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Artwalk lands at Santa Monica Airport Saturday



Courtesy photo

AIRPORT: The Airport artwalk includes many artists including the SMC ceramics program.

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

A day of art and entertainment takes flight at the Santa Monica Airport this weekend, bringing Santa Monica closer to its artistic communities.

The annual Santa Monica Airport Artwalk returns for its 13th year this Saturday, a free event that will feature a bevy of activities for families including food trucks, theater workshops, live ceramic demonstrations, music and of course, art.

The annual event opens more than 60 studios/venues across nine buildings along an eight-block stretch of Airport Ave. between Bundy Dr. and 23rd Street.

Local vendors and annual attendees say the event is a great way for the community to familiarize themselves with local talents and their various mediums.

"The community gets to know what a wonderful space this and to see what a thriving beehive we are here," Sherri Frumkin, director of Santa Monica Art Studios said. "It's great exposure and foot traffic for everyone here. Artists open their studios and get a chance to interface with the public."

Frumkin says Art Studio artists' work consists of the traditional — such as acrylic and oil paintings — and swings to the strange, with artworks

SEE **ART** PAGE 6

Annual count finds 3 percent increase in homeless population

count results.

homeless count totals:	2018	2019	
Street Count—Individuals	542	539	
Street Count—Vehicles/Encampments	104	115	
Street Count Sub-Total	646	654	+1.2%
Shelter & Emergency Motel Count	294	300	
Institution (Hospital) Count	8	27	
Institution (Jail) Count	9	4	
Shelter & Institution Subtotal*	311	331	+6%
Street, Shelter & Institution Counts	957	985	+3%

Courtesy image

NUMBERS: Hospital numbers were elevated due to new state rules.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica's homeless population is stabilizing, according to the results of the most recent citywide count of homeless individuals.

The city's homeless population hovered around 700 for several years before jumping 26 percent in 2017 to 921. However, the 2018 count only showed a four percent increase

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 7

Homeless report lists possible solutions

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The City of Santa Monica hired a senior advisor on homelessness, Alisa Orduña, last January in response to a 26 percent growth in the city's homeless population between 2016 and 2017. While that growth has leveled off – the population grew

SEE **REPORT** PAGE 3

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED FY 2019-20 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed FY 2019-20 Annual Action Plan. Annual Action Plans implement the 2015-19 Consolidated Plan adopted by City Council and are submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Action Plans delineate the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds to address the City's housing and community development high-priority needs as specified in the 2015-19 Consolidated Plan. The 2015-19 Consolidated Plan can be viewed at www.smgov.net/ccsgrants.

The Proposed FY 2019-20 Annual Action Plan is now available to the public for a 30-day review period ending April 15, 2019. The proposed plan can be viewed at http://www.smgov.net/hsd. Hard copies will also be available upon request through the Human Services Division at 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to humanservices@smgov.net or to the above address by April 16, 2019. You may also present your comments verbally at the City Council meeting on April 23, 2019.

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations please contact the Human Services Division.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Text of the Zoning Ordinance could Include, but not be limited to, Development Standards, Land Use Regulations, and Definitions regarding Single-Room Occupancy Housing, Structures, and Units; and Tier 1 Multi-Unit Residential Development.

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider a Resolution recommending to the City Council the adoption of an Ordinance proposing amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendments could include, but not be limited to, development standards, land use regulations, residential use classifications, and definitions regarding Single-Room Occupancy uses; and Tier 1 multi-unit residential development, with consideration given to changing regional housing trends, and consistent with housing-related goals and policies set forth in the 2010 Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) and 2017 Downtown Community Plan.

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM
LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, City Hall
1685 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.

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or to provide comments, please contact Roxanne Tanemori, Acting Planning Manager, at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at roxanne.tanemori@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.

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

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, March 22

Craft, Swap, or Create
Do you have leftover yarn, extra buttons, or scraps of ribbon you haven't used in months? Join us at the library to share your crafting supplies or find new crafting treasures, and while you are at it, make some time to create, invent and learn a new craft or skill. Sewing machine, crochet tools, and other items available for your use. Pico Branch Library.

Mat Pilates
Learn the techniques of Pilates, a system of controlled exercises that engage the mind and condition the total body. Montana Ave. branch library. 3 - 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 23

Ganggangsullae Round Dance with DaEun Jung
Explore the Korean Ganggangsullae group dance form. Participants will begin with a floor warmup, using deep breathing and the force of gravity, then proceed to simple step patterns. Learn about the history and practice the games, movements, and tactics of Ganggangsullae, using arm-weaving and call and response forms hand-in-hand with your neighbors. Wear clothes to move in and comfortable shoes. Cost: $5. Call (310) 458-2239 to register. Palisades Park 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

American Stories Book Group
Book Title: A Good Man is Hard to Find by Flannery O'Connor Pico Branch Library 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Ocean Park Branch 100th Anniversary Finale
Celebrate the end of the Ocean Park Branch Centennial with entertainment for all ages, with music, games, crafts and refreshments on the lawn. Co-sponsored by the Santa Monica Conservancy and the Ocean Park Association. Ocean Park Branch Library 2 - 4 p.m.

The Secret Ingredient: Preserving Lemons
Preserved lemons are a cook's secret ingredient. Learn how to make them at home with step-by-step instructions, as well as ideas on how to use them in your recipes. Space is limited and on a first-arrival basis. Presented by Master Gardener and Slow Food Preservation Advisor Susan Nickells. Fairview Branch Library 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 24

Guest House open
Visit anytime between for a self-guided or docent tour. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday, March 25

Craft Month Takeover
March is National Craft Month! Celebrate at the Craft Takeover and try out a variety of different crafts including knitting, weaving, and jewelry making. All supplies provided, while supplies last. All teens grades 7-12 welcome. Pico Branch Library 4:30pm-6:00 pm.

Airport Commission Meeting
The Santa Monica Airport Commission meets the 4th Monday of each Month at 7:00 p.m in the City Hall Council Chambers, except in August & December when the Commission is in recess. City Hall Council Chamber 7 p.m.

The Social Services Commission Regular Meeting
The Social Services Commission works to preserve and enhance the quality of life for all Santa Monica residents through research, outreach, and advocacy. The Commission advises City Council and City staff on identifying needs, setting priorities, planning programs, and analyzing fiscal impacts on social services. Ken Edwards Center 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26

Write Away
Gain feedback and encouragement in your writing efforts from fellow writers in this supportive writer's meetup. Fairview Branch Library 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Open Lab
Explore virtual reality and other emerging technologies during these informal sessions. 3D printing service is available to those who have successfully completed a 3D printing class at the Library. Questions can be directed to ideashappen@smgov.net Main Library Computer Classroom, 2nd Floor 5 - 7 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Marathon road closures

On Sunday, March 24, the Los Angeles Marathon sponsored by Skechers Performance will take place. The race will begin at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles and will run through the neighboring cities of West Hollywood and Beverly Hills before finishing in Downtown Santa Monica.

The Los Angeles Marathon Unified Command (LAMUC) wants everyone to plan ahead and remind people that the 26.2 mile race course will be closed to the public on March 24. Street closures will begin as early as 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, and will re-open as safety permits on a rolling basis. For a Marathon route map and a complete list of street closures throughout Santa Monica, please visitsantamonica.gov/marathon.

Eastbound San Vicente Blvd. and parts of Ocean Ave. will close starting at 9:30 p.m. on March 23 with most other downtown street closures happening at 6 a.m. on March 24. Santa Monica Police Officers will reopen the streets after the majority of the race participants have finished. Organizers anticipate most of San Vicente Blvd. will be completely reopened by 4 p.m. Ocean Ave. between San Vicente Blvd. and Moomat Ahiko Way will open at approximately 6 p.m. with the exception of Ocean Ave between Washington Ave. and Wilshire Blvd., which will remain closed until 9 p.m. For live updates on street closures and re-openings on race day, visit www.smgov.net/lamarathon.

San Vicente Blvd. will be closed to eastbound traffic along the entire length of San Vicente Blvd. between Ocean Ave. and 26th St. No vehicles will be allowed to cross San Vicente Blvd. in the northbound or southbound direction for the duration of the closure. Westbound travel will be maintained with left turn restrictions. Closures will begin at midnight.

Ocean Ave. between Montana and Wilshire avenues will be closed to both northbound and southbound traffic beginning at 9:30 p.m. Temporary No Parking signs will be posted along Ocean with the restrictions and impounding will begin at 9 p.m.

Ocean Ave. will be closed to both northbound and southbound traffic from San Vicente Blvd. to Moomat Ahiko Way. No vehicles will be allowed to enter Ocean Ave. from the westbound direction for the duration of the closure. Closures will begin at midnight.

Westbound Olympic Dr. will be closed between Main St. and 4th St. Eastbound and westbound Olympic Dr. will be closed between Ocean Ave. and Avenida Mazatlán. Closures will begin around 6 a.m.

Additional closures listed below will begin at 6 a.m.:

Main St. will be closed from Pico Blvd. to Colorado Ave.

Colorado Ave. will be closed between 5th St. and 4th St.

4th St. will be closed in both directions between Colorado Ave. and Broadway until noon

Southbound 2nd St. will be closed between Wilshire Blvd. and Colorado Ave. Northbound traffic will not be permitted to turn right at each intersection.

Northbound 5th St. will have left turn restrictions between Colorado Ave. and Arizona Ave. All traffic will be directed to Wilshire Blvd. to access the parking garages via 4th St.

SUBMITTED BY DTSM INC AND THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

THOUSAND OAKS

Number of Visitors to mountains in 2018 Dropped Due to Woolsey Fire

A recent National Park Service report for 2018 shows that Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) was on track to surpass the number of visits from the previous year but then the Woolsey Fire struck on November 9, 2018. There were 867,154 visits recorded total for the year - a decrease of about 61,409 visits from 2017.

In November 2017, there were 82,662 visits made to the park and 54,983 in December. For 2018, the numbers drastically dropped with a reported 49,997 visits in November and 11,412 in December.

"This comes as no surprise because we were mostly closed during the last two months of last year," said Superintendent David Szymanski of SMMNRA. "In fact, several of our sites are still closed today even months after the Woolsey Fire and we've only recently reopened other popular trails. I have no doubt, however, that it won't be too long before we are able to restore our park to its former glory days."

The report shows that visitation to America's national parks in 2018 exceeded 300 million recreation visits for the fourth consecutive year. The 318.2 million recreation visits total is the third highest since record keeping began in 1904.

The 418 national parks throughout the country provide a vast array of opportunities for recreation and inspiration for visitors of all ages. With at least one located in every state, national parks are easily accessible and affordable destinations. In the past five years there have been about 1.6 billion recreational visits to national parks.

In 2018, Golden Gate National Recreation Area reclaimed the top spot for highest visitation in the National Park System from the Blue Ridge Parkway. These two parks have been trading places at one and two since 1979. In the national parks category, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (11.4 million) and Grand Canyon National Park (6.4 million) continue to hold the top two spots, as they have since 1990.

For an in-depth look at 2018 visitation, including individual park figures, visit the NPS Social Science website (https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/annual-visitation-highlights.htm).

SUBMITTED BY ANA BEATRIZ CHOLO, SENIOR WRITER, SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

REPORT

FROM PAGE 1

seven percent between 2017 and 2019 – residents are hoping to see the population shrink, not just stabilize.

Council identified reducing homelessness as one of its six priorities for the 2019-2021 budget cycle in January. The annual report Orduña and City staff will present at Tuesday's City Council meeting includes several significant requests for funding, including replacing Santa Monica's largest homeless shelter, helping low-income seniors pay rent and extending contracts with local homeless outreach teams.

The report breaks the City's overall homelessness strategy into four pillars.

PILLAR ONE: PREVENT HOUSED SANTA MONICANS FROM BECOMING HOMELESS

More than 12,000 Santa Monica households are at risk of homelessness because they earn less than $50,000 per year and spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent. The City has traditionally focused on tenant protection programs and building more affordable housing to serve this population, but has recently started using first responders from the Santa Monica Fire and Police Departments to locate at-risk renters.

The Santa Monica Fire Department (SMFD) is now trained to identify people that are particularly at risk when they respond to medical calls, said Capt. Matt Norris of the Community Response Unit.

"We see the people who are most vulnerable before anyone else does," Norris said.

Firefighters and paramedics now have a checklist of indicators that a household is at risk of becoming homeless, such as lack of food in the home, and connect them with resources if appropriate, he said. SMFD is planning to collect more data on those interactions, according to the staff report.

The City is also infusing at-risk households with cash. In 2018, it piloted the Preserving Our Diversity (POD) program, helping more than two dozen low-income seniors cover their rent.

Orduña said Los Angeles County data shows that the elderly are increasingly at risk of becoming homeless, and staff is requesting that Council expand the POD program using the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

PILLAR TWO: ADDRESS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Locally collected data suggests that about two-thirds of Santa Monica's homeless population struggles with mental illness, substance abuse or a combination of thee two, a proportion on par with the Los Angeles region.

Meth is of particular concern in Santa Monica: persons possessing meth increased by 152 percent since 2014 across all populations and homeless individuals accounted for 69 percent of cases in 2018, according to SMPD.

Untreated mental illness can also be induced by meth or other drugs, and SMPD places two people per day on average in psychiatric care. Homeless individuals also comprise 30 percent of SMFD paramedic calls, about a third of which are related to mental illness or alcohol.

"When untreated, these diseases lead to anti-social behaviors that negatively impact quality of life for the person and raise public health and safety concerns in the greater community," Orduña wrote in the annual report.

SMPD has embedded two mental health clinicians in the field, one with a patrol officer responding to calls for mental health evaluations, and the other with the HLP team, a group of 10 officers that works with homeless individuals on the street or in jail. SMPD also launched a pilot program in late 2018 to connect people officers arrest with housing, services and behavioral healthcare before they get out of jail.

Staff are asking Council to increase funding for the Homeless Multidisciplinary Street Team (HMST), which launched in 2016 and has been partially funded by Los Angeles County. Other homeless outreach teams, such as the City's C3 Team, focus on specific places. HMST, however, focuses on specific people who police and paramedics make frequent contact with.

HMST has placed 25 people into interim housing and 16 into permanent housing since 2016. In 2018, it managed a caseload of 20 people and engaged with 1,331 people, although it was not able to reconnect with most of them.

Staff are considering creating a behavioral health center in Santa Monica and will be asking for funding for a consultant to conduct a feasibility study on a potential project. The City is also trying to get private funding to purchase a van by October for the outreach teams to use for field-based mental health triage and crisis stabilization.

Local officials plan to advocate for a change in state policy to authorize SMFD to transport non-medical emergencies to mental health care facilities.

PILLAR THREE: MAINTAIN EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SAFE, FUN AND HEALTHY OPEN SPACES

Santa Monica's parks and beaches have become a haven for the homeless. Residents and the Recreation and Parks Commission link them to public health issues and crime and have called for City Council to step up police presence in the parks. Council proposed stationing hospitality ambassadors in Reed Park earlier this month and pointed to the city's existing homeless outreach teams as a solution.

Whereas HMST follows particular individuals throughout the city, the C3 Multidisciplinary Outreach Teams works with homeless individuals in downtown Santa Monica, includes Palisades, Tongva and Reed Parks. Staff is asking that Council continue funding for the team and potentially create a new team focused on the beach.

Other recommendations include expanding the HLP team, which has grown to 10 officers, hiring a social worker by April to conduct outreach to homeless individuals using the libraries and building a relationship between beachfront businesses and West Coast Care, an outreach organization that services the beach.

PILLAR FOUR: STRENGTHEN REGIONAL CAPACITY TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Orduña wrote in the report that Santa Monica, like communities throughout the region, should be using new county, state and federal funding to build new interim housing. Replacing Samoshel, a shelter on 5th Street and Olympic Boulevard that was built in 1994 as a temporary facility, is an obvious choice, said human services administrator Margaret Willis.

"Samoshel is a tent that was never meant to be permanent," Willis said.

The City will be soliciting community input in shaping a new facility and finding an appropriate site for it, according to the report. It will likely take three to five years to replace the shelter, during which time the existing facility will be renovated.

At the regional level, the City plans to work with other Westside cities to create a shared homelessness plan and develop a state and federal policy agenda to be distributed to the community in the coming months. It will also launch an online homelessness training curriculum for residents this spring.

madeleine@smdp.com

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Lindsey Graham is a Fake Friend

Tuesday, Donald Trump hosted Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro at the White House. A right-wing authoritarian who disparages gays and the press, Bolsonaro is known as the "Trump of the Tropics."

Trump took questions from the press and, when asked why he had tweeted such harsh criticism of John McCain, he became unhinged. (These days it's hard to tell unhinged from hinged.)

Regarding McCain, in 2015, "bone-spur" Trump infamously said, "He wasn't a war hero" and "I prefer people who weren't captured." (Beats me how any military vet can support Trump.) Seven months after McCain's passing, apparently Trump isn't familiar with, "Don't talk ill of the dead."

Trump told reporters he holds McCain solely responsible for defeating the repeal of Obama-care when "McCain voted thumbs down." A sentence later,Trump referred to McCain's having voted "thumbs up." Trump can't get his thumbs straight. (I know what Trump should do with his thumb, but this is a family newspaper.)

Cowardly, Trump attacks a hero in the grave who can't fight back. McCain's daughter, Meghan McCain, however, can. Over the weekend Trump tweeted 50 times, more than one per hour. He's either pathetically lonely, bored, really sick or a combination of all three.

Meghan tweeted to Trump, "No one will ever love you the way they loved my father. I wish I had more Saturdays with him. Maybe spend yours with your family instead of on twitter obsessing over mine?" (Burn.)

Conservative lawyer, George Conway, Kelly Anne's husband, feels strongly that Trump's mental state is deteriorating to a dangerous level. Following the president's morning flurry of tweets in which he floated the idea of a federal investigation into "Saturday Night Live" making fun of him (and this was a re-run!) Conway tweeted, "His condition is getting worse." In fact, if you Google "He's getting worse," Trump comes up.

This brings us to Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) who once called Trump, "A jackass, a race-baiting, xenophobic bigot." Before the GOP 2016 Convention he said, "If we nominate Trump he will destroy the Republican party and we will deserve it." As for his decade-long and close friendship with John McCain, "I love him to death." (Apparently, after death, not so much.)

Some analysts have said that Graham's history is that he desperately needs a close, alpha male friend and that McCain fit the bill perfectly. But, when McCain's health and power declined, Graham suddenly warmed up to Trump. He's now one of The Donald's top cheerleaders in the Senate.

Graham finally said Trump's recent criticisms of McCain "were a mistake." Mistake? How about, "How dare you attack my war hero friend, you draft-dodging, pathological lying scum!" (Okay, maybe that's a little strong, but you get my drift.)

Graham's complete about face on Trump has led to speculation that he's being blackmailed by some pro-Trump entity. But Graham told the New York Times' Mark Lebovitch that the reason for his flip is he simply wants "to be relevant" and win re-election in 2020.

Having faced primary opposition from the tea party in 2014, Graham said, "If you don't want to get re-elected, you're in the wrong business." Meanwhile, Graham just announced that VP Mike Pence would kick off Graham's re-election fundraiser. (I hope McCain's ghost visits Lindsey in his sleep.)

Three prominent Republicans have finally condemned Trump's deplorable comments. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Senator Mitt Romeny (R-Utah.)

Romney tweeted, "I can't understand why the President would, once again, disparage a man as exemplary as my friend John McCain: heroic, courageous, patriotic, honorable, self-effacing, self-sacrificing, empathetic, and driven by duty to family, country, and God." (Trump doesn't have any of those traits!)

On Wednesday, Trump spoke in Ohio to workers at a tank factory and inexplicably referred to McCain in the present tense. "I allowed McCain to have the funeral he wanted and nobody thanked me." (McCain wasn't exactly available to thank anyone.) Understandably, the room turned eerily silent.

So, as Graham sucks up to Trump, I pray other Republicans develop a conscience or a spine. Meanwhile, it was Barron's 13th birthday, but not a word from his father who was too busy calling George Conway "a big loser."

I recall one particularly revealing photo of Dictator Don in a golf cart. (Where else?) But, strictly taboo, the cart is on the green! To golfer's like my late father, the green was hallowed ground. But it's Trump's course so he does what he wants.

America is hallowed ground. I wish Trump, who's seemingly without a soul, would get his lard butt and golf cart off our lawn. But by hook and crook (mostly crook) it's Trump's country, so he does what he wants. Hopefully, with the Mueller report due any moment, not for much longer. A guy can dream, can't he?

For more, Google "YouTube psychiatrist Trump mental health." Off subject but dear to my heart, the final celebration honoring the centennial of the Ocean Park Branch Library will be tomorrow, March 23, 2-4 p.m. at the O.P. Library, 2601 Main Street. Jack is at jackdailypress@aol.com.

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DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
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Rotary News

By Alanna Shepard

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rotary Club of Santa Monica

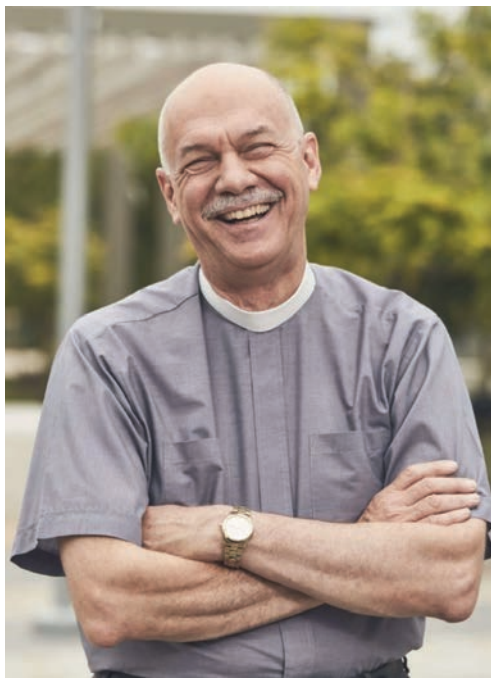
The Rotary Club of Santa Monica is busy this month! From reading to local students and awarding its annual Four-Way Test Award, the Rotarians being active in the Santa Monica community.

The Rotary Club of Santa Monica is proud to recognize the Rev. Eric C. Shafer, Senior Pastor of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, with its annual Four-Way Test Award. The presentation will be made at the Rotary meeting on Friday, March 29.

Under Pastor Shafer's leadership, Mt. Olive has welcomed the Students 4 Students Shelter (formerly known as the Bruin Shelter) to Mt. Olive, the first shelter for homeless college students in the USA. The shelter opened in October 2016 and has attracted media coverage throughout the USA including articles in the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times as well as a feature on National Public Radio (NPR) and television news coverage on PBS and, most recently, a feature news story on CBS Sunday Morning. In 2017 Shafer helped lead the shelter through required City of Santa Monica zoning changes and helped solicit grants for the shelter from the City of Santa Monica and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. For his work with the shelter, Shafer was awarded the "Community Service Appreciation Award" for "Interfaith Humanitarian Service" by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 2017.

Pastor Shafer has brought energy, integrity, and a sense of urgency to many other community and faith initiatives. He helped found the new Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council. Following the mass attack on gay and lesbian people in Orlando in 2016, Shafer helped organize a "Love Orlando, Music Heals" benefit concert at Mt. Olive, raising funds for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Central Florida. He serves as Vice President of the Religion Communicators Council (RCC), the "guild" for USA professional communicators of religion. Shafer also serves on the board of the Westside (Los Angeles) Coalition for Hunger, Homelessness and Health and on the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council. From 2014 - 2019 he was a founding board member and treasurer of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, a California non-profit working for immigration rights and against mass incarceration.

The 4-Way Test was adopted by Rotary International 70 years ago. Its 24 words have never changed and still read, "Of the things we think, say or do: Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?" The 4-Way Test is part of Rotary's core values that guide its 1.2 million members worldwide in 35,000 clubs who work on community service and humanitarian projects. Each year, the award recognizes an individual who transforms the words into action. Congratulations and thank you, Rev. Eric Shafer!



Courtesy photo

REV. ERIC C. SHAFER

At the end of this month, the Rotarians of the Santa Monica Rotary Club will be taking part in their annual Rotary Reads program. For several years, numerous Rotarians have teamed up with teachers at seven local schools to share the joy of reading with students in their own classrooms. During this fun day, the students get to read which books are currently their favorites or the Rotarians read their favorite from their childhoods. Some of these reading sessions can even break into sing alongs! The Rotary Club of Santa Monica will also donate over 100 titles from this year's award-winning books to the school's libraries, in addition to sharing the joys of reading.

Many local school budgets are unable to support the funding that is needed for these new award-winning books, so it is with much joy that the Rotary Club of Santa Monica gets to participate in supplying brilliant new books to local students.

If you are interested in learning more about Rotary, the Rotary Reads Program, or would like to donate books, please feel free to contact RotaryClubofSantaMonica@verizon.net, or call 310-917-3313. The Rotary Club of Santa Monica's meetings are held Fridays at noon at the DoubleTree Hotel on 4th St.

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File photo

VISITORS: The annual art walk provides an opportunity for residents to meet local artists.

ART

FROM PAGE 1

consisting of sculptures composed solely of teabags.

"I love to see how many people get to discover what a wonderful place this is, along with the unusual setting and works," Frumkin added.

In addition to local artists benefiting from the event, local students will, too. Santa Monica College will be present at the Artwalk showing off ceramic student's techniques to attendees.

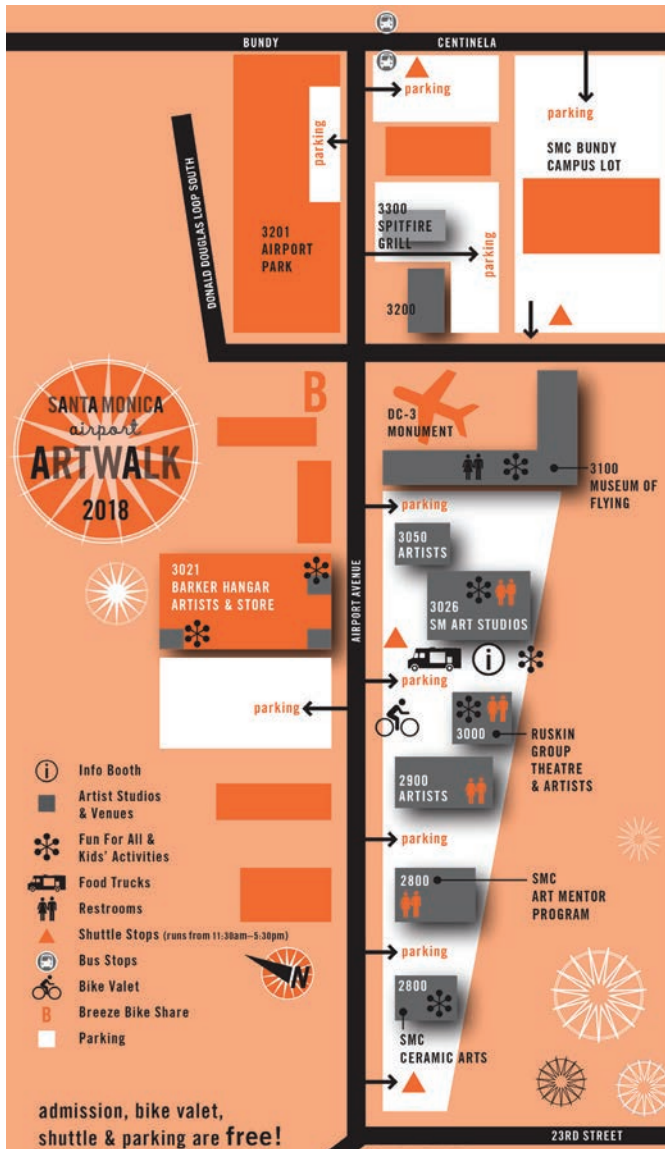
According to an SMC press release, SMC students will be on hand to display wheel throwing, hand-formed sculptures and Raku firing to attendees. An exhibit of work will be on display as well with student artwork for sale.

In addition to the ceramics students showing off their skills, SMC's Art Mentor Program will be on hand to showcase student works and discuss students' artmaking process. The Art Mentor Program provides a handful of faculty-approved students with hands-on professional training in their fields.

Eleanor Singer, a student at SMC, says she's been thankful for the program as well as for the opportunity to showcase her work at the Artwalk.

"Right now I feel stressed out, but I am grateful that I can participate as part of my larger goals," Singer said. It is exciting to think that my work is going to be seen by a large group of art enthusiasts!"

For more information about the 2019 ArtWalk, visit smgov.net/airportartwalk or follow the Santa Monica Airport ArtWalk 2019 on Facebook.



Courtesy image

ARTWALK: Studios will be open at the Airport this Saturday.

angel@smdp.com

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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

and the 2019 count, which was conducted in January, recorded a three percent bump to 985 people. City Council will be taking the data into account as it considers new funding for homeless outreach teams and replacing Samoshel, the city's largest homeless shelter, at its meeting Tuesday.

Communities across Los Angeles County count the number of homeless individuals during one night every January and Santa Monica has been conducting a count since 2009. The county recorded a four percent decrease in homelessness between 2017 and 2018 following a 23 percent increase between 2016 and 2017.

Santa Monica's 2019 data shows a slight reduction compared to 2018 in the number of people living on the streets and an increase in people living in their vehicles or in encampments. That marks a significant decrease in people living on the streets compared to the past few years – the 2018 count recorded an 11 percent increase in that population.

More people were staying in shelters and hospitals and fewer were in jail at the time of the count. The increased number of hospital patients is because of a new state law that regulates how hospitals discharge homeless patients, said Alisa Orduña, the City's senior advisor on homelessness.

About half of homeless individuals in Santa Monica stay at the beach or downtown, but there were 19 percent fewer people counted downtown than last year.

"There was a reduction in people living in the downtown core, which we feel is a reflection of our place-based engagement strategies," said Margaret Willis, a human services administrator with the City of Santa Monica. "Different City agencies meet weekly to share data on hotspots and we have really focused our energy on the downtown area this year."

At a press conference Thursday, Willis shared data from surveys distributed to 116 homeless individuals in 2018 that showed most of the city's homeless population originates from elsewhere in the county or from out of the state. Only seven percent of respondents to the survey said they are from Santa Monica, although 35 percent said they had spent more than five years on its streets and 37 percent had lived here for one to five years.

77 percent of survey respondents were male, 46 percent were connected with services, and almost two-thirds struggled with mental illness, substance abuse or a combination of the two.

SMPD Captain Derek Jacobs said that the increase in aggravated assaults SMPD observed last year were mostly committed by homeless individuals against other homeless individuals. He also noted that the homeless population is using more drugs, particularly meth, which he said often leads to theft as a way to support an addition.

madeleine@smdp.com

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Los Angeles Marathon
MARCH 24, 2019

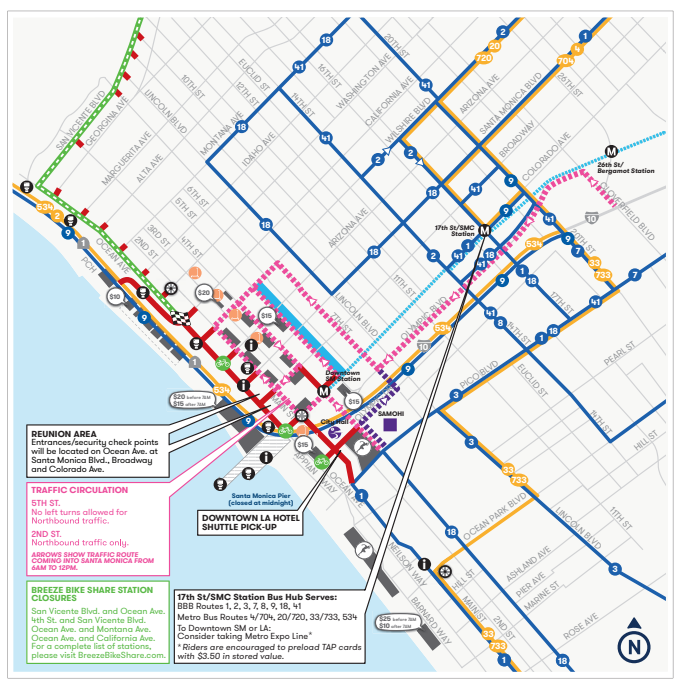
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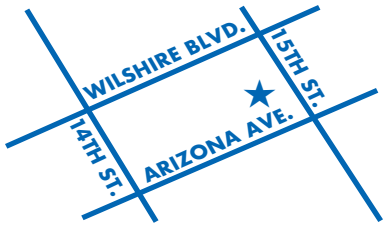
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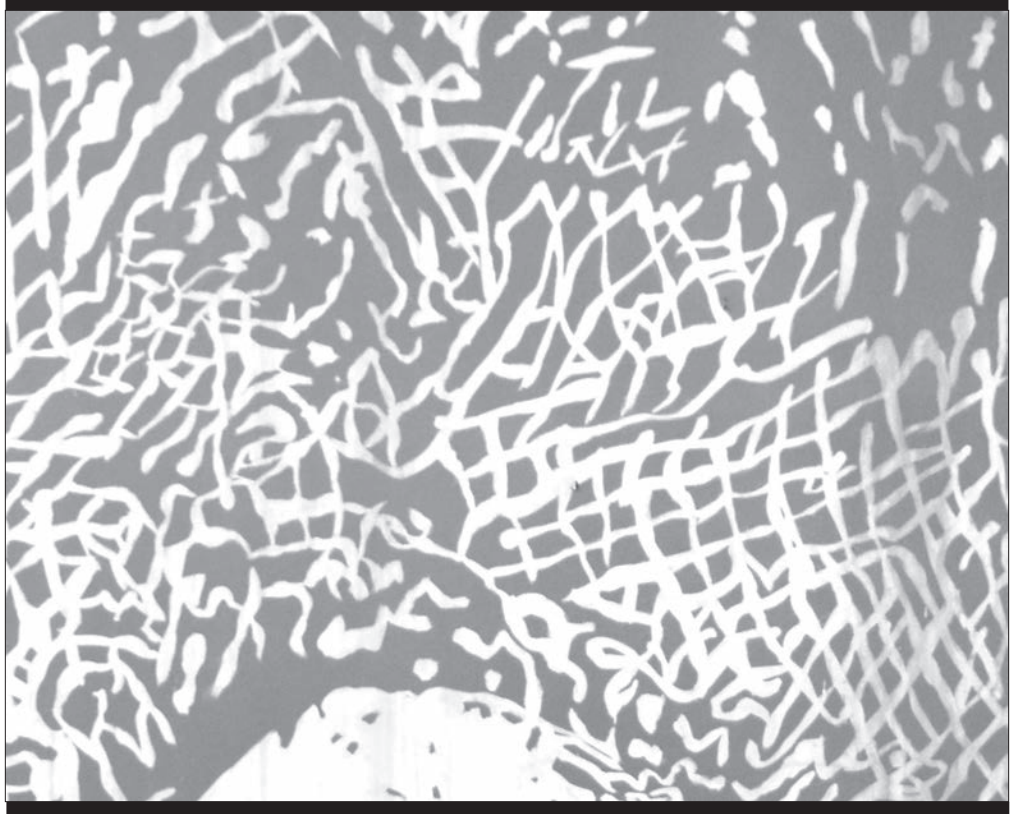


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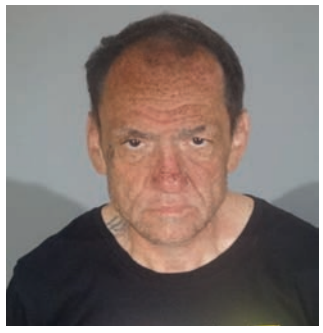
CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON MARCH 14, AT ABOUT 7:54 A.M.

While patrolling the 1800 block of Ocean Front Walk an officer assigned to the Homeless Liaison Program saw a male subject sleeping on a public bench. The subject had several personal items and trash strewn about the area. The officer stopped to speak with the subject. The subject provided several different false names to the officer. Ultimately, the subject provided his true name. A computer check revealed the subject was on parole for assault with a deadly weapon. The subject was arrested for the municipal code violation and providing false information. Kirk Michael Morris, 53, homeless, was arrested for delaying an officer and public camping. Bail was set at $10,000.



File Photo

KIRK MICHAEL MORRIS.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 343 CALLS ON MARCH 20

Missing person 1600blk the beach 12:02 a.m.
Malicious mischief 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 2:56 a.m.
Auto burglary 2100blk Ashland Ave 3:37 a.m.
Fight 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:44 a.m.
Auto burglary 2200blk Ashland Ave 3:46 a.m.
Petty theft 1600blk the beach 4:30 a.m.
Petty theft 1600blk the beach 5:09 a.m.
Vehicle cite & tow (parking problem) 1300blk 2nd St 5:49 a.m.
Encampment 600blk Olympic Blvd W 6:04 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1400blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:08 a.m.
Hit and run 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:10 a.m.
Malicious mischief 2900blk Main St 6:10 a.m.
Petty theft 1300blk 19th St 6:42 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1000blk Ozone Ave 7:03 a.m.
Grand theft auto 900blk 4th St 7:35 a.m.
Encampment 2900blk the beach 7:47 a.m.
Battery 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 8:03 a.m.
Vehicle cite & tow (parking problem) 700blk Ashland Ave 8:09 a.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:29 a.m.
Auto burglary 2200blk Ashland Ave 8:56 a.m.
Burglary 100blk Pacific St 9:04 a.m.
Petty theft 700blk Broadway 9:23 a.m.
Oversize vehicle violation 1800blk Main St 9:25 a.m.
Lewd activity 600blk Pico Blvd 9:42 a.m.
Battery 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:02 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 700blk Idaho Ave 10:07 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 300blk Pico Blvd 10:09 a.m.
Burglary 1700blk Ocean Ave 10:18 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 17th St / Colorado Ave 10:23 a.m.
Auto burglary 1700blk Hill St 10:36 a.m.
Violation of restraining order 2300blk Broadway 11:00 a.m.
Malicious mischief 1600blk 11th St 11:16 a.m.
Battery 2600blk Wilshire Blvd 11:21 a.m.
Exhibition of speed Lincoln Blvd / Pearl St 11:28 a.m.
Stolen vehicle recovered 800blk 4th St 12:49 p.m.
Hit and run 1300blk 6th St 1:41 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 1200blk 24th St 1:42 p.m.
Petty theft 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:43 p.m.
Exhibition of speed Yale St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:46 p.m.
Stalking 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:51 p.m.
Prowler 1000blk 6th St 2:07 p.m.
Out of order traffic signals 7th St / Colorado Ave 2:34 p.m.
Elder abuse 2500blk Kansas Ave 3:02 p.m.
Petty theft 300blk Colorado Ave 3:06 p.m.
Out of order traffic signals 7th St / San Vicente Blvd 3:32 p.m.
Petty theft 500blk Raymond Ave 4:18 p.m.
Panhandling 100blk Broadway 4:24 p.m.
Hit and run 1300blk 20th St 5:20 p.m.
Petty theft 300blk Santa Monica Pier 6:32 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 27 CALLS ON MARCH 20

Emergency Medical Service 300blk Santa Monica Pier 12:47 a.m.
Odor of natural gas 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:38 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:29 a.m.
EMS 2900blk 31st St 9:05 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 9:10 a.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 9:50 a.m.
EMS 900blk 17th St 10:42 a.m.
Automatic alarm 700blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:55 a.m.
EMS 100blk Montana Ave 11:25 a.m.
EMS 500blk Olympic Blvd W 12:36 p.m.
EMS 3400blk pearl St 12:54 p.m.
EMS 400blk 18th St 12:57 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 1:20 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Ocean Ave 2:01 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 2:06 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 9th St 3:17 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 3:25 p.m.
Trash/dumpster fire 1300blk Euclid St 5:13 p.m.
EMS 200blk Ocean Ave 5:14 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 12th St / Arizona Ave 6:12 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Montana Ave 6:42 p.m.
Automatic alarm 700blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:03 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Virginia Ave 9:04 p.m.
EMS 21st St / Pico Blvd 9:04 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 10:04 p.m.
EMS 1700blk 9th St 10:42 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Delaware Ave 11:23 p.m.

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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 3/20
10 14 50 53 63
Power#: 21
Jackpot: $625 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/19
10 42 53 67 68
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: $50 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/20
15 21 25 28 41
Mega#: 27
Jackpot: $29 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/20
2 4 9 16 17

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 3/20
Midday: 7 2 9
Draw Date: 3/20
Evening: 3 2 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 3/20
1st: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 03 - HOT SHOT
3rd: 05 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
RACE TIME: 1:43.36

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



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.8°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 4-6ft shoulder high to 1 ft overhead
Old WNW swell fades. New long period WNW swell shows late. SSW swell continues for exposures. Watching for improving conditions.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 4-6ft shoulder high to 1 ft overhead
WNW swell builds all day, peaks overnight. SSW swell eases.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

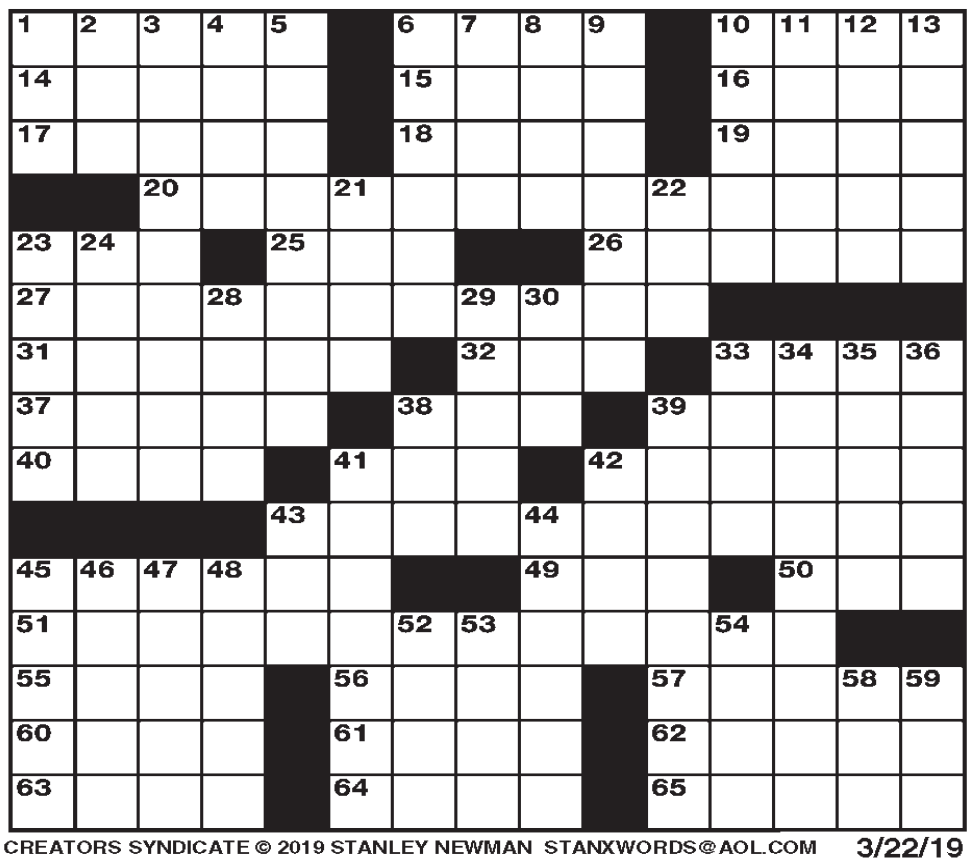
	5			7	3			
3		4		5			9	
6	2	7		4				
7								4
1		3	5		9	7		6
5								1
				9		4	6	3
	3			8		2		9
			2	3			7	

Newsday Crossword

THINK PIECE by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Picture-taking device
6 Condo selling point
10 Zhivago's love
14 Incorporate
15 Parcel measure
16 Teen's wall poster figure
17 New Age keyboardist
18 Apt rhyme for "restrain"
19 Melodic sound
20 Think ___
23 Fast feathered runner
25 Finch family creator
26 Au Bon Pain rival
27 Think ___
31 Idiosyncratic articulation
32 Sci-fi abductor
33 APB stats
37 Prom committee decision
38 Cylindrical stick letters
39 "Is that clear?"
40 Disneyland wear
41 Clinic nickname
42 Large moon of Jupiter
43 "Think ___!"
45 Hydrant, essentially
49 Major FL airport
50 Petroleum product ending
51 "Think ___!"
55 French roast
56 It means "wine"
57 Nina of fashion
60 Dorm descriptor
61 Team not far from JFK
62 Precincts
63 Start of a Hamlet *soliloque*
64 Schedule niche
65 Basic sort of question

DOWN
1 Morgan le ___ (Arthurian character)
2 "Messenger" molecule
3 Game show job
4 iPod button
5 Way off the road
6 Miscellaneous
7 How some get their latte
8 Expanse north of Akron
9 Became a paid player
10 Much hotel laundry
11 Photoshop source
12 Wind turbine part
13 Amazon speaker voice
21 Email notification
22 Ate
23 Make merry
24 What some get in their latte
28 Multifaceted valuables
29 Funny feeling
30 Nautical direction
33 Long lunch
34 Regions' virtual boundaries
35 Easy NBA score
36 Oldest Cabinet department
38 Morning PBS viewer
39 Nickname of multiple boxing greats
41 Many recent IPOs
42 Oklahoma city
43 First named
44 "Please explain again"
45 Gravity, for example
46 In progress
47 Blurt out
48 Scold
52 Sock part
53 A big fan of
54 Word on euros near harps
58 Recycling bin throw-in
59 Prefix like pari-



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/22/19

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 22)

People love you for reasons unreasonable, mysterious and obvious. People love you for you and who you'll be and who you were once. Love is subjective, also beyond the rules of subjectivity and objectivity. Mostly, this year, you'll enjoy so much love you won't even remember a time you were without it. Leo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 20, 11, 40 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Don't worry; you're good at being a person. This is not even a question. There are certain things you don't need to question and this is one of them. Move along.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe you haven't been able to exactly control your thoughts on a certain matter. (Some thoughts can be incredibly addictive and harder to wrangle than wild beasts.) But if you control what you say out loud, that's a start.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Too much attention on anything will change its state, so the main thing is to be careful what you place attention on. Attention can either make a good thing out of a bad thing or make a bad thing out of a good thing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've felt more ready to take on the world. But this isn't so bad - this part where you acknowledge your fragility. There's so much you can do when you accept all the different parts of yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Gravitation involves flying and anti-gravitation involves falling, because "up" and "down" are somewhat interchangeable. So don't be too quick to decide where you are right now. It's that you are, not where you are, that matters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your life hypnotizes you. There's a pattern, and it lulls you into a rhythm. Then that rhythm brings a frame of mind that allows for unexpected things to spring forth. This is the course of your day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You put all your focus on making yourself better and it works; you get better. Bonus: It even feels somehow very easy to improve. Savor this rare and uncomplicated day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What makes you feel better in the short term may not be right for your long-term plan. Today, you are better off serving your long-term plan rather exclusively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you can provide a framework in which people can use their talents, then this is doing something amazing that will have repercussions beyond what you could ever imagine.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To express yourself in a way that is better than the last time, that is unique, that lands on the ear and heart of your audience in a certain way is an expression of genius.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). All of the stories will change in time. The true ones will become false, the false ones will become true. The difference between history and mythology is not a difference of content, but years.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The middle is a good place to be today; you're protected at either side, so long as no one crowds in or gets too close. You'll learn what's happening for the majority.

Orientation Week

This is a new season and a burst of heart-fire will start the whole thing off, if you're open to that. You'll make progress quickly. Whether you start on the right track or the wrong track, you'll find yourself much further down the road. This is why it's so important to look at the map, ask questions, check and orient yourself early in the process.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST

ARIES: You don't want to have to check in with anyone. You want to do your own thing in your own time. TAURUS: You want to contact that certain person, so just do it and see what happens. GEMINI: Someone new has caught your attention, and it's because you're interested in different things than you used to be. CANCER: It's a new season and a time to change up your routines. Be deliberate in this. LEO: Sometimes the last one to know is the first who should know. VIRGO: Your best-kept secrets make for fun stories but only when the timing is right. LIBRA: Your style is changing. It's not because you're different from the way you used to be; it's because you're the same and you want people to understand who that is. SCORPIO: So what if this project is more than you thought it would be? It's still doable. Go for it. SAGITTARIUS: Here's a good rule: Only give your feelings and attention to people who are available and able to receive and appreciate it. CAPRICORN: Long relationships are created by people who are not only very attracted to each other but also want the same things. AQUARIUS: Make no assumptions about past loves. A relationship could still be in the running. PISCES: Your communication style will become even more widely attractive as you talk to, and connect with, more people.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND

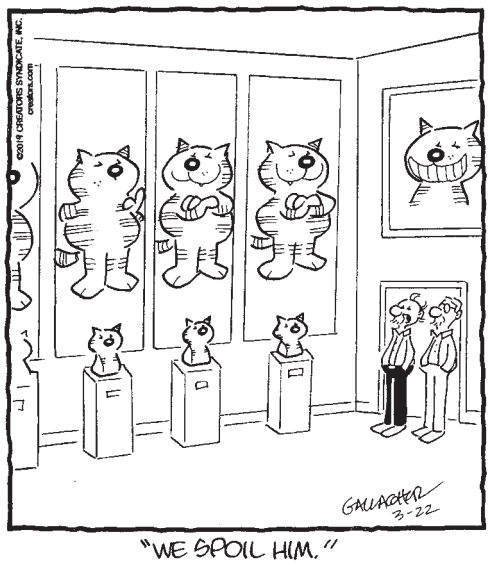
Scorpio and Aries make for a steamy match, though that's what is to be expected when water meets fire! These two have very different ways of communicating their feelings, but the intensity level is similar for both signs. It would be difficult to find more passionate individuals. And when they put their strong feelings behind an endeavor (or a person), the result is an astounding power source capable of fueling dreams.

WORD UP!

Palimpsest
noun [pal-imp-sest]
a parchment or the like from which writing has been partially or completely erased to make room for another text.

Heathcliff

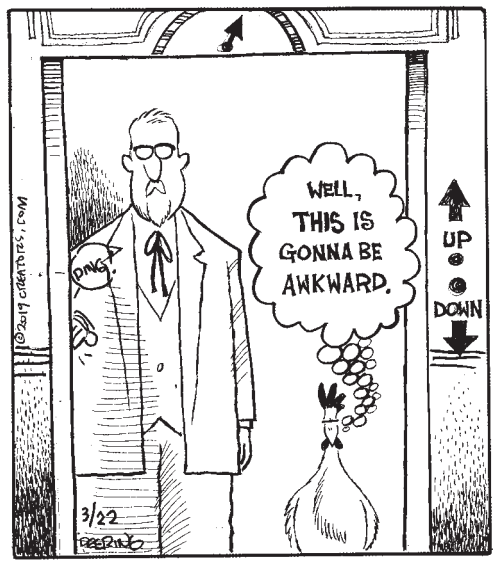
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WE SPOIL HIM."

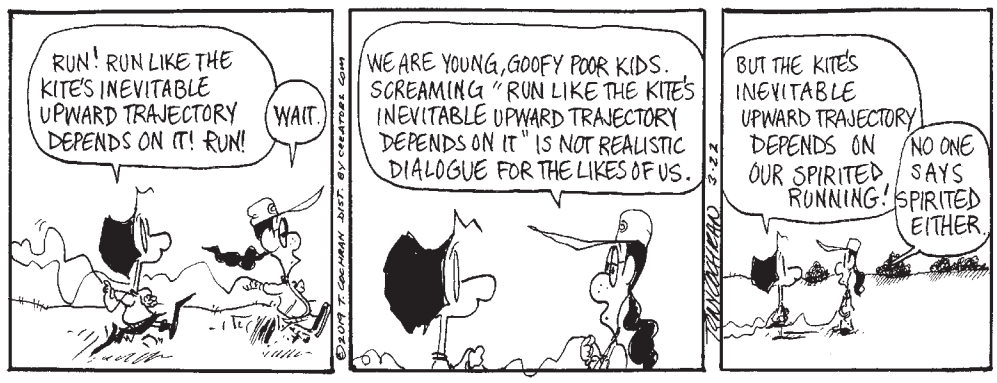
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

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Cradling children, migrant families cross border in waves

NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

A mother cradled a crying toddler as she waited in line with 20 other women to shower. Dozens of fathers quietly held their children's hands in an enclosure made of chain-link fencing.

While these families were held at an overcrowded Border Patrol processing center, a fresh wave of migrants crossed the nearby river separating the U.S. and Mexico and waited for border agents to bring them to the same facility. One Honduran woman carried a feverish 7-month-old baby.

The cycle is repeated multiple times a day. Waves of desperate families are trying to cross the border almost hourly and entering an overtaxed government detention system.

The Border Patrol has become so overwhelmed in feeding and caring for the migrants that it announced plans this week to start releasing some families onto the street in the Rio Grande Valley to ease overcrowding in the processing center, providing the immigrants with a notice to appear at an upcoming court date.

"We have an unprecedented crisis upon us," Robert Perez, deputy commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Border Patrol's parent agency, said in an interview.

The Border Patrol says it made about 66,000 apprehensions of people crossing the border illegally in February, including 36,000 parents and children, an all-time monthly high. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, meanwhile, said since Dec. 21 it has released 107,000 family members while they await court dates.

Immigration authorities expect the number of parents and children to surpass 50,000 in March during the traditional spring spike in migration and potentially reach 180,000 in May, according to two U.S. officials who were not authorized to speak publicly about internal documents.

The Border Patrol ordered expanded medical screenings after the December deaths of two children in its custody. The agency received $30 million to upgrade its South Texas processing center and additional funding to build a similar facility in El Paso.

The autopsy results for Jakelin Caal and Felipe Gomez Alonzo have not yet been released, but Customs and Border Protection has said both children were hospitalized after developing high fevers and nausea.

Children with fevers, colds and the flu arrive daily at the border with their parents and sometimes wait for hours for the Border Patrol to pick them up.

On a recent Thursday, Carmen Mejia's 7-month-old, Lian, was feverish, one of four sick children in her group of 20. His mother had heard about Jakelin and Felipe before leaving her rural town in northern Honduras.

"It made me sad," she said. "But imagine. I'm here, also looking for a future for my son."

Mejia said she hoped to find work to support Lian and two older children she had left behind with her mother.

While she spoke, two more waves of people arrived. The group grew to around 50 before the Border Patrol could load everyone into vans and take them into detention.

Some migrants blamed extortion for forcing them to close small businesses. Others said gangs had killed close relatives and threatened to kill them.

President Donald Trump's administration says most adult border crossers are economic migrants who count on being released if they bring a child and seek asylum. Immigration agency officials have called for Congress to change laws that would allow them to detain more adults and children and deport people from Central America quicker.

Trump's signature solution — and the reason for his declaration of a national emergency — is a border wall, especially in South Texas, where there are comparatively few barriers. But a border wall would not stop families who aren't trying to evade immigration authorities. Those families typically stop after crossing the Rio Grande and wait to be caught.

The Associated Press visited the South Texas processing center where many migrants end up. It's an old warehouse, with overhead lighting that stays on around the clock and chain-link fencing that forms large cages.

Detainees are issued mats and foil blankets to sleep on the concrete floor. Each detainee receives a medical screening.

Dozens of children waited on their own. Many were 10 years of age or older and kept separately from their parents, who are in another wing of the facility at the same time.

Some of the children waiting on their own talked among themselves. Others tried to sleep on mats under the glare of the lights, their foil blankets crinkling.

The facility received worldwide attention last June, during the Trump administration's enforcement of a zero-tolerance policy that led to thousands of family separations. Around 1,100 people were detained at the facility then, many of them children who had been separated from their parents.

The facility opened in 2014 during the Obama administration to address another surge of thousands of unaccompanied teenagers arriving from Central America.

Now the processing center and other facilities in the sector deal with parents bringing young children and pregnant women who sometimes go into labor in detention.

"It isn't meant for families," said Carmen Qualia, an assistant chief patrol agent for the sector. "We're set up for individuals."

Agency guidelines require that parents are detained for no longer than 72 hours before being released or transferred to long-term detention centers with beds and more facilities. The average detention time for families late last week was about 60 hours.

Most families are eventually bused to a Catholic Charities facility in McAllen, where volunteers provide food and medical checkups before taking them to the bus station or airport.

The future of that facility is in jeopardy after McAllen city commissioners last month ordered Catholic Charities to vacate it by May, after complaints from neighbors.

But the Border Patrol is relying on the facility more than ever. While a few hundred people are sent there daily, immigration authorities dropped 800 migrants at Catholic Charities in just one day this week, leading to volunteers posting pleas on social media for donations and help.

Inside a small clinic behind the main building, Dr. Martin Garza listened to the heartbeat and lungs of 1-month-old Cesar Manuel Romero, cradled by his mother, 21-year-old Lily Romero of Honduras. Romero said she gave birth to Cesar on a bus as it passed through Monterrey, Mexico.

After crossing the border, Romero said they were taken to a smaller Border Patrol station — what she and other Spanish-speaking migrants often refer to as "la hielera," or the icebox. She said another woman in custody loaned her a sweater so she could keep Cesar warm because agents had taken many of her belongings.

She said they were given water that was "nearly frozen." Afterward, they were taken to the processing center and eventually released to Catholic Charities.

The Border Patrol says its facilities follow agency detention guidelines and that it investigates any complaints of mistreatment.

Garza said agents and medical professionals inside detention almost always diagnose major illnesses or injuries. But colds and fevers persist, along with conditions that aren't obvious, he said.

"Infants are wheezing. Infants are having trouble breathing, and some of those things may not get picked up," he said.

Associated Press writers Colleen Long in Washington and Astrid Galvan in Phoenix contributed to this report.

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