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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY
03.11.20
Volume 19 Issue 102
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DUI Checkpoint
Santa Monica police will be looking for drunk drivers on Friday.
Page 7

Bernie or Biden?
Charles Andrews has his favorite candidate.
Page 6

Southern California gets rain, but less than expected

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Much-needed rain fell intermittently across Southern California on Tuesday but in lighter amounts than originally forecast for the region, which has experienced a very dry winter.

Mountain areas received up to around 2 inches of rain by midday but generally the precipitation was showery rather than steady, and the National Weather Service adjusted expected totals downward.

"Not quite the start we were expecting yesterday," the Los Angeles-area weather office tweeted.

The rain was being caused by a low pressure system off the coast of Southern California and Baja California that was drawing a plume of subtropical moisture northward, meteorologists said.

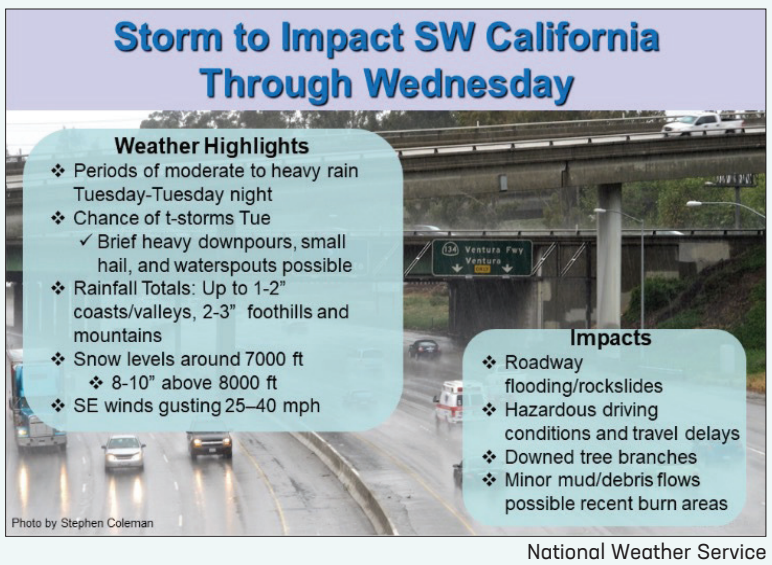
But satellite imagery showed the atmospheric river was carrying most of the moisture into Baja California.

Showers were expected to increase late in the day and then linger for several days.

Despite lowered expectations, forecasters cautioned that potentially strong thunderstorms were a possibility through the day from Los Angeles County and up the Central Coast to San Luis Obispo.

North of the Los Angeles region, a flash flood watch was also in effect for the mountains and desert of Kern County, and a winter weather advisory was issued for a small portion of the southern Sierra Nevada.

A more significant storm appeared likely by early next week.



National Weather Service

RAIN: **The wet weather is expected to last at least another day.**

Possible teacher layoffs prompt student response

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

With dozens of layoff notices expected to be handed out to local educators by the conclusion of this week, many community members have expressed concerns about their children's future educational opportunities.

No notices have been officially handed out to teachers yet, but the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Board of Education has taken more than one of the necessary steps to do so soon. In fact, a recent communication forwarded to the district's board lists more than 50 employees who could soon receive notice that their services are no longer needed.

In response to the potential losses, nearly 100 community members have taken the podium at various board meetings in recent weeks to persuade district leaders to find a way to keep its educators. Some of these speakers include members of Samohi's wrestling team, who emotionally shared why their beloved coach and teacher should not receive a pink slip.

At the start of the season, the local wrestling team eagerly discussed how Jason Mun found his way to the local high school. With smiles and laughs, wrestlers shared how the program, which was at one time in danger of being cut, was growing and hoping for a championship run. In February, their smiles had faded as the team spoke to a room full of attendees and the district's board.

Senior Jonathan Zhang was the first athlete to take the podium during the meeting to share how instrumental Coach Mun has been in his peers' lives.

"Despite being a "skinny, nerdy, Asian kid... Coach mun still welcomed me to the team to come and train with the team. He didn't stress wins and losses but instead wanted me to focus on my own personal growth," Zhang said. "From him, I have gained more confidence in myself and have become stronger — both physically and mentally... Without wrestling and coach Mun, I would not have been able to have been accepted into the UC Irvine honors program or received a letter of invitation from the chancellor at UC Santa

SEE **WRESTLING** PAGE 11

SMMUSD asked to reimburse families for $1 million in school supplies

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Hundreds of local families are asking the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to reimburse them for a combined $1 million after the district settled a class-action lawsuit over illegal educational fees.

The district agreed to reimburse families last August when it settled a class-action lawsuit initiated by parents Vivian Mahl and Gina de Baca, who claim SMMUSD required students to pay for expensive calculators, field trips and athletic uniforms in violation of the constitutional guarantee to a free education. Last month, families filed 626 claims for reimbursement for educational materials, with the average claim topping $1,650, new court documents show.

Seven claims exceeded $10,000, maxing out at $15,535.81. An additional claim demanded reimbursement for $552,257.21, but the district did not count the claim toward the total $1,038,399.55, said SMMUSD spokesperson Gail Pinsker.

"We received one claim for more than $500,000 that included private school tuition, a privatized home school program, private tutoring, college admission counseling and a helicopter," Pinsker said.

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

SEE **REIMBURSE** PAGE 11


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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Introduction and First Reading of Ordinances to Amend 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 City Council to introduce for first reading ordinances amending 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.

On March 4, 2020, the Planning Commission adopted Resolutions recommending to the City Council that the Council make the proposed amendments to the text of the Santa Monica Municipal Code and the Bergamot Area Plan related to Food Halls.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020, AT 6:30 P.M.**

LOCATION: Civic Auditorium – East Wing
1855 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Food Halls
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Or email to councilmtgitems@smgov.net

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Tony Kim 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 City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (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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Santa Monica Daily Press
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What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, March 11

Montana Mystery Book Group: Standing in Another Man's Grave
Two Scottish detectives investigate the disappearance of a hitchhiking teenage girl, their only clue a photo sent from the missing girl's cell phone. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Mindful Meditation
Henry Schipper, graduate of UCLA's Mindful Awareness program, teaches the concepts of mindful meditation. Ocean Park Branch Library, 7 - 8 p.m.

Just for Seniors: Internet Basics
Learn what the Internet is and how to navigate the Web safely. Seating is first come, first served. Beginner Level. Main Library, 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 12

Santa Monica Rent Control Regular Board Meeting
The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Note: Feb, March and April meetings will be in East Wing of Civic Auditorium. 7 p.m.

Wonder Women: Science Edition
Hands-on science inspired by great women scientists. Ages 6-11. Main Library, 3:45 - 4:30 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

Current Events Discussion Group
Join organizers for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Class, Multi Level HIGH
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Contact Olga Saucedo at (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 or osaucedo@smmusd.org to enroll. Main Library, 11:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Friday, March 13

Music and Movement at the Library
A musical story time that will have toddlers singing and dancing along as they learn important early literacy concepts. Fairview Branch Library, 3:30 - 3:50 p.m.

LA Law Library QuickLook Legal Research Class & Office Hours
LA Law Library legal research specialists teach free, monthly 45-minute overviews of legal information search tools and techniques as part of their regular "office hours" visits. After the class, an LA Law Library legal research specialist will be available in Study Room 7, from 2:30 to 5 p.m., to assist in finding information and resources on any legal topic. LA Law Library provides access to legal resources and assistance with legal research. LA Law Library does not provide legal advice. For legal advice, you should consult an attorney.

Yoga
All levels. Drop in for $15/class or purchase a pre-paid membership through Guest Services. Parking included. Room subject to change, check-in with Guest Services before each class. Annenberg Community Beach House, 9 - 10 a.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Local businesses participate in annual Yarn Crawl

While not all relationships with it are created equal, when it comes to Claudia Seizer and Teri Artinyan owners of Wildfiber Studio (1453 14th St. Suite E, Santa Monica) and Jennifer Wenger-Turchen owner of Jennifer Knits (108 Barrington Walk, Brentwood), their love for yarn has thrown them into a happy loop creating a community filled with fiber substance as two of the eighteen women-owned businesses participating in Los Angeles at the four-day 9th annual L.A. County Yarn Crawl event March 26-29, 2020 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Twenty years in business and thirty five years selling yarn and creating patterns, Torrance-born Wenger-Turchen's 'lovefest' with yarn is more about the relationships knitters have with one another and fibers. Her clients are from around the globe. They have become a part of her family and know her on a first name basis which is why the shop is appropriately named Jennifer Knits.

"My store is my greatest creation (after my children)," she said. "We've changed and saved lives; we've created a community and friends; and we've shown people they can relax and have fun with fiber. Everything that knitting provides, is the reason I opened my shop. I love having a haven where all are welcome to celebrate their craft," Wenger-Turchen explains.

Part of the haven Jennifer Knits has become, is a one helping all ages within a healing space through fiber arts. From the therapeutic kinship conversations to stress-relieving inclusion, the love of yarn has helped her shop's PTSD Veterans, and even a brain tumor recovery patient to knit belonging, purpose and peaceful-being together.

For Pico Rivera-born Artinyan co-owner of the six year-old Wildfiber Studio, yarn had to woo her slowly in her own yarn dance romance from crochet to knitting.

"My first experience with yarn was in elementary school where I learned to crochet. I remember making a pink crochet cotton top. Fast forward fifteen years when I learned to knit. It was a way to pass time but, I wasn't quite hooked," she said. "Then another fifteen years later, I really fell in love with yarn and knitting. I've been obsessed with yarn and knitting ever since then. The greatest part of being a yarn shop owner is that I get to spread the love of yarn, knitting and crochet to all people. I take particular joy in seeing the excitement of someone who has just discovered knitting or crochet. I know the possibilities and can't wait for them to discover the things they can accomplish."

For more information on Claudia Seizer and Teri Artinyan's Wildfiber Studio go to www.wildfiberstudio.com and for Jennifer Wenger-Turchen's Jennifer Knits go to www.jenniferknits.com

The L.A. County Yarn Crawl's group of unique shops are committed toward educating and teaching yarn crafts. The four-day event will feature special $300 prize giveaways via a passport and feature many other individual shop surprises. https://layarncrawl.org/pages/about-the-la-yarn-crawl The purpose of the event is to create awareness by bringing together the Los Angeles community in the fiber arts all while creating friendships, inspiring creativity, projects, and memories to last a lifetime.

For more information on the L.A. County Yarn Crawl 2020 please go to https://layarncrawl.org/ or email layarncrawl@gmail.com For all media requests contact event publicist Stacey Kumagai at 818.506.8675 mediamonster@yahoo.com

SUBMITTED BY STACEY KUMAGAI

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, Including Accessory Dwelling Units, Density Bonus Standards, the City's Housing Project Approval Procedures, 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. (This hearing was continued from March 4, 2020.)

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: Civic Auditorium – East Wing
1855 Main 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 City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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ESPAÑOL
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Lawsuit seeks to require LA to provide beds for homeless

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

A federal lawsuit filed Tuesday seeks to force Los Angeles officials to provide thousands of shelter beds in an effort to stem what it described as the unfolding "human tragedy" of people living in squalor on the streets.

While once largely confined to the notorious Skid Row neighborhood, encampments have spread countywide. Freeway overpasses are lined with tents, and it's a common sight to see someone pushing a shopping cart filled with belongings through downtown and even suburban neighborhoods.

A 2019 count by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority reported that there were close to 60,000 homeless people living in LA County, including 36,000 within the city limits.

The suit by the LA Alliance for Human Rights accuses officials in greater Los Angeles of failing to comprehensively address the homelessness crisis. One legal expert said it seems unlikely that a federal court would actually take the case.

The lawsuit asks a judge to set a "legally enforceable mandate" to establish homeless services and enough beds for anyone who needs one on any given night. it also seeks unspecified sanctions against officials for failing to meet the requirements within a strict timetable.

Residents are confronted daily with public health risks, blocked sidewalks, untreated mental illness and addiction, environmental hazards and increased crime, according to the filing.

"It is difficult for the housed and it is deadly for the unhoused," said Elizabeth Mitchell, an attorney for the Alliance who previously served in the Los Angeles city attorney's office.

The alliance describes itself as a "grassroots group of community members" that includes downtown residents, small business owners, non-profits, service providers and community leaders.

Los Angeles officials haven't seen the filing and couldn't immediately comment, said Rob Wilcox, spokesman for the city attorney's office. The county does not comment on pending litigation, spokesman Jesus A. Ruiz said.

It would be hard to imagine a federal court agreeing to take on this case, said Gary Blasi, professor emeritus of law at University of California, Los Angeles.

"A judge is not going to oversee the governments of the city and the county to deal with this problem, as complicated as it is," he said.

Blasi said a sympathetic judge might decide to address just the issue of tents blocking passage on sidewalks under the ADA. But even if it makes it into the legal system, he doesn't see any resolution in time to address the pressing crisis.

As an example he recalled recent ADA litigation against the city about ficus trees pushing roots up through the sidewalks, making it difficult for people in wheelchairs to pass.

"I think that went on for ten years before there was any kind of settlement," Blasi recalled. "I could see the same thing with this."

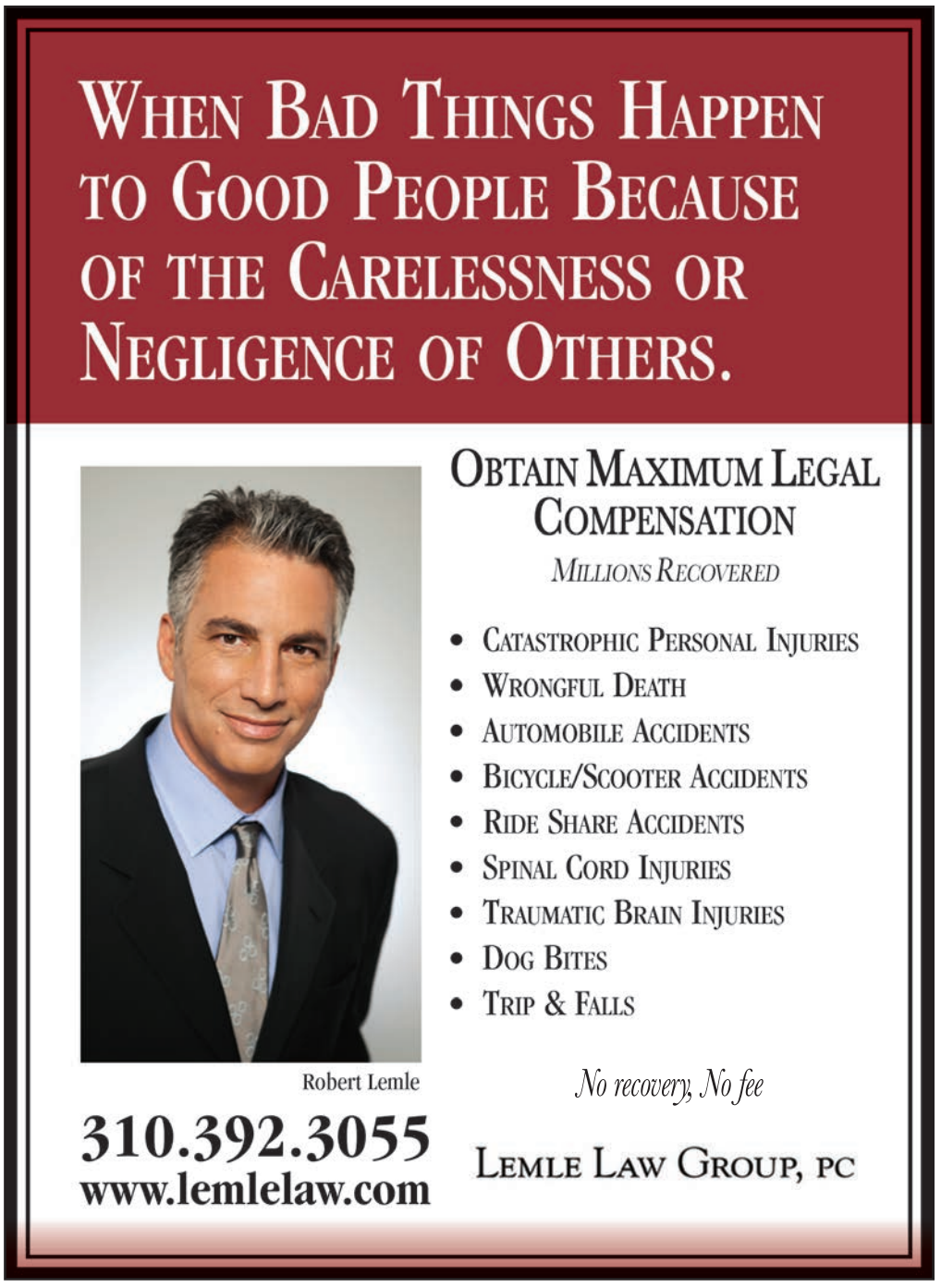
Norman Eagle owns an industrial property near downtown that he says is beset by sidewalk encampments that routinely block the entrances to his buildings. He said he supports the lawsuit because he's increasingly frustrated by the city's inability to clean up accumulating trash and human waste.

It's a health risk for people forced to live on the streets and for people who have jobs in the area, he said.

"As a landlord I want my tenants to feel safe and secure when they come to work," he said.

According to the homeless authority and Mayor Eric Garcetti's office, an average of 130 homeless people in Los Angeles move into housing daily. However, an average of 150 people become homeless every day.

The lawsuit claims shelter beds could be made available more quickly and cheaply than under current city and county plans. All options should be considered including shared housing, huge tents called sprung structures, tiny houses, and inexpensive 3D printed homes, the filing said. There is city and county-owned property near Los Angeles International Airport and elsewhere where shelters could go up, according to the court documents.



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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 301 CALLS ON MAR. 9

Hit And Run Felony Investigation 1900blk Broadway 12:28 a.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 12:34 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1300blk 12th St 1:12 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:53 a.m.
Prowler 1100blk Oak St 3:35 a.m.
Prowler 1300blk Ashland Ave 4:23 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 4th St / Pico Blvd 5:46 a.m.
Attempt Auto Theft Report 2300blk Virginia Ave 7:29 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 7:53 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 8:00 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2600blk 23rd St 8:02 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 11th St / Montana Ave 8:23 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:57 a.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 1300blk Pico Blvd 9:01 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 200blk California Ave 9:02 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 9:24 a.m.
General Parking Problem 800blk 10th St 9:28 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 1600blk 5th St 9:32 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2200blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:36 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 20th St / Delaware Ave 9:36 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2900blk Arizona Ave 9:40 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 9:44 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 34th St / Pico Blvd 9:47 a.m.
Attempt Burglary Just Occurred 1400blk 4th St 9:51 a.m.
Fraud Suspect There Now 1700blk Ocean Ave 10:12 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2500blk 2nd St 10:23 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800blk 11th St 10:32 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 10:36 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk 11th St 10:40 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 10:40 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:56 a.m.
Found Property 1100blk 3rd St 11:03 a.m.
Battery Now 1500blk 4th St 11:12 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800blk 11th St 11:37 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1500blk 4th St 11:50 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk 19th St 11:57 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 700blk Hill St 12:11 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 12:13 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 12:13 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1100blk 9th St 12:16 p.m.
Encampment 1500blk 16th St 12:25 p.m.
Fraud Report 1600blk Montana Ave 1:57 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1700blk Appian Way 2:04 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 2:22 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2300blk Lincoln Blvd 2:36 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 00blk Arcadia Ter 2:51 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2500blk Wilshire Blvd 3:09 p.m.
Burglary Report 500blk Wilshire Blvd 3:13 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk Grant St 3:25 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 3:27 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 3:34 p.m.
Fight 800blk Grant St 3:40 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk 9th St 4:14 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:24 p.m.
Identity Theft 1900blk Euclid St 4:28 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 3000blk 4th St 4:38 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1000blk Chelsea Ave 5:00 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1900blk 6th St 5:05 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 15th St / Montana Ave 5:12 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100blk Harvard St 5:14 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk Franklin St 5:19 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 4th St 5:21 p.m.
Found Property 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 5:26 p.m.
Battery Report 1500blk Franklin St 5:32 p.m.
Fraud Report 900blk 4th St 5:47 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 500blk Broadway 6:05 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:06 p.m.
Battery Report 14th St / Montana Ave 6:15 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 500blk Pacific St 6:20 p.m.
Identity Theft 2600blk Centinela Ave 6:48 p.m.
Arson 500blk Olympic Blvd W 7:02 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2900blk 31st St 7:07 p.m.
Domestic Violence Just Occurred 4th St / Arizona Ave 7:14 p.m.
Identity Theft 500blk San Vicente Blvd 8:11 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:16 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pier 8:36 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pier 8:36 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 8:48 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 17th St / Washington Ave 9:09 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Stanford St / Colorado Ave 9:41 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 10:01 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 11:23 p.m.



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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bernie or Biden? Rev or Ev?

STUPID, STUPID, STUPID PEOPLE

What I really mean is Ignorant, Ignorant, Ignorant People. (But that doesn't have the same ring to it, does it?) Nearly 63M of them, voting for the Designated Destroyer.

Some of them may be uninformed or misinformed, willfully ignorant, or poorly educated. But some aren't. They know the facts and choose to ignore them. They vote against their own interests, for Trump, and Republicans (equally culpable as long as they persist in being the enablers of the would-be autocrat). That's the scary part, that we are sharing a country and a future with them, and by a fluke of politics (Electoral College, Russia), the inmates now have the keys. (And the nuclear codes.)

This may sound like I'm being arrogant about my political point of view. No, that comes a little later. And it may not sound very compassionate or sympathetic, but it will be. As best I can manage. Stick with me.

But if we can't start in the same place, agreeing on FACTS (a deal breaker for many Trumpers), then I may have to lose some of you.

FACTS

Let's start with The Donald's ENTIRE LIFE history of lying, scamming, scheming, cheating and moral turpitude; there really is no denying the facts. Maybe we even begin with his father, Fred's arrest at a KKK riot in NYC in 1927 (he was not protesting the Klan, let me tell you) or his obtaining millions in post-WWII government funds to buy and manage public housing, including more than 27,000 apartments in New York City, from which he then proceeded to evict families of color, promoting existing and new racist housing laws that have haunted us to this day, so bad that Woodie Guthrie wrote a song about it ("Old Man Trump").

Or we could really start with his grandfather Frederick, a pimp in Alaska who was kicked out of Germany for dodging their draft, and died of the flu. (You can't make this stuff up.)

It's hard to believe people were completely ignorant of who he was when he announced for the White House, but many voters were. New Yorkers knew. Mayor De Blasio called him "Con Don" and former Mayor Bloomberg, speaking at the 2016 Democratic convention, said "God help us. I'm a New Yorker and New Yorkers know a con when we see one!"

COMPASSION

There really is no excuse for not coming by now to understand the character of this reality TV performer, unless all you watch is Fox TV. But that does describe millions. At the moment of the 2016 election, I understand that huge numbers of Americans felt abandoned by the political establishment, D and R, unheard, uncared about, and sinking like a stone into the American nightmare not dream. I'm feeling that more and more myself.

They wanted someone to break all that up, shake things up. Trump promised that, and he sure has delivered. But some still don't understand that they chose the wrong disrupter. The absolutely worst disrupter imaginable. A narcissist sociopath. (Look it up, then argue with me.)

What they don't seem to grasp yet is that he didn't drain the swamp, he just brought in his own gators. He made life fabulous for the very wealthy and they're laughing all the way to Ft. Knox, but no better and even worse for working men and women, especially those who don't own stock. Which is almost 90 percent of them, except in their rarely-considered small 401k portfolios.

BERNIE

Yes, Bernie. He is the right kind of disrupter. Not a communist, not even a socialist, but — big difference — a democratic socialist. Democratic: by the people. Socialist: for the people. NOT: the masses own the means of production. Capitalism is fine, IF regulated, not like now, a mad dog taken off leash.

In 1961 the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Call it democracy, or call it democratic socialism, but there must be a better distribution of wealth within this country for all God's children." Do you disagree with that? If you do, I think your pocketbook is pressing too hard on your heart.

I believe that if Bernie had been given the platform as the Democratic nominee in 2016 he would have explained his beliefs in a way that would have put him in the White House. Polls showed it. Polls show that today. But polls are not reliable, and we'll never know. We do know what we've endured since then, and how damaged our democracy and our nation's soul is now, and for a generation to come.

COULD HE WIN?

Absolutely. Young voters support him overwhelmingly. In 2016 there were about 4.6 million more voters than in 2012. A majority of these additional voters, 3.7 million, were 65 years +. But the Bernie supporters, rightfully so, felt betrayed by Dem Party establishment/money maneuvering, and either stayed home or voted for a third party candidate, or even Trump.

Not smart, of course, if it gives you The Donald, but understandable. In their progressive eyes — and polls show the Democratic Party leans progressive — Hillary, or Biden, are as bad as Trump because their country is a mess of oppression and income and every other kind of inequality, because of politics as usual. And especially because of climate change issues, they feel our planet and their future is running rapidly out of time. Are they angry, those Bernie supporters? Of course. Warren supporters too, I would imagine. Just how long do we, the USA, have to wait for a woman President?

This is life or death, their entire future. I'm angry too and I'm 72.

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 therealmrmusic@gmail.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

DUI Checkpoint

In recent years, California has seen a disturbing increase in drug-impaired driving crashes. The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) supports the effort from the Office of Traffic Safety that aims to educate all drivers that "DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze." If you take prescription drugs, particularly those with a driving or operating machinery warning on the label, you might be impaired enough to get a DUI. Marijuana can also be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs, and can result in a DUI.

The Santa Monica Police Department will be conducting a DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint on Friday March 13th, 2020 at an undisclosed location within the city limits between the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

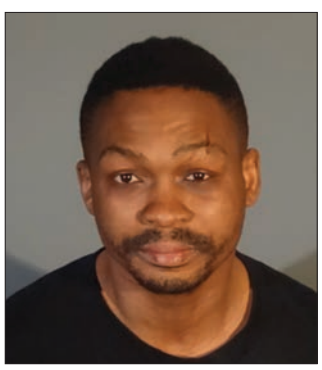
Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, license suspensions and other expenses that can exceed $10,000 not to mention the embarrassment when friends and family find out.

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the SMPD by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to 'Report Drunk Driver- Call 9-1-1'.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT ROBERT BLICHARSKI

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.



File photo

AYANDA MDLEDLE

Officers responded to the Mariasol restaurant regarding a theft investigation. Upon arrival officers learned that Ayanda Mdledle entered the restaurant, ate $88.97 worth of food, and walked out without paying. The restaurant manager provided the officers with a description of the Mdledle and desired prosecution for the theft. Officers were able to locate Mdledle on the pier and placed him under arrest. Ayanda Mdledle, 36, from Los Angeles was arrested for defrauding an Innkeeper and released on a citation to appear in court.

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press — Our flagship daily print newspaper.

smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press — Top news site on the Westside.

flavor magazine — Westside gastro-publication.

The CURRENT — Daily curated email newsletter.

dp — Inside the Daily Press Podcast.

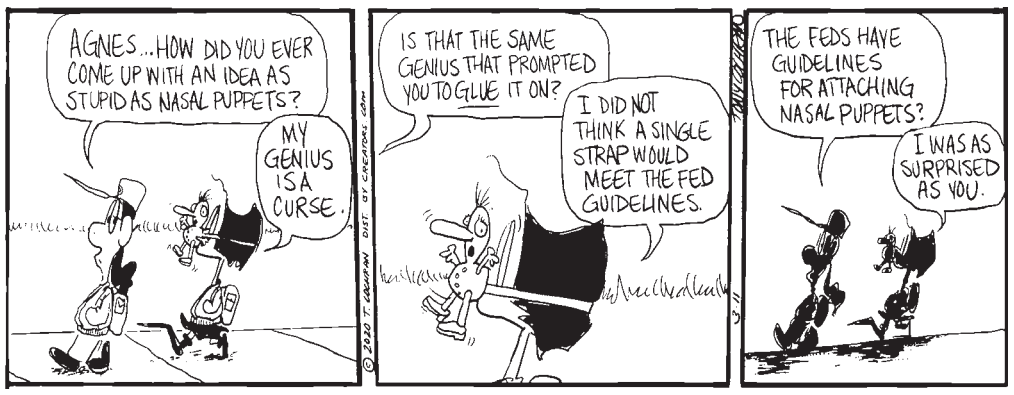
LOS ANGELES MARATHON — Race guide for the 4th largest marathon in the US.

Most Loved Santa Monica — Our People's Choice Awards.



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



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.5°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
Long period S swell builds for focal points. S windswell eases. Modest WNW swell. Winds/conditions looking mostly favorable.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
Topped out S swell mixes with lingering WNW swell. Conditions expected to return to more typical diurnal pattern.

WEATHER

Wednesday: A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 61.
Wednesday Night: A slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Thursday: A slight chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.
Thursday Night: A slight chance of rain before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.
Friday: A slight chance of rain after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.
Friday Night: A slight chance of showers before 11pm, then a chance of rain after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/03/11	Wed	05:08 AM	-0.01	L
2020/03/11	Wed	11:12 AM	5.40	H
2020/03/11	Wed	5:27 PM	-0.31	L
2020/03/11	Wed	11:43 PM	5.40	H
2020/03/12	Thu	06:01 AM	-0.07	L
2020/03/12	Thu	12:05 PM	4.65	H
2020/03/12	Thu	6:03 PM	0.36	L
2020/03/13	Fri	12:24 AM	5.39	H
2020/03/13	Fri	07:01 AM	0.02	L
2020/03/13	Fri	1:06 PM	3.85	H
2020/03/13	Fri	6:39 PM	1.08	L
2020/03/14	Sat	01:10 AM	5.23	H
2020/03/14	Sat	08:12 AM	0.20	L
2020/03/14	Sat	2:28 PM	3.14	H
2020/03/14	Sat	7:19 PM	1.79	L
2020/03/15	Sun	02:06 AM	4.96	H
2020/03/15	Sun	09:46 AM	0.28	L
2020/03/15	Sun	4:35 PM	2.83	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:03/27
7 15 21 33 62
Power#: 23
Jackpot:110 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 03/06
15 48 56 58 70
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 75 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 03/07
9 19 20 21 33
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 03/09
2 3 11 16 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 03/10
Evening: 5 1 5
Draw Date: 03/09
Evening: 6 8 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 03/09
1st: 08 - GORGEOUS GEORGE
2nd: 09 - WINNING SPIRIT
3rd: 07 - EUREKA
RACE TIME: 1:45.50

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?
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 11)

You have the means to raise up appearances, though you're fully aware that people are not cool because of what they look like on the outside. It's that special attention you give people, your genuine acknowledgment of their being and your unique way of serving the needs of the moment that give you a super-cool aura. Leo and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 43, 1, 22 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One thing you often provide without even thinking about it is reassurance. It's in the way you calmly respond — a head nod, an encouraging word — as though you believe in the other person's ultimate capability.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The sort of plans you'll be making today will only work out if they have a date attached to them. Sixty days is a magic number. Figure out what you might be able to do in that amount of time, and declare that as the aim.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As you prepare to present your work, don't forget to prepare a defense of it, too. It's an exercise that will strengthen your position. When you're ready to fight for your cause, you probably won't have to.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The muses will speak to you — a gift from the mystic beyond. Of course this is not quite enough to make things happen in your world. It's the start of something, a zephyr for your sail, and now you must steer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're a creator. You make things — deals, scenes of life, expressions of your stance and of your feelings, and other things. Hold yourself to a high standard of originality, and then give yourself credit for that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People around you are making decisions against their best interest. Since it is not technically your job to advise or educate them, if you are to assert yourself into the scenario, you must go diplomatically.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are a few different aspects of the work you'll be doing today. Success comes from focusing on the most mundane side of it: the craft, not the art, the cleanup and organization. This will keep you grounded.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Smooth stones, storm clouds, the softness of an animal's fur, the smell of damp earth... these are the sorts of observances that will involve you, lift you and send you far from the workaday world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are different things you need to do to get situated at different points in your life. You're not where you used to be. You have yet to give conscious awareness to some of your requirements. It's time to make the new list.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Everyone has flaws, and all have the option of focusing there. To attract more opportunity and create possibility for achievement, focus instead on your strengths and talents.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). How can you possibly feel heard if you're not in feeling range? Receptivity requires your message to land close to the ear, or the heart, as the case may be. Find out what the barriers are so you can bring them down.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People's attachments to things keep them from being completely honest. If you want the truth, ask someone who has nothing to gain and nothing to lose.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

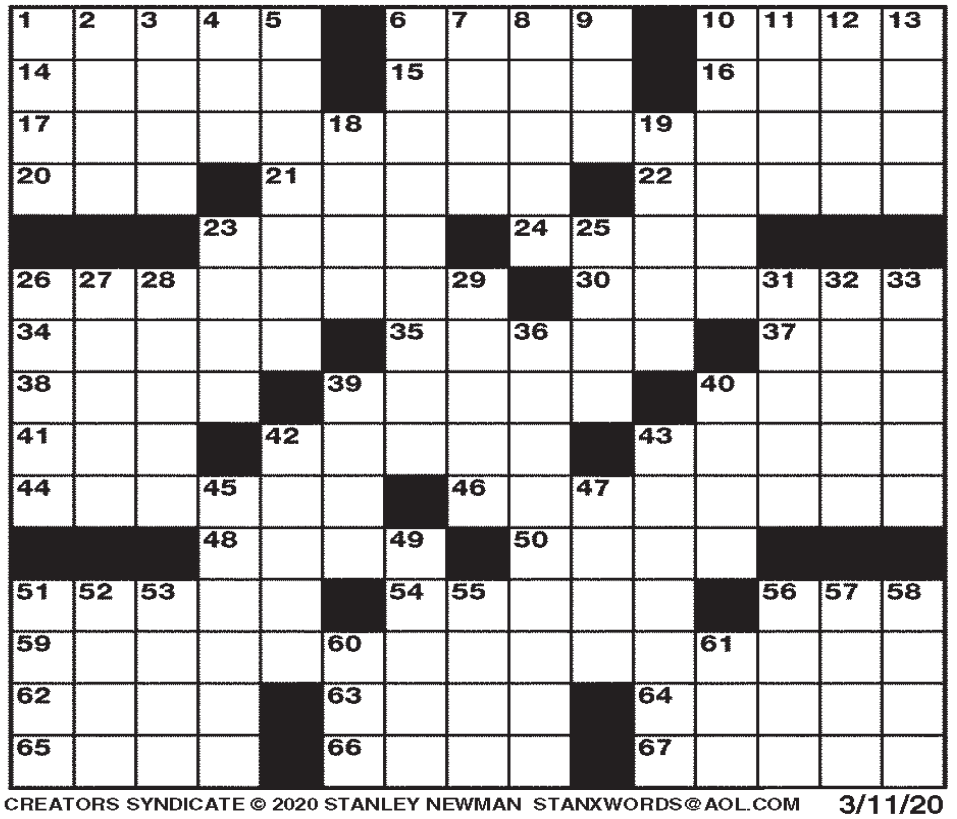
	8		2		4			
7						2	5	3
	1		7				4	
6		3			8			1
8								7
2			5			3		4
	2				1		7	
4	3	7						8
			8		9		3	

Newsday Crossword

TRIO OF TRIOS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Stopped slouching in a chair
6 Bread with a pocket
10 Had in your hand
14 Texas shrine to "remember"
15 What anvils are made of
16 Water, in Spanish
17 The Three Bears
20 Preceder of tee
21 Topple over
22 Office subordinates
23 Nile queen, for short
24 Shipped off
26 With 46 Across, the Three Stooges
30 Save from peril
34 Person in a cast
35 Machine parts with teeth
37 Electrical resistance measure
38 Dress shirt fastener
39 Jeans or bell-bottoms
40 Strike with an open palm
41 Texas senator Cruz
42 Thanksgiving parade VIP
43 Teapot opening
44 Cooks, as clams
46 See 26 Across
48 Page of a book
50 Period covered by a datebook
51 Greeting for a group
54 Aired again
56 Ooh and __
59 Daisy Duck's three nieces
62 Angry emotion
63 Rudely brief
64 Major blood vessel
65 Wedding vows
66 "Understood"
67 "Last, but not __ . . ."

DOWN
1 Identical
2 "That's too bad"
3 Scottish caps
4 Actress Thurman
5 Liked by many
6 Majestic church instrument
7 Teheran's country
8 Frog's cousins
9 Raggedy doll
10 Hard-to-break behavior patterns
11 Old-style oath
12 Oil change, informally
13 __ of yore (long ago)
18 Imitative one
19 People from Copenhagen
23 Oaf
25 Makes a mistake
26 Holders of ships' sails
27 Eight-person band
28 Technique-improving piano piece
29 Busybody
31 Use crayons
32 Self-mover's truck rental company
33 Holding nothing
36 Regardless
39 *"Qué __?"* (Spanish greeting)
40 Egg on
42 Detect, as an aroma
43 Very bad publicity
45 Comrades in battle
47 University official
49 German wives
51 Mata __ (infamous spy)
52 Apple's tablet
53 Golden Fleece ship
55 Jane of Brontë fame
56 Mystical glow
57 Pantry pests
58 What comes from a furnace
60 1101, in Roman numerals
61 Football great Montana



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/11/20

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"C-10"** license, on the following: **Bid #20.11.SMS - Santa Monica High School – Barnum Hall Acoustical Blinds Project at Santa Monica High School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$180,000 -$200,000** and includes electro-mechanical work inside Barnum Hall for sound controls for live performances. The procurement and installation of Sound Control Banner Systems, manufactured by iWeiss, including the electrical and data installation to power and control the systems, and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be filed in the Districts Purchasing Office located at 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 on or before 4/7/20 no later than 2:00 PM at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Each bid must be sealed and marked with the bid name and number. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 3/17/20 at 10:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 3/24/20 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at http://fip.smmusd.org/contractors.html.

Mandatory Job Walk: 3/17/20 at 10:30 AM

Job Walk location: Santa Monica High School located in Santa Monica, CA – **All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the 4th Street pedestrian gate, adjacent to the Double Tree Hotel on the south side, opposite the Civic Center parking structure. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location.**

Bid Opening: 4/7/20 at 2:00pm

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop-Griego at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

FY19-20 Annual Wastewater Main Replacement Project
SP2611

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, PlanetBids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via Planet Bids immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
None Scheduled

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $3,450,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 300 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,000 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 43 CALLS ON MAR. 9

43 calls on March 9

EMS 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:03 a.m.
EMS 500blk Ocean Ave 1:11 a.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 100blk Hollister Ave 2:10 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 2:43 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 5:19 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:51 a.m.
EMS 200blk Hollister Ave 8:14 a.m.
EMS 900blk 9th St 8:41 a.m.
EMS 800blk 12th St 8:57 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 9:24 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 700blk Pacific St 9:43 a.m.
EMS 900blk 10th St 10:03 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 10:16 a.m.
EMS 2600blk 2nd St 10:18 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 10:38 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 11:22 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 11:40 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Pico Blvd 11:49 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 700blk Wilshire Blvd 11:51 a.m.
EMS 2900blk 3rd St 12:27 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 12:33 p.m.
EMS 400blk 11th St 12:57 p.m.
EMS 19th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:38 p.m.
EMS 800blk Ocean Ave 1:41 p.m.
EMS 600blk Wilshire Blvd 1:46 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 1:53 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Washington Ave 2:02 p.m.
Broken Water Main 1200blk 4th St 2:16 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Main St 2:21 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 4th St 3:07 p.m.
EMS 600blk Wilshire Blvd 3:14 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 16th St 5:07 p.m.
EMS 15th St / Montana Ave 5:10 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 5:19 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 5:27 p.m.
EMS 200blk Wilshire Blvd 6:51 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 2nd St 8:06 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk 16th St 9:00 p.m.
Structure Fire 3100blk Neilson Way 9:04 p.m.
EMS 100blk Hart Ave 9:08 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 10:26 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 10:26 p.m.
EMS 400blk Broadway 10:46 p.m.

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For Sale	WantedvvTravel	Commercial Lease	Services	Fitness	Obituaries
Furniture	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Wealth and Success	Tutoring
	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services		

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

WRESTLING

FROM PAGE 1

Barbara."

Kristena Nichols, a junior on Samohi's team, agreed with her teammates' sentiments when she took the podium a few minutes later. Like her peers who would later join her, Nichols shared how she has grown as a student and athlete under Mun's guidance.

"I didn't come to Samo until my Sophomore year so I didn't know anyone when I came last year. My first class was taught by Coach Mun," who immediately welcomed me to the team and helped me in-and-out of the classroom, Nichols said. "For me, wrestling has made a huge impact on my high school experience," and it's likely others would say the same.

"I'm on my way out but I leave behind a bunch of great kids who are preparing for the next season — whose dreams of being a champion are still in reach, " senior Ian Gomez added. "They need Coach Mun to get them there. Please don't take this (team) away from them."

The group's remarks went unaddressed since the board is unable to respond to speakers about public comments. When district staff was later asked about the status of the coach and Engish teacher, they said SMMUSD cannot comment on personnel issues. But it was mentioned that the Samohi wrestling program will continue with its current coach.

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REIMBURSE

FROM PAGE 1

more than 12,000 families via mail and email, Pinsker said.

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.

SMMUSD will submit claims it disputes to a neutral attorney. The district has disputed 334 claims totaling $612,889.19, Pinkser said.

"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 last month.

Local attorneys Joel Koury and Joseph Pertel, who have children in SMMUSD schools, also filed objections to the settlement last month on behalf of 261 parents, students and community members. Kevin Shenkman, Mahl and de Baca's attorney, said he also received 57 requests for exclusion and 23 objections to the settlement.

Koury, Pertel and others who objected ask the court to reject claims for reimbursements unless families can show receipts for the educational materials they purchased and reduce the $560,000 fee that Shenkman stands to collect from the district. (Shenkman, who also has children in district schools, said he will donate the majority of his fee to create a college scholarship for local students.)

"If he really wants to help kids, the last thing he should be doing is extracting half a million from the school district," Koury told the Daily Press last month.

In a report submitted to Los Angeles County Superior Court, Shenkman said the argument that his fee should be reduced because SMMUSD could use the funds to educate students has been rejected by the Second District Court of Appeal in a prior case. Another case argued that financial hardship is no defense to a violation of the free school guarantee, he said.

"To be sure, (SMMUSD), like all school districts in California, serves a worthwhile purpose — the education of children from elementary through high school," Shenkman said in the report. "Indeed, the purpose of this case has been to secure the right to that education free of any costs, as required by the California Constitution, and (counsel) would have preferred to accomplish that purpose without expending quite so much time, effort and expense."

Judge Elihu M. Berle will consider the claims and objections May 21 at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

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