 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2000blk Main St 11:23 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900blk Olympic Blvd 11:42 a.m.
EMS 2400blk Olympic Blvd 11:53 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2300blk Pearl St 1:02 p.m.
EMS 20th St / Pico Blvd 1:28 p.m.
EMS 500blk Broadway 2:23 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1000blk 11th St 3:14 p.m.
EMS 700blk 9th St 3:50 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Ocean Front Walk 3:52 p.m.
EMS 100blk Montana Ave 4:55 p.m.
EMS 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:18 p.m.
Wires Down 400blk Idaho Ave 5:24 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1000blk 11th St 5:32 p.m.
EMS Berkeley St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:34 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 5:37 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1100blk Pearl St 5:52 p.m.
EMS 700blk California Ave 6:10 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 6:33 p.m.
EMS Euclid St / Arizona Ave 6:34 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 2200blk Delaware Ave 6:59 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1200blk Harvard St 7:13 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 7:29 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900blk 4th St 7:40 p.m.
EMS 3200blk Pico Blvd 8:07 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100blk 4th St 8:38 p.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 9:08 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Neilson Way 9:38 p.m.
EMS 900blk Stanford St 9:45 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1400blk 4th St 9:54 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Arizona Ave 10:58 p.m.

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 FEBRUARY 6, AT APPROXIMATELY 5 P.M.

Officers responded to the Papyrus Store located at 1456 Third Street Promenade regarding a theft. Officers learned that a subject exited the store after taking items and not paying. The store was desirous of prosecution. Hung Tac Trinh, 46, from Los Angeles was arrested for petty theft. Bail was set at $500.



File photo

HUNG TAC TRINH

CULTURE WATCH

FROM PAGE 7

Don't miss this production. It's at City Garage through March 1. Call (310) 453-9939 or visit www.citygarage.org (Link: Brown Paper Tickets).

As one of LA's premiere local theatres, why not support City Garage? Philanthropist and President of Santa Monica-based Flinkman Management Inc., Ruth Flinkman Marandy, will present an exclusive concert there on March 15 at 3 pm.

From Charles Duncombe, Executive Director of City Garage: "Ruth and her husband Ben Marandy are generous local philanthropists. She is also is a great singer and former child performer (back in her New York days)." It's an afternoon of popular song, musical hits and personal stories, taking you on a musical journey from the Bronx of her childhood to the Los Angeles of today. Tickets here: https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4526963

Sarah A. Spitz is an award-winning public radio producer, retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.

SEND YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

LOWER BAR

FROM PAGE 1

minorities. Meanwhile, a statewide housing shortage has compounded the issue, driving up prices and contributing to more people fleeing California than moving in, the first time in 10 years the state has had a migration loss.

Newsom proposed lowering the threshold for conservatorships for those with mental illnesses, particularly for those experiencing homelessness who turn down medical aid. He said that current laws set a "too high" threshold for compelling individuals to go into community treatment centers.

California must act "within the bounds of deep respect for civil liberties and personal freedoms, but with an equal emphasis on helping people into the life-saving treatment that they need at the precise moment they need it," he said in a 42-minute livestreamed address from the ornate Assembly chamber.

However, he said, "clearly it is time to respond to the concerns of experts who argue that thresholds for conservatorships are too high and should be revisited."

Homelessness has been a catalyzing issue in California politics, with public opinion polls showing it at the top of voters' priority lists.

Republican President Donald Trump has frequently criticized California for its homelessness woes, saying the Democratic-led state can't handle the crisis and blaming it for other state problems, including poor water quality in the San Francisco Bay.

Trump again chided Los Angeles leaders on Tuesday during a visit to Southern California for failing to stem that city's homelessness epidemic, warning that the federal government will intervene if Los Angeles doesn't "clean it up fast."

A law Newsom signed last year authorized San Francisco to expand its conservatorship authority, a program that the city is still setting up. Civil rights groups are concerned with expanding conservatorship programs.

Newsom last year also signed a law exempting Los Angeles shelters and supportive housing from the state's famously strict environmental review rules. He called for expanding that exemption statewide.

"We need more housing, not more delays," he said.

The California Environmental Review Act requires most construction projects to submit to a strict analysis of how it would impact the environment. Such reviews can delay projects and give opponents ample opportunity to derail proposals.

Republican Assemblyman Vince Fong of Bakersfield said cutting red tape is something Republicans have been urging for years.

But Democratic Assemblyman David Chiu of San Francisco warned that the governor's proposals will face opposition from those who don't want shelters or low-income housing in their backyard. That reluctance "has a chokehold on our politics and has caused us to under build for decades," he said in a statement.

California Republican Party Chairwoman Jessica Millan Patterson said in a statement that the growing homelessness problem reflects "the catastrophic failures of the Newsom administration."

Aside from conservatorships, Newsom called for overall better mental health care to help the state's homeless population with a larger focus on behavioral health. That's a broader approach that includes not just mental well-being but also addresses interrelated physical challenges such as drug and alcohol abuse or poor diet and exercise.

"Health care and housing can no longer be divorced," he said. "After all, what's more fundamental to a person's well-being than a roof over their head?"

Newsom announced that more mobile housing trailers are heading to Santa Clara, Riverside, Contra Costa, and Sonoma Counties, as well as the city of Stockton, after the temporary shelters were previously sent to Oakland and Los Angeles County. And he said the state is making available 286 state properties, including vacant lots, fairgrounds, armories and other state buildings, to be used by local governments to help the homeless.

This year, Newsom wants to spend another $750 million combating homelessness and wants to give the money to as yet unnamed regional administrators instead of local governments. The independent Legislative Analysts' Office has criticized that approach, saying it likely won't have a meaningful impact.

Newsom counters that the homelessness problem is so bad the state needs to try something different. Earlier this year, he sent camping trailers from the state fleet to cities in need and ordered excess state land to be used for temporary shelters.

He's asking state lawmakers for nearly $700 million, doubling to $1.4 billion by 2022 including federal funds, to shift the focus of California's Medicaid program that provides free or low-cost medical services. He wants state and local emphasis on preventative health care, but with a broad approach that could include non-traditional assistance in finding housing, even providing rental assistance if homelessness is linked to heavy use of expensive health care services.

The governor also created a state and local "behavioral health task force" to look at the link between mental illness and substance abuse.

Newsom again stopped short of endorsing a "right to shelter," which would require communities to have enough housing to handle all their homeless. Instead of creating such a legal mandate, Newsom said it is better for the state to work cooperatively with local governments.

He called for some changes to a tax on millionaires approved by voters in 2004 to help those with mental illness who are homeless, among other efforts, and called on counties to spend the $160 million they already have from the tax more quickly.

"Spend your mental health dollars by June 30, or we'll make sure they get spent for you," he warned county leaders. "It's time to match our big-hearted empathy with tight-fisted accountability."

Associated Press journalist Cuneyt Dil contributed to this story.

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