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Santa Monica Daily Press

TUESDAY
09.01.20
Volume 19 Issue 243

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Approve the Miramar
Planning Commission should advance the project.
Page 6

The Miramar Monster
Planners should reject the application.
Page 6

Local Dems rally to "Save the Seven" Democratic Reps in vulnerable districts



Courtesy image

RALLY: Santa Monicans will be working on several O.C. races.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

In 2018, local Democrats helped flip seven Congressional seats in California districts, which provided over one-third of the seats Democrats needed to take control of the House. As the November election approaches, Santa Monica Democrats are organizing to protect these seats in Orange County and other swing districts.

Tomorrow at 6 p.m. the Westside Democratic HQ in coordination with the California Democratic Party and Democratic Party of Orange County will host a "Save the Seven" reception on Zoom featuring guest speaker Rep. Adam Schiff, and the seven congressional candidates running in tough districts: Katie Porter, Mike Levin, Gil Cisneros, Harley Rouda, Josh Harder, TJ Cox, and Christy Smith. The online event seeks to connect a network of Democratic activists and raise money for these competitive campaigns.

"The key thing is defense of these regions. These are districts that were just won and are traditionally fairly Republican so it's definitely going to take some efforts just to hold them," said Domi Piturro, a member of the Santa Monica Democratic Club and one of the organizers of the "Save the Seven" reception. "LA has a lot of Democrats, but surrounding it there is still a fair amount of Republicans, so we decided we don't need to focus on stuff here instead let's start helping our brothers and sisters out in other districts."

In the 2018 election cycle, Piturro led several canvassing trips from Santa Monica to Orange County, where Democrats flipped all four of OC's Republican-held Congressional seats. This election cycle organizers face new challenges as traditional strategies—like canvassing, holding rallies or hosting donor dinners—are rendered unfeasible by the pandemic.

As a result, Democrats participating in the Save the Seven Campaign are doubling down on phone banking, text banking, and postcarding efforts. These strategies strive to ensure Democrats in these districts vote and convince Republicans to consider swapping their vote.

"When you grandstand with Republicans, that tends to push people away. They don't really understand you or they just feel like you are attacking them," said Pitturo, who has participated in political organizing since he was a child. "It's better to find common ground. You are trying to unlock what's going to get them to first converse with you and then talk about the issue and come to a compromise. Try something like education, children, or the environment. Those are issues everybody cares about where you can usually find some middle ground."

This is the approach that helped Democrats win over Orange County voters during 2018 canvassing trips

SEE **THE SEVEN** PAGE 7

SMRR backs incumbents

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monicans for Renters Rights will not endorse a full slate of council candidates this year after members chose to skip the lone challenger seeking endorsement and one incumbent failed to request consideration.

Incumbents Ted Winterer, Gleam Davis and Ana Maria Jara were the only three full-term city council candidates to receive an endorsement this year. SMRR decided not to endorse challenger Mario Fonda-Bonardi for the final seat since he failed to receive enough votes during the convention, and Incumbent Terry O'Day failed to notify officials of his desire to be endorsed prior to the group's Aug. 8 deadline.

"Members decided if we allowed one person to enter after the deadline, then everybody would have to be allowed," co-chair Denny Zane said. "So, we believed it best to keep the rules in place and the group will not endorse somebody for the fourth seat city council seat. We did endorse Kristin McCowan for the 2-year term seat, too."

This year's school board race features only two incumbents after Ralph Mechur opted not to run for reelection, which opened the door for former Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council President Jennifer Smith to secure 55% of the vote from SMRR members. As a result, she will have SMRR members phone banking on her behalf this year and so will incumbents Jon Kean and Maria Leon-Vazquez.

Zane said Caroline Torosis and Anastasia Foster, the two incumbents for Rent Control Board, received an endorsement again this year. The organization will also support incumbents Susan Aminoff, Rob Greenstein Rader, and Margaret Quinones-Perez for the college board.

"SMRR Conventions have been held every other year since 1979," Zane said in an interview Monday as he detailed the process that candidates must adhere to in order to potentially receive an endorsement from the group.

This year's convention looked a little different from years prior due to COVID though, according to Zane, who said he believes seniors in the group weren't able to participate as heavily as they usually do. Nonetheless, Sunday's convention garnered about 160 people and featured a number of presentations about the 13 candidates who could potentially receive an endorsement from SMRR.

brennon@smdp.com

Council calls for quicker action on May 31 riots report

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

The City of Santa Monica will hire an outside agency to provide both a factual report and an analysis of decision making related to the police department's handling of protests and riots earlier this year.

The community had expected the Santa Monica Police Department to release a factual, after-action report this month. However, the department said it was unable to produce the document due to a lack of manpower and a trio of councilmembers asked the full council to authorize a private company to expedite the report.

An after-action report is required before a separate independent analysis can be commissioned to evaluate the response and several councilmembers were frustrated with delaying the overall discussion due to a lack of information from SMPD.

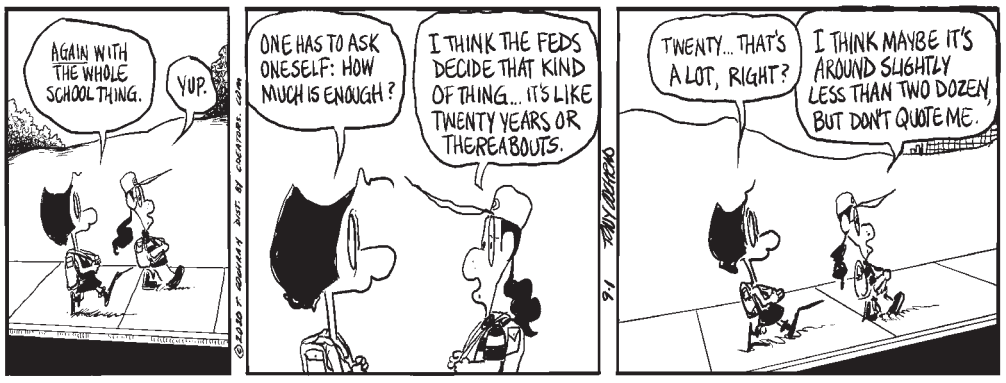
In authorizing the hiring of a private company, the council said they could bypass the wait for an internal report if the contract's scope was expanded to have a single entity gather the facts and analyze them simultaneously.

"Now, we're almost four months from that heart-wrenching incident on May 31, and we need data," Mayor Pro Tem Terry O'Day said during the council meeting. O'Day stated he knows officers are busy conducting the daily duties of their job but "we think that it's time to get an outside resource to help move this process along faster — to make

SEE **REPORT** PAGE 7

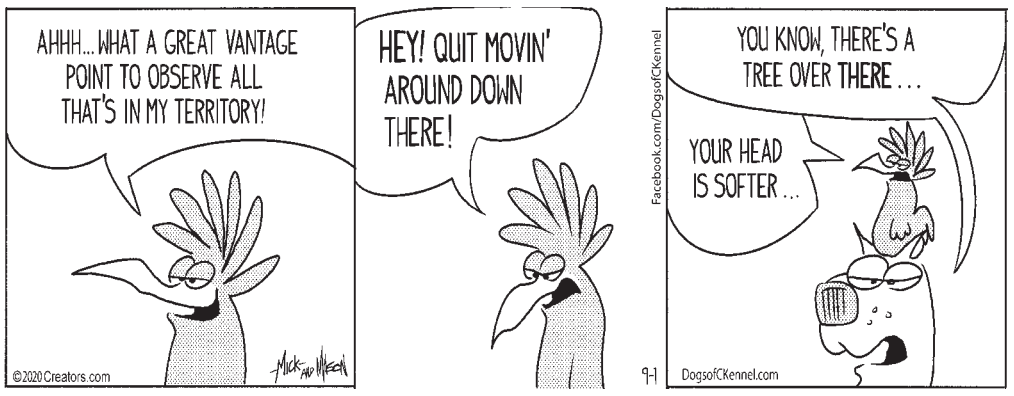
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



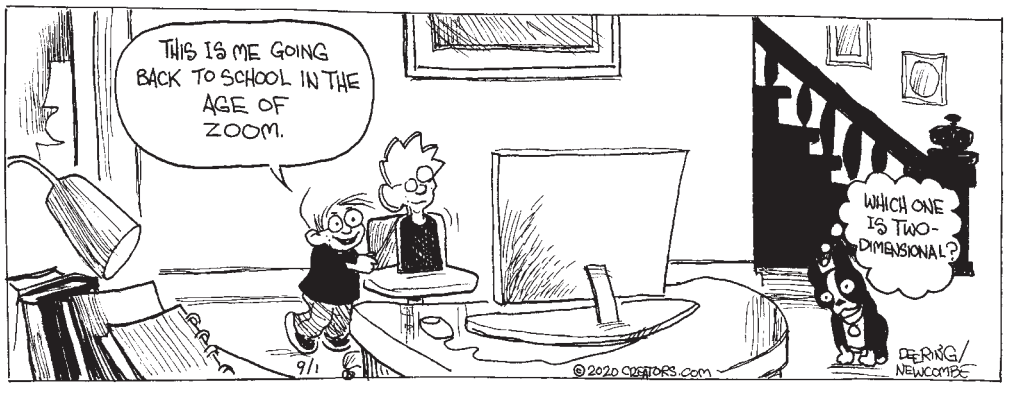
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



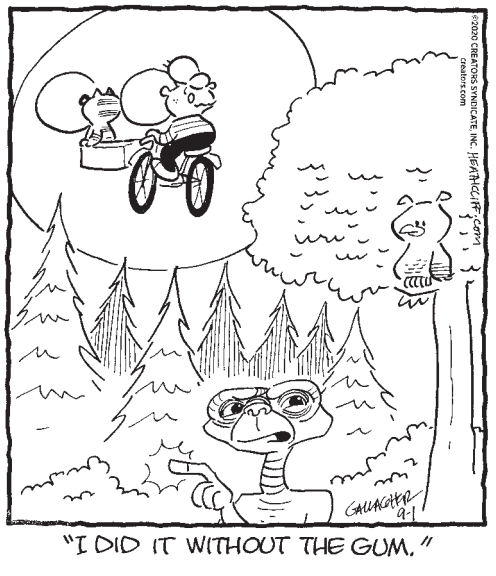
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 69.6°

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Minor SSW swell, small SSE swell. Decent looking wind/conditions in the AM and rideable for big board, just small. Light onshores currently expected for the PM.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high
Small southerly swell mix. Decent looking wind/conditions in the AM and rideable for big board, just small.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 68. Light west southwest wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 61. West northwest wind around 5 mph.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 71. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

2020/09/01	Tue	03:53 AM	-0.30	L
2020/09/01	Tue	10:09 AM	4.64	H
2020/09/01	Tue	3:31 PM	1.74	L
2020/09/01	Tue	9:36 PM	6.01	H
2020/09/02	Wed	04:21 AM	-0.07	L
2020/09/02	Wed	10:34 AM	4.72	H
2020/09/02	Wed	4:04 PM	1.60	L
2020/09/02	Wed	10:08 PM	5.76	H
2020/09/03	Thu	04:47 AM	0.23	L
2020/09/03	Thu	10:58 AM	4.78	H
2020/09/03	Thu	4:38 PM	1.52	L
2020/09/03	Thu	10:41 PM	5.40	H
2020/09/04	Fri	05:11 AM	0.60	L
2020/09/04	Fri	11:23 AM	4.81	H
2020/09/04	Fri	5:14 PM	1.50	L
2020/09/04	Fri	11:14 PM	4.96	H
2020/09/05	Sat	05:34 AM	1.01	L
2020/09/05	Sat	11:49 AM	4.82	H
2020/09/05	Sat	5:53 PM	1.52	L
2020/09/05	Sat	11:51 PM	4.44	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date:08/262
8 12 19 47 58
Power#: 26
Jackpot47 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 08/25
8 10 15 17 57
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 68 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 08/26
4 5 6 30 45
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 18 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 08/27
10 15 18 19 23

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 08/27
Evening: 6 6 8
Draw Date: 08/27
Midday: 0 6 3

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 08/27
1st: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 10 - SOLID GOLD
3rd: 08 - GORGEOUS GEORGE
RACE TIME: 1:48.01

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 01)

Your birthday endowment: bold ideas, brilliant execution and plenty of support. You'll glue broken things back together including relationships and fragments of your own story. You'll unearth a mystery and get peace for your family and community. Early 2021 is a cycle of abundance on all levels. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 3, 13, 2 and 29.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've made overgenerous gestures in the past and never been sorry for them, though you'll toss and turn at night if you think you could have done more in the situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Those who are cut off from their own experiences will be uncomfortable embracing the full realm of experience, including some that most others experience in their day-to-day lives. Try to understand instead of judge this.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've still got a chance to go where the sun is hot and the sunbathers are cool. Get your work done so you can enjoy your leisure. Get busy so you can have your fun.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Because you are open and ready for new experiences, life will come rushing in to greet you. You'll have fascinating exchanges, and you're an essential part of the experience for others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're in the middle-person position and therefore tasked to translate and mitigate. What one person thinks is hilarious will fall flat with the next. Consider your audience before you forward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A friend minimizes the mistakes and maximizes the attributes and is generally on your side. Such friends help you understand what loyalty really looks like.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The way things are laid out will make a huge difference in your efficiency and also in the feeling you have about an experience. You'll do much in the way of organizing — an effort well spent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Tension is rigidity; relaxation is flexibility. A very special relationship will thrive because you strike just the right balance between these two states.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Vacations aren't always tremendously relaxing. In these times, they aren't even tremendously vacationing. Nonetheless, there's a place in your mind where you can take a break. Find it; do it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll put in the extra effort to take good care of yourself. Since you know that lack of sleep or proper nourishment makes you cranky, you'll be sure to plan to get both.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The voice of inspiration is difficult to hear if your inner chatter is loud enough drown it. Exercise is the easiest and fastest way to quiet your mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You feel powerful but it's not even the start of what you can become. Take charge of what you have control over and give no energy to the things outside of that.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

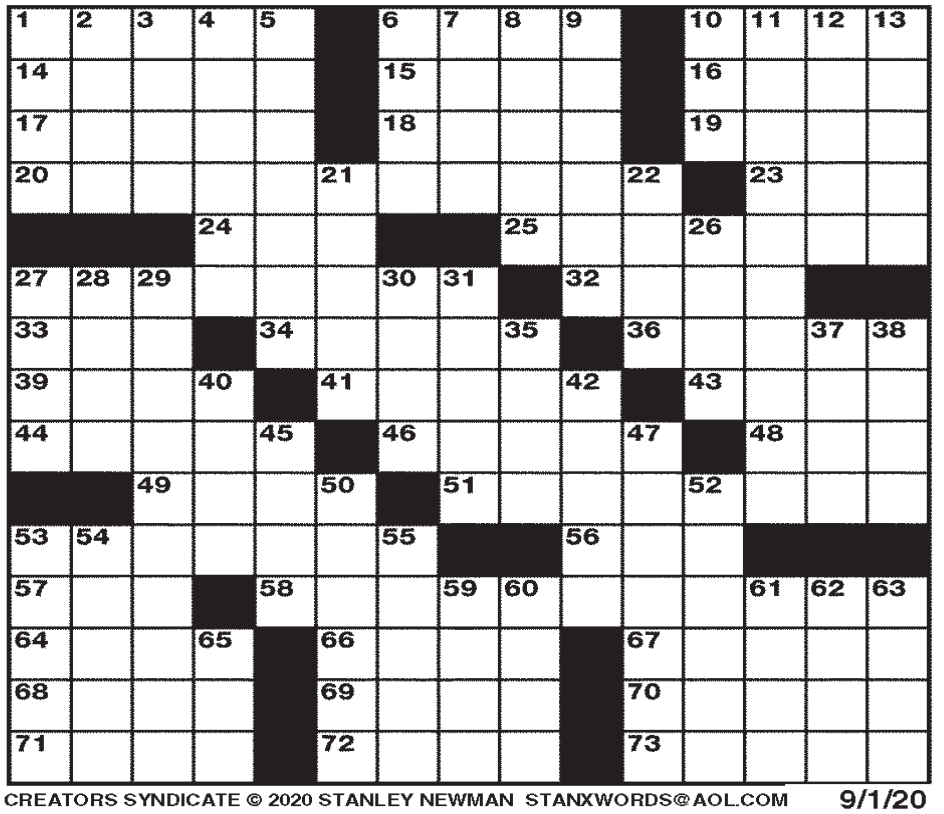
2	4			7	9	5		
		6					8	
8				6				7
	2				3		5	
3		5		9		7		1
	6		7				3	
5				2				4
	3					8		
		1	4	8			7	3

Newsday Crossword

IMMATERIAL by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Gelatin garnish for meats
6 Mountains of Switzerland
10 Segments of stage plays
14 Lightweight modeling wood
15 Hand out the cards
16 Safari or cruise
17 Smooths (out)
18 Spanish artist Salvador
19 Office note
20 Slang term for a Marine
23 Part of mph
24 Written promise to repay
25 Most crowded
27 Formed a mental image of
32 Bring in, as a harvest
33 Suffix meaning "sort of"
34 Poisonous
36 Correct a pencil error
39 Double-__ (type of tourney)
41 Enjoy very much
43 Apple's tablet
44 Equip anew
46 Rams and roosters
48 What a yolk comes from
49 Back of an envelope
51 Dangerous whip-tailed fish
53 Idle drawings
56 Hair gel or wet tar
57 Caterer's big coffeepot
58 Fluffy treat at a carnival
64 Stare in amazement
66 Winnie-the-__
67 In the know
68 "Get __ writing"
69 Rich soil
70 Drop by unannounced
71 Requirement
72 Small whirlpool
73 Open-handed smacks

DOWN
1 Cain's brother
2 Rescue
3 "Not guilty," for one
4 "So true, right?"
5 Redeem all one's chips
6 Mail's destination: Abbr.
7 Low in fat
8 Drained of color
9 Cheese-cutting machine
10 S&L's outdoor device
11 Crinkly party streamer stuff
12 Measures with a stopwatch
13 Baseball or golf
21 Coins in France and Spain
22 Joint to bounce a baby on
26 Dress of India
27 Ship's docking area
28 Maui or Ireland
29 Dessert with meringue filling
30 School test
31 Female opera stars
35 Young stallion
37 Epic tale
38 Feeling tense
40 Not at all spicy
42 Occupy a throne
45 Bath powder
47 Cinema chocolate candy with white speckles
50 Women and children
52 Leave the base illegally
53 Began eating
54 Make a speech
55 Got to one's feet
59 Cousin of a frog
60 "Goodness!"
61 California wine valley
62 Slow faucet leak
63 Longings
65 Bring to a close



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Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0

		0					0				
							1		0	0	
		0		1	1					0	
							0		1		
				0							
0						1		0			1
								0		0	
1	0			1		1					
									1	1	
		1				1					
		1		1				1		1	1
	0					0		1		1	1



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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 11 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 4857

The Bible

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

Abdi	Amon	Beon	Deuteronomy	Esek
Abel	Amzi	Besai	Diklah	Gaal
Abib	Aner	Bethuel	Dodo	Gaddi
Acts	Anim	Bezer	Ebal	Gatam
Adami	Antipatris	Buzi	Ebed	Gimzo
Adna	Areli	Cabul	Eder	Guni
Agag	Assir	Cana	Edom	Isaac
Agur	Aven	Chloe	Elath	James
Ahaz	Avim	Chun	Enam	Noah
Aiah	Baca	Commandments	Enos	Ruth
Alpheus	Beer	Coos	Ephah	
Amad	Ben	Demas	Eran	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
A productive foodbowl

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Yes on Prop. 22

Last year California passed a law that reclassifies many people as employees, who were previously considered to be independent contractors.

This has the intended effect of making employers contribute for taxes, health and worker's compensation insurance. While the motivations behind the law were to improve working conditions for lower wage employees and to take some of the burden of the public programs that many independent contractors are reliant upon, the actual impact is to remove opportunities, increase costs on employers and drive the beneficiaries into more public need.

Not all independent contractors were impacted by this new law, as the higher income categories were able to pay for high priced lobbyists to make sure they were exempted out of the onerous requirements: Real estate agents, doctors, accountants, architects, travel agents, graphic designers and investment advisors are free from the burdens. Some cosmetologists and barbers are free if they meet certain requirements for independence. The primary people impacted by this are the Uber and Lyft drivers and others who are taking full advantage of the gig economy to survive.

This law is being hotly contested and there is a well funded campaign to overturn the law in the form of Proposition 22 on this year's ballot. Uber and Lyft have spent millions, to fight the implementation of this in the courts and to back the Proposition with tv ads. There have been reports that these companies will shut down operations in California if the law is not overturned or modified in such way they their basic business model can continue to survive.

What bothers me about this is that it seems like no one in Sacramento bothered to ask the people who are directly impacted by this, what they want. This was another great example of government coming up with what they think is a great idea, before they find out whether or not there is a problem.

Over the course the past four years I've used both Uber and Lyft on a semi-regular basis. I've had Ubers in four different countries and half a dozen states. I generally ask the drivers questions like, "How long you been doing this?" and get replies in the years, not days category. I'd say most of the drivers I've had use their driving as a way to supplement their income, although I've had a number who were fulltime drivers and this was their primary source of income. In general, the drivers I've had have touted the flexibility to make their own hours as a primary benefit.

One father loved the fact that when he gave up his job as an engineer for a construction company to become a driver he had the time and freedom now to raise his kids and be a better parent. My friend Ron loves to drive Uber as it gets him out of the house and away from his husband for a few hours a day. He loves the social interactions, and being an unofficial tour guide to his city for tourists.

More than a few of the Sunday night pickups I've had from LAX were students who were working their way through school and needed the flexible schedule and didn't mind working late at night, because they had classes during the day. I think the government did a giant overreach when they fundamentally rewrote the definition of an independent contractor.

One of the benefits of being an American is our freedom to pursue happiness and careers of our own choosing. Many an immigrant comes to America and learns English by being a driver. Having the security of Google Maps to guide them to the right destination, allows the driver to engage the passenger in basic conversation.

Once we start demanding that everyone be an employee, with set hours and responsibilities, we start to infantilize everyone, and that is a bad thing. What makes our country great, is the opportunity to chart your own path. Yes that means you'll make mistakes, but that's how most of us learn, and how breakthroughs in science and business happen.

As a society we need people to be able to work more than one job, or to work in weird hourly shifts, or to have a schedule that fits their long term goals. Once we make it so that an employer must start dictating to everyone, we will lose good people, and more importantly, we will lose companies that employ thousands of people and contribute to our state bottom line. I think we should overturn this solution in search of a problem and I urge you to vote Yes on Proposition 22.

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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Your column here

By Tim Harter | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Approve the Miramar

The Miramar project has long been of interest to me in my capacity as former deputy to Assemblyman Richard Bloom and as an engaged resident.

The proposed Miramar plan has been in the public arena for more than eight years. During that time, the project has been presented at numerous public forums, including a mandated community meeting, two EIR scoping meetings, float ups with the Planning Commission, City Council, ARB and Landmarks Commission, as well as presentations to the Downtown Santa Monica Inc.

Very early in the process, the project team reached out to all seven of the city's recognized neighborhood associations to present the project and respond to questions and comments from the boards and members. All but one of the associations participated. Most of the associations invited the team back for updates. I attended two of the neighborhood association meetings. I believe that all the participants – residents and the development team alike – came away with a much better understanding of the proposed project and one another's ideas.

Over the past two years, the project team has reached out to hundreds of community stakeholders, including supporters, skeptics, undecideds, and site-adjacent neighbors, offering one on one and small group meetings to familiarize them with the history of the site, review the evolution of the project, and respond to questions and input about the latest iteration. To date, more than 100 of these meetings have taken place.

To contend that inquiries went unanswered or concerns unaddressed for 8 years is just not accurate. The handful of community members that asserts this has a short memory.

We must now get down to the business of a Planning Commission hearing, discussion and recommendation, after which the project will move on for final consideration and, I hope, approval, by City Council.

Santa Monica has already benefited from the project in that it has stimulated an inclusive, transparent and unprecedented public engagement process. On Wednesday evening, the Miramar will deliver a plan to the Planning Commission that brings the community a beautiful new hotel and residential project, exceptional open space, more than 40 units of first-rate affordable housing, hundreds of new jobs and significant tax revenues for decades to come.

It is time to welcome the proposed Miramar into the community. I urge the Planning Commission vote affirmatively.

Your column here

By John C. Smith | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Miramar Monster

They say the monsters from your past will keep coming at you until you kill them off for good. Such is the case with the newly-spawned Miramar mega-hotel project now being peddled by high-powered suits with deep connections and deeper pockets to Santa Monica's Planning Commission and City Council.

Voters may remember how in 2014 a certain City Council candidate I still admire ran a campaign ad referring to the previous Miramar redesign as a 320-foot "Godzilla." The ad generated enough buzz to help kill that Miramar monster and catapult the candidate onto the Council. Yet here we are again, fighting the newest "Miramar-azilla, this one shorter but a LOT fatter and wider and twice the size of the current hotel. This new monster looks like a giant cruise ship that somehow got ship-wrecked and bent like a boomerang, with a huge wall that will kill off the sunshine on Second Avenue between Wilshire and California forever. The developers also want to move the main hotel entrance off Wilshire and onto Second, which will crush much of the Wilshire-Montana neighborhood near it with daily traffic. One can easily imagine the long line of luxury cars snaking down Wilshire, all waiting to take a right onto Second then a left into the new Monster Miramar. Another entrance for employees on California Ave. will kill access to the Incline, while the wealthy utilize their own entrance on Ocean.

There's more… this new monster will have more than 300 newly-designed hotel rooms most of us will never spend even a single night in. Plus, don't forget the 60 luxury condos they want to sell for $5 million apiece so billionaire computer mogul Michael S. Dell (MSD Capitol, get it?) won't have to shell out any of his fortune to build it. It's hard, you know, super-sizing existing hotels when you're only worth about $27-billion or so.

Now, if you're thinking the city MUST be getting something spectacular in return, you're mistaken. Oh, MSD says the city will get 30-40 affordable housing units across the street, but that number keeps changing based on the number of luxury condos Dell gets to build. MSD also says the amount of money the city gets will go from about $7.5 million a year to more like $15 million. So they get twice the hotel and the city gets twice the annual revenue, right? Well, the developers can pay off the city with the sale of just one or two condos and keep all the rest. And those rosy revenue projections are pre-covid-19. Tourism revenue was already flattening even before the pandemic. "Hope", as a good friend once told me, "is not a strategy."

The developers also claim the project will create "hundreds" of good-paying hotel worker jobs. But before that ever happens, something else will happen first: Other hotel workers will be paid to flood the Planning Commission and City Council with form letters and testimonials about how badly those jobs are needed. The economy is tough, but in California, just about any entity can create jobs which pay $15-$17/hour. If you really want to help hotel workers, help them and their kids get at least two free years of college so maybe they can eventually get jobs that pay more than $17/hour. MSD-Capitol also claims the Miramar monster will provide other "community benefits" such as "open space." Sorry, Michael. A wide driveway full of Mercedes is not "open space." Pathways lined with flowers and plants leading from the pool to the main convention ballroom are hotel amenities, not community benefits. And I still don't understand how you're going to build all around and under that beautiful, landmarked fig tree for three straight years without hurting it.

One more very important thing that has NOT been addressed in the EIR… What impact will all that pounding and trucking and steel beams and cement and construction have on the fragile Pacific Palisades bluffs less than 75 yards away? We have already lost much of the cliffs to erosion in just the past 20 years. Now MSD-C wants to dig a huge hole for an underground parking garage then pack a monster hotel twice the current size in it. You don't have to be a geologist to understand how such a huge project endangers the most beautiful park in America.

Council, do you really want to take that chance? Do YOU?

I could go on and on, but this monster is just like the other ones and it's time to kill it for good. Let the Miramar make over their hotel and allow them to make it a LITTLE bigger to pay for some affordable housing. Put the main entrance where it should be, on Wilshire. And provide some REAL open space by kicking in a few million toward REAL open space like a DOWNTOWN park. If this new monster Miramar wants to be as great a benefit to the community as Michael Dell's minions say it is, then let him be a true friend of the community and stop trying to build Miami where the Miramar now stands.

Saturday night my wife and I went for a nighttime bike ride through the city. We walk Palisades Park often. Sadly, if you do the same you will see and feel the city changing, and not for the better. The Promenade is dying. The problems and crime are growing worse along with the homelessness. There's an edginess that wasn't there even five years ago. Santa Monica just doesn't feel as much like Santa Monica anymore. And one of the reasons it feels that way is because your city leaders are doubling down on the same, tired strategies and pushing ahead with things like more and bigger monster hotels.

Like the one just green-lighted at 4th, 5th and Arizona.

What can you do? Simply write two or three lines in an email to the Planning Commissioners meeting Wednesday night. Zoom in and give them a piece of your mind from home. Do the same before the Council votes on the project. Tell them you won't vote for them if they approve it. Tell them we don't need any more monster hotels.

We have enough monsters to fight already.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 260 CALLS ON AUGUST 30

Shots Fired 1800blk Arizona Ave 12:11 a.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 12:59 a.m.
Petty Theft 1700blk Ocean Ave 1:46 a.m.
Attempt Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 2:35 a.m.
Receiving Stolen Property Investigation 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 3:34 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2500blk Lincoln Blvd 6:37 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:42 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk 15th St 8:42 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 6th St 8:51 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2400blk 28th St 9:26 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1400blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:35 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:45 a.m.
Construction Noise 800blk San Vicente Blvd 9:50 a.m.
Grand Theft 1000blk Cedar St 9:59 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 2800blk Pico Blvd 9:59 a.m.
Burglary 1400blk 26th St 10:00 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 00blk Bay St 10:24 a.m.
Fraud 2900blk Colorado Ave 10:27 a.m.
Construction Noise 700blk Pier Ave 10:34 a.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:55 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 11:02 a.m.
Grand Theft 900blk 6th St 11:03 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Cloverfield Blvd / 26th St 11:07 a.m.
Found Property 1300blk Olympic Blvd 11:23 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 11th St 11:25 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 11:28 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk Yale St 11:36 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2900blk Main St 11:36 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 11:37 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1500blk 6th St 12:01 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk 6th St 12:04 p.m.
Auto Burglary 2300blk Block Of Oak St 12:56 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Main St / Ashland Ave 12:58 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1900blk Ocean Way 1:01 p.m.
Battery 00blk Village Pkwy 1:29 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 800blk 2nd St 1:31 p.m.
Found Property 1200blk 20th St 1:32 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 800blk Ocean Ave 1:38 p.m.
Burglary 1800blk California Ave 1:39 p.m.
Burglary 1400blk 16th St 1:51 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 500blk San Vicente Blvd 1:51 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Appian Way / Pacific Ter 2:18 p.m.
Grand Theft 900blk 6th St 2:35 p.m.
Found Property 700blk Ozone St 2:36 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:50 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100blk 3rd St 3:08 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1400blk 2nd St 3:08 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1800blk 7th St 3:24 p.m.
Stalking 1800blk 10th St 3:41 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100blk 3rd St 3:57 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 3:59 p.m.
Of Shots Fired 1900blk Euclid St 4:08 p.m.
Burglary 2000blk Olympic Blvd 4:29 p.m.
Burglary Now 300blk Wilshire Blvd 5:02 p.m.
Burglary Now 300blk Wilshire Blvd 5:02 p.m.
Auto Burglary 2300blk Hill St 5:17 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 5:48 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 00blk Vicente Ter 5:58 p.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 1300blk Palisades Beach Rd 6:35 p.m.
Encampment 800blk 2nd St 6:47 p.m.
Stalking 1800blk 10th St 6:53 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1500blk 4th St 7:38 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:40 p.m.
Battery Now 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 8:04 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 4th St / Colorado Ave 8:22 p.m.
Elder Abuse 1900blk 17th St 8:32 p.m.
Smoking Violation 1300blk 2nd St 8:34 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1700blk Appian Way 8:36 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1600blk Appian Way 8:37 p.m.
Assault Now 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 8:38 p.m.
Bike Theft 200blk Broadway 9:32 p.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 1900blk 17th St 9:53 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 2100blk Ashland Ave 10:15 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 31 CALLS ON AUGUST 30

EMS 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 1:25 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Washington Ave 2:48 a.m.
EMS 900blk 4th St 4:32 a.m.
EMS 900blk 4th St 5:09 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Pico Blvd 6:00 a.m.
Fire Out Investigation 1600blk Euclid St 6:19 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 6:46 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 8:13 a.m.
EMS 800blk Ocean Ave 8:22 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:17 a.m.
EMS 700blk 9th St 9:19 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 2800blk Pico Blvd 9:59 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 10:17 a.m.
EMS 2700blk Euclid St 10:49 a.m.
EMS 15th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:21 a.m.
EMS 15th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:44 a.m.
EMS 600blk Montana Ave 11:57 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Main St / Ashland Ave 12:58 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 2nd St 3:08 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 4:21 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk 4th St 4:54 p.m.
EMS Main St / Ashland Ave 5:24 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk 4th St 5:45 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 16th St 6:20 p.m.
EMS 700blk Marine St 6:27 p.m.
Odor Investigation 600blk 11th St 6:33 p.m.
Public Assist 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 7:26 p.m.

THE SEVEN

FROM PAGE 1

and that the Santa Monica Democratic Club will be applying to its virtual organizing efforts, according to Piturro.

The seven candidates speaking at tomorrow's reception are campaigning in California's 10th, 21st, 25th, 39th, 45th, 48th, and 49th Districts, which all have near equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans. The 25th District is of particular interest where in 2018 Katie Hill became the first Democratic Representative in 28 years before resigning in Oct 2019 amid allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior. Christy Smith, current California State Assemblywoman in the 38th District, is running in the 25th after being defeated for the same position by Republican Rep. Mike Garcia in a special election this May.

Assemblywoman Smith will speak at the virtual reception alongside the six Democratic incumbents.

Clara@smdp.com

REPORT

FROM PAGE 1

sure that it's thorough — to make sure that it's accurate."

Large groups of criminals flooded Santa Monica in May following a peaceful protest for racial justice. While significant looting occurred in the Downtown area, SMPD deployed officers to confront ongoing protests including the use of tear gas and rubber bullets. Eventually, National Guard troops were called in to restore order.

Residents have criticized the police response and demanded information about the city's decision making process.

"There's an urgency of now because three months and no information is unacceptable," said Councilmember Kristin McCowan, who placed the item on the agenda along with O'Day and councilmember Sue Himmelrich.

"People were under the impression this was going to go faster," McCowan said, echoing statements made by Himmelrich.

"The community absolutely deserves something, and I hate that we're at this point," McCowan said.

"Although I'm not one of the people who were on this item, I do want to say I agree with a lot of what Kristin said," Gleam Davis said. "It's clear that our police force... needs this outside assistance in order to compile what will be an informative and hopefully illuminating after-action report about the events of May 31, and beyond," Davis added. "And then I think what's really the key here is getting the analysis of what did we do right — what should we have done differently."

"I do think it's important that the community have transparency and accountability around what happened. And for that reason, I would support bringing in the outside expert to do this and do it right and give the community the answers it wants around a very complex event," Interim City Manager Lane Dilg said.

Since the consulting firm would cost more than the cap on contracts that can be authorized without Council approval, councilmember Ted Winterer suggested city council direct the city attorney to complete the process as fast as possible.

"I don't quite remember how back in June we decided we were going to have this report done by August, but we have created community expectations that it would be done," Winterer said.

He said the city needs to try to move through the complex process as fast as possible and begin the work.

Staff said similar reports have taken six months to a year to complete in the past, so Council instructed staff to provide regular updates to the public in the meantime.

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Community Service in Santa Monica

Rotary Supports the Environment



By Lisa C. Alexander
Rotary International (RI) has added a new area of focus: Supporting the Environment. RI was already funding environment-related projects, but elevating support of our environment as a distinct area of focus will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact.

Rotary Areas of Focus are categories of service activities supported by RI grant money. Supporting the Environment becomes our seventh area of focus. The other six areas of focus are: Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention; Disease Prevention and Treatment; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Maternal and Child Health; Basic Education and Literacy; and Community Economic Development.

Rotarians understand that the whole world is our backyard. We can see the effects of climate change in the communities we care about. Rotary International can make an impact because we have members in over 200 countries and geographical areas around the world. RI's good works have earned it recognition and respect that opens doors to connections that can make more good works happen. Rotary's leadership in the fight to eradicate polio is a primary example. Rotary International will now apply its reputation and connections to the environment.

As an international organization, RI is uniquely positioned to bring its advocacy and action to environmental problems.

Rotarians are problem solvers. We recognize that climate change is a complex problem and solutions will not be simple or easy. But focusing on our environment will bring greater awareness of the critical environmental issues affecting our communities, the countries we live in, and the world. Support of the environment will now become a component of all Rotary service to ensure that projects support sustainable development and environmental protection.

At the local level, our Rotary clubs and districts will partner with reputable environmental groups to coordinate projects to support the environment. The Rotary Club of Santa Monica already partners with Heal the Bay for beach cleanups and Friends of the Los Angeles River to care for this unique urban navigable waterway. We can and will do more.

I am personally very excited that Rotarians will now also become known as environmental advocates. If environmental issues are important to you, I invite you to join Rotary. Your voice, passion, and leadership will always be welcome.

If you would like to join us for a Zoom meeting, contact Savi at rotaryclubofsantamonica@verzon.net for more details.

Fulfilling Our Mission of Community Service



By Susan Barry
The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club (SMBWC) Board of Directors continued their goal of distributing a percentage of our annual income to charities and organizations that address the needs of women, children, and education.

With the effects of pandemic crisis on families in our community, SMBWC substantially increased their support for many of their past recipients. In May, 2020, the UCLA Foundation Food Closet received $1500, Upward Bound House received $7500, Step Up on Second received $7500, School on Wheels received $7500, and $2500 was given to Meals on Wheels.

SMBWC added $2500 to the endowed scholarship established last year at Santa Monica College for women returning to school; and, $2500 to the General Federation of Women's Clubs to furnish a bedroom in the newly renovated historic headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The Laura E. Hubbell Endowment Fund donated $15,000 to Wise and Healthy Aging is to be used for the development of housing assistance for elderly women in need, preferably in Santa Monica.

Donations to several additional organizations included the Santa Monica History Museum, UCLA Next Generation Doctors, My Stuff Bags Foundation, Happy Trails for Kids, The Lange Foundation, and the Fisher House Southern California.

The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club is the home for its members and the community for many regular activities and events. While these are currently on hold, we want you to know we are developing procedures in preparation for the Club's reopening. In concern for the safety and welfare of our members and guests, we are following the L.A. Department of Health guidelines about gathering in venues such as ours, making every effort to reopen as soon as possible. In the meantime, stay safe and well. We look forward to seeing you soon! For updates, please check www.smbwc.org.

Santa Monica Lions Club Carrying On As Usual



By Linda Levee
The Santa Monica Lions Club has great news that makes our membership happy. We have been approved to merge with the Pacific Palisades Lions Club. Both clubs have been around since the 1920s and have remained solid until this pandemic hit, and many of our members are in the high risk category.

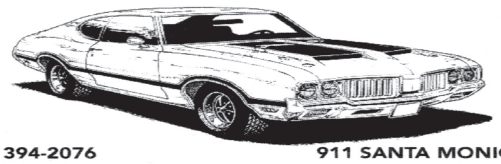
The Santa Monica Lions are very excited as the merger will add some new members and give us a whole new circle of people to include in our activities. We have already sponsored a Leo Club at Palisades High School, and we hope to start other Leo clubs in the combined areas.

We are now holding two virtual meetings a month on Zoom. We have been having our board meetings on Zoom for the past four months. We are now used to doing this and have learned to adjust with lots of ways to communicate with each other.

We were hoping to go back to the Elks Club by August, but since it appears that we are still in the first phase of the pandemic, when we all need to stay home, wear masks when outside your usual circle of friends and relatives, and make sure those around you stay at a safe distance and check to see where the kids and grandkids have been before meeting with them.

We still remain strong and even though it is hard when people want to go back to work and school, we must follow all of the rules if we want to move on and not go backwards.

We are a forward-looking group, and we want to remind those who follow us that we are always seeking new members and welcome those interested to contact Lion President Alan Parr at 310-383-9975, or Lion Vice-President Kingsley Fife for more information about club activities or membership. Call him at 310-454-2960.

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Paws and Claws

Dogs and Probiotics



By Dr. Frank Lavac MS, DVM,VCA

Q: Are there probiotics that can help dogs that have common intestinal problems?

A: Probiotics are commonly used in veterinary medicine to help normalize the intestine. They are most often used to treat uncomplicated diarrhea.

By the World Health Organization (WHO) definition, probiotics are live microorganisms, which when administered in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit. The FDA does not regulate probiotics.

Your veterinarian will often prescribe probiotics that have been properly evaluated and scientifically tested.

The best applications for probiotics are uncomplicated diarrhea, prevention of stress diarrhea, prevention of antibiotic induced diarrhea and as an additional aid to chronic intestinal abnormalities. Probiotics are generally considered safe.

Dr. Frank Lavac can be reached by calling 310-828-4587.

Adopt a Pet



Levi is a two-year- old Husky mix. He is fun and energetic. If you are interested contact KarmaRescue.org.

★★★★★★

Star Comments



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Brain Matters

Is There a Connection Between Menopause and Alzheimer's Disease?



By Jack Hodes

A gender disparity exists in the disproportionate number of women diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (AD) dementia. Data indicate that almost two-thirds of individuals living with AD in the United States are women. Because age is the number one risk factor for AD, some previously believed women were more likely to receive a diagnosis of AD due to their longer lifespans. However, the distinct sex-specific risk factors and trajectory of the disease in women suggest a different explanation.

Does menopause contribute to Alzheimer's disease? Menopause marks the end of a woman's menstrual cycles and is diagnosed after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period. Menopause can happen in a woman's 40s or 50s, but the average age is 51 in the United States.

Research indicates that one of the primary contributors to cognitive decline in women is the onset of menopause and the hormonal changes that result.

While menopause is a natural age-related process, it causes reductions in sex hormones like estrogen and progesterone. These steroid hormones are not only important for fertility but also play a critical role in brain health.

Reproductive health and brain disease - Interestingly, women who had menstrual periods earlier in life and went through menopause later were less likely to develop dementia. Additionally, women with three or more children had a 12% lower risk of dementia, and the longer the pregnancies, the lower the risk of developing AD.

These statistics shed some light on the role of reproductive health in brain disease, but how and why are the two connected?

Estrogen and progesterone are carried through the blood and into the brain, where they bind to receptor targets on brain cells and alter energy production, neurotransmitter levels, and protein expression. These modifications influence memory, mood, executive functioning, and other cognitive abilities.

As menopausal and post-menopausal women are well aware, the decrease in hormone levels that accompanies menopause can also prompt a host of neurological symptoms, such as hot flashes, disturbed sleep, depression, brain fog, and memory decline.

Staving off Alzheimer's disease early - Although we often associate AD with old age, recent advances in brain imaging research have shown that the brain changes that lead to AD can be detected 20-30 years before symptoms begin. Because the onset of menopause can precipitate the early changes associated with AD, it is especially important for women in midlife to intervene with strategies to optimize brain health.

Fortunately, the risk of AD is significantly influenced by our diets, physical activity and stress levels, social lives, and lifestyle. At the Pacific Brain Health Center, our research and clinical care is grounded in a holistic approach

(Continued on Page 11)

Mar Vista: Neighbor to Neighbor

Learning About Old Mar Vista



By Tesi Treuenfels

Here we are at the fifth month mark. For almost half a year, we have been quarantined and carefully navigating outside the house with masks, if we are outside the house at all. Not to worry, this too shall pass.

I take early morning walks at the break of day on the bluffs above the ocean. There are only two or three of us out walking. I feel secure and happy in nature's beauty. Last spring, there was a nice crop of new bunnies scurrying under bushes as I approached. I watched them grow as spring turned to summer. They still scurry under bushes. There are far fewer of them now – the perils of being delicious in a highly predatory world. There are fewer of us now as well. Nature is taking her cruel course with Covid. Be wise. Be thoughtful. Wear a mask – not for your health, but for mine, and I will do the same for you. Please.

Online has become my go-to for, well, for everything. I continue my education on the history of this country, searching for a deeper understanding of race, police, jails and the most recent manifestation of the fight for safety and equality. Recently I watched a documentary, "True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality." I cannot recommend it highly enough. It is excellent in every way. It clips along and gives a profound insight into inequities in our nation's justice system.

Speaking of history, who gave Mar Vista her name? Well it was George Sunday. In 1923, George Sunday, the son of evangelist Billy Sunday, came up with the name Mar Vista (sea view) when he was naming a subdivision in the former neighborhood of Ocean Park Heights. Santa Monica and Venice tried to annex Mar Vista in the following years, but it became incorporated by Los Angeles in 1927.

Have you been busy in the kitchen? Me too. For my shopping, I use the pickup service at Ralphs. I order online, set a pickup time, drive and park in a designated pickup parking place in front of the store. Within five minutes someone is loading my groceries into my trunk. It's free.

Ordering items online was becoming a habit , but I've got it in check now. A foldable stool arrived in an unmarked package. It was made for a doll, I'm sure. What was I thinking? I read more carefully now. Or do I? Some buys

(Continued on Page 11)

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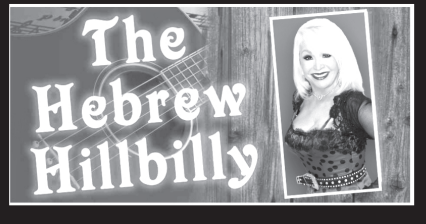
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Stories From Old Mar Vista

(Continued from Page 10)

have made me very happy. One is my silicon popsicle mold. The popsicle mold freezes ten pops at a time and came with a surprising recipe book. There are recipes for; apple pie pops, rosemary strawberry pops, honeyed peach thyme pops, lavender blueberry, matcha latte, and more. Using frozen berries and frozen fruit works fine or take a quick trip down to the Mar Vista Farmer's Market?

The Mar Vista Market on Venice near Grandview remains open, as does Mitsuwa Market, at the corner of Venice and Centinela. Mitsuwa has an outstanding selection of fish and many Japanese foods and products. Their vegetable selection is outstanding, the highest quality.

The Art Bar in Mar Vista is open for Growlers and Grinders, curbside pickup 5- 9 p.m. daily. The businesses are beginning to open up slowly. Stay safe everybody.

Is There a Connection?

(Continued from Page 10)

that incorporates all of these aspects of brain health so you can start improving your cognitive fitness today.

Jack Hodes, Honors BS, is a Clinical Research Coordinator at the Pacific Brain Health Center. His primary focus is coordinating the day-to-day operations of the Alzheimer's PREVENTION Trial, a one-year randomized controlled study for individuals with mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease. PacificBrainHealth.org. 310-582-7641.

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From Me to You...



By Diane Margolin

One of my dearest friends is moving out of town this month. We have been friends since we were teenagers. I was not able to go to her going-away luncheon because of health concerns. I do not know when I will see her again. But, we will certainly keep in touch on the telephone.

She has lived in her house for 55 years so we discussed ways to make moving easier. I have moved several times and always pack one box with items that you may need when you first get to your new home. Often they could be packed up in several boxes and you can't get to them right away.

For her housewarming gift, I put several items in the "Moving Box." Toilet paper and paper towels are important, as are paper plates and cups, plastic utensils, a can opener, soap, flashlight, pens, some scratch pads, scissors, scotch tape, marking pen, keyrings, rubber bands, paper clips, an extension cord, a few pieces of chocolate (for energy, of course), a ruler, a tape measure, trash bags, batteries, and more, I'm sure. It was such fun to make up.

My sister-in-law Joyce reminded me of a traditional housewarming gift. It includes bread so you shall never know hunger, salt so your life always has flavor, sugar so your life has sweetness, and a broom to sweep away sadness or difficulties.

Instead of a broom, I gave her this wonderful washable microfiber "feather duster" that is a joy to use. The other items I will ship when she is settling into her new home.

We also talked about contacting your current utility providers to stop service and to contact the ones where you will be living so you will have power and water when you move in.

Contacting the chamber of commerce for more information about the area is helpful also.

We were so sad to hear about the passing of some friends who have been active in our community. Sincere condolences to the families of Maurice Solomon, Bill Crookston, Marv Levin, and Stan Dyer. We share many memories of these men.

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