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Santa Monica Daily Press
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Volume 18 Issue 212

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New mural honors Tyler Skaggs



Blake Atwell

PAINTING: Jonas Never has painted a mural of fellow Samohi alum Tyler Skaggs at the PYFC building.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A local artist has painted a mural commemorating a Los Angeles Angels player and Santa Monica High School alumnus who recently died.

Jonas Never, who specializes in murals featuring local icons, painted a portrait of Tyler Skaggs near the high school where he first made his mark as a pitcher. While Never didn't know Skaggs personally, he felt a special connection with him because he also played baseball at Samohi and wore a No. 11 jersey.

"It was so cool to see a local kid become a hero, and I always followed his career," Never said. "I want to have Tyler looking over the school forever and for the Santa Monica community

SEE **MURAL** PAGE 7

Fresh Finds: Peads & Barnetts Pork

TATIANA BLACKINGTON JAMES
Special to the Daily Press



Courtesy photo

OLIVER WOOLLEY

"The Other White Meat."

It was one of the catchiest advertising taglines of the 1990s, laid over images of fit, smiling people who, when not eating gourmet meals were exercising and dancing. Pork is healthier than you think, was the message, not like that artery-clogging red meat.

There were no images of bacon or salami in the commercials, only pale slices made to resemble that era's saintliest protein — a boneless, skinless chicken breast.

The first thing you notice about Oliver Woolley's meat is its rich mauve color. The only white part is the fat marbling the cheeks or hugging the chops, and Woolley is proud of it.

"The fat is really creamy," he says thanks to the diet he feeds his Berkshire pigs — red wheat, barley, and delicacies such as seaweed and acorns. Pigs cannot break down the corn or soy given to them on factory farms, he says.

"The meat quality is not as good and the fat is really hard and unpalatable. You need fats. They're good for your brain. We actually focus on fats."

Nutrition trends can be swift and punishing, heaping pressure on producers to bend to this year's food fad. If Woolley shrugs them off more easily than most, it's because he has the weight of both

SEE **FRESH** PAGE 7

Black family alleges racial profiling while visiting Nike store

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A black family who visited Nike's Santa Monica Place location on July 5 said the store's manager was motivated by racism when she accused them of stealing a basketball they bought for their son and summoned police officers.

Joel Stallworth and TaMiya Dickerson took their 18-month-old son Sammy to the Nike store and bought him his first basketball. When they left the

SEE **STORE** PAGE 10


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Community Corp. of SANTA MONICA

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY & DESIGN MEETING

Community Corporation of Santa Monica will hold its third community design Input meeting for the proposed new construction affordable housing development at 1834, 1840, 1844, & 1848 14th Street, Santa Monica, California. The first Design Input meeting was held on 5/21/19 and the second community meeting was held on 7/16/19. The Design Input meeting will allow Community Corp. to provide residents, property owners, and interested parties information regarding the City of Santa Monica's loan commitment, and to elicit public input on the design of the development. This meeting is part of the preliminary concept phase of the development process where interested parties are introduced to the proposal and have the opportunity to provide direct feedback to the developer regarding the development's conceptual design, mix of uses and proposed program.

Date: Thursday, August 1, 2019

Location: Virginia Avenue Park – Thelma Terry Building Workshop 3

Address: 2200 Virginia Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90404

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Community Corp. of SANTA MONICA

AVISO DE REUNIÓN COMUNITARIA

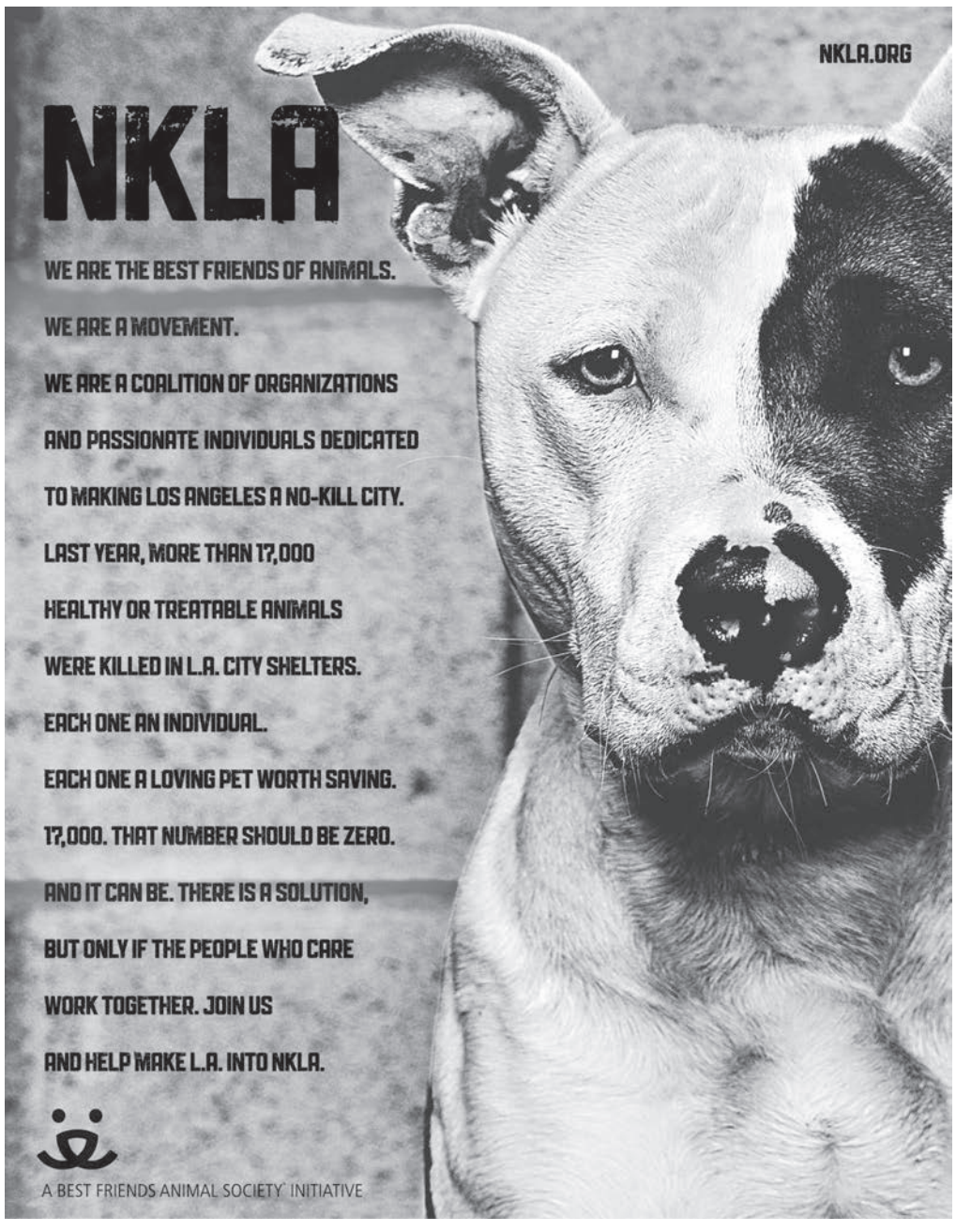
Community Corporation of Santa Monica tendrá su tercera reunión comunitaria para revisar el diseño conceptual de un desarrollo de viviendas asequibles ubicada en 1834, 1840, 1844 y 1848 14th Street en Santa Monica, California. La primera junta se llevó acabo el 21 de Mayo del 2019 y la segunda junta se llevó acabo el 16 de Julio del 2019. Esta reunión es parte de las fases preliminares del desarrollo donde la comunidad tendrá la oportunidad de recibir información sobre el compromiso financiero de la Ciudad de Santa Monica y dar sugerencias directas a Community Corp. sobre el diseño conceptual. Servicios de traducción e interpretación serán ofrecidos.

Fecha: Jueves, 1 de Agosto, 2019

Lugar: Virginia Avenue Park – Thelma Terry Building Workshop 3

Dirección: 2200 Virginia Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90404

Hora: 6:30-8:00 PM



What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, July 19

Georgette Baker's Silly Songs and Goofy Stories

Silly stories and songs from a seasoned entertainer that will put you in stitches. For ages 4-11. (45 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2:30 - 3:15 p.m

Searching for Asteroids

Spacecraft engineer Eric Rice will talk about how Jet Propulsion Laboratory builds space telescopes to discover asteroids. For grades 6-12. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 2 - 3 p.m.

Main Library Docent Tours

Docent led tours are offered the third Friday of each month. Docent led tours of the Main Library cover the library's gold LEED rating of sustainability, its art, architecture and even the library's collection. Docents are able to adapt the tour to fit your interest and time. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 20

Pet Adoption Luau

Apartments.com Retail Store located at: 1020 Wilshire Blvd. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Toy Maker Workshop: Star Glider

Design and build your own toy. Test out your star glider to see if it will fly! For grades K-5. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 3 - 4 p.m.

Meet Me at Reed

Outdoor performance series in Christine Emerson Reed Park. 3 - 7 p.m.

SM Reads: Ocean Park Fiction Winners Book Group

This book group reads and discusses prize-winning fiction. The group meets the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library. 'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas

From the Moon to Mars

Celebrate 50 years since humans landed on the moon! Join speakers from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the Planetary Society and the SETI Institute for a multimedia presentation and panel discussion on this historic event. Main Library, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Movie: First Man (2018)

Join organizers on the fiftieth anniversary to the day of the Apollo 11 moon landing for a screening of this exciting film biography of astronaut Neil Armstrong, the "first man" to step foot on the moon. Starring Ryan Gosling, directed by Damien Chazelle. (141 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2 - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 21

Pool Open

The pool will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Passes go on sale at 9 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House.

Game Room

Take a break from the heat. Enjoy the free Game Room, weekends 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House.

Monday, July 22

The Social Services Commission Regular Meeting

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

Airport Commission Meeting

The Santa Monica Airport Commission meets the 4th Monday of each Month at 7:00 P.M in the City Hall Council Chambers. 7 p.m.

Drumming with Rhythm Child!

Kids get a hands-on experience of the universe of rhythm instruments and patterns. 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Ages 4-11. Free tickets will be available starting at 2 p.m. outside the MLK Jr., Auditorium at the Main Library.

Little Hands Art Class

Join organizers for their monthly art class for little ones ages 18 months to 5 years old. Limited space; free tickets are available 15 minutes before class. Each month is a different art project: 7/22 - Geometric Shapes. Montana Avenue Branch Library. 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

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

Hollywood stars open wallets to Buttigieg's 2020 campaign

BRIAN SLODYSKO
Associated Press

A-list celebrities seem to be opening their hearts — or at least their wallets — to Pete Buttigieg.

The South Bend, Indiana, mayor was a virtual unknown months ago. But he used breakout town hall performances, viral moments and his biography as a millennial, gay military veteran and a former Rhodes scholar to get the attention of the entertainment industry and rake in cash for his 2020 Democratic presidential campaign.

Among the more than 50 celebrities who gave Buttigieg money during the second quarter are rocker Joan Jett ($150), recording industry mogul David Geffen ($5,600), fashion icon Anna Wintour ($2,800), designer Tom Ford ($5,600), actress Sharon Stone ($5,600) and comedian Ellen DeGeneres ($5,600). They helped fuel his field-leading $24.8 million fundraising haul.

Democratic politicians — and particularly White House hopefuls — have long leaned on the entertainment industry's home of California to serve as an ATM for their political ambitions. During the second quarter, Buttigieg proved to be particularly effective at it, outraising home-state Sen. Kamala Harris on his way toward collecting $3.8 million there, according to an analysis of Federal Election Commission data.

"We're very interested in Pete. People are drawn to civility and intelligence in this moment more than ever before," said Michael S. Smith, a designer and major Democratic donor who has cut checks to several 2020 candidates and hosted a fundraiser for former Vice President Joe Biden that raised over $750,000.

It's unclear whether Buttigieg's early popularity in Hollywood is sustainable for a campaign that's still in its early stages. Many entertainment industry heavyweights who have given to Buttigieg are keeping their options open and have also given to others in the race.

Smith and his husband, James Costos, the former ambassador to Spain, both gave to Buttigieg. They are also among the co-hosts of another Biden fundraiser in Los Angeles on Thursday at the home of Sony's Motion Picture Chairman Tom Rothman. The event also has drawn super-agent Bryan Lourd, Warner Bros. Chairman Toby Emmerich and former Sony chair Amy Pascal.

Buttigieg was supposed to have a massive LGBT fundraiser last month that included Lourd, showrunner Ryan Murphy and actor Billy Eichner, among others. But it was canceled — and has yet to be rescheduled — so that Buttigieg could deal with unrest at home after a white South Bend police officer shot and killed a black man who police say was armed with a knife.

Still, when it comes to the sizzle of celebs, Buttigieg appears to be surpassing his rivals.

During the second fundraising quarter, Buttigieg kept up an aggressive fundraising schedule, often hitting multiple events in one day, including one held by actress Gwyneth Paltrow, who gave him $2,800.

He also collected money from Star Trek actor George Takei ($1,250); DreamWorks co-founder Jeffrey Katzenberg and his wife, Marilyn ($5,600); Full House star John Stamos ($1,000); actress and singer Barbra Streisand ($1,000); and comedian and writer Larry David ($2,800).

He was also given $5,600 by Playboy heir Cooper Hefner and collected $250 from actress Jennifer Aniston, records show.

Other presidential contenders have drawn celebs of their own.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has sworn off attending big-dollar fundraisers, received donations from actress Scarlett Johansson ($2,800), comedian Amy Schumer ($5,600), television personality Rosie O'Donnell ($355), Jett ($235), actress and singer Bette Midler ($2,800), actor and producer Ryan Reynolds ($2,000), television producer Shonda Rhimes ($2,800) and musician Jackson Browne ($1,200).

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker collected $732 from his girlfriend, the actress Rosario Dawson, $500 from actress Alicia Silverstone and $2,800 from actor Ben Affleck.

Actress Jane Fonda gave $1,000 apiece to Warren, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, for whom she co-hosted a fundraiser. Fonda gave $2,000 to Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, records show.

Inslee also collected $5,600 from Pearl Jam guitarist Stone Gossard.

New York Mayor Bill De Blasio, who was late to enter the race and languished in fundraising, collected at least one contribution from a celebrity. Actor Steve Buscemi gave him $5,600, records show.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CALABASAS

Santa Monica Mountain trail reopens after November fire

All 67 miles of a popular trail in a sprawling wilderness park in Southern California have been reopened, eight months after the largest fire to ever hit the park.

The final 6 miles of the Backbone Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area reopened Thursday after remaining closed since the November Woolsey Fire burned 88% of the National Park Service land.

The fire destroyed 120 feet of retaining wall and littered the trail with dangerous tree limbs.

The Backbone Trail, running through the coastal mountain range west of Los Angeles, was completed in 2016 after a 40-year effort to acquire the land.

Only small park sites remain closed. Visitors are being asked to stay on the newly restored trails for risk of causing more damage.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIG SUR

CHP searching for leads in Big Sur anti-tourism vandalism

Authorities in California are searching for whoever painted giant graffiti along Highway 1 attacking the impact of tourism on Big Sur, the scenic stretch of rugged coast that is a major destination for visitors.

The California Highway Patrol was informed around noon on July 14 the words "OVERTOURISM IS KILLING BIG SUR" were written in gold paint near iconic Bixby Bridge.

A banner with the same message was hung on the bridge July 6. The group who hung the sign told KRON-TV they were not behind the graffiti vandalism.

According to the Monterey Herald , workers removed the paint Wednesday morning. The California Department of Transportation says the labor and materials used in removing the paint will cost the state $1,700.

The Highway Patrol says those responsible will face felony charges.

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

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WINNER

Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wake Up and Smell the Racism

How loathsome is convicted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein? Put it this way. When movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is at his sexual assault trial and rapist Bill Cosby is at his appeal, each could assert. "Hey, at least I'm not as bad as Epstein."

And yet Trump said of Epstein, "He's a terrific guy. He loves beautiful women as much as I do and many of them are on the 'younger' side.'" (To Trump that was a compliment.)

As for the ugly racism promulgated by Trump, the party of Lincoln is now more like the party of George Lincoln Rockwell. (Founder of the American Nazi party.) Rape, racism and Nazis? The late comedian Lenny Bruce said any subject can be made funny, to which I say, where is he when I need him?

Back to Epstein he was just denied bail. Not helping was his two jets, the staggering number of underage victims and the FBI raid of his Manhattan mansion. Reportedly in Epstein's safe, was a cache of nude photos of underage girls, a fake passport, a $500 million bank account, 48 uncut diamonds and an overdue library book. (Okay, I made the last one up.)

In Epstein's favor was... nothing. Meanwhile, many powerful men in America are likely perspiring profusely that their participation in Epstein's alleged sex trafficking will be revealed.

The list may include Bill Clinton, but it's probably more likely to include Trump given the just released1992 video of him partying with Epstein showing Trump grabbing a woman's behind. The two men apparently had a "private party" at Mar A Lago with 28 "calendar girls." Yikes!

Trump now says of Epstein, "I was never a fan." (In the video, however, they looked like bosom buddies, no pun intended.) Trump claims, "We had a falling out," reportedly over something far worse and sex with minors, a business deal.

In 2015, the two were the subject of a civil suit filed by a woman who claimed she was raped by Epstein and Trump when she was 13. She dropped the suit after allegedly receiving numerous death threats.

Now I pivot once again to Trump's repulsive racism, though it's possible he was following in his father's footsteps. In 1938, Fred Trump was arrested at a massive KKK rally in Madison Square Garden. In 1973, father and son were cited by the Department of Justice for race discrimination in housing. (Black applicants were told there were no vacancies whereas whites were welcomed.)

In 1989, Trump took out a full page newspaper ad calling for the death penalty for the Central Park 5. All were teenagers of color who served 10 to 15 years, before being exonerated by DNA and the confession of a serial rapist already in prison. Trump never apologized.

In 2011, Trump was the cheerleader for the despicably racist and absurd birther movement. When proven wrong, once again, Trump never apologized. Meanwhile, last week he said of four female congresswoman of color, three of whom were born in the U.S., that "they should go back to where they come from."

For anyone else, that statement is against the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The law specifically forbids saying to a co-worker of minority ethnicity, "Go back where you came from." Apparently, Trump is above the law. (If he loses in 2020, that may be a different story.)

To Trump supporters he can do no wrong. On YouTube there were a series of hysterical (and yet tragic) videos where Trump followers were read inflammatory quotes from Hitler but were told they were Trump's. Each supporter vehemently defended the quotes ("He's just being a strong leader,") until they were finally shown they were Adolf's utterances. It didn't faze them. Much like Republicans in Congress.

Where is the GOP of Teddy Roosevelt, Eisenhower, McCain, Powell and Reagan? (Reagan would have absolutely despised the boorish and vulgar Trump.) The answer is Trump beat Hillary, albeit with help from Russia, Wikileaks, a campaign manager now in prison and the FBI's re-opening the Hillary investigation 11 days before the election.

And beating Hilary made Trump a GOP star. As Trump said so infamously in another context, "And when you're a star, they'll let you do anything. You can even grab 'em by the...." conscience or lack thereof.

Last Tuesday, Trump rally goers chanted, "Send her back!" referring to Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar whom Trump disparaged in an ugly tone. (His favorite tone.) So we've gone from "Make America Great Again," to "Build the wall," to "Lock her up" to "Send her back."

My favorite George Wallace-like chant was, "Jews won't replace us." I wonder how Ivanka and Jared, parents to three Jewish children, weren't outraged. In the meantime, you tell me what the next hate-filled chant is going to be.

Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

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House OKs $15 minimum wage, setting marker for 2020 campaign

LISA MASCARO
AP Congressional Correspondent

House Democrats approved legislation Thursday to raise the federal minimum wage for the first time in a decade, to $15 an hour, transforming an issue that once splintered the party into a benchmark for the 2020 election.

Even though the bill has little chance of passing the Republican-led Senate, or being signed into law by President Donald Trump, the outcome pushes the phased-in rate to the forefront as the new standard, one already in place at some leading U.S. corporations.

While the increase would boost pay for some 30 million low-wage workers, intended as one answer to income inequality, passage was assured only after centrist Democrats won adjustments to the bill. Reluctant to embrace the party's left flank, they pushed for changes, including a slower six-year phase-in of the wage. It's a reminder of moderates' influence on policy, but also the limits.

"We're testing candidates from the presidential all the way down to the school board," said Mary Kay Henry, the president of the Service Employees International Union whose members cheered passage from the House gallery. To address stark income inequality, she said, "they have to raise wages."

A hike in the $7.25 hourly wage has been a top Democratic campaign promise, and what Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland called Thursday the "right thing to do."

"America's workers deserve a raise," said Speaker Nancy Pelosi at a press conference with labor leaders and employees ahead of voting. Lifting a young girl into her arms, Pelosi said, "This is what it's all about... It's about family."

The last increase in the federal minimum occurred 10 years ago, the longest stretch without an adjustment since the wage floor was first enacted during the 1930s. The wage protection covers millions of low-wage workers in all types of jobs.

Under the House bill, for the first time, tipped workers would be required to be paid the same as others earning the minimum, boosting their pay to $15 an hour, too. It's now $2.13, in what labor scholars call a jarring remnant from the legacy of slavery, when newly freed workers received only tips.

Republicans in the House balked at the wage hike, which would be the first since Democrats last controlled the majority. Just three Republicans joined most Democrats in passage, on a 231-199 vote.

During the floor debate, Rep. Ronald Wright, R-Texas, called it a "disastrous bill."

Republicans have long maintained that states and municipalities are already able to raise the wage beyond the federal minimum, and many have done so. They warn higher wages will cost jobs, especially among smaller business owners.

Wright said the bill should be renamed the "Raising Unemployment for American Workers Act."

While opponents have long said higher minimum wages lead to job losses, economists say new studies are casting doubt on those long-held theories.

A report from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office sent mixed messages. It said more than 30 million workers would see bigger paychecks with a higher wage, lifting more than 1 million workers from poverty. It also said between 1 million and 3 million jobs could be lost.

At time of wage stagnation and grave income inequality that's playing out on the campaign trail, Democrats led by Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., the chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, are willing to accept that tradeoff.

But swift passage earlier this year ran into trouble when centrists and those Democrats from rural regions and Southern states raised concerns.

While the new Democratic majority is often seen as pushing the House leftward, many of the freshmen are actually moderates from districts won by Trump in 2016. Those same freshmen will face some of the toughest reelection races in 2020.

The moderate Blue Dog Coalition, led by Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., advocated for changes to the wage bill. With some two dozen members, the caucus has enough votes to deny Pelosi a majority and sink the legislation.

They wanted the longer phase of six years instead of five. And they included an amendment requiring a report from the General Accountability Office, after the first phases of the wage hike, to assess the economic impact on jobs and whether wages should be fully raised to $15.

"I've always been one to believe compromise is not a dirty word," Murphy said in an interview. "It has helped us get things done."

Most members of the Blue Dogs and another centrist caucus, the New Democratic Coalition, ended up voting for the bill. They also held the line against a Republican alternative.

Progressives and labor leaders said they could live with the changes. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., co-chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said the bill is popular back home and far from Trump's characterization of Democrats as "socialists."

The idea of a $15 hourly wage, "somehow that's an out-of-the-mainstream thought?" he said. "Of course not."

Advocates who have been trying to boost wages for workers for years said they were stunned at how quickly the debate shifted.

Sara Jayaraman, president of the Restaurant Opportunities Center United, group founded with displaced workers from the World Trade Center after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, said boosting the tipped wages in particular, for waiters and other tipped workers, was a milestone.

It's "historic moment and a historic bill," she said. "Once you start raising workers' wages it's hard to go back."

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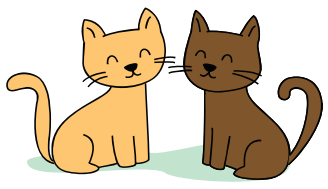
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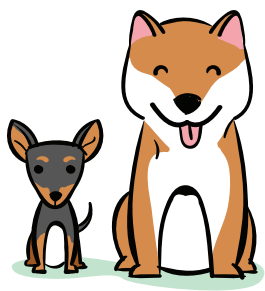
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MURAL

FROM PAGE 1

to have a place to remember him."

Never said Skaggs' former teammates and opponents donated paint and materials for the mural, which he painted over three days and completed Wednesday.

"It was an honor to do it, and to have his wife and mom come by and say that I really captured who he was," Never said.

He said Pico Youth and Family Center (PYFC) offered its wall after being approached by local nonprofit Art Without Boundaries and a retired sergeant from the Santa Monica Police Department who worked with Never to bring the mural to fruition.

"We wanted to honor his legacy as a Samohi alum and as someone who realized his dreams of playing professional baseball," said PYFC director Oscar de la Torre. "He's an inspiration to many and we wanted to honor his legacy."

Skaggs died July 1 after being found unresponsive in his hotel room in Texas before the Angels' scheduled series opener against the Rangers, which was postponed. Texas police said no foul play was suspected.

With the team out of town, dozens of fans went to Angel Stadium and gathered out front in the hours after Skaggs' death was announced. They left flowers, hats, baseballs, signs, photos and other memorabilia in a makeshift memorial mound.

Skaggs' death was deeply felt in Santa Monica and at Samohi, where his mother taught softball and is now a physical education teacher. He was drafted to the Angels after graduating from Samohi in 2009 and later played for minor and major league teams before coming back to the Angels in 2013.

"Tyler continued to make visits to our schools the past several years to speak with students and we proudly watched his ascent in professional baseball, along with his family," Ben Drati, superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, said in a statement.

madeleine@smdp.com

FRESH

FROM PAGE 1

history and science behind him. His farm, Peads & Barnetts, is located just outside of San Diego, but is named after a farm in England that is older.

Much older.

"It's in the Domesday Book," says Woolley, "the first census of all the landholders in the whole of England," ordered by William the Conqueror in the year in 1086.

Woolley's grandparents purchased the property, which had become a turnip farm, after getting degrees in Livestock Genetics at nearby Oxford University.

"They put together a cooperative of farmers to test this idea my grandfather had to improve the health of pigs."

Collecting data on every animal – the size of their litters, their growth rates, etc. – they experimented with cross breeding.

"They built that into a company, The Pig Improvement Company, and it still exists. It's actually the biggest pig genetics company in the world."

His father went into the family business, advising producers of ham in Spain and prosciutto in Italy, as well as major pork providers in countries such as Russia and Kazakhstan. Woolley was born in Kentucky but has one of those unplaceable accents common to peripatetic kids. Certain words are flavored with his English heritage, just like his Berkshire pigs.

"We do one of the oldest recognized breeds in the world, and they take twice as long to grow as a factory pig."

They also have a much richer flavor, which comes through in every chop, sausage and shoulder at Woolley's stand. William the Conqueror would have eaten it up.

PORK RAGU

(serves 6)

This sauce is best made in the slow cooker with the pork cheeks Oliver Woolley calls "toro."

3 packages (8-9 cheeks) toro
6-8 garlic cloves
thyme sprig or dried thyme
3 cups chicken stock or enough to just cover meat
2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
2 tbsp apple juice

10-12 medium tomatoes (Buy the cheaper "imperfect" ones in the bins for sauce.)
Olive oil
½ medium onion, chopped
salt and pepper to taste

Slice 5-6 garlic cloves. Generously salt the pork cheeks on the lean side. Don't trim the fat! Layer the garlic slices between the cheeks in the slow cooker, lean side down. You can also toss in the outer layer of the onion, the tough one under the skin, for flavor. Add the vinegar, apple juice, thyme and enough chicken stock to cover or nearly cover.

Cook on High for 5 ½ hours. Turn cheeks once only so that the top ones go to the bottom and are submerged in liquid.

Meanwhile, make an X with a paring knife on the bottom of the tomatoes. Put them in nearly boiling water for 2-3 minutes depending on ripeness, then plunge into an ice bath. Skins should slide off easily. De-stem and quarter the tomatoes, remove and discard the seeds.

Sauté the onions on medium. Chop the remaining garlic and add it after a minute. Once onions are turning clear, add the tomatoes. Simmer on low for at least an hour. Remove from heat and purée with a hand mixer. Don't worry if it's more like a paste than a liquid.

Once the pork is done, remove it (with tongs, it will be limp and falling apart) to a cutting board. Pour the stock through a sieve into a gravy separator and let sit. The liquid fat will rise to the top and you can keep it for cooking. Remove the more solid fat from the pork cheeks. It should be gelatinous enough to scrape off with a knife (if it's harder, you needed more broth). Discard that fat and chop the meat.

Add the meat to the tomato sauce and pour in as much broth as desired (you may have extra). Cook for another 10-15 minutes. Season to taste.

Serve over pasta with grated Parmesan cheese and lots of fresh ground pepper.







TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 19)

It was a longshot and you took it anyway. You'll be glad you did, as the solar return rewards gambling on your own ambition. You're almost too attractive at the wind down of 2019 and there's security in this. You may go more unapologetically into who you are and find exciting liberation there! Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 38, 17 and 15.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your past experience will help you as long as you understand that every case is new and today's is not exactly like anything you've seen. Try not to let what you know blind you to what you don't.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's one thing to control the luck you've been given, but it's quite another spiritual skill level to manage the luck you haven't even been granted yet. Practice the latter to ready yourself for what's to come.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As you observe the reactions and take in the opinions of others, you'll start to suspect that you're doing things the hard way. Ask for shortcuts and they will be illuminated.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know when you're on track. Though it's much easier to sense when you're off, as the road gets mighty bumpy and your productivity slows, if it doesn't grind to a halt. Don't wait for all that drama. Make adjustments now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When someone says, "I'll try," it typically points to a low commitment level. If you feel yourself hedging toward this response, consider what would need to happen for you to actually dig in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People who claim to be seeking the truth may actually be fishing around for an ego boost, which is too bad because compliments, validation and other sorts of emotional charges are a poor substitute for what truth can do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Who needs your compassion? Everyone. The righteous and the sinners, the desperate and the confident, the joyful and the depressed, and all in between. You need it, too. When in doubt, choose tenderness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To sum it up, don't sum it up. To describe people in a few words would be reductive. To condense the deal down to the bottom-line dollar amount would cheapen it. Be comfortable, for the moment, with the vast undefined.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Right now, it may not seem like the real-life version is living up to your standards, but don't be so quick to judge. There are needs being fulfilled of which you aren't quite aware.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Self-control and self-denial are not the same thing. You'll have greater control when you don't deny yourself so much as steer yourself in the direction of a substitution.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you put the time and energy into learning a thing, you want to get a return on that investment. And if the thing you're learning is another person, the return will be a very satisfying feeling of deep connection.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Wanting to be anywhere other than where you are makes things difficult. But the minute you decide that where you are is the ideal place (regardless of what's going on there), the difficulties dissipate.

The Fallout of a Mercury Change

Mercury's slip into Cancer will have people talking about their feelings before they even realize they are feeling them. Also, tongues will express surprising and unprocessed thoughts, as though certain filters have been removed. It's a bad moment for secrets. They spill, trading their top clearance status for a label of common knowledge.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST

ARIES: When you get the signal that you're being well-received, don't act surprised, and don't hesitate. Boldly follow through. TAURUS: Humor will be the touchstone of the heart. Attune yourself to its subtle messages. GEMINI: Stay curious, even about the enemy or the competition. What you know about the opposition will give you an advantage. CANCER: Love isn't a game, but courtship can be. Apply strategy. LEO: The cool way is to find gentle and graceful ways to guide the other person without explicit instruction. VIRGO: To earn a nickname is an honor really. Though you have to accept that the name itself is out of your jurisdiction. LIBRA: Incongruences are always clues. Gently call them out to discover more. SCORPIO: When you like the way your name sounds on another person's lips, that's a good sign. SAGITTARIUS: People may think they know what they're looking for in love, but what they order up is often very different from the description that gets lip service. CAPRICORN: There's someone who would love to hear from you even though your last interaction with this person may have been less than stellar. AQUARIUS: You may witness baffling behaviors. Just keep in mind that people might be complying with needs and desires you don't yet understand. PISCES: Confusion is a repellent. That's why you strive for clarity in all manners of communication.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND

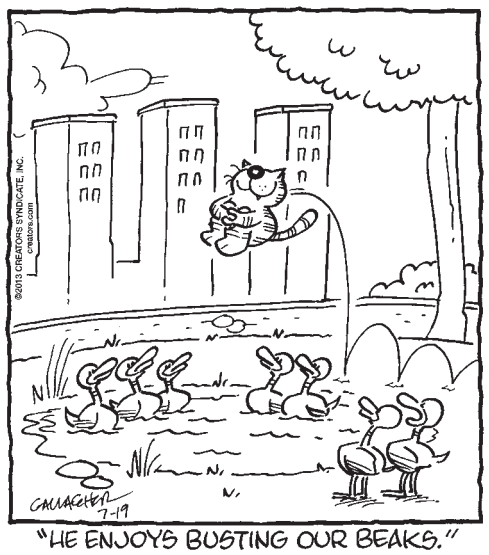
With the soulfully connected Pisces and Cancer couple, there's a sense that they are characters in an elegantly braided story that started many lifetimes ago and has been building through the ages, saving up its most beautiful and intricate pattern for this current incarnation. The relationship is its own entity over which neither party feels like he or she has a great deal of control. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Cosplay
noun [kos-pley]. The art or practice of wearing costumes to portray characters from fiction, especially from manga, animation, and science fiction.

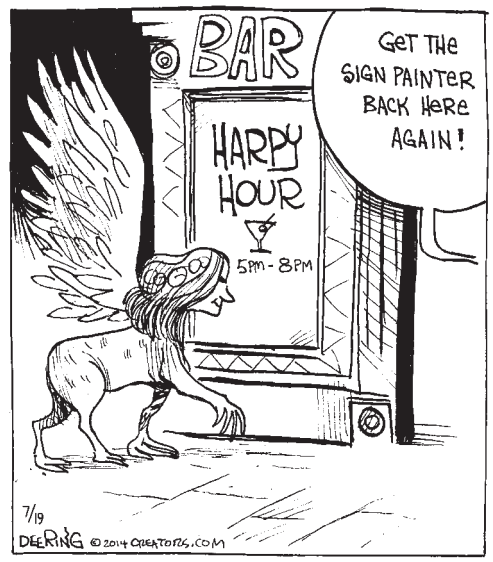
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



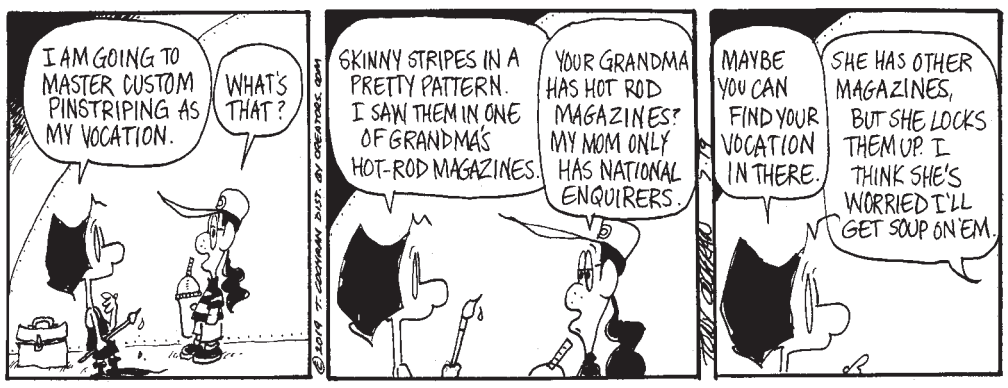
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



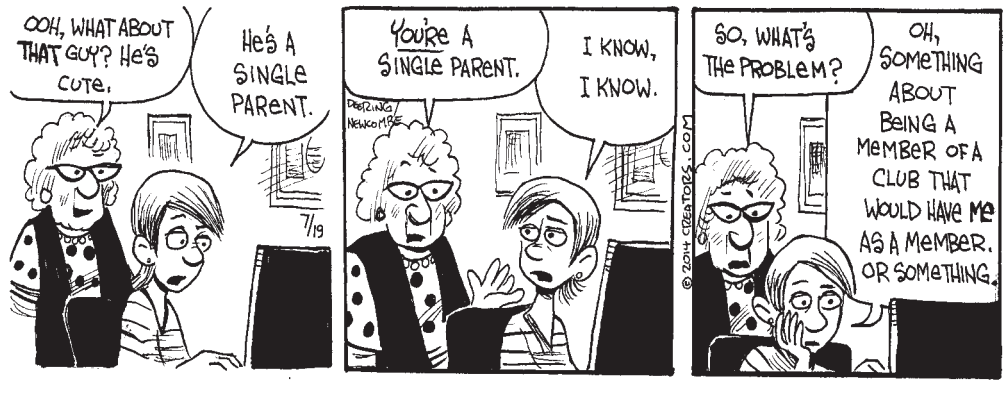
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 07/17
19 43 47 60 68
Power#: 10
Jackpot: $53 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 07/16
8 16 31 48 52
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: $164 M

SuperLOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 07/17
1 61 41 54 5
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: $63 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 07/17
1 8 20 35 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 07/17
Midday: 9 0 6

Draw Date: 07/18
Evening: - - -

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 07/17
1st: 1 - GOLD RUSH
2nd: 4 - BIG BEN
3rd: 8 - GORGEOUS GEORGE
RACE TIME: 1:49.42

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



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 71.8°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Easing SW/SSW swells - summer beaks offer the most size. Small NW windswell.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft knee to waist high
Old SW/SSW swell leftovers. Small NW windswell.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

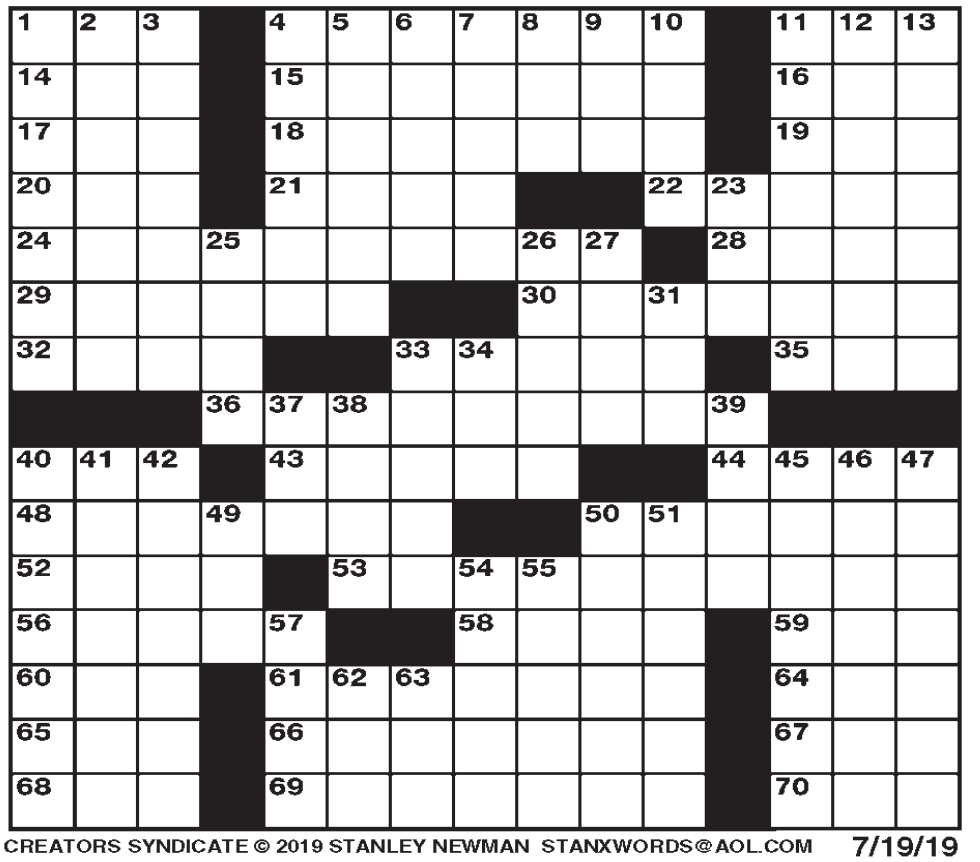
		3	6		8	7		4
2		5			7			8
			3				2	
		2		6				7
	6			7			4	
1				8		2		
	3				2			
7			8			4		5
5		6	7		4	8		

Newsday Crossword

BOOK CLUB by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Airline shuttered in 2001
4 "My treat!"
11 Any watercraft
14 Flew or fled
15 Mastermind
16 "Same" starter
17 Truncation indication
18 With 24 Across, 1992 best-seller
19 Air Marshals' employer
20 Vet ___ (medical specialty)
21 Pittance
22 *Supergirl* guy
24 See 18 Across
28 "Horrors!"
29 Laundry grouping
30 Rowboat brace
32 Short-music suffix
33 Language of Iran
35 Teeny
36 52 Across or 47 Down, when they wrote these books
40 It's near the L.A. Coliseum
43 Ear bone
44 Siberian train hub
48 Sleeved-blanket brand
50 Red roof in?
52 Author of 18/24 Across
53 With 61 Across, 1956 best-seller
56 Is rootless
58 Tickled
59 *Facebook at Fifteen* airer
60 Readily trainable
61 See 53 Across
64 Packed away
65 It sounds like a no vote
66 Garment worker
67 45 Down applicator
68 Successes for some backs
69 Purchases for dollhouses
70 Even one

DOWN
1 River spanner
2 "Don't bump me again!"
3 Old-fashioned
4 Stoic guy's nickname
5 Isn't first
6 Many a hotel mattress
7 Of a grain
8 Extreme degree
9 Oneself, snootily
10 Rubik of cubes
11 Disaster in *The Producers*
12 True nature
13 Blue Ridge Mountains city
23 Cyberchuckle
25 Swain
26 Shade of pink
27 ___ St. Louis, IL
31 Where Bolt last got three golds
33 High excitement
34 *Star Wars* series nickname
37 Sink some
38 Wield shears
39 Proper function
40 #18's signature
41 Poked around
42 Selects carefully for display
45 Many eyes have it
46 Be chintzy with
47 Author of 53/61 Across
49 Masterpiece
50 Swiss child psychologist
51 Trees used for electric guitars
54 Bad bosses
55 Distress signal
57 "Beat it!"
62 Apt rhyme for "Hurray!"
63 German marathoner Pippig



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 7/19/19

STORE

FROM PAGE 1

store at about 9 p.m. after waving goodbye to employees, a white female manager followed them outside and told Stallworth to give her the ball.

Stallworth told her that he had bought the ball and kept walking, but she followed him for several blocks, accusing him of stealing it. She summoned nearby Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) officers. The family began arguing with the officers and the manager because they felt they were being racially profiled.

The officers then asked to see Stallworth's receipt to confirm that he had purchased the ball and let the family go, said Lt. Saul Rodriguez. They returned the $12 ball for a full refund.

Stallworth, who was on the basketball and track teams at California State University, Stanislaus and now owns an apparel store in downtown Los Angeles, said the manager ruined a special moment with his son.

"My son saw his father get accused of stealing," he said. "This lady discriminated against me in front of my family."

He added he felt the officers took the manager's story at face value and did not assume his innocence.

"I can't say I was surprised, because being a black man in America we really don't hold too much weight with the police," he said. "The manager harassing me put me in a place where it was hard to calm down, and getting riled up in front of the police can end in death for people who look like me."

Stallworth said he hopes the video Dickerson took of the interaction, which went viral online, sheds light on how often black Americans are racially profiled. He and Dickerson, a corporate consultant, are pursuing legal action against Nike for racial profiling and defamation of character.

Their attorney Stephen King said the incident calls Nike's employee policy and training into question and could suggest an ingrained racial bias in its corporate culture.

"Our only recourse is to go to court and see if Nike is willing to make a change. If not, we'll take it to a jury trial and have our peers decide if Nike did the right thing," King said. "The ball is in their court."

KeJuan Wilkins, Nike's vice president of North America communications, said the company has apologized to the family and is investigating what happened July 5. The manager has been fired, King said.

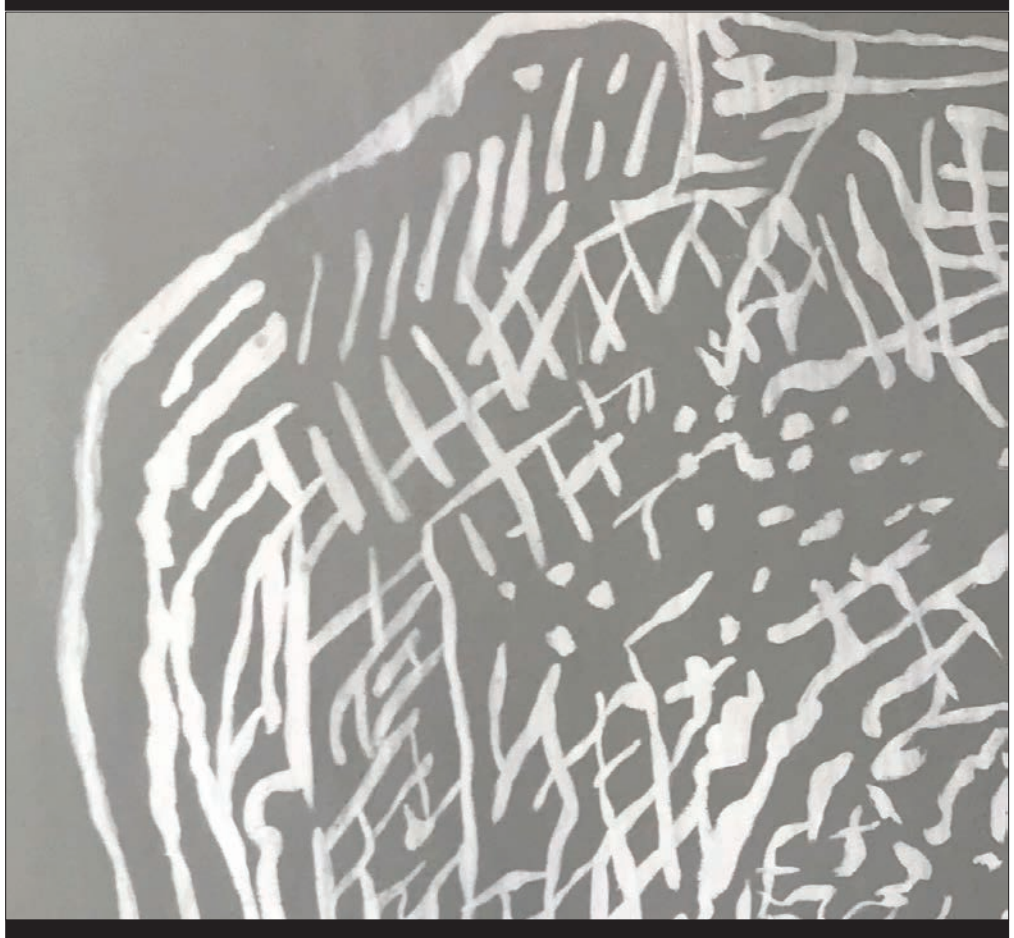
"We are taking the recent situation at our Santa Monica store very seriously," Wilkins said. "We have reached out to the family to express our deepest apologies, and we will continue to work with our teams to ensure we deliver on our expectations for consumer experiences."

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize.



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MAIN STREET santa monica

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 JULY 9 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:38 P.M.

An officer responded to Bloomingdales (315 Colorado) in regards to a suspect being detained for a theft investigation. While speaking to an Asset Protection Supervisor, the officer learned the suspect took a suitcase and was seen placing unpaid merchandise into the suitcase. Once the suspect exited the store failing to pay for the items, he was contacted and detained by loss prevention employees. The stolen suitcase was recovered and the suitcase along with the items inside of it amounted to $4,159.30. Leandro Paceli-Monteiro, 36, was arrested for grand theft.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 380 CALLS ON JULY 17

72 hour psychiatric hold 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:04 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold Lincoln Blvd / Cedar St 4:28 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 4:46 a.m.
Indecent exposure 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:49 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk the beach 5:25 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk the beach 5:38 a.m.
Violation of temporary no parking signs 1200blk 2nd St 6:03 a.m.
Prowler 300blk Georgina Ave 8:37 a.m.
Burglary 100blk Hart Ave 8:45 a.m.
Violation of restraining order 300blk Olympic Dr 8:58 a.m.
Auto burglary 1000blk Palisades Beach Rd 8:58 a.m.
Harassing phone calls 800blk 23rd St 9:11 a.m.
Burglary 1300blk 26th St 9:14 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 100blk Marguerita Ave 9:36 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries city prop involved 1600blk 9th St 9:48 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 9:51 a.m.
Battery 1100blk Arizona Ave 9:56 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:05 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1200blk California Ave 10:13 a.m.
Auto burglary 1700blk Sunset Ave 10:24 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1800blk 10th St 10:55 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 15th St / Arizona Ave 11:10 a.m.
Burglary 900blk Wilshire Blvd 11:24 a.m.
Lewd activity 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 11:25 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 200blk San Vicente Blvd 11:29 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 700blk Ocean Ave 11:40 a.m.
Silent robbery alarm 1500blk 4th St 11:45 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2300blk Schader Dr 11:53 a.m.
Vehicle parked on sidewalk 500blk Marine St 11:55 a.m.
Petty theft 1300blk Franklin St 12:04 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 17th St / Arizona Ave 12:08 p.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:17 p.m.
Assault 10th St / Wilshire Blvd 12:22 p.m.
Critical missing person 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:24 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1500blk 4th St 12:43 p.m.
Injured person 1700blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:48 p.m.
Hit and run 800blk Wilshire Blvd 12:48 p.m.
Petty theft 1700blk Ocean Ave 12:54 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1000blk 3rd St 1:23 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 400blk Wilshire Blvd 1:32 p.m.
Petty theft 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:34 p.m.
Petty theft 2900blk Main St 2:02 p.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 1900blk Ocean Ave 2:09 p.m.
Bike theft 1400blk 2nd St 2:29 p.m.
Critical missing person 30th St / Pico Blvd 2:31 p.m.
Silent robbery alarm 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 2:35 p.m.
Petty theft 1300blk 20th St 2:37 p.m.
Petty theft 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:44 p.m.
Attempt burglary 100blk Hart Ave 2:57 p.m.
Found person 4th St / Broadway 3:20 p.m.
Battery 500blk Olympic Blvd W 3:21 p.m.
Found property 1400blk 4th St 3:26 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 42 CALLS ON JULY 17

EMS 1000blk 11th St 12:28 a.m.
Structure fire 2400blk Michigan Ave 5:22 a.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 6:38 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:19 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:35 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Pico Blvd 9:13 a.m.
EMS 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:30 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 9:56 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Main St 10:01 a.m.
EMS 3300blk Pico Blvd 10:26 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Palisades Ave 10:27 a.m.
Automatic alarm 500blk Ocean Ave 10:45 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Ocean Ave 12:35 p.m.
Elevator rescue 900blk 5th St 12:36 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 1:11 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 2:08 p.m.
EMS 2300blk 23rd St 3:14 p.m.
EMS 500blk Olympic Blvd W 3:28 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 3:49 p.m.
EMS Yorkshire Ave / Pico Blvd 3:57 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 23rd St / Ashland Ave 4:24 p.m.

Records detail frenetic effort to bury stories about Trump

JIM MUSTIAN
Associated Press

Court records released Thursday show that President Donald Trump took part in a flurry of phone calls in the weeks before the 2016 election as his close aides and allies scrambled to pay porn star Stormy Daniels to keep quiet about an alleged affair.

The documents detailing calls and text messages were made public as federal prosecutors closed their investigation into the payoff — and a similar payment to Playboy model Karen McDougal — with no plans to charge anyone in the scandal beyond Trump's former lawyer and fixer, Michael Cohen.

Federal prosecutors in New York said in a court filing that they investigated whether other people gave false statements or otherwise obstructed justice. In the end, the decision was made not to bring additional charges, according to two people briefed on the matter. They were not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan declined to comment and did not explain its decision not to prosecute anyone else. U.S. Justice Department policy prohibits the indictment of a sitting president.

The White House had no immediate comment on the latest documents. On Thursday, Trump lawyer Jay Sekulow welcomed the closing of the investigation into the "ridiculous" allegations and denied anew that the president broke campaign finance law.

The newly unsealed court papers, consisting of search warrant applications, offered tantalizing new details about the campaign's frenetic efforts to quash stories about the alleged affairs.

The documents cite records showing Trump spoke on the phone with Cohen at least five times between Oct. 8 and Oct. 28 as Trump's campaign rushed to keep a lid on tales of his alleged misconduct in the closing weeks of the campaign.

In the series of calls that began at 7:20 p.m. on Oct. 8, Trump, Cohen and Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks spoke together on the phone for several minutes, followed immediately by a series of calls between Cohen and David Pecker, president of American Media Inc., the parent company of the National Enquirer, and the company's chief content officer, Dylan Howard.

Prosecutors have said Pecker, a friend of Trump's, had offered to use his company to bury negative stories in a practice known as "catch and kill."

Cohen then phoned Trump again at 8:03 p.m. and spoke with Trump for eight minutes. That was followed by more calls minutes later between Howard and Cohen, and then a text from Howard to Cohen that read: "Keith will do it."

"Based on the timing of these calls, and the content of the text messages and emails, I believe that at least some of these communications concerned the need to prevent Clifford from going public," an investigator for the U.S. attorney's office wrote, saying "Keith" referred to Daniels' lawyer, Keith Davidson. Daniels' real name is Stephanie Clifford.

The hush money payments were not initially reported on campaign finance documents and far exceeded the legal limits on contributions. Trump, after initially denying knowledge of the matter, has since described the payments as "private transactions."

Cohen pleaded guilty last year to campaign finance violations and other offenses and is serving a three-year prison sentence. He has long maintained that Trump directed him to orchestrate the payoffs to the two women— an assertion prosecutors also have made in court filings. The payment to McDougal was funneled through Trump-friendly AMI.

Cohen in February also told Congress that a Trump Organization executive, Allen Weisselberg, and Trump's son Donald Jr. were involved in reimbursing him for one of the hush money payments.

Federal prosecutors entered into a non-prosecution agreement with AMI in exchange for the cooperation of its top executives.

"The conclusion of the investigation exonerating The Trump Organization's role should be of great concern to the American people and investigated by Congress and The Department of Justice," Cohen said in a statement Thursday.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said the unsealed documents "demonstrate that Donald Trump was intimately involved in devising and executing a corrupt scheme" to cover up an affair.

"The inescapable conclusion from all of the public materials available now is that there was ample evidence to charge Donald Trump with the same criminal election law violations for which Michael Cohen pled guilty and is now serving time in prison," Schiff said.

The court papers were ordered released by U.S. District Judge William Pauley at the request of several media organizations, including the AP. The judge called the documents "a matter of national importance."

The materials also show that on Oct. 28, 2016, as Cohen was finalizing payments intended to secure Daniels' silence, he spoke by phone with Trump for about five minutes, and later traded texts with Davidson.

Cohen thanked Davidson, the documents show, and said, "I hope we're good."

"I assure you," Davidson replied. "We are very good."

Trump placed calls the same day to Howard and Pecker.

The hush-money payment to McDougal remained secret until The Wall Street Journal published a story about it days before Election Day.

An hour before the Journal story was published, the court papers show, Cohen and Howard commiserated via text message.

Cohen said, in what officials understood to be a reference to Trump: "He's pissed." Howard said, "I'm pissed! You're pissed. Pecker is pissed. Keith is pissed. Not much we can do."

Cohen and Hicks were relieved the Journal story did not receive the attention they feared it would. Cohen texted Hicks: "So far I see only 6 stories. Getting little to no traction." Hicks responded: "Same. Keep praying!! It's working!"

Cohen replied, "Even CNN not talking about it."

Associated Press writers Bernard Condon in New York and Eric Tucker and Michael Balsamo in Washington contributed to this report.

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