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@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

Los Angeles debates limits on homeless camping

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

A proposal to greatly restrict where homeless people may camp in public places around Los Angeles drew impassioned protest Tuesday at a City Council meeting from demonstrators who say the rules would criminalize homelessness.

Council members began discussion on proposed changes to the city's code that would prevent people from sleeping within 500 feet of "sensitive areas" such as schools or blocking right of ways such as driveways and loading docks.

During public comment, dozens of opponents voiced concerns that the restrictions would send the message that homeless people are dangerous. The meeting was briefly halted as demonstrators chanted "shame on you." One person shouted: "It's a police state ordinance!"

Councilman Mike Bonin sympathized with protesters and called the process "backwards." Before the city considers legislation "to tell people where they cannot sleep," it should focus on building much needed shelters, he said.

With close to 60,000 homeless people in Los Angeles County, tents are clustered on sidewalks throughout the city, in vacant lots

SEE **CAMPING** PAGE 4

Santa Monica schools still have an achievement gap, but it's narrowing



File photo

GAP: Samohi may be diverse, but student achievement is still separated along racial and class lines.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The achievement gap is narrowing at local public schools, but white and Asian students continue to outperform other racial groups.

African American, Latino and socioeconomically disadvantaged students made gains in English and math this past school year, according to the Santa Monica-Malibu School District. Those groups all scored six points higher on average on the English portion of the 2019 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, which assigns scores on a scale of 2,000 to 3,000 points. African American and mixed-race students also scored eight and seven points higher on the test's math portion.

Gaps in performance along racial and class lines have long plagued the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Administrators brought in UCLA professor Pedro

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 10

Beach cleanup nets spam, wigs and scooters

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Thousands of volunteers attended Coastal Cleanup Day last weekend and marked the end of summer by picking up trash for 3-hours.

From underwater in the Santa Monica Bay to up in the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, 13,914 people removed more than 30,000 pounds of trash from 79 locations in Los Angeles County.

In addition to standard trash, several unique items were found at various sites.

In the Ballona, volunteers collected over 1,600 pounds of trash including a rake, basketball and a drivers license. At Dockweiler, volunteers found a bicycle wheel and sheet metal among the 650 pounds of trash collected. Volunteers found oil drums, bamboo filters and a BBQ among the 900 pounds of trash in Malibu. In the 250 pounds of trash taken from the Marina, volunteers found a can of spam, a suitcase, a wig and a roll of insulation. The 1,400 pounds taken from the Santa Monica state beach included three electric scooters and a laptop was found under the pier.

About 28 Santa Monica area dancers from Westside Ballet, ranging in age from 13 – 17, also took part. Martine Harley, Westside Ballet's Artistic Director, organized their efforts with the help of several

SEE **BEACHES** PAGE 4


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, September 25

Special Meeting Architectural Review Board

The Architectural Review Board established in 1974, acts "to preserve existing areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and assure that buildings, structures, signs or other developments are in good taste, good design, harmonious with surrounding developments, and in general contribute to the preservation of Santa Monica's reputation as a place of beauty, spaciousness and quality." SMI Training Room, 7 p.m.

Ben Westhoff presents Fentanyl, Inc.

In his new book, journalist Ben Westhoff offers a deep-dive investigation into an illicit industry whose synthetic chemicals have accelerated the global opioid epidemic. Join us as Ben dis-cusses the book with guest moderator Ross Gardiner. Local LA organizations focused on fighting addiction will also be present. A book sale and signing follows. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis. Main Library, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Open Lab

Explore virtual reality, 3D printers, electronics kits, and other emerging technologies during this informal drop-in session. Main Library, 6 - 8 p.m.

Teen Advisory Group

Looking for opportunities to serve your community? Join our Teen Advisory Group! Earn community service credit by helping with special projects and library programs. Fairview Branch Library, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

LEGOS and Games

Get creative with LEGOs, try our fun tabletop games, or some coloring! Ages 4-10. Main Library, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Read & Play

Help your child cultivate key developmental skills through books and play activities. Ages 0-5. Main Library, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, September 26

Mat Pilates Class For Beginners With Raghavan

Develop core strength and coordination, this class draws traditional Pilates exercises with breath and correct alignment. Including resistance to body weight training and core isolation. Helping the body to increase movement to joints and tone the abdominal muscles. Pico Branch Library, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Banned Books Week Movie: Best of Enemies (2015)

In 1968, ideological opposites William F. Buckley Jr. and Gore Vidal held a series of nationally televised debates that ushered in a new era of public discourse and political punditry that changed how we view the free press. A discussion of the film follows the screening. (Film runtime: 87 min) Fairview Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Voter Registration

In celebration of National Voter Registration Day, the League of Women Voters provides election information and on-site voter registration. Ocean Park Branch Library, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Movie & Discussion: Searching for Bobby Fischer (1993)

Vivian Rosenberg screens and leads a discussion on this film in which a young chess prodigy refuses to harden himself in order to become a champion like the famous but unlikable Bobby Fischer. (Film runtime: 109 min.) Montana Avenue Branch Library, 2 - 5 p.m.

Current Events Discussion Group

Join organizers for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fair-view Branch Library, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Friday, September 27

Mat Pilates

Learn the techniques of Pilates, a system of controlled exercises that engage the mind and condition the total body. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Please bring a yoga or Pilates mat.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

11th Annual Hope & Unity Awards Gala

The Pico Youth & Family Center (PYFC) will host its 11th Annual Hope & Unity Awards Gala on Saturday, September 28, at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel (Wedgewood Ballroom).

The #PYFCGala is a special time for them to recognize extraordinary individuals in their community who have successfully transformed their own lives as well as the lives of others.

This year's Hope & Unity Awardees are: Underground Scholars Initiative of UCLA, Maria Loya and Surprise Guests.

Hosted by Joe Hernandez-Kolski.

The Gala also features: Happy Hour (6 - 7 p.m.), Silent Auction (6 - 7 p.m.), Five-Star Dinner, Live Entertainment and More.

PYFC provides a safe haven for underserved youth and their families. They empower young people through professional training in Music, Film, Creative Arts, Technology, Yoga (Wellness & Mindfulness training) and more.

Tickets are available online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-hope-unity-awards-gala-tickets-71572026859

SUBMITTED BY PYFC

Los Angeles

2019 Suicide Prevention Report released to the Community

The Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN), in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, has released the 2019 Suicide Prevention Report to the Community providing an update on the status of suicide and suicide prevention activities throughout Los Angeles County.

The 2019 Suicide Prevention Report to the Community includes information about local suicide prevention efforts, information on help-seeking, supports and crisis resources, as well as data on suicide deaths and attempts.

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla and his wife Angela Padilla joined County Supervisor Kathryn Barger (Fifth District), along with Dr. Barbara Ferrer (Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health), Dr. Curley Bonds (Chief Medical Officer, Clinical Operations, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health), and Lisa Salazar (Policy Director, Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti) to address Los Angeles County's efforts to reduce suicides and provide supports to those impacted by thoughts of suicide. In addition to the person suffering from those thoughts, this includes their family, loved ones and community.

Dr. Ferrer provided an update on suicide deaths in Los Angeles County, noting that suicides in-creased over the six-year period from 2012-2017. Of the 891 suicide deaths in 2017, 27 suicide deaths were of youth and adolescents and 93 suicide deaths were of military veterans.

The report also included encouraging news highlighting that an increased number of people are reaching out for help and lending their support to raise awareness about suicide prevention.

In 2018, 102,312 calls, chats and texts were made to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Teen Line from Los Angeles County community members. Last year, over 16,000 community members were trained in suicide prevention, and more than 7,400 people attended suicide prevention awareness walk events. In addition, nearly 3.5 million youth and young adults were reached by awareness and media campaigns promoting mental health and suicide prevention in Los Angeles County.

"We know suicide disproportionately affects some specific communities, and our effort includes targeted outreach to those who need it most, including our first responders who face immense stress and trauma on the job," said Supervisor Barger. "It's our duty to educate our communities about how to recognize signs and offer support– and to provide a safety net for people in crisis."

In response to the needs of the community, the Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN) is in the process of developing a strategic plan to provide a public health framework to reduce suicides in Los Angeles County. Key elements of the plan include strengthening protective factors and wellbeing, raising awareness of the warning signs for suicide and local re-sources, early intervention by training those in a position to intervene, effective crisis response, and providing support after a suicide attempt or death.

"We know that suicide cannot be solved by one entity alone, and through the efforts of County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network we invite all community members to join us in finding their role in suicide prevention," said Tracie Andrews, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and Co-Chair of the Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network. "There is a hero in each of us, that can assist someone in finding their reasons for living."

More information about the LASPN the full 2019 Suicide Prevention Report to the Community can be found on the LASPN's website: LASuicidePreventionNetwork.org

Information on Crisis Resources:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7:
1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Veterans: press 1 or text 838255
Para español, oprima el numero 2
Teen Line
Call 310.855.4673 (6 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily)
or text TEEN to 839863 (6 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily)

SUBMITTED BY MIMI MARTINEZ MCKAY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

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BEACHES

FROM PAGE 1

parents. Volunteers from the 48-year-old nonprofit dance company received matching shirts from an anonymous donor.

"I had so much fun cleaning the beach with the program @healthebay & @westsideballet !! — Those who dance together, clean the beach together," said dancer Eve Karayev, 7th grader at Lincoln Middle School.

Approximately 100 Santa Monica College (SMC) students and employees volunteered for the event. A total of 264 pounds of trash and recycling were collected from a one-mile stretch of the Santa Monica beach known as the "Inkwell." Adopted by SMC as its 'section,' this historic site is where SMC student Nick Gabaldón and other African Americans challenged Jim Crow racism and helped open public beaches for all.

A total of 821 volunteers including K-12 students, and community members were also part of the effort.

"What inspires me is the lasting education people get by experiencing a day like this. It is what's right about humanity: coming together for a common cause, cleaning the beaches be-fore the storm season sets in, making new friends while we learn about the damage that decades of the disposables economy has caused," said SMC Life Sciences Professor and Department Chair Dr. Alexandra Tower. "It inspires me to see others inspired, and it's what keeps me looking forward to a zero waste, sustainable future."

Marine scientist and Marine Biology Samohi teacher Benjamin Kay had his Team Marine volunteers sift the trash to learn what is recyclable, what is not, and how products can be designed to be more recyclable. Kay also teaches part-time in SMC's Life Sciences department.

editor@smdp.com

CAMPING

FROM PAGE 1

and under highway bridges. All but about 25% live on the streets.

The discussion came a week after President Donald Trump visited California and blamed the state's homelessness crisis on "liberal" policies.

Trump said his administration "can't let Los Angeles, San Francisco and numerous other cities destroy themselves by allowing what's happening" and vowed to do something about the problem.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson toured a Skid Row shelter in Los Angeles last week and called for cooperation among federal, state and local governments. But he was noncommittal about what he could offer, saying the administration was considering all options, including re-using vacant federal buildings for shelters.

Under the Los Angeles proposal, the city would bar people from lying or sitting on sidewalks in a variety of prohibited areas. It would also set enforcement provisions for people who harass or threaten pedestrians — although some council members suggested the language was too vague for setting how police issue citations or make arrests.

Los Angeles has had a law on the books regulating sleeping sidewalks since 1968. Much of it was negated by a federal appeals court ruling last year that barred municipalities from citing people for camping on sidewalks unless there is adequate shelter space available for those who are homeless.

The council took no formal action Tuesday on the proposal submitted last month by Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, who conceded that he's willing to consider changes.

"We must take an honest look at this catastrophe," O'Farrell said.

The proposal will be heard again by the council's Homelessness and Poverty Committee.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica Man Pleads to Possessing Child Pornography

A 59-year-old Santa Monica man entered a no contest plea today for possessing child pornography, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Angela Brunson of the Cyber Crime Division said Guido Germano entered the plea in case BA479645 to one felony count of possession of child or youth pornography.

The defendant was immediately sentenced to five years of formal felony probation and ordered to attend a minimum of 52 weeks of sex offender counseling, forfeit devices which contained any child pornography images or videos and register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Germano, who was the director of artificial intelligence medicine at a local hospital at the time, shared child pornography videos using peer-to-peer software and downloaded them onto his personal computer at his home, the prosecutor said.

The case was investigated by the District Attorney's Office, Bureau of Investigation.

SUBMITTED BY RICARDO SANTIAGO, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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WINNER

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Executive gets 4 months for bribing son's way into USC

COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

A Los Angeles business executive was sentenced Tuesday to four months imprisonment for paying $250,000 to get his son admitted to the University of Southern California as a fake water polo recruit.

Devin Sloane, 53, pleaded guilty in May to a single count of fraud and conspiracy in a deal with prosecutors. He is the second parent to be sentenced in a sweeping college admissions scandal that has ensnared dozens of wealthy parents.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani also ordered Sloane to 500 hours of community service over two years of supervised release and a fine of $95,000.

Authorities say Sloane helped fabricate documents depicting his son as an international water polo star even though he had never played the sport. He bought water polo gear online, investigators found, and staged action photos of his son in the family's swimming pool.

Prosecutors recommended a year and a day in prison, along with a $75,000 fine and a year of supervised release. A weighty sentence was necessary, they said, because of the "unusual lengths" Sloane undertook in pursuing the deception.

His lawyers asked for three years of supervised release, a $75,000 fine and 2,000 hours of community service. They said Sloane was prepared to perform the service by starting a new Special Olympics program at private schools across the country.

In a Sept. 14 letter asking for leniency, Sloane called himself a "dedicated family man" who grew up in poverty and was only trying to help his son avoid the same "emotional pain" he experienced as a child.

Sloane is a graduate of USC and founder of the Los Angeles water systems company AquaTecture.

"There are no words to justify my behavior nor will I offer any excuses or justification," he said with tears in his eyes during Tuesday's sentencing. "The crime I committed is unacceptable. ... In my heart and my soul I want what's best for my son. I realize now my actions were the antithesis of that."

He was accused of paying $200,000 to a sham charity operated by William "Rick" Singer, an admissions consultant at the center of the scheme, and $50,000 to an account controlled by Donna Heinel, a former USC athletics official. Sloane previously said he accepts responsibility for his crime but also argued he was drawn into the scheme by Singer, who Sloane says provided a year of legitimate counseling before mentioning his "side-door" bribery scheme.

In a Sept.17 court filing, Sloane's lawyers said he was "targeted, manipulated and slowly and deliberately lured into the conspiracy by Singer, a world-class schemer and manipulator."

Singer pleaded guilty in March and agreed to work with authorities in hopes of receiving a lenient sentence. Heinel is accused of accepting bribes to get students admitted as fake athletic recruits. She has pleaded not guilty.

Last week, "Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman became the first parent to be sentenced in the scheme after admitting to paying $15,000 to rig her daughter's SAT score. She was sentenced to 14 days in prison, 250 hours of community service and a $30,000 fine.

Talwani challenged the idea that parents would pursue the admissions or test scheme out of a desire to help their children.

"The crime that's at issue in all of these cases is not basic care-taking for your child. It's not getting your child food or clothing. It's not even getting your child a college education," she said. "It's getting your child into a college that might be called exclusive. Are they doing that for their children or are they doing it for their own status?"

Prosecutors said Sloane deserved prison time because he enlisted his son in the scheme, stole an admissions spot from another deserving USC candidate, and because he has failed to take full responsibility by blaming admissions Singer for luring him into the scheme.

"He is using his wealth to attempt to buy his way out of jail," Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Rosen said Tuesday. "Prison is necessary here as a great leveler between rich and poor, and that's why the defendant here is doing everything he can to avoid it."

Rosen added that Sloane's deceit is worse than Huffman's. He emphasized that Sloane staged action photos of his son pretending to play water polo in the family's swimming pool.

"Huffman kept her child out of the crime, preferring to not let her know what was going on," he said. "The defendant, by contrast, literally threw his son into the family pool."

The bribe amount is typical among parents accused of paying for admissions spots in the scheme. Several others paid similar sums to get their children into USC and other elite schools, authorities said, while some paid as much as $400,000 per student.

Sloane's son, Matteo, was accepted to USC as a water polo recruit in March 2018. It's unclear if he still attends the school. As of this August, USC said it had not made a decision regarding students whose families were accused in the admission scheme.

Fifteen parents have pleaded guilty, while 19 are fighting the charges, including "Full House" actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, who are accused of paying $500,000 to get their two daughters into USC as fake athletes.

Several other parents are scheduled to be sentenced in coming weeks, including Stephen Semprevivo, who faces sentencing Thursday on charges that he paid $400,000 to get his son into Georgetown University.

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Remembering Ray

RAYMOND J. ARVIN JANUARY 17, 1950- APRIL 2019

On Saturday, June 22, a body was pulled up from the bluffs beneath Santa Monica's Palisades Park. John Doe #135 had decomposed beyond recognition, but the coroner found that he had probably died in his sleep at his hillside encampment 2 ½ months before.

John Doe #135 is 69 year old Raymond John Arvin. He was my friend.

I am writing this so his life doesn't disappear into oblivion, because even though Ray spent his last years on the streets, his daily life continued to be eventful, he was excited by it, and he was loved by many.

I met Ray over 30 years ago, when I think he still had a roof over his head. I am an actress and I remember him first from the premiere of Dragnet '87, a studio comedy I which I played Dan Aykroyd's love interest. Ray was at the red carpet among the paparazzi, yelling out stars' names. But Ray stood out because his sport coat looked a bit disheveled and, instead of long lensed Nikon, he held a small instamatic camera. He was at many Hollywood events with a press pass and his little camera, and he saved me once when my agent asked me to go to a Grammy party



Courtesy photo

FRIENDS: Ray with FNB volunteers Viv Edmondson and Alexandra Paul in 2014.

as a date for Wham's Andrew Ridgeley. Mr Ridgeley ditched me as soon as we got to the event and I was standing there not knowing a soul, when Ray with his big smile and slight Southern accent came up to me, asked to take my photo and chatted for a bit. I was deeply grateful to him.

Perhaps because I got weary of show business events, or maybe hard times fell on Ray, but for the next 2 decades our paths did

SEE **RAY** PAGE 11

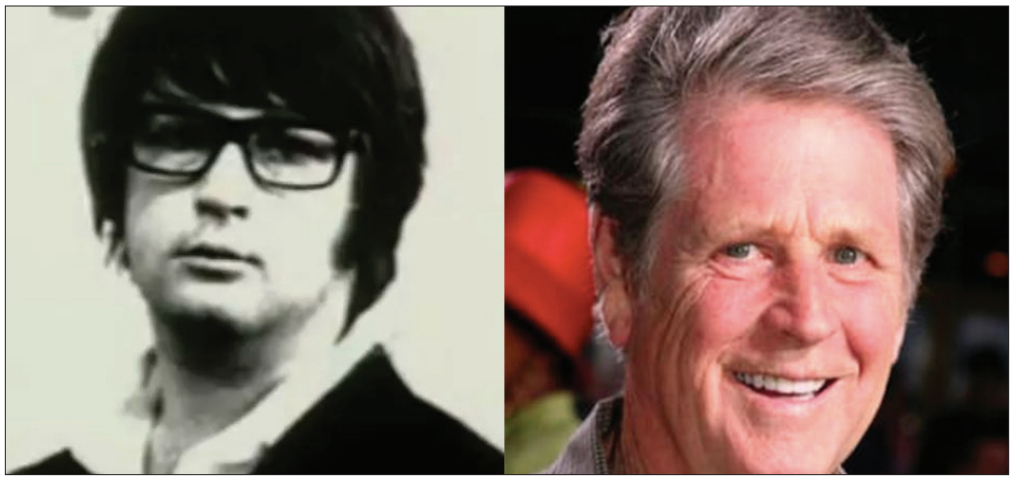




Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

You missed it, but, Brian Wil$on!



Courtesy photos

MUSIC: Brian Wilson then, and now.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, PEOPLE?!

My Thursday music column, NOTEWORTHY, has been taken over each week with listing the really good performances hereabouts, so that you don't miss out on something you wish you hadn't. Not much room for music stories there anymore.

So now in CURIOUS CITY today I must do some frustrated scolding, but followed with another local music story that is nothing but good vibrations.

I CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND

That there are many things to do on a Saturday night. That many are not in the habit of going to concerts, and consider it an effort. (Going to Hollywood Bowl is a huge effort and a lot of time, going to the Moss Theater on Olympic is not, and they even have free parking.)

That many do not have the budget for $35 tickets, times two or more, very often. (But that's a pretty low price these days.) That unless you are a fan of a particular artist, you might not want to take a chance on someone you don't know much about. (That could easily be a big mistake.)

Any live art creation is a gamble, but if you bet on Dolly, Streisand or Jeff Beck, or Bowie, Bob or Merle back in the day, you are probably going to come out grinnin'.

THESE EXCUSES

And more, are precisely why I write NOTEWORTHY (100 of them so far), so that you don't miss someone like jazz legend Charles McPherson, who blew bebop alto sax and blew minds at his Jazz Bakery performance at Moss Saturday evening. The small, acoustically wonderful theater, 350 seats, was only about half full. What is wrong with you, people?! Please tell me what you were doing that night that was better.

He's 80 but probably as good as he ever has been, maybe better. He is still working on his art, he does not rest on his considerable laurels.

I can tell you he recorded and toured with the incomparable (and notoriously demanding) Charles Mingus for 14 years, sat in for Charlie Parker in the film "Bird," and blah blah blah, and maybe I should have told you more than "don't miss this one, in your own backyard." But the legends, in any genre, are rare birds, and if you wait they will be gone. Will McPherson still be touring at 90?

"CHARLES ANDREWS HAS LISTENED TO A LOT OF MUSIC

of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows" (probably 2500 by now). This Charles McPherson concert Saturday goes into the Top 25. Beyond McPherson's performance, the other three band members, all unknowns to me, were each ridiculously talented. It was transcendent, every number. His "Nature Boy" may be the best I've ever heard, and his "Cherokee" ripped the roof off.

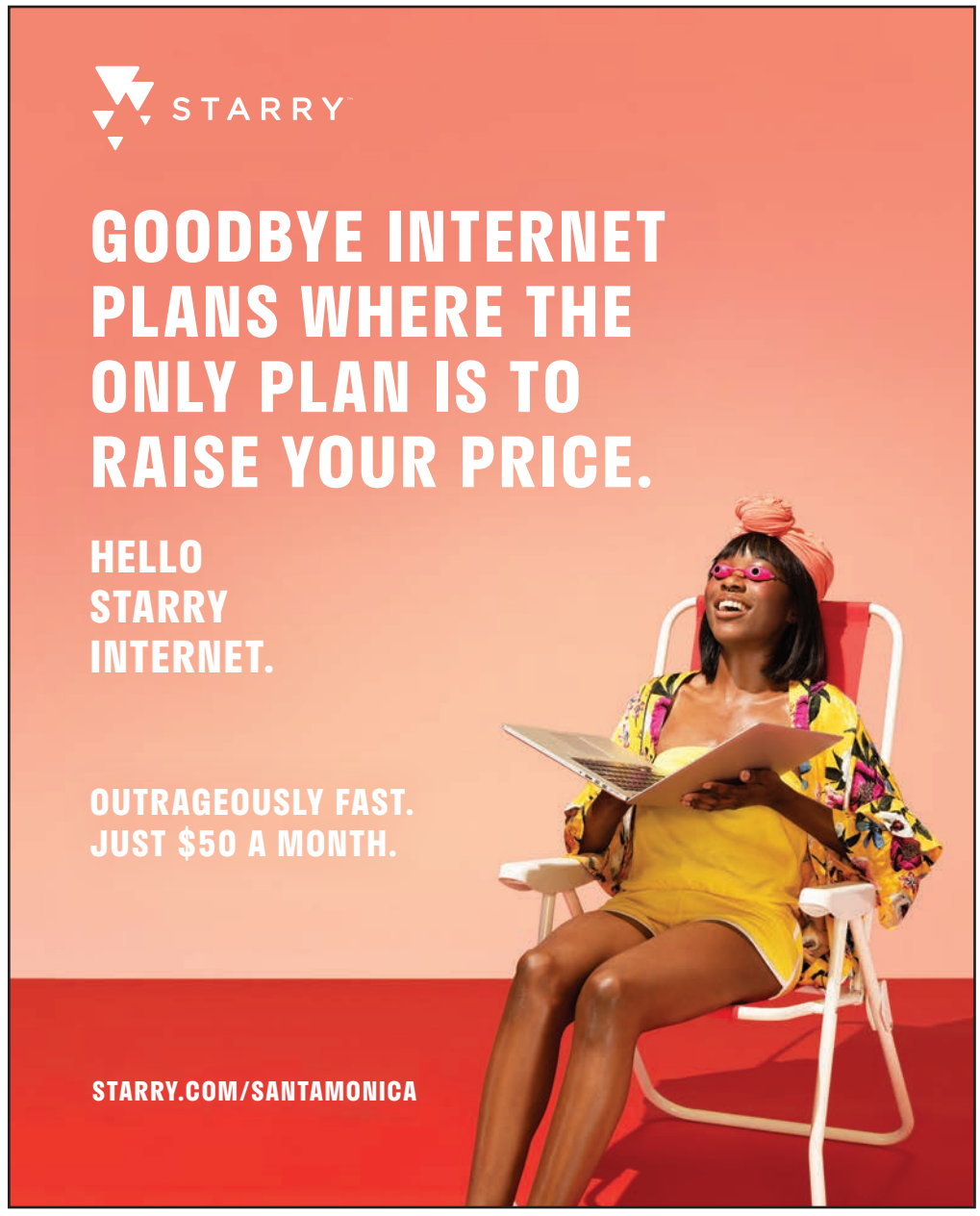
HOW COULD YOU HAVE MISSED THIS?

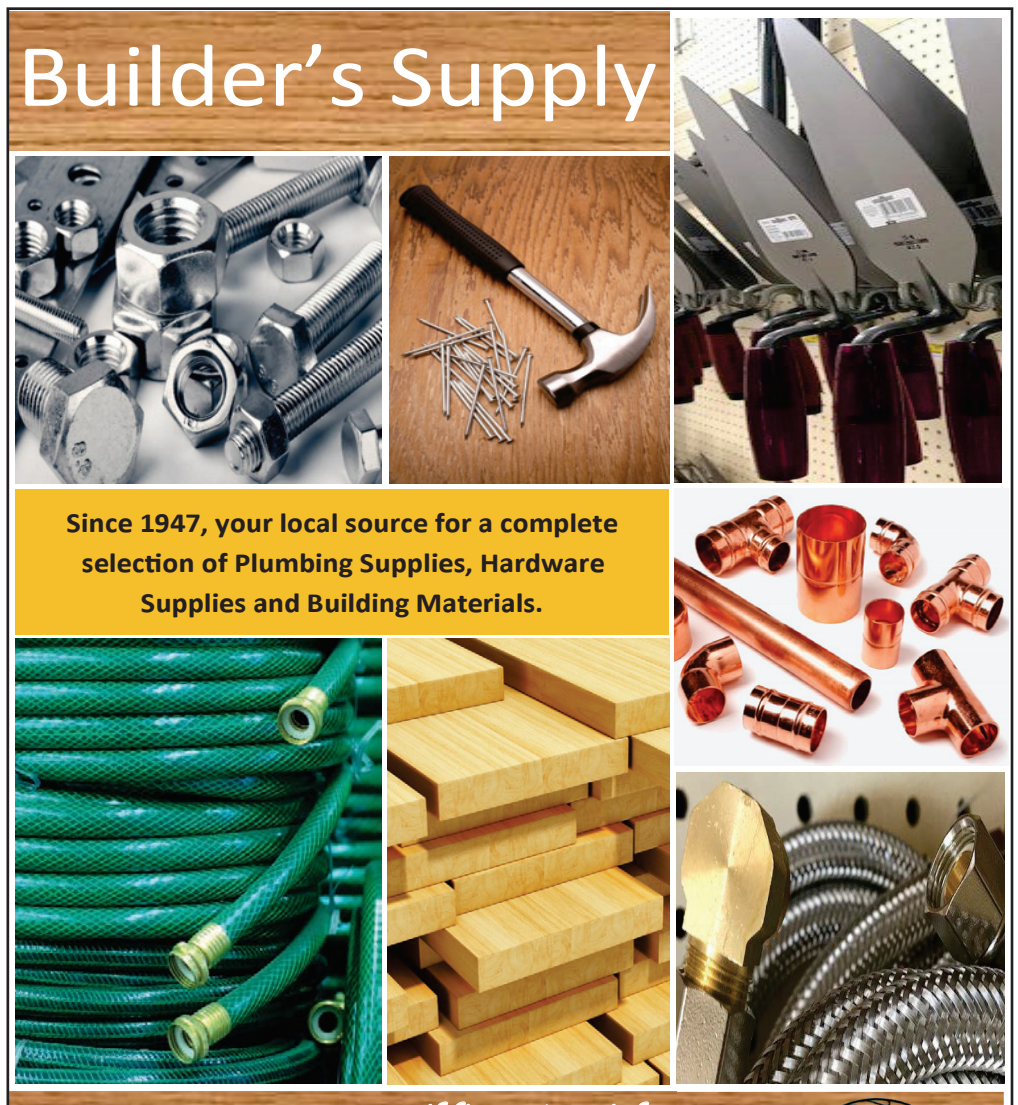
I was part of a really interesting panel discussion Thursday at our Main Library, about "Music on the Westside," all aspects. There was talk of a need for more venues here, especially for up-and-coming artists, and I agreed but also pointed out the need to support the ones we already have, right here in SM, like McCabe's, Harvelle's, Jacaranda, the Jazz Bakery. Pulling out your credit card for a donation is great (do it!), but how about just going to worthwhile shows? Win, win. Booking great musicians, especially consistently, takes tremendous effort and skill.

NOW SOME GOOD NEWS - SURF'S UP!

David Leaf is a Santa Monica writer-producer-director known for documentaries, music programs, and pop culture retrospectives. He is an Adjunct Professor at UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music, and manages their Music Industry minor Intern Program. He says "if I'm passionate about an artist, I want to know everything" and that certainly applies to Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys — he's probably THE authority. But he's not a "history professor," and he uses his music knowledge to prepare his students for real-world challenges in the

SEE **BRIAN** PAGE 11





TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 25)

It takes thousands of repetitions to get better at a thing, and guess what. You've completed thousands of repetitions, and you will now reap bountiful rewards. The success will inspire you to add new skills, which will eventually prove productive and gratifying on all kinds of levels, especially spiritually. Sagittarius and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 2, 9, 40 and 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you're feeling a bit lost, it might help you to approach this day as you would a long poem that you don't need to address all that directly. Just breathe your way through syllable by syllable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The instruments sound beautiful all together, and then, when a solo comes up and the rest support, it's a featured moment that adds dynamic to the entire piece. Take your solo when it's your turn, and show up strong for the group.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Love unfolds in small gestures and continues to bond that way throughout the life of the relationship. Smiling into the eyes of another, a pat on the back, holding hands – these are the glue that holds over time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sweeping change is a hard thing to create if you're still in the usual circumstances. If you can't entirely switch environments, your best bet is a more cumulative approach. Establish one small habit at a time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a risk of getting too caught up in your own head. Concern yourself with the well-being of others and you'll reach the happiest state of mind achievable today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Telling other people how beautiful they are is dicey business. The compliment can come off as impertinent or leave people feeling weird and self-conscious. Seek ways to build rapport that don't focus on superficial qualities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Adversity is an inevitable part of every life, which is why it's so important to develop resilience. Resilience is developed by working through pain but also by enjoying and appreciating the easy, fun days like today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today there are three moments of joy worth noting in some way, by writing them down, taking a picture or retelling the story. As you collect these joyful bits, you raise yourself and everyone around you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's one of those days when it takes a little more activation energy to get up, get out and get going. It will be worth the effort. All the cool stuff is in the flow of life out in the big world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Embrace a stressful situation. Bring it up close, and mentally wrap yourself around it. The close view shows you it's not as big a deal as it seemed. Being brave enough to proceed will matter more than any outcome.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've done a few things very well recently, and you'd be remiss to let this go without acknowledgment. Give yourself the same warmth and props you would give an employee you were training or a child you were teaching.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Consider that feeling good may be a matter of the frequency of pleasant things instead of the intensity of one glorious win. Big happy events may bring a rush, but it's the small daily rushes that build up an overall pleasant tone.

Venus Goes Tough on Love

Planets aren't pulling punches these first days of the season. The cosmic plan is to get the tough stuff out of the way so we can earn the sweetness of the season. Today, Venus and Saturn pose the challenge, giving relationships a tussle. Buttons get pushed that we didn't even know existed. At least we learn something about our wiring.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS

"I'm a Gemini in love with a Taurus. We're both in other relationships. We've been over for two years now, but he still has yet to tell me why he ended things. I always felt he was my soul mate and that we were meant to be together." I can't answer for Taurus, but I can say his silence speaks: Taurus men are notably strong, silent types, and sometimes resorting to guerrilla communication tactics (which means nothing less than shameless, ruthless honesty on your part) could get enough of a rise out of him to speak his piece. Yes, you, dear Gemini, could push enough buttons to pull it off. Yet on a gentler, kinder note, I encourage you to seek closure from your own heart. You've moved on. And if you are in a relationship that you want to preserve, in the spirit of mutual trust, love the one you're with. As a Gemini, living a parallel or double life has incredible appeal and is dangerously unstable for your current relationship. Taurus was your soul mate of two years ago. Your soul mate of right now deserves your undivided attention and love.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

Life imitated art when a kid from West Philly starred in "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and became a millionaire by the age of 20. With a winning smile and his megawatt personality, Will Smith turns every project he touches into gold. Smith's natal sun, Mercury and Venus are placed in Libra, the sign of charm, art and cooperation. His moon and Neptune in Scorpio lend a rebellious edge. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Outré
Adjective [oo-trey]
Passing the bounds of what is usual or considered proper; unconventional; bizarre.

Heathcliff

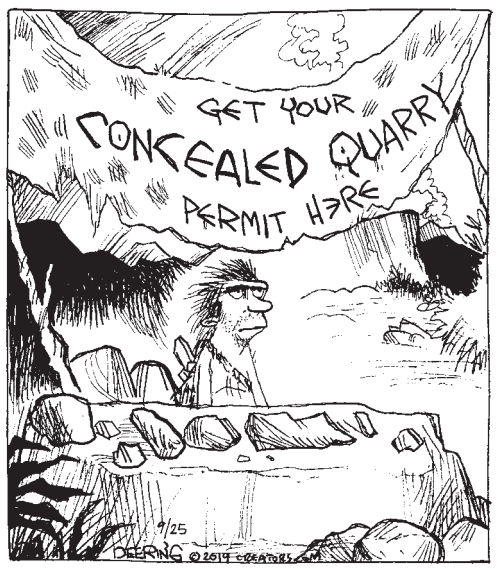
By PETER GALLAGHER



"I DON'T CARE FOR THAT CHEW TOY."

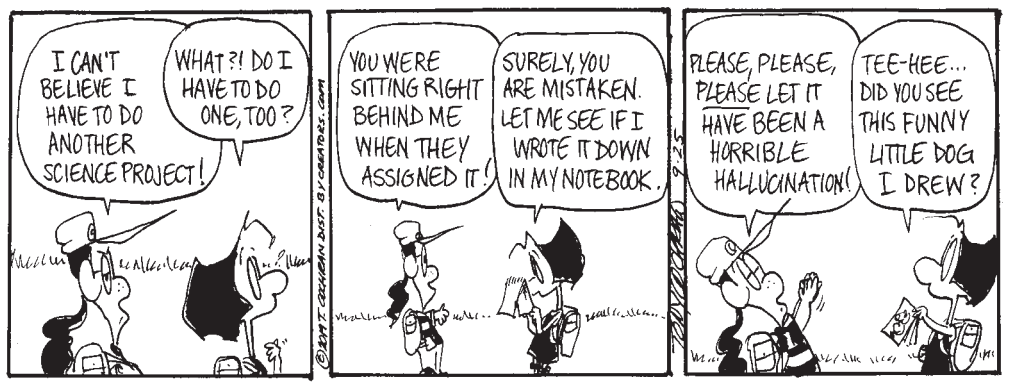
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



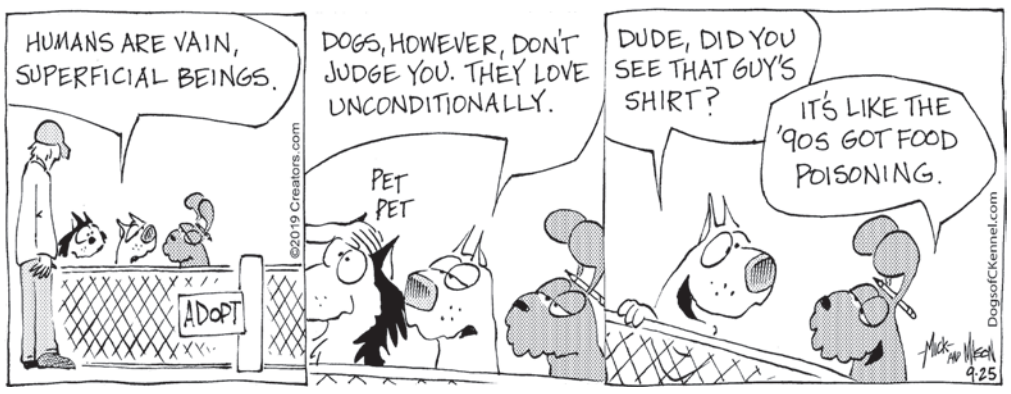
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



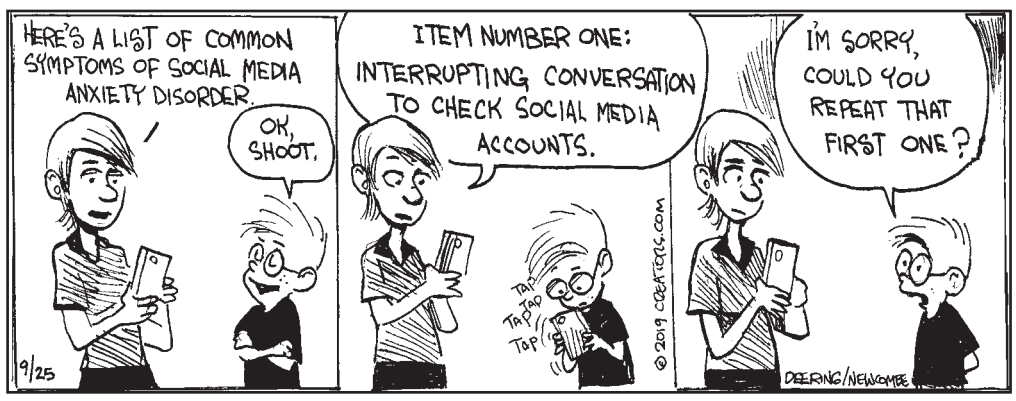
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date:09/21
1 9 22 36 68
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 40 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 09/20
23 24 42 4 853
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 227 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 09/21
1 31 34 37 39
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 13 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 09/23
9 20 26 28 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 09/23
Evening: 0 0 3
Draw Date: 09/24
Midday: 8 8 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 09/23
1st: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
3rd: 8 - GORGEOUS GEORGE
RACE TIME: 1:49.29

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



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 71.8°

WEDNESDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Lingering SW/SSW swell - more size for best exposed breaks. Small NW swell-mix. Morning winds favor west facing breaks.

THURSDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
Fading SW/SSW swell. New NW energy may trend up. Morning winds favor west facing breaks.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

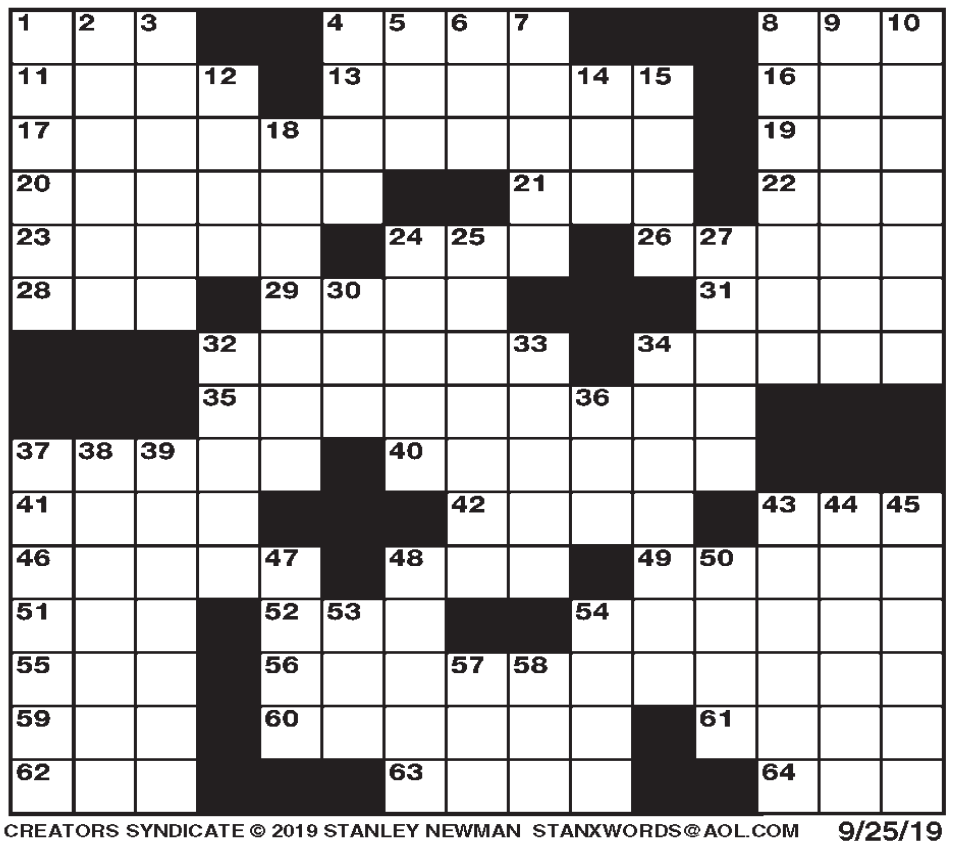
3				4				
8			1			2		
	5				2	3	6	
		1		5			9	
7				2				6
	9			6		8		
	8	6	5				3	
		5			7			1
				3				2

Newsday Crossword

BUBBLE TROUBLE by Charles Slack
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Alphabet intro
4 Alternatives to coffee
8 Hardly any
11 Gather a harvest
13 Heroic mission
16 Clean air agcy.
17 With 35 and 56 Across, is quite uncoordinated
19 Morse code sound
20 Bird house
21 Captain's journal
22 Emergency PC key
23 Thickly packed
24 Shout out
26 Farm soil
28 Poetic "before"
29 Mystical glow
31 Hay bundle
32 Sit in on
34 Prince of __ (Charles' title)
35 See 17 Across
37 Mrs. __ (North Pole spouse)
40 "Big as life," for one
41 Fabric fuzz
42 High-ranking British nobleman
43 Halloween mo.
46 Walk onto a stage
48 Income tax agcy.
49 Walk slowly
51 Long __ (in the distant past)
52 Cereal morsel
54 Of the eyes
55 Convent resident
56 See 17 Across
59 Put into words
60 Arrived
61 Senses of self
62 Shade tree
63 Prefix for sweet
64 Historical period

DOWN
1 Video game emporium
2 Dam-building beast
3 Spaniel or setter
4 Serving platter
5 "Slippery" fish
6 Call upon
7 Like a snake's skin
8 Part of FBI
9 New Testament message
10 Keeps an eye on
12 Grade school support grps.
14 Important "numero"
15 Periphery
18 Yuletide rings on doors
24 Shipboard staffs
25 More tall and thin
27 Subside
30 Salt Lake City collegian
32 Sharp, as intelligence
33 Three Musketeers creator
34 Lew who wrote *Ben-Hur*
36 Former Russian space station
37 Make spotless
38 Of the tongue
39 Slow, to fast
43 Do as asked
44 Loud uproar
45 Nun with a Peace Prize
47 Campus military org.
48 Lines on a list
50 Sound-stopping remote button
53 "Now I get it!"
54 Prefix meaning "totally"
57 Realize
58 "We __ to please"



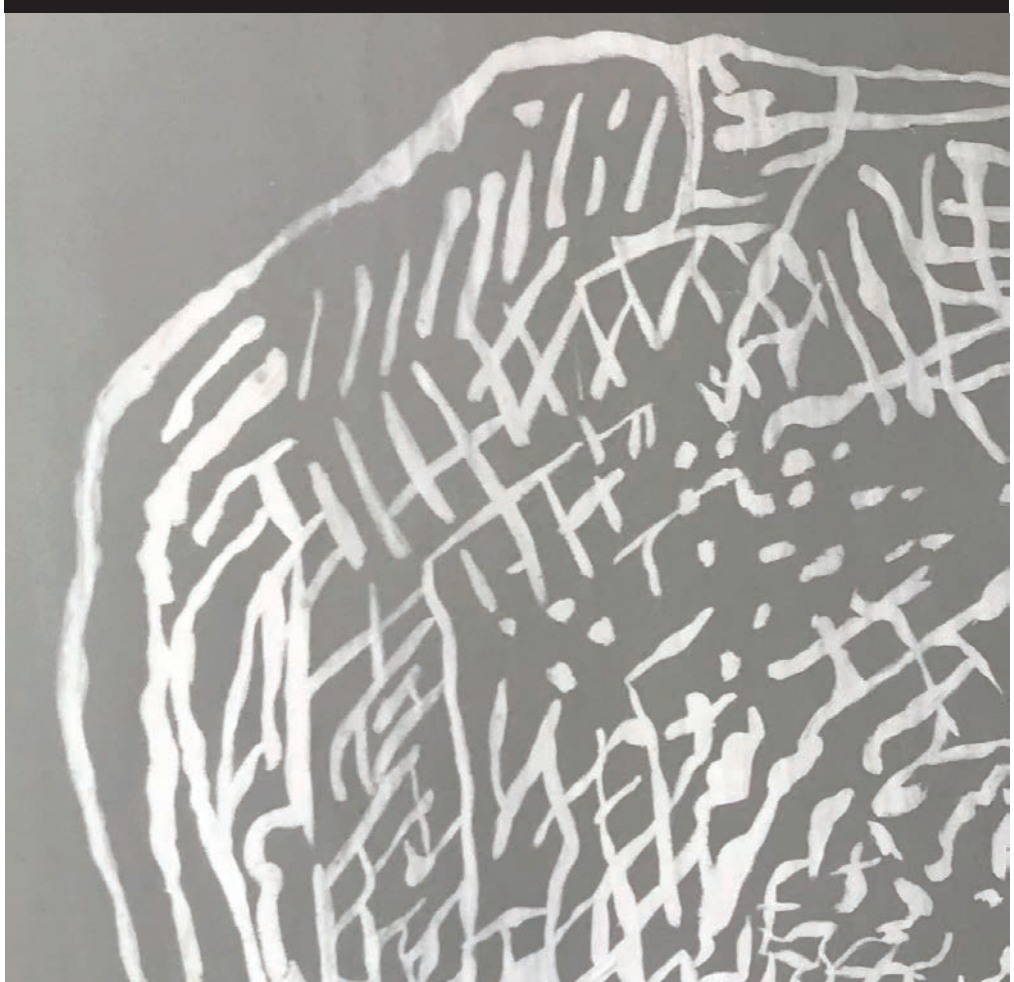
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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 45 CALLS ON SEPT. 23

EMS 1300blk 17th St 0:29 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / California Ave 12:48 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 2:14 a.m.
High rise 500blk Pico Blvd 3:41 a.m.
Automatic alarm 400blk Wilshire Blvd 4:13 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Pacific St 4:56 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 5:52 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 5:55 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:09 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 7:55 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Hill St 9:52 a.m.
Automatic alarm 100blk Montana Ave 11:22 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 11:54 a.m.
EMS Stewart St / Kansas Ave 12:41 p.m.
EMS 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 1:22 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Hill St 1:31 p.m.
EMS 1600blk 6th St 1:41 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 800blk 19th St 1:59 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 2:02 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 2:03 p.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 2:23 p.m.
EMS 900blk 26th St 3:41 p.m.
Brush fire 1600blk Main St 4:17 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 4:29 p.m.
Hydrant leak Berkeley St / Wilshire Blvd 4:37 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1000blk 6th St 5:14 p.m.
EMS 20th St / Pico Blvd 5:19 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 6:01 p.m.
Automatic alarm 300blk Civic Center Dr 6:52 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 4th St 7:01 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:21 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 6th St 7:41 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Olympic Blvd 7:48 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Ocean Ave / Washington Ave 7:50 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 8:03: p.m.
Automatic alarm 300blk Civic Center Dr 8:53 p.m.
Flooded condition 1400blk 3rd St Prom 9:35 p.m.
EMS 300blk Colorado Ave 9:48 p.m.
EMS 2900blk Urban Ave 9:57 p.m.
EMS 100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:36 p.m.
EMS 300blk Pico Blvd 10:45 p.m.
EMS 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:47 p.m.
EMS 1700blk 16th St 10:49 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Arizona Ave 11:05 p.m.

MYSTERY PHOTO
Send answers to editor@smdp.com.
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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 377 CALLS ON SEPT. 23

Keeping the peace 500blk Pacific St 12:13 a.m.
Fight 2nd St / Wilshire Blvd 12:38 a.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop 2700blk Neilson Way 1:51 a.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop 500blk Wilshire Blvd 2:46 a.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop 1700blk Main St 2:55 a.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop 1600blk Ocean Ave 3:24 a.m.
Grand theft 500blk Hill St 7:27 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 3300blk Pearl St 7:41 a.m.
Petty theft 1300blk Franklin St 7:46 a.m.
Petty theft 800blk Pico Blvd 8:00 a.m.
Burglary 1200blk 7th St 8:24 a.m.
Stolen vehicle recovered 1400blk 2nd St 8:44 a.m.
Identity theft 1300blk 10th St 9:42 a.m.
Disturbance of the peace 500blk Pier Ave 10:53 a.m.
Fraud 2700blk Neilson Way 11:03 a.m.
Civil dispute 1500blk 5th St 11:27 a.m.
Public intoxication 1400blk Olympic Blvd 11:41 a.m.
Fraud 1400blk 23rd St 12:01 p.m.
Suspicious person 25th St / Marguerita Ave 12:05 p.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 1:10 p.m.
Person with a gun 800blk 19th St 2:02 p.m.
Medical emergency 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 2:04 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2400blk 2nd St 2:32 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 26th St / Pennsylvania Ave 2:38 p.m.
Suspicious vehicle 5th St / Olympic Blvd W 2:48 p.m.
Fight 800blk Broadway 2:55 p.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop 2100blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:18 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 200blk Pacific St 3:42 p.m.
Battery 300blk Olympic Dr 3:52 p.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop 700blk Broadway 4:03 p.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop Lincoln Blvd / Ashland Ave 4:13 p.m.
Petty theft 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:17 p.m.
Drunk driving Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 4:22 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 200blk Alta Ave 4:32 p.m.
Petty theft 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:44 p.m.
Petty theft 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:47 p.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 2n St 5:57 p.m.
Petty theft 1100blk 9th St 6:15 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 23rd St / Alta Ave 6:15 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 200blk Idaho Ave 6:26 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 7:19 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:21 p.m.
Petty theft 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:32 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2600blk Highland Ave 7:35 p.m.
Fight 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:38 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries Ocean Ave / Washington Ave 7:50 p.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop 300blk Olympic Dr 8:09 p.m.
Vehicle cite & tow 1400blk 17th St 8:51 p.m.
Violation of restraining order 1700blk 16th St 9:06 p.m.
Vehicle cite & tow 2200blk Ashland Ave 9:35 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 4th St / Colorado Ave 9:43 p.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop Ocean Ave / Broadway 10:11 p.m.
Violation of restraining order 1700blk 16th St 10:34 p.m.
Assault w/Deadly Weapon 2200blk Colorado Ave 10:52 p.m.

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

Noguera three years ago to develop a plan to improve equity across the district and have been working on implementing those strategies since then.

While test scores for students of color have improved since 2016, the achievement gap is still very much present in local schools, board of education member Oscar de la Torre said at a board meeting Thursday.

"We have to drill down into that data and figure out where we have the biggest needs," de la Torre said. "Latino and African American boys have a lot of need … and it's important to understand what we're doing for that target population."

Across the entire student body, math performance continues to lag behind English performance, district staff told the board Thursday. The district released some testing data Thursday via an online dashboard, but the state has not yet made CAASPP results public.

The decline in math performance begins in fifth grade, when the proportion of proficient students drops from above 70% to almost 70%. Math performance continues to drop in middle and high school, reaching about 55%.

Although 80% of high school juniors met or exceeded English standards, the proportion of students who were deemed proficient in English has stalled for the past three years.

English language learners are performing highly on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, with 80% meeting or exceeding standards.

More students passed their AP tests than in previous years, but African American, Latino, socioeconomically disadvantaged, special education and English learner students are still much less likely to take AP classes.

At Thursday's meeting, board vice president Jon Kean said he thinks district staff should connect trends in the testing data with specific efforts to improve equity in SMMUSD schools.

"This data is telling us, we're doing good things and there's an achievement gap," Kean said. "But have we done something we can draw some data from and see how it all integrates?"

madeleine@smdp.com

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BRIAN

FROM PAGE 7

music industry.

He also is a longtime good friend of Brian Wilson, one of the towering if troubled figures of 20th Century music and pop culture. Would there be The California Dream known worldwide without his Beach Boys? Doubtful. Leaf was the first to write a credible book about that, in 1978, "The Beach Boys and the California Myth." (Out of print for years, if you can find it, even in paperback, grab a Franklin or two.) I promise, in another column I will tell you the cool, unique story of how David, Brian and I met, more than 30 years ago.

This last weekend I got an announcement from Leaf that he has endowed the "Brian Wilson Scholarship for Composition, Arrangement and Production of Popular Music," with the first recipient already selected, student composer David Ghesser. "Contributions are very much welcomed," said Leaf. Dollar levels of donation are cleverly assigned BB song titles ("Don't Worry Baby"), but "any contribution is generous," he said.

"It gives me great satisfaction to know that each year," Leaf wrote, "a student musician will delve even more deeply into Brian's one-of-a-kind body of work and carry his legacy with them throughout their career."

Now, lest you think that's a bit puffed up for songs about surfing, cars and CA girls, you don't understand what nearly every musician on the planet knows. I didn't quite, either, in'88, but as promised, I will tell you later.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

RAY

FROM PAGE 6

not cross. It wasn't I started volunteering for the Santa Monica chapter of Food Not Bombs [FNB] in 2013 that I saw him again. Ray was a regular at the Thursday night dinners we served for the hungry and homeless. He was usually slightly rumpled and sometimes he arrived unshaven with a smear of dirt on his face, but he was always cheerful. He gave cards to almost every volunteer at one point or another, his neat print with lots of exclamation marks expressing his gratitude in minute detail. He had a knack for dates – especially anniversaries and birthdays. We celebrated his and he remembered ours. He would read his multi page letters of gratitude to FNB as we cleaned up after a night of serving a large, hot vegan meal to l00 people. He walked our volunteer Viv to her car to make sure she was safe and then came back to help carry the recycling, chatting all the way. Then he would hop into volunteer Jeff's coupe to be dropped off along PCH or at the top of the Incline.

Every once in a while, Ray didn't appear and the plate we had set aside for him went to someone else. It was always because he was at a free concert at the beach or a similar event – I joked to Ray that he got more culture and did more cool LA things than I. We had a ritual that I attribute to his very human need to be seen and heard: he would ask "What am I, Alexandra?" and I would reply "You are awesome, Sir Raymond" and he would laugh delightedly and say "Thank you!".

On April 4, 2019, Ray announced that it was FNB's 6 month anniversary at our new location, Santa Monica's Salvation Army. I looked at the calendar when I got home that night and saw he was, as usual when it came to oddball dates, right. What I didn't know was that evening was also the last time I would see Ray. A couple weeks later, volunteer Emily mentioned she had been waiting to give him a card and he wasn't at the dinner. The next week when he didn't show up, we started looking for him. We made calls to hospitals, shelters, homeless outreach programs and filed a Missing Person report. We handed out flyers at the weekly Food Not Bombs dinner, in hopes that other folks in the homeless community might have seen him. I was disconcerted by how little I knew about him, now that I needed to. We missed his smile and upbeat presence greatly, and he would have been tickled by all the concern.

When his body was found in repose at his camp 3 ½ months later, the coroner couldn't positively identify him because no one knew his relatives and he had no teeth. All of us at Food Not Bombs knew it was Ray, though, because he was wearing clothes we had given him. His glasses were set aside and his wallet was still there, so he probably died in his sleep. Fittingly, we sent in the myriad cards he had written to each of us to help ID him, but it turns out he never licked the envelopes so there was no DNA.

Ray's life should not go unnoticed simply because he lived in a tent. Raymond J. Arvin from somewhere around Loogootee, Indiana was a vibrant, interesting, loving man who brought sunshine to our lives.. He loved hugs and movies and people. He had very neat handwriting and would fill a card (or several pieces of paper) with his appreciation. He taught me about the beauty of gratitude and once saved me when I was ghosted by a pop star. All of us at Food Not Bombs miss you so much, Ray.



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