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WISE & HEALTHY AGING ..... PAGE 5
CRIME WATCH ..... PAGE 11

Market-driven menus earn Michelin stars



(Courtesy photo/Emily Hart Roth)

MICHELIN: Rustic Canyon and Dialogue were awarded Michelin stars.

MARI LUNDIN
Daily Press Intern

"Where are the other two?" asked Josh Loeb, co-owner of Rustic Canyon when he received a text notifying him that the restaurant won a Michelin star.

The Michelin Guide honored Santa Monica's Dialogue and Rustic Canyon with a Michelin star for their high-quality cuisine and dining experience in the Guide's 2019 return to California. Of the 90 California restaurants awarded a star, 24 were located in Los Angeles.

Loeb opened Rustic Canyon in 2006 after he decided to take his passion of hosting dinner parties for friends and family to the next level. Inspired by

SEE **MICHELIN** PAGE 6

SMMUSD and SMC land-use agreement to be decided this week

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

This week's Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District board of education meeting is populated with a slew of updates including a land use agreement

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 8

Cayton Children's Museum to open June 30



(Courtesy photo/Mathew Tucciarone)

CLAYTON: The museum will charge $14 admission per child and adult for two hours of play.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The long-awaited Cayton Children's Museum will open Sunday, June 30 at Santa Monica Place.

The museum will offer hands-on play exhibits and cultural programs for children and families. Two hours of admission for children and adults will cost $14. Infants under 12 months old will get in for free. Annual memberships start at $105, which will guarantee free admission for a year for one adult and one child.

Cayton is also launching with a $475 per week camp for children ages three through eight.

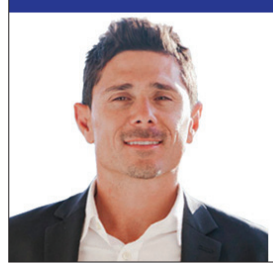
The museum existed for the past 20 years as the Zimmer Children's Museum near the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and is now backed by philanthropists Andrea and Barry Cayton. The new museum will be almost twice as large as Zimmer and feature new play elements, including a full-size helicopter and fire truck. The philosophy of the museum will remain the same, said Esther Netter, the founder and CEO of ShareWell.

"The way children learn is through play, and it's how children practice empathy and develop compassion," Netter said. "We hope you'll come visit us and play, and while you're with us your child will be practicing kindness, caring, cooperation, taking risks and learning what it's like to live in a diverse world."

SEE **CAYTON** PAGE 6


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EXPLORATORY WELLS SWMP-2023 (SM-9 and SM-10i)
SP2606

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on July 12, 2019, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
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1819 Stewart Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404

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

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, June 18

Beach Dances: Shared Practice
Beach Dances embeds the practice and creation of contemporary dance in the outdoor daily life of the beach. As choreographers and dancers work, all are invited to watch the rehearsal process, participate in workshops, and perhaps find contrasts and comparisons with the movements of other beach house visitors all around the sand-level stage. Annenberg Community Beach House, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Baby Time Session 1
Story series for babies ages zero to 17 months. A limited number of tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, the morning of the program, at the Youth Reference Desk. Main Library, 10:15 - 10:35 a.m.

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

Cuentos para Pequeños/ Spanish Story Time
Stories told to toddlers in Spanish. For children ages 2-5. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Toddler Time
Storytime, songs and rhymes for children ages 18- 36 months. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main Street. 10 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

Ni Hao - Family Story Time
A family story time presented in Mandarin and English. Presented by Ni Hao Chinese. For ages 0-5. Montana Ave Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Walk-In Tutoring: Basic Reading, Writing and Computer 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. Literacy Center, 5-7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 19

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 the 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. Please note: Dates, times and locations are subject to change up to 24 hours in advance of a meeting. Ken Edwards Center, 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. 7 p.m.

National Zoo Month: Paper Mache
Learn about zoo animals and make a Paper Mache model to keep. Limited space; registration starts July 5. Ages 8-12. Pico Branch Library, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Connected Families: Robot Play Time
Families are invited to play with robots and coding toys at the library. Work together to complete challenges or see what sparks your imagination. Ages 4-12. Fairview Branch Library, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Santa Monica Certified Farmer's Market (Downtown - Wednesday)
Fresh seasonal produce sold direct from California farmers. The Wednesday Farmers Market is widely recognized as one of the largest and most diverse grower-only CFM's in the nation. 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. Third Street Promenade, 1351 Third Street Promenade. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Yoga
All levels. Drop in for $15/class or sign up for series. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway. 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Metro to close two Expo Line Stations for 60 Days beginning June 22 as part of New Blue improvements project in Downtown L.A.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) reminds the public that beginning June 22 Expo Line service at 7th St/Metro Center and Pico stations will be closed for 60 days for construction work that is part of the northern segment work on the Blue Line Improvements Project. The two Expo Line stations are expected to reopen in late August.

During the closures, all Expo Line trains bound for Los Angeles will terminate at LATTC/Ortho Institute Station, where bus shuttles will be available for customers to continue to Pico and 7th St/Metro Center stations.

Free 856 Local bus shuttles will run seven days a week with buses matching the frequencies of Expo Line trains. Regular rail service will follow its usual schedule between LATTC/Ortho Institute and Downtown Santa Monica Station. Subway trains on the Red/Purple Line at 7th St/ Metro Center will run on their regular schedules during construction work on the Blue and Expo Lines.

Metro recommends that Expo Line riders plan ahead and allow extra time to reach their downtown L.A. destinations during the 60-day closure of the two Expo Line Stations. Metro customers should consider alternate routes such as the Metro Rapid 720 from Westwood, Metro Rapid 733 from Culver City, Metro Rapid 754 from Expo/Vermont, Silver Line 910 and 950, Big Blue Bus Rapid 7, Big Blue Bus Rapid 10 from Santa Monica and LADOT DASH F from Expo Park/ USC.

Additionally, the Big Blue Bus will operate a supplementary, rush hour shuttle to provide a direct connection between 7th St/ Metro Center and LATTC/ Ortho Station (there will be no stop at Pico Station). For more information, click here.

The Metro Blue Line is undergoing an eight month, $350-million modernization that began in January 2019 to improve reliability, enhance safety and improve the customer experience. The Expo Line and Blue Line share tracks in downtown Los Angeles and part of the work this summer involves replacing track at the junction of the two rail lines at Washington Boulevard and Flower Street and in the 7th St/Metro Center tunnel.

The southern section of the New Blue Improvements Project was completed on June 1 and marked the halfway point of the project. The northern segment of the Blue Line from Compton Station to 7th St/Metro Center in downtown Los Angeles is expected to reopen in the fall of 2019.

For information visit the New Blue website or call the project hotline (213) 418-3039.

SUBMITTED BY JOSE UBALDO AND JONI GOHEEN

Thollem McDonas and Alex Cline at Santa Monica Public Library

On Wednesday, July 17, 2019, at 7:30 pm, the Soundwaves new music series at the Santa Monica Public Library presents a set of improvised music by pianist Thollem McDonas and drummer Alex Cline in the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium of the Main Library at 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

McDonas has toured literally nonstop for over a decade, performing around the world solo and in collaborations with artists from contemporary classical music, free jazz, punk rock, and other genres, including Pauline Oliveros, William Parker, and Mike Watt. He appears on over sixty albums.

Alex Cline's work has been more local, with highlights including major projects for the 2012 and 2015 Angel City Jazz Festivals and at the Hammer Museum, appearances at the Blue Whale with Satoko Fujii and David Binney, and a rare out-of-town trip to accompany his twin brother Nels at the 2016 Newport Jazz Festival. He also co-hosts the Open Gate concert series at the Eagle Rock Center for the Arts.

Soundwaves is a concert series emphasizing artists who appear on the DRAM (Database of Recorded American Music) streaming service. The Santa Monica Public Library is the first public library to offer this service to its cardholders. Listings of past and upcoming Soundwaves shows, as well as sound and video recordings, are at SoundwavesNewMusic.com

Admission is free and all are welcome. Seating is limited and on a first-arrival basis. The Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair accessible. For other disabled services, call Library Administration at (310) 458-8606 at least one week prior to the event. For more information, visit smpl.org or contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF SCHWARTZ

Santa Monica Playhouse extends hit comedy "Mistakes Were Made"

Santa Monica Playhouse announces the extension of new hit comedy Mistakes Were Made - coulda-woulda-shoulda! Continuing the celebration of playwright Jerry Mayer's long and illustrious career (this is his 10th play), Mistakes Were Made reunites Mr. Mayer with acclaimed veteran (and frequent Mayer) director Chris DeCarlo. Secretly enjoy Schadenfreude and gleefully experience other people's mistakes (all of them all too true), Mistakes Were Made extends July 13 through September 28, 2019.

Dick's mistake: He let a sexy, blue-eyed winker threaten his marriage. Jeff's mistake: He turned down a dream job, then later, screamed, "You idiot!" Mel's mistake: He hired a famous money manager, now famous for stealing money. Dick's wife's mistake: She trusted him, then learned of his affair and had one too. NOBODY'S PERFECT! But mistakes can be fixed, between husbands and wives, girlfriends and boyfriends, fathers and sons. This poignant comedy will have you laughing, crying, and racing to fix that one mistake that's been gnawing at you for years!

Mistakes Were Made extends July 13 to September 28, 2019 playing Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are $35: $27 for students, teachers, seniors and the military. Group rates are also available. For tickets and information, call the Santa Monica Playhouse Box Office at (310) 394-9779 ext. 1 or purchase online at SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com/mistakes.html.

SUBMITTED BY SANDRA ZEITZEW

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Parks, Parking and Pensions

There's a new building going up in town. I know, there's a LOT of them, but the one in particular I'm starting with is the child care facility that is being built for our city employees on the former parking lot of the Civic Center. This is a nice public benefit that we are providing to those who work so hard to keep our city running. As a family law attorney and strong advocate for both maternity and paternity leave, I think having facilities that support families is important.

I'm curious, though, as to why that development has moved seemingly so quickly through the approval and building phases. Wasn't there supposed to be a soccer field or something built? Maybe I'm just misremembering...

The city is exploding with new development and that means that there will be denser population and mixed usages. Santa Monica will soon be extremely packed with residents, most of who will be living in multi-unit buildings and the demand on our public resources will only be increasing.

In theory, those residents will be birthing more residents, who will be utilizing our school systems, our public transportation and our parks with greater frequency. As we grow denser, we will need to provide for those public services and the burden will need to be shared among all residents to a greater degree. We can only make real property owners and businesses shoulder the burden for so long before we need to increase the prevalence of "user fees" which fall disproportionately on the lower income families in our city.

I realize that many a landlord and homeowner would agree with me that the full burden of these costs should be more equitably distributed across the community. I bet they would also like to see less government and fewer employees, as would many of the businesses who would like to have the intense regulation of all the things they do reduced.

As a city we have much to be proud of, but also much to be concerned with. The crushing debt of long-term city employee pensions is certainly an issue that demands greater scrutiny. The fact that so many of our city employees cannot afford to live here, even with their salaries topping six figures speaks to our "livability" factor. One of the many concerns I have is that this city is simultaneously restricting parking more and more, increasing the parking fees and reducing available spots.

The proposed remodel I saw of Memorial Park at 14th and Olympic appeared to be reducing parking and adding in tennis courts, at a rather steep price in my opinion. While I like the idea of having more and better parks, I also want them to be user friendly and that demands parking that is not exorbitant. Metered parking in this city is exceedingly expensive, and the revenue from parking tickets is going to cover expenses for the employees to issue parking tickets and repair the meters. The image of a snake eating itself seems most apt here.

I recognize that we need to try and balance the constant drumbeat of development with the incessant call to limit it. One look at the arc of history of any great city will show it's a constant developmental battle and land should be put to its highest and best use. But if we take all land and make it all the highest and best use, we would have monolithic dwelling that houses humans in units. We'd be a step or two away from The Matrix, and who knows, maybe that is our future.

If that is our future, I don't want it. I think we need to have space breathe, land for children to run free and dogs to play. It used to be we had streets and sidewalks for that. Today, we have purpose-built parks that are highly regulated and expensive to build and maintain.

We need leaders who have a wider view of what is possible, and more importantly the internal fortitude to say no to some of the development that is being proposed, and to start limiting the growth of City Hall, before we choke on our tail.

David Pisarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WISE & Healthy Aging will build peer counseling program after terminating mental health services

Editor,

WISE & Healthy Aging has been serving Los Angeles communities for more than 45 years with a range of diverse programming and services for older adults and caregivers for the elderly. One of our programs is Mental Health Services. While we are not renewing our contract with the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (DMH) after July 1, we are committed to and plan to build on the strong reputation of our Senior Peer Counseling Program, a key service that has been supporting the well-being of local senior residents for decades.

Nationally-recognized, our Senior Peer Counseling Program is staffed by seasoned clinicians (a licensed clinical social worker and clinical psychologist) who train and supervise older-adult volunteers to provide peer-to-peer counseling. Our program offers one-on-one counseling as well as support groups for bereavement, stress management, life transitions, including groups for caregivers, men and women, as well as specialized workshops for those with hoarding concerns (our 15-week "From Collecting to Decluttering" workshop). Most often, there is no fee for people to access our peer counseling services. Annually, more than 150 people benefit from this program. While DMH does not fund peer counseling, we remain committed to supporting this valuable program, and see it as one of our core services in support of our mission to advance the dignity and quality of life of older adults.

We are saddened to no longer be able to continue providing psychotherapy services after the completion of our DMH contract. Given the limited funding for mental health services, we have utilized a clinical psychology training program model where student interns and post-doctoral fellows provide therapy to clients under the supervision of licensed professionals employed by WISE & Healthy Aging. A student training model of service delivery is used because funding would not support the cost of licensed professionals providing direct therapy.

We have relied on DMH funding and Medicare reimbursement to cover the costs of providing psychotherapy services. And unfortunately, with changes in Medicare reimbursement and increased competition from universities, large medical centers and the VA to recruit qualified clinical interns, we can no longer provide the level and quality of service that our seniors deserve.

We are working closely with DMH to transition our clients to nearby service providers. Almost all have been successfully referred to other DMH-contracted facilities on Los Angeles' Westside. There are also private practice groups locally that are willing to accept clients with Medicare as payment in full, thus no out-of-pocket cost to the client/patient. Our clinicians will continue to provide individual and group therapy sessions through the end of this month, and have confirmed appointments for clients with referral sources for continued sessions. Clients without cars have all been provided transportation options, including Access, a county service offering free rides to the other sites.

While we will no longer be providing therapy, WISE & Healthy Aging is proud to continue, as a nonprofit, social services agency, to provide counseling services to older adults through our Peer Counseling Program.

GRACE CHENG BRAUN
President and CEO
WISE & Healthy Aging

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SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Dear SMC friends and neighbors:

Santa Monica would like to invite you to participate in our SMC Facilities Master Plan workshop at Virginia Ave **Thelma Terry Building** on June 24th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

This is a unique opportunity for neighbors to share their visions about the future of SMC's main campus. Through carious exercises and activities, the workshop is meant to create a vibrant discussion that will help shape SMC's future development.

The SMC facilities Master Plan will generate and articulate the long-term vision for SMC. With input from our partners and stakeholders, we will create a practical, data-driven, and visionary road map for SMC that looks to develop strategies to enhance the user experience, promote academics, and address land use, buildings, transportation, parking, utilities, sustainability, and open space.

Please spread the word and come Join us on June 24th for an exciting evening!

For more information, Please Contact: Charlie Yen **yen_charlie@smc.edu**

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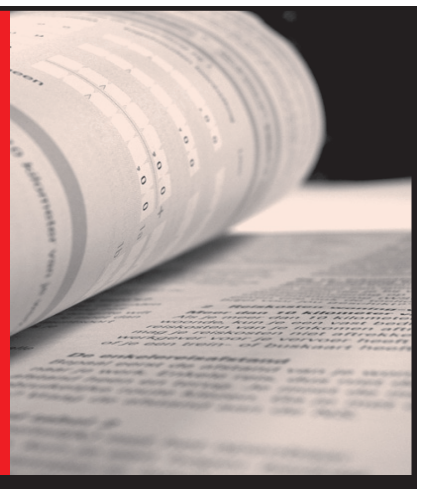
Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **July 12, 2019**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:15 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

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CAYTON

FROM PAGE 1

Cayton was previously scheduled to open earlier this month and originally planned to be up and running last November. Netter said the team has been putting the finishing touches on the exhibits and interiors.

"The design is beautiful and elevated and will inspire young and old alike," she said.

Each area of the museum will provide opportunities for children to take chances, work and reflect together. The installations will foster different character traits and life skills, Netter said.

For example, Cayton will include a "courage climber," a structure children can climb to view the museum from on high through "perspective windows."

"The courage climber is about taking risks, literally reaching higher than you have before and practicing seeing the world from a different perspective," Netter said.

The helicopter and fire truck will be part of an exhibit called "Let's Help" that will also include a play market and cafe. The exhibit is designed for children to practice helping each other in times of crisis and their community day today. Another wing of the museum, "Together We," features installations that children can experience on their own but become amplified when they experience them together, Netter said.

"Together We is about creating opportunities to cooperate, take turns and be patient," she said. "To be successful adults, we need to practice negotiating shared space."

Netter said Cayton will also include an exhibit designed to encourage quieter play and reflection.

One of the installations in "Reflect On" is a small room where a moving image of a meadow in a forest is projected on all four walls. Butterflies flutter around the meadow during the day and are replaced with fireflies at night. The creatures respond to the presence of visitors, Netter said.

"When you walk in and you're boisterous and loud and figuring it out, they fade from the scenes of nature," she said. "But when children stop and try to figure out why they move, in their stillness and quiet the space is filled with butterflies."

In addition to the installations, Cayton will offer a full calendar of classes and performances of visual, musical and performing art, as well as cultural immersion programs in languages like Korean, Spanish and Farsi. The museum will also host special days for children with different abilities and needs.

"It's hard to contain our staff's enthusiasm, our leadership's excitement and our donors' passion for what we know will be an extraordinary place for children and families to come visit," Netter said.

madeleine@smdp.com

MICHELIN

FROM PAGE 1

the Santa Monica Farmers Market, the menu is seasonal and derives from food's relationship with the earth. The restaurant is committed to a zero-waste policy; the chefs utilize every part of each ingredient.

"To get recognized, to give us a star for doing what we do, not trying to fit into that mold felt really good," Loeb said. "It's more about what makes the people coming in the doors happy, not what's getting recognition."

While Rustic Canyon is known as a neighborhood restaurant, Dialogue offers a more exclusive dining experience. Led by award-winning chef Dave Beran, Dialogue is run by a team of nine and opened just a year and a half ago as a 700-square-foot restaurant in The Gallery, a food hall on the Third Street Promenade.

> "We don't have bathrooms, a bar or even a changing room. And in a year and a half we earned our first Michelin Star,"
>
> **DAVE BERAN**
> AWARD-WINNING CHEF

"We don't have bathrooms, a bar or even a changing room. And in a year and a half we earned our first Michelin Star," Beran said.

The setting is intimate with room for only 18 guests. Eight seats overlook the kitchen from the bar and three tables sit in the small dining room. Dialogue's menu consists of single multi-course options inspired by the organic ingredients of Southern California.

Dialogue and Rustic Canyon have distinct atmospheres and menus, however, they share one commonality; fresh, organic ingredients from the Santa Monica Farmers Market.

Andy Doubrava, the executive chef of Rustic Canyon, goes to the farmers market two to three times a week and alters the menu daily based on fresh ingredients.

"Simplicity in letting the farmers do most of the work is really inspiring," said Doubrava, who quit his executive chef position in New York to become a line cook at Rustic Canyon nearly four years ago.

"I cooked in New York for a long time, so (being awarded a Michelin Star) is a big deal for me personally," Doubrava said. "It's the goal when you're from out there."

Michelin inspectors use five criteria to rate the overall dining experience, regardless of location and style of cuisine. The criteria are 1. quality of ingredients, 2. mastery of flavor and cooking techniques, 3. personality of the chef in the cuisine, 4. value for the money, 5. consistency between visits. Out of roughly 16,000 restaurants recommended by the Michelin Guide, only 14 percent have been given stars.

"It's an incredible honor to become globally recognized for our work and belief in doing something in a very non-traditional manner," Beran said. "I couldn't be more proud of our team and couldn't be more grateful for all of the support of our incredible friends and guests."

Seven of the 657 Michelin-recommended restaurants are located in Santa Monica, one being Rustic Canyon's sister restaurant, Cassia.

For the future, Doubrava and Loeb said nothing will change in regards to the way they run Rustic Canyon. They're happy with one star.

"Two involves changing the way we do things and I don't want to do that," Doubrava said.

Migrants complain of poor conditions at US holding centers

CEDAR ATTANASIO
Associated Press

The Trump administration is facing growing complaints from migrants about severe overcrowding, meager food and other hardships at border holding centers, with some people at an encampment in El Paso being forced to sleep on the bare ground during dust storms.

The Border Network for Human Rights issued a report Friday based on dozens of testimonials of immigrants over the past month and a half, providing a snapshot of cramped conditions and prolonged stays in detention amid a record surge of migrant families coming into the U.S. from Central America.

The report comes a day after an advocate described finding a teenage mother cradling a premature baby inside a Border Patrol processing center in Texas. The advocate said the baby should have been in a hospital, not a facility where adults are kept in large fenced-in sections that critics describe as cages.

"The state of human rights in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands is grave and is only getting worse," the immigrant rights group said in its report. "People are dying because of what is happening."

> "Allegations are not facts. If there is an issue it is best to contact CBP directly. In many cases the matter can be resolved immediately."
>
> **CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION**

Five immigrant children have died since late last year after being detained by the Border Patrol, including a flu-stricken teenager who was found dead in a facility migrants refer to as the "icebox" because of the temperatures inside.

Customs and Border Protection responded to the complaints by saying: "Allegations are not facts. If there is an issue it is best to contact CBP directly. In many cases the matter can be resolved immediately."

The agency also cited its response to a critical inspector general's report last month, in which it said the government is devoted to treating migrants in its custody "with the utmost dignity and respect."

The Trump administration has blamed the worsening crisis on inaction by Congress.

Many of the complaints center on El Paso, where the inspector general found severe overcrowding inside a processing center. A cell designed for a dozen people was crammed with 76, and migrants had to stand on the toilets.

With indoor facilities overcrowded, the Border Patrol has kept some immigrants outside and in tents near a bridge in El Paso with nothing but a Mylar foil blanket. Others have been kept in an empty parking lot, where migrants huddled underneath tarps and foil blankets repurposed as shade covers against the sweltering heat.

A professor who visited two weeks ago said it resembled a "human dog pound." The Border Patrol responded by adding additional shade structures, but migrants are still kept outside in temperatures approaching 100 degrees.

Migrants in El Paso and elsewhere also complained of inadequate food such as a single burrito and a cup of water per day. Women said they were denied feminine hygiene products.

Another complaint is that migrants are kept in detention beyond the 72-hour limit set by Customs and Border Protection. Some reported being held for 30 days or more, and one told The Associated Press she had been in detention for around 45 days.

The teenage mother with the premature baby, for example, spent nine days in Border Patrol custody after crossing the Rio Grande with her newborn, according to a legal advocate who visited the girl in a McAllen, Texas, processing center.

An exodus of people fleeing poverty, drought and violence in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador has led to a record number of migrant families being apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border in recent months. Agents made 132,887 apprehensions in May, including a record 84,542 adults and children traveling together. Those apprehended also included 11,507 children traveling alone.

President Donald Trump's $4.5 billion border request for things such as an expansion of detention, medical care, food and shelter has languished on Capitol Hill since he sent it over six weeks ago, with House Democrats at odds with the White House. Congress is set to go on a break in two weeks.

Lawmakers are becoming increasingly agitated.

"In the first five months of this year, the number of apprehensions at the border has already exceeded the population of Atlanta, Georgia," said Republican Rep. Kay Granger of Texas.

Associated Press Writer Astrid Galvan in Phoenix and Andrew Taylor in Washington contributed to this report.



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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

that was delayed due to contract-language concerns.

The Thursday, June 20 board meeting will see staff provide updates on the Multilingual Programs Study Group, Family Engagement, potentially approving the SMC & SMMUSD land-use agreement and more.

In the Multilingual Programs Study Group update, the board will be updated on staff's learnings and data collected in support of the district's efforts to build upon their pre-existing language programs.

A year ago, a Multilingual Study Group (comprised of Educational Services and school site staff) was formed to explore the Foreign Language in Elementary School and Heritage program models. This included site visits in the San Francisco Unified School District to see what models that district had for their elementary and middle schools.

> "A year ago, a Multilingual Study Group was formed to explore the Foreign Language in Elementary School and Heritage program models."

The study group -- who poured through readings, interviews and engaged in several site visits -- will detail findings and considerations.

Also updating the board from an item a year ago will be staff involved in Family Engagement.

Thursday's presentation will include an overview of Family Engagement Framework and an update on its implementation and activities. The presentation will discuss increasing parent engagement throughout the district with inclusive activities such as the Parent Project, Latino Family Literacy Project and more. Next steps for the 2019-2020 school year will also be discussed.

Another update on this agenda includes something from just two weeks ago, approving or disapproving the SMC & SMMUSD land use and facilities agreement.

Last week the item was tabled due to some board members liking the intent of the agreement but not the language contract agreement, mainly over what days SMC could use the new JAMS Performing Arts Facility.

The updated language of the agreement will see SMC use the facility on the four named days (Graduation, VIP Welcome Day, Fall Opening Flex Day, and Spring Institutional Flex Day). Furthermore, before the start of each school year, SMMUSD and SMC will agree upon a two-year calendar that satiate both district's facility use desires.

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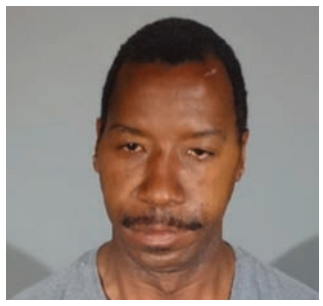
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CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON JUNE 5, AT 1 P.M.

Downtown Services officers responded to the 1400 block of Ocean Avenue to deal with a person who was yelling and trying to grab people. Officers were able to locate the subject and they noticed he was slurring his speech, had reddened and watery eyes and smelled of alcohol. He was arrested for public intoxication and transported to jail. Wendall William Lewis, 43, homeless, was arrested for public intoxication. His bail was set at $250.



SMPD

WENDALL WILLIAM LEWIS

California police look to video after deadly Costco shooting

BY STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Authorities are poring through video to figure out how a confrontation between an off-duty Los Angeles police officer and a man described by family as mentally disabled ended in a shooting in a Costco store that killed the man and critically wounded his parents.

The officer opened fire after Kenneth French, 32, of Riverside, attacked him without provocation as the officer held his young child Friday night, according to police in Corona, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) east of LA.

The officer was the only one who fired shots, striking French and two of his family members, police said.

Authorities did not respond to requests for more information about what led to the attack and whether anyone but the officer had a weapon. They have not released the names of the officers or those wounded.

Rick Shureih, French's cousin, told the Press-Enterprise in Riverside that French was a "gentle giant" who had mental disabilities. He declined to give specifics about his mental condition.

French was "non-violent, non-aggressive, non-verbal," Shureih said, and "he has to be pretty much monitored."

"He's not the kind to trade words, so I don't believe that a verbal confrontation happened," Shureih said.

He said French's parents, Russell and Paola French, were the others shot and that they were in intensive care Sunday.

The family is seeking an attorney, said Shureih, who posted a photo of French and his parents on Facebook.

"I'm posting this picture because the stories on social media have made them out to be the suspects, and the off duty cop the victim," Shureih wrote Sunday. "This is a family that was unarmed and was just grocery shopping. Truth will come out! I'm sure this was a misunderstanding that got escalated for no reason!"

Los Angeles police have started an internal investigation, while Corona police and the Riverside County district attorney's office investigate the shooting separately.

The LAPD said that it had no further information. Corona police and prosecutors did not respond to requests for comment Sunday.

Los Angeles Police Commission President Steve Soboroff said it is Chief Michel Moore's decision whether to put the officer on leave, but it wasn't clear if that happened.

The officer was treated and released at a hospital, and his child was not injured.

Off-duty officers can carry concealed weapons as long as they are authorized for on-duty use, according to the LAPD manual.

Joseph Giacalone, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a retired New York City police sergeant, said it's justifiable to use deadly force even in a crowded store if the attacker has a weapon.

"If the guy pulled out a pocketknife and approaches him, game over," Giacalone said.

Police have not said if French had any weapons or if the officer identified himself as police before firing.

Giacalone said video footage from Costco's cameras and shoppers' cellphones will be critical to the investigations.

While it's not unusual for police to delay releasing information, such as an officer's name, after a shooting for safety reasons, Giacalone said it's important to get details out as quickly as possible.

"People start filling in the timelines for you" in the meantime, he said.

The shooting prompted a stampede of frightened shoppers, some who fled the store as others sought cover inside.

Witnesses reported seeing an argument between two people near a freezer section when at least six shots rang out.

DAILY POLICE LOG

OF 387 CALLS FOR SERVICE ON JUNE 16, 2019

Hit and run misdemeanor 2900blk Pico Blvd 12:27 a.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 1300blk 4th St 12:28 a.m.
Malicious mischief 1500blk 5th St 12:38 a.m.
Suspicious circumstances 12:23 a.m.
Report of shots fired Neilson Way / Bicknell Ave 1:10 a.m.
Petty theft 2000blk Ocean Ave 1:57 a.m.
Fight 2900blk Main St 1:58 a.m.
Battery 1200blk Princeton St 2:55 a.m.
Malicious mischief 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:58 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 500blk Colorado Ave 3:24 a.m.
Petty theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:32 a.m.
Mark and tag abandoned vehicle 1300blk Ocean Ave 3:43 a.m.
Auto burglary 300blk 21st St 3:58 a.m.
Suspicious person 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:13 a.m.
Battery Steward St / Olympic Blvd 5:21 a.m.
Suspicious person 800blk 22nd St 5:32 a.m.
Person with a gun 800blk Wilshire Blvd 8:04 a.m.
Auto burglary 2000blk Idaho Ave 8:47 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 900blk 7th St 8:50 a.m.
Auto burglary report 2100blk Washington Ave 9:08 a.m.
Loitering Lincoln Blvd / Ozone Ave 9:20 a.m.
Suspicious circumstances 1400blk Olympic Blvd 9:59 a.m.
Elder abuse 100blk Fraser Ave 10:00 a.m.
Petty theft 1100blk 2nd St 10:20 a.m.
Suspicious person 500blk Olympic Blvd W 10:57 a.m.
Assault w/ deadly weapon 500blk Olympic Blvd W 10:57 a.m.
Auto burglary 2400blk Main St 11:57 a.m.
Municipal code violation 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 11:58 a.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 1900blk Ocean Way 11:59 a.m.
Suspicious person Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 12:06 p.m.
Petty theft 17th St / Idaho Ave 12:10 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk 18th St 12:25 p.m.
Drinking in public 1200blk 11th St 12:28 p.m.
Suspicious person 900blk 2nd St 1:02 p.m.
Threats report/investigation 100blk Wilshire Blvd 1:07 p.m.
Identity theft 2100blk California Ave 1:14 p.m.
Burglary 3000blk Urban Ave 1:29 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 1000blk Euclid St 1:41 p.m.
Battery 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:59 p.m.
Petty theft 100blk Wilshire Blvd 2:19 p.m.
Encampment 2900blk The Beach 2:22 p.m.
Malicious mischief Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 2:23 p.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 1900blk Ocean Way 2:47 p.m.
Loitering 3200blk Highland Ave 2:53 p.m.
Battery 1700blk Appian Way 3:08 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 800blk 20th St 3:17 p.m.
Battery 1500blk 16th St 3:22 p.m.
Bike theft 3000blk Urban Ave 3:51 p.m.
Injured person 14th St / Montana Ave 3:51 p.m.
Auto burglary 2500blk Main St 4:15 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 4:23 p.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 3rd St Prom 4:29 p.m.
Health and safety code violation 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 4:43 p.m.
Bike theft 1500blk The Beach 4:44 p.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 1900blk Ocean Way 4:47 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 100blk Wadsworth Ave 5:02 p.m.
Loitering 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 5:12 p.m.
Suspicious circumstances 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:13 p.m.
Suspicious person Main St / Colorado Ave 5:15 p.m.
Auto burglary 15000blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:22 p.m.
Petty theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:56 p.m.
Petty theft 14th St / Olympic Blvd 5:58 p.m.
Assault 100blk Wilshire Blvd 6:08 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1100blk 17th St 6:12 p.m.
Auto burglary 100blk Hollister Ave 6:32 p.m.
Petty theft 1100blk 2nd St 6:34 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 1600blk 4th St 7:05 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 1500blk Ocean Ave 7:15 p.m.
Municipal code violation 1300blk Palisades Beach Rd 7:34 p.m.
Malicious mischief 9th St / Broadway 8:04 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

OF 33 CALLS FOR SERVICE ON JUNE 16, 2019

Emergency medical service (EMS) 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:35 a.m.
EMS 400blk Colorado Ave 2:23 a.m.
Odor of natural gas 1500blk Yale St 2:27 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Montana Ave 4:30 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 8:43 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Ocean Ave 10:07 a.m.
EMS 1500blk The Beach 10:37 a.m.
Elevator rescue 1200blk 16th St 11:35 a.m.
EMS 600blk Euclid St 1:05 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 1000blk Euclid st 1:41 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Strand St 2:53 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 16th St 3:33 p.m.
EMS 14th St / Montana Ave 3:59 p.m.
EMS 7th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:22 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 4:37 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:43 p.m.
EMS 2nd St / Broadway 5:09 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 700blk Pico Blvd 6:07 p.m.
Public assist 1100blk Franklin St 6:12 p.m.
EMS 300blk Pico Blvd 6:14 p.m.
EMS 2600blk 28th St 6:23 p.m.
EMS 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:55 p.m.
EMS 1500blk California Ave 6:57 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:17 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 8:05 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 19th St 8:46 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 9:43 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1500blk Ocean Ave 10:06 p.m.
Automatic alarm 100blk Broadway 10:07 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 11:46 p.m.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 18)

This solar return, the future whispers in your ear. You'll either glimpse its promise or get a full, glorious view because it is, in fact, a promise you create on the vision board of your mind. The work you do for others over the next 10 weeks will give you the leverage to launch your own big project. An investment pays in November. Capricorn adores you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 18, 33, 38 and 1.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The trick to getting the important things handled is very simple. Schedule them and stick to the schedule. You won't want to do the thing when it comes up on the calendar. Do it anyway.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are uncontrollable things happening to and because of us. There are storms inside us that ripple out, and events miles away that resonate at our core. It's a day to respect the wilderness and control what we can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can think a thing, fashion it into a social media post and push the idea to the ends of the globe in a matter of seconds. Just make sure, before you do, that what you're putting out there is part of the signal, not the noise.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some will say you're changing, but that's just because they don't realize that this isn't a change. Each day, you are becoming more like yourself. Growing in power is the natural progression.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The work goes by fast and is very interesting -- so long as it's not the work you're supposed to be doing. Such is life! Almost any work seems better than what you're duty-bound to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your approach will make a big difference. You wisely realize that some things are best approached as art, and other things are best approached scientifically. Which way serves everyone better?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Enthusiasm helps you climb the hill. However, if you want to move the mountain, then you'll need something more. You'll need passion, tenacity and grit. You'll need other people. You'll need dynamite.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). "You're the best!" they'll say, which feels good but is ultimately a short-lived and hollow victory. Hyperbole is easy. Specific, heartfelt noticing means more. It's what you'll strive to give and cherish when you receive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Playful people inspire you. Hours of carefree leisure always point to wealth -- a wealth of joy, time, mental freedom and maybe also a wealth of money. Playful people make you wonder, "Can I afford to play now, too?"

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Watch out for misinformation today, as it will be everywhere. Learning the wrong things makes a person know less than they did before getting "educated."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your mental vision is strong. You'll have vivid dreams, either during the night, the day or both. It's most fun when you can direct these dreams as a film director would, creating a picture of your deepest desire.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a different between recklessness and bravery, though from the outside it can be hard to tell which force is at work. Bravery is action. Recklessness is reaction. Only bravery will serve your purposes today.

Conjunction of Mercury and Mars

Memories aren't created when things go to plan. It's always the left turn that the day took, the last-minute add-on, the strange encounter -- magic happens in the messier parts. Then again, those parts only seem messy because much was going to plan. Under this Mercury/Mars conjunction, have a plan. And then, when it all falls apart, celebrate.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION

"I'm a Cancer mother with a 1-year-old child. Many of my friends with children are puzzled by my parenting habits. I don't have a crib because I co-sleep with my child. I don't like the high chair because I like to hold her while she eats. I plan to nurse her until she weans herself. I don't read the parenting books. I feel fine about my choices until I get to the playground and the other mothers fill my head with ideas and advice. My baby is doing great, but the other moms treat me like I don't know what I'm doing. What do you think?" Cancer is the sign of the mother, and mothers who are Cancers are wise to follow their innate knowledge instead of conforming to social norms. Motherhood is a personal journey, different for each and every mother and child. Your friends not only don't have a clue about what's right for you, they are most likely acting out of a fear that your choices will make them look like bad mothers. For instance, if you nurse longer, does that mean that they didn't nurse long enough? Stop worrying. The methods and opinions you described are not uncommon. Keep doing what you are doing, with one exception: Find a new playground.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

Country music hitmaker Blake Shelton is a Gemini born under a soulful and artistic Pisces moon. When Pisces, the sign of old souls, is featured prominently in an artist's chart, it often indicates a person who knows their life purpose or career path at an early age. Shelton, who wrote songs as a teen, definitely fits the astral profile.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

WORD UP!

Caterpillar
noun [kat-uh-pil-er, kat-er-]
a person who preys on others; extortioner.

Heathcliff

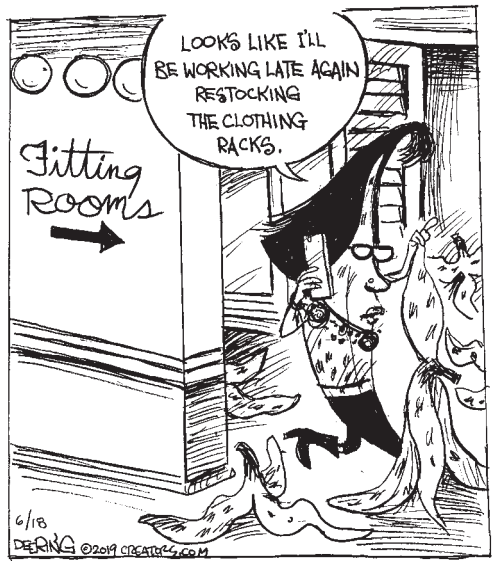
By PETER GALLAGHER



"CAT LOAF, AGAIN?"

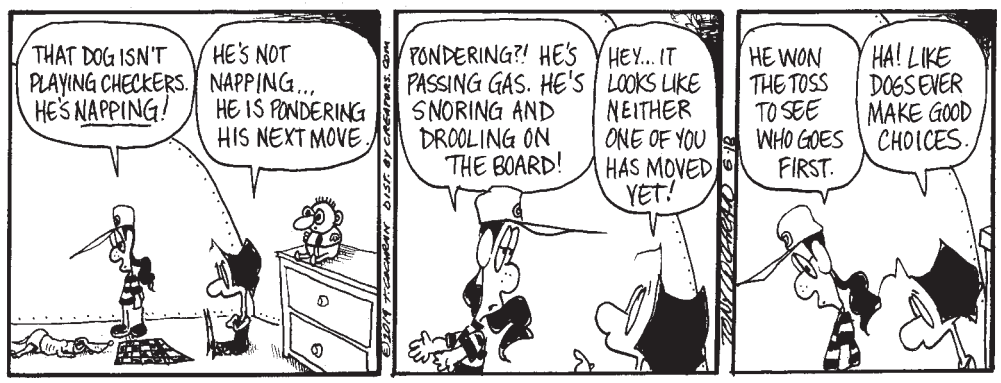
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



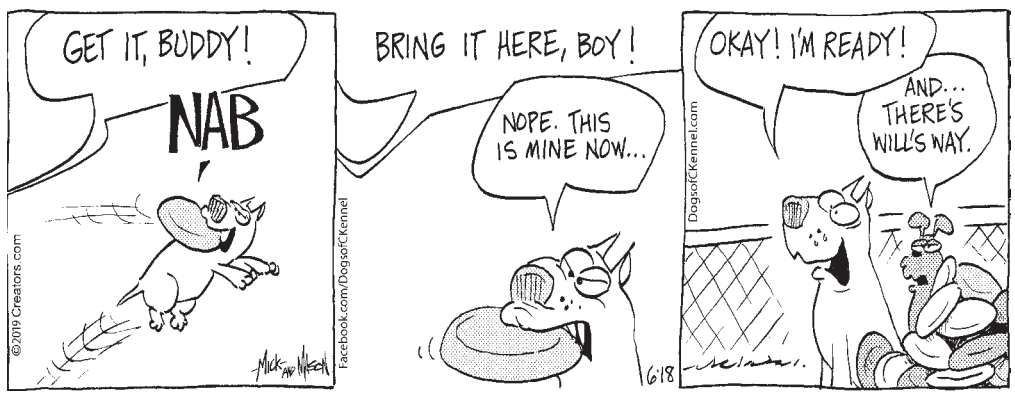
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



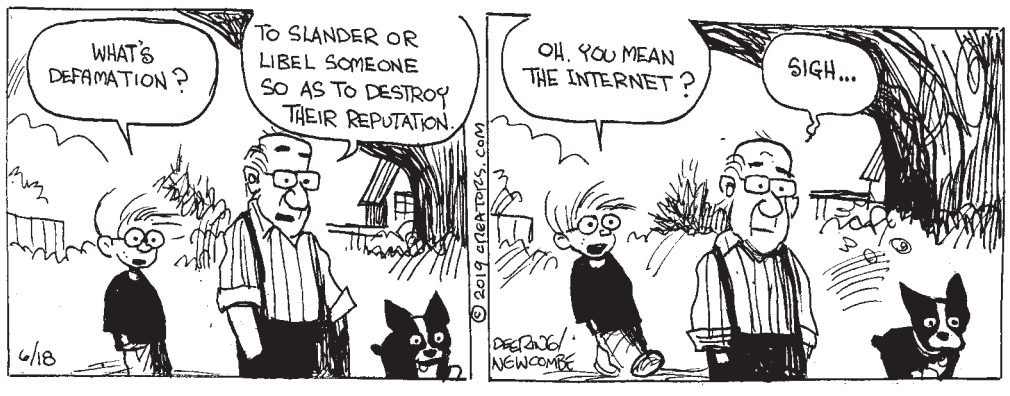
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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 06/15
8 11 14 16 49
Power#: 14
Jackpot: $92 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 06/14
19 40 47 57 65
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: $50 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 06/15
2 19 28 35 38
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: $54 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 06/16
12 17 18 26 29

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 06/17
Midday: 7 6 9
Draw Date: 06/16
Evening: 2 7 7

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 06/16
1st: 02 - LUCKY STAR
2nd: 09 - WINNING SPIRIT
3rd: 04 - BIG BEN
RACE TIME: 1:45.40

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com



SURF REPORT

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 63.9°

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Modest, inconsistent SW swell. Minor NW swell mix.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Modest, inconsistent SW swell. Minor NW swell mix.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

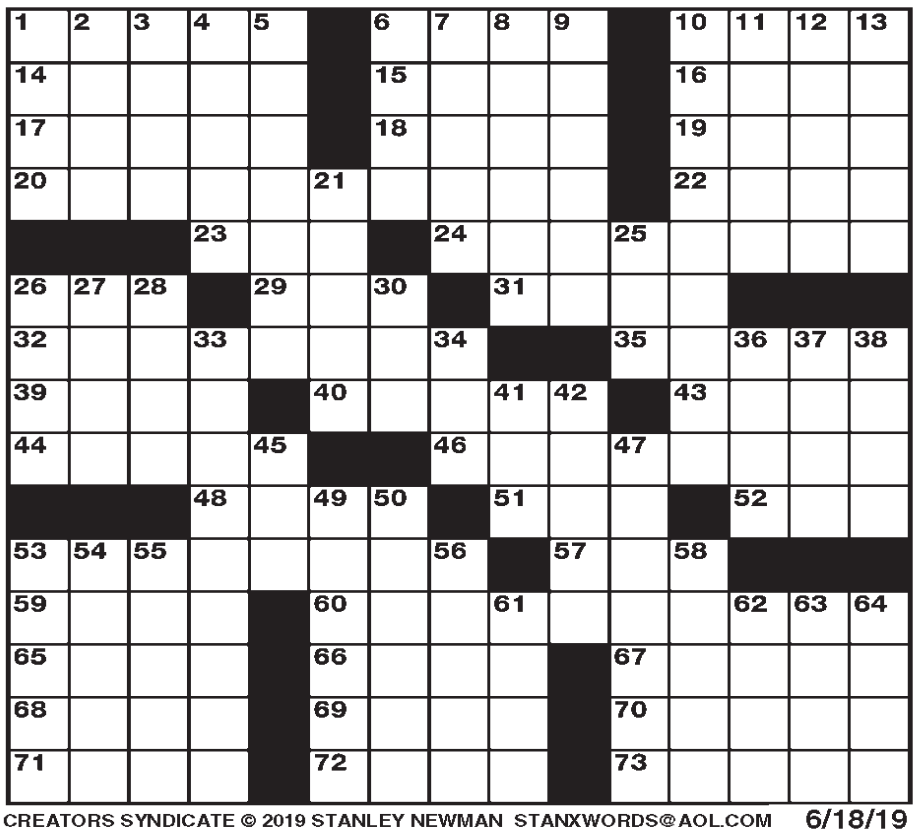
7		1		8		6		
						9		5
8			3		6			2
		3		6			2	9
			4		7			
4	2			5		8		
3			5		2			8
1		7						
		4		1		3		7

Newsday Crossword

BEE CUISINE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Tokyo's land
6 Price
10 Phi __ Kappa
14 Response to "Am not!"
15 Prefix for freeze
16 Typical Saudi
17 Intended
18 Gas in store signs
19 Make a duplicate of
20 "Boston" side dish
22 Praiseful poems
23 Misfortune
24 Timid quality
26 Resort with hot springs
29 Catch, as a criminal
31 Chunk of concrete
32 Stretch before exercising
35 Triangular traffic sign
39 "Now it makes sense"
40 Makeup smudge
43 Printing error, for short
44 Group of experts
46 "I want you to leave"
48 On __ (burning)
51 Be unwell
52 America's Uncle
53 Medicinal brews
57 Band's booking
59 Affirm
60 Whole wheat loaf
65 Farm storage tower
66 Fictional Karenina
67 "We __ please!"
68 Going __ (bickering)
69 Fabric damage
70 Jewelry, slangily
71 Engine speed gauge, briefly
72 Makes a mistake
73 Female singers

DOWN
1 Side of a doorway
2 Vicinity
3 Alpine apex
4 Good __ (fully repaired)
5 Unfinished
6 Walking stick
7 A wee hr.
8 Boulders
9 Glitter on Christmas trees
10 Crunchy salad topping
11 Wear away
12 Repairs with cellophane
13 Bottomless pit
21 Beasts that see Goldilocks
25 Letter after jay
26 Minor mistake
27 Leaning Tower city
28 Prayer closer
30 Freeloader
33 Dark-colored bouillon
34 Energy
36 Watches closely
37 Women's org. on the links
38 Adverse fate
41 Pie __ mode
42 Occupy the throne
45 Illuminated
47 "Forty Thieves" adversary
49 Money-back offer
50 Breadwinner
53 Starts in on
54 Musical about Mrs. Perón
55 Artifact
56 Submarine navigation aid
58 Barbecue
61 Armed conflicts
62 Give off
63 __ time (never)
64 Pooches



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Trump says he'd 'of course' tell FBI if he gets foreign dirt

JONATHAN LEMIRE AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

President Donald Trump shifted gears Friday on election interference, saying "of course" he would go to the FBI or the attorney general if a foreign power offered him dirt about an opponent.

Trump's new stance was a walk back — to a degree — after he set off a Washington firestorm earlier in the week by asserting he would not necessarily contact law enforcement if offered damaging material from an overseas source.

But in his latest comments, the president still said he would look at the proffered information to see whether it was "incorrect."

"Of course, you have to look at it," Trump said during a birthday appearance on "Fox and Friends." He added: "But of course, you give it to the FBI or report it to the attorney general or somebody like that. You couldn't have that happen with our country, and everybody understands that."

That was a step back from his comments to ABC days earlier.

"OK, let's put yourself in a position: You're a congressman, somebody comes up and says, 'Hey I have information on your opponent.' Do you call the FBI? You don't," Trump said in an interview that aired Wednesday. "I'll tell you what. I've seen a lot of things over my life. I don't think in my whole life I've ever called the FBI."

His assertion that he would be open to accepting a foreign power's help in his 2020 campaign alarmed Democrats, who condemned it as a call for further election interference while Republicans struggled to defend his comments.

Asked by ABC News what he would do if Russia or another country offered him dirt on his election opponent, Trump said: "I think I'd want to hear it." He added that he'd have no obligation to call the FBI. "There's nothing wrong with listening."

Special counsel Robert Mueller painstakingly documented Russian efforts to boost Trump's campaign and undermine that of his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

In a segment released Friday from the president's interview earlier this week, Trump told ABC that "it doesn't matter" what former White House counsel Don McGahn told investigators and that McGahn may have been confused when he told prosecutors he had been instructed to seek Mueller's removal.

McGahn was a crucial witness for Mueller, spending hours with investigators and offering detailed statements about episodes central to the special counsel's investigation into possible obstruction of justice. McGahn described how Trump directed him to press the Justice Department for Mueller to be fired by insisting that he raise what the president perceived as the special counsel's conflicts of interest.

Trump denied that account, saying, "The story on that very simply, No. 1, I was never going to fire Mueller. I never suggested firing Mueller."

Asked why McGahn would have lied, Trump said, "Because he wanted to make himself look like a good lawyer. Or he believed it because I would constantly tell anybody that would listen — including you, including the media — that Robert Mueller was conflicted. Robert Mueller had a total conflict of interest."

> "OK, let's put yourself in a position: You're a congressman, somebody comes up and says, 'Hey I have information on your opponent.' Do you call the FBI? You don't"
>
> **DONALD TRUMP**
> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Though Trump tried to cast doubt on McGahn's credibility, it is clear from the Mueller report that investigators took seriously his statements, which in many instances were accompanied by contemporaneous notes, and relied on his account to paint a portrait of the president's conduct. It is also doubtful that McGahn, a lawyer, would have had any incentive to make a misstatement given that lying to law enforcement is a crime and Mueller's team charged multiple Trump aides with making false statements.

Though Mueller's investigation didn't establish a criminal conspiracy between Russia and the president's campaign, Trump repeatedly praised WikiLeaks in 2016 and at one point implored hackers to dig up dirt on Hillary Clinton.

The role of Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., in organizing a 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer offering negative information on Clinton was a focus of Mueller's probe of Russian meddling in the last presidential campaign. Trump Jr. spoke with the Senate Intelligence Committee for about three hours Wednesday to clarify an earlier interview with the committee's staff.

Lemire reported from New York.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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