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Santa Monica Daily Press



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1st Los Angeles temporary homeless housing site set to open

ARIEL TU & CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

The first shelter in what's planned to be a citywide network of temporary housing sites for homeless people was unveiled Wednesday by city officials who said the facilities will help down-and-out residents get back on their feet.

Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Council members were on hand at a new downtown "Bridge Home," which will serve 30 men and 15 women who live in and around the area starting Sept. 10.

The buildings resembling trailer homes offer beds, three meals a day, community space, case management and mental health and addiction services. Similar shelters are planned for each of the 15 city council districts where homelessness has spread from downtown streets into suburban enclaves.

The Bridge Home program's goal is to assist people in transitioning to permanent housing, officials said.

"The folks who are moving into this site are ready to put in the time it takes to heal, and they know that this is a place where they'll be able to get back on their feet and move on to a permanent home," Garcetti told reporters.

The first shelter located near the city's historic center cost about \$2.4 million to develop. It's a short walk from neighborhoods where rows of tents erected by homeless people line trash-strewn streets in makeshift encampments.

The new project is part of a wide-ranging effort by Garcetti and other leaders to combat a

SEE HOMELESS PAGE 8

Gruesome suicide and unstable man disrupt downtown

Tree climber closes 5th Street

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A man in a tree forced the closure of a section of 5th street in Downtown Santa Monica on Wednesday while police officers and firefighters attempt to coax him back to the ground.

The man climbed the tree just before 10 a.m. and was reported to have thrown branches at pedestrians.

SMPD and SMFD responded to the scene and closed the southbound lane on the 1500 block of 5th street. Traffic backed

SEE CLIMBER PAGE 6



Angel Carreras

ON THE GROUND: A man eventually came down from the tree after stalling traffic.

Suicide by hanging decapitates victim in Downtown parking structure

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A man was decapitated after hanging himself from the seventh-floor of Parking Structure 4 in Downtown Santa Monica Wednesday afternoon.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department, the victim used a rope to hang himself from the east side of the structure (facing the alley) on the 1300 block of 2nd Street. Officers issued an alert asking the public to stay out of the area while they investigated. Lt. Saul Rodriguez said there was no sign of foul play.

The suicide came just minutes after emergency responders cleared an incident nearby on the 1500 block of 5th Street when a man in a tree caused the temporary closure of the area. In that case, the suspect came down and was taken for a mental health evaluation.

Officer said there was no indication the two incidents were related in any way.

editor@smdp.com

Local comedian has serious concerns about kids and screens

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

For Paula Poundstone, the absurdity of parenting in the digital age can be distilled in a brightly colored 'iPotty' for sale on Amazon.com. The small, plastic toilet would be typical baby gear if

not for the stand placed between the toddler's legs for their iPad. Apparently, toilet training and devices now go hand-in-hand.

"Any parent who would use that is missing something so important - the best conversations you have in your life are on the toilet," Poundstone said of the potty-

training stage. "You are stuck there and there's nowhere to go."

Poundstone's son, Thomas, was around potty training age - three - when he first sat in front of a tangerine-colored iMac. The comedian strictly banned television while she raised three adopted children in Santa Monica, but made an

exception for computers, deeming them educational. It's an exception she deeply regrets.

"I foolishly used it as a reward system," Poundstone said. "Now, he's an addict."

To hear Poundstone describe it,

SEE COMEDIAN PAGE 11

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Calendar

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, September 6

Soundwaves Concert: Mark Robson PianoSpheres Preview

Mark Robson plays contemporary piano music. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The College Process from A to Z

This is a great one for middle school kids and for kids in their first couple of years in high school. And parents are welcome too. You'll learn all about the college process, including high school academics and course planning, forming a college list, the application process, and financial aid. These programs are free, open to the public, and there's no registration. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard. Repeats Thursday, September 20 at the Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Boulevard. Both start at 7 p.m. and go for 90 minutes. Call (310) 458-8604 for more information.

Current Events Discussion Group

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

Friday, September 7

Art Break Day

Since 2011, over twenty-six thousand people in cities across the world have participated in a free and public art-making event known as "Art Break Day." It's a day long celebration that encourages people to sit down, take a short break from their busy lives, and make art for free. The annual event occurs simultaneously in all participating locations on the first Friday of September. Palisades Park, Ocean Ave. 1 - 5 p.m. https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/68819

Gallery open

Gallery hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Guest House open

Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Saturday, September 8

Indian martial art movement with Aparna Sindhoor

Aparna Sindhoor, her students and company members introduce the basic movements from Kalari Ppayattu, one of the oldest martial arts in the world and sometimes called the "mother of martial arts." Training in Kalari assists you to live a healthy life with physical exercises, yoga-like breathing, massage, self-defense techniques, strong form, beauty and diet. No prior experience necessary. Palisades Park, Ocean Ave. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Cost: \$5. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/68067

Digital Photography & Abstraction with Lisa Diane Wedgeworth

A digital photography workshop exploring abstraction while embracing experimentation. Lisa will show some of her works and discuss issues to consider when creating abstract, non-narrative, or other experimental time-based art. Bring a camera phone or digital camera, laptop and cables and install photo editing software on your device(s) if needed. Palisades Park, Ocean Ave. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Cost: \$5. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/68119

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David Dines

By David Pissarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Thai Vegan

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

When the mood strikes for some flavorful, healthy and quickly served snacks there’s a place on Main Street in Santa Monica that fits the bill perfectly. It’s a super casual joint, where you can sit outside with your dog and enjoy a steaming hot plate of pad thai or some cool tofu spring rolls.

For those of the vegetarian and vegan persuasion, there are few options in this town, even though we probably have more than most American cities by a factor of 10. Asian food, in general, is a good go-to for vegetarian options, and for those looking for some solid Thai flavors - Thai Vegan is the place to start.

Thai Vegan is a walk up, order from the window, and grab a seat somewhere at the approximately 4 tables they have, and wait for them to call your number. There is some outside seating where the dogs are usually ruling the parking lot. Located next to The Bike Shop in a mini-strip mall, this restaurant serves high quality, super flavorful Thai food with a vegan flair.

I’ve been a semi-regular here for years, even though I’m nowhere near a vegetarian or vegan. I just love the ability to walk up, order some spring rolls, and a fried rice and sit under the giant ficus as the world walks by.

What would Asian cuisine be without some type of dumpling? And here, Thai Vegan provides a pan-fried, vegetable filled dumpling that is a perfect appetizer. The other big mainstay of any decent Thai restaurant is a satay – beef, chicken or tofu. Satay is strips of protein on a skewer and then grilled, in this vegan establishment, tofu is the only option, but it does come with a peanut dipping sauce.

The spring rolls are a delightful mix of spring greens, tofu, shredded carrot and rice paper wrapper. They come with a slightly tangy and spicy peanut sauce for dipping that definitely becomes addictive. Each order contains two rolls and I find that they are an easy way to eat my salad. One order is generally enough for a mid-afternoon snack, or as the precursor to a larger meal.

Thai Vegan

2400 Main St
Santa Monica, CA 90405
(310) 581-4255
thaivegansantamonica.com

Pad Thai is the national dish of Thailand. Usually, it involves shrimp and chicken for a protein. Thai Vegan uses tofu and I don’t even miss the more traditional proteins. Frequently I find myself sharing an order of the spring rolls and plate of Pad Thai, which is more than enough to satisfy me for several hours.

I’m a huge fan of grilled pineapple. I like in on my pizza, I like it with sticky rice and I love it when the pineapple in a fried rice or chow mein has been slightly charred on the wok. The caramelization of the sugars enhances the fruity goodness for me. The Tofu Fried Rice at Thai Vegan is a fragrant mix of onions, raisins, vegetables and rice all mixed in a wok and served piping hot. I find it ultra-tasty on a cold afternoon and highly recommend it as a comfort food.

Thai Vegan offers a standard lineup of curries; green, yellow, massaman, panaeng and pineapple. I’ve only tried all of them with no losers in the bunch.

Dessert is a typical sticky rice with mango, or maybe some juice, or a Thai Iced Tea or Thai Iced Coffee.

This is not a formal restaurant, you’re expected to bus your own dishes, use the plastic ware or chopsticks and don’t expect to be waited on. But, if you’re looking for tasty, vegan Thai – it’s a solid choice that won’t disappoint.

Thai Vegan deserves 3 stars out of 5 for ambiance & décor and 5 out of 5 for the quality of their food. Prices range from \$5-8 for small plates, under \$10 for second-course items. Parking is available, and there is some street parking.

DAVID PISSARRA is local attorney, writer and columnist for the Daily Press.



Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Most Notorious Crime

DON’T YOU SOMETIMES FIND THAT crime films produced by countries that are not America are a little hard to follow? Especially if the crime (usually a robbery) is perpetrated by six or more individuals who somehow all look alike. If their names and faces are unfamiliar, and none of them is Tom Cruise, you may find yourself quickly losing track of which is who.

Fortunately, this is not the case in a new heist film from Mexico. “Museo”, which is based on an actual robbery that took place in Mexico City in 1985, involves two young men who, apparently for want of something better to do, decided to steal precious cultural artifacts from the nation’s prestigious Museum of Anthropology. The leader of this two-man gang is portrayed by Gael Garcia Bernal, whose name may be familiar to foreign film aficionados who have seen him in “The Motorcycle Diaries” and the more recent “Babel”. His devoted acolyte in this adventure is played by Leonardo Ortizgris, who, despite his trepidation, allows Bernal to bully him into agreement.

And so the two, after six months of planning and visiting the museum some 50 times to study the building and the treasured artifacts, and to observe the behavior of the guards, chose the early hours of Christmas Day to carry out their plans.

The museum, which was supposed to have 100 guards on duty, had only nine on the night of the robbery. And because they had spent the evening celebrating the holiday, they were either drunk or asleep when Bernal and Ortizgris showed up.

Entering through a newly installed air conditioning duct, the two set about collecting the national treasures that were sitting unprotected on plinths and some that were encased in glass cages.

The incredible part of the story is that in

the half hour that the young men spent looting, they apparently made enough noise to awaken the dead — or at least the sleeping guards. They dropped heavy tools that echoed on the marble floors, hammered nails into wooden planks, and otherwise behaved as if they were playing a noisy game in the backyard.

It’s hard to determine whether this noisy interlude was inserted by the director, Alonso Ruizpalacios, in order to provide tension and suspense, or if the two robbers were actually as clumsy as they appeared.

At any rate, they managed to leave undetected through the same duct by which they’d entered, dragging their canvas bags filled with 124 items that had been created in western Mexico between 200 B.C. and 200 A.D.

Not realizing that they wouldn’t be able to find a buyer for these precious, and recognizable, objects, they deposited the bags in a bedroom closet where they sat untouched for more than a year.

Meanwhile, the character played by Bernal, named Carlos Percher Trevino, drifted into narcotics and when one of his associates was arrested for drug trafficking he told the police that Percher was the man who had robbed the museum. Percher was arrested; his partner in crime is still at large.

“Museo” was premiered this year at the Berlin International Film Festival where writers Manuel Alcala and Alonso Ruizpalacios were awarded the Silver Bear for Best Screenplay. It is also an official selection of the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival.

It will open in Los Angeles on September 28.

CYNTHIA CITRON has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com.



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**City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2584 (CCS)
(City Council Series)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2584 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2584 (CCS) (“the Ordinance”) amends the Santa Monica Municipal Code by adding Chapter 7.18, pertaining to sustainable groundwater management. The Ordinance prohibits the installation of new wells or the expansion of existing wells unless and until (i) a Groundwater Sustainability Plan is adopted in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code sections 10720 et seq.), and (ii) the construction of new wells or the expansion of existing wells is expressly authorized by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

The Ordinance will become effective thirty days after adoption. The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.



**City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2585 (CCS)
(City Council Series)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2585 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2585 (CCS) (“the Ordinance”) amends Santa Monica Municipal Code Articles IV and VIII to enhance existing tenant protection provisions, including: requiring landlords to promptly restore uninhabitable dwelling units to habitable conditions, modifying tenant noticing requirements to take into account the scope and nature of any proposed construction work, requiring landlords to provide tenants with written notification of planned temporary tenant relocation and statutorily required relocation benefits, and authorizing meal-only per diem benefits. The Ordinance further authorizes the Director of Planning and Community Development to adopt administrative regulations to further implement the City’s tenant relocation and tenant protection laws.

The Ordinance will become effective thirty days after adoption. The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.



**City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2583 (CCS)
(City Council Series)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2583 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2583 (CCS) (“the Ordinance”) amends the Santa Monica Municipal Code by repealing and replacing in its entirety the text of Chapter 9.32, pertaining to personal wireless services facilities. The Ordinance replaced the City’s pre-existing telecommunications ordinance, which was outdated due to technology changes in the wireless industry as well as evolving state and federal laws. The ordinance ensures that City regulations are consistent with current state and federal laws, while facilitating the City’s ability to regulate personal wireless installations in areas of the City other than the public right-of-way.

The Ordinance will become effective thirty days after adoption. The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER

Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS

Kate Cagle
kate@smdp.com

Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Robbie Piubeni
robbie@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Tyree Beavers
tyree@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Charles Andrews,
Cynthia Citron,
Jack Newirth,
David Pisarra,
Sarah A. Spitz

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Darren Quелlette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913



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OpinionCommentary

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

Visit us online at www.smdp.com

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

[Send comments to editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

Hot Tuna, Pass The Wild Wings

HESITATION BLUES

I sure wish I had my original Grunt Records promotional Hot Tuna t-shirt. Great shirt from a great band. It was this odd shade of orange with a lovable fish logo, maybe my favorite promo tee ever. I completely wore it out, to the dismay of my son who really coveted that one and liberated as many of my rock tees as he could to do his own wearing out, but he also cut off the sleeves and necks for his workouts which did not please me any.

Oh, those were the days, when rock scribes had half their wardrobes arriving in the mail in padded envelopes, some to maybe half their meals on the house depending on which city they lived in, of course the best seats for every concert and the latest albums — those were necessities of life. You also got promotional watches, figurines, lunch boxes, guitar picks, hats, money clips (thank you, Buck Owens, I still carry it every day), trading cards, flashlights, pens, socks, millions of buttons, stickers and patches, all manner of PR-imagined doodads, some really cool, some weird and useless.

One of the most memorable: a small, thin heart-shaped mirror, no frame, just the back-coated glass, from RCA promoting the Kinks’ single “Mirror of Love.” Why was that different? It took you a while to understand that the words of the title, band, label were imprinted in red just under the surface of the glass. Hm, I guess so it wouldn’t wear off and would last longer. Then you flashed: oh. It was built to withstand repeated scraping by a sharp object, say a knife blade or a razor blade. It was the ‘70s, folks. I’m proud to say I still have mine, intact. Two, actually.

You could pay half your rent by selling off the vinyl you didn’t want. Strictly prohibited, of course. Many promo records had labels or stamps warning, “Not for Sale!” Which of course made them more desirable, rare and valuable. Even in Albuquerque I used to get 50-60 discs a week. Keeping in mind the pay for this kind of work wouldn’t feed a mouse, which is why few music journalists were married, and when they got families they usually found another line of work.

You really can find anything online. I found that exact Hot Tuna shirt, the orange one, almost half a century old and looking bright and brand new like straight out of the padded envelope, claiming to be an original not a knock-off. So I can have my favorite tee of all time again, for only \$198.

Some things are best enjoyed in memory.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — HOT TUNA with Steve Kimock (but the band is still around! great duo formed in 1969 by teen friends and Jefferson Airplane mates Jack Casady and Jorma Kaukonen during a JA break when Grace Slick had to have surgery on vocal nodes, the duo would open up for the Airplane, later did their own shows, played live from ‘69 - ‘77, a few shows in ‘83, then 1986 to the present, that’s longevity, baby, that’s the blues, acoustic and electric, Jorma a phenom guitar picker and vocalist and Casady one of the best ever bassists, this should be a treat, tonight is electric, a pricey treat but we are rapidly running out of legends like these two who can be counted on still, to deliver the goods), Thurs 9 p.m., El Rey Theatre, LA, \$50.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — SOUNDWAVES CONCERT (I have always found these concerts to be worthwhile, professional, highly skilled musicianship, challenging but enjoyable, Mark Robson PianoSpheres preview, contemporary piano music), 7:30 p.m., Main Library, Downtown Santa Monica, free.

TONIGHT! — WILD WING, Rumblepak, the Memories (it’s Wild Wing, get loose and go, they are wild, they’re a show, don’t be a grandpa), Thurs 8:30 p.m., the Echo, Echo Park, \$10.

MIKE WATT + THE SECONDMEN, DOUBLE NAUGHT SPY CAR (great local double bill as the “new” bookers at McCabe’s continue to expand its footprint while honoring its substantial 60-year legacy — and my apologies to Koko and Brian for my goof last week of listing this show prematurely — Watt is a “Peedro” legend who co-founded the Minutemen in the late ‘70s, then Dos and FIREHOSE, put in 10 years with the Stooges and dabbled in Foo Fighters, lifetime achievement award from Bass Player Magazine but he’s a cool regular dude, I used to catch Double Naught Spy Car Sunday nights at the late lamented Liquid Kitty, four great players who go all instrumental and all genre, for fun more than virtuosity, can’t wait to see what they bring to this stage), Fri 8 p.m., McCabe’s, Santa Monica, \$15.

OTTMAR LIEBERT (I just mentioned him last week as a reference to let you know how good La Santa Cecilia’s requinto picker Jose Carlos is, and now here he is! you can go see the guitar master his own self), Fri 9 p.m., the Rose, Pasadena, \$24-\$38.

THE LYRIS QUARTET with Hila Plitmann (you’re all the way out in P’sah-d’nah anyway, go see them first then bop over a little late to catch Ottmar at the Rose, he won’t mind, I love the Lyris, such a superb, finessed, gorgeous, daring string quartet, playing often in our don’t-miss Jacaranda concerts at the 1st Pres church Downtown, also used to grace some opening shows at the just-shuttered Jack Rutberg Fine Arts gallery, what a treat those were), Fri 8 p.m., Boston Court, Pasadena, \$30.

LIBRARY GIRL featuring Poets from the VENICE COLLECTIVE (7, count ‘em, seven — oh, OK, you want to make rock stars out of them, here are their names: Mariano Zaro, Brenda Yates, Jan Wesley, Jim Natal, Holaday Mason, Paul Lieber, Jeanette Clough — and they are all award winners and why are they invading our airport theater? because they have a book to push, a new anthology titled “Angle of Reflection,” but Library Girl brings the best spoken word our way every second Sunday of the month for the last nine years, lucky us, with a special appearance by David St. John, Mason Summit opens the show with music, and there are... cupcakes!), Sun 7 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica Airport, \$10.

7th ANNUAL BOWLING FOR BIRTHDAYS (what in the world?! this is supposed to be a music column that sometimes gets dazed and confused and wanders off into movie houses, art galleries, live theaters, book stores, but bowling? well I’ll tell you, here’s the explanation, one, it’s a good cause and two, it’s my column and I can go crazy if I want to, also I love, love-hate, bowling since early teens, I was pretty good, threw a 254

SEE MUSIC PAGE 5

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

SMDMV

Editor:

Recently, I received the dreaded letter from the Dept. of Motor Vehicles that my driver license was expiring and it was time to renew it.

I spent hours online and reading the many practice tests. I also submitted my renewal application online.

Despite the horrendous publicity about the time it takes to negotiate the DMV, I made an appointment at the Santa Monica office, where I was very pleasantly surprised.

The line for those with appointments was relatively short, and the staff greeting folks were polite and considerate. I received my number quickly and sat in the waiting room. In less than five minutes, I was at a window where my thumb print was taken and a few questions clarified.

Then, I had my photo taken with no problems and was escorted to the dreaded computer with the test(s). In less than five minutes, I successfully passed the test and was issued my new license.

The staff at SM DMV proved to be helpful, considerate, and each had a sense of humor. Thank you for turning this into a pleasant and relatively short experience.

Harvey D. Kern
West Los Angeles

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Canadian 'Super Scooper' firefighting airplanes arrive in LA

Los Angeles County officials have welcomed the annual arrival of "Super Scooper" firefighting airplanes from Canada ahead of the fall fire season in Southern California, when Santa Ana winds can whip small fires into disasters.

It's the 25th year that the county has leased two big CL-415 water bombers from the government of Quebec.

County Supervisor Kathryn Barger said Wednesday's annual event at Van Nuys Airport was held later than usual this year because of fires occurring in Quebec.

Fire Chief Daryl Osby emphasized the toll drought has taken on California vegetation, noting that last year's Thomas Fire became the largest in state history, only to be dwarfed by this year's Mendocino Complex fires.

The county has also brought in a huge Erickson Helitanker to bolster its helicopter fleet.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Cosby's Hollywood Walk of Fame star vandalized with graffiti

Bill Cosby's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame was vandalized by someone who scrawled the words "serial rapist" with a marker pen.

Los Angeles police found the marred sidewalk star early Tuesday, City News Service reported. The graffiti was similar to vandalism that occurred in 2014 and has since been removed.

Cosby was convicted in Philadelphia this year of aggravated indecent assault on a former Temple University employee who is among many women who have stepped forward to accuse the comedian of sexual misconduct.

Cosby has denied any wrongdoing.

Cosby's star, dedicated in 1977, is a short distance down Hollywood Boulevard from President Donald Trump's star, which has been vandalized twice with heavy tools that caused significant damage.

Trump's star was unveiled in 2007, recognizing his work on the reality TV show "The Apprentice." It has also been repaired.

The Walk of Fame is administered by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, which has never removed a star.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE

Harley to open research facility in Silicon Valley

Harley-Davidson Inc. says it plans to build a research and development facility in Silicon Valley to develop its electric motorcycles.

The Milwaukee motorcycle manufacturer said Wednesday the facility will serve as a satellite of the product development site in Wauwatosa.

Harley announced in July that it would launch a line of electric bikes as part of its growth plan. It plans to hire about 25 people with electrical, mechanical and software engineering skills for the Silicon Valley site.

Harley's first electric motorcycle, LiveWire, is expected to be released next year.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 4

game at 15 then after making plans to go on the pro circuit after high school was pretty surprised to find out that was it, my peak, at 15, and it's been all downhill since but you don't have to be good just willing to help out Cause for Celebration to raise money for birthday parties for kids who wouldn't have one, homeless and foster youth, imagine how fun, memorable and uplifting that must be for them, it's my special day and somebody cares! you can start or join a team, bowl for an hour), Sun , 10 a.m., Bowlmor Lanes —

while they're still here — Santa Monica, \$20, \$15 students, \$10 children under 12.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK: Rico Nasty, On Drugs, Insect Surfers, Smile Empty Soul, Brian Jones Was Murdered, These Handsome Devils, the Tremelo Beer Gut,

Smiles Davis, Tommy Tutone, the Drool Brothers.

CHARLES ANDREWS has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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Funding provided by Elliot & Marcia Sainer.

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Local

6

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

Visit us online at www.smdp.com



Angel Carreras

FOOD: Officials offered the man donuts, which he rejected due to their lack of sprinkles.

CLIMBER

FROM PAGE 1

up on nearby streets and firefighters inflated portable pads in case the suspect fell.

The area is home to an affordable housing development, senior housing, two hotels and the now vacant Fred Segal buildings. The Downtown Expo station is located at the corner of 5th and Colorado with significant traffic running along the street from the nearby freeway exit.

After several hours of negotiation, the suspect voluntarily came down and was subsequently sent to a hospital for a mental health evaluation. The street was reopened to traffic at about 1 p.m.

This is the second time in the past few weeks police officers have responded to a man in a tree. Last week, a suspect was reported to police for acting erratically near



the intersection of Broadway and Lincoln. The suspect eventually climbed a tree in the area and was arrested by police.

Within a few minutes of officials clearing the scene, a second man committed suicide at a nearby downtown parking structure. Officers said there was no evidence the two incidents were connected.

editor@smdp.com

BAYIT@THEBROAD

THE BROAD STAGE, SANTA MONICA

■ Rosh Hashana morning service -

Monday, September 10 at 10 am

■ A Concert for the New Year -

Sunday, September 16, 2018 at 7:30. (The evening will honor Debra Constance and Sister Pat Connor, and 100% of the profits will go to A Place Called Home, mentoring youth in the inner city.

■ Kol Nidre evening service -

Tuesday, September 18 at 7:30 pm

■ Yom Kippur Day -

Wednesday, September 19 at 10 am



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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

From Page to Screen

GOOD THINGS DO OCCASIONALLY

happen on Facebook. I posted about how much I loved the movie “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” (on Netflix), and Santa Monica civic leader Shawn Landres asked whether I knew that the film’s producer Paula Mazur is a local. I didn’t, but he connected us and I’m delighted that he did.

I’m not someone who watches anything twice but I did, both before and after reading the novel, and was impressed to see how the adaptation differed from, yet carried the heart and soul of, the novel.

A BOOK OF LETTERS

What does it take to adapt a best-selling epistolary novel (comprised entirely of letters) into a narrative feature film? Well, says Paula, “It’s a project that started ten years ago and we went through seven leading ladies, four directors, and I lost count, but at least 20 versions of the script!” What they arrived at, in my opinion, is perfect casting and a wonderfully pared down version of the plot and characters.

Lily James (Downton Abbey, Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again) and Michiel Huisman (Game of Thrones, Nashville) have such great chemistry as the two leads, but there’s also the classic British actress, Penelope Wilton (also from Downton) as Amelia, Matthew Goode as Sidney (another Downton alum, also The Good Wife) and the utterly delightful Katherine Parkinson as Isola, an early hippie. They were guided by the very sure hand of director Mike Newell (Four Weddings and a Funeral, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire).

The first thing you should know is that the book was written by a librarian/editor, Mary Ann Shaffer and her niece Annie Barrows, a children’s book author. Sadly, before completing the book, Shaffer died. Annie, the only other writer in the family, finished the project. It became a huge bestseller.

Set just after World War II in England with flashbacks to the war years on the island of Guernsey (occupied by the Germans), the story revolves around a successful London-based author Juliet Ashton (James), who receives a letter from a Guernsey pig farmer, Dawsey Adams (Huisman). He’s found her address (her home, since destroyed in the blitz) inside a book by Charles Lamb and asks if she might get him more of Lamb’s work since Guernsey’s still recovering and has limited resources. The letters lead to a wonderful meeting of book-loving minds, and the story of how the oddly-named book club, “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” came to be.

Juliet has been restless in London and goes to Guernsey to meet the book club members, uncover their story and find out how they made it through the occupation, rediscovering her passion for writing and finding another kind of passion with Dawsey.

ADAPTING FROM ONE MEDIUM TO ANOTHER

Paula Mazur, who’s lived in Santa Monica for 20 years and whose company primarily adapts books and plays to screen, says that she met a renowned independent bookseller who told her, “I read books that I think might make good movies but I have no one to talk to about it. So I said, OK, then send me one. And he sent Guernsey. I realized immediately this was right up my alley. That began the process 10 years ago.”

She continued, “When I’m reading something to see if it could be a movie, I read very slowly and imagine it as I’m reading it.” While that might seem to be some kind of alchemical wizardry, she says, “It’s just training, the same way you learn how to cook a good steak, you learn how to do it with practice over time.”

In the process of making the movie, Paula says, “You always condense, combine characters, create some conflict, and of course, you’re always biting your nails, knowing that people will miss this character or that. But you try to hold the intention of the book and do the best you can.”

“We’re always willing to let writers be as involved as they want, but in Annie Barrows’ case, she told us to let her know when it’s in theatres. She came to visit us on set at Ealing Studios in London and said she’d never read the script. So I gave it to her and didn’t sleep that night. The next day she called and said she loved it. There are some changes, slight tonal differences, the kind of thing you encounter when you take things from one artistic medium to the other, but she was incredibly supportive and loves the film.”

Paula Mazur is also grateful to Studio Canal and to Netflix for strong support; Studio Canal released the film theatrically in multiple overseas markets and Netflix bought the film for the US market.

The London red carpet premiere was beautiful, and they opened the Barcelona Film Festival. But, says Paula, it was the Guernsey screening that was extraordinary. “They invited us there and decided it was to be a black-tie premiere for 450 people. We flew everybody in who was able to come, and we were there with people whose family members were alive then. It was very personal and they were so appreciative to see their story on screen. It’s the highlight of why you do this, you’ve told a story and someone says, you got it right.”

You’ll find “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” streaming on Netflix.

SARAH A. SPITZ is an award-winning public radio producer, now retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.

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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

homelessness crisis in the nation’s second-largest city.

Garcetti, who’s pondering a presidential run, has called the homelessness a humanitarian crisis. In April, he announced the city would spend \$430 million in the fiscal year beginning July 1 on housing and other services to ease the long-neglected problem.

City Council President Herb Wesson said Wednesday that the shelters will allow the homeless to “believe that they too can have a second chance, a chance at being normal.”

The shelter in a city-owned parking lot near the El Pueblo Historical Monument includes additional trailers for hygiene services and space for on-site service workers. Some business owners in the zone frequented by tourists have expressed concern at homeless people being provided with city housing in the area.

Garcetti predicted much of the concern will evaporate after people understand that temporary bridge housing is different from other shelters in downtown.

The new shelter will have around-the-clock security and officials will monitor the site daily to help ensure safety and cleanliness, he said.

A 2018 survey found that more than 31,000 people are homeless in Los Angeles, including more than 23,000 living without shelter. Both figures fell slightly from 2017, but overall Los Angeles homelessness has grown by about 75 percent during the last six years.

The shelters are intended as a temporary solution to the problem while the city builds thousands of permanent units approved in 2016 by voters through Proposition HHH, a \$1.2 billion bond measure.

The bridge program was approved by the City Council, which freed up \$20 million in budget funds for the 2017-18 fiscal year. The city is also expecting to receive \$85 million from the state as a one-time emergency grant for homeless programs, some of which could be used for the Bridge Home program.

Homelessness has been increasing across the U.S. West. The surge in people living on the streets has put public health at risk, led several cities to declare states of emergency and forced local governments to spend millions on services.

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Resource Recovery & Recycling Division 310.458.2223

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **69.3°**

THURSDAY – FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
New SSW swell slowly trending up. Small NW windswell. SSE/S swell from Olivia builds further and peaks late.

FRIDAY – FAIR – SURF: 1-3 ft waist to chest high
SSW swell picks up further and peaks. NW windswell may rebound late. S swell from Olivia holds.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 412 Calls For Service On September 4.

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

Family disturbance 2500 block 28th 12:11 a.m.
Family disturbance 2400 block 28th 12:28 a.m.
Person down 1500 block Pacific Coast Hwy 12:33 a.m.
Overdose 400 block Hill 02:02 a.m.
Armed robbery/auto theft Centinela/Pico 02:20 a.m.
Fight 2800 block Ocean Front Walk 02:36 a.m.
Encampment 400 block Santa Monica Pier 03:13 a.m.
Encampment 1000 block Pacific Coast Hwy 07:36 a.m.
Encampment 4th/Pico 07:40 a.m.
Animal related incident 1900 block Montana 08:10 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block 16th 08:11 a.m.
Encampment 2600 block The Beach 08:28 a.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block 2nd 08:55 a.m.
Encampment 2000 block Ocean Front Walk 09:00 a.m.
Animal related incident 2600 block Ocean Park 9:09 a.m.
Vandalism 2800 block Colorado 09:10 a.m.
Threats/investigation 2600 block 5th 09:23 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1900 block Ocean 09:38 a.m.
Burglary 500 block Colorado 10:27 a.m.
Assault 2400 block Ocean Front Walk 11:00 a.m.
Person w/gun 2600 block Main 11:19 a.m.

Vandalism Chelsea/Arizona 11:37 a.m.
Burglary 2800 block Lincoln 11:44 a.m.
Public intoxication 1900 block Main 12:07 p.m.
Grand theft 1400 block 4th 12:08 p.m.
Indecent exposure Ocean/Wilshire 12:16 p.m.
Auto burglary 5th/Arizona 12:26 p.m.
Animal related incident 5th/Olympic 12:56 p.m.
Person down 7th/Broadway 12:57 p.m.
Burglary 1900 block Ocean Way 12:58 p.m.
Public intoxication Ocean/Bay 1:14 p.m.
Vandalism 400 block Marguerita 1:17 p.m.
Attempt burglary 2600 block Santa Monica 1:23 p.m.
Drinking in public 1800 block Ocean 1:24 p.m.
Indecent exposure 200 block Colorado 2:06 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1200 block 4th 2:21 p.m.
Auto burglary 1600 block Appian 2:26 p.m.
Person down 600 block Colorado 2:55 p.m.
Battery 6th/Wilshire 3:07 p.m.
Auto burglary 2100 block Cloverfield 3:08 p.m.
Prostitution 1400 block Ocean 3:42 p.m.
Animal related incident 1600 block Ocean 3:42 p.m.
Auto burglary 400 block San Vicente 3:57 p.m.
Drinking in public 1900 block Lincoln 4:00 p.m.
Elder abuse 1500 block 7th 4:37 p.m.
Fight 1700 block Ocean Front Walk 5:15 p.m.
Burglary 200 block Georgina 5:23 p.m.
Animal related incident 1400 block 14th 5:27 p.m.
Burglary 200 block Montana 6:00 p.m.
Grand theft 900 block 16th 6:06 p.m.
Battery Lincoln/Broadway 6:57 p.m.
Strong-arm robbery 900 block Broadway 8:11 p.m.
Public intoxication 2000 block Ocean 9:48 p.m.
Attempt strong-arm robbery 400 block Pier 10:10 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 34 Calls For Service On September 4.

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

Emergency medical service 1600 block 26th 12:09 a.m.
EMS 2100 block Lincoln 12:31 a.m.
EMS 400 block Hill 02:02 a.m.
EMS 34th/Pico 02:25 a.m.
EMS 800 block 2nd 05:56 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2900 block 31st 06:05 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Cloverfield 06:08 a.m.
EMS 1900 block Ocean 06:41 a.m.
Broken water main Franklin/Broadway 07:05 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 17th 07:42 a.m.
EMS 300 block 24th 07:44 a.m.
EMS 1900 block Ocean 08:42 a.m.

EMS 1900 block Pico 08:44 a.m.
EMS 200 block 21st 09:13 a.m.
EMS 1000 block 12th 10:33 a.m.
EMS 1800 block 7th 10:57 a.m.
EMS 1300 block Franklin 11:20 a.m.
Hydrant shear 17th/Pier 12:03 p.m.
EMS 7th/Broadway 12:57 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 400 block 16th 1:32 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Ocean 2:31 p.m.
Assist LAFD 600 block East Rose 3:35 p.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica PI 4:15 p.m.
Odor of natural gas 1500 block 14th 4:43 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 16th 5:35 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1700 block Ocean 5:45 p.m.
EMS 2000 block 19th 6:13 p.m.
EMS 1200 block 6th 7:36 p.m.
EMS 500 block Colorado 8:13 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 20th 8:50 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 10:01 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Cloverfield 10:39 p.m.
EMS 2100 block Ocean 11:34 p.m.
EMS 1000 block 11th 11:54 p.m.

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2586 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2586 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2586 (CCS) (“the Ordinance”) amends Chapter 5.44 of the City of Santa Monica Municipal Code to prohibit food or beverage providers from distributing food or beverages using containers, utensils, stirrers, straws, lids, or lid plugs which are not capable of degrading in a marine environment within 120 days. Food or beverage providers may distribute flexible plastic straws to persons with disabilities and may request temporary exemptions for specific products upon a showing of significant financial hardship and that no reasonable alternative exists. By its terms, the Ordinance will take effect on January 1, 2019.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

DAILY LOTTERY

Draw Date: 9/1
11 54 55 61 66
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 100M

Draw Date: 9/4
2 7 25 35 44
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 187M

Draw Date: 9/1
12 14 27 29 37
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 29M

Draw Date: 9/4
2 5 12 23 24

Draw Date: 9/4
MIDDAY: 7 8 0
Draw Date: 9/4
EVENING: 6 4 0

Draw Date: 9/4
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:46.99

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

WORD UP!

claddagh

1. a ring in the form of two hands clasping a crowned heart, given in friendship or love.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LALEE

There's Not a Vitamin for That

■ A meta-analysis of 18 studies that investigated the link between vitamin and mineral supplements and cardiovascular disease outcomes concludes that the former doesn't seem to do much to curb the risk of the latter.

■ In other words, taking multivitamins and minerals wasn't associated with a significantly lower risk of stroke or death due to cardiovascular disease or coronary heart disease.

■ The findings were published in the journal *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*.

Body of Knowledge

■ The loudest scream on record was 128.4 decibels, just 11.6 decibels lower than standing 100 feet from a jet aircraft at take-off.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

LETTER WRITING by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Knocks over with achievement

5 Underwater hazard

10 Color close to turquoise

14 Unpleasant surprise

15 Longtime Mazda model

16 Sign of disuse

17 Name on Woodstock's first-day performer list

18 On edge

19 Snide remark

20 Treasure map phrase

23 "Not impressed!"

24 Word before marshal or mattress

25 Eat late

28 Much-used pencils

31 Spruce up

36 Puerto Rico or Menorca

38 What some fish are kept as

40 Justice appointed after Sonia

41 Sports squad slogan

44 Food on a stick

45 Most of a penny

46 Back in the day

47 Childish response

49 Puccini pair

51 Time zone abbr.

52 ___-lacto vegetarian

54 Life of the party, often

56 Ellington band favorite

DOWN

63 Target for toning

65 Scarlett's third

66 Big Bird colleague

67 Deputy

68 Big name in balers

69 Mealtime for many

70 Downtime

71 Opposite of "chaos"

72 Mercury astronaut Slayton

7 Solemn utterance

8 Totally lost

9 Stashes away

10 Affleck Oscar film

11 Pack it in

12 PC port, for short

13 Took in

21 Doll seen in *Toy Story 3*

22 Fuss at a mirror

25 Alaska cruise stop

26 Wedding party member

27 Service academy newbie

29 German auto pioneer

30 Stony type

32 Clarinet range

33 Freezing temps

34 Establish by statute

35 Known as

37 Trapped like ___

39 Trig figure

42 Literary download

43 Café freebie

48 Carry too far

50 Get no use

53 Questionnaire category

55 Be hot, as online goods

56 Little bits

57 Support unlawfully

58 Take notice of

59 To be, to Henri

60 Spiny houseplant

61 "No harm done"

62 Zilch

63 At a distance

64 Call a spade a diamond

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
			23					24						
25	26	27		28		29	30		31		32	33	34	35
36			37		38			39		40				
41				42					43					
44						45					46			
47					48		49			50		51		
				52		53			54		55			
		56	57				58	59				60	61	62
63	64				65						66			
67					68						69			
70					71						72			

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 9/6/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 6)

The highlight of the next month is when you make someone's life better. The generosity splashes back at you. Many nights of fun and friends happen before the end of 2018. One key conversation will start a life-changing project. A January investment will pay off big. A certificate will be presented to you in May. Capricorn and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 4, 44, 48 and 1.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You've been wronged by people who didn't mean it, didn't realize what they were doing and never intended to hurt you. Still, you get to decide whether or not you're going to let them make it up to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Life has been happening in your desired time-frame lately, but this is an anomaly and not something you should expect to continue indefinitely. For instance, today's loopy events will change that rhythm in a fun way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Can you embrace what you do not prefer? The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche lived by the concept of amor fati, Latin for "a love of one's fate," and you might do the same today, accepting all that is.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
You can relax and know that the things that happen today do not require a response, only an observance. It will be important to see what is there, and unnecessary to comment on what is not there.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
A toolkit that consists of only a hammer is not a "kit" at all. Add a saw though, and maybe a screwdriver, and you're in business. Mental and emotional toolkits require the same kind of diversity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Each and every environment has challenges and opportunities. Embrace the full spectrum of what it is and you'll be somehow more alive than the people who only see problems or only see benefits.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
The best things will take time, and the amount of time won't be something you can anticipate. So relax, stay open, and don't expect immediate results, only good ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
It's easy to see that people on precarious perches should not reach, and people in holes should not dig. But what's not so readily apparent is what people in the middle should do. Something. Anything. Challenge stability.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Someone in your lineage crawled out of a cave and got to work on creating civilization. You'll echo this accomplishment in your own way with what you take on today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Though it may feel as though you've lost control of a situation, there is much good that can come of this. So what if you're not in charge? That doesn't mean you're not benefiting from all that's going on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You've had your time to follow and now it's time to lead. Fair warning: Leading won't be all glory today. It's mostly responsibility. And for today, if it feels hard, or even relentless, that only means you're doing it right.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Your creativity sometimes feels like a burden as it steers you toward choices that others don't understand – choices with no immediate or obvious gain. Follow your creative whims. This is your depth in action.

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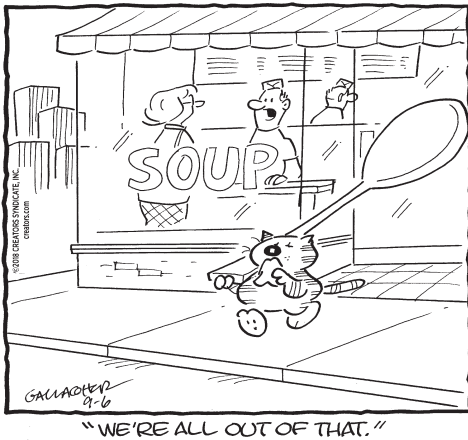
If you recognize the greatness in another person, the potential for that greatness lies within you. Otherwise you wouldn't be able to see it. Believe it; you share qualities with those humans you consider to be the best of the lot. Still, unique work goes into every accomplishment. Saturn's return to direct motion discourages comparison.

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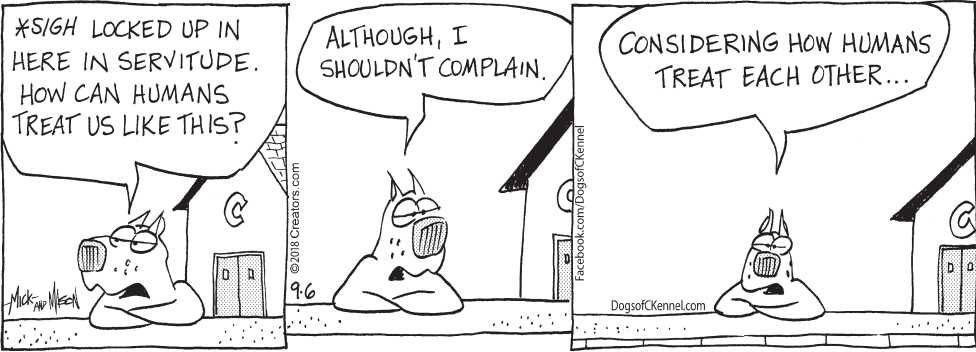
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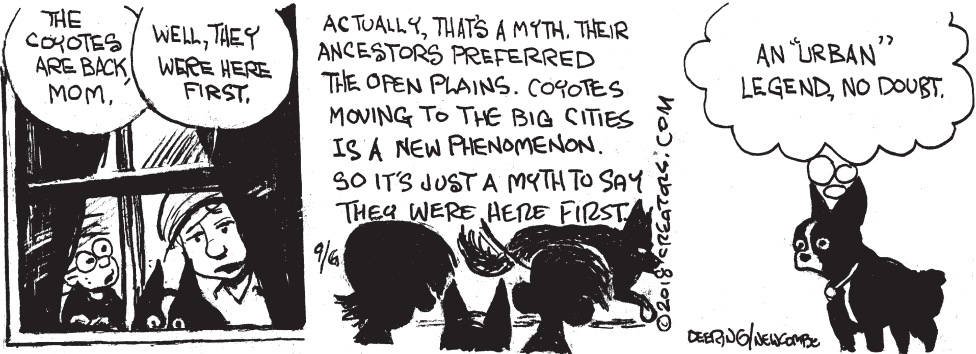


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COMEDIAN

FROM PAGE 1

the 17 years following Thomas' first gaming experience were a modern day dystopian horror story. The ubiquitous nature of screens in school and modern life made it impossible to break her son from his destructive and isolating gaming obsession. By the time he was in middle school, Poundstone (who is an alcoholic in recovery) recognized his fixation with computers looked like an addiction. Thomas preferred gaming to interacting with peers, even at the Santa Monica Boys and Girls Club, where he spent hours in the computer lab after school. His gaming continued all night long. When his mom banned computer usage at home, she said Thomas took a laptop from his school to hide under the covers.

"He got harder and harder to wake up because he had been up gaming all night," Poundstone said. "His response to not being allowed to use them became violent."

While the American Medical Association does not recognize video game addiction as a diagnosable disorder, the symptoms are similar to gambling addiction, according to American Addiction Centers. Addicted gamers may feel restless or irritable when they can't play, lie to friends and family about the amount of time they game and become isolated.

While the issue has gained media attention in recent years, Poundstone said many parents still don't understand the impact computer games - even educational ones - have on developing brains. To educate them, the comedian known for her appearances on NPR's "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!" and "A Prairie Home Companion" will host an

event "Kids' Brains & Screens: Smart Parenting in the Digital Age" Monday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Moss Theatre at New Roads Schools. She will be joined by two experts: child psychiatrist Dr. Victoria Dunkley and Melanie Hempe, founder of Families Managing Media. Tickets are \$25 and available at brownpapertickets.com.

"They're the cigarette companies of our time," Poundstone said of technology companies. She believes most parents don't know the powerful dopamine hit children get by playing games. Recent studies have significant changes in the brains of people who are addicted to online gaming.

Poundstone said local rehab centers and faraway wilderness camps could not alter the power screens held over her son. By the time he was in high school, Poundstone said he would regularly bike several miles from their home in Santa Monica to a Best Buy to play computer games. She eventually sent him to a remote wilderness-based high school in Virginia to get him away from smartphones and laptops that are now incorporated into most curriculums. Even there, Poundstone said his urge to game never went away.

"It was like Thomas was 'patient x' or something for a lot of programs," Poundstone said.

While she's conflicted about talking so openly about her son's problems, Poundstone believes parents should be aware of destructive power of screens. She said Thomas, now 20, cannot even own a smartphone without gaming taking over his life.

"I just feel it's bigger than he and I. It just is," Poundstone said.

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