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Big changes but small crowds at first Twilight concert



Todd James

CONCERT: Organizers say they plan to build on the first show with more art and vendors.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

After a year of controversy at the Pier's evening concert series, the first show of 2017 brought smaller crowds to a reimagined Twilight on the Pier event.

No official attendance count was available by press time but the crowds were visibly smaller than last year and Negin Singh, Executive Director of the Pier, said the crowd size was a good place to start the revamped season.

"We really had no idea what to expect for the first event, so for me, the fact that we weren't empty or overrun with people was a win," she said. "We had a manageable crowd that grew steadily through the night, and given that again, things are so new, and that we really pulled back on marketing until we knew what the full picture was going to look like, I think we had a turnout that I feel comfortable growing responsibly."

Lt. Saul Rodriguez said the emergency services approached the first show knowing it would be different but prepared to handle the kind of large crowds that were seen in 2017. He said the Department wouldn't reveal specific details of any individual show's security plan but said SMPD would be adapting their approach as they gather data from this year's shows, including staffing levels appropriate to the crowd size.

"It is being evaluated to see what is the best possible amount of resources we need," he said. "We ramped it up for the first one. There were several different moving parts we were dealing with that were different from previous years."

He said the inaugural show didn't reach anywhere close to last year's attendance, possibly due to the change of date, cold weather or different stage layout.

"It definitely didn't reach capacity or close

SEE **PIER** PAGE 7

School district prepares for future-ready digital learning

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

With just a few changes, Susan Croft turned her Grant elementary classroom from old-school to future-ready, her students more attentive and engaged thanks to Digital Learning.

The program, in a slow-rollout phase, is a 21st-century learning initiative which makes students the focal part of the classroom, making the teacher a passive hand, complementing learning with technology.

Croft is one of several teachers throughout the district that have taken part in the program, discussed at the Thursday, September 6 SMMUSD school board meeting. "[Throughout the program] my students have learned how to have voice like they never have before," Croft said. "My students feel empowered and that's what it's all about. Its impactful and making a difference.""

The program rethinks the classroom in design and how students learn. Students are each provided Chromebooks to take through future grades, to be used in conjunction with interactive technology with discussion-friendly seating (round tables, couches, and mats) to engage in hands-on, data-driven, collaborative learning. Interactive PDF textbooks, VR, mobile quiz games, videos, coding and 3D printing are all tools used.

Bertha Roman, Director of EdTech in the district, said in the Digital Learning presentation that the goal is to let students work at their own pace, on their own path and at their own place.

In one example, students were

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 6

Over 500 charged in LA crackdown on illegal pot businesses

Associated Press

Los Angeles prosecutors say they have charged more than 500 people with misdemeanors for illegal marijuana operations at 105 locations across the city.

City Attorney Mike Feuer said Friday that police and his office continue to target the hundreds of businesses that aren't complying with local and state rules since recreational pot sales became legal in California this year.

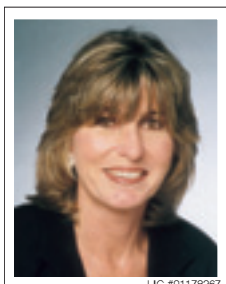
"Los Angeles voters wanted common-sense rules to regulate recreational marijuana so public safety is protected in our neighborhoods," said Feuer. "Our message is clear — if you are operating an illegal cannabis business you will be held accountable."

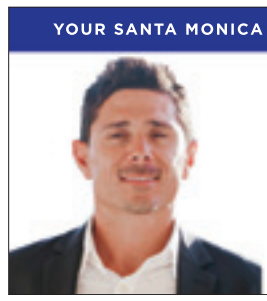
Feuer said his office has filed 120 marijuana cases against 515 people. The 105 businesses targeted include pot shops, delivery services and growing operations. He said nearly two dozen businesses have shut down since the enforcement.

According to Feuer's office, all businesses conducting commercial cannabis activity in the City of Los Angeles are required to be licensed by both the State of California and the City of Los Angeles. The new regulations began in January of this year and follow the passage in recent years of state laws allowing recreational cannabis use and cannabis sales in the State of California. Under newly adopted city guidelines, commercial cannabis activity is prohibited in certain designated zones or near sensitive sites including schools.

"The LAPD will continue to

SEE **MARIJUANA** PAGE 6


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

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

1828 Ocean Avenue, Development Review Permit 15ENT-0300, Waiver 18ENT-0229, Major Modification 18ENT-0226, EIR 18ENT-0215. Development Review Permit, Major Modification, and Waiver to allow a new five-story (47 feet) 81,630 square-foot mixed project consisting of 83 residential units, 2,000 square-feet of ground floor commercial space, and 273 automobile parking spaces within a three-level subterranean parking garage. Waiver application seeking relief from the Active Commercial Design standard which requires the ground floor level along commercial boulevards not to exceed 18 inches lower or higher from the adjacent sidewalk. The proposed project has a ground floor level 36 inches above the adjacent sidewalk. Major Modification application seeking relief from the Active Commercial Design standard which requires the ground floor (floor to floor) height to be within 11 feet to 16 feet. The proposed project has a ground floor (floor to floor) height of 19 feet. Certification of a Final Environmental Impact Report (18ENT-0215) and adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program will be necessary to approve the project. The Draft Environmental Impact Report was circulated for a 45-day public review period which commenced on April 10, 2018, and concluded on May 25, 2018. The property is located within the Oceanfront (OF) District and Beach Overlay District. The public hearing for this item was scheduled on September 12, 2018, and has been rescheduled to October 3, 2018, at the request of the applicant. [Planner: Russell Bunim, AICP] **APPLICANT: Koning Eizenberg Architecture. PROPERTY OWNER: NEXT2 SHUTTERS, LLC.**

1921 Ocean Front Walk, Development Review Permit 15ENT-0297, EIR 18ENT-0215. Development Review Permit 15ENT-0297 for a new four-story mixed-use residential and commercial building with 22 residential units, 4,000 square-feet of ground floor commercial tenant space, and 56 parking spaces located in a subterranean parking garage. Certification of a Final Environmental Impact Report (18ENT-0215) and adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program will be necessary to approve the project. The Draft Environmental Impact Report was circulated for a 45-day public review period which commenced on April 10, 2018, and concluded on May 25, 2018. The property is located within the Oceanfront (OF) District and the Beach Overlay District. The public hearing for this item was scheduled on September 12, 2018, and has been rescheduled to October 3, 2018, at the request of the applicant. [Planner: Russell Bunim, AICP] **APPLICANT: Koning Eizenberg Architecture. PROPERTY OWNER: NEXT2 BEACH, LLC.**

WHEN: **Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Address your letters to: Russell W. Bunim, AICP, Acting Senior Planner, Re: 15ENT-0297. City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission before or at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION
If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact the City Planner at (310) 458-8341 or by e-mail Russell.Bunim@smgov.net The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. *Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, and #9 service the City Hall and the Civic Center. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall and on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).*

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

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



What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, September 8

Santa Monica: A Look Back to 1902 from Today

Author Michael Murphy presents his newly published book of 110 photographs, with a slide show comparing the views of familiar places in Santa Monica as they looked in 1902 and the present. Book sale and signing follows. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. 3 - 4:30 p.m.

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

Special Library Board Meeting

Monthly Library Board Meeting. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Preschool Explorers: Human Body

Explore what makes the body tick with stories and hands-on activities! Ages 3-6. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 9

Sunday Jazz

Second Sunday Jazz @ Mt. Olive @ 5 p.m. - the Mark van Aken Trio. $10 requested donation, free parking. Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 14th & Ocean Park, Santa Monica. More information at www.mtoliveluthera-nchurch.org/community-fellowship/interfaith-jazz .

Housing crisis workshop

Committee for Racial Justice presents HOUSING CRISIS: How we can work for affordable housing for everyone. 6 - 8:30 p.m. Potluck supper at 6 p.m. & program starts at 6:30 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Bldg. 2200 Virginia Ave. For more information, call Joanne at (310) 422-5431

Poetry & the Imagination with Dinah Berland

What does it take to write poems with imagination? In this workshop, we will read a wide variety poems by outstanding modern and contemporary poets, generate new work in response to prompts, and workshop edited poems. We will also discuss the submission process and how to successfully present your work. The workshop will culminate with $20 drop-in public reading on Sunday, November 11. $90 for entire series. 2 – 4 p.m. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/66959

#SaveLACougars: The Story of P-22 and the Quest to Build a Wildlife Crossing

Beth Pratt-Bergstrom, California Regional Executive Director for the National Wildlife Federation and leader of the #SaveLACougars campaign, tells the story of P-22, the famous Hollywood cougar, and the campaign to build the largest wildlife crossing in the country. Take a photo with P-22 (well, his likeness!) at our selfie station. A book sale and signing follows the program. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 – 3 p.m.

Monday, September 10

Landmarks Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Landmarks Commission. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Virginia Ave.

HOUSING CRISIS: How we can work for affordable housing for everyone

CRJ's September workshop will be held on Sunday, September 9. The focus will be the HOUSING CRISIS: How we can work for affordable housing for everyone.

The workshop will draw from expertise and insight on solutions to our city's housing crisis, the impact of homelessness and how we can create affordable homes for diverse and thriving communities.

Through the workshop CRJ hopes to bring information about affordable housing to the Santa Monica community. Speakers will include Patricia Hoffman, a leader in Santa Monica Renters Rights (SMRR) who will tell us about a critical California ballot initiative in the November election about Rent Control and Alisa Orduña, Senior Advisor on Homelessness, who was recently appointed to coordinate Santa Monica's efforts to address homelessness. Orduña formerly served as the Director of Homelessness Policy for the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

In addition, Darci Niva, Coalition Director for the Westside Coalition For Housing, Hunger, and Health, will share what resources are currently available for people who are houseless.

As usual, they will be meeting in the Thelma Terry Bldg. at Virginia Avenue Park in Santa Monica at 6 p.m. for potluck supper and the program starts at 6:30 pm.

This is part of an ongoing monthly workshop series sponsored by the Committee For Racial Justice.

Co-sponsored by Virginia Ave. Park; the African American Parent, Staff, Student Support Group; and the Church in Ocean Park. For more information, call Joanne at 310-422-5431

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

Citywide

Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon added to qualifiers for world event

The Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon named has been named as one of 50 qualifying events for the inaugural AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Championships

The Abbott World Marathon Majors Wanda Age Group World Rankings will officially launch on September 16 when the 45th BMW BERLIN-MARATHON marks the start of the one-year qualification period for the inaugural AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Championships which will take place in spring 2020.

Participants in an AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Ranking qualifying race will earn points according to their age, time and gender, aligned with the following age groups for men and women: 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80+.

From Mexico to Mumbai, Tel Aviv to Toronto and Houston to Helsinki, there will be more than 50 AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Qualifying events. The spread of the selected marathon events creates a truly global series throughout the year, giving runners across the world the chance to be part of a new era of age group marathon running.

Tim Hadzima, Executive Director of Abbott World Marathon Majors said, "We are very excited to be launching the AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Rankings at the BMW Berlin Marathon. More than 125,000 runners aged 40+ participate in AbbottWMM races each year and this new system will allow even more runners to become a part of the AbbottWMM family. Our new system will give runners a chance to run all over the world and all across the calendar on a truly global stage. It will give them a chance to gain recognition like never before.

"We are proud to be working with all our partners to take age group marathon running to the next level and showcase the achievements of these everyday champions."

The premier AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Championships will be held as part of the Virgin Money London Marathon in 2020. Welcoming more than 40,000 runners to the start line each year, London is one of the most popular marathons on the planet with more than 414,000 ballot entries for the 2019 edition. Runners can earn a place at the start line of the 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon through the AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Rankings, and represent their countries with pride and passion.

Abbott, who renewed their title sponsorship of the AbbottWMM in April 2018, extending their partnership to 2023, is proud to be a part of the expansion of mass participation marathon running globally.

"Around the world, Abbott delivers life-changing technologies that help people live fully," said Chris Miller, divisional vice president, global brand strategy and Innovation, Abbott. "We're thrilled to help recognize the efforts of marathon runners as they strive to lead their age groups and achieve their personal health goals."

The ten-year partnership between Abbott World Marathon Majors and Wanda was announced in April 2017 and since then the calendar of events that make up the AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Rankings for the inaugural World Championships has been created, with plans for many more events to be added in the coming years.

Hengming Yang, CEO of Wanda Sports Group said, "As a strategic partner, we are very pleased to be part of the inaugural Wanda AbbottWMM Age Group World Championships, and we are very proud that we can help develop the running experience of age group runners across the globe." For more information on the scoring system and world rankings, visit www.Abbottwmm.com.

"The Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon is delighted that our world-famous Stadium to the Sea course is a qualifying race for the Wanda AbbottWMM Age Group World Championships," stated Murphy Reinschreiber, Chief Operating Officer of Conqur Endurance Group. "Runners from all over the globe are welcome to join us on March 24th to accomplish their personal health and fitness goals, run one of the World's great marathons, and now possibly qualify for a world championship. "

Registration for the 2019 Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon is now open. Join 24,000 other athletes on the streets of Los Angeles as marathoners race through the entertainment capitol of the world and experience this city like never before. For more information about the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon and race weekend activities, please visit www.lamarathon.com

SUBMITTED BY DASHAUN GASQUE

The Beach

North Beach Playground Grand Opening September 15

On Saturday, September 15 at 10 a.m., the City of Santa Monica will officially open the North Beach playground to the public, the City's newest universally accessible playground. It joins the ranks of four other beachside playgrounds for sand-side fun.

The public and media are invited to come out on September 15 to help the City welcome the newest space for family fun north of the Santa Monica Pier and east of the beach trail at Montana Avenue. Come check out the playground's universally accessible design that inspires activity, mobility, and imagination in all children. There will be brief remarks by Mayor Pro Tem Gleam Davis and the Recreation & Parks Commission Chair John C. Smith, followed by play for kids 2 to 12.

"With the addition of the North Beach playground, families visiting Santa Monica State Beach will now have five unique locations to make play a bigger component to having a great day at the beach," said Karen Ginsberg, Director of Community and Cultural Services. "This playground also complements Santa Monica's South Beach playground, Ocean Park playground, Muscle Beach's equipment for kids and the Annenberg Community Beach House playground."

The playground will include separate playing areas for children 2-5 years old and another for children 5-12 years old. Both play areas are highlighted by barrier-free equipment such as a two-mast space net, a bird nest basket swing, and a sensory garden. These structures will allow for increased maneuvering space and are complimented by accessible surfaces and paths.

Visit santamonicaparks.org/north-beach-playground for more information.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

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Editorial

Matthew Hall — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A day of service

THIS TUESDAY IS THE SEVENTEENTH anniversary of the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington D.C. and Santa Monica commemorates the day with services at four fire stations.

If you haven't attended one of the flag ceremonies, they are generally brief (20ish minutes) and involve assembly of firefighters at the stations, a minute of silence and recognition of the time the towers collapsed. On the west coast, that ceremonies start promptly at 6:45 a.m. and attendees are encouraged to be on site a few minutes early.

Our local fire department also has an artifact from the Ground Zero site on display outside the Santa Monica Fire Department's administration office in the Public Safety Facility (333 Olympic Drive) that you can visit at your own pace.

Public remembrances and even a visit to the Fire Department are not for everyone but September 11 is a day we should mark with some reverence.

The day has semi-official recognition at various levels of government. It's not a Federal holiday but government buildings lower the flag. While not well known, it has consistently been designated as Patriot Day going back as far as 2002. More recently, President Obama declared the day as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance.

To think of September 11 as a holiday perhaps sets the wrong tone given how we celebrate other official holidays. We have holidays to do nothing, we have holidays to eat, we have holidays to set things on fire and holidays to get stuff. It certainly feels out of step to call it a holiday but a national day of service is sorely needed right now.

With all the talk of homeless on our streets, it would do our community some good if more people spent some time volunteering at a shelter. For a very rich place, there's still a lot of people going hungry that would benefit from some extra hands. Even if the beaches are groomed every morning, there's always more trash washing ashore. We have libraries and schools in need of help. People need help finding jobs, they need help finding housing and there are plenty of animals in need of care in nearby shelters.

Not only is the need perpetual, the benefit would be substantial: to the community and the individual. Much has been written about the lack of civility on social media and stepping away from vapid internet complaining to actually help someone is good for the soul.

Given the semi-official nature of September 11, many individuals will still have to work and that's understandable. However, everyone gets off work at some time and there's a weekend every five days. You don't have to take that specific day to do good but you should take inspiration from the date to set aside some time in the coming weeks to volunteer somewhere.

FIRE STATIONS WITH SEPTEMBER 11 SERVICES:

Station 1 1444 7th Street.
Station 2 222 Hollister Avenue.
Station 3 1302 19th Street.
Station 5 2450 Ashland Avenue.

editor@smdp.com

Gardening and Community

By Ken Hansen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The beauty of bees

THE WORD "BEE" CAN ELICIT ONE OF two reactions. One of fear or one of beauty. Growing up, bees frightened me. I actually had one fly into my eye as a kid. Thankfully, the bee did not leave its stinger behind. It wasn't until a few years ago that my fear of bee's abated and I began to see the beauty in bees. I began to fully understand their importance in our world as I became a gardener at the Santa Monica Community Gardens.

I had the opportunity to interview a Santa Monica resident who maintains a bee hive for personal use. I wanted her to share her love of bees and beekeeping as well as any insight.

Vilma Zenelaj has been in Santa Monica for 14 years. Originally from Albania, Vilma grew up with bees. "My grandmother used to have bees and so my father gained an interest and he continued the tradition" says Vilma. "He's had bees for as long as I can remember and he used to bring home the honey extractor machine to get the honey out of the honey comb. I learned almost everything about bees from my dad."

Living in a condo in Santa Monica with her father, she can not have her own bee hives. She was fortunate to have a neighbor friend who allows her to have a bee hive at their house on their property. Vilma is just one resident keeping one bee hive at a neighbors house. Vilma says "There are many wild hives that are at residences and locals call for an exterminator to get rid of them, but there is a better way to preserve these bees that are simply looking for ways to survive. There should be a beekeeper community in Santa Monica, where locals can learn more about bees/beekeeping and how bees help gardens because they play a big role in the ecosystem." Vilma continues, "The other day, I was reading how about 80-90% of all US bees are shipped to California for almond pollination every January/February, because if there are no bees there are no almonds."

As a gardener, I've learned how important bees are to the ecosystem. Bees provide pollination for many plants, fruit trees, and vegetables. Vilma believes "if we have more bees around we would see better results." I believe this to be true as well and have begun planting many more flowers around my garden plot to attract more bees.

Of course bees provide more then just pollination, they provide honey. I grew up with allergies and still get allergies from time to time. I recently read that locally harvested honey can help with allergies. I have never been a honey eater, I don't care much for the texture or sweetness, but one of our friends is also a local bee keeper hobbyist and we've received honey from him. It is the only honey I will eat. I strongly believe it has helped me with my allergies.

My final question to Vilma was what the city and people can do to better insure a successful future for bees?

"I think allowing bee hives at a safe distance in public gardens or parks would be a start. Many people have no idea what a bee hive looks like and many are very afraid of bees. Educating the public about bees and beekeeping and encouraging them to have one at home or at their garden is important. We have perfect whether here for bees. They work year around. I hope I've sparked some interest on anyone who reads this about the joy of beekeeping and please help keep the bees alive before you make that call to the exterminator."

Residents can look up the City of Santa Monica's webpage about beekeeping for more information, "Santa Monica OSA - Beekeeping". If a resident has an issue, they can reach out to SMPD's Animal Control at 310-458-8594. Another great resource is HoneyLove.org. You may also contact Vilma Zenelaj at VilmaZenelaj@yahoo.com.

Want to learn more about the Santa Monica Community Gardens? Contact us at santamonicaroots@gmail.com and follow Santa Monica Roots on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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SMC Presents Fall Literary Talks & Readings Series

Santa Monica College (SMC) begins the popular Fall 2018 Literary Talks & Readings Series this month, featuring a selection of distinguished authors discussing and reading from their works. The series starts on September 18.

All events in the series are free and are held on the main SMC campus, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. The fall 2018 series is sponsored by the SMC Associates (www.smc.edu/associates) – a private organization that funds speakers and special programs on the Santa Monica College campus – the SMC English Department, and the SMC Global Council. Seating is on a first-arrival basis.

The Fall 2018 series line-up is:

• Tuesday, September 18: "The Luminous Heart of Jonah S.: A Reading by Gina Nahai" at 11:15 a.m. in Art 214. Gina Nahai is a best-selling author, columnist for the Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, and Emeritus Professor of Creative Writing at USC. She is the author of several short stories and novels (including Cry of the Peacock), and her writings have appeared in numerous national and international publications. Nahai has won the Los Angeles Arts Council Award, the Persian Heritage Foundation's Award, The Simon Rockower Award, and the Phi Kappa Phi Award.

• Thursday, October 4: "Happy 30th Birthday, Santa Monica Review: A Celebration" at 11:15 a.m. in Art 214. Santa Monica Review — SMC's national literary arts journal — celebrates its 30th anniversary with readings and reflections by founder Jim Krusoe (The Sleep Garden), longtime contributor and SMC instructor Monona Wali (My Blue Skin Lover), and current SMR editor Andrew Tonkovich. Free copies of the magazine for all attendees.

• Thursday, November 1: "Multiculturalism and Feminist Struggles: MariNaomi Discusses Her Graphic Memoir Turning Japanese" at 11:15 a.m. in Stromberg Lecture Hall (HSS 165). Cartoonist MariNaomi is an award-winning author and illustrator whose works include Kiss & Tell: A Romantic Resume, Ages 0 to 22; Turning Japanese; I Thought YOU Hated ME; and the Life on Earth trilogy. Her work has appeared in more than 60 print publications, and been featured at the Smithsonian, De Young Museum, Cartoon Art Museum, Asian Art Museum, and Japanese American Museum. She is the founder of the Cartoonists of Color Database and the Queer Cartoonists Database, has toured with the literary roadshow Sister Spit, and cohosts the podcast "Ask Bi Grlz" with Myriam Gurba.

• Thursday, November 15: "We the Corporations: Adam Winkler Explains How American Businesses Won Their Civil Rights" at 11:15 a.m. in Art 214. UCLA Law Professor Adam Winkler, a specialist in American constitutional law and the Supreme Court, is the author of We the Corporations: How American Businesses Won Their Civil Rights (2018) and Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America (2011). His scholarship has been cited in landmark Supreme Court cases on the First and Second Amendments, and he has appeared on Face the Nation, All Things Considered, and other significant news shows as a commentator about legal issues. He also served as co-editor of the Encyclopedia of the American Constitution (2nd Edition).

Now in its 17th year, the SMC Literary Talks & Readings Series has brought to campus such acclaimed writers as Khaled Hosseini (author of the bestselling The Kite Runner), Steph Cha (writer of the popular 'Juniper Song' novels), Audrey Niffenegger (author of the bestselling Time Traveler's Wife), and Jonathan Safran Foer (author of Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close).

For more information, please call the SMC Office of Public Programs at 310-434-4100.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

LOS ANGELES

Man pleads not guilty to dine-and-dash dating allegations

A Southern California man accused of going on dates with women only to ditch them when the check came has pleaded not guilty to additional charges filed against him.

Forty-five-year-old Paul Guadalupe Gonzales pleaded not guilty Friday to four new felony counts of extortion. Two theft charges were dismissed.

Gonzales previously pleaded not guilty to other charges of attempted extortion, fraud and theft. He has a hearing set for Tuesday.

Prosecutors say Gonzales used dating apps to meet women, took them to dinner at restaurants throughout Los Angeles County and then left without paying any part of the bill.

Prosecutors say eight women ended up paying themselves and that restaurants picked up the check in two cases. If convicted, Gonzales faces more than 16 years behind bars.

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SACRAMENTO

California governor signs biodiversity protection order

Gov. Jerry Brown directed state agencies to work together to protect plant and animal species in the face of climate change and declared that Sept. 7 will forever be known as "California Biodiversity Day" in an executive order signed Friday.

Brown's order comes ahead of a global climate summit he's hosting next week in San Francisco and as he prepares to leave office in January.

It directs his natural resources and agriculture chiefs to come up with plans for educating the public about threats to biodiversity, protecting native species and restoring natural lands and waterways. They're also directed to explore ways to pay for those efforts.

"The state's plants and animals co-exist to create the complex and beautiful ecosystems upon which so much of California's people and economy depend," Brown wrote.

Climate change will require a "more thoughtful and systemic" approach to preserve ecosystems, Brown said. He says California is home to hundreds of species of animals, amphibians and fish and thousands of native plants — including at least 2,000 considered rare.

Brown's climate summit will highlight efforts by cities, states, companies and other entities besides national governments to address climate change.

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MARIJUANA

FROM PAGE 1

work in support of the entire City family to ensure the responsible and lawful commercial sales of cannabis in Los Angeles," said Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore.

According to a statement issued by Feuer's office, locations associated with the filings are primarily commercial locations but also include grow sites, extraction labs, and delivery services distributed geographically by council district.

"The Department of Cannabis Regulation commends the City Attorney and the LAPD for their successful efforts and continued dedication to identifying and prosecuting unlawful cannabis activity within the City," said Cat Packer, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation in the statement. "We all encourage residents to help in this effort by reporting questionable cannabis activity in their communities through the City's online complaint portal."

More than 40 locations were

Those charged face up to six months in jail and $1,000 fines.

MATTHEW HALL contributed to this story

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

given a list of tasks to perform, with a teacher checking in at certain points to check their progress, simulating real-life experiences. If a student falters, the teacher can target that student while the rest continue to work collaboratively.

"The opportunities are tremendous in this model," she said.

After the presentation, EdTech staff said they'll now collect data culled from student and teacher surveys, focus groups, classroom observations and student work in order to fine-tune the program.

The school board was generally positive about the presentation.

Board Member Laurie Lieberman said she liked the improvements made to traditional education via Digital Learning but maintained caution for the program, citing LA Unified's attempt at a somewhat similar (and underdeveloped) program.

"There's a lot of facets that are critical to the success of this," she said, bringing up potential pitfalls of such a wide-ranging program. "We're not poking, we just want to know more."

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jacqueline Mora answered that the district's slow roll-out of the program is meant to catch and iron out any problems.

Board Member Oscar de la Torre offered his approval and caution as well, lauding the interactive aspects of the program while adding a reflection on tech reliance should be considered. He mentioned reading books and articles that discuss addiction to screen time, saying the issue is something to be mindful of.

One district parent participated in the public speaking forum. She was curious about outcomes from the program and privacy issues since Chromebooks are Google-based.

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Alzheimer's LOS ANGELES

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This is a partnership with Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research at UCLA.

Funding provided by Elliot & Marcia Sainer.

This conference provides support and education for those with early memory loss.



PIER

FROM PAGE 1

to being shut down," he said. "It was never near that. Overall on our end there were no hiccups, no concerns, nothing that raised public safety concerns at the concert."

This year, the show included three stages scattered around the Pier with an additional arts component and a renewed focus on cultural education.

Singh said there are some details that will change as they learn specific lessons week to week but said the first show went well.

"What was so special, difficult and huge about this experience is that even though Twilight has been around for a long time, we were doing things so differently that it was a totally new experience for everyone putting it on," she said. "I think with how much we needed to reimagine to make this a sustainable event for the Pier and the city, I'm really happy with our first effort here."

The 2018 shows feature more artists connected to the musical theme and Singh said they will be increasing the number of artists at each show. What she can't control is the change in weather caused by shifting the shows into the autumn.

"The weather was pretty chilly, and that is the number one factor as to whether or not people go out in LA," she said. "It was very windy for the first few hours, which derailed some of our art plans with canvases blowing in the wind! We're also going to be staggering each of the performances on the different stages so people can enjoy more of the sets."

She said initial skepticism of the multi-stage format eventually transitioned to an understanding that while the new format doesn't have the same feeling as year's past, it does have its own merits.

"I think for people who wanted a giant beach party, there was obviously going to be some disappointment there," she said. "Change is hard, but I think overall, we're going to win folks over. Also, people LOVED Jarina De Marco, the opening act on the main stage, which was awesome because she's been on my radar for a while and it was great to share her music with people who might not have heard of her yet!"

The shows continue for the next four weeks on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30 p.m. on the Santa Monica Pier.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 413 Calls For Service On September 6.

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

Disturbance Main/Bay 12:10 a.m.
Rape report 1600 block Santa Monica 1:53 a.m.
Loitering 100 block Broadway 2:31 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block Ocean 2:38 a.m.
Suspicious person 1400 block Ocean 3:39 a.m.
Strongarm robbery Main/Ocean 4:03 a.m.
Encampment 1000 block The Beach 5:39 a.m.
Suspicious vehicle 17th/Michigan 5:44 a.m.
Petty theft 1500 block Ocean 6:04 a.m.
Vandalism Main/Hill 6:30 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block Yale 7:06 a.m.
Trespassing 1200 block 2nd 7:25 a.m.
Grand theft 1300 block Wilshire 7:57 a.m.
Traffic collision 3rd/Ocean 8:29 a.m.
Illegal weapon 2000 block Lincoln 8:49 a.m.
Prowler 1800 block 12th 9:13 a.m.
Disturbance 800 block Pico 9:22 a.m.
Suspicious person 1900 block 22nd 9:26 a.m.
Fight 1100 block Pacific Coast 9:49 a.m.
Auto burglary 900 block 12th 10:20 a.m.
Vandalism 2300 block Oak 10:29 a.m.
Encampment 1600 block The Beach 11:12 a.m.
Panhandling 3000 block Lincoln 11:14 a.m.
Battery 2200 block Pico 11:41 a.m.
Traffic collision 2nd/Broadway 11:45 a.m.
Burglary 2400 block Washington 11:46 a.m.
Injured person Ocean/Bicknell 11:53 a.m.
Loitering 1800 block 10th 12:13 a.m.
Domestic violence 3400 block Ocean 12:28 a.m.
Threats report 1700 block Cloverfield 1:10 p.m.
Panhandling 3000 block Lincoln 1:11 p.m.
Elder abuse 7000 block Ocean 1:30 p.m.
Petty theft 700 block Navy 1:36 p.m.
Disturbance 1500 block Broadway 1:42 p.m.
Trespassing 200 block Pico 1:51 p.m.
Suspicious person 100 block Pier 2:29 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block 3rd 2:27 p.m.
Elder abuse 1300 block 15th 2:39 p.m.
Hit and run 1000 block 2nd 2:41 p.m.
Person down 1600 block The Beach 2:45 p.m.
Burglary block Broadway 3:05 p.m.
Disturbance 1100 block Wilshire 3:31 p.m.
Burglary 600 block Colorado 3:49 p.m.
Fight 100 block Colorado 3:53 p.m.
Hit and run 600 block Santa Monica 4:04 p.m.
Disturbance 1100 block Ozone 4:07 p.m.
Trespassing 1600 block Lincoln 4:25 p.m.
Suspicious person 1200 block Euclid 4:51 p.m.
Disturbance 1600 block Lincoln 4:57 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 1900 block Lincoln 5:35 p.m.
Petty theft 2600 block Barnard 5:40 p.m.
Person down 2200 block Lincoln 5:41 p.m.
Battery 900 block Montana 5:48 p.m.
Traffic collision 26th/Broadway 5:49 p.m.
Suspicious person 500 block Pacific 5:54 p.m.
Theft suspect 1200 block 3rd6:51 p.m.
Fight 1700 block Ocean 7:32 p.m.
Suspicious person 12th/Colorado 7:32 p.m.
Fight 1500 block Ocean 7:33 p.m.
Overdose 2000 block Ocean 7:40 p.m.
Threats 600 block Grant 7:45 p.m.
Illegal Weapon 1300 block 7th 8:14 p.m.
Grand theft 300 block Olympic 8:27 p.m.
Suspicious person 1500 block 16th 8:46 p.m.
Illegal weapon 1800/Ocean 9:14 p.m.
Disturbance 18th/Santa Monica 9:16 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 300 block Santa Monica 9:36 p.m.
Burglary 1800 block Wilshire 9:9 p.m.
Petty theft 1800 block 19th 10:18 p.m.
Disturbance 2500 block Kansas 10:35 p .m
Family Disturbance 1800 block 12th 11:25 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 22 Calls For Service On September 6.

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

Emergency Medical Service 700 block Ocean 12:15 a.m.
EMS 900 block 3rd 1:16 a.m.
EMS 1600 block Santa Monica 1:54 a.m.
EMS 400 block Santa Monica 2:02 a.m.
EMS 1100 block 10th 2:36 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Arizona 2:28 a.m.
Alarm 1200 block 15th 3:12 a.m.
EMS 1500 block 4th 5:03 a.m.
EMS 400 block Pacific 6:08 a.m.
Alarm 1700 block Cedar 8:25 a.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica 9:58 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 15th 11:12 a.m.
EMS 1900 block Pico 11:31 a.m.
EMS 2nd/Broadway 11:44 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Lincoln 12:41 p.m.
Broken water main 2300 block 30th 1:08 p.m.
EMS 1000 block 1:44 p.m.
Alarm 200 block Wilshire 2:16 p.m.
Alarm 3200 block Pearl 3:17 p.m.
Alarm 1300 block 20th 7:06 p.m.
Alarm 1300 block 20th 7:08 p.m.
Alarm 500 block Palisades 11:14 p.m.

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 9/5
6 15 50 59 60
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 114M

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

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 9/5
6 8 24 27 38
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 30M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/6
2 11 12 32 35

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 9/7
MIDDAY: 0 2 8
Draw Date: 9/6
EVENING: 8 1 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 9/6
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:44.36

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WORD UP!

locavore

1. a person who makes an effort to eat food that is grown, raised, or produced locally, usually within 100 miles of home.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Self Exam

■ Q: What is the medical term for the heel bone?

a) Talus
b) Calcaneus
c) Osteoheel
d) Metatarsal

■ A:Calcaneus, from the Latin word meaning heel. Talus is the ankle bone. Metatarsal refers to the group of five long bones in the middle of the foot. Osteoheel isn't a word.

Epitaphs

■ "Keep looking up was my life's admonition. I can do little else in my present position."

■ Jack Horkheimer (1938-2010) was best known for his popular astronomy TV show "Star Gazer"

MYSTERY PHOTO

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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

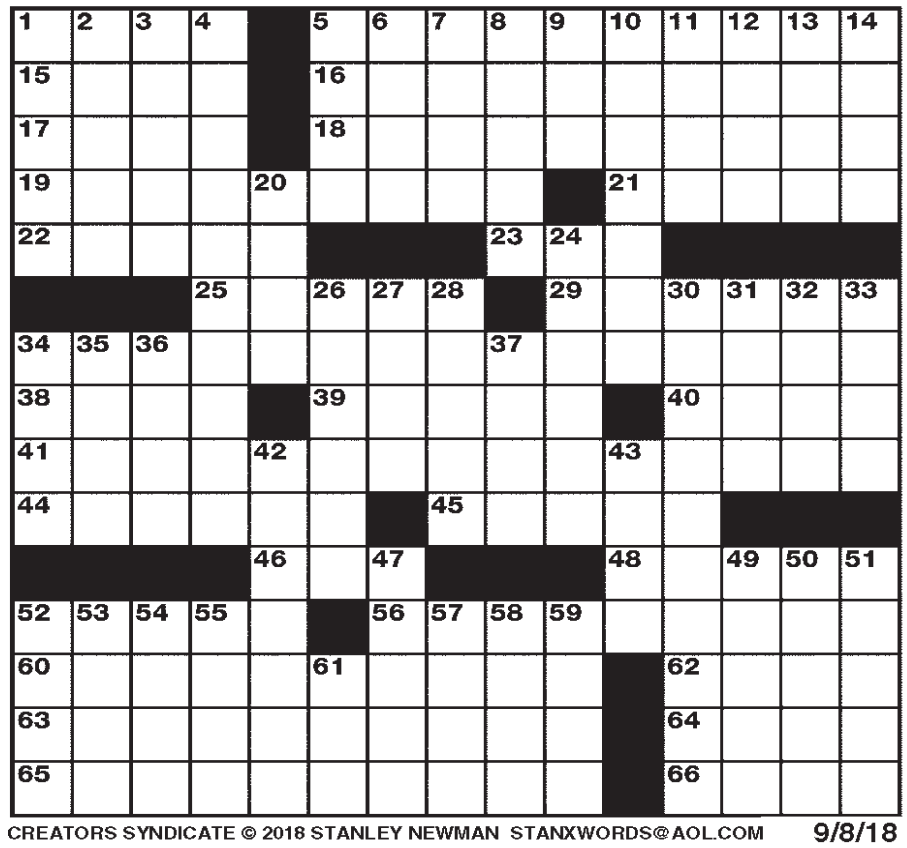
6	3	4	9	7	8	1	2	5
1	8	2	3	5	4	9	7	6
5	9	7	2	6	1	3	8	4
7	1	3	8	4	5	6	9	2
8	2	6	7	3	9	5	4	1
4	5	9	1	2	6	7	3	8
3	6	8	4	1	7	2	5	9
9	7	1	5	8	2	4	6	3
2	4	5	6	9	3	8	1	7

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Frank Longo
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Bombshell reaction
5 Where feeders converge
15 Fit for
16 Lazybones' lack
17 Vegan's gelatin substitute
18 Vanilla-flavored sweet stuff
19 Gamers say it looks like Trouble
21 Whipped or wiped
22 Straight to the left?
23 Biggest NV airport
25 Mini-forest
29 No longer outstanding
34 What shades might be considered for
38 World Cup qualifying zone
39 Called for, perhaps
40 Not backing, in Kipling
41 Stock-in-trade of Change.org
44 MOON __ (anagram of a gazing profession)
45 Scheme indoors
46 World Bank headquarters
48 Drafts taken nonstop
52 München or Cologne
56 Totaled
60 1990s Page One novelty
62 "No man will ever write a better tragedy than __": Shaw
63 Atlanta suburb
64 With 59 Down, "pumice-powered" product
65 Old stock market?
66 Cause to howl

DOWN
1 Handsome, as a *hombre*
2 Newborn evaluation test creator
3 Show surprise
4 People-watching vantage point
5 Anti-caking garlic powder additive
6 On or about
7 Auditions (for)
8 Origin of net profits and losses
9 Either of two on a quarter
10 Heavy wind
11 Capping
12 Either of two on a quarter
13 Whom Björn beat for his last French Open title
14 What kids might craft from tissue paper
20 Metaphor for minimal concern
24 Scathing
26 Row in a St. Patrick's Day parade
27 Offhand
28 Drove (on)
30 They handle flights and landings
31 Card got one for *Ender's Game*
32 "Beneath Shamrocks of __ . . .": Thomas Moore
33 Hotbeds
34 Home of the Mekong's "4,000 Islands"
35 Bears no resemblance to
36 River that named a lizard
37 Elaborate do
42 Color category
43 British rubbish
47 Cookout creation
49 Possibly impossible dream
50 High-pectin fruit
51 Florist's ornamentation
52 Ruler between Mufasa and Simba
53 Folk art painting on tin
54 High points of *The Sound of Music*
55 Arab League's Capital of Culture for 2010
57 Night flier
58 It means "billionth of a billionth"
59 See 64 Across
61 K preceder



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 9/8/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 8)

This solar return comes with emotional complexity. You won't always understand why you feel the way you do, but it's how you channel these strong feelings into action that matters. Your actions will net you your heart's desire in many categories. Let logic rule the tail of 2018. Then, in the new year, go with your gut. Scorpio and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 3, 5, 28 and 35.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
A special friendship is gathering momentum. Not only is it bigger than the sum of its parts but also it's as though the relationship is an entity with a life all its own, independent and distinct of the two of you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
What matters to you personally matters in the larger scheme, too. How could it not? You're an integral part of this web of life. You may not see or feel that all of the time, but never stop believing it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Moods come and go, but the product of them often lingers. Symbols of good times and bad may be scattered around your psyche and/or your house, and if you can proactively manage them, you'll be better off.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Friends will offend and disappoint. This is practically a hallmark of friendship, as a certain level of intimacy is needed for this to occur. The good will far outweigh the bad if you stick with it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
There are power-ups in this game of life. They come in the form of uplifting people, bright and shining situations, inspiring media and tools to pick up that energize you or give you special powers. Seize the opportunities; they will be plentiful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Subtle power conflicts will be at play, so pay attention. It's all in the face. If anyone can smooth things over with charm, you're the one to do it. You'll ease tensions before they get out of hand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
If you're not sure whether you can do it or not, you're smart. The crisis of confidence only happens to people who live in the real world, observe their surroundings and assess their risks with skill. A realistic point of view will pay off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
There are those who will use a situation for all its worth and then move along when something better comes. Loyalty is important. Weigh your next move carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You're a self-creation, but not entirely, of course. And that line you'll walk between forming yourself and adapting yourself will be the main interest of the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You'll be surrounded by comfortable, accepting, fun-loving people, and you'll feel free to be yourself. This is a gift. Later, the hard-nosed types come in with their lofty expectations, and that will be a gift of a different kind.

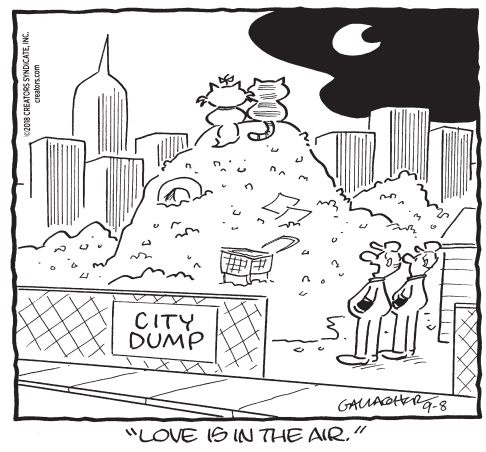
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You won't just join the conversation; you'll give yourself over to it and let it lift you like a magic carpet into worlds unknown. Ask a good question, open your ears, and get ready to be carried away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
It is sometimes necessary to be very discriminating and critical of the world, though too much analyzing is likely to cut you off from the natural, giddy, carefree joy that is your gift today.

Mars vs. Venus
When Mars and Venus are at odds, it seems that the very yin and yang of life is discordant. It's not only about a clash between male and female energy, it's a disagreement about what it means to grow a thing and what it means to destroy it. Often, the same action serves either purpose. Avoid trouble. Lend others the benefit of the doubt.

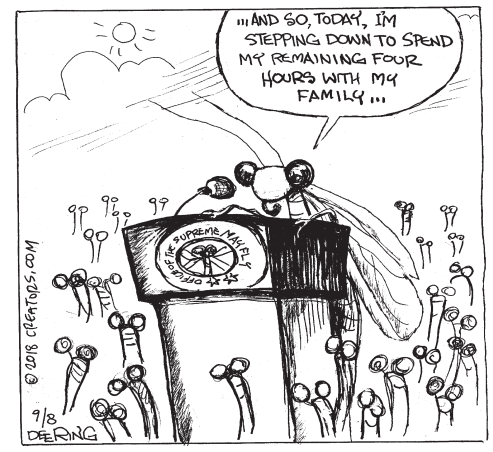
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Heathcliff
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"LOVE IS IN THE AIR."

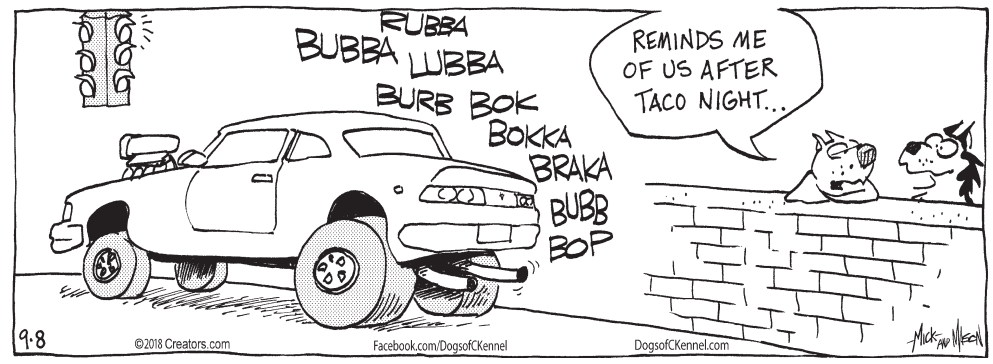
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Obama issues critique of Trump, 'politics of fear'

JUANA SUMMERS & SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

Former President Barack Obama issued a scorching critique of his successor Friday, blasting President Donald Trump's policies and his pattern of pressuring the Justice Department.

Obama also reminded voters that the economic recovery — one of Trump's favorite talking points — began on his watch.

Obama's speech at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was delivered less than two months before midterm elections that could determine the course of Trump's presidency. The remarks amounted to a stinging indictment of political life in the Trump era.

"It did not start with Donald Trump," Obama said. "He is a symptom, not the cause. He's just capitalizing on resentments that politicians have been fanning for years."

Noting the history of former presidents avoiding the rough and tumble of politics, Obama acknowledged his sharp critique of Trump was something of a departure from tradition. But he said the political moment required a pushback and called for better discourse.

"Appealing to tribe, appealing to fear, pitting one group against another, telling people that order and security will be restored if it weren't for those who don't look like us or don't sound like us or don't pray like we do — that's an old playbook," he said. "It's as old as time. And in a healthy democracy, it doesn't work. Our antibodies kick in and people of good will from across the political spectrum call out the bigots and the fear-mongers and work to compromise and get things done and promote the better angels of our nature."

But, Obama added, when there is a vacuum in democracy, "other voices fill the void. A politics of fear and resentment and retrenchment takes hold."

Trump, meanwhile, claimed he fell asleep watching Obama's speech. "I found he's very good for sleeping," Trump said at a campaign appearance in Fargo, North Dakota. He said Obama was trying to take credit for this "incredible thing that's happening to our country."

Even as he has largely remained out of the spotlight, Obama made clear he's paid close attention to the steady stream of headlines chronicling the Trump administration and said the news is a reminder of what's at stake in the November midterm elections.

"Just a glance at recent headlines should tell you this moment really is different," Obama said. "The stakes really are higher. The consequences of any of us sitting on the sidelines are more dire."

He later added, "This is not normal."

He was especially stern in his condemnation of Trump's pattern of pressuring law enforcement officials, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The president has repeatedly called on Sessions to fire special counsel Robert Mueller and earlier this week blamed the Justice Department for indicting two incumbent Republican members of Congress, arguing the moves could jeopardize their seats.

"It should not be a partisan issue to say that we do not pressure the attorney general or the FBI to use the criminal justice system as a cudgel to punish our political opponents," Obama said. "Or to explicitly call on the attorney general to protect members of our own party from prosecution because an election happens to be coming up. I'm not making that up. That's not hypothetical."

As Obama spoke, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One that he believed Sessions should investigate the identity of the author of an anonymous New York Times opinion piece that was sharply critical of his leadership, saying the essay was a "national security issue."

Obama, reacting to the op-ed account, said, "That's not how our democracy is supposed to work."

"The claim that everything will turn out OK because there are people inside the White House who secretly aren't following the president's orders, that is not a check," Obama said. "I'm being serious here. ... These people aren't elected. They're not accountable."

Obama also jabbed Trump on the issue the current president frequently heralds as one of his greatest achievements: the strong economy. Obama reminded the audience that the economic recovery began during his administration and defended his handling of the 2008 economic collapse.

"When you hear how great the economy's doing right now, let's just remember when this recovery started," he said.

He also criticized Trump's response to the violence last year at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, that resulted in the death of a counter-protester.

"We're supposed to stand up to discrimination," Obama said. "And we're sure as heck supposed to stand up clearly and unequivocally to Nazi sympathizers. How hard can that be, saying that Nazis are bad?"

The speech was a preview of the argument that Obama is likely to make throughout the fall. On Saturday, the former president will stump for House Democratic candidates at an event in Orange County, a conservative-leaning part of California where Republicans are at risk of losing several congressional seats.

Next week, Obama plans to campaign in Ohio for Richard Cordray, the Democratic nominee for governor, and other Democrats.

Obama's campaign activity will continue through October and will include fundraising appearances, according to an Obama adviser. The adviser was not authorized to discuss Obama's thinking publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. While the former president will be visible throughout the general election, the adviser said Obama will not be a daily presence on the campaign trail.

Republicans said voters won't find Obama's argument appealing.

"In 2016, voters rejected President Obama's policies and his dismissiveness towards half the country," Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Ahrens said in response to the Friday speech. "Doubling down on that strategy won't work in 2018 either."

Meanwhile, Michelle Obama is also stepping up her political involvement ahead of the November midterm election. She will headline voter registration rallies in Las Vegas and Miami later in September as part of a week of action by When We All Vote, the new nonpartisan organization she co-chairs.

Summers wrote from Washington. Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.



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