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SMMUSD to discuss revisions to 2018-2019 budget

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

Looking to make some financial changes within their legal timeline, the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District will meet Thursday, August 9 at the district office to discuss and revise the 2018-2019 school year budget.

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 7

Snap 2Q results beat estimates but user base declines

Associated Press

Snapchat's daily user base declined in its latest quarter for the first time. Still, its parent, Snap Inc., reported a smaller loss than Wall Street had been expecting.

Separately, billionaire Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal said in a news release and on Twitter that he has acquired a 2.3 percent stake in the company for $250 million. Snap declined to comment.

Snap, known for its disappear-

SEE **SNAP** PAGE 7

Expert says Santa Monica voters often split along racial lines

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

DEMOCRACY ON TRIAL

Councilmember Tony Vazquez's tenure on the City Council became the focus of the fifth day of testimony in the voting rights trial challenging Santa Monica's election system. The Pico Neighborhood Association brought the case in 2015 alleging it's too hard for Latino voters to get their preferred candidates into power.

Armed with a blue Sharpie and a giant legal pad, a Cal-Tech professor and expert on racially-polarized voting drew charts for Judge Yvette Palazuelos to demonstrate his formula to determine whether Latinos vote differently than the white majority here. Dr. J. Morgan Kousser has served as an expert witness in dozens of federal and state voting rights cases, including litigation in Santa Clara and Palmdale that resulted major election reforms.

In Santa Monica, Kousser looked at recent elections with Latino candidates, comparing the percentage of voters with Latino surnames in each precinct with the top vote-getters. Analysis of Santa Monica elections is complicated by the fact a single voter can choose up to three or four candidates, depending on the number of open seats. As a result, Kousser acknowledged there's a relatively high margin of error.

His weighted regression formula placed Latino support for Vazquez at 145 percent in 1994,

SEE **TRIAL** PAGE 7







NIGHT OUT

Angel Carreras

The Santa Monica Police Department participated in National Night Out this week. The event is an opportunity for officers to interact with the community in a friendly setting.

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, August 8

Montana Mystery Book Group: An Unsuitable Job for a Woman

Handsome Cambridge dropout Mark Callender died hanging by the neck with a faint trace of lipstick on his mouth. When the official verdict is suicide, his wealthy father hires fledgling private investigator Cordelia Gray to find out what led him to self-destruction. What she discovers instead is a twisting trail of secrets and sins, and the strong scent of murder. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Mindful Meditation

Instructor Henry Schipper, graduate of UCLA's Mindful Awareness program, teaches the basics of Mindful meditation. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 7 – 8 p.m.

Commission on the Status of Women Meeting

Regular meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St, 7 p.m.

Pajama Story Time

Kids can wear PJs and bring their favorite stuffed animal. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 6:30 – 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 9

Soundwaves Concert: Anne Rhodes & Carl Testa

New music concert at the Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Rent Control Regular Board Meeting

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. City Hall, 1685 Main St, 7 p.m.

Day Hiking in Southern California

An REI Outdoor School instructor shares tips and tricks on all aspects of hiking, including trip planning, essential items, equipment, safety precautions, along with local resources and places to go. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 6 – 7 p.m.

Friday, August 10

Craft at Pico Branch Library

Do you have leftover yarn, extra buttons, or scraps of ribbon you haven't used in months? Join us at the library each Friday to share your crafting supplies or find new crafting treasures. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

SMPL at the Beach

We're packing up the books and heading back to the shore for more fun in the sun with SMPL at the Beach, Southern California's only seaside pop-up library! Join us at the Annenberg Community Beach House for a fun-filled day of family friendly activities like Seaside Storytime and Nautical Crafts, sign out books from our curated collection of beach reads, enjoy games like bocce and ladder toss, or kick back, relax and read in the shade of our Surfside Lounge. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Pool Open

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

Saturday, August 11

Fireworks Book making workshop with Debra Disman

Debra brings back her popular bookmaking classes in a special three-part series. August finishes with Fireworks Books: a bibliotechnical bang which contains a popup structure of repeated forms that unfold from all sides. Cost: $15 + $10 cash material fee. 1450 Ocean, 3 – 5 p.m. https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/66954

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WEST HOLLYWOOD

City: Remove Trump star from Hollywood Walk of Fame

The West Hollywood City Council has unanimously approved a resolution seeking the removal of Donald Trump's star from the Hollywood Walk of Fame for the president's "disturbing treatment of women and other actions."

Monday's vote isn't likely to get the intended result. The tourist attraction is in neighboring Los Angeles and it's run by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber President Leron Gubler tells the Los Angeles Times the chamber has never removed a star because each is considered part of the walk's "historic fabric."

The council vote came after a man used a pickax to destroy the star last month and was charged with a felony count of vandalism. The star, which has been repaired, recognized Trump for his work on the reality show "The Apprentice."

West Hollywood is a decidedly anti-Trump city. Last spring Mayor John Duran declared it "Stormy Daniels Day" and gave a key to the city to the porn actress who is suing Trump over a confidentiality agreement for an affair she claims they had.

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LOS ANGELES

Motorist, pedestrian killed in LA car-to-car shooting, crash

A motorist was killed in a car-to-car shooting and then his car rolled over a pedestrian, killing him, Los Angeles police said Tuesday.

The shooter's vehicle struck and critically wounded a bicyclist as it sped away Monday night in the Baldwin Hills area, Officer Mike Lopez said. Investigators haven't identified a motive.

The wounded motorist, 20-year-old Harrison Kristol of Los Angeles, died at the scene, the coroner's office said.

The name of the pedestrian killed by Kristol's car, also a man in his 20s, was withheld pending family notification.

The bicyclist was hospitalized in critical condition, officials said.

Bridgette May told KNBC-TV she heard three shots at around 8:30 p.m. in the residential neighborhood. She stopped to help an uninjured woman get out of Kristol's car.

The passenger told her they were coming from a grocery store when "somebody drove by and started shooting at them," May said.

Police described the suspect's vehicle as a light-colored sedan.

Commuter train service was disrupted during the investigation. Passengers were transported around a nearby train station in buses.

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SACRAMENTO

California lawmakers ask DMV officials about long lines

California lawmakers are seeking answers from the Department of Motor Vehicles about hourslong wait times that have prompted public outcry.

When Assemblyman Phil Ting visited a San Francisco DMV office in his district last month, he said the line snaking around the block looked more like a queue for rock concert tickets than for people trying to renew their licenses.

"I was shocked," the Democrat said. "What we've been hearing are horrific wait times of six or seven hours. That's unacceptable."

Ting will lead a hearing Tuesday to question DMV officials about what they are doing to reduce wait times.

Lawmakers have given the department millions of dollars in additional funding to accommodate higher demand as Californians update their licenses to comply with federally mandated security upgrades known as Real ID. The federal law was enacted in 2005 in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and requires new ID cards to carry special markings.

After Oct. 1, 2020, airport security checkpoints won't accept non-compliant cards. Californians must apply for new cards in person at DMV offices.

The agency expects to spend almost $70 million and hire more workers in the next two years to process the millions of people who need upgrades.

At the Tuesday hearing, Ting says he plans to ask DMV officials whether the money allotted to the system is enough and whether the DMV is making technical improvements to ensure the Real ID transition runs smoothly.

Assemblyman Phillip Chen is requesting an audit of the department and how it is handling the Real ID changes. The top complaint he's heard from his constituents recently is about the long wait times at DMV offices.

"We want to make sure we're not putting money into a broken system," the Diamond Bar Republican said.

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee will weigh Chen's audit request Wednesday.

To ease the long wait times, the DMV is staffing 60 offices on Saturdays and extending morning hours at 14 offices.

SOPHIA BOLLAG, ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA CLARITA

31 California aerospace workers exposed to unknown chemical

Eight employees at a Southern California aerospace facility were taken to a hospital after being exposed to an unknown chemical that caused them breathing problems.

Los Angeles County Fire spokesman Sal Alvarado says 31 employees at TA Aerospace in Santa Clarita were exposed to powder chemicals in the process of being mixed on Monday night.

Alvarado says many of the employees were coughing after the exposure and that at least six of the employees were in fair condition when they were taken to the hospital.

It's unclear whether any of them remain hospitalized.

Alvarado didn't know what chemicals were involved in the exposure.

A phone message left at TA Aerospace wasn't returned Tuesday. The company makes clamps, insulation and other materials for the aerospace industry.

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Kate Cagle
kate@smdp.com
Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR
Robbie Piubeni
robbie@smdp.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Thomas Wisely
thomas@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Tyree Beavers
tyree@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Cynthia Citron,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Sarah A. Spitz

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

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Consumer Corner

Gary Rhoades
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New Law Protects Students and Educators from No-Fault Evictions During School Year

WITH THE SANTA MONICA SCHOOL YEAR about to begin this month, local parents, educators and landlords should be aware of the unique problems caused by evictions during the school year as well as a new city law that limits such evictions.

It was the first week of August 2017, and Santa Monica student Audrey Bridges knew her first day of third grade was just around the corner. Thanks to her mother's and teachers' diligent preparations, Audrey was all set for the school year. Alice Bridges had spent many hours to make sure specialized services for her daughter's learning disabilities were connected to her new classes.

The fact that her teachers, counselors, and office staff already knew Audrey played a key role each year in the success of these preparations. As a single mother, Alice Bridges also worked to make sure that her own support services (babysitting, ex-husband, flexible work hours, and afterschool pick-ups) were all lined up to make the school year a successful one.

But all their work was suddenly in jeopardy as that same week, Alice's landlord served her with an eviction notice.

The notice was a surprise as Alice had always paid her rent on time and had never violated the lease. And a nasty surprise, as the notice only gave Audrey and Alice until the end of September to move out. Alice didn't think they could find another affordable place in Santa Monica and certainly not that quickly. And she could not imagine having to leave Santa Monica and transfer Audrey away from her school.

This situation is emblematic of many school-year evictions. No-fault eviction notices (such as those based on owner's intent to occupy the unit or withdraw it from the rental market) occur year-round, but those occurring for families during the school year are of particular concern to any community. All students have their unique and individualized relationship with a school, along with plans and support systems built around the school. For students with disabilities like Audrey, there are also unique, tailored services that have been applied for and approved.

Common sense says and several studies demonstrate that disrupting all of the above relationships and plans by moving or changing schools in the middle of the school year can be harmful for children. The consensus of the studies is that mid-year moves are likely to disrupt children's peer networks and interfere with the learning process.

School year evictions are also linked to lower standardized test performances. Current findings show that students' mobility most consistently affects their writing. Along these same lines, the school year eviction of a student's teacher or other significant school staff member is another disruption that can harm a student's education.

To protect families in the future, the Santa Monica City Council passed an ordinance in May 2018 that enhances tenant protections for students and educators against no-fault evictions during the school year. Under the law, a court should not grant an eviction if the following are true:

1) a child under the age of 18 or any educator resides in the unit; and
2) the child or educator is a tenant in the unit or has a custodial or family relationship with a tenant in the unit; and
3) the tenant has resided in the unit for 12 months or more; and
4) the effective date of the notice of termination of tenancy falls during the child or educator's school year; and
5) the termination does not allege any fault of the tenant but is based on the owner's intent to occupy, demolish or withdraw the unit from the rental market.

Santa Monica tenants in this situation should not wait for the eviction litigation to start, before acting. As soon as they get the termination notice, they should inform their landlord, preferably in writing, of the City's new law. If that response doesn't result in the landlord's immediate withdrawal of the eviction notice, the tenants should contact an attorney as well as the City Attorney's office at 310-458-8336.

GARY RHOADES is a Santa Monica Deputy City Attorney. The names of the mother and daughter have been changed for privacy reasons. Though the law prohibiting school year evictions was not in place last year to protect Alice and Audrey, the City Attorney's Office was able to persuade the landlord to rescind the eviction notice.

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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Who Can We Turn To?

A MONTH AGO

(Too early! some said) I started writing in earnest about the upcoming election in November for City Council seats. Meaning, since there was no Earnest currently on the Council, I couldn't recommend any incumbent, and had to go scour the mean streets of Santa Monica for prospects.

Which raises a good question: do you have to have a Santa Monica address to run for Council? I would think so. But can we in good conscience deny representative rights and privileges to folks who have resided here for years, or decades, just because they don't lay title to a street address? Are you your home? If you are homeless, are you nothing? And with their numbers, don't the homeless deserve to have their own seat on the Council? At least one. They could be their own district. Imagine the campaigning. I might start going to Council meetings again.

But we also don't want no dadgum Culver City or West LA carpetbaggers telling us what to do. But they do. For years "our own" Jason Islas was a perennial example. Unofficially, of course, without portfolio. But he sure talked at us a lot, about how he thought our City should be run, and he got listened to a lot, respectfully, by current Council members and others in our City government and staff. (More respectfully than a lot of actual residents during their two minutes before the mast.) Without being in possession of that magical 9040* address that would give him a stake in the game.

In the last year, he finally did manage to grab that zip code brass ring, which indicates to me that Next and Forward must pay lots more than most of us imagined. First, last and deposit in Olde Santa Monica runs you five figures, you know. Now he's working for our billion-dollar buddies Bird, so he's probably eyeing North Of Montana.

Others agree with me that no one on this Council has stood their ground and voted a final "no" on big developments, and so others have taken up the call, "No Incumbents!" Overdevelopment is the big issue, creating or exacerbating most of our other problems. Some people, though, take issue with that.

GUESS WHO?

Well, there's really only one who seems perhaps justifiably miffed to be lumped together with all those developer reps on the dais. That would be Sue Himmelrich. Because, compared to the others, she's a Councilmember of conscience, a crusader for the crushed, a candidate for the constituents. She speaks her mind and asks tough questions. (At this point there is smoke rising from Kevin McKeown's clenched teeth.)

Until… it's time for the final vote on a large development, and then she goes along to get along. Always? Almost always. So on those big votes, it goes on the record that our Council approved unanimously. They must, then, in their wisdom, know something we don't know, right?

She has taken me to task for not separating her out. She hasn't quite called me An Enemy of the People's Republic of Santa Monica, but she has intimated — aw heck, more than intimated, she's come right out and chastised me for having a tenuous relationship with the truth, for not letting the facts get in the way of a good story, for not being a real writer and for having a short memory (maybe guilty on that last one — and sometimes you want that).

ONLY RESEMBLE

Well, I resemble those remarks. It is a fine line. It does depend on what your definition of the word "is" is. She claims the high ground because she has opposed, for example, the massive Miramar mess, the shrinking Gehry tower, and the commercial giveaway of our taxpayer-bought land at 4th and Arizona. So far.

Great! But how will she vote when final approval is in the balance. Her record there, in her freshman term, is little better than anyone else's.

I'm well aware of the game rules for politicians, that when it looks like you can't possibly win you make nice with your vote, and try for an amendment or for getting your colleagues' support for some other project. The other council members don't like it when it's not unanimous. They look out for each other. It's definitely a good old boys/girls club. But that doesn't make it right.

Himmelrich lists, on her "campaign promises kept" sheet, under "Preserving the Diverse Character of Santa Monica and Opposing Excessive Development" — "moved to elect Kevin McKeown mayor." Huh? That may be a poke in Pam O'Connor's eye but hardly a blow for "opposing excessive development," in the opinion of almost everyone I know. At my very first Council meeting years ago, a helpful seatmate whispered, that's Kevin McKeown — he's on our side, usually the good guy, but he'd sell his grandmother for affordable housing. You simply can't build your way into lower rents and home prices — how many tens of thousands units will it take? — but you can ruin your small beach city trying.

IT'S A LOFTY GOAL

But when you approve every outsized, inappropriate project because the developer is throwing you some scrap of a few "affordable" units or a cash donation toward same, what you wind up with is the mess we're now got, Santa Monica being literally developed to death. It's got to stop. November. Now.

I'm sick and tired of the cronyism. SMRR, Union 11, Forward, Next and developer money are calling our shots, not our elected "representatives." We need Council members who will stand up for the residents on every vote. Council Member Tony Vazquez revealed under deposition that he received ongoing payments for "consulting" from firms that then submitted six-figure contracts to our school board, where his wife sits and votes. Neither one of them came clean about that money. And now Himmelrich is supporting and fundraising for Vazquez in his quest for a seat on the powerful Board of Equalization. I understand longstanding friendship, but when your friend's activities impact your sacred promise to serve the residents, you've got to draw the line.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Am I a crazy idealist to want such representation? Should I just give up?

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "As for civil liberties, any one who is not vigilant may one day find himself living, if not in a police state, at least in a police city." — Gore Vidal

---

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

Los Angeles-area voters to replace resigned state senator

Voters in parts of Los Angeles and Orange counties on Tuesday may replace a state senator who resigned in February over sexual misconduct allegations with someone who would serve just a few months.

The winner of the district's special election Tuesday will serve out the remainder of former Sen. Tony Mendoza's term that ends in November.

With the Legislature already in the final weeks of its legislative session, it's unclear when the winner of Tuesday's election will be sworn in. The timing will depend on how close the election results are, said Lizelda Lopez, a spokeswoman for Senate Leader Toni Atkins.

In a unique twist, primary voters chose different Democrats during the June 5 primary, where both the special and regular elections appeared on the same ballot. That means Democrat Vanessa Delgado would only serve until November if she's elected and won't have a chance to serve a full term.

Delgado faces Republican Rita Topalian on Tuesday. Topalian will also be on the ballot in November, when she'll face a different Democrat: Bob Archuleta.

Roughly half the district's voters are Democrats, while just more than 20 percent are registered with the GOP. But Republicans believe they have a shot at the seat, in part because Topalian is the only candidate who could serve both the remainder of the current term and the next term.

"It's a longshot, but we do have a shot," said Topalian, a businesswoman who says she's particularly concerned about wasteful spending in California.

Delgado said she plans to be sworn in as state senator if she wins. She is still working to determine whether she can keep her city government role in Montebello, where she serves as mayor.

Even though her Senate term would be short, she says she would focus on securing much needed resources for her district, which has lacked representation since Mendoza resigned.

The Legislature's session concludes at the end of August.

In both primaries, Topalian secured roughly 29,000 votes while Delgado secured nearly 19,000. Archuleta won fewer than 14,000 votes in the special election primary but more than 20,000 in the general election. Nearly 2,500 more people voted in the regular election than the special, although both appeared on the same ballot.

Residents have expressed confusion about the primary, when ballots included both the special primary election and the regular primary, Topalian said.

"I'm hearing from some very experienced voters that they didn't realize they have to vote twice," Delgado said.

Polls close Tuesday at 8 p.m.

SOPHIA BOLLAG, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Citywide

Lifeguard Awards

Santa Monica Beach Ocean Lifeguards Tucker Hopkins and Ignacio Pagliaro were among eight Los Angeles County Fire Department Ocean Lifeguards honored for demonstrating extraordinary and exemplary bravery in the line of duty.

Hopkins was presented with the Medal of Valor, the evening's highest honor, while Pagliaro received the Distinguished Service Award.

Both lifeguards are currently assigned to Santa Monica, although the rescues took place elsewhere.

The Medal of Valor, Distinguished Service and Lifetime Achievement Awards were handed out by L.A County Fire Chief Daryl F. Osby, L.A County Supervisor Janice Hahn, and Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi during a ceremony held Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at the Redondo Beach Seaside Lagoon.

The Medal of Valor ceremony was the official kick-off for the 56th annual International Surf Festival, four-days of events held in Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo Beach featuring surfing, volleyball, sand runs, paddleboard races, an ocean swim and two nights of Ocean Lifeguards competing in various lifesaving events. (surffestival.org).

MEDAL OF VALOR: OCEAN LIFEGUARD SPECIALIST TUCKER HOPKINS

On June 24, 2017, while working Zuma Beach during a busy summer day with large surf, Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Tucker Hopkins observed a pair of swimmers caught in a fast-moving rip current that pulled them 150-200 yards off-shore. Hopkins and OL Joe Everett swam out to the swimmers in distress and noticed one of the swimmers was barely staying on the surface. Upon contact with the second victim, Hopkins tried unsuccessfully to get him to follow directions and take the rescue can. At great peril to his own safety Hopkins bear-hugged the delirious, incoherent and uncooperative swimmer and swam toward the rescue boat. Hopkins was able to get the swimmer onto the deck of Baywatch Malibu as a result of the skillful placement of the rescue boat by its Captain. After assessing the swimmer, and determining his medical condition was serious, Hopkins then boarded the sled of a rescue water craft with the swimmer. The pair were transported to the shoreline where paramedics were staged. Hopkins' ocean knowledge, physical fitness and quick, decisive action ensured the swimmer would make a full-recovery.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: OCEAN LIFEGUARD SPECIALIST GREG CRUM
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: OCEAN LIFEGUARD IGNACIO PAGLIARO

While watching surfers near the 40th Street tower on May 12, 2018, Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Greg Crum heard screams emanating from behind him off the beach. When he looked in the direction of the sound, he observed a man flagging him down from the El Porto parking lot. He responded to the area in his lifeguard vehicle and observed CPR in progress by a Good Samaritan, Matthew Donatucci. He radioed the Hermosa headquarters for assistance, and while Donatucci continued chest compressions, Crum set up the AED, oxygen and BVM. After administering a shock to the victim, Ocean Lifeguard Igniacio Pagliaro arrived on scene and continued multiple rounds of CPR compressions. Additionally, the lifeguards had to climb over a brick wall to reach the victim as the rescue was off the beach and behind a fence. Due to the quick, sustained and effective care provided by Crum and Pagliaro, the patient spontaneously regained consciousness. He was transported to the hospital by the Manhattan Beach Fire Dept. and was reported to be in stable condition a few days later.

SUBMITTED BY ADAM SANDLER

Downtown

The City of Santa Monica Open Streets Event COAST Celebrates Art, Sustainability, + Mobility

The City of Santa Monica's third annual open streets event COAST will celebrate the city's commitment to art, sustainability, and mobility on Sunday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At this free event, the public will experience two miles of streets closed to car traffic and filled with interactive art exhibits, live performances, local food and business purveyors, and connections with families, friends, and neighbors.

In its second year in 2017, COAST welcomed more than 50,000 visitors of all ages to Downtown Santa Monica for the event. This year, the route will feature a variety of interactive and eclectic performances including a performance stage on Ocean Avenue at Santa Monica Boulevard, strolling musicians, dancers and large-scale immersive art installations at site-specific locations to be discovered along the route.

Aerial Artist John Q will gather up to 1,000 people in real time at the event creating a live human installation to artistically illustrate art, mobility and sustainability. Artists Jana Cruder and Matthew LaPenta demonstrate the impact of disposable plastic on the natural environment with their larger-than-life art installation titled, Natural Plasticity, constructed of a massive plastic straw and giant plastic bottle towering nearly 30 feet high. Event goers will have an opportunity to contribute their personal mark to artist Peter Tigler's interactive thumbprint mural that will take shape with public participation to illustrate a message of mobility and sustainability.

The Santa Monica Community Garden offers a variety of ways to explore the natural world through garden tours, arts and crafts, planting tips, and a how-to on preparing home-grown vegetables. Active Santa Monica will lead a series of engaging sessions ranging from dance to sports. Santa Monica Spoke will teach bike and scooter safety skills at the Bike Rodeo as well as provide an opportunity for participants to decorate helmets.

COAST will be held on two miles of streets closed to street traffic, including Ocean Avenue from Wilshire Boulevard to Tongva Park, as well as Main Street to Marine Street. To attend COAST, visitors can ride the Expo Line, Big Blue Bus, or take advantage of Santa Monica's 110 miles of bikeways.

Attendees are encouraged to ride their bikes and walk along the route. Bike rentals will be available at multiple locations along the route as well as 85 Breeze stations located throughout Santa Monica. Free bike valets will be available to make it easy to check-in your bike to grab lunch and enjoy the entertainment.

For more information about COAST, visit www.smgov.net/coast and join the conversation on social media using #COASTSaMo.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, SANTA MONICA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER



BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

The purpose of the meeting is for the board to approve any revision to the adopted budget, which the board has listed several. Due to Education Code, any revisions made to the budget must be done within 45 days of the Governor signing the state Budget.

Proposed revisions show minimal changes, with both revenues and expenditures shrinking slightly; revenues decrease from $121,369,407 to $119,756,506 and expenditures dip from $122,668,652 to $121,968,652.

The primary change in revenue decrease stem from a decrease of one-time state discretionary funds while the sole decrease in expenditures comes from a transfer of funds.

The preliminary General Fund Budget for 2018-19 was introduced at a May 31, 2018 board meeting. It included information regarding the district's state and federal funding, as well as revenue and expenditure assumptions, and multi-year projections.

A public hearing on the 2018-19 budget occurred at a special board meeting June 19, with board approval occurring on June 28.

The Budget Act was signed by the Governor on June 27 of this year, giving the board until August 11 to make changes to the budget.

angel@smdp.com

SNAP

FROM PAGE 1

ing photo and video messaging app, said Tuesday that its daily user base declined 2 percent to 188 million 191 million in the first quarter. It's the first time the company has seen its user base decline, based on reported numbers.

The locally based company said it had a loss of 27 cents per share in the quarter that ended June 30. Losses, adjusted for stock option expense and amortization costs, came to 14 cents per share, topping Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of 11 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for a loss of 17 cents per share.

The company posted revenue of $262.3 million in the period, also topping Street forecasts. Ten analysts surveyed by Zacks expected $247.2 million.

For the current quarter ending in October, Snap said it expects revenue in the range of $265 million to $290 million.

After initially rising sharply, Snap's stock traded lower in after-hours trading and was down about 1 percent at $13.01.

Snap was founded in Venice and worked out of several decentralized buildings near the beach. However, the company leased more than 300,000 square feet of office space in Santa Monica after the company went public in 2017. Snap has been transitioning out of their Venice locations and recently announced much of its Venice property would be put back on the market.

TRIAL

FROM PAGE 1

with a 28 percent margin of error. Meanwhile, only about 35 percent of whites voted for Vazquez, with a two percent margin of error. Kousser said the margin of error is lower for white voters because they dominate the majority of precincts.

"If you look at Tony Vazquez … it's over 100 percent," Kousser testified looking at a chart showing election results. "The way you should interpret this is almost every Latino cast one of their three ballots for Mr. Vazquez."

Vazquez lost overall, despite the historic power of incumbency in Santa Monica elections. To Kousser, it's one of several examples where voters split along racial lines, along with the 2004 and 2016 failed City Council campaigns by activist Maria Loya or her husband, Oscar de la Torre, among others.

It is not clear whether Vazquez will take the stand during the trial. Attorney Kevin Shenkman plans to depose him again this week, but had difficulty scheduling a time because the Councilmember has hired a new attorney, separate from the one's provided by the City. A previous deposition revealed Vazquez's wife, School Board member Maria Leon Vazquez, approved contracts that benefited his consulting clients. The Los Angeles District Attorney's office is still investigating a potential conflict of interest.

Attorneys for the City said Kousser is wrong to only look at candidates with Latino surnames in his analysis. For example, Mayor Pro-Tempore Gleam Davis self-identifies as Latina, though she does not have a Spanish surname. They say Latinos also support white candidates who win in the at-large election system.

"The CVRA repeatedly makes plain that the touchstone of the racial-polarization analysis is not the race or ethnicity of the candidate, but instead the preference of the voters," said a recent brief from attorneys at Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, LLP, submitted to Judge Palazuelos.

Latinos make up roughly 13 percent of Santa Monica's electorate. At trial, Palazuelos looked at a hypothetical Pico Neighborhood District that would be roughly 30 percent Latino. In a district-based system, voters could support one candidate from their neighborhood. Currently, all voters choose from a slate of candidates and have a say in each open seat.

"Santa Monica voters have adopted an at-large election system and twice rejected a proposed move to districts," said Chief Communications Officer Debbie Lee in an email to the Daily Press. "Plaintiffs bear a heavy burden to overturn the will of the voters; the City believes the facts will demonstrate that they cannot meet that burden here."

Both sides agree the case will likely come down to expert testimony. Attorneys for the City will cross-examine Kousser Wednesday.

Activist Oscar de la Torre will likely take the stand this week to testify on his experience running for City Council. The City says the Santa Monica-Malibu School Board purposefully lost his 2016 bid for the Council to win this lawsuit.

It is not known how the trial will impact the November ballot, should Judge Palazuelos find racially polarized voting in Santa Monica. More than a dozen potential candidates have already pulled papers to begin the process of running for a seat. Two candidates, Residocracy leaders Armen Melkonians and Kate Bransfield, dropped out of the race earlier this week citing uncertainty caused by the litigation.

kate@smdp.com

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **73.4°**

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** ankle to knee high
Minor Southerly swell and NW windswell energy.

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
Minor Southerly swell and NW windswell energy. Initial SSE energy from John may creep in before dark.



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 25, AT ABOUT 11:36 P.M.

Officers responded to a radio call for service in the area of Ocean Avenue and Broadway regarding a robbery in progress involving three male subjects. When officers arrived, they identified the victim and two suspects fled the area. Officers learned the victim was walking along the 1400 block of Ocean Avenue when unprovoked two male subjects approached and attacked him. The subject punched him several times about the face and body. One of the subjects displayed a razor blade and threatened to kill the victim. The suspect took the victim's duffle bag containing his personal belongings. Officers located the suspects a short distance away. The victim identified both suspects and recovered the victim's property. The suspects were taken into custody. Lamar Reaves, 39, homeless was arrested for robbery. Bail was set at $50,000. Mike Francis Gilbert, 72, homeless, was arrested for robbery. Bail was set at $ 50,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 376 Calls For Service On August 6.

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

Domestic violence 1300 block Euclid 12:27 a.m.
Person w/a gun 4th/Colorado 5:24 a.m.
Threats 2000 block Santa Monica 6:18 a.m.
Vandalism 2600 block Main 7:10 a.m.
Drinking in public 2nd/Hill 7:10 a.m.
Encampment 500 block The Beach 7:40 a.m.
Encampment 200 block The Beach 7:57 a.m.
Animal related incident 1600 block 9th 8:29 a.m.
Grand theft 2600 block 29th 9:25 a.m.
Vandalism 900 block Marine 9:34 a.m.
Vandalism 300 block Pico 10:23 a.m.
Person down 800 block Palisades 10:26 a.m.
Encampment 1600 block The Beach 11:13 a.m.
Person down Cloverfield/Colorado 11:25 a.m.
Grand theft auto 2400 block Ocean Park 11:58 a.m.
Encampment 1300 block The Beach 12:12 p.m.
Burglary 1000 block Pier 12:14 p.m.
Prowler 1800 block Ocean 12:31 p.m.
Person down 2000 block 14th 12:43 p.m.
Vandalism 300 block Wilshire 12:56 p.m.
Burglary 1100 block 10th 1:07 p.m.
Vandalism Lincoln/Pico 2:16 p.m.
Grand theft 1000 block Pacific Coast Hwy 2:20 p.m.
Stolen vehicle 200 block Santa Monica 2:35 p.m.
Prowler 2100 block Montana 3:17 p.m.
Indecent exposure 2400 block Wilshire 3:38 p.m.
Battery 1400 block Palisades 4:01 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1700 block Ocean 4:18 p.m.
Person down 600 block Colorado 4:49 p.m.
Person down 200 block California 4:51 p.m.
Fight 700 block Broadway 5:06 p.m.
Identity theft 700 block Strand 5:09 p.m.
Animal related incident 100 block Wadsworth 5:12 p.m.
Indecent exposure 2100 block Oak 5:29 p.m.
Battery 1400 block 3rd 5:30 p.m.
Vandalism 2700 block Main 5:31 p.m.
Battery 1400 block Montana 5:33 p.m.
Animal related incident 400 block Palisades 5:39 p.m.
Missing person Main/Ocean Park 5:58 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 6:32 p.m.
Public intoxication 1200 block Ocean 6:33 p.m.
Vandalism 1900 block 12th 6:34 p.m.
Strong-arm robbery 900 block Olympic 6:41 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 4th 7:04 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 2600 block Lincoln 7:20 p.m.
Overdose 500 block Broadway 7:21 p.m.
Burglary 1500 block 10th 7:44 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 2nd 8:28 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 2nd 9:06 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 9:13 p.m.
Auto burglary 900 block Lincoln 9:24 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 2nd 9:24 p.m.
Public intoxication 300 block Olympic 9:36 p.m.
Public intoxication 2000 block Euclid 10:09 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 35 Calls For Service On August 6.

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

Automatic alarm 1600 block 16th 1:16 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service 1800 block Michigan 2:24 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 20th 3:16 a.m.
EMS 100 block Colorado 3:24 a.m.
EMS 2800 block Nielson 4:57 a.m.
EMS 1000 block 2nd 6:54 a.m.
Elevator rescue 100 block California 9:29 a.m.
EMS 11th/Arizona 9:42 a.m.
EMS 500 block Santa Monica 10:24 a.m.
EMS 800 block Palisades 10:26 a.m.
EMS 2500 block Kansas 12:06 p.m.
EMS 1200 block 15th 1:10 p.m.
EMS 2200 block Michigan 2:06 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block 4th 2:08 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block 15th 2:12 p.m.
EMS 1800 block 12th 2:38 p.m.
EMS 1200 block 16th 2:43 p.m.
Wires down 1100 block Wilshire 3:29 p.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 3:53 p.m.
Wires down 200 block Bay 4:32 p.m.
EMS 14th/Santa Monica 5:05 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 100 block Fraser 5:18 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 3rd 5:32 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 3rd 6 p.m.
EMS 800 block 2nd 6:24 p.m.
EMS 1000 block 11th 6:53 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 5th 7:18 p.m.
EMS 500 block Broadway 7:21 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 7:41 p.m.
EMS 1000 block 3rd 8:05 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 23rd 9:06 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 100 block Fraser 9:23 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Cloverfield 10:59 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2600 block Kansas 11:25 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 8/4
3 11 38 44 58
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 223M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/3
9 28 30 54 60
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 55M

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 8/4
14 19 33 38 46
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 21M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/6
11 29 32 38 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 8/6
MIDDAY: 0 7 7
Draw Date: 8/6
EVENING: 0 2 3

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 8/6
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:40.13

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

WORD UP!

normcore
1. a fashion style or way of dressing characterized by ordinary, plain clothing with no designer names, often a reaction against trendy fashion.
2. clothes that conform to this style: I wear normcore on weekends—usually a t-shirt and jeans.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Best Medicine

■ One evening, a man visits his doctor.
■ The doctor asks what's wrong and the man replies, "I think I'm a moth."
■ "You think you're a moth?" the doctor exclaims. "You don't need a doctor. You need a therapist."
■ "I know," replies the man. "I was on my way to see a therapist, but then I saw your light was on."

Observation

■ "We were primitive people when I was a kid. There were only a few known diseases: Gunshot wounds, broken legs, toothache, fits. Anything that hurt you from the lower end of your neck down was known as a bellyache."

–AMERICAN HUMORIST WILL ROGERS (1879-1935)

MYSTERY PHOTO

SPONSORED BY Chick-fil-A



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

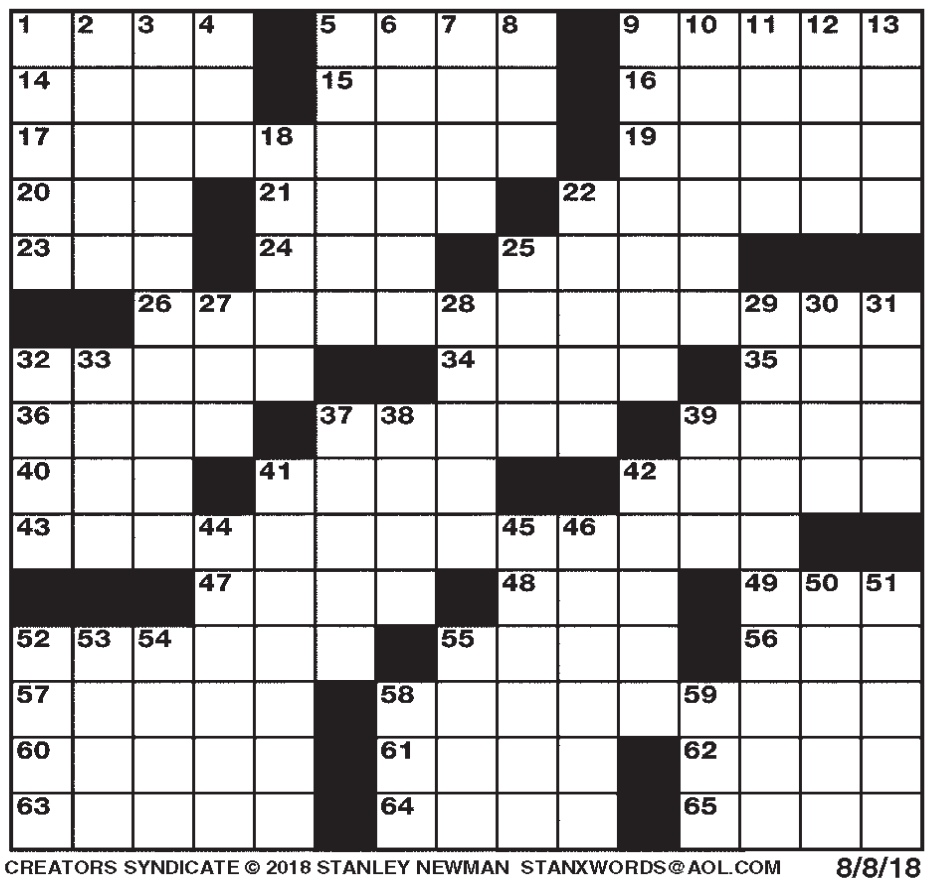
8				7				
	5				4	6		3
3		4						7
9				1	6		3	
	8			4			5	
	7		9	3				1
2						1		5
6		8	2				7	
				9				8

Newsday Crossword

WISE GUISE by Carolyn Stewart
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Ballpark officials, for short
5 Oohs and __
9 Pesto sauce seasoning
14 Notorious Roman emperor
15 Fake coin
16 Clear a blackboard
17 Visual aid on an easel
19 Small mountains
20 List-ending abbr.
21 Party giver
22 Moistens, as a turkey
23 Change the color of
24 Annoy
25 Home for bees
26 Unpleasant surprise
32 Box for oranges
34 Pub orders
35 22nd letter
36 Top-notch
37 Choir member
39 Dirt for planting
40 Fall behind
41 Graceful bird
42 Young ladies
43 Feeling revitalized
47 Clue
48 Pie __ mode
49 Persian or tabby
52 Playing a role
55 Response from a pew
56 Tic-tac-toe win
57 Thrown forcefully
58 High-tech hotel door opener
60 Small group of experts
61 Bothersome one
62 Regarding
63 Extra tire
64 Poses a question
65 Grade-school auxiliary orgs.

DOWN
1 Needing a meal
2 Starting to drip, as ice cream
3 Shopper's cost consideration
4 Absorb, with "up"
5 No longer at sea
6 Nome's home
7 Offended
8 Rank above cpl.
9 Isn't a brat
10 Ascended
11 Pretzel topping
12 Castaway's home
13 Cheaper
18 Scold mildly
22 Motorcycle enthusiast
25 Angel topper
27 Salt Lake City collegian
28 "Do ya __ bet?"
29 West African republic
30 Singer Diamond
31 Some toothpastes
32 Young cow
33 Crowd sound
37 Guitar sound
38 Sunrise direction
39 Family nickname
41 Roofing tile
42 Colossal
44 Black eye, informally
45 Fabric named for Syria's capital
46 Warnings
50 Largest artery
51 Commotions
52 Egyptian snakes
53 Sound of thunder
54 Common sandwich fish
55 Iowa city
58 Relaxing resort
59 Ballplayer's topper



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 8/8/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 8)

This year has the pacing of an award-winning movie. Your treasures will be more or less evenly spaced throughout the year, giving you much to celebrate and then to look forward to. Featured happiness includes an easy and joyful relationship; an important sale; and hefty compensation for doing what you love. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 3, 33, 38 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
We are often surprisingly ignorant of our own needs. And when it comes to motivations... those can be even more mysterious. But writing can unlock many secrets. Journaling will bring stress relief and self-realization.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
The planets are shifting, and so are you. You could make a buddy out of a former adversary, or make peace with a part of your past that, up until this point, you'd considered unfortunate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Your imagination is powerful. Devote time to chasing your ideas. Your life will be richer for it. Also, let no one interfere. You're the engineer of this fantasy train, and you can drive it wherever you want it to go.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Big ambitions are accomplished through small wins. So don't let your high hopes keep you from celebrating the little things. Mark the milestones to honor your journey.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
The day features action, conflict and decisions that must be made in a snap. Take a break to process all that's going on. Idle chat will turn out to be valuable. You'll learn more in downtime than you do in the heat of the action.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
A pleasant day stretches ahead. You'll be treated. People you enjoy are close at hand. You belong to something bigger than you, and this will offer a degree of ease and security to your day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Love isn't something you have; it's something you do. So it's impossible to love without investment, as the love is the investment. These are things you know, but others haven't learned yet. You'll teach through example.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
The start of a task will bring butterflies. The middle part will be accompanied by doubts and wonders about what made you take this on in the first place. The end will answer all, and you'll be better for it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Though there is cooking and cleaning to be done and errands to run, you want to do so much more with your time than wile away the hours on ordinary things. Put extraordinary aims first, and the rest takes care of itself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Though you're tougher than most, you still long to be treated with reverence and care. When your soul meets with a callous world, it causes pain. Seek bonds with the tenderhearted.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Be careful not to over-identify with your characteristics, personality or social and economic standing: You're more and something other than those things. Stay connected to the down-deep you.

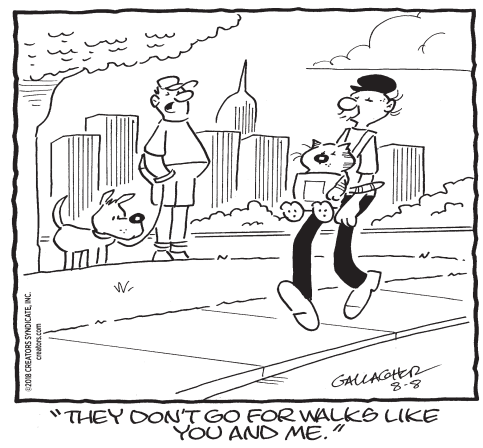
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
The more you learn, the better you serve; the better you serve, the more you learn. It may not sound very glamourous, but oddly enough, there will be something glamorous about it.

Conjunction of the Sun and Mercury

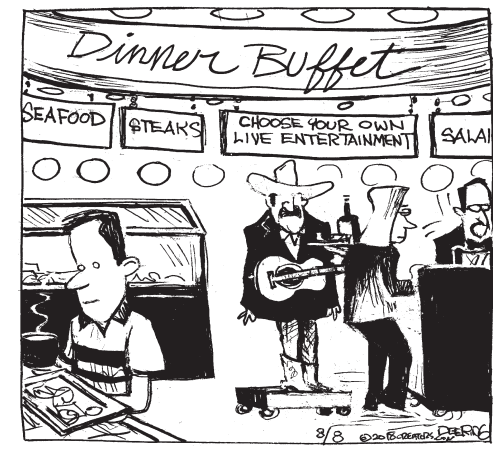
The French expression "sous-entendu," translated as "what is understood underneath," points to a possible solution for the passive-aggressive action that unfolds today. If everyone knows what is meant, then is it really kinder not to say it? No. With the sun conjunct Mercury, the emotionally intelligent favor a direct strategy of communication.

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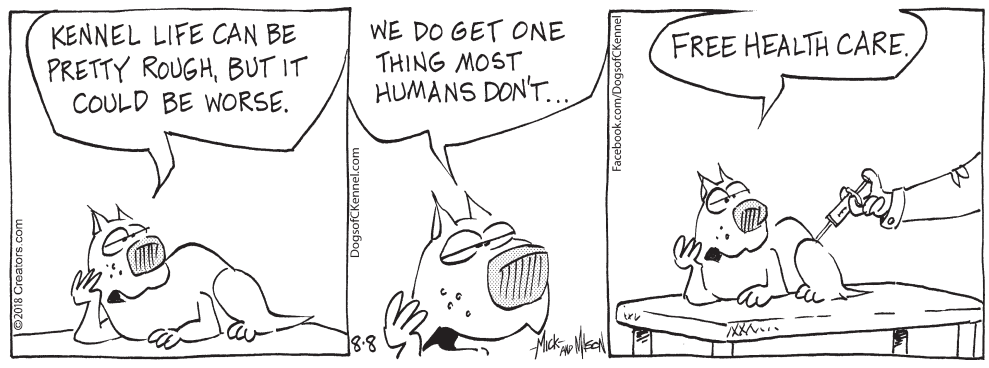
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Transgender Hollywood seeks recognition, and not just roles

JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

When actress Scarlett Johansson reversed course recently and canceled plans to play a transgender man in the film "Rub & Tug," transgender actors like Scott Turner Schofield were gratified — and pleasantly surprised. After years of watching non-trans stars win accolades — including Oscars — for what was seen as bravery in playing transgender characters, finally it seemed that somebody got it.

"To have someone with any amount of power be reflective, and say, 'I did something wrong, I learned something and I'm sorry' — that absolutely feels like change," says Schofield, a veteran trans performer who stars in the upcoming European film "The Conductor."

Now, Schofield and others hope Hollywood will understand an even bigger point — that the "authentic casting" debate stoked by the Johansson episode isn't just about who gets acting roles. The real goal, he says, is access for the transgender community at every level of the Hollywood storytelling process, from the first idea pitch to the final product. "We need to take the reins here," Schofield says. "We need to be a substantive part of this conversation."

Advocates are hoping that the current focus on transgender Hollywood will help. "Hollywood right now is being very introspective about the stories it's telling and how it's telling them," says Nick Adams, director of the transgender media program at GLAAD, the LGBT advocacy group. "We're having a cultural moment where the trans community is speaking up and saying, 'We want to be part of that.'"

To that end, GLAAD and the equality organization 50/50BY2020 on Tuesday issued an "open letter to Hollywood," signed by a large array of organizations and companies — from the American Civil Liberties Union to Time's Up, from producers including Shonda Rhimes, Ryan Murphy, Ava DuVernay and Judd Apatow, to the major talent agencies.

"Trans people are fighting every day to be seen and accepted as human beings," says the letter. "We believe we are at an unprecedented cultural moment," it says, "where we can ask Hollywood to use its power to improve the lives of trans people by changing America's understanding about who trans people are."

Not long ago, says Schofield and others, transgender people felt they had to be grateful for the mere fact that Hollywood was willing to tell their stories — albeit with non-trans stars, like Hilary Swank in the 1999 "Boys Don't Cry," Felicity Huffman in the 2005 "Transamerica," or Jared Leto in 2013's "Dallas Buyers Club" (Swank and Leto won Oscars, and Huffman was nominated.)

"I don't begrudge 'Boys Don't Cry' anything," says Schofield, "but times have changed. We have trans people who are professionally trained artists."

An even deeper problem, says Adams of GLAAD, is the impression given the public when an actor who is not transgender appears on the red carpet in a beard and tuxedo after playing a trans woman in a wig and a dress. "It reinforces in some people's minds that trans people's identities are not real — that it's a costume, a show, a performance," says Adams, who is a trans man. "That fundamental misunderstanding about who trans people are is toxic, and it can lead to violence."

GLAAD also advocates, of course, for better representation of gays and lesbians in Hollywood. But the difference, says Adams, is that trans people are fighting for their very identity to be recognized: "Often we're told our gender identity is not real, that it's all in our heads."

Some directors who've hired trans actors note that they bring a perspective that non-trans actors can't. Dutch director Maria Peters, who hired Schofield for "The Conductor," says the pivotal role he plays required an innate understanding of both genders. "I told Scott I would hire him again to play a man OR a woman," she says. She adds that in an ideal world, anybody could play anything. But, she says, "Transgender actors are fed up with not having been taken seriously for so many years."

The trans community was buoyed last year when "A Fantastic Woman" won the Oscar for best foreign language film, starring trans actress Daniela Vega as a transgender character. Adams says that victory was significant for the struggle for more prominent trans representation in movies.

Backlash was swift when Johansson announced plans last month to play the real-life character of Dante "Tex" Gill, a trans man. She initially responded that criticism "can be directed to Jeffrey Tambor (of TV's "Transparent"), Jared Leto and Felicity Huffman's reps."

Johansson later switched course, saying her earlier statement was insensitive. "I understand why many feel (the character) should be portrayed by a transgender person, and I am thankful that this casting debate, albeit controversial, has sparked a larger conversation about diversity and representation in film," she said." It's not clear if "Rub & Tug," which Johansson was producing, will go forward.

A different casting controversy arose last year when a British broadcaster canceled a TV comedy starring Joseph Fiennes, who is white, as Michael Jackson, in light of concerns from Jackson's family. Fiennes said he fully supported that decision.

In an interview, he explained that he, too, had learned from the incident. "It's about listening, and making the playing ground level and fair and the opportunities level and fair," he said. He added that he came from the world of theater, where experimenting with age, gender and other things was part of the creative process. But, he, said, "One also has to respect that when you tread on the toes of the lives that are you're inhabiting, of people that should also have that availability to play the parts that are THEM, I think we have to absolutely acknowledge that."

Despite what feels like a growing attention to diversity, Hollywood films remain as white, male-dominated and non-diverse in other ways as ever, according to a recent report from the University of Southern California, which found that the representation of LBGT people, minorities, women and disabled people remained largely unchanged from the previous year.

Toward the very bottom of the list, in terms of representation in movie characters, were disabled people, notes Lauren Appelbaum of RespectAbility, which advocates for the disabled and signed GLAAD's open letter. "You'd think with all the conversations going on right now, you would see an increase," she says, pointing out that roughly one in five Americans — close to 20 percent — has some sort of disability. Like GLAAD, her group seeks more than just acting roles for disabled actors, rather representation at all levels of the industry in a way that reflects society at large.

Just as transgender roles are compelling to actors of all orientations, so are parts involving disability, says talent agent Gail Williamson, who represents disabled actors.

"Hollywood loves a good disability story," says Williamson, "but they like to cast it with a big star. They know that dollars come with the name — and the name wants to play it because they know awards and recognition come with it."

But what, Williamson asks, would have happened if they hadn't let Marlee Matlin audition for "Children of a Lesser God" 30 years ago? The actress won an Oscar. "We wouldn't have a big star who is deaf."

Beyond leading roles, there's also a battle for the scores of background roles in every film or show that are peripheral to the story — like the person who asks, as Williamson says, "Do you want fries with that?"

"Why can't the attorney be in a wheelchair?" she asks. "Why can't the teacher have a prosthetic arm?" Schofield, the trans actor, asks the same question.

"Every show wants an episode with a trans character in it," he says — usually a trans woman. "But that's just one character. What about the others? I could be the teacher. I could be the barista."

"We're a part of the tapestry of the world," he says. "We should be onscreen."







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