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City Hall considering full-time historic preservation position

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Nina Fresco didn't know much about Santa Monica's history when she first moved to the city.

But while walking along Hollister Avenue in Ocean Park, she noticed an old apartment building that looked like it might have housed a market on the ground floor. It sparked her curiosity, so she researched the history of the street and discovered it was once a lively commercial area leading up to Crystal Pier.

"I knew by looking at that building that there used to be something on that street I could learn more about," she said. "It was a clue."

Fresco, now a planning commissioner and previously a longtime member of the landmarks commission, has kept a careful eye on Santa Monica's historic buildings over the past two decades. But it's been difficult for Fresco, her fellow commissioners and the City of Santa Monica's planning staff to create a cohesive plan to preserve them without a dedicated historic preservation planner.

The approach has been

SEE **CITY HALL** PAGE 3

School Board to debate upgrading history texts

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

History-Social Science instructional materials within the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District may soon get an update and it's one for the books.

Staff presented the board with updated instructional materials better aligned with state and district standards. These materials will be more inclusive in its history teachings and more interactive for students. The presentation was a discussion item only, though approval seems likely when the item returns to the

SEE **SCHOOL BOARD** PAGE 3

NRDC accuses regional regulators of lax enforcement

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A new report is accusing the regional board that regulates the quality of Los Angeles' water of not taking enough action against cities and industrial facilities that pollute coastal waters and inland watersheds.

When it rains in a city like Los Angeles that is largely paved over, the water passes over streets and sidewalks, collecting bacteria, trash, metals, herbicide and other pollutants, eventually draining into rivers and the ocean. Santa Monica State Beach has historically been heavily

SEE **NRDC** PAGE 8





Courtesy Photos

SAMOREE: Local Girl Scouts recently held a three day camping event filled with tents, outdoor-skills and togetherness with 237 girls, young women, and adult women. The Santa Monica Elks Lodge #906 gave a generous grant for the Samoree 2019 Archery Program to the Santa Monica Bay Girl Scout Council #542. The Scouts were able to include archery for over 200 girls and leaders. Archery was a huge hit of the Girl Scout Outdoor Weekend. Girl Scouts of Santa Monica are committed to community service and outdoor leadership opportunities for our young women. The Scouts are proud to partner with the Elks Lodge to serve the entire community of Santa Monica and with the Elks help the young girls are making the community a stronger, safer and a more vibrant place to live. Additional troops are forming for Middle and High School girls. Email smbaysu542@gmail.com for more information.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Monday, May 6,

Pico Teen Advisory Council Meeting

Have a voice at your library! Help plan programs and community service projects while earning volunteer hours. Meets once a month in The Annex. Grades 8-12. Pico Branch Library 4 - 5 p.m.

Make a Mother's Day Memory

Make Mother's Day special with a unique handmade gift for Mom, a personalized decorative plate. Amy Muscoplat shows you how to decorate this beautiful keepsake, which you can take home to bake and set in time for Mother's Day. Materials provided. Limited space, call to register at (310) 458-8681. Fairview Branch Library 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

The Disabilities Commission Regular Meeting

The mission of the Disabilities Commission is to help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Santa Monica by prioritizing issues of concern and advising the City Council and staff on those issues. The Commission recommends ways to maximize participation of people with disabilities in all facets of City life and increase awareness of the abilities, rights and issues of people with disabilities throughout the community. Ken Edwards Center 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Review Board Meeting

The Santa Monica Architectural Review Board normally meets on the first and third Monday of every month in the City Council Chamber. City Hall Council Chamber 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7

Write Away

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

Walk-In Tutoring: Basic Reading Writing and Online Skills

Friendly volunteer tutors provide help with basic reading, writing, and computer skills; using the Internet to search for information; opening and using an email account; filling out online forms or applications; learning how to write a resume or cover letter; and more. Main Library Literacy Center 5 - 7 p.m.

Excel III (MS Office 2016)

Practice with more intermediate and advanced Excel concepts and features. Seating is first come, first serve. Advanced Level. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call Telephone Reference at (310) 434-2608. Main Library Computer Classroom, 2nd Floor 6 - 7 p.m.

Ocean Park Film Series: Alice Doesn't Live Here Any More (1974)

Film historian Elaina Friedrichsen discusses and screens this film about a recently widowed woman who goes on the road with her young son determined to make a new life for herself as a singer. (Film runtime: 112 min.) Ocean Park Branch Library 6 - 8:30 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. Space is limited. Please bring a mat or towel to the program. Fairview Branch Library 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8

Think Pink 2019

Think Pink for Women's Wellness, an Irene Dunne Guild annual event, focuses on health education and awareness for women and their families. Held close to Mother's Day, it is a celebration of mothers, sisters, daughters, and dear friends. This year's event is Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Upper Bel Air Bay Club. Tickets are $125 per person. For more information, contact Esther Espinoza at Esther.Espinoza@stjohns.org. www.irenedunneguild.org

Mother's Day Crafts

Craft handmade cards and paint glass jars for the Moms in your life. Ages 4-11. Ocean Park Branch Library 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Field Sports Advisory Council Regular Meeting

Regular monthly meeting of the Field Sports Advisory Council (FSAC). FSAC is an advisory council to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Virginia Avenue Park 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Mindful Meditation

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

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

Inside Outside

By Michel Feinstein — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How Will Vote Centers Affect Santa Monica's Democracy?

How we vote in Santa Monica will be changing radically starting in 2020.

Under SB 450, sponsored in 2016 by Santa Monica's State Senator Ben Allen — and meant to increase voter turnout by making it easier to vote given the complexities of modern life — neighborhood-based, precinct voting on Election Day will be eliminated. In its place, every voter will receive a ballot in the mail that they can return by mail or cast in person at strategically located drop boxes, starting 28 days before and up through Election Day. Additionally, voters can cast their ballots in person at any of multiple Vote Centers dispersed around the county, starting ten days beforehand and running through Election Day.

This is an opt-in program - Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento and San Mateo counties implemented Vote Centers in 2018. Los Angeles County has opted in for 2020. A workshop on vote center implementation will be held Tuesday, May 7 in Santa Monica at the Thelma Terry Center in Virginia Ave. Park, 6-8pm, hosted by the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder and League of Women Voters of Los Angeles.

How might SB 450 impact Santa Monica? It's instructive to review the evolution of early voting in California.

ORIGINS OF VOTE BY MAIL

Voting by mail in California was first introduced in the 1860s to give the state's Civil War soldiers the ability to participate in elections back home. Its use was relatively limited for many years afterwards, but in 1978 AB 1699 (Lehman) allowed "no excuse" absentee voting, where voters could request an absentee ballot each election without a reason. In 2001, the legislature approved AB 1520 (Shelley), allowing any Californian to become a permanent absentee voter. In 2007 the legislature renamed "absentee voting" "vote by mail" (VBM).

With these changes, California's VBM rate has steadily increased, topping 50% by November 2012 and reaching 65% in November 2018. In other words, the trend towards early voting in California is long underway, and Vote Centers and drop boxes will likely increase it further.

AFFECTS OF EARLY VOTING

Early voting can favor candidates with early big money to pay for expensive direct mailers to reach early voters, compared to candidates whose grassroots campaigns develop over time. It can lower the effectiveness of door-to-door campaigning, because many voters will already have voted when reached by door-knockers. And it can limit the ability of voters, candidates and the media to respond to developing campaign issues, because once a vote is cast, it's too late.

When I was first elected to the Santa Monica City Council in November 2016, I campaigned door-to-door more than any other candidate — especially in the Pico Neighborhood. Ultimately I finished second out of 13 candidates for four seats with 13,684 votes, while the fifth place finisher had 12,129. On Election Day, I received the most votes cast at the polls. But in the VBM, the well-known fifth place finisher was second with 1,919 votes and I was seventh with 1,428. As a first-time candidate, my campaign was still developing.

What if more people had voted early by mail back then? In 1996, vote-by-mail ballots made up 16.6% of votes cast for City Council in Santa Monica. By 2016 it was 42.1% and by 2018, 50.2% - an increase of 302%.

Ultimately I served eight years on the City Council including two years as Mayor. But with today's VBM rates, perhaps I wouldn't have been elected in the first place. Yet on Election Day 1996 with more voters having more complete information, I was elected overwhelmingly.

LOCAL RACES FORGOTTEN

It's easy to miss this side of the equation because California uses winner-take-all, single-seat 'top two' elections to elect its state legislative and Congressional representatives. Such elections produce 'us vs. them' general election contests between only two often polarized choices, with most voters knowing where they stand early on.

But local non-partisan, multi-seat municipal elections like in Santa Monica are different, where voters elect three or four seats together at a time. A voter may be clear about some but not all of their multiple choices — especially in highly competitive years when there are many top tier candidates — and be swayed by community-based candidate forums and candidates going door-to-door late in the campaign. But if the system's incentive is to vote earlier, many voters will do so based upon lesser information - and often overlook multiple important municipal decisions in the process.

DEMOCRACY HOLIDAYS

Instead of short-circuiting the campaign season and favoring early big money in politics, why not explore increasing voter turnout on Election Day first? We could make primary and general election days state Democracy Holidays, keep the polls open til 11:59 p.m. for people who have to work on holidays, and combine precinct voting and vote centers so people can vote anywhere in the county.

At the same time, we could expand the reason for people to vote. Most developed countries with higher voter turnout than the United States elect their legislatures using proportional representation elections from multi-seat districts. In these elections voters win representation in proportion to their numbers, and more voters help elect someone who truly represents their views. Therefore more voters are motivated to vote in the first place.

SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE

Senator Allen has been promoting pro-democracy pillars since he was first elected in 2014 - from sponsoring campaign finance reform (SB 254 placing Proposition 59 on the ballot regarding overturning the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision); to allowing local governments to enact public financing programs for local elections (SB 1107); to

SEE **INSIDE OUTSIDE** PAGE 8

CITY HALL

FROM PAGE 1

to assign a different planner every few years to oversee historic preservation, Fresco said. The historic preservation community in Santa Monica, led by the Santa Monica Conservancy, has been pushing for a permanent position since 2002.

"Every few years we get a new planner, which is always an awkward transition until they get up to speed, and some have more native interest in preservation than others," she said.

Other City staff also handle preservation tasks, Fresco said.

"There's no program-wide vision in any one person," she said.

That's about to change. City manager Rick Cole confirmed at City Council's Tuesday meeting that the upcoming 2019-2021 budget will include a proposal for a new historic preservation planner position. The plan, which is not yet finalized, will eliminate another vacant planner position to be "budget-neutral," said Councilmember Ted Winterer.

"In a period where the city's going through rapid change and redevelopment, we've clearly not had a sufficient focus on preservation, so it's great to have a dedicated staff member who will be laser-focused on making sure city is doing everything it can to preserve buildings on the historic inventory," Winterer said.

Although the number of landmarks in the city has quintupled since Fresco and others began advocating for such a position – 20 landmarks existed in 2002 and more than 80 have been designated since then, as well as four historic districts – there are countless examples of potential landmarks that were altered or lost, including the building Fresco first noticed on Hollister Avenue.

Winterer remembers the Santa Monica Greyhound station on 5th Street and Pioneer Boulangerie on Main Street, which closed in 1994 and 1993, respectively. Both buildings featured historic signs that could have been integrated into new construction, but the signs were lost, Winterer said.

"If you don't pay attention to historic preservation, mistakes are made that can never be undone," he said.

Winterer said the new position will not only advocate for preservation but can serve as a one-stop-shop for property owners who want to learn more about the benefits of landmarking their property, such as substantial tax breaks.

Fresco hopes the historic preservation planner will coordinate with entities like the Conservancy to conduct public outreach, tours and events and publish landmarks data on the new Citywide Dashboard website.

Even without a designated planner, momentum to landmark Santa Monica's historic sites has been building in recent years. Two of the city's four historic districts have been created in the past four years after the City started allowing districts to be formed without a vote by property owners, and a fifth is on the way to the landmarks commission, Fresco said. On May 13, the commission will hear an application to landmark five contiguous properties at 4th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard.

Fresco said she believes an increased focus on preservation has protected the buildings that tell the story of Santa Monica's past without stifling the city's development boom.

"We can interpret our history by looking at our streetscape and to me, that's a really great gift about a place and what makes the individuality of each city really shine," she said. "There is a real change happening in our urban landscape, and once we protect the particular buildings that weave in our past story with this new story that's developing, the new and old can coexist, and we end up in a city with layers."

madeleine@smdp.com

SCHOOL BOARD

FROM PAGE 1

board for adoption.

Dr. Irene Gonzlaez-Castillo, Director of Curriculum & Instruction at SMMUSD and JuliaCheri Hoos, a teacher at Malibu Middle/High School, led the presentation.

Both educators detailed a year-long process of carefully selecting publishers' work would that reflect the inclusionary objectives of the State Board of Education and the California Department of Education's for The History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools.

Themes of that framework include improving literacy, inquiry and citizenship knowledge.

The process consisted of 18 teachers carefully vetting instructional materials, eventually settling on publisher TCI for 6th and 7th grade and Pearson for 8th grade.

Material content included SMMUSD 21st-century learning staples such as Project Based and Inquiry Learning quests, infographics, visuals and videos.

The materials align with the district's 21st-century learning efforts with Project-Based and Inquiry learning models as well as aligning with state standards such as the FAIR Act, a law which mandates that California schools' history materials provide an equitable representation of underrepresented groups such as LGBT people and members of the disabled community.

An example of subject matter included the experiences of women during the Civil War and presenting stories of prominent people in history with disabilities.

Upon materials selection, a pilot program was created and findings were discussed.

Hoos, an educator for 22 years, approved of the materials. Not only due to finally getting new books (she says textbooks in her class are from 2005) but because of what the material has done for students thus far, even in the pilot program alone.

"Not all curriculum do great with some histories," said. "[These materials] did a thorough examination of cultures and historical and political strands. Also, there's a strong support for language learners and students have said [the materials] have been very engaging," noting the material's encouragement of interactivity, such as acting historical happenings out in class.

The presentation was a discussion item and will return to the board at some time, a passing motion almost a certitude. Board members were enthusiastic about the presentation, with Craig Foster noting he found it "terrific" and board president Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein calling the presentation "delightful".

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Earth Talk

By the editors of E Magazine

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reducing food plastic

Dear EarthTalk: What are some examples of ways food and drink producers are fighting the ever-growing torrent of plastic waste they have helped create? – Stacy Y., Raleigh, NC

As more people become aware of the extent of plastic waste clogging up our environment, cutting back on plastic use is fast becoming a key environmental priority around the world. According to a 2017 study by researchers from the University of Georgia, UC Santa Barbara and Sea Education Association, humans have produced 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic since mass-production started in the 1950s. While we've recycled about nine percent of all that plastic and incinerated another 12 percent, as much as 75 percent has been discarded into landfills or, even worse, set adrift into the environment. If we don't slow down our current run rate of producing new ("virgin") plastic, we can expect to add another four billion metric tons of it to our global environment by 2050.

With no cheap and scalable way to collect and get rid of all this plastic, the best we can hope for is to not make the problem worse. Luckily sustainable alternatives to plastic are coming on strong. PLA plastic, which is derived from plants and functions like conventional plastic, is promising but needs to scale up to become economically viable as it requires dedicated recycling/processing systems to truly "close its loop." Likewise, paper or cardboard cartons could be a viable alternative to plastic food and drink storage containers if they are produced at great enough scale to justify dedicated facilities to process them for recycling, given that they are also infused with non-recyclable layers for strength and to prevent seepage.

PLA and cardboard are just the beginning of what is possible. Food producers and chemists are experimenting with making containers out of biodegradable plant products like corn starch, cassava and even algae. And just this spring, tens of thousands of runners participating in the London Marathon were given water out of edible pods made from seaweed and plant extracts instead of plastic bottles. Skipping Rocks Lab, the London-based startup behind the newfangled containers, reports that they're not only cheaper to produce than plastic but are also biodegradable, breaking down completely within a month, while not imparting any flavor or taste to the water or whatever else is inside.

While there's something to be said for technology, an older school "alternative" to plastic is all-natural plant material. American supermarkets could learn a lot from some Southeast Asian grocers, for instance, that wrap up produce for sale in biodegradable banana leaves instead of plastic bags. These all-natural wrappers can be thrown into the compost pile or yard waste bin and become rich soil without ever having to be processed using fossil-fuel based energy (like traditional recyclables).

You can do your part by telling your friends, neighbors, store managers, policymakers, elected officials and anyone else within hearing distance that you and millions of others like you don't want any more single use plastics in your town, county, state or country. And if you haven't already done so, get yourself a reusable water bottle and reusable shopping bag(s) so you can start being part of the day-to-day solution.

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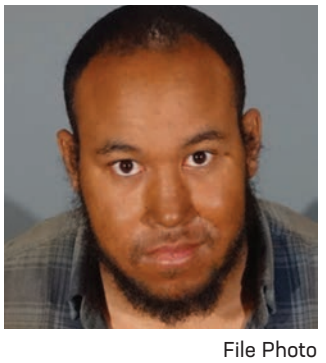
CRIME WATCH

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 APRIL 23, AT 8:10 A.M.

Officers were in the 2000 block of Ocean at Crescent Bay Park conducting homeless outreach. They observed a male smoking. Upon contact, he refused to provide any information and identified himself as God. He attempted to walk away from the officers and was arrested for obstructing with a police investigation and the municipal code for smoking. Chaisson Ross Alexander, 28, homeless, was arrested for obstructing a police investigation and a Santa Monica Municipal Code violation. Bail was set at $10,000.



File Photo
CHAISSON ROSS ALEXANDER

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

The Famous Pier Sign



Courtesy Photos

SIGN: Santa Monica's Pier Sign has become a world-famous landmark.

BY JIM HARRIS
Special to the Daily Press

There was once a time when visitors to the Santa Monica Pier would either walk or drive down the hill from the corner of Ocean Avenue and Colorado Avenue and then walk or drive up onto the Pier. That's right, UP! That all changed in the late 1930's, and the result of that change left the world with one of southern California's most immediately recognizable and iconic landmark signs.

In 1939, work began on the Colorado Grade Separation Project, a complex highway

SEE **PIER** PAGE 6

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Week of May 6

LA Metro Public Art Project – "Tears Of Santa Monica"

For the week of May 6, no construction will take place. For any questions or further information, please contact Henry Servín, at (310) 458-8291 or Leticia Ivins at LA Metro at IvinsL@metro.net and at (213) 922-6000, x22721 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

Bike Network Linkages Project

For the week of May 6, work is scheduled to be taking place on Broadway. The project consists of applying new green paint to existing bicycle lanes. Please contact Jason Hoang, Project Manager at (310) 458-8721, x5385 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

Annual Water Main Replacement Project

For the week of May 6, the contractor will continue installing new services on Wadsworth Ave between Neilson Way and Ocean Front Walk. The contractor will also be digging to verify existing utilities on Vicente Terrace Place North between Ocean Avenue and Appian Way. Traffic will be closed to through traffic. Please use alternate routes whenever possible. Should you have any questions, please contact Carlos Rosales, Project Manager (310) 458-8721 ext. 2620.

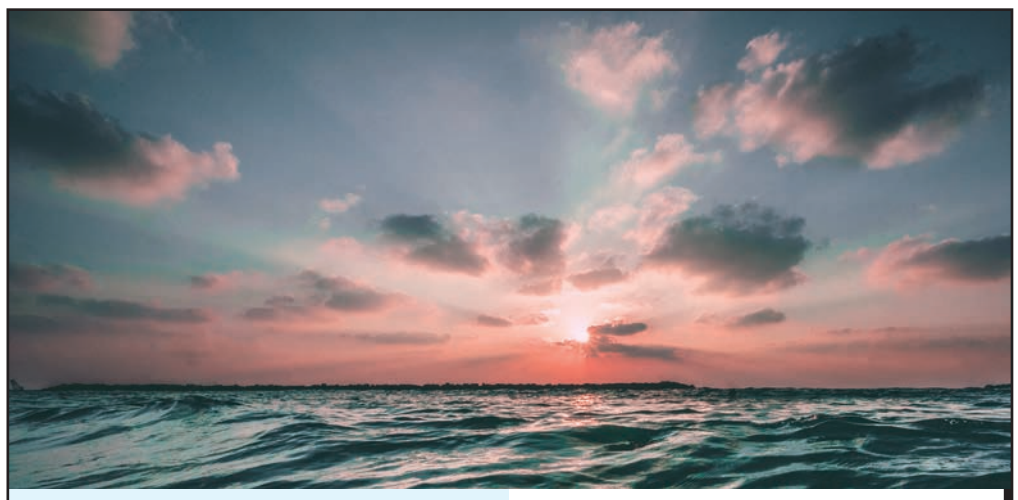
Advanced Traffic Management System, Phase 5 Project

For the week of May 6, construction continues on the Advanced Traffic Management System, Phase 5 Project. This project will upgrade the traffic signal equipment at four locations and install fiber optic cables along Montana Ave and 26th St. The project will provide transit priority along the corridor, allow for real-time remote monitoring and management of the traffic signals, provide public Wi-Fi along the corridor, and connect the San Vicente Reservoir and the Montana Avenue Branch Library to the City's network. We appreciate your patience during the project, to provide this safety improvement and public enhancements. Please contact Andrew Maximous, Project Manager at (310) 458-8291 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

Fire Station #1 Construction Project

For the week starting May 6, 2019, construction will be continuing throughout the project area located at 1377 7th Street which will affect the sidewalk and bike lane on the east side of 7th Street just north of Santa Monica Blvd. Sidewalk will be closed all day/night from 5/3/19 to 5/17/18. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Senior Construction Manager Sebastian Felbeck at (310) 434-2675.

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PIER

FROM PAGE 5

project that was designed to improve access between the Pacific Coast Highway and city streets. The location of the project eliminated the traditional access to the pier, so planners designed a ramp at the end of Colorado Avenue to allow traffic to overpass the new access ways and travel directly onto the pier's deck.

Ground broke for the new pier ramp on September 19, 1939, closing the entrance to the Municipal Pier and tearing up part of the pier's east end. The City, recognizing that business would be severely hampered by the project, reduced rentals for businesses on the pier by five percent. Construction took five months and the ramp was opened for use on June 12, 1940.

The new access ramp was not clearly visible, nor was it obvious that it was indeed the correct route to the pier. This was of great concern to the businesses on the pier. With the money saved from the rent reduction during construction, the Santa Monica Pier Business Men's Association committed two thousand dollars to hire the Pan-Pacific Neon Sign Company to design and construct a neon sign and mount it at the top of the bridge. The new sign was unveiled on June 17, 1941.

The sign's text reads "Santa Monica Yacht Harbor – Sport Fishing – Boating – Cafes", which may confuse the unknowing visitor today. However, when the sign was originally installed the Santa Monica Pier was indeed home to a fully functional and popular yacht harbor which provided moorings for, among others, internationally famous actor Charlie Chaplin.

The arched blue sign — twenty feet at its highest point, twelve feet at its lowest and supported by columns on each side of the ramp — has since become an internationally recognized landmark. In 1996 the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation declared the iconic sign a historic landmark. The official record notes its dual historical significance as: 1) a classic example of signage from the neon era, and 2) the designated marker for the last existing pleasure pier in an area in which they were once bountiful.

Excerpt from Santa Monica Pier: A Century on the Last Great Pleasure Pier by James Harris (Angel City Press, 2009)

Since its establishment in 1975, the Santa Monica Landmarks Commission has recognized more than 125 structures and sites as designated landmarks. In the History Spotlight, the SMDP will focus on specific landmarks, spotlight interesting residents and stories about local history. The content is being produced in partnership with the Santa Monica Landmarks Commission, Santa Monica History Museum and the City of Santa Monica.

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INSIDE OUTSIDE

FROM PAGE 2

permitting cities and counties to establish non-advisory independent redistricting commissions (SB 1108), all in 2016.

This year Allen's SB 212 local options bill would grant cities, counties and local education agencies the ability to choose to conduct ranked choice voting elections for local elections. Other key related legislation in recent years includes same day voter registration (AB 1436 - Feuer, 2012), pre-registration of 16-year and 17-year olds (SB113 - Jackson, 2014) and a variety of public disclosure acts promoted by the California Clean Money Campaign.

All of these positive changes - along with SB 450 - are meant to get the most of our current electoral system. But therein lies the rub - and the next opportunity.

Before Allen and many other current democracy reformers were elected, the legislature placed Top Two elections on June 2010 ballot without holding public hearings, primarily in response to political extortion to obtain the final Republican vote needed to pass en eight-month late state budget, back when budget approvals required 2/3.

Then a multi-million dollar corporate funded 'yes' campaign barely prevailed in a low turnout primary election tilted towards more conservative voters overall (compared to a general election), and where the generally more conservative VBM primary voters voted 'yes' and the Election Day primary voters voted 'no'. Then two years later, the legislature eliminated general election write-in voting without a vote of the people (AB 1413 - Fong).

As a result California has perhaps the most austere version of single-seat, winner-take-all elections in the U.S., where voters are only allowed two general election choices — often very narrow ones — where smaller parties are mostly eliminated from the ballot, many voters are driven by lesser-evilism, and substantial portions of the population are unable to elect anyone who directly represents their views.

Increasing turnout into this kind of system that provides limited representation for millions of Californians is missing the forest for the trees. It's time to see our democracy as an ecosystem, where our interconnectedness is reflected by everyone having a seat at the table.

This is where the state legislature needs to turn its attention next, and conduct hearings into alternatives to Top Two.

Michael Feinstein is a former Santa Monica Mayor (2000-2002) and was a 2018 Green candidate for California Secretary of State

NRDC

FROM PAGE 1

polluted from stormwater runoff and has the highest levels of bacteria of any beach in the area. Such elevated levels of bacteria can cause gastrointestinal illnesses in humans and hurt the aquatic ecosystem.

But while Santa Monica has taken steps to address the issue in recent years by installing an underground storage tank to capture runoff from the Santa Monica Pier storm drain and diverting stormwater from the Pico-Kenter drain, the recent National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) report alleges the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has failed to get other cities to take similar steps.

Corinne Bell, an analyst with the NRDC's Santa Monica office, said the regional board has not undertaken any enforcement actions addressing more than 2,000 bacterial violations from urban runoff since it started using its current regulatory framework, the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit, in 2012.

The board can take a range of actions against cities, including issuing fines and penalties. Since the board began regulating bacteria levels in 1990, it has only issued four fines, Bell said.

"These thousands of violations and the accompanying lack of enforcement demonstrate that water quality in the region is suffering, and the regional board has failed to address the problem," Bell wrote in the report.

Cities can reduce runoff by capturing stormwater like Santa Monica has done or by planting trees and urban greenery to absorb runoff before it makes it to the ocean, Bell said. Last year, Los Angeles County voters approved Measure W, a tax to fund projects to capture and clean up stormwater.

But Bell and Annelisa Moe, a water quality scientist at Heal the Bay, contend that other cities have delayed such projects because the regional board has not applied enough pressure when they exceed allowable pollution levels.

"The board's lack of enforcement has really created a culture of noncompliance throughout the Los Angeles region," Moe said. "We're really not seeing any improvement in water quality."

The board disputes the claims in the NRDC report, however. Executive officer Renee Purdy called it an "unfair characterization" of the board's enforcement actions.

When a city or industrial facility pollutes a body of water, Purdy said, the board typically issues formal enforcement orders that set a strict schedule by which the city or facility must complete water quality improvement projects. If the offender doesn't comply with that schedule, she said, the board may issue financial penalties. It was the most aggressive water board in the state in issuing penalties and liability, Purdy added.

"Our 2012 permit is the strongest across the state and if not in the nation. We're one of the only regions that has incorporated numeric limits on pollutants," Purdy said.

While the report claims the MS4 permit's interim deadlines to complete water improvement projects have allowed cities to drag their feet, Purdy said they allow cities to show the board that they are implementing projects on schedule.

Bell and Moe said the next version of the MS4 permit, which will be adopted in 2020, should be stronger, more enforceable and give polluters less leeway on interim deadlines.

"It's really important that the board plays their role as a regulator so they can ensure public and environmental health is protected," Moe said. "The way we see that having a permit with the requirements that are simple and reflect federal standards."

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Draw Date: 05/01
5 23 28 56 66
Power#: 17
Jackpot: $199 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 04/30
24 37 41 61 70
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: $252 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 05/01
2 3 4 13 47
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: $41 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 05/02
5 11 23 33 37

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 05/03
Midday: 8 4 0
Draw Date: 05/02
Evening: 8 5 6

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 05/02
1st: 8 - GORGEOUS GEORGE
2nd: 10 - SOLID GOLD
3rd: 3 - HOT SHOT
RACE TIME: 1:41.23

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 64.0°

MONDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft knee to waist high
Shadowed, new SSW/S swell picks up for exposures. Trace NW swell. Some onshore AM wind possible.

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft + waist to stomach high
SSW/S swell tops out for exposures. Trace NW swell (breaks lacking SSW exposure are very small). Possible weakly onshore AM wind.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

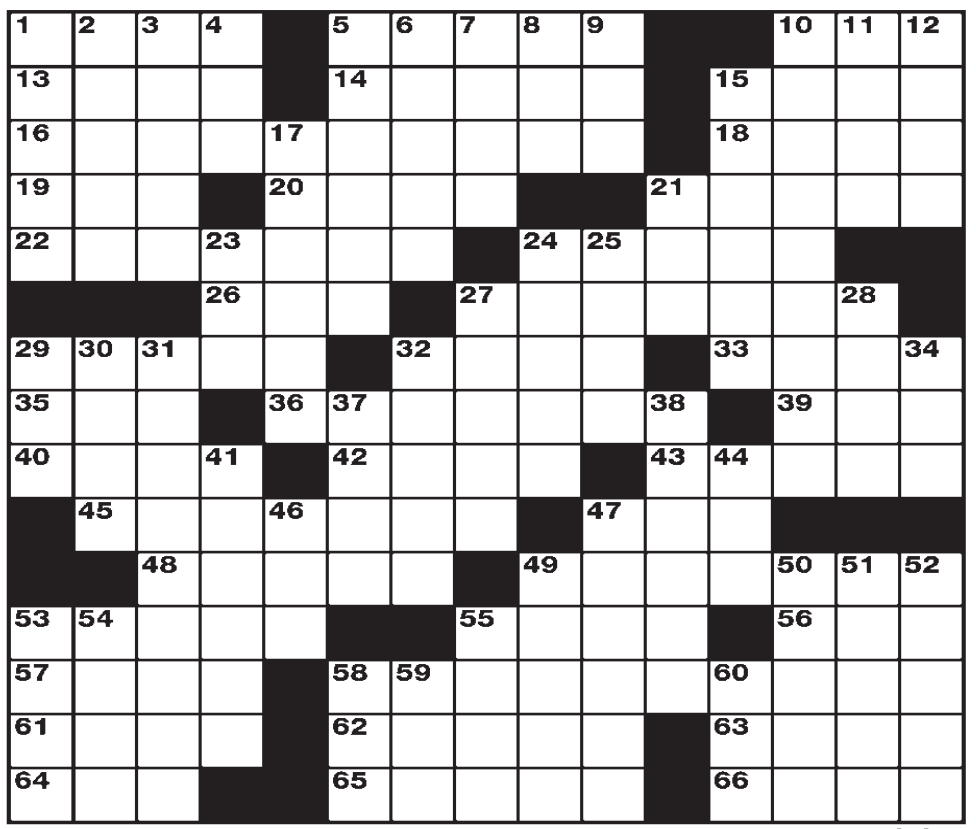
2					3			
7	3			8			9	2
		4	9		2	8		3
		2		6		9		5
	5		3		7		6	
6		7		5		3		
9		6	7		8	1		
1	8			4			3	9
			5					6

Newsday Crossword

NIGHTSTAND QUARTET by Brad Wilber
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Curved part of the foot
5 Tiny bit of land in the ocean
10 Actor Hanks or Cruise
13 "Those ___ the days"
14 Car horn honks
15 Sensible
16 Nightstand waker-upper
18 Kindergarten basics
19 Male sheep
20 Throat-clearing sound
21 Christmas seasons
22 Makes public, as secrets
24 Brief movie excerpt
26 Degree often held by a prof.
27 Available to buy
29 Squander
32 "Look, I did it!"
33 Keep in reserve
35 Hooting bird
36 Kids' summer getaway without bunks
39 Third scale notes
40 Have a good cry
42 Competes (for)
43 Red "McIntosh" fruit
45 Summer and spring
47 "It's c-c-cold!"
48 Fork tine
49 Buffet with Tex-Mex shells
53 Round roofs
55 Husband or wife
56 "Land of the free": Abbr.
57 Tehran's country
58 Tubular illuminator in a nightstand
61 Ship's pole
62 Foamy coffee with milk
63 Leave in a hurry
64 Antlered animal
65 Theater aisle worker
66 Mail out

DOWN
1 In the know
2 Take it easy
3 Muscle spasm
4 ___ Royal Highness (queen's title)
5 Wanted to scratch
6 Shoe bottoms
7 Machine for weaving
8 List-ending abbr.
9 Sound of disapproval
10 Reading aid on a nightstand
11 ___ in a blue moon
12 Untidy spot
15 Steamy spa spots
17 Squished, as potatoes
21 "Absolutely!"
23 ___ for (choose)
24 Colas and ginger ales
25 Study hard
27 Confronts
28 Wicked
29 "Gee, I'm impressed!"
30 Fills with wonder
31 Eye covering in a nightstand
32 Fastening, as shoes
34 Point opposite WNW
37 Shakespeare's river
38 Package mailed
41 Mom or dad
44 Salaried athlete
46 Ship's distress call
47 Person in a tub
49 Eat a sample of
50 Military trumpet
51 Very pale
52 Evaluated
53 Coin depicting FDR
54 Taken by mouth
55 Trig or algebra
58 Winter bug
59 ___ Vegas, NV
60 "No ___, ands, or buts!"



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/6/19

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 6)

This solar return starts off with a burst of industrious energy. Your boldness makes things happen over the next five weeks. Then it's diplomacy that takes you to the next goal. Don't worry about impressing anyone. As you continue to do what's right for you, you gain powers including the power of attraction. Pisces and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 28, 10, 48 and 32.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Creativity is part of who you are. Honor this part of yourself wherever it shows up. It will likely spark while you're driving, showering, walking or doing menial and/or repetitive tasks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Any negativity you might experience today will melt away just as quickly as it came on with mental channel-changing techniques such as a cup of tea, a hot bath or a brisk walk.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Courage is a thing you can't really plan or speculate about. It comes up in the moment or doesn't. If you want something badly enough, or if you care about or stand for something strongly enough, courage shows up.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know that thing you wish were in the world? You're the one who could put it there. Why shouldn't it be you? At the very least you can get the thing started by working and playing with your idea.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What was supposed to be a cut-and-dried equation is turning into a piecemeal puzzle. It turns out the exact measurements won't work. This is a feel-it-out situation, and you've excellent feelers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You should have many people in your life with whom you feel comfortable telling an unpolished version of a story. The person who lets you talk and listens even when you're not making much sense is a true friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Overstatement and drama isn't exactly rude, but it requires more energy of people than it gives back. Today favors equally balanced interactions: temperate, respectful and simple.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's a do-it-yourself kind of day on every level. It's more fun this way! So sing the song you want to hear. Write the words you want to read. And make the foods you want to taste.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People can define you, put you in a role, treat you this way or that, but it only counts if you agree. "It ain't what they call you; it's what you answer to." – W.C. Fields

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Knowing facts and having skills are very important, but they are not the same as being smart. Being smart will help you to seek information and knowledge about the right things – the things that will make you happier.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're competitive with people doing things that are like what you're doing, as you should be. Your sportsmanship will set the tone for a game that brings out the best in everyone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Anything that tells you to "act fast" is sketchy. The best things will be there without a time restriction. In general, this is a good day to let things marinate, process and mature.

Mercury Gets Hungry

"Never say never" is a saying that speaks to the fickleness of human nature. We often find that the influence of time and environment is stronger than our resolve. Mercury moves into Taurus, the sign of appetite, today, greasing slippery slopes. "Never again" declarations could turn into "just one more time." Anticipate temptation. Plan accordingly.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS

"What do you say about the relationship between an Aquarius woman and a Virgo man? We've become very close friends, and he'd like to have a physical relationship with me, 'to make an amazing friendship even better.' When I refuse, he says that he understands, and that he feels blessed to have me in his life in any capacity. He plans to stay with his wife for the sake of raising his kids in a two-parent household, but their relationship is nonsexual. He thinks I should just enjoy what he can be, which is a friend who cares for me very much and wants to make me feel good. I think that he can't be what I really want (a loving, committed, dependable husband), so how satisfying is temporary pleasure?"

Aquarius women tend to be idealistic, and sweetly want to see the best in people. This Virgo is very unlikely to leave his family and your dalliance together is distracting you from finding what you really want. He calls you a friend, and maybe that's apt. It's also possible that your role is more along the lines of entertainment and fantasy fodder. You'll feel much better about yourself if you break it off and move along to a partner who is truly available.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

Academy Award-winner George Clooney is an earthy Taurus whose perfect combination of good looks, talent and tenacity have made him one of the most influential stars in Hollywood. Clooney was born under an Aquarius moon, and he displays the philanthropic spirit of that aspect as he uses his celebrity to raise awareness and aid for impoverished and periled people of the world. Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.

WORD UP!

Vigesimal
adjective [vahy-jes-uh-muhl]
of, relating to, or based on twenty.

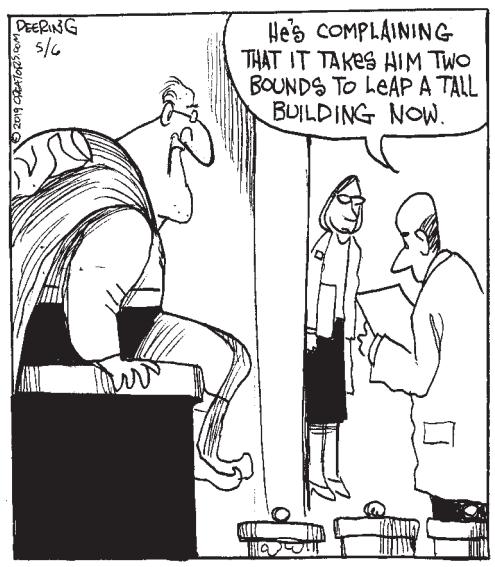
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



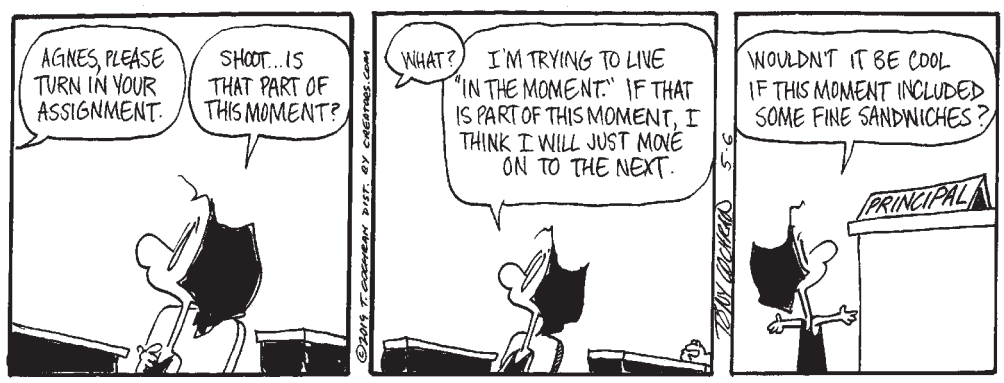
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



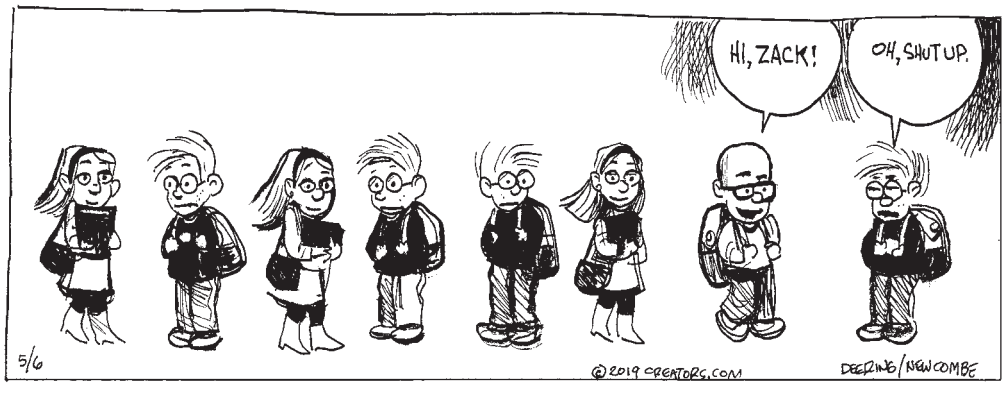
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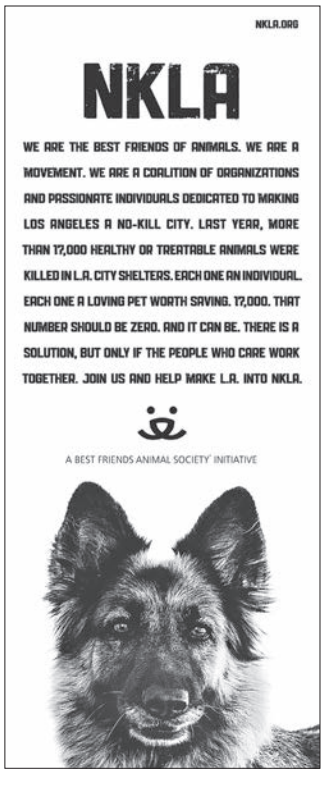
Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 19SMCP00176
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of Sanjin Bjelobrk for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: Sanjin Bjelobrk
filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Sanjin Bjelobrk to Sanjin Beloberk. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing: Date: 05-31-2019, Time: 8:30 a.m. , Dep: K, Room: A-203
The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: April 16, 2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 19BBCP00150
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of Ellen Victoria Resnick for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: Ellen Victoria Resnick filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Michael Jonathan Resnick to Barron-Vitorrio Morgan Reginald Jonathan Resnick. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: June 14, 2019, Time: 8:30a.m, Dept: x, Room: NCB-A
The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 300 E. Olive St., Burbank, CA 91502
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: April 19, 2019

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019062905 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/11/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Conversations Under the Table. 2.) Conversations at the table. 3) 807 North Park. 4) A seat at the Table. 5) Conversations around the Table. 6) North Park at 2355 Westwood Blvd No.771 , Los Angeles, CA 90064. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: The Little Blue House Jesse Campbell Built LLC 2355 Westwood Blvd No.771 Los Angeles, CA 90064. This Business is being conducted by: a Limited Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/2018. /s/: John Sandy Campbell II . The Little Blue House Jesse Campbell Built LLC . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/11/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 04/11/2019, 04/22/2019, 04/29/2019, 05/06/2019.



DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019069794 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/18/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Gnome 7 . 1112 Montana Ave #609 , Santa Monica, CA 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Sarah Josephs Yapelli 1112 Montana Ave #609 Santa Monica, CA 90403. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)01/2019. /s/: Sarah Josephs Yapelli . Sarah Josephs Yapelli . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/18/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 04/19/2019, 04/29/2019, 05/06/2019, 05/13/2019.

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019101548 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/17/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as They're Real Lashes . 1333 2nd St. Suite 36 , Santa Monica, CA 90401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Tatiana Garcia Martinez . 513 W. Olive Street Inglewood, CA 90301 This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Tatiana Garcia Martinez .. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/17/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 04/22/2019, 04/29/2019, 05/06/2019, 05/13/2019.

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019088355 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/03/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THEPETNANNYCA.COM. 2118 WILSHIRE BLVD #1116 , SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ELENA ARAUJO 2118 WILSHIRE BLVD #1116 SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:ELLENA ARAUJO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/03/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 04/22/2019, 04/29/2019, 05/06/2019, 05/13/2019

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