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@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

Officials see furniture and fun as key to Promenade's future



Courtesy photo

EXPERIMENT: DTSM brought some of their outdoor furniture inside during their annual meeting to illustrate their recent efforts to encourage longer visits to the Promenade.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The organization that oversees downtown Santa Monica has spent the last year revamping the Third Street Promenade, making it easier for businesses to open and launching new events.

Sales have declined in the city's downtown core in the past few years as its main shopping destinations, the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Place, have struggled to adapt to the rise of online retail. In 2018, however, businesses in the area generated $1.2 billion in total taxable sales, a 6.4% increase over the previous year.

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc., the area's business improvement district, embarked on several projects over the past year that may continue the upward sales

SEE **PROMENADE** PAGE 6

Heat kills man hiking in mountains above Malibu

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A 64-year-old man died when a group of hikers in Malibu ran out of water Monday afternoon, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Emergency crews found a group of about six people in the Zuma Canyon area who were hiking in 85 degree heat without water, officials said. Six needed medical attention and one was airlifted to a nearby hospital. One man died from heat stroke, despite efforts by Malibu Search and Rescue and other hikers.

An official with the National Parks Service (NPS) said the group had left the official trail and entered an area that the National Parks Service had closed after the Woolsey fire.

"Emergency responders arrived at the scene of the deceased man and attempted to revive him using

SEE **DEATH** PAGE 3

34 presumed dead after fire on scuba diving boat

STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

No one likely escaped the flames that tore through a boat packed with scuba divers, with all 34 people sleeping below deck presumed dead during a Labor Day weekend expedition off the Southern California coast, authorities said Tuesday as they called off the search for survivors.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said no one has been found alive after the fire engulfed the dive boat early Monday. Flames blocked an escape hatch and a stairwell leading to the sleeping area crowded with passengers on a recreational scuba diving trip.

Only five crew members sleeping on the top deck were able to escape by jumping into the water and steering a small boat to safety.

The fire that engulfed the Conception is believed to have killed all 33 passengers and one crew member who was below deck, the sheriff said. Investigators have not yet determined how the fire erupted.

Santa Barbara County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig told reporters that the victims' relatives "will rely on us to do everything in our power to find out happened aboard that vessel in the last moments of these family members' lives. That's our commitment."

The bodies of 20 victims have been recovered, and divers have seen between four and six others in the sunken wreckage, the sheriff said. Authorities are trying to stabilize the boat that sank in about 60 feet (18 meters) of water so divers can recover those remains.

Most need to be identified by DNA analysis and officials are collecting samples from families,

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 11

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, September 4

Westside Writers Mingle

A monthly meeting of SCBWI, an organization of children's writers and illustrators. Open to all. Plan your writing strategy for the next 10 months of Mingle meetings. They will be checking in at each Mingle to share how their writing goals are progressing! Summer Conference Recap and The Business of Writing for Children. This month they'll be blending two topics into one night. First, they'll take a look at the summer SCBWI conference, giving folks a chance to share highlights and takeaways. Then segue into a Business 101 look at children's publishing. 7 - 8:45 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library.

Planning Commission Meeting

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

Mindfulness Meditation

Organizers invite you to enjoy a pause in the day in which to refresh yourself by simply sitting and paying attention to your senses, feelings, and thoughts. You are welcome to stay for 5 minutes or for the entire 30 minutes. Natalie Bell, Mindful Wellness consultant, and/or guest facilitators from UCLA Mindful Awareness Center, will guide the session, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. Montana Avenue Branch Library. 5:30 - 6 p.m.

Senior TAP Workshop at Ken Edwards Center

Bring valid ID showing you are 62 years or older to apply for a FREE senior reduced fare TAP card. Includes travel and TAP card use training. For details, visit bigbluebus.com/tapworkshop. Ken Edwards Center. 1 - 2 p.m.

Thursday, September 5

NOMA meeting

Code enforcement and Home-Share regulations, neighborhood crime and safety, and landmarking will be up for discussion at the North of Montana Neighborhood Association's monthly meeting Thursday, September 5th, at the Montana Branch Library. Greets and eats at 6:30; program at 7 p.m., and all are welcome.

Ten Easy Postures to Improve Your Health

Yoga Instructor Adrienne Hite demonstrates useful postures to start your day and help combat lower back pain. Please bring a towel or mat. Ocean Park Branch Library. 7 - 8 p.m.

Library Board Meeting

Library Board Meeting in Administration Conference Room, 2nd Floor near computer commons. Main Library, 7 - 9 p.m.

Community Kids Re-Constitution: Fake News and the Founding of Our Country

Join organizers for a series of programs to learn about social justice. For the first program in this series, they will be playing an interactive trivia game to learn about the Constitution and acquire skills for distinguishing real news from fake news. Ages 8-13. Main Library, 5 - 6 p.m.

Friday, September 6

Sunset Swim

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

Light the Barricades, an installation by Candy Chang and James A. Reeves

Annenberg Space for Photography Presents 'Light the Barricades' by Candy Chang and James A. Reeves A site-specific installation This interactive installation reimagines the wall as a site for contemplating our inner obstructions. For more about the Annenberg Community Beach House, visit annenbergbeachhouse.com. 8:30 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House.

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

California city experiments with universal basic income

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang wants to give cash to every American each month.

Susie Garza has never heard of Yang. But since February, she's been getting $500 a month from a nonprofit in Stockton, California, as part of an experiment that offers something unusual in presidential politics: a trial run of a campaign promise, highlighting the benefits and challenges in real time.

Garza can spend the money however she wants. She uses $150 of it to pay for her cellphone and another $100 or so to pay off her dog's veterinarian bills. She spends the rest on her two grandsons now that she can afford to buy them birthday presents online and let them get the big bag of chips at the 7-Eleven.

"I've never been able to do that. I thought it was just the coolest thing," said Garza, who is unemployed and previously was addicted to drugs, though she said she has been sober for 18 years following a stint in prison. "I like it because I feel more independent, like I'm in charge. I really have something that's my own."

Garza is part of an experiment testing the impact of "universal basic income," an old idea getting new life thanks to the 2020 presidential race, although Stockton's project is an independent one and has no connection to any presidential race.

Yang, a tech entrepreneur, has anchored his longshot bid with a proposal to give $1,000 in cash to every American, saying the payments will shield workers from the pain of certain job losses caused by automation. The idea has helped him win unexpected support and even muscle out some better-known candidates from the debate stages. His proposal isn't too far off from one by U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, one of the top contenders for the Democratic nomination, who has a proposal to give up to $500 a month to working families.

Stockton, once known as the foreclosure capital of the country and for one of the nation's largest municipal bankruptcies, is a step ahead of both candidates. In February, the city launched the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration, a pilot program spearheaded by a new mayor and financed in part by the nonprofit led by Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes. The city chose 125 people who live in census tracts at or below the city's median household income of $46,033. They get the money on a debit card on the 15th of each month.

"I think poverty is immoral, I think it is antiquated and I think it shouldn't exist," said Michael Tubbs, the city's 29-year-old Democratic mayor.

Tubbs' personal story includes a cousin who was killed, a father who is in prison and a mother who, as a teenager, raised him with the help of multiple jobs. He found his way to Stanford and public service, where he persuaded his beleaguered city to sign on to a provocative new idea: guaranteed cash.

Stockton residents, who have elected Republican mayors for 16 out of the last 22 years, were skeptical, worried about encouraging people not to work. Tubbs said he calmed their fears by noting the money came from private donations, not taxpayer dollars.

"I would tell people all that time that would be upset or would call angry, I would say, well, I'm just as angry as you are, but I'm angry about the problem. I'm not angry about possible solutions," Tubbs said.

A team of researchers is monitoring the participants. Their chief interest is not finances but happiness. They are using what they call a "mattering scale" to measure how much people feel like they matter to society.

"Do people notice you are there? Those things are correlated to health and well-being," said Stacia Martin-West, a researcher at the University of Tennessee who is working on the program along with Amy Castro-Baker at the University of Pennsylvania.

The money has made Jovan Bravo happier. The 31-year-old Stockton native and construction worker is married and has three children, ages 13, 8 and 4. He said he didn't see enough of his children when he worked six days a week to pay the bills.

That changed when he started getting $500 a month. Now he only works one Saturday a month. He uses the other Saturdays to take his kids to the amusement park and ride bikes with them in the park.

"It's made a huge difference," he said. "Just being able to spend more time with the wife and kids, it brings us closer together."

Stockton officials do not release the names of the program participants. They arrange interviews with journalists only for those who volunteer to discuss their experiences.

The idea of a guaranteed income dates back to at least the 18th century and has crossed ideological and cultural lines.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Republicans Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney oversaw four guaranteed-income experiments scattered across the country when Rumsfeld, later a defense secretary, was director of President Richard Nixon's Office of Economic Opportunity and Cheney, the future vice president, was his deputy.

The program had some hiccups, including a woman who spent all the money on alcohol and a man who went into debt buying expensive furniture for his government-subsidized apartment, according to a 1970 New York Times story. But the experiment concluded that the money did not stop people from working and led Nixon to propose expanding the program, which ultimately did not pass Congress.

Since then, other studies have reached similar results. A 2018 study in Alaska, where residents have gotten a share of the state's oil revenue every year since 1982, found the money has not shrunk the state's labor force. The same was found in a 2010 UCLA study in North Carolina, where the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has shared casino revenue with its members since the mid-1990s.

The latest momentum comes with the help of the technology industry, which is grappling with how to prepare for the job losses likely to come with automation and

SEE **INCOME** PAGE 11

DEATH

FROM PAGE 1

CPR," said NPS Public Affairs Officer Ana Cholo. "He was pronounced dead at 3:40 p.m. and was airlifted out of the canyon by helicopter."

The man was found about a mile from the Kanan Backbone Trailhead.

Multiple agencies and two helicopters also responded to calls for help from hikers in three other locations, saving eight hikers in total Monday, according to Malibu Search and Rescue.

Cholo said they were found on four different cliffsides near Newton Canyon and Zuma Edison Road, along an abandoned, rapidly eroding and treacherous road.

"The road is not an official trail and is part of an area that has been closed since November 2018 in order to protect visitors and recovering vegetation," she said. "Some of the hikers had already hiked for almost eight miles."

She said the Woolsey Fire damaged 88 percent of National Park Service land and even if trails are open, some of the areas lack shade due to the loss of plants.

Cholo said this is the second heat related death on federal land this summer.

"A month ago, a 72-year-old female hiker succumbed to the heat during a hike in the isolated Circle X area of Malibu," she said.

According to Cholo, hiking in extreme heat can be dangerous and hikers should be aware of warning signs such as nausea, disorientation, dizziness and hallucinations.

HIKER SAFETY TIPS:

- Plan ahead! Bring the 10 essentials on every hike, no matter how short. These essentials include extra water (at least 3-5 liters on hot days) and extra food. Hikers should also have a map and compass (or GPS), flashlight or headlamp, sun protection, extra insulation, waterproof matches, an emergency shelter, a multipurpose tool and first aid kit.
- If hiking as part of a group, designate a "sweep," a hiker who stays at the back of the group as a safety measure. Also, the hike leader should stop at forks and intersections to allow hikers and the sweep to rejoin the group.
- Stay on the trail. Do not wander off trail!
- Dress appropriately by wearing light and loose-fitting clothing. Wear good hiking shoes.
- During the summer, hike in the morning or in the late afternoon when the temperatures are cooling down.
- Know your limits! If carrying extra water is not feasible, reconsider the hike.

SMDP Editor Matthew Hall contributed to this story.

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WINNER

NTSB: Tesla on Autopilot when it hit California firetruck

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

A government report says the driver of a Tesla that slammed into a firetruck near Los Angeles last year was using the car's Autopilot system when a vehicle in front of him suddenly changed lanes and he didn't have time to react.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday the driver never saw the parked firetruck and didn't brake. Apparently the man's 2014 Tesla Model S didn't brake either.

The report raises further questions about the effectiveness of Tesla's system, which was in operation before several other crashes including two fatalities in Florida and one in Silicon Valley. Tesla warns drivers that the system is not fully autonomous and drivers must be ready to intervene.

The NTSB report didn't state a cause of the crash. The agency will issue a final report Wednesday.

The driver in the Jan. 22, 2018 firetruck crash on Interstate 405 was not hurt. But the NTSB report says he did not have his hands on the steering wheel at the time of the crash.

The firetruck from Culver City, California, had stopped in the northbound high occupancy vehicle lane with its emergency lights flashing as it responded to another crash. The firefighters were also uninjured.

The Tesla driver, from suburban Woodland Hills, told the NTSB that he was traveling to work in Los Angeles when the crash happened. He told investigators he was looking forward with his hand rested on his knee while touching the bottom of the steering wheel.

Just before the crash, a large vehicle, an SUV or pickup truck, changed lanes in front of him, the driver told the NTSB.

"Although the driver stated that he was looking forward, he was unable to see the firetruck in time enough to avoid the crash. The driver had coffee and a bagel at the time, but he wasn't sure if either was in his hand when the crash occurred," according to the report.

Cellphone data showed the driver was not using his phone to talk or text in the minutes leading up to the crash.

A statement from a driver in a nearby vehicle provided by Tesla said the driver appeared to be looking down at a cellphone or other device he was holding in his left hand before the crash.

The NTSB determined in September 2017 that design limitations of the Tesla Model S Autopilot played a major role in a May 2016 fatal crash in Florida involving a vehicle operating under Autopilot. But it blamed the crash on an inattentive Tesla driver's over-reliance on technology and a truck driver who made a left turn in front of the car.

The California investigation comes as the federal government has few regulations governing autonomous vehicles and driver-assist systems that can drive a car under certain circumstances. The systems can significantly reduce crashes, but computer-driven vehicles also can make mistakes.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SAN FRANCISCO

Facebook face recognition feature to replace tag suggestions

Facebook says it is ending its practice of using face recognition software to identify users' friends in uploaded photos and automatically suggesting they "tag" them.

Instead, it is replacing the feature, called "tag suggestions," with its broader face recognition setting, which identifies people's faces in photos for various uses, not just tagging. Beginning Tuesday, people who are new to Facebook, or previously had the tag suggestions setting turned on, will instead get the face recognition setting, which they can turn on or off.

People who had the tag suggestions setting turned off will see a notice about face recognition and a button to turn it on or keep it off.

Facebook was sued in Illinois over the tag suggestion feature and a federal appeals court has ruled the lawsuit can proceed.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

California's Mavericks surf contest canceled indefinitely

Organizers of the annual surf contest in the massive waves of Mavericks in Northern California say they are canceling the competition indefinitely.

The World Surf League says logistical challenges and the inability to run the event the last two years prompted it to cancel it this year.

WSL produces some of the world's best-known surf contests and in 2017 bought the rights to the Titans of Mavericks big wave surf contest after its original organizer filed for bankruptcy. It changed its name to the Mavericks Challenge.

If the surf was right, the contest was held in 25-foot-plus waves at the at the Maverick's break near Pillar Point in Half Moon Bay between Nov. 1 and March 31.

The contest was called off in 2017 and 2018.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

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Gun groups see opportunity in NRA turmoil

LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

Bob Mokos is a passionate gun owner who on the surface would seem like a card-carrying National Rifle Association member.

The retired airline pilot has been shooting guns since he was a child. The Vietnam veteran got more serious about firearms as a civilian after one of his sisters was fatally shot during a mugging in Chicago. After the 9/11 terror attacks, he became qualified to carry a gun in the cockpit.

But Mokos has grown so disillusioned with the NRA over the years that he has joined forces with a rival organization — the gun control group founded by former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

"The more gun owners I contacted, the more I found out that everybody is thinking the same thing: The NRA does not speak for us," said Mokos, who was a founder of the Minnesota Gun Owners for Safety.

As the 2020 presidential campaign draws closer, gun control groups are seizing on the turmoil engulfing the NRA — as well as recent high profile shootings in Gilroy, California; El Paso, Texas; Dayton, Ohio, and this weekend's in Odessa and Midland, Texas — to court firearms owners in hopes of persuading them that there can be bipartisan solutions to gun violence that don't infringe on their Second Amendment rights.

Giffords' group formed coalitions this year with gun owners in Colorado, Minnesota and Texas in outreach that managing director Robin Lloyd said was done expressly to show that not all gun owners believe in the NRA.

"The fallacy that the NRA has perpetuated for so long is that you're either for the Second Amendment or you're for taking away people's guns," Lloyd told the AP.

At the same time, various pro-gun organizations at the state level have been more active in staking their claim as the true defenders of the Second Amendment. Many of those advocates see the NRA as too focused on raking in donations to fuel a large organization out of touch with American gun owners.

"I don't think anybody doubts, even the most ardent critics, that they're the biggest gun lobby on the block and probably will be still for the foreseeable future," said Greg Pruett, president of Idaho Second Amendment Alliance. "But I think a lot of people are starting to realize ... we have this large machine but it's not doing what we're paying it to do, so where do we turn in the meantime until they either get things cleaned up? Or is the NRA done in some regards and we're going to suffer the consequences of their bad leadership at the ballot box?"

Long viewed as the most powerful gun lobby in the world, the NRA has been facing internal and external pressures over its operations and spending habits. Law enforcement authorities have launched probes that threaten its non-profit status and there has been a revolt by members who are questioning the NRA's finances and leadership.

The group's former president, Oliver North, and its longtime top lobbyist have left.

Among the headline-grabbing details are allegations that its longtime CEO, Wayne LaPierre, expensed hundreds of thousands of dollars in wardrobe purchases from a Hollywood clothier and spent thousands traveling on private jets.

The NRA's problems have created fears among gun enthusiasts that rival organizations have found an opening to undermine the organization's mission to protect gun rights.

"Those folks are openly saying we have to move now while the NRA is in turmoil. They are very much trying to take advantage of this," said Tom Gresham, who hosts the syndicated radio show, "Gun Talk."

But gun control groups trying to court politically moderate firearms enthusiasts still have a long way to go to wield the same the power of the NRA.

In the wake of massacres that killed 31 people in Texas and Ohio, LaPierre has demonstrated his sway over President Donald Trump and the Republican-led Senate, where Democratic-sponsored gun legislation faces a grim fate. Trump voiced support for universal background checks after the shootings but backtracked after a phone call with LaPierre.

The NRA spent some $30 million to help elect Trump in 2016 and remains a powerful force lobbying politicians and government officials.

In the first half of this year, the NRA spent $1.6 million lobbying Congress, the State and Justice Departments and other federal agencies on legislation that ranged from recreational shooting on federal lands to concealed firearms permits, according to disclosure records filed with the House and Senate.

The NRA donated $4.1 million to candidates for federal office during the last four election cycles, with the bulk of the contributions going to Republican incumbents, according to figures compiled by the political money website Open Secrets. That figure pales in comparison to what the gun-rights group tallies on get-out-the-vote operations and advertising campaigns.

And many gun-rights activists contend that even a weakened NRA may not matter when it comes to 2020 because the Democratic candidates for president have run so far to the left on guns during the primary. The vast majority of Democratic presidential candidates have called for a wide range of gun restrictions to be enacted.

Pruett, of the Idaho Second Amendment Alliance, said that although gun owners have grown weary of the NRA's troubles, it won't require much effort to mobilize gun owners because of some of the gun control ideas the Democrats have proposed during the campaign.

"The Democratic Party has gotten so radical on guns that it might actually help fuel a lot of gun owners getting out to vote and not necessarily have to rely on the NRA to get out to vote," Pruett said. "You'd really have to be oblivious to what's going on, and Donald Trump would be happy to remind you with every other tweet just how gun-grabbing they are."

SEE **OPPORTUNITY** PAGE 11

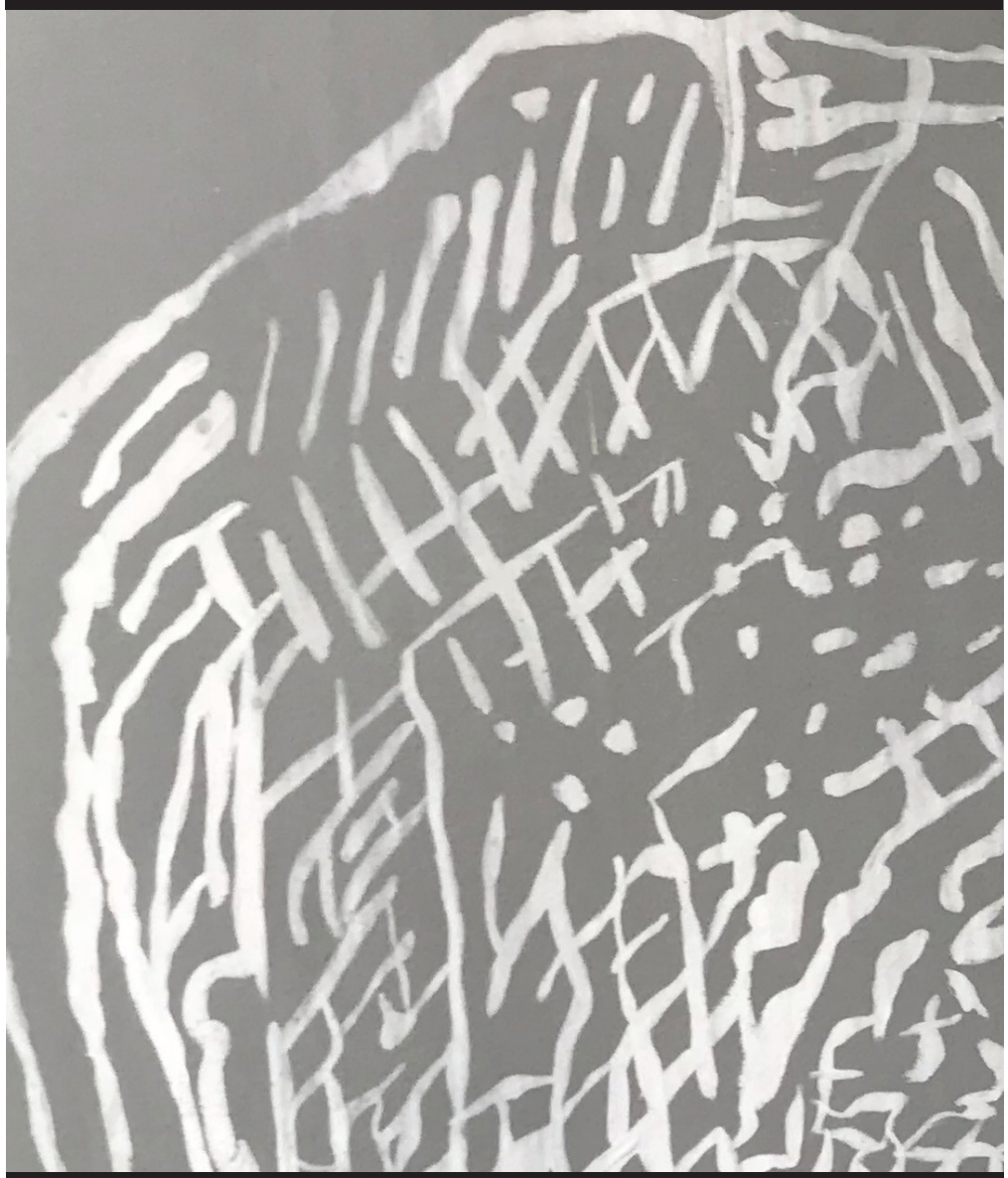
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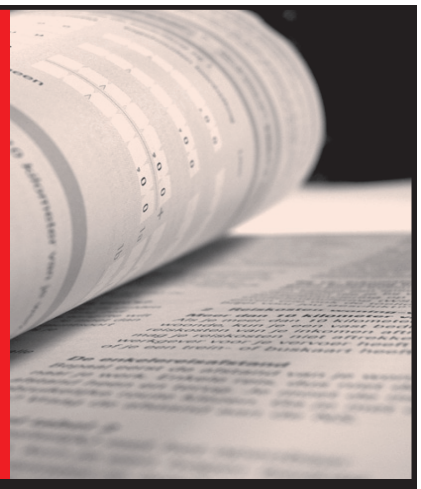
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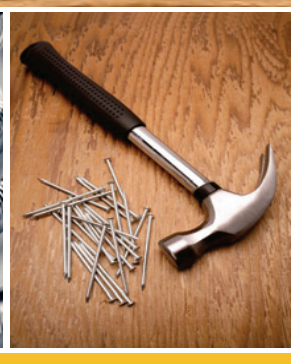
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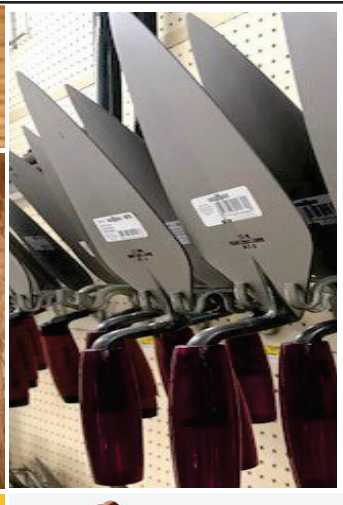
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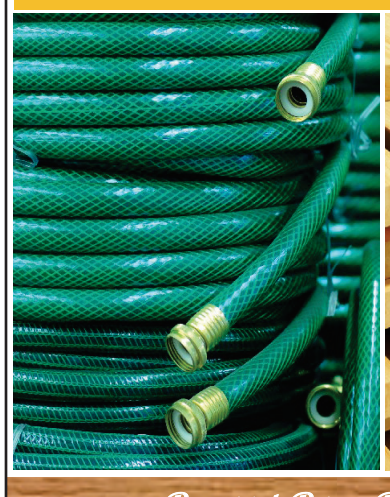
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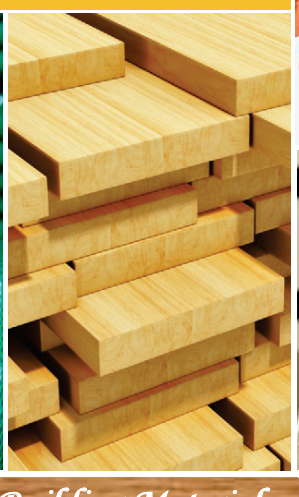




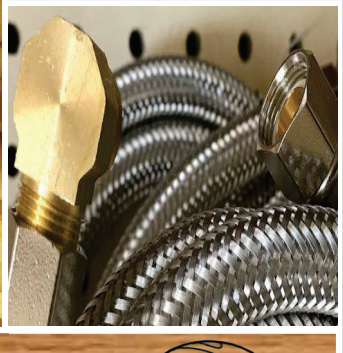


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PROMENADE

FROM PAGE 1

trend into 2019 according to officials.

The most transformative of those projects is Promenade 3.0, a long-term plan to draw visitors to the shopping district and invite them to linger. DTSM is reimagining the design of the Promenade and introducing events and marketing strategies, while the city of Santa Monica is changing local regulations and code to attract desired tenants.

An early component of Promenade 3.0 launched last November. To test whether offering new amenities in the Promenade's public space would change how visitors used the space, DTSM placed boldly painted Adirondack chairs, lawn games and pianos on the northernmost block of the Third Street Promenade. The installation was dubbed "The Experiment."

"The Promenade is busy, and because of that flow of traffic down the street, people keep moving. So we started thinking about the idea of stickiness — that we needed to give people invitations to ... extend their experience and spend more time in the street," said deputy chief executive Steven Welliver said at DTSM's annual meeting Thursday.

Of the 27,000 visitors that DTSM surveyed, 83% were happy with the new amenities, he said.

Last week, The Experiment spread through the other two blocks of the Promenade, scattering colorful seating, play structures and art installations in front of stores and restaurants. Around the end of the year, Welliver said, DTSM will present a design concept for Promenade 3.0 that is informed by the results of The Experiment.

DTSM held its first Pride Month celebration, partnering with the city of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Pier Corp. and Santa Monica Place to host a citywide Pride celebration called SaMo Pride.

The month of June was loaded with family-friendly events that paid tribute to the contributions made by the LGBTQ+ members of the Santa Monica community, said DTSM CEO Kathleen Rawson. DTSM held a centerpiece Pride on the Promenade event June 15, which drew almost 120,000 pedestrian impressions.

"It was the first time in six years that DTSM was allowed by the city to produce an event of that size," Rawson said. "We hope to expand upon this with more large-scale events."



Courtesy photo

PROMENADE 3.0: Steven Welliver said DTSM has succeeded in getting people to slow down.

DTSM also addressed two issues that are frequently cited as a barrier to doing business in downtown Santa Monica: the district's high concentration of homelessness and the red tape around setting up shop in the area.

DTSM set aside two members of its ambassadors program, which it expanded in 2016, to specifically focus on quality of life issues like mental health issues, antisocial behavior or criminal activity. Rawson said the ambassadors also help people connect with services and reunite with family.

In 2018, the ambassadors each interacted with more than three people per hour, she said.

DTSM created a tenant recruitment website called choosesantamonica.com that includes an interactive, step-by-step guide to opening a business in Santa Monica. Prospective tenants can view guides to zoning, construction, licensing and parking tailored to their business and the location they hope to move into.

"With this feature, users answer simple yes or no questions to create a path for who they need to contact for permits and approvals before they open," Rawson said.

madeleine@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

AWARD: The Downtown Santa Monica Annual Meeting included several award presentations including one to gallery owner Adamm Gritlefeld.



Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Death Of A Diner

AND WHAT IT MEANS

Diners are cool. And they're convenient and often a low-cost dining out option. Never a big fan myself of Swingers (b. 1993), I decided to go Saturday, on their final day of business.

Santa Monica now has a dearth of diners. (Oh, my acute affection for alliteration! And for seldom-used words like dearth. Definitely, there is a dearth of dearth.)

With Norms (1964), Denny's (1968), Callahan's (1946, bought from the original owners by Tony's brother Abraham Vasquez, in '88, who worked for decades at Rae's), Zucky's (1946), The Omelet Parlor (1978?), Carrow's (1992, was Bob's Big Boy 1979), Coco's and a couple of others gone in recent years, we're now down to the chain Johnny Rockets in The Promenade (started in LA in '86), the new, pricey Mel's anchoring The Great Wall of Lincoln (have you driven by there lately?), The OP Cafe (1942), Snug Harbor (1942?) and good ol' Rae's, sitting there at the east end of Pico for God-knows how long, never changing, low prices, good food. (Cash only. That's how Old School they are.)

I couldn't find a start year for Coco's, or for Rae's (it might be on papyrus somewhere), but the friend who accompanied me to the Swingers closing also went with me to Norm's sad demise (several employees had worked there more than 30 years), and as a gentleman of Medicare age he told me his grandfather used to take him to Rae's as a kid. Now, that's a piece of Santa Monica.

SWINGERS SNUFF SAD?

Not so much, for me. But it certainly had its place, was open late and was the inspiration for the movie Swingers (although filmed in a different diner). My now-grown daughter used to go there frequently with her Samohi friends.

So why even mention it? Because something in all the news about it caught my eye and I didn't see that question asked or answered.

The restaurant cited the cost of doing business as the primary reason. "Continual rising costs, food, labor, and operating expenses made our business model impossible to continue to maintain," said the company. But their Hollywood store remains open.

Yeah. Read that last sentence again. Could all those difficult "business circumstances" exist only in SM and not LA?

So I asked the manager on duty, who prefaced by saying the entire business operation details were "above my pay grade," but…

"OUR RENT INCREASED DRAMATICALLY LAST MAY"

— and City taxes went up around then, she said, and the minimum wage went up a lot, about double, there were other new fees and we were required to conduct a new training program for all employees that was expensive…

"And the City didn't offer any mitigation for all that?" I asked, pretty sure of the answer. "Not that I know of," she said.

I'm not saying we shouldn't require a living wage, and I don't know what the training program was, maybe it was a good thing. But you put all those things together and you get SM as a lousy, if not impossible place to do business unless you are a well-heeled national or international chain. Mom and Pop, who needs ya?

Our City leaders seem to have a vision of a much denser, taller Santa Monica with no cars (but no adequate public transportation either), everyone cheerily walking or biking or scootering (yes, including your 88-year-old Grandma with groceries), a "diversity" of the wealthy opening their wallets to diverse posh retailers and restaurants, with no nevermind for residents, especially longtime residents, and no acknowledgment of the storied history of this unique, low-rise, sun-filled beach town.

The Swingers now-ex-manager lives on the edge of Santa Monica and has no idea what she will do for work. "I'd like to stay in the area, in Santa Monica," she said, and I bit my tongue to keep from asking, are you sure? She apologized for the slow service and said, "when the word got out this was our last day, not much notice, half our employees just didn't show up today." Can't say as I blame them. No room at the LA location, already fully staffed. (Norms, still a family-run chain with 19 locations, promised to find jobs for every single SM location employee.)

And the march goes on. Is this what you want for Santa Monica, dear readers? Is this making for a better Santa Monica?

GUNS A GO GO

Last week I signed off with a shot at the availability of guns, hundreds of millions of guns in the USA, only in the USA, and mentioned the local young man, 19, who was shot to death by his brother in an argument, that in previous times would have ended with a fistfight, not death and anguish.

Now, some good news.

'Walmart says it will discontinue the sale of handgun ammunition and also publicly request that customers refrain from openly carrying firearms in stores even where state laws allow it.'

It's a start.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." — Dwight D. Eisenhower (the last good Republican president)

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







TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 04)

Self-expression becomes a priority. You'll try different means and methods, getting to know yourself and helping others know you better. The clarity of thought, purpose and being your work inspires will give you more power and influence, which you'll use to improve lives including your own. Sagittarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 20, 18, 4 and 22.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's pretty simple spiritual math: Those who feel that they have enough are generous with others. Stinginess and greed come from feelings of lack. A lack of love and attention is more profoundly harmful than any material lack.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Humans need rituals. It's part of the way we process experience. Consider how you might add to or change your personal rituals. Benefits will extend beyond the originally intended reason for a ritual.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's really OK to be thankful to yourself. In fact, you should be. You're as deserving as any of the people you've been giving your appreciation to, if not more so.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In a fair and balanced relationship, it is impossible for one person to feel satisfied and sufficiently loved if the other person does not. Whatever has a favorable or ill effect on the relationship affects both parties.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll notice that your thinking has evolved and, like all evolution, it is neither good nor bad, higher nor lower. Rather, it is a function of adaptation. This is not something to be assessed and rated so much as accepted.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you have a choice (and you usually do have a choice), go for the option that puts you before a greater number of people, as it will give you a chance to develop your style.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Maybe opposites will attract, but more likely this is a matter of filling in the blanks. We are all full in some areas and missing in others. You will be magnetized to those who possess what you lack and lack what you possess.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Advocating on your own behalf is just one of the duties that goes along with being you. You've been better at this in the past. It's time to return to taking a bigger role in the protection of your own interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Enthusiasm is attractive. You will be drawn to others who show signs of being as passionate as you are about forwarding the cause, discovering the information or revealing the mystery.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are those who only put in effort when they need something. Then, once they get what they came for, they become quite scarce. Make sure the trade is equitable all along the way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's interesting to see how other people live, and, at times, it is only human nature to be nosey in this regard. How else are we to understand the world and its standards?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Strive for perfection but don't let the pursuit stop you from turning in work that's good enough. Play the long game. If you keep getting a little better each time, you'll grow ever closer to the ideal.

Venus, Neptune and Romantic Illusion

The opposition of Venus and Neptune plays tricks with our emotional vision. At this time, the illusion of romance becomes sloppy, like a badly timed magician unable to hide the strings and magnets. The good news is that true love doesn't require a trick. Its magic is real. Whatever remains after the flash pots have gone off can be counted upon.

ASTROLOGICAL INSIGHTS

"I'm a psychologist, schooled in the Jungian concept of archetypes, a Libran man who has met his Venus. She's a Scorpio. Can that work? She's all I think about for months on end. I felt I knew her from the first time I saw her. One complication is that she's married with children. I didn't think there could be anything worse than falling in love with someone who has a life with someone else. Until I realized that there is something worse. She's also a patient." Scorpio women can be so guarded in their everyday life that when they do fess up on their innermost secrets it's an explosion to rival the Big Bang. Furthermore, as a Libra, you hold the belief that love and soul connections will conquer all obstacles. These things matter little. As a therapist, a professional and a decent human being, the only choice you have – and you really have no other – is to assign her to a different therapist and sever all ties immediately. Everything is at stake. Furthermore, you should consider this incident of the heart to be a wake-up call and an urgent invitation to examine your own motives and priorities. Currently, they seem seriously out of balance with the Hippocratic oath you took, which ethically binds you to, at the very least, do no harm.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

If the world were a high school, Beyonce Knowles would be the perpetual prom queen. Last year, Queen Bey appeared in Vogue during her birthday month wearing a sun-like crown. This year, the portrait has been added to the permanent collection at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery – talk about maximizing one's solar return! The Virgo superstar was born when Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto were all in the highly aesthetic realm of Libra. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

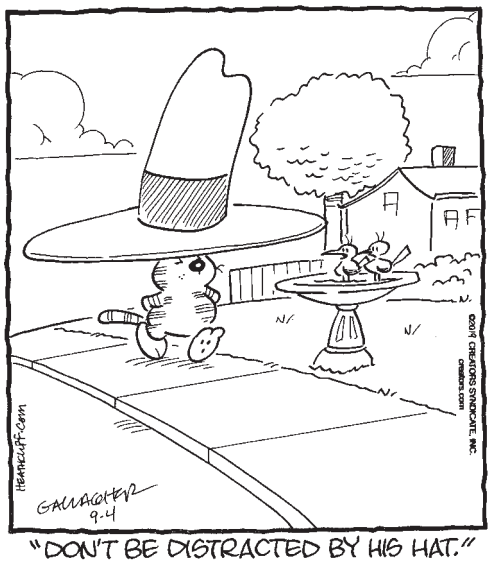
WORD UP!

Hive mind

Noun [hahyv mahynd] Psychology, Sociology. A collective consciousness, analogous to the behavior of social insects, in which a group of people become aware of their commonality and think and act as a community, sharing their knowledge, thoughts, and resources: the global hive mind that has emerged with sites like Twitter and Facebook.

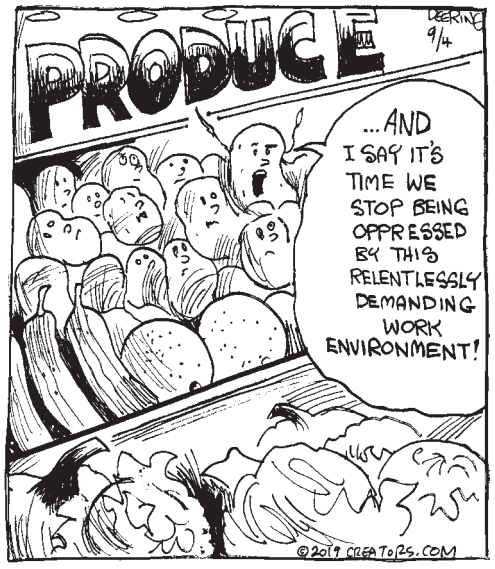
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



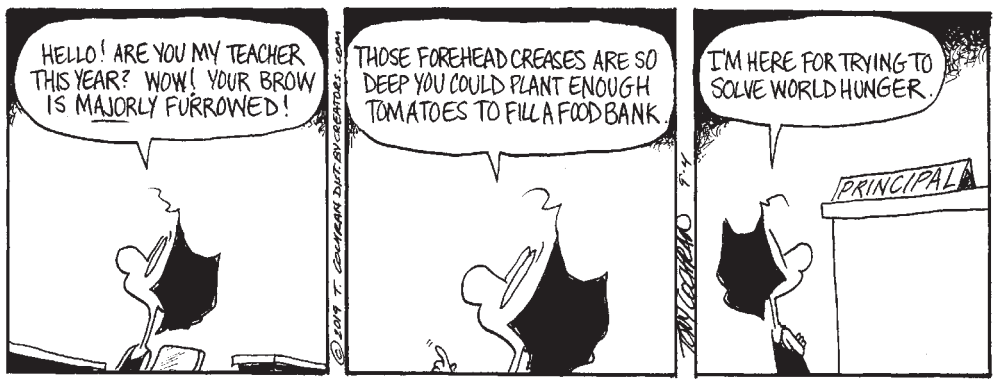
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



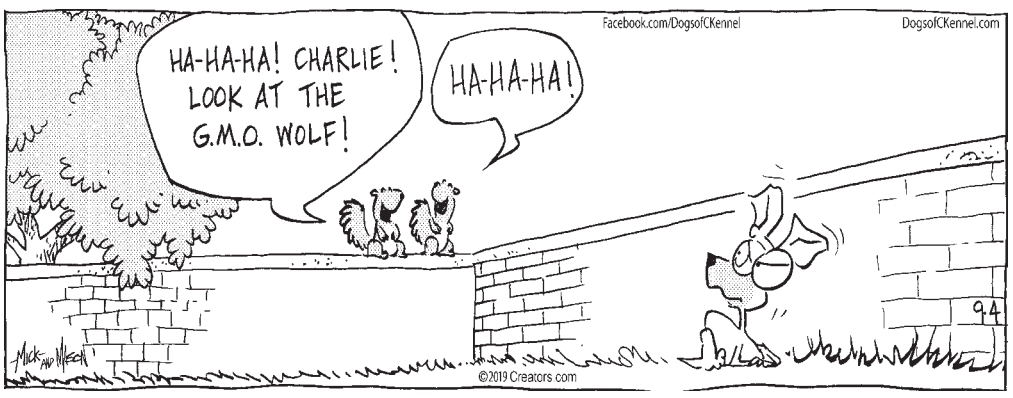
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



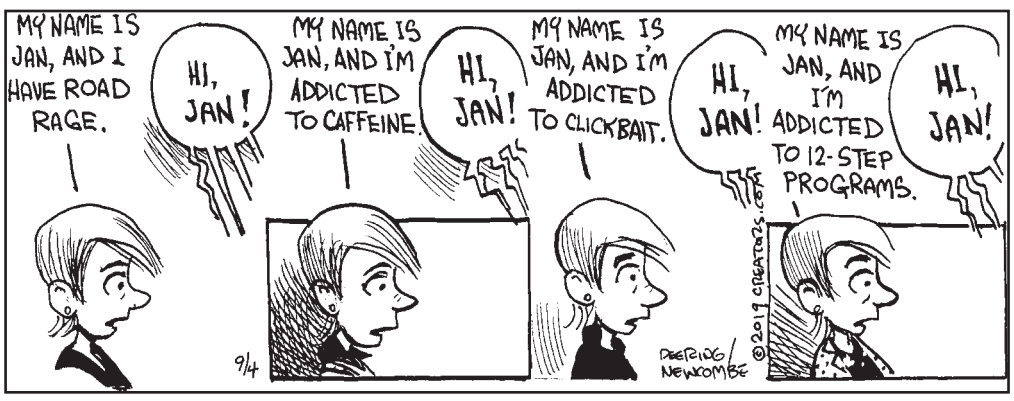
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:08/31
14 41 50 56 57
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 80 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 08/30
3 9 11 34 39
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 127 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 08/31
5 8 13 24 3
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 08/28
4 12 25 32 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 09/02
Midday: 8 6 4

Draw Date: 09/02
Evening: 7 0 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 08/12
1st: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
3rd: 07 - EUREKA
RACE TIME: 1:40.53

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 70.0°

WEDNESDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Small blend of SW/S swells and NW windswell lingers. Tropical SE swell builds in from Juliette.

THURSDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
Lingering SPAC swell. Small/steep angled NW swell tops out. Fun SE tropical swell from Juliette peaks late - largest west of Malibu.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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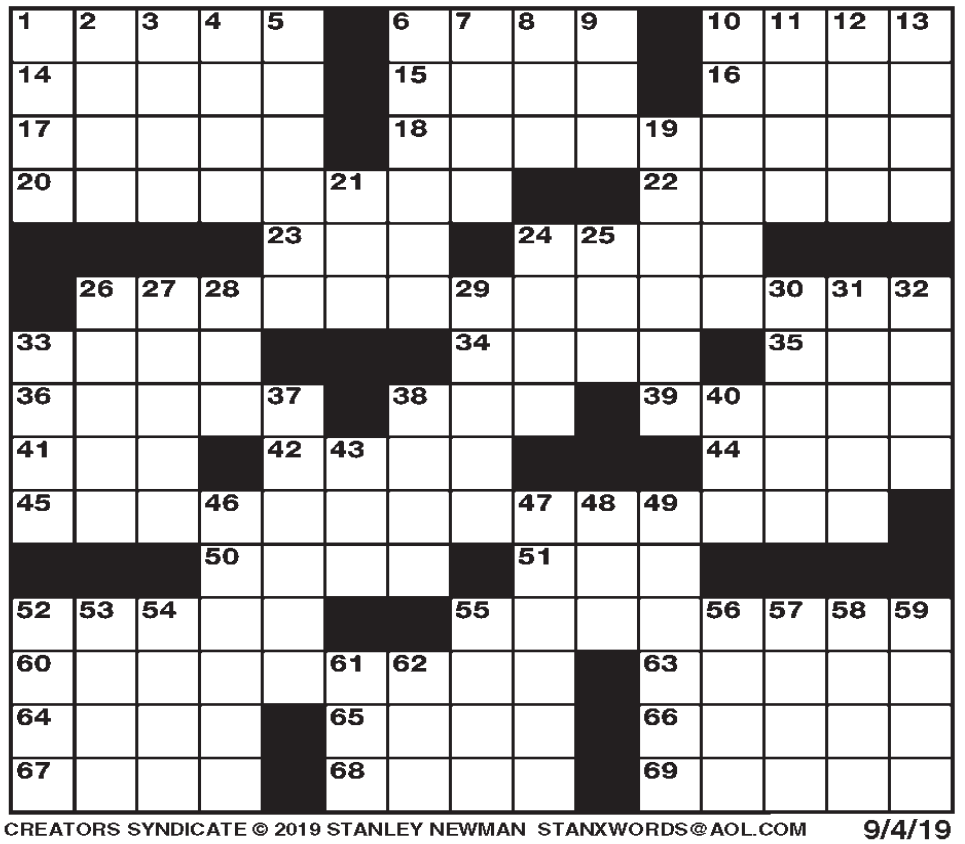
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	5			9		2	7	
9			2					6
								3
4	6		7		8		9	2
5								
1					5			7
	8	9		6			4	
6				8		3		

Newsday Crossword

EXTERIORS by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Job benefits, for short
6 Region
10 Audit experts: Abbr.
14 Fire-starting rock
15 Rip (up)
16 "That hurts!"
17 Carpet's place
18 With 60 Across, pursue incorrect assumptions
20 Covered with body art
22 Takes the bait
23 Urban transportation
24 Oxford or loafer
26 Do an initial orientation
33 Author Wiesel
34 Quite often
35 Hi-tech med. scan
36 Totaled altogether
38 Pooch's sound
39 Make off with
41 Annoy
42 Conflicts "declared"
44 Vessel made of logs
45 Making a pre-heist visit
50 Competes (for)
51 "YOU ARE HERE" chart
52 The Devil
55 Threw away
60 See 18 Across
63 Request
64 "No problem here!"
65 Top-flight
66 Loosen, as laces
67 Feathered mimic
68 Mattress store furniture
69 Double curves

DOWN
1 Fizzling sound
2 Fitzgerald of jazz
3 Hilarious person
4 Hole in a plank
5 Flashing dance-club light
6 Optimally
7 Devour a book
8 Cob of corn
9 Old Testament ship
10 Acts like
11 Stroke on a green
12 Sore spot
13 Mares and fillies
19 WWII subs
21 "They're playing ___ song"
24 Egotist's focus
25 *Game of Thrones* channel
26 Barton of the Red Cross
27 Sounds of sows
28 Animal hospital doc
29 Severe
30 Explanation intro
31 Basketry or carving
32 River sediment
33 Clapton on guitar
37 In possession of
38 Liberal ___ college
40 Prefix for angle or athlete
43 ID checker's concern
46 First Daughter after Sasha
47 Event hosts
48 Takeout counter tip holder
49 Opposite of "transparent"
52 Do pool laps
53 Marching force
54 Any animated character
55 Transmit
56 Plays on words
57 Hamsters and hounds
58 Southernmost Great Lake
59 Hair salon bottles
61 Bar bill
62 Fish eggs



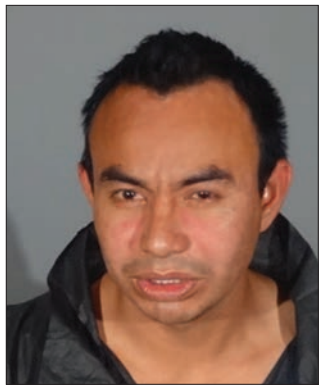
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CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON AUGUST 4, AT APPROXIMATELY 06:45 A.M. AT 1344 3RD STREET

A suspect was captured on CCTV footage forcing entry into the building by pulling on the rear door. Once inside the building the suspect forced entry into multiple suites on the 3rd floor. The suspect can be seen in screen shots taken from the CCTV footage. The suspect is seen leaving the location with a backpack that was taken from one of the burglarized suites. Detectives completed a search of the suspect using the Los Angeles County Booking photograph system. The search determined the suspect to be Abraham Garcia- Rivera, who had been arrested by Beverly Hills Police Department on August 4, 2019 at approximately 1507 hours. On August 20, 2019, SMPD was notified by the LAX Courthouse that Abraham Garcia Rivera was being released from custody from his Beverly Hills arrest. SMPD responded to the courthouse and took custody of the suspect. Abraham Garcia Rivera, 32, homeless, was arrested for burglary. Bail was set at $20,000.



File photo
ABRAHAM GARCIA- RIVERA

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 41 CALLS ON SEPTEMBER 2

Emergency Medical Service 200blk Washington Ave 12:36 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 12:45 a.m.
EMS 2200blk Main St 1:02 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Ocean Ave 1:53 a.m.
EMS 2200blk Main St 1:55 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:00 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Pico Blvd 2:03 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Colorado Ave 6:39 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 20th St 6:42 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Delaware Ave 7:22 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Pico Blvd 11:46 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 11:53 a.m.
Trash/dumpster fire 2200blk Virginia Ave 12:25 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Neilson Way 12:29 p.m.
EMS 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:59 p.m.
EMS 3rd St / Marine St 1:35 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 17th St 1:38 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 700blk Pico Blvd 1:52 p.m.
EMS 900blk Ocean Ave 2:39 p.m.
Vehicle into a structure 100blk Esparta Way 4:00 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Main St 4:39 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 1600blk 5th St 4:57 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 5:14 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 5:14 p.m.
EMS 100blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:22 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 5th St 5:29 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:34 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 1200blk Idaho Ave 6:52 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Ocean Ave 7:04 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 7:21 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Urban Ave 7:38 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1500blk 4th St 7:39 p.m.
EMS 14th St / Colorado Ave 7:52 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 15th St 8:14 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 300blk 23rd St 8:34 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 11th St 9:05 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 16th St 9:22 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 9:49 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Pico Blvd 9:57 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 10:06 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:44 p.m.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 368 CALLS ON SEPT. 2

Drunk driving 16th St / Arizona Ave 12:28 a.m.
Vandalism 1300blk 12th St 12:35 a.m.
Loud music 1400blk 6th St 12:59 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 200blk Ocean Ave 1:23 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:00 a.m.
Fight 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:10 a.m.
Vandalism 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 2:12 a.m.
Fight 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 2:13 a.m.
Petty theft 1200blk Lincoln Blvd 3:52 a.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 4:12 a.m.
Threats /s 1400blk 16th St 5:17 a.m.
Public intoxication 300blk Santa Monica Pier 6:41 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2nd St / Wilshire Blvd 6:59 a.m.
Petty theft 100blk Fraser Ave 8:12 a.m.
Construction noise 700blk Kensington Rd 8:18 a.m.
Petty theft 100blk Fraser Ave 8:19 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 1100blk 5th St 8:21 a.m.
Fight 1100blk Ocean Front Walk 8:26 a.m.
Construction noise 1500blk Harvard St 8:38 a.m.
Construction noise 400blk 21st St 8:42 a.m.
Exhibition of speed 2600blk Barnard Way 8:50 a.m.
Armed robbery 100blk Broadway 9:16 a.m.
Out of order traffic signals 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 10:25 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1900blk Euclid St 10:52 a.m.
Indecent exposure 5th St / Marine St 10:52 a.m.
Lewd activity 1400blk 2nd St 11:05 a.m.
Vandalism 1000blk 7th St 11:33 a.m.
Petty theft 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 11:41 a.m.
Panhandling 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 11:57 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 800blk Broadway 12:03 p.m.
Abandoned vehicle 3100blk 6th St 12:20 p.m.
Petty theft 700blk Westwood Plaza 12:33 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 1500blk Ocean Ave 12:52 p.m.
Hit and run felony 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:59 p.m.
Vandalism 400blk Pico Blvd 1:04 p.m.
Petty theft 1500blk the beach 1:06 p.m.
Battery 1900blk 17th St 1:08 p.m.
Battery 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 1:11 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400blk 21st St 1:14 p.m.
Fight 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:29 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 3rd St / Marine St 1:34 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 3rd St / Marine St 1:35 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2500blk Beverley Ave 1:50 p.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 700blk Pico Blvd 1:52 p.m.
Encampment 1100blk 6th St 2:41 p.m.
Prowler there 600blk Palisades Beach Rd 2:42 p.m.
Burglary 400blk 9th St 2:52 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1300blk Oak St 3:14 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 11th St / San Vicente Blvd 3:38 p.m.
Found property 400blk Santa Monica Pier 3:40 p.m.
Lewd activity 9th St / Arizona Ave 3:47 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 100blk Esparta Way 4:00 p.m.
Battery 1400blk Ocean Ave 4:21 p.m.
Petty theft 1600blk Appian Way 4:33 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 5:14 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1600blk Appian Way 5:19 p.m.
Out of order traffic signals 20th St / Olympic Blvd 5:21 p.m.
Theft of recyclables 800blk Bay St 5:23 p.m.
Domestic violence 2900blk Leeward Ave 5:29 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 5:56 p.m.
Battery 1600blk the beach 6:28 p.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:42 p.m.
Found senile person Ocean Ave / San Vicente Blvd 6:58 p.m.
Overdose 2200blk Ocean Ave 7:04 p.m.
Bike theft 1500blk the beach 7:11 p.m.
Lewd activity 500blk Santa Monica Pier 7:33 p.m.
Petty theft 200blk Arizona Ave 7:40 p.m.
Status check 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:48 p.m.
Drunk driving 1100blk 15th St 8:14 p.m.
Critical missing person 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:21 p.m.
Person with a gun 6th St / Broadway 8:26 p.m.
Public intoxication 1000blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:27 p.m.
Encampment 1000blk Hill St 9:14 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1000blk 3rd St 9:26 p.m.
Fight 400blk Expo Line 9:34 p.m.
Battery 1400blk Ocean Ave 9:50 p.m.
Domestic violence 2200blk Ocean Front Walk 9:52 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:44 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1700blk Appian Way 10:56 p.m.
Drunk driving Neilson Way / Hollister Ave 10:58 p.m.
Public intoxication 2900blk 4th St 11:02 p.m.
Battery 2500blk Pico Blvd 11:36 p.m.
Battery 100blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:51 p.m.



FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

Brown said.

Five members of one family perished. Susana Rosas posted on social media that her three daughters, their father and stepmother were on board.

Kristy Finstad, 41, leader of the scuba tour and co-owner of Worldwide Diving Adventures, which chartered the boat, was identified in a Facebook post by her brother, Brett Harmeling of Houston.

Pacific Collegiate School in Santa Cruz said some of its students and their parents were on the boat.

The sheriff says the majority of the victims appear to have been from Northern California, including Santa Cruz, San Jose and the San Francisco Bay Area.

The boat had departed Santa Barbara Harbor on Saturday and the fire broke out about 3 a.m. Monday while it was anchored off Santa Cruz Island, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) west of Los Angeles. The crew appeared to quickly call for help.

"The call was garbled, it was not that clear, but we were able to get some information out of it to send vessels," Coast Guard Petty Officer Mark Barney said.

Capt. Paul Amaral of the vessel assistance company TowBoatUS also launched a fast boat from Ventura Harbor, but it was some 30 miles (48 kilometers) away.

Amaral said he first searched the water and shoreline, then turned back to the Conception, which was adrift. He attached a line and pulled it into deeper water so the fireboats could reach it.

"We launched that boat knowing that the vessel was on fire, lots of people aboard," he told The Associated Press.

The five crew members, meanwhile, went on a dinghy to a private fishing boat, The Grape Escape, that was anchored near the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. Two had minor injuries.

That boat's owners, Bob and Shirley Hansen, told The New York Times they were asleep when they heard pounding on the side of their 60-foot (18-meter) vessel about 3:30 a.m. and discovered the frightened crew members.

"When we looked out, the other boat was totally engulfed in flames, from stem to stern," Hansen said. "I could see the fire coming through holes on the side of the boat. There were these explosions every few beats. You can't prepare yourself for that. It was horrendous."

The sheriff said scuba or propane tanks may have been exploding.

Hansen said two of the crew members went back toward the Conception looking for survivors but found no one.

The 75-foot (23-meter) Conception was on a three-day excursion to the chain of rugged, wind-swept isles that form Channel Islands National Park in the Pacific Ocean west of Los Angeles.

The Conception, based in Santa Barbara Harbor on the mainland, was owned by Santa Barbara-based Truth Aquatics, founded in 1974. A memorial outside Truth Aquatics in the Santa Barbara Harbor grew as mourners came to pay their respects.

Dave Reid, who runs an underwater camera manufacturing business with his wife, Terry Schuller, and has traveled on the Conception and two other boats in Truth Aquatics' fleet, said he considered all three among the best and safest.

"When you see the boats they are always immaculate," he said. "I wouldn't hesitate at all to go on one again. Of all the boat companies, that would be one of the ones I wouldn't think this would happen to."

His wife said Truth Aquatics crews have always been meticulous in going over safety instructions at the beginning of every trip she's been on.

"They tell you where the life jackets are, how to put them on ... the exits, where the fire extinguishers are, on every single trip," said Schuller. "They are the best, the absolute best."

Both said the sleeping area is comfortable but tight, however, with bunk beds stacked next to one another on the lowest deck. Coming up to the top deck to get off requires navigating a narrow stairway with only one exit.

Coast Guard records show all safety violations from the last five years were quickly addressed by the boat's owners. Some violations were related to fire safety. A 2016 inspection resulted in owners replacing the heat detector in the galley and one in 2014 cited a leaky fire hose.

Associated Press writers John Antczak, John Rogers, Frank Baker and Justin Pritchard in Los Angeles, Stephanie Mullen in San Francisco, Michael R. Blood in Oxnard, California, and Michael Balsamo in Washington contributed to this story.

OPPORTUNITY

FROM PAGE 5

Alan Gottlieb is among the leaders of local Second Amendment groups that illustrate the divide between the NRA and the smaller organizations.

The longtime NRA member in 1974 formed the Second Amendment Foundation with a goal of challenging gun restrictions in the courts. It has succeeded in getting two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court but among the general public, it toils in obscurity.

"Let me put it this way: Wayne LaPierre's salary is more than our whole total payroll," he said.

Associated Press reporter Richard Lardner contributed from Washington, D.C.

INCOME

FROM PAGE 3

artificial intelligence.

The tech connection has drawn criticism from left-leaning labor unions skeptical of the industry's motives.

"We think the future of work should be defined by working people, not tech billionaires," said Steve Smith, spokesman for the California Labor Federation, a group of 1,200 unions and a reliable ally for some of the state's most liberal policies. "If there are no jobs available, you are pretty much stuck with your $1,000 a month check while the CEO of the tech company that automated you out of a job is being paid a billion dollars a year."

Other critics note that the programs can chip away at the social safety net. Yang's plan requires recipients to decline food stamps and some other government assistance.

There's also the question of how to pay for it.

Stockton's program, giving 125 people $500 per month for 18 months, will cost just over $1.1 million. Harris' plan, which covers working families making up to $100,000 annually, would cost about $275 billion per year, according to the Tax Policy Center. To pay for it, she says she would repeal some of the 2017 GOP tax cuts and impose new taxes on corporations.

Yang's plan, which covers every adult in the United States, would cost $2.8 trillion per year. He would impose a new tax on businesses' goods and services while shrinking some other government assistance programs. Representatives for Yang and Harris did not respond to interview requests.

The Stockton experiment runs through July 2020. Researchers expect to release their first round of data this fall, when the presidential campaigns are preparing for the Iowa caucuses and state primaries.

Tubbs says he already sees success in making the city a focal point in the discussion about the future of capitalism and the U.S. economy. But once the experiment is over, he's not sure what's next. He says guaranteed income would need to be much bigger — at least statewide — to really have an impact.

Garza does not know what's next for her, either. She relies on her husband for most things, and he recently lost his job. The extra $500 a month was so helpful, it left her wondering how she was lucky enough to get it — a question she posed to the program's director.

"She goes, 'Because you're blessed,'" Garza said. "And I just left it at that."

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