

## Rent Control Board abruptly ends talk of potential ballot measure

**KATE CAGLE**  
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Rent Control Board appeared to put the kibosh on the possibility of broad rent control reform this November once and for all at their April 12 meeting when Boardmember Todd Flora moved to suddenly cancel any public discussion of a proposed ballot initiative from staff.

Looking out at a packed chamber, Flora suggested they table the discussion rather than listen to a group of angry landlords who showed up to voice opposition to vacancy control.

“I really don’t think this is going

to pass and I’m going to propose something bold ... to avoid a lot of the unpleasantness that’s about to come our way from about thirty people,” Flora said, explaining he wished to save everyone “two hours of a lot of hell.”

His fellow commissioners unanimously agreed and quickly approved a motion to indefinitely table the agenda item concerning vacancy control. While the City Council could take up the cause, they would do so without a recommendation from fellow elected leaders on the RCB.

The discussion on broad reform hinges on the Affordable Housing

SEE RCB PAGE 6

## Homeless analysis to cost \$77,675

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

An initially free analysis of the City’s efforts to reduce homelessness will now cost \$77,675 over the next two years due to a previously unknown federal restriction.

The RAND Corporation offered to conduct a free assessment of the city’s Homeless Multidisciplinary Street Team (HMST) and Council authorized the partnership in August of 2017. However, RAND later learned that restrictions on the federal money used to fund the appropriate department prevent RAND from doing the work for free. The fee will now be \$77,675.

According to a report posted online last week, the new cost is within the scope of approval for the city’s Community and Cultural Services department and does not require additional Council approval. The Department has the budget to pay for the study and does not need new funding.

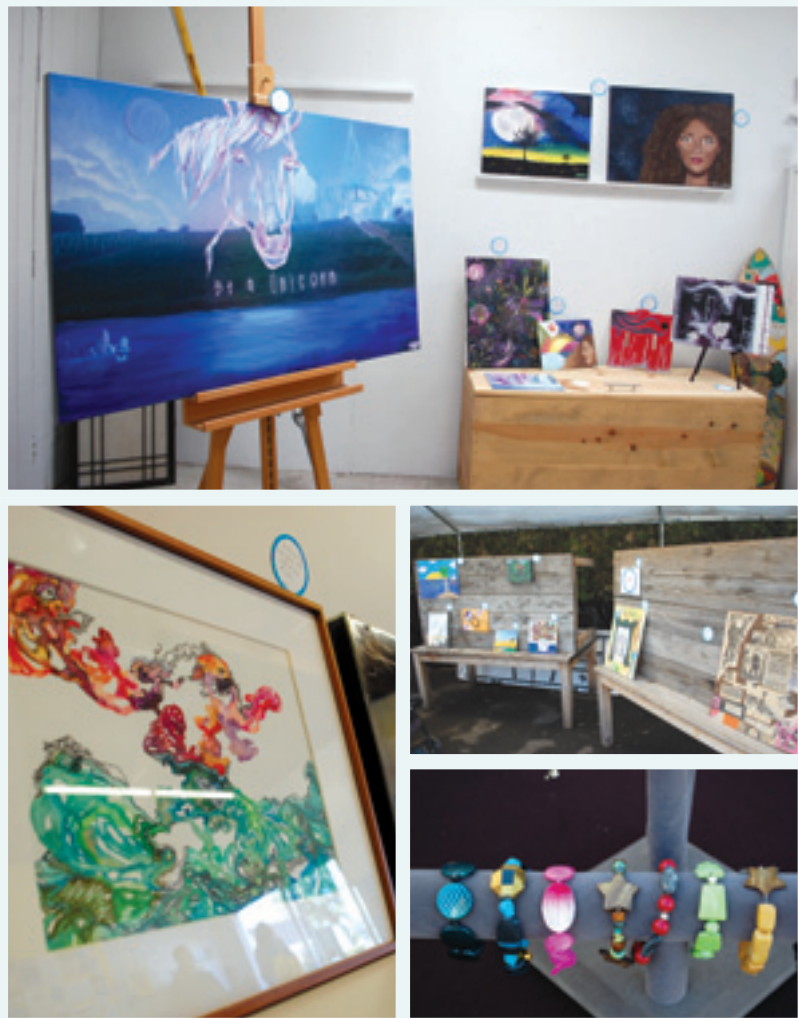
Santa Monica’s street team model targets homeless individuals who are known to use a disproportionate amount of city services such as contacts with the police department, firefighters or emergency rooms.

“The HMST serves the highest utilizers of local emergency service resources by meeting their complex needs with street-based interventions delivered by a skilled

team of interdisciplinary professionals,” said the report.

The team is currently funded with a mix of one-time funds from the City and discretionary funds from LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s office. Since its launch in 2016, the team has targeted 26 individuals and found housing for 20. The team is staffed by The People Concern (formerly OPCC) and includes a licensed clinical program director, psychiatrist, physician assistant, clinical case manager, substance abuse clinician, housing case manager, and peer support specialist.

SEE HOMELESS PAGE 7



### YOUTH ART

Safe Place For Youth held their annual artshow and fundraiser on Saturday, April 14. The event includes music performances and displays of art to support services for local, homeless youth. For more information about the organization visit <http://www.safeplaceforyouth.org>.

Matthew Hall



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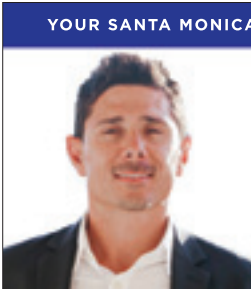
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## Calendar

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## What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

### Tuesday, April 17

#### Kids' Writers Group at Main: "Sock Puppet" Poetry

A group for kids who love to write. This month, the group will use the Sock Puppets app to make video poems. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

#### Gentle Yoga at Fairview

In a class that is safe for seniors and beginners, as well as relaxing and stress-releasing for pros, veteran instructor Raghavan guides you through a gentle session of yoga and meditation. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 6:30 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. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 18

#### Santa Monica Certified Farmer's Market (Downtown)

Some nine thousands food shoppers, and many of Los Angeles' best known chefs and restaurants, are keyed to the seasonal rhythms of the weekly Wednesday Market. Downtown. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

#### The Commission for the Senior Community Regular Meeting

Santa Monica's Commission for the Senior Community focuses on preserving and improving the quality of life for Santa Monicans 60 and older. The Commission advises City Council on a wide range of issues relevant to older adults. The Commission also provides opportunities to educate seniors, their families and caregivers on these issues. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St. 1:30 P.M.

### Planning Commission Meeting

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

#### Movie: Goodbye Christopher Robin (2017)

This moving film tells the true story of author A.A. Milne, who was inspired by his son Christopher Robin and his toys to create the magical world of Winnie the Pooh. But the international success of the books came at a price for the author, his wife and young son. (107 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

#### Computer Class: Appy Hour - Library Apps Workshop

Bring your smartphone, tablet or e-reader and receive help in small groups to learn how to use your device. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

### Thursday, April 19

#### Citizenship Classes

An ongoing series of classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors, who help students complete and submit their application, and prepare them to pass the official review. Enrollment is through the SMMUSD Adult Center (310) 664-6222. ext. 76203. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

#### Housing Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Housing Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St. 4:30 p.m.

#### Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Council Chambers at Santa Monica City Hall. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7:30 p.m.

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**310-458-7737** or submit to [events@smdp.com](mailto:events@smdp.com)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Downtown  
DTSM, Inc. to Host Three Community Workshops Designed to Help Envision the Next Era for Third Street Promenade

In 1989, Third Street Promenade opened its roadway and sidewalks to millions of people who would, over the next 30 years, shop, dine, dance, and make lasting memories on the acclaimed pedestrian mall. Over these three decades, it played centerpiece as the downtown around it evolved into the destination powerhouse it is today. Now, it's the Promenade's turn for an overhaul. This spring, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM, Inc.) will host a series of three Third Street Promenade 3.0 Community Workshops designed to spark conversation and build a vision to help steer capital improvements and programming. Beginning April 18, locals are invited to attend and participate in these curated workshops to feature experts from the fields of urban design, placemaking, retail, and customer engagement. Third Street Promenade was created locally, and all are invited to help ensure that it is celebrated globally for years to come.

The inaugural April 18 workshop will focus on the value of placemaking, from its ability to foster strong community connections to its financial implications for businesses and local governments, and will feature guest speaker Kevin Kelley, a leader in the fields of consumer behavior, store design and retail strategy. The May 15 workshop will feature Chris Beynon, Chief Development Officer for MIG, and a national leader in revitalizing city centers and urban environments. Beyner's directed projects have created real change for cities throughout North America.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

**Workshop #1**  
Wednesday, April 18; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
1212 Restaurant  
1212 Third Street Promenade

**Workshop #2**  
Tuesday, May 1; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
The Gallery  
1315 Third Street Promenade

**Workshop #3**  
Tuesday, May 15; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
1231 Third Street Promenade

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: KEVIN KELLEY

Kelley is a co-founding partner and principal of Shook Kelley. Although he started in Charlotte, Kelley has headed up the Los Angeles office since 2002 and serves as the principal-in-charge of retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores and leisure-related projects. He holds two degrees in architecture from the University of NC at Charlotte and has spent a large portion of his career developing a process that combines business, science and design into one integrated approach he calls perception design. Kelley's specialty is getting inside the minds of consumers to determine how the physical environment affects consumer behavior and purchase decisions. He is also especially adept at helping consumer-based organizations re-think how they innovate their "go to market" strategies. Kelley has worked closely with the leaders of many well-known companies—such as Harley-Davidson, Whole Foods, Kraft, Cadbury, The J.M. Smucker Company and USAA – in their efforts to develop new kinds of immersive brand experiences.

Visit <http://downtownsm.com> for more information.

SUBMITTED BY THE JEFF WAGNER AGENCY

Citywide  
John Wayne Cancer Center at Providence Saint John's first to enroll patient in nationwide clinical trial

The John Wayne Cancer Institute at Providence Saint John's Health Center has enrolled the first cancer patient in a groundbreaking clinical trial of three immunotherapy drugs combined to use the body's immune system to diminish tumors related to several types of cancer.

A woman being treated for advanced melanoma at the Santa Monica hospital has begun the trial, which also will be conducted at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina

Steven O'Day, M.D., professor of medical oncology and director of Immuno-Oncology and Clinical Research at the John Wayne Cancer Institute, is known globally for his expertise in melanoma and in immunotherapy for cancer. He brought the trial to the Santa Monica research program and he and the institute's team of experts expect to enroll patients across a number tumor types.

The Incyte ECHO-208 trial tests the safety, tolerability and effectiveness of two novel combinations of three drugs that have been used individually and even in pairs, but never as a triplet where each medication provides a complementary function in tackling malignant tumors.

Previously immunotherapy combinations have shown promising results for patients with many different cancers including melanoma and lung, bladder, liver, ovarian and breast cancers, among others.

Incyte Corp. anticipates enrolling 141 candidates across the country. The study is open to patients whose disease has progressed despite treatment, who can't tolerate treatment or who refuse standard treatment.

SUBMITTED BY PATRICIA AIDEM

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Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) Inviting Bids

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type "C-20" license, on the following: **Bid #18.17.ES Districtwide Bard Units Project at Various Districtwide Sites.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **\$153,000 - \$187,000** and includes construction of, the removal and replacement of wall mounted Bard air conditioning units and thermostats for existing modular buildings, patching and repairing at exterior and interior to match existing as required and other associated improvements. All bids must be filed in the SMMUSD Facility Improvement Office, 2828 4th Street, Santa Monica, California 90405 on or before 5/17/18 at 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 District FIP office, on 4/19/18 at 9:00 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per the bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan [roomwww.crplanwell.com](http://roomwww.crplanwell.com) and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission:

All applications are due no later than 5/3/18 - 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](http://www.qualitybidders.com). Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at <http://fipcontractors.smmusd.org/fip-office-website.aspx>.

Mandatory Job Walk:

Thursday, 4/19/18 at 9:00 AM

Job Walk location:

District Facility Improvement Projects Office – located at 2828 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Bid Opening:

Thursday , 5/17/18 at 2:00 PM

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop at [smbishop@smmusd.org](mailto: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](mailto:support@qualitybidders.com) directly.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 10,000 on weekdays and 11,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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## Opinion Commentary

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TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

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## What's the Point?

David Pissarra

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

## Tell The Truth To Recover Your Self

**THIS IS THE THIRD WEEK OF NATIONAL Sexual Assault Awareness month.** It's difficult these days to keep up with the scandals, allegations, declarations of past abuse, and tearful apologies. There is a lot of news and movement in this arena, and as survivors come forward with their stories of abuse and its long-term effects, there is a growing need for not just understanding but also healing practices.

People are confronting their demons and most have found that dragging the monsters from the closets has been a rewarding and restoring process. Abuse and trauma when ever suffered will have long term effects, as my friend and publishing client Dr. Debra Warner explained in her groundbreaking book for spouses of male survivors, *His History, Her Story*. "The effects of abuse usually manifest in a survivor's life, long before they are willing to confront the abuse directly. Spouses, employers and friends are more likely to notice the effects before the survivor will be willing to disclose their history" Warner said.

As survivors try to control and keep a lid on their emotions and trauma, each year it becomes more difficult to suppress the underlying pain, which continues to fester, and the effects become more noticeable. I have had many of my family law clients disclose to me their past history of being abused as children, either through alcoholism, addiction, physical, mental or emotional means as we are in the thick of their divorces or child custody battles.

Over the years I have referred many men to therapy, support groups, Alcoholics Anonymous and all the other anonymouses to address the presenting issues, even when I could see that the underlying issue was a history of abuse. For those men and women who are survivors of some form of abuse or assault, oftentimes they internalize a message about their own self-worth that is negative and holds them back from living a life of meaning, purpose and joy.

The negative self-talk and self-destructive behavior is the story of my friend and fellow Santa Monica denizen Kirsty Spraggon, but with a very happy ending. Kirsty is a motivational speaker and television host who I met last year at an awards show that was held on the grounds of the Fairmont Miramar. Kirsty has taken her life experiences and turned them into a message of hope for people who are still suffering. She speaks across the globe helping survivors open up and let out the festering pains they have been carrying. She shared her secret at TedXMalibu for the first time in a public forum, and since that day has continued to experience the freedom and healing that comes with being honest and sharing truth.

In fact Truth Telling for Trust Seekers is the name of the live event she is producing this coming Sunday the 22nd in Glendale. She has gathered eight other amazing pre-

senters for a day of honesty, openness and healing. The <http://www.truthtellingfortruthseekers.com> website lists the following as presenters: 1) Ken Robert Williams an eloquent speaker, a compelling storyteller, a diligent HIV activist, a constant media presence, and the creative force behind the award-winning video blog, *Ken Like Barbie*, 2) AdaPia D'Errico whose mission it is to bring understanding and compassion to women who have been neglected, shunned and shamed for decades, 3) Nichole Sylvester an Awakening Mentor who liberated herself from generational patterns of crime, addiction and toxic love, and now helps men and women all of the world do the same.

In addition to the above presenters, Kirsty has brought in three powerhouse vocalists Christina Mercado Simos, Michele Vreeland, and singer and emcee Lynn Rose. I have seen Lynn Rose in action at the Lady and the Champs speaker training I attended in Las Vegas and she is AMAZING! Scheduled to appear is the incredible vibrational healing sounds from Guy Douglas The Gong Guy.

I'll be attending this event as a participant, and am looking forward to sharing with Kirsty the following story. I'm in Johannesburg, South Africa at the moment where I've been speaking at the Professional Speakers Association of Southern Africa on podcasting. My friend Maggie Georgopoulos and were just wrapping up our afternoon tea, and I said I have to go write my column this week about sexual assault awareness and my friend Kirsty who's doing an event. "I know Kirsty Spraggon!" She screams and proceeds to tell me a story of how these two Aussies accidentally met in Tanzania at an orphanage.

I met Maggie in Auckland last month at the Global Speakers Summit where she was promoting her book, *Up The Ladder In A Skirt*. She writes about women climbing the corporate ladder and how she had to deal with harassment and prejudice, all while hiding her own mental health issues for fear of repercussions and her own sense of shame. Today she speaks to corporations on women and leadership, and the importance of taking care of our mental health by confronting our demons.

It's sad how much the topic of sexual assault and shame in general effects all of us. If you have a shameful secret and are ready to face and move on with your life, tickets are still available for Truth Telling for Truth Seekers at <http://www.truthtellingfortruthseekers.com> (use code truth for tickets from \$49). If you attend, please feel free to come find me, and say hello.

**DAVID PISSARRA** is a family law attorney focusing on fathers' rights and men's issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pissarra & Grist. He can be reached at [dpissarra@pissarra.com](mailto:dpissarra@pissarra.com) or (310) 664-9969.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

### Earth Day

Dear Editor:

With the 50th observance of Earth Day on April 22nd, each of us can contribute by reducing our driving, use of electric energy, and consumption of animals.

Yes, that. Last Fall Oxford University's prestigious Food Climate Research Network and Germany's Heinrich Bolle Foundation concluded that solving the global warming catastrophe requires massive shift to a plant-based diet. A 2010 United Nations report blamed animal agriculture for 70% of global freshwater use, 38% of land use, and 19% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Carbon dioxide is emitted by burning forests to create animal pastures and by operating farm machinery to grow animal feed. The more damaging methane and nitrous oxide are released from digestive tracts of cattle and from animal waste cesspools, respectively.

Moreover, meat and dairy production dumps more animal waste, crop debris, fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants into our waterways than all other human activities combined. It is the driving force behind wildlife habitat destruction.

In an environmentally sustainable world, meat and dairy products in our diet must be replaced by vegetables, fruits, and grains, just as fossil fuels are replaced by wind, solar, and other pollution-free energy sources.

Let's celebrate the 50th observance of Earth Day at our supermarket.

Ed Laren

Santa Monica

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Playa Del Rey

### Ocean Lifeguards Honored With Medal of Valor by the California Surf Life Saving Association

The California Surf Life Saving Assn. honored 13 Ocean Lifeguards and three non-lifeguards for demonstrating exemplary and extraordinary courage in the aquatic environment. These acts of heroism were recognized in a presentation during the CSLSA's Spring Board of Directors meeting on April 12, at the Dockweiler Youth Center in Playa Del Rey.

In addition to the Medal of Valor award, Heroic Act and Meritorious Act awards were also presented.

"It was our honor to recognize these individuals who demonstrated bravery and a selfless commitment to the safety of beachgoers in California," said Bill Humphreys, president of the CSLSA. "Their heroism is inspirational and worthy of recognition."

Los Angeles County Ocean Lifeguard Specialists Brian Kari and Matt Rhodes were honored with the Medal of Valor; Rescue Boat Captains Lance Dempsey and Rob Pelkey, and Catalina Island Conservancy Ranger Dan Black received Heroic Act Awards for their role in a harrowing rescue on June 25, 2016 involving seven victims and a capsized boat in 8-foot waves on the rocky backside of Catalina Island.

LA County Ocean Lifeguard John Newton was presented with a Meritorious Act Award for his off-duty rescue on March 16, 2017 of an unconscious surfer on whom he performed CPR, and who would fully recover after several days in the hospital.

Oceanside Lifeguards Tyson Cleveland, Victor Dhillon, Nicholas Kelley, Emile Lagendijk, Matt Mattison, Dieter Swank and Camp Pendleton Lifeguard Marko Lagendijk were presented the Medal of Valor. Oceanside Police Officer Jonathan Hoover and Camp Pendleton Lifeguard Canaan Knapp were honored with Heroic Act Awards. The group rescued a jet-skier who crashed into the Oceanside Harbor Del Mar Jetty. Battling crashing waves of up to 14-feet, the lifeguards protected, and rescued the victim from a crevice in the jagged rocks and large waves.

Eric Einertson, a civilian who was surfing at a popular break known as "Churches" off of San Onofre State Beach on April 4, 2017 and rescued shark attack victim Leeanne Ericson received a Meritorious Act Award. Einertson used a surfboard leash as a tourniquet to help control the victim's bleeding until paramedics could arrive.

Through the Medal of Valor, Heroic Act and Meritorious Act, the CSLSA salutes its recipients for their bravery, courage, and service to humanity. The Medal of Valor is the highest award given by the CSLSA to a lifeguard who voluntarily risked his/her life in an extraordinary effort to save a life.

Recipients of all awards are honored at CSLSA Board of Directors meetings, which are held in April and October. The recipient and his/her family are invited to the meeting to receive a collective thank you and a certificate of heroism.

SUBMITTED BY ADAM SANDLER, CSLSA PIO

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School District of Los Angeles County  
(SMMUSD) Inviting Bids**

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type "B" license, on the following: **Bid #18.12.ES.R1-DSA#03-118434 Santa Monica High School – HVAC Project at Santa Monica High School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **\$1,800,000 - \$2,300,000** and includes construction of, the replacement and retrofit of certain existing a/c equipment, replacement of selected package units, duct cleaning of existing ductwork, preparation of equipment pads/enclosures for new equipment and certain interior finish work related to new equipment locations. There will also be limited demolition/removal and abatement involved as well as other associated improvements. All bids must be filed in the SMMUSD Facility Improvement Office, 2828 4th Street, Santa Monica, California 90405 on or before 5/17/18 at 2:30 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 4/19/18 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](http://www.crplanwell.com) and reference the project Bid #.

#### Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission:

All applications are due no later than 5/3/18 - 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](http://www.qualitybidders.com). Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at <http://fipcontractors.smmusd.org/fip-office-website.aspx>.

#### Mandatory Job Walk:

Thursday, 4/19/18 at 10:30 AM

#### Job Walk location:

Santa Monica High School – All Attending Contractors MUST meet representatives at the school access gate which is located on Olympic Blvd. at 6th Street, to be directed to a suitable meeting room.

#### Bid Opening:

Thursday, 5/17/18 at 2:30PM

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop at [smbishop@smmusd.org](mailto: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](mailto:support@qualitybidders.com) directly.



# Third Street Promenade 3.0

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

In 1989, Third Street Promenade opened its roadway and sidewalks to millions of people who would, over the next 30 years, shop, dine, meet with friends, enjoy live street performances, dance, laugh and make lasting memories on the acclaimed pedestrian mall. There is no doubt that Third Street Promenade is one of the most successful public spaces in the world. After three decades, it's time for an upgrade.

This spring, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. invites you to our Third Street Promenade 3.0 Community Workshops. These fun, interactive meetings are designed to spark conversation as we embark on a capital improvement project that will update promenade infrastructure and design features to reinvigorate the beloved destination. Each workshop will feature guest speakers who are experts in urban design and placemaking. Understand the importance of creating and maintaining vibrant public spaces and learn about new trends in retail and customer engagement. Share your thoughts and help craft what Third Street Promenade will look like and how it will serve residents and visitors for generations to come.

### Community Workshops

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18  
1212 Restaurant  
1212 Third Street  
Promenade  
6:30pm-8:30pm

TUESDAY, MAY 1  
The Gallery, Third Floor  
1315 Third Street  
Promenade  
6:30pm-8:30pm

TUESDAY, MAY 15  
1231 Third Street  
Promenade  
6:30pm-8:30pm

PLEASE RSVP TO  
<http://promenadeworkshops.eventbrite.com>

## Local

6

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

Visit us online at [www.smdp.com](http://www.smdp.com)

### RCB

FROM PAGE 1

Act, a proposed statewide initiative that is still gathering signatures to qualify for the November ballot. The initiative would repeal Costa-Hawkins, the state law that eliminated the RCB's authority to set maximum allowable rents in any apartments built before 1978.

Before Costa-Hawkins, Santa Monica had one of the most progressive rent control laws in the country. A few weeks ago, the RCB's own attorney wrote a memorandum warning voters could inadvertently throw a wrench into the City Charter if they pass the Act, allowing new tenants to argue for 1978 level rents.

"Will Costa-Hawkins be repealed? Nobody knows," Lewis said at the public meeting. "It's certainly not something that is outside the realm of possibility."

Lewis told the Daily Press he thought it was prudent to warn the RCB of the possible loophole. He suggested an amendment to the City Charter that would tie the rent ceiling to April 2018 in the event Costa Hawkins suddenly disappears.

Landlords reacted quickly to the staff suggestion of reinstating vacancy control and flooded the inboxes of elected officials. In fact, the Board received more than 100 emails on the matter, mostly from angry landlords worried about losing their ability to raise rents when a tenant moves out.

"Imposing vacancy control would destroy my retirement plan," wrote landlord David Miller. "Imposing vacancy control would not create one more unit of housing."

At the meeting, multiple boardmembers said the timeframe to get a companion measure in front of Santa Monica voters was simply too short. In March, there was little consensus over how a measure should look.

"It would be irresponsible for us to rush to judgement by putting something on the ballot that's not well thought out without proper stakeholder engagement," Boardmember Caroline Torosis said in an email to the Daily Press. If Costa Hawkins were to be repealed, she would look at expanding rent control to more recent construction. "That would require careful study."

SEE MEASURE PAGE 7



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MANAGEMENT**

**FINANCING**

**TENANT  
PROTECTION**

## HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

Services, such as medical and behavioral health interventions, are provided in locations such as jails, hospitals, courtrooms, or libraries.

"The project scope includes evaluating the cost-benefits and first responder cost avoidances of providing multidisciplinary intensive clinical services on the street to historic high utilizers of local emergency serv-

ices (police, fire, hospitals); assessing client outcomes like housing stability and improvements in health; and recommending outreach strategies and configurations of additional teams," said the report.

Additional resources are already approved for similar projects such as a new C3 team working in the field. However, long-term strategies will be based on the RAND assessment, additional data and reports from the existing teams.

[editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

## MEASURE

FROM PAGE 6

I'm interested in providing stability and maintaining what little diversity we have left, and I want to do so in a thoughtful manner."

At the April 12 meeting, Flora expressed doubt the statewide initiative will pass.

"My concern is there has been really a tremendous amount of anxiety stirred up this week that I think is really unnecessary. We did not ask for us," Flora said of staff's recommendation. "This board did not ask for the statewide initiative."

Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, the influential political group that helped establish rent control here in the 1970's, opposes any local companion initiative to the Act.

"SMRR believes the prudent course is to await the November election results, and, in the event the AHA passes, work toward a ballot measure approved by the City Council, and a special election funded by the City Council," the group wrote in an April 11 email to the RCB.

The RCB may still recommend an initia-

tive for the November ballot that addresses tax-based surcharges passed down to tenants in rent controlled apartment buildings. In January, the Board eliminated the surcharges for new tenants and new landlords and now wants to provide relief for tenants who saw their surcharges skyrocket along with property values in the city by the sea.

The city is one of the a few rent control jurisdictions that allowed building owners to pass through certain taxes approved by voters. Tens of thousands of renters currently apply surcharges on Measure X, S, BB, and AA. Landlords can also pass along a stormwater management user fee, the clean beaches and ocean parcel tax and a 2008 school district special tax.

The median combined surcharge amount for renters is \$24.41 but can vary widely from unit to unit depending on the assessed value of the property. The highest monthly surcharge paid by a tenant is \$137.03.

The RCB will continue to discuss a cap on surcharges at the May 10 meeting at City Hall.

[kate@smdp.com](mailto:kate@smdp.com)



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**smdp**  
Santa Monica Daily Press

## SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **59.7°**

**TUESDAY – FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high occ. 4ft  
WNW swell looks to top out/hold.

**WEDNESDAY – FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high  
Easing WNW swell.

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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 28, 2018 AT ABOUT 1:15 A.M.**

Officers responded to 400 Colorado Avenue to assist Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies with a nude male. SMPD Officers arrived and located the male being detained by LASD Deputies. The subject was displaying signs of being under the influence of narcotics. The subject was placed under arrest. As the subject was walked to the patrol vehicle, he became combative and kicked an officer in the leg. The subject continued to struggle until he was placed in the car. The subject proceeded to spit at officers as he was in the back seat. The subject was booked at SMPD Jail. Ian Andrew Goldschmidt, 21, from Malibu, was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance, public nudity, resisting arrest and battery against a peace officer. Bail was set at \$20,000.

## DAILY POLICE LOG

**The Santa Monica Police  
Department Responded To 300  
Calls For Service On Apr. 15.**

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

Loud music 200 block San Vicente 12:37 a.m.  
Fight 2000 block Wilshire 1:51a.m.  
Hit and run 2900 block Neilson 2:14 a.m.  
Burglary 1300 block 3rd St Prom 2:23 a.m.  
Trespassing 800 block Lincoln 3:44 a.m.  
Trash dumping 100 block Bicknell 4:09 a.m.  
Burglar alarm 1200 block 3rd St Prom 5:38 a.m.  
Indecent exposure 300 block Colorado 6:19 a.m.  
Bike theft 1000 block 10th 6:36 a.m.  
Bike theft 17th / Colorado 7:04 a.m.  
Burglary 2000 block Euclid 8:24 a.m.  
Burglary 2000 block Euclid 9:04 a.m.  
Auto burglary 2400 block Chelsea 9:08 a.m.  
Petty theft 1600 block The Beach 9:29 a.m.  
Battery 1600 block Franklin 9:58 a.m.  
Threats 1500 block The Beach 10:00 a.m.  
Indecent exposure 2800 block Santa

Monica 10:34 a.m.  
Person down Yale / Santa Monica 10:41 a.m.  
Auto burglary 3300 block Ocean Park 10:45 a.m.  
Rape report 2000 block 20th 11:17 a.m.  
Burglar alarm 1300 block Stanford 11:39 a.m.  
Petty theft 500 block Colorado 11:49 a.m.  
Grand theft 2100 block Ocean 12:40 p.m.  
Trash dumping 800 block Maple 1:08 p.m.  
Traffic collision 16th / Ocean Park 1:16 p.m.  
Lewd activity 1100 block 3rd 1:39 p.m.  
Traffic collision 1300 block Wilshire 2:12 p.m.  
Traffic collision Franklin / Santa Monica 2:19 p.m.  
Trespassing 600 block Kensington 2:32 p.m.  
Petty theft 900 block California 2:34 p.m.  
Burglar alarm 1700 block Robson 2:53 p.m.  
Battery 1200 block Franklin 3:52 p.m.  
Grand theft auto 1700 block Appian 4:05 p.m.  
Child endangerment 1100 block 21st 4:09 p.m.  
Traffic collision 1300 block PCH 4:29 p.m.  
Petty theft 2600 block 2nd 4:46 p.m.  
Threats 300 block Santa Monica Pier 5:46 p.m.  
Grand theft auto 1700 block Appian 5:47 p.m.  
Trespassing 1400 block Lincoln 6:03 p.m.  
Fight 10th / Pico 6:30 p.m.  
Armed robbery 2700 block Main 6:37 p.m.

## DAILY FIRE LOG

**The Santa Monica Fire Department  
Responded To 33 Calls For  
Service On Apr. 15.**

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

Emergency medical service 500 block San Vicente 12:13 a.m.  
Dumpster fire 100 block Bicknell 4:09 a.m.  
EMS 1500 block 2nd 4:44 a.m.  
EMS 400 block Expo Line 6:09 a.m.  
EMS 700 block Pico 7:17 a.m.  
Automatic alarm 900 block Princeton 8:28 a.m.  
EMS 1700 block Cloverfield 9:29 a.m.  
EMS 100 block Wilshire 10:54 a.m.  
EMS 1400 block 19th 11:05 a.m.  
EMS 1100 block Pico 11:10 a.m.

Dumpster fire 800 block Maple 1:09 p.m.  
Traffic collision 16th / Ocean Park 1:18 p.m.  
Traffic collision 1300 block Wilshire 2:13 p.m.  
EMS 700 block 21st 2:45 p.m.  
EMS 1300 block Wilshire 3:20 p.m.  
EMS 700 block 21st 3:26 p.m.  
EMS 1100 block Centinela 4:09 p.m.  
EMS 2400 block Ocean Front 4:14 p.m.  
EMS 20th / Wilshire 4:45 p.m.  
Automatic alarm 1200 block 15th 5:22 p.m.  
EMS 2800 block Pico 6:09 p.m.  
EMS 20th / Pico 7:20 p.m.  
Elevator rescue 1400 block 2nd 7:23 p.m.  
EMS 2500 block 26th 8:20 p.m.  
EMS 1300 block 15th 9:08 p.m.  
Outside fire 15th / Wilshire 10:08 p.m.  
EMS 5th / Arizona 10:29 p.m.  
EMS 3000 block Santa Monica 10:29 p.m.  
EMS 2600 block 25th 10:36 p.m.  
EMS 4th / Pico 10:39 p.m.  
EMS 6th / Wilshire 11:27 p.m.

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DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 4/14  
1719266162  
Power#: 15  
Jackpot: 122M



Draw Date: 4/13  
8 9 32 42 59  
Mega#: 10  
Jackpot: 67M



Draw Date: 4/14  
5 14 27 31 39  
Mega#: 19  
Jackpot: 27M



Draw Date: 4/15  
1 17 18 32 33



Draw Date: 4/15  
MIDDAY: 3 0 4  
Draw Date: 4/15  
EVENING: 0 4 8



Draw Date: 4/15  
1st: 01 Gold Rush  
2nd: 02 Lucky Star  
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit  
RACE TIME: 1:48.13

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>

WORD UP!

ken

1. knowledge, understanding, or cognizance; mental perception: an idea beyond one's ken. 2. range of sight or vision. 3. Chiefly Scot. a. to know, have knowledge of or about, or be acquainted with (a person or thing). b. to understand or perceive (an idea or situation).

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LALEE

Best Medicine

■ A man goes to the doctor and complains that his wife can't hear him.

■ "How bad is it?" asks his doctor.

■ "I have no idea," replies the husband.

■ "OK, do this test," says the doctor. "Stand 20 feet away from her and say something. If she doesn't hear you, get closer and say the same thing. Keep moving closer and closer, repeating the comment until she does hear you. That way we'll have an idea of her range of hearing loss."

■ The man goes home, sees his wife in the kitchen chopping vegetables for dinner. From 20 feet away, he says "What's for dinner?" No response. From 10 feet, he repeats the question with no answer. From five feet, the same thing. Finally, he's standing right behind her: "What's for dinner?"

■ The wife turns, looks at him and says, "For the fourth time, beef stew."

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MYSTERY REVEALED



Peter James correctly identified the photo as part of the mural at Marco Polo Imports at Euclid and Santa Monica Blvd. He wins a prize from the Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 "Not guilty," for one
- 5 Hoarse-sounding voice
- 9 "Hush up!"
- 14 \_\_\_ Grey tea
- 15 General Robert \_\_\_
- 16 Drop \_\_\_ to (write)
- 17 Shape of an egg
- 18 \_\_\_ weevil (plant pest)
- 19 Prima \_\_\_ (opera star)
- 20 Astronauts' org.
- 21 No longer obligated
- 23 Easy running gait
- 25 One \_\_\_ time (individually)
- 26 Plan in detail
- 29 Begins to blossom
- 31 Massachusetts' Cape \_\_\_
- 34 Appliances for baking
- 35 Casino's number-picking game
- 36 Honolulu's island
- 37 Ensnaring
- 40 Flying toy with a tail
- 41 Winter outerwear
- 42 Household task to do
- 43 Crafty
- 44 Bride's dress
- 45 Major for a doctor-to-be
- 46 Source of solar energy
- 47 Fortune-teller
- 48 Sold in pieces, as pizza
- 53 Fond hope
- 57 Mystical glows

- NOT-SO-GREAT GOLF by Sally R. Stein  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
[www.stanxwords.com](http://www.stanxwords.com)
- 8 Attack with snowballs
- 9 West Point students
- 10 Greeting in 36 Across
- 11 Spanish boy
- 12 \_\_\_ time (quickly)
- 13 Outdoor furniture wood
- 22 Was wearing
- 24 Hurry
- 26 Makes fun of
- 27 To no \_\_\_ (useless)
- 28 Small-minded
- 29 Got started
- 30 Army group
- 31 Pool table bounce
- 32 Chicago airport
- 33 Tricked
- 35 Be sure of
- 36 Alternatively
- 38 Smartphone app symbols
- 39 Land measure
- 44 Hotel patrons
- 45 Sounded like a baby chick
- 46 In good \_\_\_ (physically fit)
- 47 Frighten
- 48 Low choral voice
- 49 Christmas season
- 50 Fearsome dinosaur, for short
- 51 What police forces enforce
- 52 "That makes sense"
- 54 Object of adoration
- 55 Sail the seven \_\_\_
- 56 Rabbit's relative

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |    | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 23 | 24 |    |    |    |    | 25 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |    |    |    |    | 29 | 30 |    |    |    | 31 | 32 | 33 |
| 34 |    |    |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |    |
| 37 |    |    |    |    | 38 |    |    |    |    | 39 |    |    |    |    |
| 40 |    |    |    |    | 41 |    |    |    |    | 42 |    |    |    |    |
| 43 |    |    |    |    | 44 |    |    |    |    | 45 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 46 |    |    |    |    | 47 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 48 | 49 | 50 |    |    |    | 51 | 52 |    |    |    | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 |
| 57 |    |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    |    | 59 |    |    |    |
| 60 |    |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    |    | 62 |    |    |    |
| 63 |    |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 17)

You'll experience a sharp uptick in confidence, self-sufficiency and ambition over the next two months. You'll often find yourself in a serious schedule with big responsibility. So when it's time to play, be sure to have fun like it's your birthright. The education you get in November will markedly increase your means. Pisces and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 5, 49, 30 and 13.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

When relationships go through changes, both people in the relationship are a part of that. The very nature of relationships is co-involvement. Today the blame and credit are likely to be misplaced. It's something to think over.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Want to find out everything? All you have to do is ask, "How are you?" and the whole story comes out. Share your story, too, otherwise it's not as fun (or as fair)!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You're the star of someone's thoughts today. And while you're not quite the person they think you are (you're so much deeper than their limited knowledge of you), you might have fun trying on the role.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You want to explore, but there's plenty to do right where you are. How can you justify traipsing around the world (or the internet) with your current load of responsibility? Set a timer. A few minutes of novelty is all you need to refresh your outlook.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Whatever "it" is today, it will require hard work. Hard work isn't always heavy lifting, sweat or hours of toil. Hard work is efficiently getting it done, even if "it" is mostly just thinking something through.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're not getting the response you desire. It's not something you're entitled to; rather, it's a puzzle to solve. An experimental approach will work well for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

The question of the day is an existential one that can be taken many different ways and directed to yourself or to others: "Who do you think you are?" The answer will change by the minute.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

When the social impetus to be with the group plays against the fact that there's apparently nothing in the situation for you, boredom ensues. But there is something here for you. You'll have to dig deeper for it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Passion isn't necessary for achievement, but it often leads to it. The passionate person usually gets there sooner, too, because passion is fast-burning fuel. Today you'll be propelled by your passion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

A secret is supposed to be something hidden or unknown. And yet, secrets are told and sold every day, in books and on billboards, in texts and on television. That's why your ability to really keep a secret is so remarkable and rare.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Like a good murder mystery novel or a Steven Soderbergh movie, some things are best presented in jumbled puzzle pieces that you have to put together yourself. That will be half the fun today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Sometimes happiness has you cheering. Other times it inspires quiet reverie. Happiness can move you to tears, make you dance, write, sing or drive long distances. Stay flexible so you can recognize happiness however it shows up.

Saturn Retrograde

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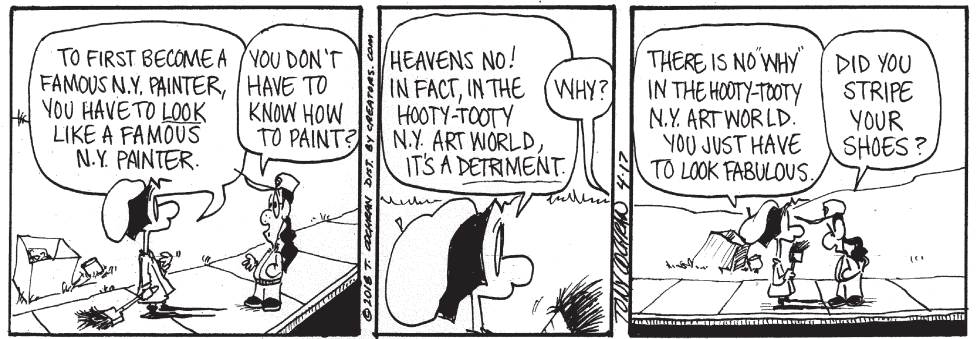
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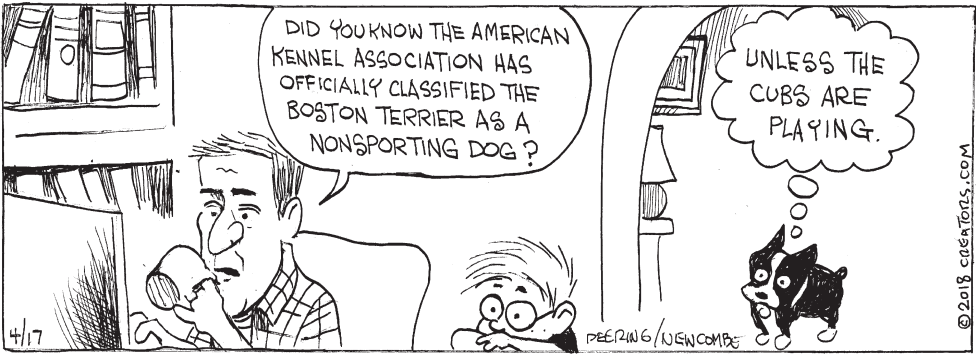
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# Opposition to immigrant sanctuary spreading in California

AMY TAXIN  
Associated Press

More local governments in California are resisting the state's efforts to resist the Trump administration's immigration crack-down, and political experts see politics at play as Republicans try to fire up voters in a state where the GOP has grown weak.

Since the Jeff Sessions-led Department of Justice sued California last month over its so-called "sanctuary state" law limiting police collaboration with immigration agents, at least a dozen local governments have voted to either join or support the lawsuit or for resolutions opposing the state's position. Those include the Board of Supervisors in Orange County, which has more than 3 million people.

More action is coming this week, with leaders in the Orange County city of Los Alamitos scheduled to vote Monday on a proposal for a local law to exempt the community of 12,000 from the state law. On Tuesday, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors is meeting to consider joining the Trump administration lawsuit.

Immigration has been a hot topic across the country since President Donald Trump

campaigned in 2016 on promises of tougher enforcement and a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. It has been a lightning rod issue in California far longer.

The state passed a measure backed by Republican Gov. Pete Wilson in the 1990s to deny public health care and education to immigrants in the country illegally. It was later overturned but left a lingering resentment among the state's growing Hispanic population.

In recent years, California Republicans have taken a less strident approach to immigration in a state where one in four people are foreign-born. But the Trump administration lawsuit has energized many in a party that has been rendered nearly irrelevant at the state level, where Democrats control every key office.

"When the attorney general of the United States decides to take a firm position against it, I think that gave a signal to a lot of us that, 'Hey, California is on the wrong side of this thing,'" said Fred Whitaker, chairman of the Republican Party in Orange County. He also is a councilman in the city of Orange who proposed a local resolution on the issue that passed last week.

Raphael Sonenshein, executive director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at

California State University, Los Angeles, said it's not surprising Republicans are galvanizing over immigration.

"Politics is very much about emotions, especially in midterms," he said. "I think it was only a matter of time when people went back to the issue that actually hits the nerve in the Republican base these days more than any other."

Under Democratic leadership, California has enacted a series of laws in recent years aimed at helping immigrants, including issuing driver's licenses regardless of legal status and assisting with tuition at state universities. After Trump was elected, lawmakers passed the measure to limit police collaboration with federal immigration agents.

Immigrant and civil rights advocates applauded the measure, known as SB54, as a way to encourage immigrants to report crime to police without fearing deportation. Critics said it would make it too hard for federal agents to find and deport ex-convicts who are a danger to communities.

Most of the local governments siding with the Trump administration are in Orange County, an area once considered a GOP stronghold but that voted for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election.

But it's starting to spread.

Escondido in neighboring San Diego County has voted to support the federal lawsuit and last week the small city of Ripon in the state's Central Valley did the same.

In many cases, meetings on the issue have drawn boisterous crowds. Anti-illegal immigration activists have traveled from city to city to attend, heightening tensions with those who want their communities to support immigrant-friendly policies or stay out of the fray.

In response to the controversy, some local governments have taken the opposite approach. Leaders in Santa Ana, an Orange County city home to about 330,000 residents, voted to support California in the lawsuit.

Some of the supervisors pushing the issue in Orange and San Diego counties are Republicans running for Congress and they may see this as a way to generate needed enthusiasm, said Louis DeSipio, a political science professor at the University of California, Irvine.

"The mobilization that could come from introducing immigration debates into county political races may be a critical element in a year like 2018 when Democrats will likely be more mobilized than Republicans," he said.

## Eccentric heir Robert Durst faces key hearing in murder case

BRIAN MELLEY  
Associated Press

It's been more than three years since the arrest of eccentric New York real estate heir Robert Durst in the execution-style shooting of his best friend years earlier in Los Angeles.

Prosecutors could move closer to bringing him to trial if they can show probable cause at a hearing beginning Monday that Durst killed Susan Berman to silence her from revealing what she knew about the death of the multimillionaire's first wife.

Durst, 75, has pleaded not guilty. With all that has emerged about him publicly from an HBO documentary series and a string of unusual court hearings, it seems likely a Los Angeles Superior Court judge will order the case to trial.

Prosecutors have started recording testimony over the past year of older witnesses who might not be available if there is a trial. Some of the testimony includes strong evidence against Durst, who already has been cleared in an unrelated 2003 Texas killing.

One of his closest friends, Nathan "Nick" Chavin, who also was close with Berman, testified that Durst essentially acknowledged killing her, saying, "It was her or me, I had no choice."

Chavin and other friends of Berman said she told them Durst had killed his first wife, Kathleen, who disappeared in 1982 in suburban New York and has never been found.

Berman, a writer and daughter of a Las Vegas mobster, said she helped Durst cover his tracks and told one friend that if anything ever happened to her, Durst would be the culprit.

In the HBO documentary, "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst," he is heard muttering to himself on a live microphone: "You're caught! What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course."

The challenge, however, will be getting any of that evidence before a jury.

"All kinds of evidentiary issues are going to be a battle in this case," said Stanley Goldman, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Durst's defense team, who didn't reply to messages seeking comment, has fought or is

expected to challenge every bit of evidence that implicates him, including Berman's numerous hearsay statements to friends.

Deputy District Attorney John Lewin said Durst forfeited the right to challenge the hearsay statements because he killed Berman to prevent her from telling police what she knew about Kathleen Durst's death.

"His attempt to prohibit the jury from learning what she said about him killing his wife is the most recent chapter in the defendant's 36-year quest to evade responsibility for the heinous crimes he has committed," Lewin said.

The motive for Berman's death and a subsequent killing were covering up Kathleen Durst's death, Lewin said. He intends to present evidence that Robert Durst roughed up his wife to show he tried to control her through fear and had the capacity for violence that escalated.

Goldman said the judge will have to evaluate the relevance of the evidence, whether hearsay is permissible and if the proof offered by testimony outweighs the bias it could create against Durst.

"He's not being tried for killing his wife," Goldman said. "But it's part of the story. To flesh out the entire story without it, you don't know the motive. How far does the judge let the prosecutor go back to prove that he did those things?"

For example, it's not certain if the judge will allow evidence that Durst fatally shot and dismembered neighbor Morris Black, 71, in Galveston, Texas, nine months after Berman was killed.

Durst moved there and posed as a mute woman to hide from investigators who wanted to talk to him after reopening the investigation into Kathleen Durst's disappearance. He was acquitted of murder after testifying he killed Black in self-defense.

Durst was arrested in the Berman killing in 2015, just before the climactic final episode of "The Jinx" aired, in which he is heard muttering about the killings.

He acknowledged in a three-hour interrogation by Lewin that he was in the process of fleeing.

## California rejects border duties for troops

ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press

California has rejected terms of the federal government's initial plans for sending National Guard troops to the border because the work is considered too closely tied to immigration, two U.S. officials told The Associated Press.

Gov. Jerry Brown elicited rare and effusive praise from President Donald Trump last week for pledging 400 troops to the Guard's third large-scale border mission since 2006. But the Democratic governor conditioned his commitment on troops having nothing to do with immigration enforcement, even in a supporting role.

Brown's announcement last week did not address what specific jobs the California Guard would and would not do and how state officials would distinguish work related to immigration from other aspects of border enforcement, such as fighting criminal gangs and drug and gun smuggling.

Brown's offer of troops for the mission that Trump wants up to 4,000 troops to perform is still in place. But state authorities told federal officials late last week that the California Guard will not perform tasks in an initial rollout planned for all four border states, according to officials with knowledge of the talks who spoke condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

Those jobs include fixing and maintaining vehicles, using remote-control surveillance cameras to report suspicious activity to U.S. border patrol agents, operating radios and providing "mission support," which can include clerical work, buying gas and handling payroll, the officials said. California National Guard members have done such work in previous border deployments.

Talks are ongoing and the federal government has yet to publicly respond to Brown's demand that troops avoid immigration enforcement or the state's position on avoiding the specific jobs proposed, the officials said.

The federal government also proposed that troops provide air support in a second

phase of the border-wide rollout, which includes aerial surveillance and flying agents to remote locations, but California officials have not responded to that request, the officials said.

Republican governors from the three other border states — Arizona, New Mexico and Texas — have openly embraced the Trump administration's plans and specific tasks for guard members sent to the border with Mexico. Texas National Guard members are already doing aerial and ground surveillance. Officials with Arizona's National Guard said last week that its troops will provide air and ground support

Brown's commitment allowed Trump to boast support from all four border-state governors and helped put the president above the lower end of his threshold of marshaling 2,000 to 4,000 troops that he wants as a border security mission to fight illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

California National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Thomas Keegan said Monday that the state was awaiting a formal response from the administration and had no additional details beyond the governor's proposed agreement released last week that includes a ban on immigration enforcement.

Evan Westrup, a spokesman for the governor, did not immediately answer detailed questions about the California's position on specific jobs that the Trump administration has proposed, like ground surveillance and vehicle repairs.

Brown last week characterized his decision to contribute troops as a welcome infusion of federally-funded support to fight transnational criminal gangs and drug and firearms smugglers. According to one U.S. official, the California Guard has suggested assigning about 40 troops to marijuana eradication across the state.

Talks between U.S. and California officials about the duties the California troops would perform soured Friday and over the weekend after state authorities told them they would not participate in the initial tasks proposed for California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, the U.S. officials said.



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