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@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

Microloan company receives major investment

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer



Courtesy photo

SHIVANI SIROYA: A Santa Monica woman is redefining how credit is defined for small borrowers.

A local startup that provides microloans to millions of people around the world who lack access to traditional banking just received its own financial boost.

Tala, a financial services company headquartered in Santa Monica, announced Wednesday that it has raised $110 million in Series D funding. The company has loaned more than $1 billion to four million people in five countries including Kenya and Mexico through an app that assigns users a credit score based on their mobile phone activity.

CEO Shivani Siroya founded Tala

SEE **COMPANY** PAGE 6

Enterprise Fish Co. celebrates 40 years



Courtesy photo

OPENING STAFF: There are a lot of new faces at Enterprise Fish Co when compared to the employees that opened the business 40 years ago but the restaurant's focus remains the same.

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

Surviving the restaurant scene in Santa Monica is a tough business. Overturn happens quite often (it was a valiant effort, Bareburger, Chaya, Native, Hinterland, et. al) and evolving and lasting in this city? It's for the fishes. Er, the Enterprise Fish Co restaurant, that is.

Enterprise Fish Co. is celebrating 40 years in Santa Monica (!) and to celebrate the occasion, the restaurant's menu items and prices will receive a throwback to what they were 40 years ago.

The discounts and throwback menu begins this Thursday, August 22 and runs through September 12. Owner Mike Bank will be present August 22 to celebrate with customers.

The discounted menu and prices will see alternating deals each Thursday ranging from 60-cent beers to a 40 dollar King Crab special. The nostalgia waxing and discounts are meant to give thanks to the community and hearken back to the days the restaurant's doors first opened in Santa Monica, now nearly half a

SEE **ENTERPRISE** PAGE 11

Schools reopen Thursday

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Thousands of drivers and pedestrians will return to their early morning and afternoon commutes when local schools reopen Thursday.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the Santa Monica Police Department are asking commuters to be patient with other drivers as they navigate back-to-school traffic and keep a sharp eye out for children walking to and from school. All 16 public schools in Santa Monica and Malibu will begin the 2019-2020 school year at 7:05 a.m. Thursday and let students out at 3:16 p.m.

"We urge residents and visitors to Santa Monica and Malibu to always drive carefully throughout the year," said SMMUSD spokesperson Gail Pinsker. "With the start of school on Thursday, please take additional care as many of our students walk and ride bikes to school. Please stay off your devices and watch for school zones to ensure the safety of families and neighbors at all times."

The Santa Monica Police Department is also asking parents to leave for school earlier than usual during the last weeks of August so they don't have to rush as they figure out new traffic conditions.

"I can't stress this enough —

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 11


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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

601 Colorado Avenue, Development Review 18ENT-0199. Development Review Permit to allow a new eight-story, 84-foot high, 90,000 square-foot mixed-use building with 140 market rate residential units, 10,665 square feet of ground floor commercial space, and a three-level subterranean parking garage designed to accommodate 114 automobiles and 239 bicycles.[Planner: Scott Albright] **Applicant: WS Communities – Scott Walter. Property Owner: 601 Colorado NMS, LLC.**

156 Fraser Avenue, Variance 19ENT-0036. The applicant requests approval of two Variances to allow for an addition of a third story to an existing single-unit dwelling and for a reduction of required parking from two spaces to zero. The subject property is located in the Low Density Residential (R2) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.42.020, Variances may be granted with respect to development standards upon the discretion of the Planning Commission. This item was reviewed and continued by the Commission on May 22, 2019. [Planner: Ross Fehrman, AICP] **Applicant: Chris Stage. Property Owner: Smith-Hantas Family Trust.**

1121 22ND Street, Extension of Vesting Tentative Tract Map #73727 (19ENT-0254). The applicant requests a three-year extension of the Planning Commission's approval on June 21, 2017, of an airspace subdivision at the subject property for the purposes of constructing a new three-unit residential condominium project. [Planner: Michael Rocque] **Applicant: Pacific Cove Development/Steve Lappin. Property Owner: 22nd at Wilshire, LLC.**

Proposed Text Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Official Districting Map to Amend Land Use Regulations on Commercial Properties on Pico Boulevard between Euclid Street and Centinela Avenue in conjunction with the Pico Wellbeing Project. A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider a Resolution recommending to the City Council the adoption of an Ordinance amending the text of the Zoning Ordinance and amending the Official Districting Map to modify land use regulations on commercial properties on Pico Boulevard between Euclid Street and Centinela Ave in conjunction with the Pico Wellbeing Project. More information can be found at https://picowellbeing.smgov.net.

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or to provide comments, please contact Steve Mizokami at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at steve.mizokami@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.smgov.net.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, Rapid 3, 7, 8, 9, Rapid 10, and 18 serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, August 21

Planning Commission Meeting
The Santa Monica Planning Commission normally meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month in the City Council Chamber. 7 p.m.

Soundwaves: Bobby Bradford
Legendary cornetist Bobby Bradford leads his sextet in a set of original jazz compositions. In addition to his own work, Bradford has recorded with Ornette Coleman, David Murray, John Carter, Vinny Golia, and William Parker. Main Library, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Montana Book Discussion Group: The Human Stain
In an insightful new novel by Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning author Philip Roth, a college professor with a sexual indiscretion in his past is hounded from his job by academic enemies who label him a racist. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Bullet Journaling 101
Stay on track this school year with a bullet journal, a fun and creative way to organize your life. Supplies provided. For ages 10-15. Fairview Branch Library, 3 - 4 p.m.

Senior TAP Workshop at Virginia Avenue Park
Apply for a free reduced fare TAP card and receive travel training. Staff from LA Metro's On The Move Riders Club will be on hand to provide information and help you start with a travel club nearby. Virginia Avenue Park, 1 - 2 p.m.

Classic Film & Discussion: Galaxy Quest (1999)
Film scholar Vivian Rosenberg screens and discusses this film in which the actors from a cancelled sci-fi series help aliens win a war. (Film runtime: 103 min.) Montana Avenue Branch Library, 2 - 5 p.m.

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

Baby Time
Storytime, songs and rhymes for babies ages 0-18 months. Ocean Park Branch Library, 10:45 - 11:05 a.m.

First day of school
All public schools will be back in session starting on Thursday, August 22.

Thursday, August 22

Get Started with 3D Printing
Learn the basics of 3D printing and design by completing a guided project during this 90-minute class. To register, email ideashappen@smgov.net. Main Library, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

LEGOS and Games
Get creative with LEGOs, try our fun tabletop games, or some coloring! Ages 4-10. Main Library, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Friday, August 23

Sunset Swim
Ages 18+ - Enjoy a fun evening at the pool, exclusively for adults. $10 adults, $5 senior (60+). No reservations required. 7 - 10 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House

Mat Pilates
Learn the techniques of Pilates, a system of controlled exercises that engage the mind and condition the total body. Montana Avenue Branch Library. Please bring a yoga or Pilates mat. 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

Saturday, August 24

Cardboard Yacht Regatta
8th annual Cardboard Yacht Regatta! Register by August 22. At home, build your own cardboard yacht to seat two people, and race across the pool. $15 per yacht. All ages. Spectators free. 5 - 8 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House. Register online at https://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/public-events.aspx

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

Facebook rolls out tool to block off-Facebook data gathering

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

Soon, you could get fewer familiar ads following you around the internet — or at least on Facebook.

Facebook is launching a long-promised tool that lets you block the social network from gathering information about you on outside websites and apps.

The company said Tuesday that it is adding a section where you can see the activity that Facebook tracks outside its service via its "like" buttons and other means. You can choose to turn off the tracking; otherwise, tracking will continue the same way it has been.

Formerly known as "clear history," the tool will now go by the somewhat awkward name "off-Facebook activity." The feature will be available in South Korea, Ireland and Spain on Tuesday, consistent with Facebook's tendency to launch features in smaller markets first. The company did not give a timeline for when it might expand it to the U.S. and other countries, only that it will be in "coming months."

Blocking the tracking, which is on by default, could mean fewer ads that seem familiar — for example, for a pair of shoes you decided not to buy, or a nonprofit you donated money to. It won't change the actual number of ads you'll see on Facebook.

Facebook faces increasing governmental scrutiny over its privacy practices, including a record $5 billion fine from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission for mishandling user data. Boosting its privacy protections could help the company pre-empt regulation and further punishment. But it's a delicate dance, as Facebook still depends on highly targeted advertising for nearly all of its revenue.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the "clear history" feature more than a year ago. The company said building it has been a complicated technical process, which is also the reason for the slow, gradual rollout. Facebook said it sought input from users, privacy experts and policymakers along the way, which led to some changes. For instance, users will be able to disconnect their activity from a specific websites or apps, or reconnect to a specific site while keeping other future tracking turned off.

You'll be able to access the feature by going to your Facebook settings and scrolling down to "your Facebook information." The "off-Facebook activity" section will be there when it launches.

The tool will let you delete your past browsing history from Facebook and prevent it from keeping track of your future clicks, taps and website visits going forward. Doing so means that Facebook won't use information gleaned from apps and websites to target ads to you on Facebook, Instagram and Messenger. It also won't use such information to show you posts that Facebook thinks you might like based on your offsite activity, such as news articles shared by your friends.

"We do think this could have an impact on our revenue," said Stephanie Max, product manager at Facebook, adding that this will depend on how people will use the tool. But she added that giving people "transparency and control" is important.

Off-Facebook activity is one of many pieces of information that Facebook uses to target ads to people. The changes won't affect how your actions on Facebook are used to show you ads. It also won't change the metrics Facebook sends back to advertisers to tell them how well their ads work.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: # 243 1318 FOURTH STREET AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

• Submission Deadline is November 1, 2019 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

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WINNER

Your column here

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Superintendent's Message: Pupil Fees Settlement Update

DEAR STAFF, PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES,

The district sent parents a letter on January 31, 2019 regarding a pending class action lawsuit against the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, de Baca, et al. v. Santa Monica-Malibu USD, LA Superior Court Case No. BC674932. The lawsuit alleges the district has charged unlawful "pupil fees" to parents and students in violation of the California Education Code and the California Constitution. Schools are prohibited from requiring a pupil to pay a fee, deposit or other charge not specifically authorized by law, for participation in an educational activity. We take pride in our commitment to equity and we seek to ensure that all students have access and opportunity to all aspects of our educational and extracurricular programs. We believe in the underlying values reflected in the law governing pupil fees.

From the onset, we contested the allegations against the district, and continue to contest them. We have a board policy and procedure for a parent to file a complaint if they believe they have been charged a fee, deposit or other charge inappropriately. Our policy and procedures are in accordance with state law. The policies and procedures posted in our annual parent handbook and online include: Uniform Complaint Policy and Uniform Complaint Administrative Regulation.

Our Uniform Complaint Procedure outlines this policy and provides instructions regarding how to submit a complaint. A complaint may be filed anonymously. This is described in our annual notice to parents on page 12, under Pupil Fees. We disagree with the recent statement of lead counsel for the plaintiffs, reported in the Santa Monica Daily Press, that "the district has really disregarded [this] constitutional right." To the contrary, we believe in this policy. We believe in this law. We strive for 100% compliance. This is one reason we have a procedure to correct any situation in which a fee might be charged in error.

Unfortunately, the court failed to uphold what we continue to believe is the correct interpretation of the procedural requirements in this area. The district then faced a situation in which it would have had to make a significant financial outlay to defend state law in the context of class action litigation, along with the accompanying risk that always exists in litigation — that we might not prevail. Given an assessment of these circumstances and upon my recommendation, and after careful deliberation, the SMMUSD Board of Education voted to accept settlement terms to be submitted to the court for approval. This was the best case scenario in terms of financial and operational cost to the district. Contrary to counsel's statement in the Santa Monica Daily Press, the settlement stipulation he signed states "[n]othing herein shall constitute an admission by [the district] of wrongdoing or liability or of the truth of any factual allegations" in the lawsuit.

The settlement terms approved by the school board are now in the court for preliminary and final approval. Until final court approval, the lawsuit is not finalized. Preliminary approval by the court is expected in September.

The district will work with other agencies such as the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and the California School Board Association (CSBA) to strengthen the language of state law related to the requirement to fully and completely exhaust the local complaint process, in good faith, prior to initiating expensive and unnecessary litigation. We are disappointed that plaintiffs' counsel chose to reject and essentially scoff at these procedures, choosing instead to file an expensive lawsuit against SMMUSD. The district stands ready to address any concerns parents have.

Please note that there will not be a significant or material change in the way we conduct activities or solicit donations. The proposed settlement regarding prospective and retrospective relief largely replicates the procedures we already follow as a district in terms of soliciting donations and providing access to an administrative remedy through the formal complaint process.

However, what will be more clearly visible is our intentional and diligent communication regarding what is a permissible charge and a voluntary donation for an activity. If a student/parent believes they have been charged a fee unlawfully, upon notification of the district, the district will investigate and the student/parent and all other affected students/parents will be reimbursed if illegal fees have been charged, as is our current and continuing practice.

We are pleased this case is now awaiting court approval of the settlement agreement. The action to settle out of court potentially saves the district and local taxpayers from an additional financial burden.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent

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



Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What's the rush?

TOOLIN' AROUND SANTA MONICA

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, I thought I'd check out a few things firsthand. But taking it slow. No wheelies, no burnt rubber patches today from my teenaged Prius, no sir. Easy does it. Want to take it s-l-o-w, real slow. Like our City government.

First stop, Reed Park, for the miracle of the loaves and fishes, the beef brisket and Brazilian chicken stroganoff. Man, with that kind of menu I should have gotten in line, but there were more than 100 souls, most of them probably truly hungry.

Santa Monican Steve Petramale says that back in May of last year he was at Reed Park with his then-11-year-old son, who noticed a dozen homeless people in the park who looked hungry. His son wanted to feed the hungry homeless, so every Sunday for over a year, that's what the Petramales have done. Much of it out of his own pocket, Steve says. His son and wife also cook. Kudos to Steve for being a compassionate man of action, and for raising a kid of compassion. Heroes all three.

If, his story is complete and true. But it makes me wonder at the coincidence of him coming in to feed people at Reed Park within a week or so of the good folks at Westside Vineyard Church of Mar Vista finally having been persuaded to give up their feedings there — after 20 years.

THE VINEYARD PASTOR

Finally issued a statement of mea culpa for the unintended harm their charitable act caused the community of Santa Monica. So, are we to believe that Petramale never heard about this, in more than a year? No one from the City who is trying to resolve it outside of court brought this up to him?

A cease and desist letter was finally sent to Petramale by the City, stating he would be cited if he showed up again. He did, last Sunday, defiantly — "who's going to feed these people if I don't?" — but the promised citation was not issued. The County, whose laws he is also violating, has not issued a citation, in nearly a year since being asked to do so by the City of SM. Take it slow. Next stop:

THE ZUNI HOUSE

Now, the Zuni Youth Hostel. Growing up in NM, not that far from the Zuni Pueblo, I have a particular affection for this gorgeous 1924 Pueblo Revival-style historic home. It looks from outside like it has been well-cared for, for many decades. Will that continue now that it is owned by a corporation in Houston, and managed by a Japanese man who came here as a student, who advertises that he can accommodate 36 guests in this five-bedroom home?

The neighbors, understandably, are not happy. They live on what used to be a quiet cul-de-sac on the northwestern edge of the city, previously considered a great residential area. Not zoned for businesses. When I recently attended a meeting of the neighbors, I observed lots of trash, cans, plastic and a sea of cigarette butts, in front of this home only, on an otherwise pristine block. In stopping by this last Sunday, I counted four scooters and a bright red rental bike near the home-hostel.

I knocked on the door of 40—year next door neighbor George Preonas, to ask if there had been any developments, but he wasn't home. He later wrote me, "They say they are still investigating." Aug. 12 he received a response from Council member Ted Winterer, a link to an SMDP news story about a woman successfully prosecuted and fined for taking 13 units off the SM rental market, turned into short-term Airbnb vacation rentals.

That took two years. (I suggested to Preonas that he should not hold his breath.) So I headed home — slowly — to check out the iconic

MUIR WOODS MURAL

— at the corner of Lincoln and Ocean Park. Not looking so iconic these days. School district officials decided they had to scrape and sandblast areas that were peeling because the lead paint could seep into the soil below, and did so about a week ago.

I stopped to look, and take photos, and who should be driving by at just that moment but SMMUSD Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton. His instincts were correct: I had just sat down on the retaining wall to call Superintendent Drati to ask a few questions. Upton approached me there on the sidewalk and answered the ones I asked.

About the lead paint issue. That they covered the rest of it with a clear coating to protect it. Did you first take a complete set of good photographs, I asked? Yes. OK, good, thanks.

It's been five years since I alerted Jerry and Marissa Rubin about the evil plans to destroy that mural, and they were outraged. We formed Save the Muir Woods Mural and have been working all this time, gathering tree-mendous support.

The artist, Jane Golden, who went on from SM to gain worldwide fame as curator of more than 4,000 murals for the City of Philadelphia, issued a statement that she was excited about the possibility of coming here to oversee restoration.

That. Will. Happen. Or you don't know the steel will and political savvy of Jerry Rubin, and the refusal of Charles Andrews to give up.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The Pier

Pier concerts begin tonight

Starting August 21, and running six Wednesday nights through September 25, Twilight on the Pier will continue its long-standing tradition of celebrating emerging and established artists and sounds from around the world. Produced by the Santa Monica Pier Corporation (SMPC) and RH&S Concerts, (Rum & Humble and Spaceland Presents), the beloved six-week SoCal event features one of the most diverse and accomplished rosters of talent in the series' existence.

Formerly known as the Twilight Concert Series, Twilight on the Pier has been reimagined to offer a culturally-diverse and unique Pier-wide celebration. Each night of the series celebrates a different soundscape from around the world, including long-time favorites (Island Vibes, Aussie Splash and Latin Wave) and new themes (Middle East Beats, Japanese Vibes).

Lineup:

Twilight on the Pier kick-off // August 21 – Main Stage: ROSTAM. Opener: Dijon. West End: Jen Awad

Latin Wave // August 28 – Main Stage: HELADO NEGRO. Opener: San Cha. West End: Banda Las Angelinas.

Middle East Beats // September 4 – Main Stage: A-WA. Opener: Disco Shrine. West End: Los Angeles Arabs Orchestra.

Island Tides // September 11 – Main Stage: Hollie Cook. Opener: Western Standard Time Ska Orchestra. West End: Upstream

Aussie Splash // September 18 – Main Stage: Methyl Ethel. Opener: APRA Contest Winner. West End: APRA Contest Winner.

Japanese Vibes // September 25 – Main Stage: Cornelius. Main StageOpener: starRo. West End: TaikoProject

There will also be art, eats, wine & beer garden, interactive activations and more. The public beach adjacent to the Pier will not be activated as viewing or picnicking grounds like past seasons; instead, festival-goers will enjoy a Pier-wide takeover and a true festival-vibe on the deck.

Free Wednesdays: August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 18 & 25. 7 - 10 p.m.

www.twilightsantamonica.org

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ENDLESS SUMMER

Keep rolling out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer on the Third Street Promenade with a series of free events.

Beginning August 11

EVENT SCHEDULE

Where: The Experiment Stage
Third Street Promenade @ Wilshire Blvd

Shimmy Sundays | 12pm-1pm
EVERY SUNDAY THROUGH SEPT. 29
Get ready to exercise like never before with Dane Sorensen, a former figure skater, gymnast, dancer and certified pilates instructor whose high-energy classes are loaded with good music and lots of laughs.

Salsa Sundays
4-6pm: Lessons / 6pm-10pm: Dancing
EVERY SUNDAY THROUGH SEPT. 29
Ignite the evening with Salsa Familia for a night of dancing under the stars on the Third Street Promenade. All levels of dancers are invited.

Kid Fit | 1pm-2pm
EVERY MONDAY THROUGH SEPT. 30
Enjoy memory-making fun with your favorite little one at this free exercise series for parents and their kids. (No class on Labor Day)

Work it Wednesdays | 6pm-7pm
EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH SEPT. 25
Get the extra boost to push over that midweek hump with free exercise classes hosted by local fitness experts.

Laugh Out Loud | 7pm-8:30pm
EVERY THURSDAY THROUGH SEPT. 26
Westside Comedy Theatre presents Mission IMPROVable, the Westside's best improvisational comedy show.

Fridays with Family | 7pm
EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH SEPT. 27
Spend Friday nights on the Third Street Promenade with a series of family-friendly events.

Heard That | 8pm-10pm
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COMPANY

FROM PAGE 1

in 2014 after working with the United Nations Population Fund, where she interviewed thousands of people in India, Sub-Saharan Africa and other emerging markets to study the impact of microfinance on their lives.

Siroya said she realized that banks couldn't lend money to many entrepreneurs in those countries because they lacked a documented financial history. When people she knew personally needed capital for their businesses but couldn't access it, she became so frustrated by their situation that she started lending to some of these individuals out of her own savings.

"In doing so, I quickly realized how I was using details from their daily lives to decide who was trustworthy – not the traditional indicators used in formal institutions," Siroya said. "I started to brainstorm ways to capture and use the data generated by people's daily lives to build a credit score for them."

The app that Siroya developed allows anyone with an Android smartphone to apply for a loan between $10 and $500. Tala collects thousands of data points about the device itself and certain behavioral patterns, such as texts, calls and transactions to assign each user a credit score. To combat bias in its scoring, Siroya said, the platform does not analyze gender or location.

More than 90% of customers repay their loans and 95% take out another loan, she said.

Siroya said the Series D investment will allow Tala to expand in India and other markets and launch new products on its platform, such as a medical microinsurance pilot and financial coaching programs.

"We are excited about our microinsurance pilot, which helps protect our customers in times of medical emergencies, and our financial coaching programs, which we offer online and offline to help customers become more financially savvy and even share their best practices with each other," Siroya said.

The company will also grow its team across its offices in Santa Monica, Nairobi, Mexico City, Manila and Bangalore. An additional $100 million in debt financing will support Tala's global portfolio.

The Series D funding round was led by late-stage venture capital firm RPS Ventures, which is based in Palo Alto, with participation from GGV Capital, a global venture capital firm based in Menlo Park.

Previous investors including IVP, Revolution Growth, Lowercase Capital, Data Collective VC, ThomVest Ventures and PayPal also participated in the funding round, which brings Tala's total fundraising to $215 million.

"This round of investment will allow us to continue towards our vision of a world where the financial system works better for everyone," Siroya said.

madeleine@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737



California to build largest wildlife crossing in world

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

Like many urban singles, the mountain lion P-22 lives a solitary life in a too-small habitat. And he has a hard time finding a mate in the big city.

Famous for traveling across two freeways and making a huge Los Angeles park his home, the lonesome big cat has become a symbol of the shrinking genetic diversity of wild animals that must remain all but trapped by sprawling development or risk becoming roadkill.

Hoping to fend off the extinction of mountain lions and other species that require room to roam, transportation officials and conservationists will build a mostly privately funded wildlife crossing over a major Southern California highway. It will give big cats, coyotes, deer, lizards, snakes and other creatures a safe route to open space and better access to food and potential mates.

The span along U.S. 101 will only be the second animal overpass in a state where tunnels are more common. Officials say it will be the first of its kind near a major metropolis and the largest in the world, stretching 200 feet (61 meters) above 10 lanes of busy highway and a feeder road just 35 miles (56 kilometers) northwest of downtown LA.

"When the freeway went in, it cut off an ecosystem. We're just now seeing impacts of that," Beth Pratt of the National Wildlife Federation told The Associated Press.

Scientists tracking mountain lions fitted with GPS collars found that roadways are largely trapping animals in the Santa Monica Mountains, which run along the Malibu coast and across the middle of Los Angeles to Griffith Park, where P-22 settled.

"They can't get out of here to get dates, and cats can't get in to get dates. ... For those of us in LA, having a romance prospect quashed by traffic is something we can all relate to," Pratt said.

The result of that isolation, researchers say, is imminent genetic collapse for mountain lions. Habitat loss has driven the populations to inbreeding that could lead to extinction within 15 years unless the big cats regularly connect with other populations to increase their diversity, according to a study published this year by the University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Davis; and the National Park Service.

The $87 million bridge last month entered its final design phase. It's on track for groundbreaking within two years and completion by 2023, according to engineer Sheik Moinuddin, project manager with the California Department of Transportation. Construction will take place mostly at night and won't require any lengthy shutdowns of the 101 freeway, officials said.

Moinuddin said Caltrans considers it a "special" project that the agency hopes will inspire others like it across the state.

One of the reasons it's special is that 80% of the money to build it will come from private sources, Pratt said. She's in charge of fundraising and is using P-22 — "the Brad Pitt of the cougar world" — as the poster cat for the campaign.

"He is world famous, handsome, everybody loves him," she said about the cougar that's been photographed in his park home with the Hollywood sign as a backdrop.

Despite being the face of the project, P-22 is unlikely to use the bridge because he's confined to the park many miles away. But many of his relatives could benefit, Pratt said.

More than $13.5 million in private funding has already been raised, Pratt said. Officials are considering offering naming rights to the bridge if an entity or individual — perhaps a Hollywood studio or star — ponies up a significant donation, she said.

The remaining 20% will come from public funds already allocated toward conservation projects, officials said.

Some 300,000 cars a day travel that stretch of the 101 in Agoura Hills, a small city surrounded by a patchwork of protected wildland that the new crossing will connect. Residents regularly spot tarantulas, coyotes and bobcats in their yards and enjoy a short walk to hiking and biking trails that offer sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean.

Drivers on the busy freeway in the Liberty Canyon area might do a double-take as they speed under a bridge 165 feet (50 meters) wide with brush and trees growing on top, seamlessly joining hillsides on both sides of the lanes.

"And who knows, you might see an animal peeking over as it's crossing," Pratt said.

From the perspective of that animal meandering to or from the Santa Monica Mountains, the topography will hopefully be indistinguishable from the scenery on either side, said architect Clark Stevens. His design will total about 8 acres of landscape — of which the bridge top occupies about an acre.

He's working with biologists and engineers to design berms and hollows with high edges that will block sound and light from the lanes below.

"Ideally the animals will never know they're on a bridge," said Stevens, with the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains. "It's landscape flowing over a freeway. It's putting back a piece of the ecosystem that was lost."

Wildlife crossings — bridges and tunnels — are common in western Europe and Canada. A famous one in Banff National Park in Alberta spans the Trans-Canada Highway and is frequently used by bears, moose and elk. The first one in California opened with little fanfare last October near Temecula, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) north of San Diego.

The Los Angeles-area bridge has enjoyed nearly universal support, unusual for a public works project. The draft environmental impact document received nearly 9,000 comments — with only 15 opposed, according to the NWF.

Agoura Hills resident Fran Pavley, a retired state senator, said one of her neighbors was initially concerned about cost.

"He came on board after learning it would be funded privately," she said.

Stevens said he's encouraged by Caltrans' devotion to the project and its promise to consider more like it.

"Every hole in the freeway ought to be exploited. It's a game of odds," he said. "The more options animals have, the better off they'll be."

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



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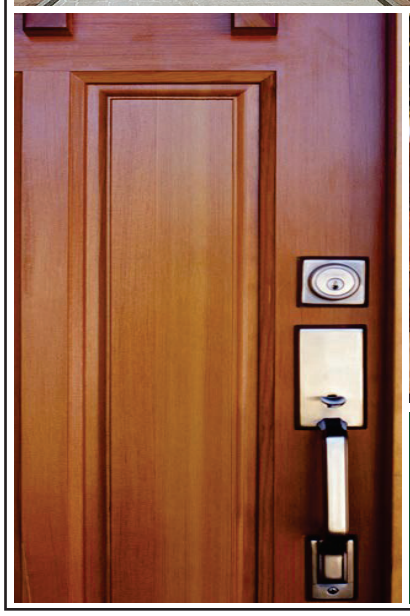
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 21)

Your cosmic birthday gift is the ability to understand how you'll feel on the other side of a long-term project. This keeps you motivated and moving forward toward the big-picture gains, forgoing short-term distractions and gratification. You'll accomplish a substantial and life-changing goal. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 50, 3, 33 and 15.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What's coming up is not nearly as quiet, so take advantage of a stretch of serenity that's yours for the taking. (If you don't claim it, it will wait for you until tomorrow. Then it expires.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's good to test relationships a bit. If not, how will you know what you've got? Friends need to help friends. These are the acts that build the strength of the bond.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's hardly a moment in this entire day when it wouldn't be helpful to ask yourself, "Is this necessary?" It should be noted that the ego generally thinks more things are necessary than really are.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A narrow field of thought will serve you. When you stick with the situation at hand, you'll be able to handle so much more than your imagination would allow were you to think about every possible outcome.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you think someone is flirting with you, you're probably right. You're very attractive today. In the afternoon, don't miss the chance to give a little validation and support.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your first attempts at an endeavor give you a window into how easy or difficult it's going to be for you. Pay attention because these initial impressions won't lie.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's as though you've been drawn together with a kindred soul with an invisible thread and every interaction you have weaves a tighter knit for this relationship.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's the assessment of a circumstance that matters, not the circumstance itself. Others around you may get upset over things that are not inherently upsetting. What is the highest interpretation?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The road less traveled is probably also less maintained. Worst-case scenario, it's not even really a road, and you'll have to pave it over yourself or just blaze it like a trail.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The artistic movement called Dada that started during World War I ridiculed the meaningless of the modern world. You're a kind of dada-ist today, as your illogical act will make more sense than sense itself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll see people you know doing remarkable things, and this ignites in you an emotional generosity. Only those comfortable in themselves can be truly supportive of others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). This ambition you want to take on will be a fight akin to Hercules battling the lion – a seemingly ill-matched event that will likely drag on. But if you can stick with it, you're the sure victor.

Venus Enters Virgo

Did you ever take on love like it was a project or enter into a relationship because you saw potential there for something great? The love sages usually warn against such an approach. "Don't fall in love with a person's potential!" they say. Venus has a rebuttal as she steps into the realm of Virgo: "Isn't love about bringing out the best in people?"

ASTROLOGICAL INSIGHTS

Aries through Pisces may be our favorite characters in the sky to track, but they are not the only stars of interest. For instance, beyond Aries, the ram, to the south is the smaller constellation Cetus, the sea monster. (Sometimes a more modern interpretation of this constellation will refer to her as less of a monster and more of a whale.) Cetus rides the celestial waves in a section of the sky that is sometimes referred to as "the water" – Pisces, the fish, is there, too! Greek mythology tells us that Cassiopeia, queen of Ethiopia, angered the great sea god Poseidon (Neptune) by bragging that she was more beautiful than the Nereids, the sea nymphs. To get back at her, Poseidon sent Cetus to destroy Ethiopia. Cassiopeia's own daughter, Andromeda, was given to Cetus as a sacrificial offering to stop the sea monster's reign of terror. Andromeda was tied to a rock and left there to be eaten, until Perseus came along to save her. The constellation Cetus is associated with a ruling planet, just as our zodiac constellations are. The ruling planet of Cetus is the sun. When the constellation Cetus rises, all of the qualities associated with the sun are emphasized. This includes heroism, bravery, generosity and health.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

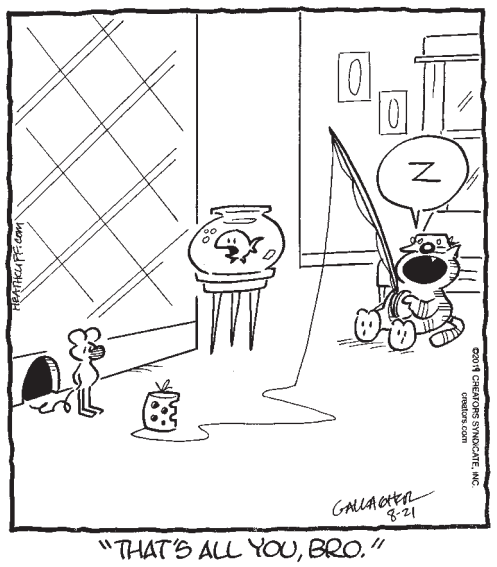
Leo actress Kim Cattrall's "Sex and the City" character, Samantha Jones, as the epitome of an independent woman, but just how alike are Kim and Samantha? Kim is confident and in command with a Leo sun, but with Venus in feminine Cancer, she has a serious nurturing side and a habit of celebrating all sides of being a woman. Look for Cattrall in the television series thriller "Tell Me a Story." **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Punditocracy
Noun [puhn-di-tok-ruh-see]
Influential media pundits collectively.

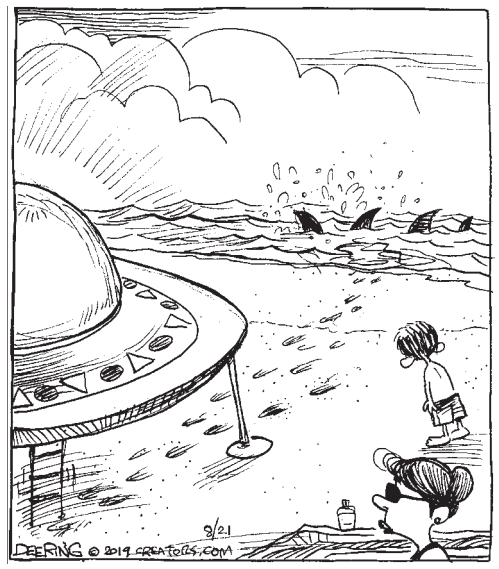
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



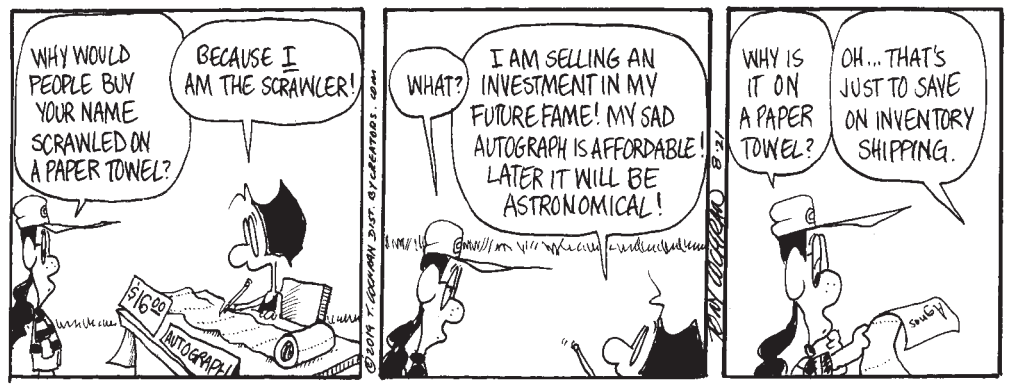
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



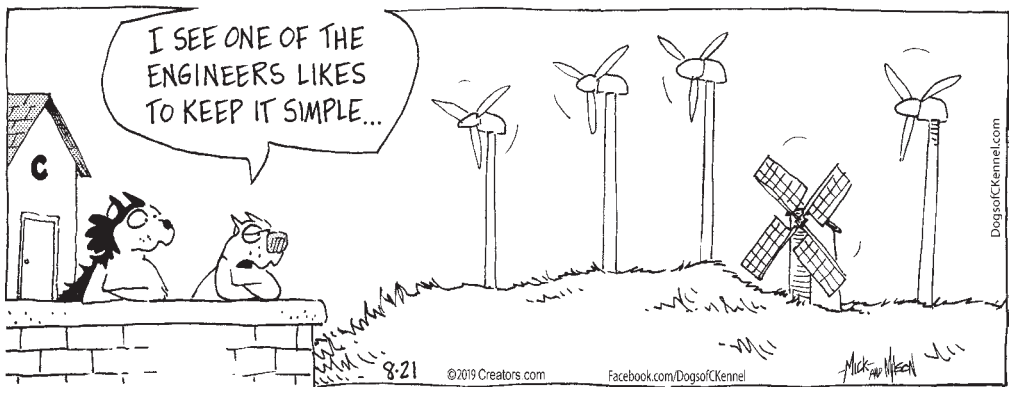
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



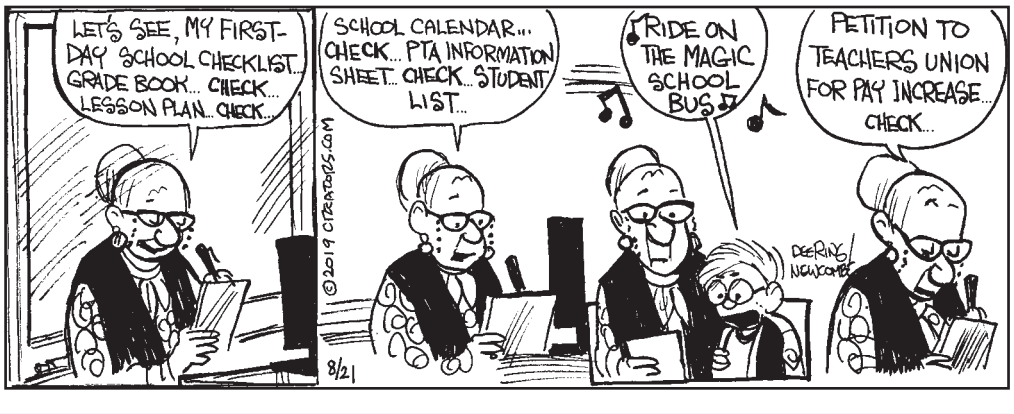
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:08/17
18 21 24 30 60
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 40 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 08/16
4 14 24 26 46
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 79 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 08/17
2 13 20 31 34
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 72 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 08/19
1 25 31 34 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 08/19
Midday: 7 9 5
Draw Date: 08/19
Evening: 6 9 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 08/12
1st: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
2nd: 6 - WHIRL WIN
3rd: 11 - MONEY BAGS
RACE TIME: 1:43.94

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



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 69.8°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft ankle to knee high
Small swell mix in the AM. SSE swell up a notch for exposures in the PM.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft knee to waist high
Small SSE swell for exposed breaks in the morning. SW swell creeps in and WNW swell rebounding by the afternoon.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

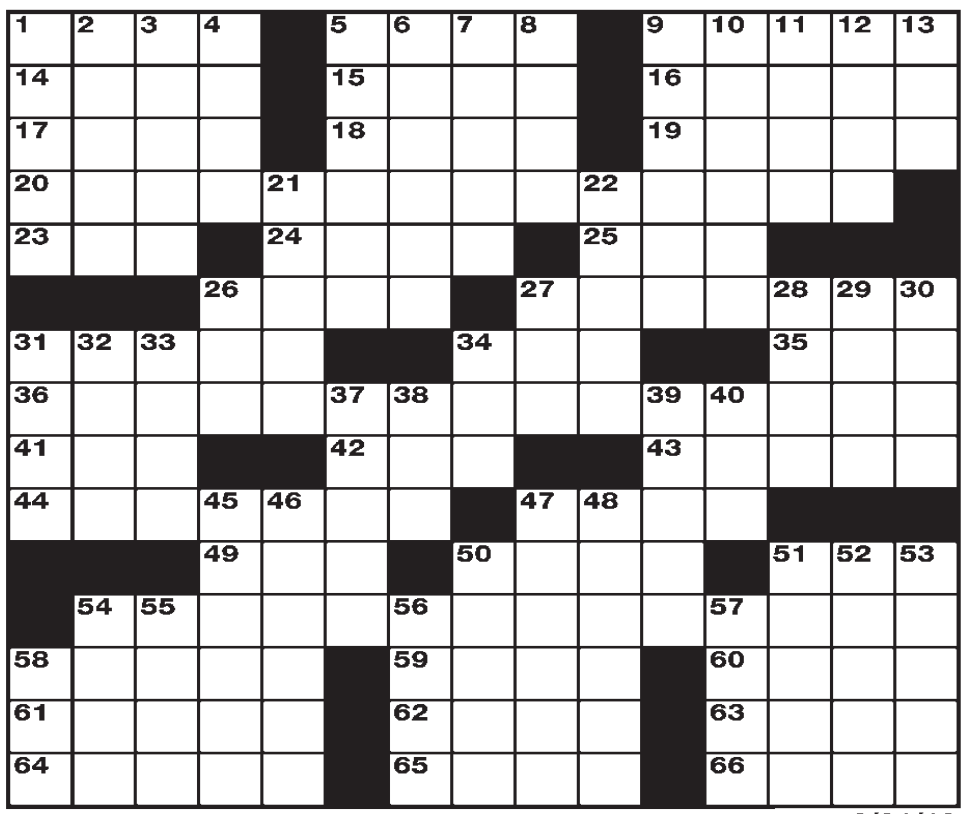
		1	2			6		8
				9	1		4	
	4		8		5	2		
1	6		5					7
		9				8		
7					2		6	9
		6	3		8		5	
	8		1	5				
2		5			4	1		

Newsday Crossword

ASPIRATIONAL by Carolyn Stewart
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 "Halt!"
5 Did laps in a pool
9 Hoppers in ponds
14 Stereo system, for short
15 Heavy book
16 Rebuff, as an attack
17 Munches on
18 Speckle-coated horse
19 In a fitting way
20 Aspire to greatness
23 __ Antonio, TX
24 Laudatory verses
25 Sprinted
26 Wedding cake layer
27 Fried tortilla
31 Bangkok residents
34 Hand tool with teeth
35 60-passenger vehicle
36 "Let's meet again soon"
41 Deploy
42 At the present time
43 In shabby shape
44 Inconsistent in performance
47 Drench
49 Allow to ripen
50 Be apt (to)
51 "Mamma __!"
54 Kindhearted "Farewell"
58 Macaroni or manicotti
59 Choir voice
60 Furthermore
61 Mosaic pieces
62 Occupy completely
63 "Common" part of speech
64 Attentive
65 Went fast
66 Shin neighbor

DOWN
1 Loses fur
2 Topper for a princess
3 Frequently
4 Leaning Tower city
5 Took long steps
6 Bass audio speaker
7 Stockpile
8 Waiter's handout
9 Free-for-all
10 Be regretful
11 Doesn't participate, with "out"
12 Hair styling products
13 Crafty
21 A little damp
22 Topper for a queen
26 Even score
27 Mai __ cocktail
28 Be adjacent to
29 Ventilation conduit
30 Covered with soot
31 Consequently
32 Person paying a caterer
33 Mimicker
34 Assemble with thread
37 At the right pitch
38 Little guy
39 Barter
40 Wood used for wine barrels
45 Egg-hunting holiday
46 Appalled
47 Resolve, as a dispute
48 Waiting to talk on the phone
50 Floral symbol of Holland
51 Breakfast fruit
52 Topic being debated
53 Make amends
54 Lamentful cry
55 Dot on an ocean map
56 Clumsy ones
57 Lending institution
58 Grade school support org.



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 8/21/19

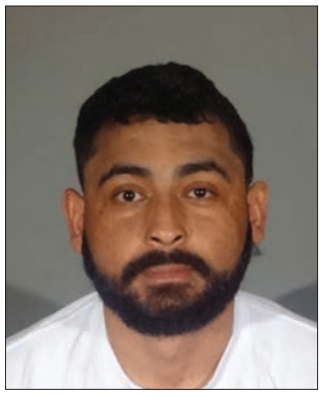
CRIME WATCH

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.

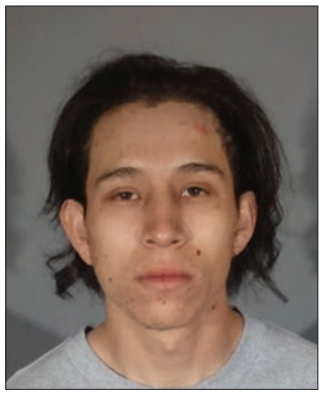
ON AUGUST 5, AT APPROXIMATELY 6:46 P.M.

Officers were in the area of 1600 Apian Way. They conducted a traffic stop and found the driver did not have a driver's license. During an inventory search of the car, large amounts of cash and cocaine were found inside. It was determined the suspects were involved in the sales and transportation of narcotics. Guadalupe Ortega Chavez, 32, was arrested for Driving without a license and possession of opiates/cocaine. Bail was set at $1,000. Pablo Deleon, 21, from Bakersfield was arrested for possession of Opium Pipe. Bail was set at $250. Francisco Javier Ortega, 23, from Bakersfield was arrested for possession of Marijuana for sale. Bail was set at $500.



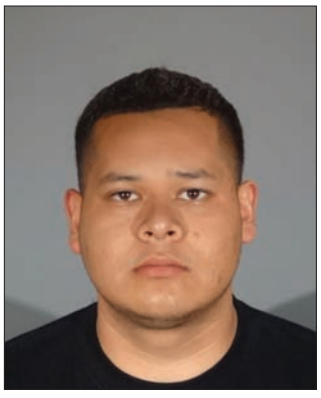
File photo

GUADALUPE ORTEGA CHAVEZ



File photo

PABLO DELEON



File photo

FRANCISCO JAVIER ORTEGA

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 42 CALLS ON AUGUST 19

Automatic alarm 1200blk 11th St 12:43 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service 1900blk 19th St 1:32 a.m.
EMS 800blk 12th St 1:36 a.m.
EMS 1700blk 4th St 1:46 a.m.
EMS 300blk Pico Blvd 2:22 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 17th St 3:42 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury 1800blk 20th St 3:54 a.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 5:17 a.m.
EMS Main St / Ashland Ave 5:26 a.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 6:02 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Berkeley St 7 a.m.
EMS 800blk 4th St 7:27 a.m.
Automatic alarm 700blk Wilshire Blvd 8:15 a.m.
EMS 500blk Raymond Ave 8:51 a.m.
Commercial vehicle fire 1900blk 18th St 9:18 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 9th St 9:23 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 10:07 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 6th St 10:09 a.m.
Elevator rescue 2000blk Arizona Ave 10:29 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:31 a.m.
Automatic alarm 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:37 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 14th St 11:43 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 11th St 11:55 a.m.
EMS 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 11:59 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury 300blk Olympic Dr 12:13 p.m.
EMS 20th St / Pico Blvd 12:20 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 6th St 1:59 p.m.
EMS 2nd St / Broadway 3:22 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Pl 5:12 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 11th St 5:37 p.m.
Automatic alarm 200blk Santa Monica Pl 5:49 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 6:01 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 6:03 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 6th St 6:22 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Princeton St 6:38 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 21st St 7:19 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 8:46 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 8:54 p.m.
EMS 600blk Broadway 9:07 p.m.
Odor investigation 00blk Village Pkwy 9:26 p.m.
EMS 900blk Pico Blvd 9:27 p.m.
Elevator rescue 1200blk Ocean Ave 10:16 p.m.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 321 CALLS ON AUGUST 19

Bike theft 1700blk the beach 12:18 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1300blk 2nd St 12:30 a.m.
Battery 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 12:32 a.m.
Living in a vehicle 200blk Ocean Ave 12:46 a.m.
Petty theft 2900blk 31st St 12:53 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries city prop involved 1800blk 20th St 3:54 a.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 20th St / Delaware Ave 3:54 a.m.
Burglary 500blk 7th St 6:21 a.m.
Speeding 17th St / Colorado Ave 6:47 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 2800blk Kansas Ave 7:06 a.m.
Encampment 200blk Santa Monica Pier 7:10 a.m.
Fraud 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 7:13 a.m.
Grand theft auto 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:21 a.m.
Death investigation 800blk 4th St 7:45 a.m.
Abandoned vehicle 700blk California Ave 7:48 a.m.
Death notification 1100blk 26th St 8:31 a.m.
Traffic hazard 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 8:33 a.m.
Burglary 1600blk 21st St 8:42 a.m.
Vandalism 800blk 3rd St 8:45 a.m.
Prowler 100blk Strand St 9:24 a.m.
Vandalism 300blk Olympic Dr 9:29 a.m.
Burglary 2400blk Beverley Ave 9:34 a.m.
Smoking violation 2100blk Ocean Ave 9:53 a.m.
Assault 1300blk 2nd St 9:53 a.m.
Hit and run 700blk Broadway 10:07 a.m.
Fraud 2400blk Kansas Ave 10:12 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 10:17 a.m.
Auto burglary 1500blk Harvard St 10:20 a.m.
Fight 700blk Broadway 10:23 a.m.
Petty theft 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:24 a.m.
Identity theft 1500blk Harvard St 10:27 a.m.
Fight 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:29 a.m.
Battery 10th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:35 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300blk 10th St 10:42 a.m.
Vandalism 800blk San Vicente Blvd 11:04 a.m.
Drinking in public 1400blk 4th St 11:08 a.m.
Smoking violation 2700blk Barnard Way 11:12 a.m.
Burglary 2900blk 31st St 11:12 a.m.
Petty theft 1400blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:14 a.m.
Hit and run 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:15 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 2900blk Virginia Ave 11:28 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1600blk 9th St 11:41 a.m.
Burglary 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 11:43 a.m.
Burglary 1500blk 6th St 11:50 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 300blk Olympic Dr 12:13 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk 15th St 12:43 p.m.
Person with a gun Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 1:02 p.m.
Burglary /walk through 2400blk Beverley Ave 1:09 p.m.
Grand theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 1:19 p.m.
Petty theft 1200blk 4th St 1:31 p.m.
Speeding Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 1:44 p.m.
Burglary 400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:06 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2600blk Centinela Ave 2:18 p.m.
Vandalism 2000blk Stewart St 2:27 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:28 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1800blk California Ave 2:40 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 15th St / California Ave 2:40 p.m.
Hit and run 5th St / Arizona Ave 2:42 p.m.
Petty theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 2:43 p.m.
Fitness permit violation 600blk Palisades Ave 2:45 p.m.
Urinating/defecating in public Lincoln Blvd / Strand St 2:59 p.m.
Auto burglary 1700blk Appian Way 3:03 p.m.
Fight 100blk Broadway 3:19 p.m.
Fight 2nd St / Broadway 3:19 p.m.
Battery 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:27 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 19th St / Delaware Ave 3:32 p.m.
Burglary 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 3:42 p.m.
Animal related incident 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:46 p.m.
Speeding Ocean Ave / Neilson Way 3:51 p.m.
Threats 800blk 7th St 4:01 p.m.
Fraud 1800blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:06 p.m.
Juvenile annoying 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 4:20 p.m.
Burglary 200blk Washington Ave 4:40 p.m.
Elder abuse 1200blk Princeton St 5:07 p.m.
Elder abuse 300blk San Vicente Blvd 5:08 p.m.
Resisting arrest 1700blk Ocean Ave 5:18 p.m.
Person with a gun 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 5:35 p.m.
Identity theft 1700blk Washington Ave 5:57 p.m.
Fraud 300blk Olympic Dr 6:48 p.m.
Auto burglary 1700blk Appian Way 6:52 p.m.
Fraud 1800blk 19th St 6:57 p.m.
Grand theft 300blk Colorado Ave 7:02 p.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:16 p.m.
Vehicle parked on sidewalk 1700blk Sunset Ave 7:19 p.m.
Grand theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 7:25 p.m.
Battery Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 7:30 p.m.
Encampment 2300blk 4th St 7:55 p.m.
Battery Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 8:04 p.m.
Petty theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 8:33 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1300blk 17th St 8:42 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 8:54 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 4th St / Pico Blvd 8:59 p.m.
Party complaint 1400blk Yale St 9:21 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1000blk 11th St 9:29 p.m.
Public intoxication 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 9:33 p.m.
Living in a vehicle 100blk Hart Ave 9:45 p.m.
Hit and run 1300blk Pine St 10:37 p.m.
Living in a vehicle 11th St / California Ave 11:56 p.m.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

Father Found Guilty of Kidnapping, Fleeing From Police in RV

A man was found guilty today of kidnapping his two young children and fleeing from law enforcement in a motorhome last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jurors deliberated for two hours before finding Stephen Merle Houk (5/14/71) guilty of two counts each of kidnapping, child abuse, injuring a spouse and child detention, and one count each of assault with a firearm, criminal threats, fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Prior to the jury trial, Houk pleaded no contest to one misdemeanor count of failing to register as a sex offender.

Deputy District Attorney Tal Kahana of the Child Abduction Section prosecuted the case.

Sentencing is scheduled on Sept. 4 in Department 115 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. He faces more than 78 years in state prison.

On May 1, 2018, Houk and the mother of his children got into a fight in the family's RV parked in Malibu. The defendant pointed a loaded firearm at her and threatened to kill her. The two children, one 10 months old and the second 3 years old, were awakened by the attack on their mother, the prosecutor said.

Houk drove away and stopped at a gas station before driving to a Santa Clarita coffee house where he forced her to panhandle. The victim eventually asked for help from a passerby who called law enforcement. Houk fled when Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies responded and a pursuit ensued.

The defendant eventually fled from the RV after stopping near Bakersfield, the prosecutor said. He was later found in Barstow and arrested.

Case BA467774 was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Major Crimes Bureau.

SUBMITTED BY GREG RISLING, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT ATTORNEY ASSISTANT CHIEF

ENTERPRISE

FROM PAGE 1

century ago.

"It's been pretty amazing," Enterprise Fish Co.'s Chief Operating Officer Fred Serra said of hitting the 40-year mark. "Opening up in August of '79 and being in business for 40 years, establishing a longtime connection with guests...it's special and lets us thrive in Santa Monica."

Serra has been with the restaurant for only about half of its 40 years, working his way up from bookkeeper to controller to COO, and has seen firsthand how Enterprise as outlasted many other businesses and restaurants. What it takes, Serra says, is a commitment to the community and, of course, the charcoal mesquite cooking of that fresh fish.

And that "quality seafood," he says, is cooked differently than other fish joints around town.

"We've stuck around for several reasons, I think mainly because we became apart of the community in many ways," Serra said. He noted the restaurant's 15-years-and-running monthly donations to charities and schools as well as keeping the restaurant's prices low.

"We want to make sure we have a good value for families as we're family-oriented ourselves. We want everyone to get great fresh, quality seafood for a good price."

For more information, visit https://www.enterprisefishcosantamonica.com/40th-anniversary

angel@smdp.com

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

give yourself extra time and be patient with other drivers," said Sgt. Bobby Villegas. "If you're new to the school, drive or walk around the neighborhood in off-peak hours to get to know the area and orient yourself."

The department will deploy more officers to enforce traffic rules during the first few weeks of school, Villegas added. Officers will be on the lookout for drivers double parking, blocking driveways or driving while looking at their phones.

"Double parking creates congestion, and dangerous conditions for children who have to get out of a double-parked car and walk in the middle of the street," he said. "Give yourself enough time in the morning so you don't have to double park when you drop off your kids."

Villegas said distracted driving is always a potentially fatal concern, but even more so in areas like schools with heavy pedestrian traffic.

"That's especially true when children are involved because they're shorter and can't be seen from a car if the driver is on their phone," he said. "We ask everyone to put their phones down and pay attention to the road so everyone can have a good start of the year."

Students should also be aware that they are required to wear a helmet while riding a bike, scooter or skateboard if they are under 18 and must have at least a learners permit to operate a scooter.

"Make sure to talk to your kids if they use other modes of transport to get to school and remind them to obey all the rules of the road," Villegas said.

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