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Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY
08.21.18
Volume 17 Issue 235

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CRIME WATCH .....PAGE 8
MYSTERY PHOTO .....PAGE 9

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Santa Monica to Vegas for less than the price of lunch



Credit Julie Bergonz

NOW BOARDING: **The latest bus company to start service in Santa Monica offers cheap fares.**

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monicans who want to gamble with their money but not their transportation can now hitch a ride to Las Vegas with a new private bus for as little as $10 each way.

The Vegas route is part of the inaugural service in Santa Monica offered by the European company FlixBus. While they are a major player in the international market, the company jumped the pond to America in May of this year and has expanded its Los Angeles service to include some routes direct to/from Santa Monica.

"Driving on the Westside of L.A. is just too much of a pain for many of our customers," said Pierre Gourdain, Managing Director of FlixBus USA.

He said the amenities on Flixbuses, such as Wi-Fi, power outlets at every seat, onboard entertainment (including movies, TV shows, audiobooks and video games) are appealing to people that want to travel but don't enjoy using a private car.

"This particular segment is very present in Santa Monica, these are people who will come to the bus for the first time but are definitely not the last."

FlixBus began in Germany in 2013 and has expanded to 27 European countries. Gourdain said more than 120 million riders have used the company so far. The company operates with a franchise-like model. FlixBus manages the technology, ticketing, customer service, network planning, marketing and sales of the green fleet while local partners manage the daily operations.

The Santa Monica operation will pick up and drop off from the 1200 block of the Promenade. Busses travel to Barstow, Las Vegas and several Arizona cities (Bullhead City, Flagstaff, Kingman, Phoenix, Tempe, Tucson and Wickenburg). Travelers that book in advance can find some fares as low as $4.99 and the most expensive ticket from Santa Monica is currently $14.99.

SEE **FLIXBUS** PAGE 7

Businesses ask the City for more transparency ahead of scooter pilot

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

A week after local scooter-share companies shut down their devices to protest a potential shut out of an upcoming pilot program, 180 businesses have signed a letter asking the city to extend the timeline for selecting the winners of the open bid process. The City is quickly trying to launch a pilot program in September, where up to four companies will be selected to run dockless bike or scooter operations here.

A selection committee recently recommended Lyft and Jump (which is owned by Uber) to participate in the program over the two start-ups already running in the city. More than a dozen start-ups applied to participate in the 18-month pilot. Bird and Lime's temporary permits expire before the pilot begins.

"We are hopeful that Santa Monica will choose to continue partnering with a proven company that continues to provide Santa Monica riders with best-in-class technology," a Lime spokesperson said in response to questions about the letter.

The Daily Press obtained a copy of the letter Monday, which is dated August 17, the last day of public comment before Planning Director David Martin chooses the companies. He's expected to announce his selection by the end of the month.

"We are writing on behalf of

SEE **SCOOTERS** PAGE 6

SMMUSD briefly delays plastic ban

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District will strive to stir up a stronger plastic ban solution, briefly delaying their districtwide ban plans to follow the City of Santa Monica's lead.

At the August 16 school board meeting, two notable items were removed from the agenda and scheduled to a later date, September 6: the establishment of Spanish-speaking parent group PEMA at Samohi, and the adoption of a resolution that would approve a districtwide ban on plastic straws and plastic beverage stirrers.

While no reason was given for the PEMA tabling, staff said they held off on the plastic straw ban in order to have the most effective resolution possible.

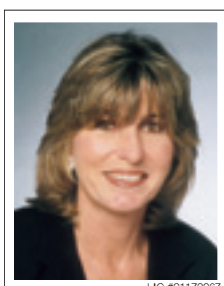
Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, president of the school board, indicated that staff wanted to wait until they had "a determination" on the sustainability plan the city drafted in banning plastics.

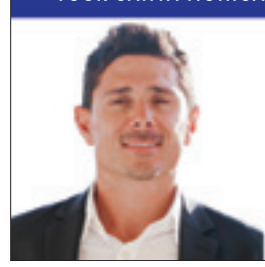
Vice President of the board Jon Kean echoed Tahvildaran-Jesswein's statement, saying the city's plastic ban plan is "far more researched, detailed, and thorough" than the district's current resolution.

"We have their plan, so we should be able to take a look at this now and bring [an updated version of the district's plan] back quickly," boardmember Ralph Mechur said. A district spokesperson added via email that the deeper look at the city's plan would "better inform" the district in regards to adding potential materials to SMMUSD's proposed straw and stirrer ban.

Additional items discussed included an update from Santa Monica's Education Foundation,

SEE **PLASTIC** PAGE 6


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, August 21

Red Hen Press Reading
Red Hen Press presents a reading with Eloise Klein Healy, Maurya Simon, Debbie Clarke Moderow and Amber Flora Thomas, with dance by Sheetal Gandhi. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Register online at http://annenberg-beachhouse.com/beachculture.

Bullet Journaling
Get organized and creative with bullet journaling. Perfect for back-to-school! Materials provided, limited quantities available. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 4 – 5 p.m.

Summer Crafternoon Tuesdays
Craft Open House. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, August 22

Appy Hour Device Workshop for Seniors
Bring your smartphone or tablet and receive small group help to get you started with using your device. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 4 – 5 p.m.

Baby Story Time
Story time series for babies 0-17 months. A ticket is required to attend. A limited number of tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, 15 minutes before the program, at the Information Desk. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 11:15 – 11:35 a.m.

Thursday, August 23

Design in 3D: Open Lab
Explore 3D printing possibilities at the Library. Prepare your own three-dimensional plastic objects for 3D printing. Staff will be available to help with basic troubleshooting. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 5 – 7 p.m.

Current Events Discussion Group
Join organizers for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Baby Time
Story series for babies ages 0 to 17 months accompanied by an adult. (August 9 – September 13) Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 10 – 10:20 a.m.

Friday, August 24

Craft Supply Swap
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.

Out of the Blue: Under the Umbrella with Therese Kelly
Join artist Therese Kelly for a hybrid eco walking tour of the Beach House site, plus a natural dyeing workshop for all ages. Tours will range across the site and the dye workshop can get messy; comfortable shoes, sun protection, and clothes you don't mind getting stained are advised. Register at http://annenbergbeachhouse.com/beachculture. Annenberg Beach House, 415 PCH, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 25

Santa Monica Rep Play Reading: Uncle Vanya
Santa Monica Rep performs Anton Chekhov's dramatic masterpiece Uncle Vanya. Seating is limited, and on a first arrival basis. Late seating is not permitted until a suitable break in the performance. Early arrival is recommended. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 – 4:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

LA parking lots owner gets 6 years for swindling VA

A man who operated parking lots for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles has been sentenced for bilking the agency of $13 million and bribing the official who granted his parking contracts.

Richard Scott of Santa Monica was sentenced Monday to nearly six years in federal prison for conspiracy and wire fraud.

Scott also was ordered to pay the VA $12.6 million in restitution.

Scott owned Westside Service LLC. Prosecutors say he kept two sets of books for 15 years, stashing millions in unreported cash and millions more in over-reported expenses.

Court papers show Scott underreported revenue by at least $4.6 million and over-reported expenses by at least $8.2 million.

Scott, who pleaded guilty in May, has been in custody since his arrest last November.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles man pleads guilty in foreign bank scheme

A Los Angeles man accused of hiding more than $1 million in foreign bank accounts has pleaded guilty to federal charges.

Ben Zion Birman entered a plea Monday to willfully failing to file reports disclosing his offshore accounts.

Prosecutors say Birman secreted the money in Bank Leumi, based in Israel, and accessed it through loans designed to conceal the foreign accounts.

He could face up to five years in prison.

In 2014, Bank Leumi acknowledged that for at least a decade, it had conspired to help U.S. taxpayers hide their income. The bank paid the U.S. government $270 million.

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SACRAMENTO

Surf's up in California, where it's now the official sport

Surf's up in California, where it's now the official state sport.

Gov. Jerry Brown announced Monday that he has signed a bill making it so.

The new law declares surfing to be "an iconic California sport" — though it acknowledges that surfing originated with the Polynesian people and was imported into California from Hawaii.

Still, it says Californians have embraced surfing and made important contributions to the modern sport.

"Nothing represents the California Dream better than surfing -- riding the waves and living in harmony with the beautiful beaches and ocean of our Golden State," avid surfer and Democratic state Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi of Torrance said when he introduced the bill.

The state's 1,100 miles (1,770 kilometers) of coastline are home to a number of world-famous surf breaks, and California hosts the Surfers' Hall of Fame, the International Surfing Museum, and the California Surf Museum. It's also the site of the International Surf Festival, the U.S. Open of Surfing, the Mavericks Big Wave Surf Contest and the Founders' Cup of Surfing.

The law officially claims California is the heart of the surfboard building industry and that surf forecasting and the neoprene wetsuit were both invented in California.

Muratsuchi estimated that surfing generates more than $6 billion in annual retail sales, playing a key role in the state's coastal tourism and recreation economy.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

FBI: Chinese man kidnapped after business meeting in LA

The FBI is looking for three suspects who kidnapped a Chinese man after a business meeting in the Los Angeles area last month, but authorities haven't heard from the kidnappers since they demanded a $2 million ransom and the man remains missing, investigators said Monday.

Ruochen "Tony" Liao, 28, was abducted by three men on July 16 in San Gabriel — about 10 miles (16 kilometers) east of downtown Los Angeles — according to Gene Kowel, an assistant special-agent-in-charge at the FBI's office in Los Angeles.

Liao, who owns a Southern California car dealership that sold high-end cars, such as Porches and Bentleys, had just finished an evening meeting with several business associates when three men pulled up in two vehicles — a Toyota minivan and a Range Rover — and abducted him, officials said.

After they kidnapped him, the abductors contacted Liao's family and demanded that they pay a $2 million ransom, but the money was not paid, Kowel said.

On Monday, the FBI released a sketch of one of the men they believe was involved in the kidnapping, who they suspect may have been an acquaintance of Liao. The man, who the FBI identified only as "David," had attended the business meeting with Liao, according to Matthew Lombard, an attorney for Liao's family.

Investigators are examining several theories in the case, including the possibility that Liao was involved in a business dispute and Liao had previously been involved in business deals with people who "were not the most reputable," Kowel said.

Although the kidnappers had reached out initially to demand the ransom, Liao's family has not heard from them in about a month, he said.

"Our hope is that Tony is still alive. We're operating under the premise that he is still alive," Kowel said. "However, we do become concerned as these cases progress the chance of someone remaining alive can diminish."

Liao's relatives, who live in China, are offering a $150,000 reward, in addition to a $25,000 reward being offered by the FBI for information that could lead them to locating Liao.

"He is a deeply loved person by his family," Lombard said. "He's their only child and they are very, very concerned for him."

MICHAEL BALSAMO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

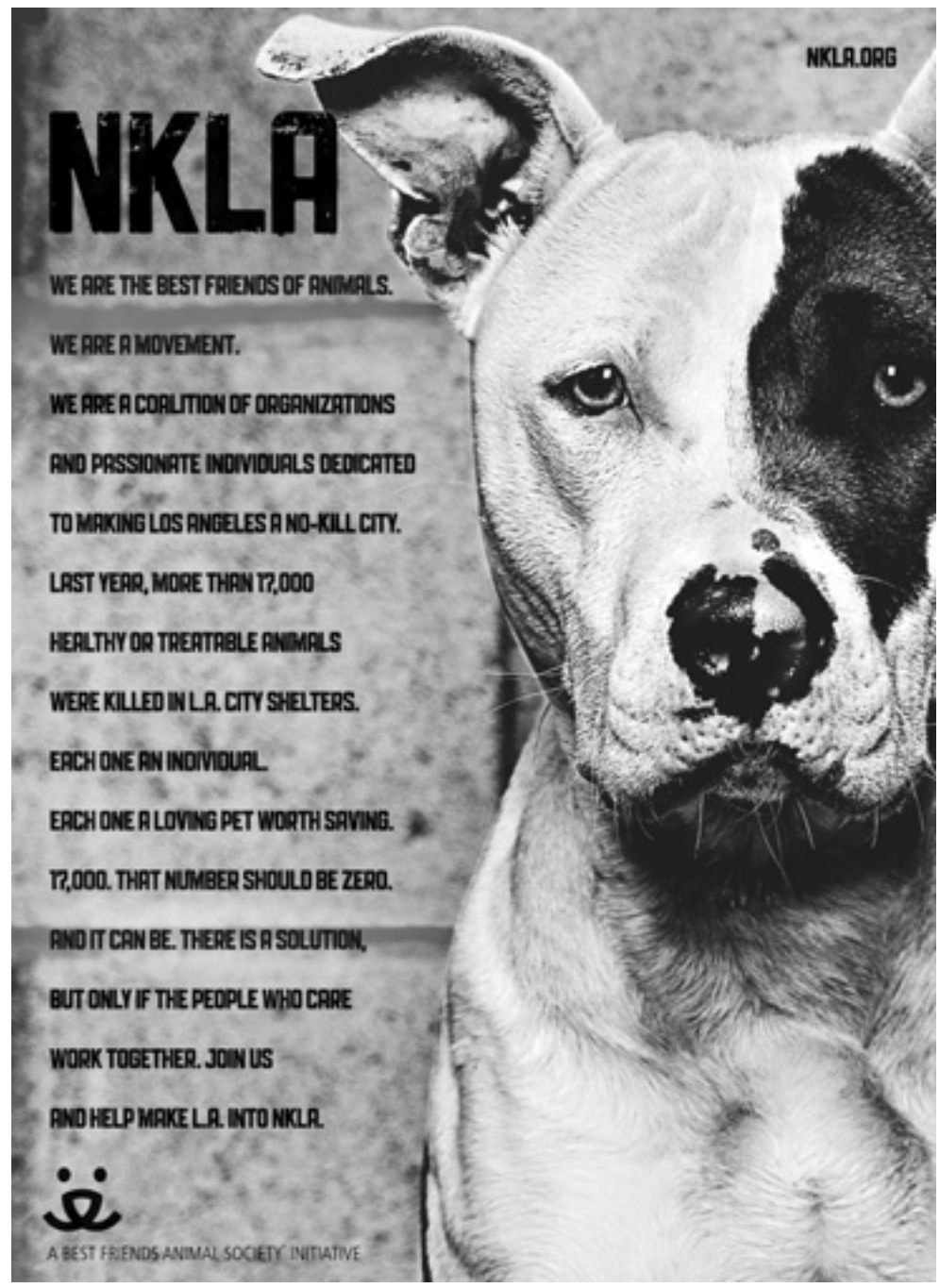
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WINNER



What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Summer Of Scooters End Is Here

THE SUMMER OF ESCOOTERS IS ALMOST over – will they survive? Probably in some form or fashion is my guess. They're both very popular, and very unpopular. The vast middle ground here seems to be a slim sliver of society at best.

Last week I was minding my own business in the hot tub at the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel when one of the other soakers decided to engage me on my affection for the "toy vehicles" as some refer to them.

His basic argument was, "I like them, and I hate them. People are irresponsible and the company should be held accountable for the bad behavior of its riders. Something has to be done, but I think we need to have alternatives to the incredible traffic snarls we're having."

Of course this engagement with me was contentious. You can't throw out red meat to a carnivore and expect them to not eat it, and this type of emotional, unformed thinking is the ultimate red meat to a lawyer.

I tried to point out to him that there are limits to what the company should be held responsible for – after all we don't get to sue the car manufacturers when a drunk driver kills someone. So why would we hold Bird or Lime responsible when a rider causes an accident by being where they're not supposed to be?

Similarly, when one person uses a gun to shoot and kill someone else, there's no vicarious liability to the manufacturers. The fact is that whether it's a car, a scooter or a gun, they are all just inanimate objects that are then either used properly or improperly and it is the user who is responsible for the damages they cause.

Now the "something" that needs to be done is open for discussion. Lime has geofenced the bikepath to prevent people using them there. This is an industry solution to a problem that seems to work well. I was just consulting in Denver on a business retreat I do, and there the eScooters are popular, but also more regulated. There is a large amount of the city and campus that is geofenced, and there are also fewer eScooters. Which resulted in an interesting bonus to the companies. When using an eScooter if you want to keep it, you can continue to pay the per minute charges and then the eScooter is "locked" and no one else can access it. This has the unique benefits of increasing the demand, and increasing the per scooter profit because there is now more revenue, but less expense as the batteries are not being used.

I've predicted that the market will respond to the eScooter issue and it seems to have done so in Denver. I believe it will here as well. They're popular, they're useful and even with the oppressive regulation of helmets and road access, they will continue to grow as a viable alternative to driving in this small community that is rapidly becoming so congested that the only viable alternative is to shut down some streets to cars, and force a pedestrian lifestyle.

My forecast here is based on a conversation I had with a local architect who keeps up with the planning commission's work in progress. His warning to me was, "in 5 years you wont recognize this city" – heck I barely recognize it now! With the soon to be replaced bowling alley to become yet another monolithic residential/retail abortion one can only expect to see this city become the Manhattan of the West Coast.

Land owners are entitled to develop their property – the city though is supposed to regulate how, when, and what sort of limits they place on that development. We have almost no infrastructure increases planned and yet the load on the city continues to grow. I don't see how the 'livability factor' of this city can remain high, if we continue to allow runaway development, do little to assist the homeless and continue to engage in hyper-regulation of valid solutions that will eventually either kill the solutions, or make this city intolerable.

Denver is a beautiful city, has a strong tourism trade, and yet remains a livable, workable city, that is embracing change and solutions. We can take a lesson or two from them. Starting with being more hospitable to the eScooters, and less to the rampant development with no concessions for infrastructure development.

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



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Smoke across US West blots out mountains, poses health risks

BY SALLY HO & GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

Smoke from wildfires clogged the sky across the U.S. West, blotting out mountains and city skylines from Oregon to Colorado, delaying flights and forcing authorities to tell even healthy adults in the Seattle area to stay indoors.

As large cities dealt with unhealthy air for a second summer in a row, experts warned that it could become more common as the American West faces larger and more destructive wildfires because of heat and drought blamed on climate change. Officials also must prioritize resources during the longer firefighting season, so some blazes may be allowed to burn in unpopulated areas.

Seattle's Space Needle was swathed in haze, and it was impossible to see nearby mountains. Portland, Oregon, residents who were up early saw a blood-red sun shrouded in smoke and huffed their way through another day of polluted air. Portland Public Schools suspended all outdoor sports practices.

Thick smoke in Denver blocked the view of some of Colorado's famous mountains and prompted an air quality health advisory for the northeastern quarter of the state.

The smoky pollution, even in Colorado, came from wildfires in British Columbia and the Northwest's Cascade Mountains, clouding a season that many spend outdoors.

Portland resident Zach Simon supervised a group of children in a summer biking camp who paused at a huge water fountain by the Willamette River, where gray, smoky haze obscured a view of Mount Hood.

Simon said he won't let the kids ride as far or take part in as many running games like tag while the air quality is bad.

"I went biking yesterday, and I really felt it in my lungs, and I was really headachy and like, lethargic," Simon said Monday. "Today, biking, you can see the whole city in haze and you can't see the skyline."

In Colorado, Sid Vaughn, who works at a Boulder shoe store called the Boulder Running Co., did his usual 9-mile run Monday despite the smoke.

"It didn't feel that great to my lungs," he said.

Forest fires are common, but typical Seattle-area weather pushes it out of the way quickly. The latest round of prolonged smoke happened as hot temperatures and high pressure collided, said Andrew Wineke, a spokesman for the state Ecology Department's air quality program.

It's a rare occurrence that also happened last year, raising concerns for many locals that it may become normal during wildfire season. Wineke said climate change is expected to contribute to many more fires.

"The trend is clear. You see the number of forest fires increasing, and so there's going to be wildfires," Wineke said. "There's going to be smoke. It's going to be somewhere."

The Federal Aviation Administration said airplanes bound for the Sea-Tac International Airport, Seattle's main airport, may be delayed because of low visibility.

In Spokane, air quality slipped into the "hazardous" range. Thick haze hung over Washington's second-largest city, forcing vehicles to turn on their headlights during the morning commute.

The air quality was so bad that everyone, regardless of physical condition or age, will likely be affected, according to the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency.

The haze caused Gonzaga and Eastern Washington universities to cancel soccer matches Sunday, and Spokane to delay some garbage service until Tuesday to protect workers.

In California, winds blew smoke from several wildfires into the San Francisco Bay Area, where hazy air blanketed the skies and authorities issued an air quality advisory through Tuesday.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District issued a "Spare the Air" alert, which recommends people don't drive to avoid adding more pollutants to the air and advises those with health problems to limit outdoor exposure because and stay in air-conditioned buildings.

Health officials say signs of smoke-related health symptoms include coughing, scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, headaches, stinging eyes and runny nose. Those with heart disease may experience chest pain, irregular heartbeats, shortness of breath and fatigue.

Patients at Denver's National Jewish Health, a respiratory hospital, were reporting worsening symptoms, hospital spokesman Adam Dormuth said.

In Portland, six tourists from Lincoln, Nebraska, posed for a photo in front of the Willamette River with the usual Mount Hood backdrop shrouded in haze. The group of siblings and friends rented an RV and drove in to visit a sister who recently moved to the area.

"We are disappointed that we can't see the mountains and the whole city, because our relatives live here and tell us how pretty it is, and we're missing it," Bev Harris said. "We're from tornado alley, and we don't have wildfires. It's a different experience."

Flaccus reported from Portland, Oregon. Associated Press reporters Nicholas K. Geranios in Spokane, Dan Elliott in Denver and Olga Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed to this story.

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PROPOSED NEW ISSUE

UNDERLYING RATINGS: Moody's "Aaa"
Standard & Poor's "AA+"

$120,000,000*

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
(Los Angeles County, California)
General Obligation Bonds
Election of 2012, Series D

Anticipated date of offering on or about
August 22, 2018

The offering of Bonds will be made only by the Official Statement, which describes the security for such issue and which may be obtained in any state in which the undersigned may lawfully offer such issue.

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*Preliminary, subject to change

PLASTIC

FROM PAGE 1

who raises money for arts, STEM and additional programs in the district. They've raised $339,879 for the school year (July 1 – August 15) thus far.

The Santa Monica Malibu Classroom Teachers Association also had an update to share, mainly their excitement for the school year.

"We're revving up to start the new year, everyone is working very hard at every level in the district," Sarah Braff, president of SMMCTA said. "From the very top to the very bottom, everyone is cooking on all 8 cylinders, maybe even 12."

She applauded Dr.Drati's three-pronged approach to education and more in the district, an approach which includes creating a culture of shared accountability, teaching cross-cultural/socio-economic skills and engaging in constant self-reflection around the issue of equity.

Braff added that social justice and restorative justice (provides alternatives to punitive actions through methods such as discussion circles) aspects of the approach are "all things needed to be done to make change," and acknowledged that to further change in the district, there will be "difficult discussions" but says the district is "on the right path."

Lastly, Dr.Drati gave a Superintendent's update, summarizing summer efforts to improve the district. He cited employee training and perhaps most important to the public, construction.

"Some of you may have passed by our schools, a lot of work has gone on. It may seem, 'Wow how can we be ready when school starts,' with some of those campuses, but just realize it was like that last year. They'll get it done. Schools will be open and students will be ready to go."

angel@smdp.com

SCOOTERS

FROM PAGE 1

Santa Monica businesses to advocate for an extension of the timeline for pilot program applications to be properly evaluated and to ask for more transparency in the evaluation process," the letter said.

Businesses signed onto the letter include Cha Cha Chicken, Coral Tree Cafe, Bay Cities Deli, Rocco's Cheesecake, The Hive, Santa Monica Music Center and Sweaty Betty.

Several of the listed businesses have already partnered with Lime, which launched in Santa Monica earlier this summer, to allow onsite scooter parking, trip credits for customers and a digital flag within the Lime app's mapping system. The start-up promised to tap into its "LimeHub" network to distribute free helmets to first time riders in its application to participate in the pilot.

The letter said Lime in particular has "clearly learned how to improve their service in Santa Monica."

Businesses can also partner with locally based Bird Scooters to serve as a docking point for electric scooters.

The owner of Aussie Pie Kitchen signed onto the letter but said he didn't have a preference which companies operate here as long as users behave better.

"We're interested in more transparency," Nick Bishop said. Bishop said the scooters help customers quickly get from downtown to his cafe on Main Street (which will close later this month). "I think it's a good thing if it's under control."

The selection committee made up of city staffers and a Santa Monica Police Department traffic officers graded thirteen applications on experience, operations, ability to launch, public education, compliance, financials, parking and safety and insurance. Lime came in fourth overall, behind Lyft, Jump and Spin, in the scooter category. Bird came in tenth overall.

"Bird is a home-grown Santa Monica company that for almost a year has been delivering on our mission of getting more cars off the road to reduce traffic and carbon emissions. Last week alone, over 14,000 emails were sent to the City of Santa Monica by residents, businesses, and community organizations urging officials to allow Bird's continued service of the city. We are so grateful for this enormous support from our hometown, and we are hopeful that Santa Monica will continue to work with us under its new pilot program," said a Bird spokesperson.

kate@smdp.com

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A mind is responsible
for the traffic light, the blood bank, ice cream,
peanut butter, the doorknob, the microphone, the elevator,
clothes dryer, lawn mower, pacemaker, the typewriter, guided
missile, mailbox, the air conditioner, automatic transmission, curtain
rod, baby carriage, lawn sprinkler, fountain pen, dust pan, the hand
stamp, first open-heart surgery, cataract laser, fire extinguisher, doorstop,
home security camera, the golf tee, fire escape, potato chip, food preservation,
synthesized cortisone, the guitar, railroad telegraphy, envelope seal, printing press,
bicycle frame, rocket catapult, insect destroyer gun, ice cream scoop, window cleaner,
laser fuels, folding chair, gas mask, mop, refrigerator, pressing comb, urinalysis
machine, door lock, electric cutoff switch, telephone transmitter, stair-climbing wheel-
chair, hairbrush, egg beater, eye protector, electric lamp bulb, biscuit cutter, chamber
commode, almanac, horse shoe, lunch pail, motor, lantern, key chain, furniture caster,
ironing board, sugar-refining system, lemon squeezer, portable weighing scales,
wrench, airplane propeller, ore bucket, steam boiler, portable x-ray machine, cotton
chopper fertilizer, street sweeper, cattle-roping apparatus, spark plug, galoshes, casket-
lowering device, clothes wringer, disrail car coupling, riding saddles, and so on
and so on. The list is endless. Indeed, it's time to stop and celebrate the fact
that each and every one of the wonderful innovations mentioned here came
from the mind. The mind of an African American. By supporting minority
education, you keep open the possibility of tomorrow's great ideas.
Because of all the things that the human mind has created,
perhaps the most amazing is the one that has yet
to be created. And that possibility is
a terrible thing to waste.

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Credit Shea Flynn

BRANDING: **FlixBus works with local partners who purchase and operate the busses.**

FLIXBUS

FROM PAGE 1

FlixBus has several other stops in Los Angeles including Downtown, UCLA and USC with more destinations available depending on the departure location. Destinations available from Los Angeles include San Jose, San Francisco, Sacramento and San Diego. A same-day booking from USC to San Francisco costs $19.99 for a travel time of just over eight hours. Gourdain said prices will increase over time as more people literally get on board but the service is committed facilitating travel for everyone with low fares.

Gourdain said the company plans to expand the Santa Monica offerings with San Diego being the most likely addition.

He said the company is a lean, efficient operation that leverages technology to lower costs. They use a data-driven approach to expansion and said the West Coast was a target for them after they saw American riders of their European busses actually ranked the service more favorably than the European riders.

According to Gourdain, adapting to the American market has been relatively easy because American's understand the entrepreneurial spirit of the company and the country has a strong infrastructure for busses. He said American customers are benefitting from the lessons learned while working in Europe.

"Now we come with the best product we can find in the industry, now we come in with something really strong," he said.

Gourdain said the local municipalities have been welcoming to the company because they provide a missing piece of the transit puzzle for individuals who want to drive less. He said those customers can use a shared bike/scooter for their short trips, carshares for the medium trips and now the bus for their long-distance travel.

He said the biggest challenge is changing the public perception of the bus and making bus travel cool again.

"Santa Monica has been plagued by traffic for the past year and FlixBus is part of the solution here in offering an alternative means of transportation," he said.

The Flixbus stop is located at 1200 3rd Street Promenade. For more information, visit www.FlixBus.com or download their app.

editor@smdp.com





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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **74.5°**

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WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



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

ON AUGUST 9, 2018 AT ABOUT 1:55 P.M.

While patrolling the area of 1500 4th Street, officers saw a subject loitering and acting suspiciously in Parking Structure 7 – 350 Broadway. As officer approached, the subject walked away and attempted to avoid any contact. Officers stopped to talk with him. The subject was on probation for domestic violence with active search conditions. A search of his person and backpack, led to the recovery of a methamphetamine pipe and burglary tools – bolt cutters, wrenches, pliers. The subject was taken into custody. Ricardo Adelmo Ibarracenteno, 29, homeless, was arrested for possession of burglary tools, possession of narcotics paraphernalia and a probation violation. Bail was set at $10,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 390 Calls For Service On August 19.

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

Burglary 1700 block Ocean Park 12:11 a.m.
Shots fired 17th/California 12:15 a.m.
Domestic violence 1800 block 20th 12:19 a.m.
Public intoxication 1500 block Ocean 12:36 a.m.
Fight 1800 block 10th 12:53 a.m.
Grand theft 1400 block 2nd 01:38 a.m.
Grand theft auto Yale/Montana 01:48 a.m.
Battery 1300 block 14th 02:08 a.m.
Vandalism 3400 block Ocean Park 02:18 a.m.
Battery Main/Hill 02:24 a.m.
Battery Main/Hill 02:35 a.m.
Battery 14th/Santa Monica 02:40 a.m.
Grand theft auto Ocean/Seaside 02:56 a.m.
Shots fired 1700 block Ocean 03:53 a.m.
Person w/a gun 1200 block 23rd 06:02 a.m.
Missing person 1100 block Wilshire 09:19 a.m.
Bike theft 1300 block 14th 10:09 a.m.
Missing person 1100 block Wilshire 10:17 a.m.
Person down 1700 block Franklin 10:34 a.m.
Indecent exposure 400 block Santa Monica Pier 12:06 p.m.
Auto burglary Yale/Montana 12:47 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1000 block Ocean 12:54 p.m.
Injured person 2000 block Ocean Front Walk 1:01 p.m.
Sexual assault 1000 block 2nd 1:15 p.m.
Animal related incident 1100 block 12th 1:47 p.m.
Battery 300 block Santa Monica Pl 1:50 p.m.
Battery 1100 block Wilshire 3:03 p.m.
Fight 2900 block Main 3:30 p.m.
Burglary 800 block 5th 3:49 p.m.
Sexual assault 1500 block 2nd 4:39 p.m.
Animal related incident 2600 block Centinela 4:52 p.m.
Battery 22nd/Wilshire 5:18 p.m.
Burglary 1100 block 5th 5:55 p.m.
Fight Lincoln/Olympic 6:27 p.m.
Drinking in public 2200 block Virginia 6:42 p.m.
Burglary 1400 block 5th 6:51 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block 4th 7:05 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block 4th 7:42 p.m.
Animal related incident 500 block Broadway 7:48 p.m.
Domestic violence 2500 block Pico 7:52 p.m.
Drunk driving 200 block Hollister 8:36 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 2nd 9 p.m.
Death investigation 1900 block 20th 9:06 p.m.
Critical missing person 900 block 16th 9:10 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 2nd 9:24 p.m.
Encampment 1500 block 5th 9:29 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block 4th 9:39 p.m.
Fight 1000 block 6th 9:44 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 4th 9:53 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 10:04 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 10:13 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 2nd 11:20 p.m.
Prowler 400 block Bay 11:26 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 36 Calls For Service On August 19.

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

Traffic collision w/injury 17th/Michigan 04:09 a.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 900 block 14th 05:01 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service 1400 block 2nd 7:46 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1700 block San Vicente 08:20 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service 1300 block 17th 09:41 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Franklin 10:34 a.m.
EMS 700 block Pico 10:50 a.m.
EMS 2400 block Wilshire 11:44 a.m.
EMS 1900 block 17th 11:52 a.m.
EMS 1900 block 20th 11:54 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 20th 12:04 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 1900 block Lincoln 12:29 p.m.
EMS 1800 block Berkeley 12:49 p.m.
EMS 400 block Santa Monica 1:11 p.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica 1:55 p.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica 2:12 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block 4th 2:13 p.m.
EMS 900 block Palisades 3:25 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Pico 3:38 p.m.
EMS 1400 block Lincoln 3:40 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2900 block Montana 4:21 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 5:13 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Ocean 5:22 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 5:25 p.m.
EMS 500 block Colorado 6:13 p.m.
EMS 200 block Bicknell 6:33 p.m.
EMS 17th/Michigan 6:36 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1100 block Ashland 7:13 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Cloverfield 7:26 p.m.
Minor aircraft incident 3300 block D. Douglas loop 8:31 p.m.
EMS 2600 block Lincoln 8:45 p.m.
EMS 1900 block 20th 9:01 p.m.
EMS Ocean/Broadway 10:27 p.m.
EMS 900 block 3rd 10:47 p.m.
EMS 900 block 10th 10:57 p.m.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO • Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **letters@smdp.com**

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 8/18
24 34 52 61 67
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 60M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/17
1 31 32 47 56
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 102M

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 8/18
4 5 24 30 38
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 25M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/19
7 13 18 27 30

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 8/19
MIDDAY: 9 7 2
Draw Date: 8/19
EVENING: 9 4 8

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 8/19
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:44.52

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!

squamous

1. covered with or formed of squamae or scales.
2. scalelike.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Stories for the Waiting Room

■ The followers of Hippocrates -- the ancient Greek physician considered to be the "father of medicine" -- believed that the gender of newborns was determined by which of the father's testicles provided the sperm: right for males, left for females.

■ A rather crude, painful and ultimately misguided form of sex selection was sometimes practiced by binding the testicle of the gender one didn't want.

Never Say Diet

■ The Major League Eating speed-eating record for strawberry shortcake is 22 pounds in eight minutes, held by Carmen Cincotti. After a subsequent visit to the restroom, Cincotti felt strawbetter.

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

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

Sudoku

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

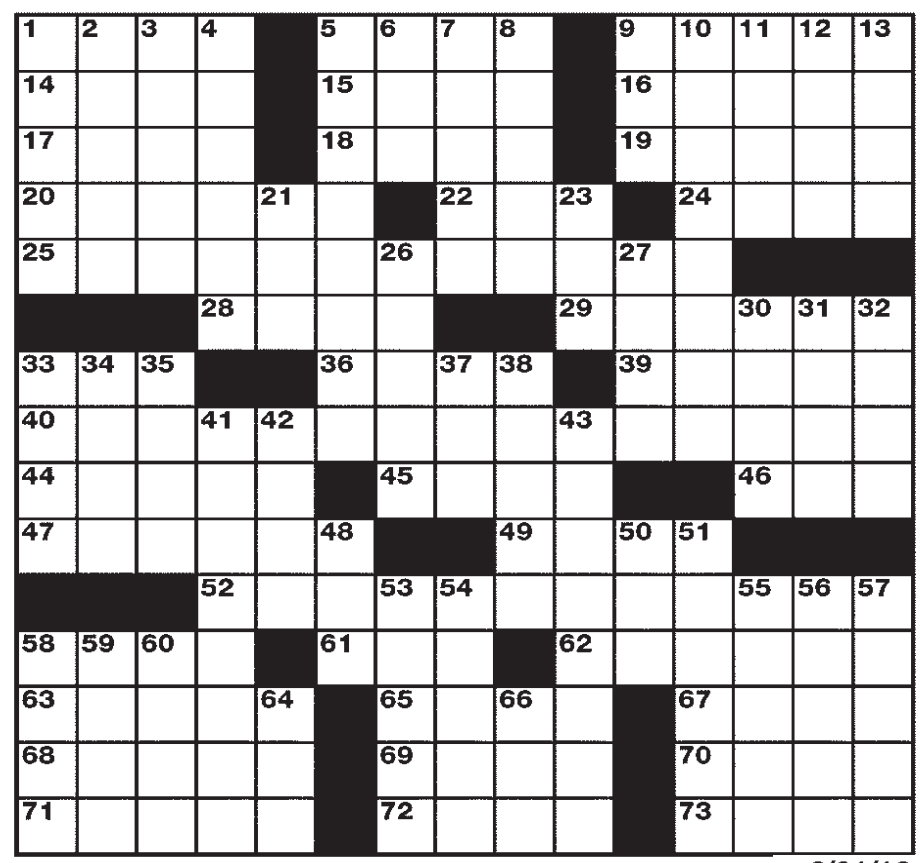
1	6	8	2	3	4	7	9	5
7	5	3	6	1	9	2	4	8
2	9	4	5	7	8	1	3	6
9	8	1	3	2	7	6	5	4
3	4	6	8	5	1	9	7	2
5	2	7	4	9	6	3	8	1
4	7	9	1	8	2	5	6	3
6	1	5	7	4	3	8	2	9
8	3	2	9	6	5	4	1	7

Newsday Crossword

PARTING WORDS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Minor disagreement
5 Without delay, in memos
9 Athlete's negotiator
14 Mexican food that's folded
15 Narrow road
16 Helicopter blade
17 Concerning
18 Tiny bit
19 Inspirational slogan
20 Hold in, as a sneeze
22 Winter skating surface
24 Homeowner's document
25 Common parting words
28 "I beg your pardon?"
29 Japanese maker of the Outback SUV
33 __ Lanka
36 Reveal a secret
39 Trooper's speed detector
40 Common parting words
44 Islamic Almighty
45 Wise one
46 Medicine prescribers: Abbr.
47 Give as a gift
49 All over again
52 Common parting words, from the Spanish
58 Bring under control
61 Triumphed
62 Underground room for wine
63 Fractions of a day
65 Prefix meaning "against"
67 Scientific test sites
68 Small bay
69 Tune for two singers
70 Norway's capital
71 With caraway, as some breads
72 Overwhelm with humor
73 "At what time?"

DOWN
1 Secret supply
2 Spaghetti, for example
3 Part of a long play
4 Not enough
5 Estrange
6 __ Paulo, Brazil
7 Playful prank
8 Tranquility
9 Elbow's location
10 Gift to a party guest
11 Suffix for luncheon
12 Brief memo
13 Walked (on)
21 "Well, __-di-dah!"
23 Newspaper execs.
26 News stories
27 Mystical glow
30 Father of Cain
31 Sudden attack
32 Caterer's coffeepots
33 Wild guess
34 Make angry
35 Misfortunes
37 Meadow
38 Permissible by law
41 Soaped up
42 Horse-stopping shout
43 Persistence
48 Direction opposite ENE
50 Mother of Cain
51 "Weeping" tree
53 Frog cousins
54 Declare void
55 Cut drastically, as prices
56 Dining surface
57 Fire-setting crime
58 "Step right __ way!"
59 Highest-rated
60 Stubborn beast
64 Pigpen
66 Coffee alternative



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 8/21/18

Official: Man detained in US wanted for murder in Mexico

CHRISTOPHER WEBER & MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

An immigrant in the U.S. illegally who was picked up while taking his wife to a hospital to give birth is the man wanted for a killing in Mexico, a Mexican government official said Monday after the man's lawyer suggested authorities have the wrong person.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said over the weekend that Joel Arrona Lara was wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant in a homicide case in Mexico, but Arrona attorney Emilio Amaya Garcia said he is unaware of any warrant and has been unable to confirm it with the Mexican consulate in Los Angeles

An official of the Mexican state of Guanajuato on Monday confirmed the warrant. The official spoke anonymously because the official was not authorized to be quoted by name and could not say when the crime occurred, but said it was an intentional homicide case akin to a U.S. murder charge. Mexican officials are prohibited by law from revealing criminal case details for fear of compromising ongoing investigations or depriving suspects of the presumption of innocence.

Arrona was detained last week while stopping for gas in San Bernardino, east of Los Angeles. His wife, Maria del Carmen Venegas, had to drive herself to a scheduled C-section.

Authorities might have mistaken Arrona for his brother, who has done jail time in Mexico, Garcia and Venegas told KCBS-TV .

His client "denies any criminal history in Mexico and he is unaware of any criminal proceedings in Mexico in which he is named as a defendant," Garcia told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Garcia said Monday that he still had not seen any court documents from Mexico.

Telephone email messages left Monday with the Mexican consulate in Los Angeles seeking comment were not returned.

"For us, the issue is not so much the arrest, but the fact that ICE acted in total disregard for health and the well-being of the mother," Garcia told the news station.

The couple was driving to the hospital Aug. 15 when they stopped at a gas station. Surveillance footage shows two vehicles immediately flank the couple's van. Agents questioned the couple and asked for identification, Venegas said Saturday.

Venegas, 32, said she provided hers but that Arrona had left his at home. The footage shows the agents handcuffing the 35-year-old Arrona and taking him away, leaving a sobbing Venegas alone at the gas station.

Venegas said she drove herself to the hospital for a scheduled cesarean section for the birth of her fifth child.

"I feel terrible," Venegas said in a telephone interview over the weekend from the hospital as her newborn son Damian cried in the background.

"We need him now more than ever," she said.

Venegas said she and her husband came to the U.S. 12 years ago from the city of Leon in Guanajuato state. They do not have legal authorization to live in the U.S., but all five of their children are U.S. citizens, she said.

Venegas said her husband is a hard worker and the sole provider for the family.

In a statement issued Saturday, Immigration and Custom Enforcement said Arrona "was brought to ICE's attention due to an outstanding warrant issued for his arrest in Mexico on homicide charges," spokeswoman Lori Haley said.

He remained in custody pending removal proceedings. Garcia said he is hoping a judge will grant his client bail.

Garcia planned to file a motion Monday for an immigration court to set a bail hearing for Arrona and will ask that his removal proceedings be canceled.

Stevenson reported from Mexico City. Associated Press writer Amanda Lee Myers in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 21)

This year represents your reaching a new comfort level within yourself, which comes across in a pleasant, friendly manner. Some will say you're flirting with the world. As you appreciate what's special about you, others see it, too, and put your talents to work. Financially and emotionally, the next 12 months are fantastic. Sagittarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 2, 10, 40 and 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
There are many reasons you "should" be happy. But reasons you "should" be happy are not reasons you are. You cannot feel happiness by other people's standards. Accept your feelings; they are the bottom line on the matter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Any effort to make yourself feel accepted, comfortable and soothed internally, and generally happy, will be well worth the effort. After all, how can you radiate a beautiful aura while feeling dark on the inside?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
You'll spend many hours of highly focused attention on productive and practical activities so that by evening it may feel like you have very little psychic energy to invest on your loved ones. Then love will repower you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Your water sign nature will help you get comfortable with the changes that come today. You'll be the boat, uniquely poised between two worlds, part in the ocean and part above it, ready to ride it out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Every generation thinks they are misunderstood by the generation before them and underappreciated by the generation behind them. When feelings arise on this topic, just know that they're shared by all ages.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
With so many people around you who need you, you have to be convinced to be selfish these days. Just don't forget that you're a person, too, and you can't give what you don't have. Replenish yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Visible reality is not the boss of you. But neither is the unseen world. Both will try to entice you, order you around, tell you what to want, how to feel. Get your balance between the two so you can stand your own ground.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Pretend you're an actor who can disengage yourself from the role at will. Step outside of it for a moment to figure out how best to play this. With a little detachment, you'll notice something about the plot you didn't before.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You'll help to assemble a group. Logistics and practicalities must be handled. Also consider, though there may be room in the room for all of the people, is there also room for their egos?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You can call on your talent to win the hour, but it won't win the day. That can't be won alone. Teamwork is the way. You'll use your social intelligence to trust, empathize and make the fair move.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Theories can only live in their own fictional world and are best either contained there or put into practice. There's a fine line between a theory that has never been tested and a lie.

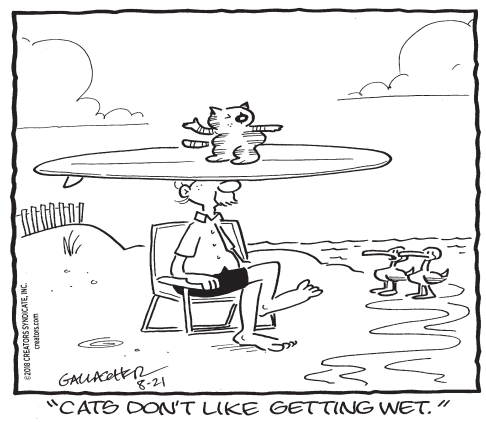
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
In the past, your sensitivity and empathy were exploited, but these are still among your most precious gifts to the world. Don't be afraid to use them, but do use them with a bit more discernment.

Last Day of Leo Sun Advice

Today's social stars come with a feeling similar to being stuck in an elevator of strangers with whom you have seemingly nothing in common. But by asking a few key questions, you'll find out that you are much more alike than you might have guessed, and in fact are "trapped" with the ideal group. Make it count before things start moving again.

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Trump ready to ease rules on coal-fired power plants

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

The Trump administration is set to roll back the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's efforts to slow global warming, the Clean Power Plan that restricts greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

A plan to be announced in coming days would give states broad authority to determine how to restrict carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. The Environmental Protect Agency announced late Monday that acting administrator Andrew Wheeler planned to brief the news media by telephone Tuesday on greenhouse guidelines for states to set performance standards for existing coal-fired power plants.

President Donald Trump is expected to promote the new plan at an appearance in West Virginia on Tuesday.

The plan also would let states relax pollution rules for power plants that need upgrades, according to a summary of the plan and several people familiar with the full proposal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the plan publicly.

Combined with a planned rollback of car-mileage standards, the plan represents a significant retreat from Obama-era efforts to fight climate change and would reverse an Obama-era push to shift away from coal and toward less-polluting energy sources such as natural gas, wind and solar power. Trump has already vowed to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate agreement as he pushes to revive the coal industry.

Trump also has directed Energy Secretary Rick Perry to take steps to bolster struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants to keep them open, warning that impending retirements of "fuel-secure" power plants that rely on coal and nuclear power are harming the nation's power grid and reducing its resilience.

The White House had no immediate comment on the plan, and the EPA didn't respond to requests for comment Monday.

A three-page summary being circulated at the White House focuses on boosting efficiency at coal-fired power plants and allowing states to reduce "wasteful compliance costs" while focusing on improved environmental outcomes. Critics say focusing on improved efficiency would allow utilities to run older, dirtier power plants more often, undercutting potential environmental benefits.

The White House rejects that criticism.

"Carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector will continue to fall under this rule, but this will happen legally and with proper respect for the states, unlike" the Clean Power Plan, the summary says. The AP obtained a copy of the summary, which asserts that the Obama-era plan exceeds the EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act.

Obama's plan was designed to cut U.S. carbon dioxide emissions to 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The rule dictated specific emission targets for states based on power-plant emissions and gave officials broad latitude to decide how to achieve reductions.

The Supreme Court put the plan on hold in 2016 following a legal challenge by industry and coal-friendly states, an order that remains in effect.

Even so, the Obama plan has been a factor in a wave of retirements of coal-fired plants, which also are being squeezed by lower costs for natural gas and renewable power and state mandates that promote energy conservation.

Trump has vowed to end what Republicans call a "war on coal" waged by Obama.

"This is really a plan to prop up coal plants — or try to," said David Doniger, a climate expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

The Trump plan "will make no meaningful reductions" in greenhouse gas emissions "and it probably will make emissions worse," Doniger said.

Gina McCarthy, who served as EPA administrator when the Clean Power Plan was created in 2015, said that based on draft proposals and news reports, she expects the plan will not set specific federal targets for reducing emissions from coal-fired plants. The plan is expected to address power plants individually rather than across the electric grid as the EPA proposed under Obama. The new plan would give utilities and states more flexibility in achieving emissions reductions, but critics say it could harm public health.

"They are continuing to play to their base and following industry's lead," McCarthy said of the Trump administration and its new acting administrator, Andrew Wheeler, a former coal industry lobbyist. "This is all about coal at all costs."

Michelle Bloodworth, president of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, a trade group that represents coal producers, called the new rule a marked departure from the "gross overreach" of the Obama administration and said it should prevent a host of premature coal-plant retirements.

"We agree with those policymakers who have become increasingly concerned that coal retirements are a threat to grid resilience and national security," she said.

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Ellen Knickmeyer contributed to this report.





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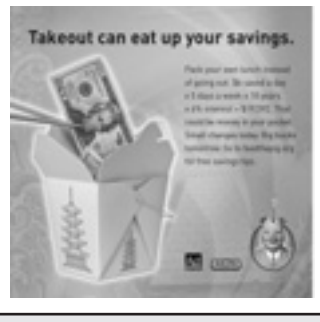
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