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Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY
09.25.18
Volume 17 Issue 265

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@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

California urges Trump to drop plan for weaker fuel standard

SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press

California officials demanded Monday that the Trump administration back off a plan to weaken national fuel economy standards aimed at reducing car emissions and saving people money at the pump, saying the proposed rollback would damage people's health and exacerbate climate change.

Looming over the administration's proposal is the possibility that the state, which has become a key leader on climate change as Trump has moved to dismantle Obama-era environmental rules, could set its own separate fuel standard that could roil the auto industry. That's a change the federal government is trying to block.

"California will take whatever actions are needed to protect our people and follow the law," Mary Nichols, chairwoman of the California Air Resources Board, testified at a hearing with federal officials in a region of central California that has some of the nation's worst air pollution.

State Attorney General Xavier

SEE **FUEL** PAGE 5

Santa Monica Police arrest multi-murder suspect

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) has arrested a man on suspicion of killing several individuals in both Los Angeles and Santa Monica in recent weeks.

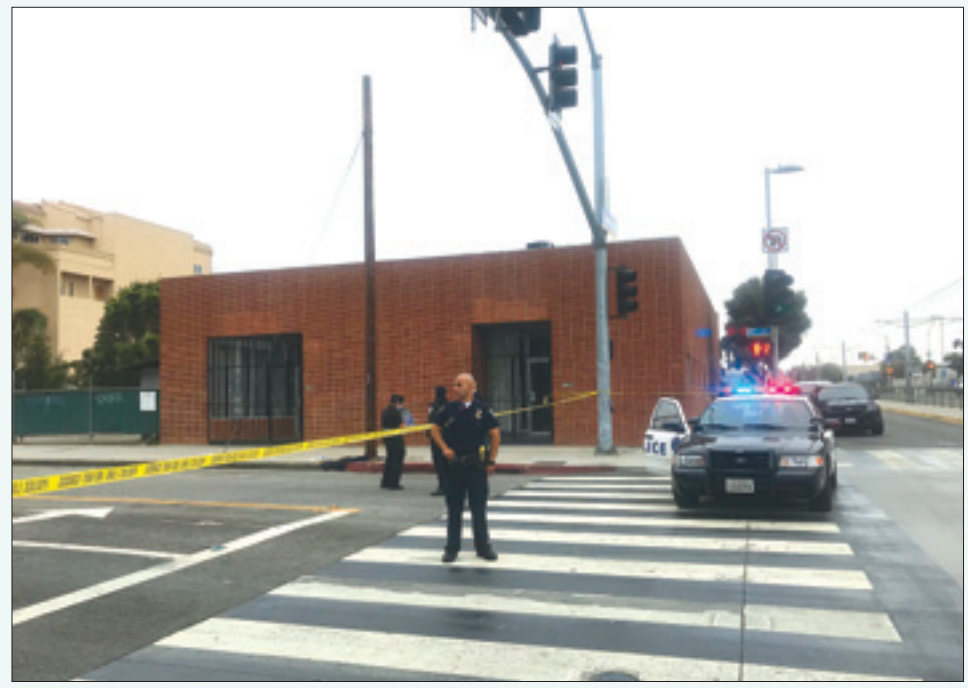
Ramon Escobar, 47 was arrested Monday after he allegedly assaulted a sleeping homeless man near the intersection of 7th and Colorado. The Los Angeles Police Department said Escobar is believed to be responsible for the murder of two men in Los Angeles and the attempted murder of a third in that city.

The Monday incident occurred in the early hours of the day. SMPD received a call for an assault with a deadly weapon at about 6:51 a.m. and found a victim suffering from blunt force trauma to the head. The victim survived the initial attack was taken to a local hospital.

"As officers searched the area, a possible male suspect was located in the 600 block of Broadway Avenue," said a release by SMPD. "Following a preliminary investigation by SMPD Detectives, the suspect has been placed under arrest for this morning's assault. The suspect remains in police custody pending booking and further investigation."

Santa Monica and Los Angeles police officers will hold a joint news conference Tuesday afternoon to discuss details of the arrest and cases.

Officers said the Monday incident has similarities to several recent assaults, including the murder of Steven Cruze Jr. who was killed last week while sleeping under the Santa Monica Pier.



Matthew Hall

CRIME SCENE: **Police officers closed the intersection of 7th and Colorado on Monday.**

Cruze was not homeless but was known to sleep on the beach after fishing trips before making the commute to his job. Investigators had initially thought Cruze was homeless but the father of two lived in San Gabriel.

Cruze died from his injuries on Sep. 20 but Lt. Saul Rodriguez said two other victims survived similar assaults earlier this month. According to Rodriguez, two victims suffered blunt force trauma to the head in separate incidents on Sept. 8 and Sept. 10. Both were sleeping outside and in one case, the victim's belongings were

SEE **ASSAULTS** PAGE 6

Sitting amidst three acres of pristine California coastline, SMC Malibu is set to shine

SHAYN ALMEIDA
SMC Corsair / Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica College broke ground on its new Malibu facility last week with a ceremony that acknowledged the educational, arts and public safety benefits the project will bring to the region.

The open, airy, and eco-friendly two-story design, sitting amidst three acres of pristine Malibu land, will include an educational building with dedicated labs for both arts and sciences, two general education classrooms, a 100-seat lecture hall with raked seating suitable for both film and music events, and a multi-purpose physical space for yoga, dance, and various activities.

The design by QDG Architecture fulfills Malibu city's "dark skies" standards and the new SMC campus will include an interpretive center to support Malibu's unique culture.

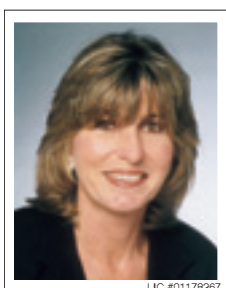
Santa Monica College President Dr. Kathryn E Jeffery, SMC Board of Trustees Chair Barry Snell, Los Angeles County Supervisor Shiela Kuehl, Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonald and City of Malibu Mayor Rick Mullen came together to break ground at Legacy Park on September 21 to mark the occasion.

In her speech, Jeffery acknowledged the hard work it took to make the project happen crediting multiple agencies, including the County of Los Angeles, the City of Malibu, and Santa Monica College for collaborating to find creative solutions and to fulfill community

"SMC's Malibu Campus builds on a legacy of valuable educational services that the college has offered in the past, ranging from art to general education and non-credit offerings," she said. "We've envisioned how that legacy might be further enhanced so that Malibu community members have the best possible learning experience right in their own backyard."

In October of 2004, the City of Malibu and Santa Monica College entered a Joint Powers Authority agreement to pursue planning for clean water facilities and an educa-

SEE **SMC** PAGE 5


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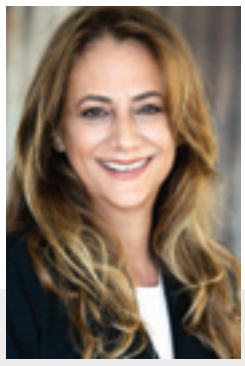
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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Public Hearing to Adopt the Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to to adopt the Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan (LUP). The LUP describes the planning area's land use and environmental conditions, identifies issues related to protecting the coast and contains land use policies that complement adopted City policy and satisfy the intent of the State Coastal Act. In addition to policies for coastal access, recreation, environmental quality, scenic views and historic resources, the Final Draft LUP proposes new policies pertaining to the anticipated effects of sea level rise. The adopted LUP also requires certification by the California Coastal Commission.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018, AT 6:30 p.m.**

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

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Or email to councilmtgitems@smgov.net

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Elizabeth Bar-El, AICP at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at liz.bar-el@smgov.net. The Final Draft LUP and other information are available at the project website: www.smgov.net/localcoastalplan. Copies are also available at all Santa Monica Library branches and at the City Hall Planning Counter during business hours.

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

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

ESPAÑOL

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

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, September 25

Red Hen Press reading

Red Hen Press presents Brittany Ackerman, Ryka Aoki, Bradley Bazzle, Cai Emmons, Bryan Hurt and Tammy Lynne Stoner reading from their work. Free. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. 6:30 – 8 p.m. http://annenbergbeachhouse.com/beachculture

1968: A Personal Perspective - From "Clean for Gene" to Resistance

A participant in and witness to this country's history, speaker Alan Seltzer puts the tumultuous year of 1968 into perspective and reflects on its influences with a multi-media presentation. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 6:30 – 8 p.m.

L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now

One-on-one access to volunteers available to help students with homework assignments and reading comprehension. Bilingual volunteers available. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 3:30 – 6 p.m.

Voter Registration

It's National Voter Registration Day. The League of Women Voters provides election information and on-site voter registration. If you're 16 or 17 years old, you can now pre-register. Your registration will become active when you turn 18. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3 – 6 p.m.

Walk-In Tutoring: Basic Reading, Writing, and Online Skills

Friendly volunteer tutors provide help with basic reading, writing, and computer skills; using the Internet to search for information; opening and using an email account; filling out online forms or applications; learning how to write a resume or cover letter and more. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 1 – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, September 26

Beach Volleyball-Adult

Ages 16+ (co-ed); Introductory and Intermediate options; in a semi-private setting. 6 - 7:30 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House , 415 PCH.

Keeping Your Brain Healthy

Brain health can be optimally maintained by eating well and staying active. In this session, we explore various research findings related to aging well. They will discuss steps you can take to reduce risks for Alzheimer's disease. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 4 – 5 p.m.

How to Buy a Computer or Smartphone

Get tips on how to choose a device that is right for you. For more information or questions, please visit the Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 4 – 5 p.m.

Fairview Teen Advisory Group

Looking for opportunities to serve your community? Join our Teen Advisory Group! Help improve teen services at the library and earn community service credit. Grades 8 – 12. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 27

Banned Books Week Movie Screening: A Wrinkle in Time (2018)

Based on the oft-banned classic, this film follows an ordinary girl's epic adventure and brave journey to save her family. Featuring an all-star cast directed by Ava DuVernay. (109 min.) Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica College Debate Team Brings Home Top PSCFA Awards

The Santa Monica College (SMC) student Speech and Debate Team won several awards at the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association (PSCFA) "Warm Up" Tournament held at El Camino College on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018.

Three of the 10 SMC students who competed won high-level awards in International Public Debate Association (IPDA) debate, in which each competitor engages in four rounds of one-on-one debate, with only 30 minutes to prepare before each round. 34 students from 13 two- and four-year institutions from Southern California and Arizona participated in the competition.

SMC students Shaindi Schwebel (co-team captain), and new debate team members Hyeji Jang and Kelsey Molle each received an "Excellent" award for winning 3 out of their 4 debate rounds. (Winners of 4 out of 4 rounds win a "Superior").

"Our first tournament of the semester proved how much potential this new team has," Co-Team Captain Shaindi Schwebel said. "I was reminded of how much I love debating, and how rewarding it is to watch other people love it too. Win or lose, we had a ton of fun. I'm really excited to see how much our team can achieve this year!"

New team member Hyeji Jang added, "As a freshman, I am ecstatic to start off my first semester with the SMC Debate Team on a high note . . . the tournament has electrified me as well as my fellow teammates to get in the spirit of debating and competing. I feel more motivated to practice and hone my debating skills, and—hopefully—bring back multiple awards to proudly hang on the team room's wall!"

Kelsey Molle, also a new team member, stated that she was "pleasantly surprised" to not be "as nervous as some other first timers and novices." "I am sincerely looking forward to our future tournaments, and the journey ought to be just that much more enjoyable since I get to grow closer with such a competitive, lively, and witty team," said Molle. She added that in spite of "quite the busy schedule," she is "determined to continually improve throughout this semester and the next in order to get to the Phi Ro Pi National Championships in Reno, Nevada in April 2019."

The Associated Students of Santa Monica College sponsored the SMC Speech and Debate Team's presence at the competition.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH, SMC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

SACRAMENTO

High-speed rail project sees temporary leadership change

California's high-speed rail authority is temporarily getting new leadership.

State transportation officials say Chief Executive Officer Brian Kelly is taking a leave of absence for unexpected health reasons.

Chief Operating Officer Joe Hedges and Chief Deputy Director Pam Mizukami will assume leadership of the project. Both were appointed to their jobs in January by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Hedges previously led a $3 billion tunnel project in Seattle. Mizukami was deputy director of administrative services at the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

California's high-speed rail project between Los Angeles and San Francisco is projected to cost $77 billion and be completed by 2033. It has faced significant cost overruns and setbacks.

Rail board chairman Dan Richards and state transportation Secretary Brian Annis told rail staff about the leadership change Monday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON

Man pleads not guilty to threatening Globe journalists

A Los Angeles man has pleaded not guilty to making a series of phone calls threatening to kill journalists at The Boston Globe.

Robert Chain made his first appearance in Boston's federal court Monday.

Chain was arrested last month in California and indicted by a federal grand jury last week. Prosecutors say Chain was upset because the Globe editorial board led a nationwide campaign condemning President Donald Trump's attacks on the press.

WBUR reports that Assistant U.S. Attorney George Varghese said prosecutors are investigating whether Chain also made threats to The New York Times and the NFL.

Chain's lawyer, former acting Massachusetts U.S. Attorney William Weinreb, declined to comment. Chain was freed from custody last month after agreeing to pay $50,000 if he violates any terms of his release.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTPELIER, Vt.

Ben & Jerry's founders creating candidate flavors

The founders of Ben & Jerry's ice cream in Bernie Sanders' home state are putting their ice cream expertise to work to support seven congressional candidates in the midterm elections who they call progressive.

Vermont's Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, known for their clever marketing and quirky flavors, are working with political action committee MoveOn to create ice cream flavors that reflect the values of each of the candidates. They are seeking the public's help in naming the flavors. After picking winners, Cohen says he will make about 40 pints of each flavor by hand in his kitchen to be raffled off to support the candidates.

"We need a Democratic majority to check President Trump's unrestrained power. And we also need to send progressive champions to Congress who will fix our healthcare system with Medicare for All, protect clean air and water, and get big money out of politics," the duo said in a press release on MoveOn.org.

The candidates are Jess King in Pennsylvania, Lauren Underwood in Illinois, Aftab Pureval in Ohio, J.D. Scholten in Iowa, Ammar Campa Najjar in California, Stephany Rose Spaulding in Colorado and James Thompson in Kansas.

The flavors will be announced on a rolling basis starting on Oct. 7 at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, according to a consultant working with Cohen and Greenfield. People can sign up starting Oct. 1 to enter the raffle to win the limited edition pints. Winners will be announced Nov. 1 and the ice cream will be shipped by mid-November.

Scholten's campaign in Iowa wasn't notified of the ice cream challenge. "It's fantastic," said Irene Lin, his campaign manager. "We're very, very grateful," she said, adding that supporters are having fun trying to come up with flavor names and ingredients.

It's not the first time the ice cream makers have tried to sweeten a candidate's campaign. Cohen created "Bernie's Yearning" in 2016, during Sen. Sanders' run for the Democratic nomination for president in 2016.

The ice creams are not associated with the company, Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc.

LISA RATHKE, ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Trump lawyers seek to toss Stormy Daniels' lawsuit

Lawyers for President Donald Trump are going to court Monday to urge a judge to toss out porn actress Stormy Daniels' lawsuit over a hush-money agreement following their alleged affair.

Trump's lawyers say the deal that paid Daniels $130,000 to keep quiet was invalid and they won't sue her for breaking it.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, has said she had sex once with Trump in 2006 and carried on a friendship with him for about a year.

She sued Trump and his former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, who negotiated the deal, so she could speak publicly about the sexual tryst without fear of reprisal. Cohen had threatened to sue her for $20 million.

Daniels said the agreement should be invalidated because Cohen signed it, but Trump did not do so.

Trump's attorney said the president doesn't dispute Daniels' assertion that the contract isn't valid and never considered himself as a party to the agreement.

While Trump and Cohen want the court to toss out the litigation as moot because they concede the deal was invalid, Daniels' lawyer wants to keep the litigation alive.

Attorney Michael Avenatti, who has frequently and aggressively criticized Trump in the news and has said he's considering challenging him in the 2020 presidential race, wants to take testimony from Trump about whether the deal was inked to silence Daniels while he was running for president.

Cohen has pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations for arranging payments to both Daniels and a former Playboy model to influence the election.

Essential Consultants, the company Cohen set up to make the payment to Daniels, wants Daniels to return her $130,000 payment. Avenatti wants the defendants to pay his legal fees.

Trump is also seeking to toss out a defamation claim Daniels made against him for suggesting she made up a story about being threatened to keep quiet about her relationship by a stranger in 2011.

BRIAN MELLEY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

RFP: # 196 Network Operations Center
• Submission Deadline is October 29, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bid-search4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
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Toastmasters Open House - See How Leaders Are Made

THIS COMING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018 two amazing things are happening. One, I turn 52 years old. My brother is very proud of me, but then since, as he puts it, "he raised me from a pup" I suppose he's earned it. When I look at the obstacles that I've overcome, the things I've survived and the risky deaths I've avoided I am a bit proud of myself as well.

I've had my fair share of challenges in this life, as we all have, and I'm happy to say I've grown much more comfortable with myself over the years. It wasn't always so. Being a young gay man in the AIDS decade was scary, painful and often a source of bullying and hatred. Today it's a very different world - thankfully. Who knows, someday I may even be completely over the trauma of those years. But not yet. Those wounds are deep, and I can still feel the pain. It's not the same as the sexual assaults so many people have been subjected to, but it makes me sympathetic to them.

Facing our fears and traumas is an important part of growing. I've had to face mine - like the first time I was in court as a young divorce attorney trying to get a judge to pay attention to the arguments I was making. She was a renown man-hating judge who barely heard, let alone listened, to the arguments I was making. Those days are long gone, today judges and courtrooms are old hat as I argue for more custodial time for a father, or try a domestic violence case.

There did come a time though when I wanted to learn more about speaking. I wanted to have the feedback of someone who knew what they were doing, and it wasn't coming from the people in the black robes. So I sought out Toastmasters International - where leaders are made.

Toastmasters program was created in 1905 by Ralph C. Smedley, who was working as Director of Education at the Young Men's Christian Association in Bloomington Illinois. Smedley saw the need for the men to learn how to properly speak in public, conduct meetings and work on committees together. The first meetings were not all that different from what they are today - a perfect opportunity for people to face their greatest fears, in an open and nurturing environment.

I joined Toastmasters in 2010 to improve my public speaking. I was comfortable in front of people, I just wasn't very entertaining or polished in the way that a good professional speaker is. When joined the local Santa Monica Club #638 - Westside Toastmasters, we had a wide variety of speakers. From those who could barely squeak out a 90 second answer to an impromptu question like "What's your favorite type of pie?" to those who literally ranked as the second best speaker in the world, the late Robert Mackenzie, who was an astounding speaker, actor and mentor to me.

The standard for years has been to complete what is called the Competent Communicator (CC) manual - a series of 10 speeches that provide the solid foundation for a good stage presence and interesting, informative and entertaining speech. I started down the road to completing the CC manual and it took about 9 months for me to be done.

Toastmasters is known not just for its public speaking however, there is an entire leadership course that is also contained in the program. In a streak of 1950's creativity that manual is called the Competent Leader. I completed that in about 12 months also. That part of the program focuses on collaboration, committee work, service to the club and the wider organization to go from never led a meeting to chairing a committee. For those people who are shy, new to the business world or looking to improve their presentation and leadership skills there are no programs that I know of, that can provide the level of training, opportunity for growth, and positive feedback that Toastmasters can. Especially for the low membership rates of $17 a month.

Which brings me to the second amazing thing that's happening tomorrow night. As they do every Wednesday night, Club 638 is meeting at the Ken Edwards Center 1527 4th Street, starting at 7:00. This particular meeting is special (not just because it's my birthday) but because the Westside Toastmasters Club is holding an open house and inviting the public to come experience what Toastmasters is all about. The party starts a bit early at 6:45 and there is no charge to attend, there will be loads of food, fun and information. Parking is not validated, but there is on-site parking. The meeting will run to 9 p.m. and you do not need to RSVP.

If you want to bring me a cupcake for my birthday, I'll be most appreciative - I like all flavors, plus you can see me speak on what Toastmasters has meant to me.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969.You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra

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 Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Sarah A. Spitz

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
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

smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

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SMC

FROM PAGE 1

tional campus in the city of Malibu. In 2011, the school later partnered with Los Angeles County to provide a site for the new campus that would include a community Sheriff's substation. The law enforcement office will be the first time in more than 20 years that the City of Malibu will have a police substation within city limits.

SMC contributed $2.5 million for the acquisition of Legacy Park, which serves as a storage site for stormwater and, as part of its responsibilities towards the Authority's goal of providing clean water facilities for the Malibu Civic Center, SMC also contributed an additional $2.5 million towards brand new, state of the art facilities for the treatment of wastewater.

Sergeant Tui Wright with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office is currently based out of the Lost Hills office and coordinates one of the state's largest search and rescue teams.

"I think the City of Malibu is a world-class destination and it deserves to have a substation here, as well as all the benefits that come with it, such as an Emergency Operations Center. Now we'll have the ability to more easily bring in helicopters for Operations Control, Beach Enforcement, and our Search and Rescue teams," he said.

Wright said proximity will increase safety.

"The ability to have a presence, where people can be able to come to the station and talk to the deputies, to be able to talk to the detectives and follow up on any cases that they might have; It's convenient for the public that we serve, but it's also a tactical consideration for us to have that footprint here to respond from, [for us] not to have to travel 22 miles in - when somebody needs you right now, they need you right now - and that's a hardship for everybody.

SMC Malibu campus construction is expected to be finished in December of 2021 and aims to be opening for classes in 2022.

This story was published as part of a partnership between the SMC Corsair student newspaper and the Santa Monica Daily Press.

FUEL

FROM PAGE 1

Becerra said California could not afford to retreat in the fight against climate change, citing wildfires and high asthma rates among children in the state's San Joaquin Valley, where residents, environmentalists and state officials testified at the first of three nationwide hearings on the mileage plan.

"Stopping us from protecting our people, our jobs and economy or our planet is like trying to stop a mother from protecting her child," he said.

The proposal announced in August by President Donald Trump's administration would freeze U.S. mileage standards at levels mandated by former President Barack Obama for 2020. The standard is the number of miles per gallon of gas that a vehicle must provide.

Under the deal finalized under Obama, the standard would rise to 36 miles per gallon (15 kilometers per liter) by 2025, 10 miles per gallon (4 kilometers per liter) higher than the current requirement.

Trump administration officials say waiving the tougher fuel efficiency requirements would make vehicles more affordable, which would get safer cars into consumers' hands more quickly. A major auto industry trade group says it supports annual increases in fuel efficiency but won't say by how much.

Customers aren't buying more efficient vehicles, Steve Douglas, senior director of energy and environment for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, said in testimony prepared for the hearing. The group represents General Motors, Ford, Fiat Chrysler, Volkswagen, BMW and other automakers.

"No one wins if our customers are not buying the new highly efficient products offered in our showrooms," the written testimony said. "The standards must account for consumer willingness and ability to pay for newer technologies in order for all the benefits of new vehicles to be realized."

Automakers are unanimous in favoring one standard for the whole country so they don't have to design two vehicles, one for California and the states that follow its requirements and another for the rest of the nation.

Scores of people opposed to the Trump plan testified before representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, including local residents who said it would worsen their asthma.

More than 130 people, including doctors and electric vehicle advocates, signed up to speak, and the hearing was expected to last late into the night.

It was held in California's San Joaquin Valley, the country's most productive agricultural region but an area plagued by sooty air in part because of its bowl-shaped geography. The Sierra Nevada and two other mountain ranges wall in the 250-mile (400-kilometer) valley. Air pollution there is blamed for hundreds of deaths each year.

"We are asking the EPA to represent those of us who have asthma and respiratory disease," said Janet DietzKamei, 73, a member of the Central Valley Clean Air Coalition.

DietzKamei said she is unable to leave her Fresno home on some days because the air is so polluted.

Environmentalists protested outside, hoisting signs reading, "Clean cars = Clean air" and chanting, "Clean cars now."

Paul Gipe, 67, and his wife, Nancy Nies, 69, drove from the city of Bakersfield to join the demonstration.

"It's a step backward, and it's a statement that air pollution is acceptable. Damn the people, full speed ahead," said Gipe, who writes about renewable energy on his website.

An avid bicyclist, Gipe said there are days he can't ride because the air quality is so bad in his hometown.

California and other states have sued to block any changes to Trump's proposal. The administration also wants to revoke California's authority to set its own mileage standards.

Ford CEO Jim Hackett said in a speech last week that his company is against any freeze of the standards and favors "keeping the standard, not a rollback."

"We have plans to meet it," he said.

The Obama administration had planned to keep toughening fuel requirements through 2026, saying the stricter standards would save lives.

Trump administration officials argued they would raise the price of vehicles by an average of more than $2,000. Transportation experts have challenged those arguments.

Hearings are also planned on Tuesday in Dearborn, Michigan, and Wednesday in Pittsburgh.

Auto Writer Tom Krisher contributed this report from Detroit.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at **1717 4th Street Suite 250**, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID #4345 FURNISH AND DELIVER ASPHALT PAVING MIXES.

Submission Deadline is October 10, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at **1717 4th Street Suite 250**, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID #4362 PROVIDE ALL LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR REPAIR/REBUILD OF TRANSIT BUS DIFFERENTIALS AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS

BID #4363 PROVIDE LUBRICATING OILS REQUIRED BY VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS

Submission Deadline is October 8, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

ASSAULTS

FROM PAGE 1

moved to a different location.

"They were both homeless or unsheltered individuals that were attacked in their sleep," he said. "One is out of the hospital but the other is still in hospital."

Rodriguez said the common factors in all the cases were people sleeping outside who were attacked with blunt force trauma to the head in the early morning hours. Several of the victims were also robbed.

The Los Angeles Police Department had been investigating a similar series of assaults.

According to LAPD, officers responded to an assault with a deadly weapon call on Sept. 16 and eventually located three victims.

"The suspect was captured on surveillance video and is described as a male White or Hispanic wearing a blue hat, grey sweatshirt, black shorts and bright white tennis shoes. Suspect also appears to have dark bushy hair," said LAPD.

"The suspect beat the victims with a baseball bat and went through the victims' pockets, taking property. The suspect was last seen leaving the area on foot. The suspect and baseball bat are still outstanding."

In that case, two of the three individuals died from their injuries and the third survived.

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SURF FORECASTS — WATER TEMP: **70.5°**

TUESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
New SSW swell starts to creep up over old SSW swell.

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high
SSW/S swell up a notch - few larger sets possible for focal points. Small NW windswell.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Downtown Expo Station Vehicle Barriers
SP2472

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on October 19, 2018 , to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Room 212 Small. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 9:00am
Corner of 5th & Colorado, In front of the Courtyard Marriott Hotel

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $215,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 60 Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,100.00 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a A license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Public Safety Facility Tenant Improvement Projects
SP 2393

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Architecture Services,1437 4th Street, Suite 300, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than **2:30** p.m. on **Wednesday, October 17, 2018**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after **3:00** p.m. on said date at the **Large Conference Room, 1437 4TH Street, Suite 300**. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
Thursday, September 27, 2018 @ 8 a.m.
Lobby, Public Safety Facility, 333 Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Parking is available at the Civic Parking Structure at bidder's own expense.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $65,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 90 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $150.00 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B or C** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 341 Calls For Service On Sept. 23.

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

Domestic violence 1700 block Ocean 12:38 a.m.
Drunk driving 200 block Pacific Coast 12:53 a.m.
Battery 1300 block Santa Monica 01:42 a.m.
Fight 3100 block 3rd 01:53 a.m.
Drunk driving 01:59 a.m.
Animal related incident 500 block Broadway 02:10 a.m.
Fight 2300 block Cloverfield 02:04 a.m.
Shots fired 17th/Broadway 02:34 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1500 block 6th 04:06 a.m.
Runaway 300 block Olympic 04:13 a.m.
Encampment 600 block Santa Monica 07:00 a.m.
Encampment 400 block Broadway 07:40 a.m.
Bike theft 700 block Pier 07:59 a.m.
Auto burglary 2000 block Ocean 08:18 a.m.
Vandalism 1700 block Ocean 08:22 a.m.
Battery 15th/Santa Monica 08:47 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 2nd 08:49 a.m.
Indecent exposure 100 block Bicknell 09:14 a.m.
Lewd activity 1600 block Ocean Front 09:19 a.m.
Fight 1500 block Palisades 09:32 a.m.
Indecent exposure 1800 block Santa Monica 10:48 a.m.
Encampment 300 block Santa Monica Pier 11:06 a.m.
Auto burglary 2400 block 30th 11:16 a.m.
Animal related incident 300 block Olympic 11:30 a.m.
Burglary 1000 block 14th 12:29 p.m.
Animal related incident 1100 block Lincoln 12:49 p.m.
Person down 1300 block Euclid 12:51 p.m.
Threats 300 block Santa Monica Pier 1:15 p.m.
Vandalism 1400 block 19th 1:43 p.m.
Burglary 1000 block 14th 1:45 p.m.
Medical emergency 300 block Santa Monica Pier 1:53 p.m.
Battery 1500 block 2nd 1:53 p.m.
Battery 1700 block Main 2:58 p.m.
Assault 1400 block Ocean 3:39 p.m.
Burglary 1400 block 6th 3:40 p.m.
Auto burglary 2400 block 30th 4:18 p.m.
Bike theft 1600 block Ocean Park 4:18 p.m.
Encampment 1200 block 2nd 4:54 p.m.
Burglary 900 block California 5:16 p.m.
Critical missing person 1500 block The Beach 5:36 p.m.
Animal related incident 1400 block 11th 5:37 p.m.
Vandalism 1500 block Ocean 5:58 p.m.
Burglary 1700 block Main 6:42 p.m.
Burglary 1400 block Yale 6:45 p.m.
Family disturbance 400 block San Vicente 7:03 p.m.
Vandalism 1500 block 2nd 7:19 p.m.
Urinating/defecating in public 800 block Wilshire 7:20 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1400 block 3rd Prom 7:42 p.m.
Fight 1500 block Euclid 8:02 p.m.
Family disturbance 2600 block Barnard 8:08 p.m.
Family disturbance 21st/Ocean Park 9:00 p.m.
Auto burglary 2400 block 30th 9:58 p.m.
Auto burglary 2400 block 30th 10:56 p.m.
Auto burglary 2000 block Pier 11:22 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 26 Calls For Service On Sept. 26.

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

Emergency Medical Service 1800 block 34th 12:08 a.m.
EMS 800 block Franklin 12:49 a.m.
EMS 2300 block Ocean Park 02:11 a.m.
EMS 1000 block Ocean 04:00 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Cloverfield 04:04 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 2nd 04:07 a.m.
Misc/Outside fire 24th/Wilshire 04:50 a.m.
EMS 1300 block Wilshire 08:23 a.m.
EMS 15th/Santa Monica 08:49 a.m.
Automatic alarm 3000 block 31st 10:17 a.m.
EMS 1400 block Yale 10:35 a.m.
EMS 21st/Pico 11:07 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 16th 11:08 a.m.
EMS 1100 block 7th 11:36 a.m.
EMS Ocean/Santa Monica 12:18 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2100 block Santa Monica 1:18 p.m.
EMS 2300 block Pier 1:56 p.m.
Vehicle fire 2000 block Broadway 2:05 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 2:19 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Main 3 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Ashland 4:38 p.m.
EMS 2400 block Oak 6:18 p.m.
EMS Lincoln/Wilshire 7:34 p.m.
EMS 2400 block 2nd 9:04 p.m.
EMS 1200 block 3rd Prom 10:01 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Former official sentenced in Southern California VA swindle

A former contracting official for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles has been sentenced to five months in prison for lying to investigators when he denied taking bribes as part of a $13 million fraud scheme.

City News Service reports Monday that Frank Tillman will also serve five months home detention.

Tillman pleaded guilty in February to tax charges and lying to investigators when he denied accepting bribes from a parking lot operator at the VA's medical center campus.

The lot operator, Richard Scott, was sentenced in August to six years in prison for conspiracy and wire fraud. Scott was ordered to pay the VA $12.6 million in restitution.

Tillman admitted taking $290,000 in hush money. He was ordered to pay $62,000 in restitution to the IRS.

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DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 9/22
24 61 63 64 69
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 193M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 9/21
1 2 11 52 64
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 303M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 9/22
9 22 24 44 45
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 8M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/23
7 14 22 27 29

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/24
MIDDAY: 2 5 1
Draw Date: 9/23
EVENING: 4 2 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/23
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:46.10

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!

sibilate

1. to utter or pronounce with a hissing sound.
2. to hiss.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Noses Off

■ Phantom odor perception is exactly what it sounds like: the detection of smells that, in fact, have no source. A new study, the first in the United States to use nationally representative data, reports that 1 in 15 Americans (6.5 percent) over the age of 40 experience phantom odors.

■ In other words, they smell things that just aren't there.

■ "Problems with the sense of smell are often overlooked, despite their importance," said Judith A. Cooper, acting director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. "They can have a big impact on appetite, food preferences and the ability to smell danger signals, such as fire, gas leaks and spoiled food."

■ The ability to identify odors tends to decrease with age. Phantom odor perception, on the other hand, seems to improve with age. A previous Swedish study found that 4.9 percent of people over the age of 60 experience phantom odors, with a higher prevalence in women than men. The latest U.S. study found a similar prevalence in the over-60 age group, but an even higher prevalence in ages 40 to 60, with women again more likely to experience it. Aside from gender, other risk factors for the onset of phantom odors include head injury, dry mouth, poor overall health and low socio-economic status.

■ Researchers hypothesized that people with lower socio-economic status may more commonly be exposed to environmental pollutants and toxins, or have health conditions that contribute to phantom odors, either directly or because of medications needed to treat their health conditions.

MYSTERY REVEALED!

SPONSORED BY Chick-fil-A



Raymond Marks correctly identified the mystery photo as Bay Street Boards at 3216 Santa Monica Blvd. He wins a prize from the Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

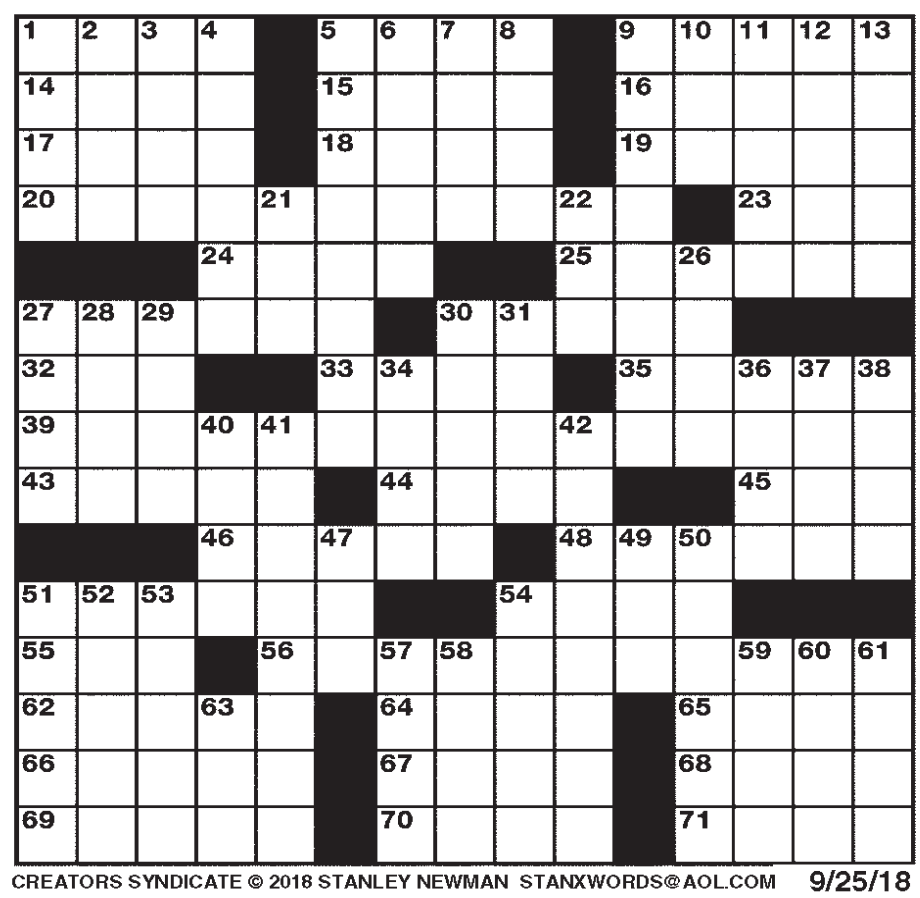
NOTHING'S WRONG by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Chest muscles, for short
5 Barbie or Ken
9 Moral code
14 Tear down
15 "It's my turn"
16 Instruct
17 Racetrack shape
18 Join a choir, say
19 Boat that's paddled
20 Pitcher's dream outing
23 __-in-a-million (rare)
24 Part of the eye
25 In danger
27 Snoozing
30 Blender setting for baby food
32 Cow's comment
33 Jungle king
35 Pay increase
39 Gem without defects
43 Radio, TV, etc.
44 Gas in lighted signs
45 "You're it!" game
46 Boxer's weapons
48 A scratch or a dent
51 Pretentious
54 Generic dog name
55 Pub beverage
56 Match made in heaven
62 Poker player's "pass"
64 Operatic solo
65 Cabbage salad
66 Durable trousers material
67 Tenant's payment
68 "For Pete's __!"
69 All finished, as a meal
70 Person known for wisdom
71 What visors shade

DOWN

1 Stage accessory
2 Roof overhang
3 Industrial mogul
4 Photo of the photographer
5 Faithful follower
6 Leaves out
7 Respiratory organ
8 Women's links org.
9 And so on
10 Coffee alternative
11 Capital of Vietnam
12 Computer screen images
13 Place for rouge
21 Before, in poems
22 Scratch or dent
26 Package of paper
27 Two-band, as a radio
28 "Filet" fish
29 Batch of laundry
30 Sits for a portrait
31 Loosen, as a knot
34 "Small world, __ it?"
36 Slightest bit
37 Slight obstacle
38 Just barely beat
40 Internet hotspot connection
41 Flattered to excess
42 Direct attention to
47 Feeling blue
49 "Without further __ . . ."
50 Hair salon goo
51 Jousting weapon
52 "Hi," in Hawaii
53 "Credit or __?"
54 Throw with force
57 Servings of corn
58 Vicinity
59 Theater production
60 Erie or Huron
61 Lambs' mothers
63 Opposite of WSW



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 25)

In short, it's your year to do things better, smarter and faster. Your obsession with handling the daily stuff with more grace and efficiency will allow you to expand your life by adding interest, income and new relationships. More highlights include: being trusted with a treasure and a showcase for your talent. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 12, 18 and 6.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You appreciate people for who they are and don't require them to be like you in order to understand them. It's that difference that keeps both parties interested and connected, as you fill in one another's blanks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You know what you have to do to bring harmony to your world, but you may not feel ready to do it. Forgiveness and detachment aren't the easiest things for you, but once you let something go, it will never bother you again.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Sometimes life puts you in a position of having to fake it until you get the hang of the role and it becomes who you really are. But there are certain things that will just never be you. Give those up. Faking too long is bad for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
When you don't want the fun to end, maybe it's a sign that you're not getting enough of it in general. Pinpoint what makes a particular experience so enjoyable. There's a way of working more of that feeling into your daily life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Having to be right all of the time eats up a lot of energy and it's socially repellant to boot, as people are annoyed by invulnerable individuals who seem to have it all figured out. Expect mistakes. Love them even.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
When you're living in the spirit of possibility, it's never too late and there's no such thing as being regretful. So keep that beautiful hopeful attitude of yours alive. The world needs it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Outer order, inner calm is the motto of the day. An effort to get your surroundings into a clean and logical arrangement will serve to clear your mind and get you ready to prevail in the challenges to come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Responsibility is the way to happiness. It sure doesn't look like the way, but it is. Today this will have to do with making something right. As soon as you realize that a mistake has been made, handle and resolve it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
It might feel unnatural for you to celebrate who you are and what you have to offer, but it's the best thing you can do for everyone around you. When you enjoy your uniqueness, you're a gift to everyone around you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You deserve love and attention and sometimes crave it without even realizing it. Better to tune in, ask yourself how you're doing and what you need, than to risk subconsciously making things about you that shouldn't be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Why do people test the boundaries of a relationship? Because we all need to feel powerful and free. Also, we often don't know where the boundaries are until we brush against them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You didn't seek approval, but you got it anyway. Of course that's satisfying, but be careful because it's also addictive. Derive too much pleasure from the approval of others and you could accidentally become reliant on it.

Social Sun

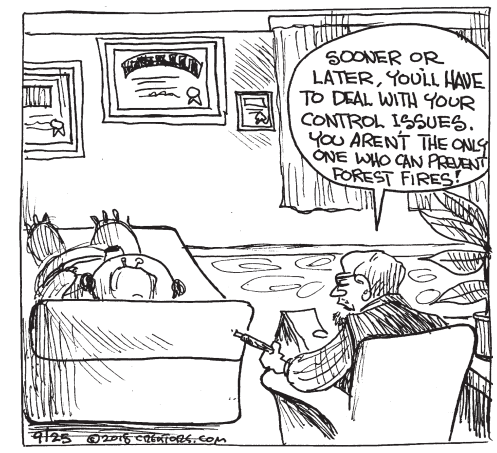
Many people will decide to play host on a holiday or when they have a reason to celebrate, but it takes a special thought process to host for the sheer enjoyment of being with your favorite people. There's no better reason! The early stages of this Libra sun make for an ideal time to call a few friends and put together a plan for the weekend.

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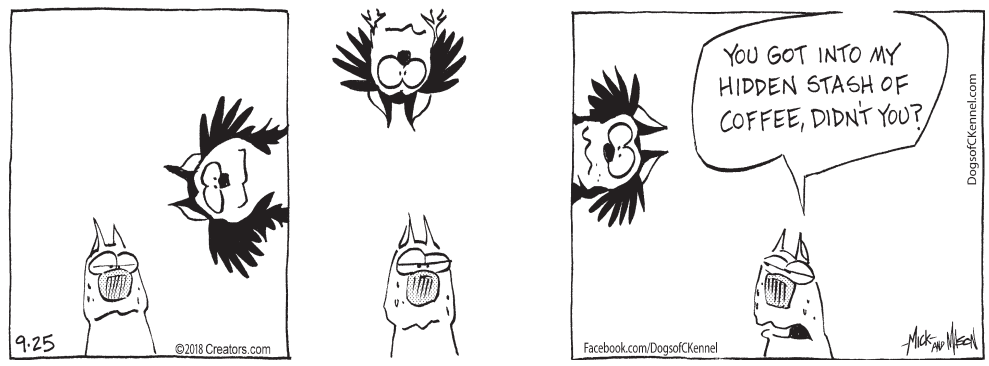
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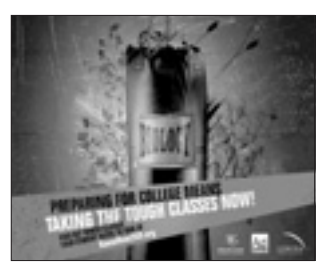
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Republicans are digging in on Kavanaugh. Here's why.

BY STEVE PEOPLES & LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

The first allegation against Brett Kavanaugh left Republicans rattled and nervous. The second left them angry and ready to fight back.

The GOP punched back hard Monday, seeming to cast aside — for now — worries that President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee could turn off female voters and sink their hopes of holding complete control of Congress following the November midterms. Rather than peel away from Kavanaugh, many GOP senators seemed to stiffen their resolve.

The decision was in part based on the details of a new allegation. Many Republicans dismissed a report published late Sunday in The New Yorker magazine as weak and unsubstantiated — allowing them to turn their aim on the media, a well-worn and effective tactic. And some Republicans worried that not doing enough to push Kavanaugh across the finish line would hurt their standing with the GOP base heading into the midterms.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., took the lead role in the fight. His resolve was evident in both public and private, according to those who were around him. He began his day at a university in Louisville, Kentucky, where he told confidants he didn't intend to back down.

"I sensed absolute determination," said Scott Jennings, a longtime McConnell strategist. "He was not going to give up on Brett Kavanaugh."

Back in Washington a few hours later, McConnell went to the Senate floor to blast "Senate Democrats and their allies" who he said "are trying to destroy a man's personal and professional life."

GOP leaders were already grappling with an allegation from Christine Blasey Ford, who said Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were both teenagers. But McConnell and some others were especially incensed by a second allegation in which a student who attended Yale with Kavanaugh said he exposed himself at a drunken dormitory party, thrust his penis in her face and caused her to touch it without her consent as she pushed him away.

The accusation was "another orchestrated, last-minute hit on the nominee," McConnell said.

Kavanaugh has vehemently denied both allegations.

Jennings said The New Yorker story strengthened a consensus among many Republicans that they were contending with an orchestrated effort by Democrats to take down Kavanaugh's nomination.

"When that thing hit, rank-and-file Republicans dug in and said, 'We are not going to let the mob get away with this,'" Jennings said.

That sentiment was echoed by Doug Deason, a prominent donor close to Trump.

"Certainly women deserve to be heard, but not 30, 40 years later when there's all the drinking and they don't remember most of it," he said. "It's a conspiracy from the left-wing loonies."

Ford and Kavanaugh are expected to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. The showdown comes six weeks before Election Day, with early voting already underway in a handful of battleground states. Some polls suggest Republicans are already likely to lose the House majority and increasingly confident Democrats now see a path to the Senate majority as well.

That's helped fuel a hardline political strategy aimed squarely at the GOP base.

Evangelical conservative leader Ralph Reed said the accusations against Kavanaugh are "firing up conservatives and faith-based voters" across the country.

"We've had an enthusiasm gap," Reed said. "This could close it."

Shrugging off the risks, Republicans are digging in for a messy confirmation fight.

McConnell's allies warned that any delay in the process would merely open the president's pick to a never-ending loop of rumors and accusations. But holdouts, including retiring Republican Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, whose vote on the committee is needed to ensure Kavanaugh's nomination moves favorably to the full Senate, remain in flux.

Along with Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Flake's views on the latest development may determine next steps. Flake was central to weekend talks to ensure an agreement was reached for Ford to tell the committee her story, according to a GOP aide familiar with the talks but unauthorized to speak publicly. The aide spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Flake's reaction to the new allegations will be central to whether the hearing Thursday proceeds.

Trump confidant Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina set the tone for GOP leaders with a series of tweets on Monday blaming Democrats for "wholesale character assassination" and urging fellow Republicans to push forward with Kavanaugh's confirmation.

"What we are witnessing is the total collapse of the traditional confirmation process for a Supreme Court nominee," Graham tweeted. "The process needs to move forward with a hearing Thursday, and vote in committee soon thereafter."

Another Trump ally, Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, struck a similar script. "The Democrats are engaged in a campaign of delay and character assassination against Judge Kavanaugh. It's time to vote this week," he said.

Collins' constituents in Maine warned the four-term senator that women were paying close attention.

"I'm speaking to people on a regular basis — people who have voted for her in the past and are very, very agitated," said Eliza Townsend, executive director of the Maine Women's Lobby.

Asked if she believed Collins was on the side of Maine women, Townsend responded: "It's hard to tell."

There were signs that Murkowski was also struggling under the weight of the Kavanaugh fight back home as well.

Jeff King, one of the world's most successful professional dogsled racers, has campaigned alongside Murkowski before. It's unclear if he'll do so again.

"Alaska stood firm for you, and I ask that you trust that we'll have your back if you make the right decision," said King, a four-time Iditarod champion, during a recent Alaska protest calling for Murkowski to block Kavanaugh's nomination. "You're our senator, Lisa, not Trump's."

Neither Collins nor Murkowski is up for re-election this fall. But hundreds of other Republicans are.

Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writer Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska, contributed to this report.

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