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# Texas man accused of series of California homeless beatings



Andrew Narvaez

**POLICE: Officers from Santa Monica and Los Angeles held a joint event yesterday to discuss the arrest of Ramon Escobar who is accused of several murders and assaults.**

**CHRISTOPHER WEBER**
Associated Press

A "violent predator" arrested on suspicion of carrying out a series of attacks against seven mainly homeless men in Southern California, brutally beating them and killing three, also faced investigation in the disappearances of two of his relatives in Texas, authorities said Tuesday.

Ramon Escobar, 47, who was believed to be homeless himself, likely targeted his victims to rob them, Los Angeles police Capt. William Hayes told reporters.



Hayes called Escobar a "violent predator" and said investigators believe he drove to California from Houston and attacked the men in Los Angeles and Santa Monica beginning Sept. 8, Hayes said. Detectives seized a wooden baseball bat and a pair of bolt cutters believed to have been used as weapons, he said.

Escobar was arrested Monday in Santa Monica after a man sitting on a sidewalk was beaten unconscious and robbed of some of his possessions, police said. That victim remains in coma.

Police will ask prosecutors on Wednesday to charge Escobar with three counts of murder and four counts of attempted murder, officials said.

He's being held without bail, and it wasn't immediately known if he has an attorney who can speak on his behalf.

Escobar is a person of interest in the disap-

SEE ARREST PAGE 11

# Spurned scooter company files complaints with City Hall

**KATE CAGLE**
Daily Press Staff Writer

Legal counsel for a scooter company shut out of Santa Monica's official pilot program has sent city officials a letter calling Planning Director David Martin's final decision to select Bird, Lime, Lyft and Jump "arbitrary and capricious." The letter from the president and general counsel at San Francisco-based Spin said Martin turned "objective criteria on its head" to score Bird and Lime higher in the assessment.

"Furthermore, the arbitrary redefining of the criteria was clearly done to ensure that only the companies that rogue-launched in the City would be scored the highest, contradicting the City's stated preferences as well as the supposed objective nature of the selection process," said the letter signed by Euwyn Poon.

The letter is addressed to Martin and CCed to the entire City Council, City Manager Rick Cole and City Attorney Lane Dilg, according to a copy obtained by the Daily Press. Cole confirmed he received the letter and other city officials recently met with Spin.

"While Spin may be disappointed in the result, the Director's selections were well-reasoned and well within his discretion," said public information officer Constance Farrell. "As the Director wrote in his memo, 'the selected companies bring a wide range of local, national and international experience that will contribute to a comprehensive and informative pilot program.'"

In August, a selection committee made up of city staffers and a Santa Monica Police Department

SEE SCOOTERS PAGE 7

# Proposed California initiative seeks to end high speed rail

**JONATHAN J. COOPER**
Associated Press

Supporters of a November ballot measure to repeal a California gas tax increase proposed Tuesday an initiative for 2020, saying it would provide money for road repairs and eliminate the state's beleaguered $77 billion high-speed rail project.

The proposal comes from conservative radio host Carl DeMaio and others behind Proposition 6, which will ask voters this November if they want to repeal a 12-cent gas tax hike and increases in vehicle registration fees approved by lawmakers last year.

The 2020 plan is the next step in their effort. It would change the state Constitution to require revenue from existing gas taxes be spent only for road and bridge work, not transit, bicycle infrastructure or planning.

All other transportation-related revenue — such as taxes and fees on auto sales, insurance and vehicle registrations — would have to be spent on transit projects.

"The problem is not that Californians are not paying enough in taxes," DeMaio told reporters outside the state Capitol. "The problem is that the politicians are not spending the money we give them to fix our roads, to maintain our infrastructure."

A key criticism of November's Proposition 6 is that repealing the gas tax increase would eliminate funding for thousands of transportation projects without any money to replace it.

SEE RAIL PAGE 4

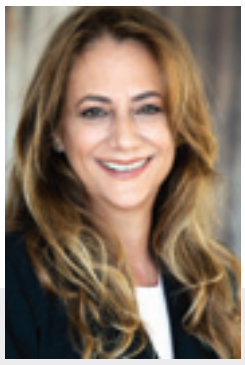
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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

### 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.

**Design in 3D: Robot Maker Stamp**
Use Tinkercad to design an inkable robot stamp for 3D printing. Skills learned can be applied to create a variety of fun and useful 3D printable objects. No experience required. For adults and teens. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

**Introduction to Social Media**
Overview of social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter, and how you can get started. Seating is first come, first serve. Advanced Level. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 1:30 – 3 p.m.

### Friday, September 28

**Guest House open**
Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

### Saturday, September 29

**It Was A Book First?!**
Was the book better than the movie? Come read the book, then watch the movie to compare! This Month: The Night at the Museum by Milan Trenc. [Film run-time: 108 minutes, Rated PG] Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 1 – 3:30 p.m.

**Running For Life**
Warren Mullisen, who has completed 75+ marathons and is an LA Marathon Legacy Runner, will discuss running as a way of life including energy efficient forms, stretches to avoid, shoe selection, choosing where to run, self-care injury treatments, race day strategies and mental mindsets for optimal results. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Citywide**

## 42nd Street

Santa Monica's Morgan-Wixson Theatre has begun rehearsals for its 23rd annual Youth Musical, 42nd Street. Performers 9-18 years old from all over Los Angeles competed in a rigorous audition process to land a coveted spot in the cast. The ultimate show-biz musical, 42nd Street is full of Broadway standards, including "We're In The Money," "Lullaby of Broadway," "Shuffle off to Buffalo," and the title song. The students rehearse most evenings, spending much of that time learning the intricate tap dance numbers that make this show a unique thrill. 42nd Street runs November 10 through December 15. www.morgan-wixson.org

SUBMITTED BY TRACY SALTZMAN

**Malibu**

## Complete the Bicycle Safety Rodeo at the Malibu Safety and Preparedness Expo and Get a Free Helmet Plus a Chance to Win a Bike

As part of the Malibu Safety and Preparedness Expo on September 29, the award-winning traffic safety non-profit Safe Moves will host a Bike Safety Rodeo to give children an opportunity to learn all aspects of traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Anyone who completes the Bike Safety Rodeo will receive a free bicycle helmet, while supplies last, and will have a chance to win a free bicycle. Loaner bikes and helmets for both children and adults will be available for use on the course, which is sponsored by the PCH Taskforce through funds provided the California Office of Traffic Safety.

The City and the Malibu CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) are partnering to present the Expo on Saturday, September 29, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at City Hall to help enhance the community's public safety and disaster preparedness during Disaster Preparedness Month.

The fun, free event is a great opportunity to teach kids about emergency preparedness, and an easy way for families to get a head start on making their emergency plans. In addition to many emergency preparedness classes, numerous vendors will have demonstrations and sales of preparedness products and services. Be sure to register early for classes, since many are expected to fill up quickly.

The classes cover a wide range of emergency preparedness topics, including crisis first aid, fire and earthquake insurance, first aid for kids, preparedness for seniors and pets, and active shooter preparedness.

To sign up for a class, visit http://malibusafety.eventbrite.com.

Demonstration and vendor booths include child safety car seat checks, an earthquake simulator, Malibu Urgent Care, McCormick Ambulance, Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control, Arson Watch, Malibu CERT Team, SoCal Fire Supply, Renogy solar energy generation, Corral Canyon Fire Safety Alliance (CCFSA), Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station Disaster Communications Service, Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff's Departments, Malibu Volunteers on Patrol and 99.1 KBUU – FM.

All participants at the Expo will receive a free raffle ticket for a chance to win valuable prizes such as gift cards from local restaurants and shops and emergency supplies.

The Expo is part of the City's ongoing efforts to increase public safety and disaster preparedness in the community and is part of the City's 2018 Earthquake Resiliency Initiative.

City Hall is located at 23825 Stuart Ranch Rd., Malibu CA 90265. No RSVPs are necessary to attend. Visit www.MalibuCity.org/EmergencyExpo for more information.

**Second St.**

## Earleen Ahrens & Jonathan Tillman Exhibition Opening Reception September 27

The Santa Monica College Emeritus Art Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of creative works by Earleen Ahrens and Jonathan Tillman. The two-artist exhibition features an eclectic array of colorful abstract paintings, sculptures, and jewelry by Ahrens, and black-and-white representational photographs by Tillman.

The exhibition is open to the public from Thursday, September 27, to Wednesday, November 7, with an opening reception from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 27. The exhibition and opening reception are free.

The SMC Emeritus Art Gallery is located on the first floor of the SMC Emeritus Campus, 1227 Second St., in downtown Santa Monica. Parking is available next door in Santa Monica Public Parking Structure No. 2.

"It is a rare treat," said Associate Dean of Emeritus Scott Silverman, "to see a full gallery exhibition dedicated to two such talented Emeritus students.

Tillman works primarily in the urban environment. His photography is documentary in nature, intended to capture what Henri Cartier-Bresson describes as "the decisive moment." Tillman's photographs, renowned for their beautiful composition and light, often feature powerful social subjects. With great elegance, he captures images of ordinary life, elevated to the extraordinary through the discovery of something that is completely apparent, yet has been 'hiding' in plain sight. "The reveal," said Tillman, "is facilitated by an object, a momentary gesture, a camera angle, and/or the direction of light, alone or in combination with others, that unifies seemingly unrelated elements in order to produce a coherent visual statement."

Ahrens is the former owner of Warp, Woof and Potpourri in Pasadena, CA, where she taught hundreds of women the art of weaving. Her paintings and sculptures are abstract and potently colorful. She uses a wide range of materials in her work, and often presents visual themes involving circles, spheres, spirals, and other types of round objects in clusters. Her skills as an object-maker and jeweler and her unique style are clearly recognizable in several forms of media. "My paintings, sculpture, and jewelry come from a deep place in my conscious memory. I never make art from a photo or model," said Ahrens. "I have traveled throughout the world and have internal visions of places and happenings. My work is one of the many joyful experiences in my personal life. Art has been with me from early childhood."

SMC Emeritus Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information, please call (310) 434-4306.

SMC's widely praised Emeritus program — founded by Santa Monica College in 1975 as a noncredit program to serve the lifelong learning interests of older adults — offers more than 120 noncredit adult education classes and special programs that serve more than 3,000 students each year.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

**WASHINGTON**

## US attorneys general discuss social media privacy concerns

A meeting between top state law enforcement officials and Attorney General Jeff Sessions about how the government can safeguard the privacy of social media users ended Tuesday without a decision on whether to investigate.

The gathering at the Justice Department was scheduled to discuss whether tech giants are "stifling the free exchange of ideas" and examine whether they "may be hurting competition."

But California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, a Democrat, says the one-hour meeting mainly focused on consumer protection and data privacy issues.

Attorneys general from Alabama, California, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Tennessee, Utah and Washington, D.C., attended. Five other states sent senior deputies.

Justice Department officials said the meeting "centered on ways the Department and state governments can most effectively safeguard consumers using online digital platforms."

Although there wasn't an immediate decision on whether to open an investigation, the attorneys general discussed the nuances and interpretation of privacy and what might constitute a monopoly in the tech sector, Becerra said.

"The conversation really zeroed in on privacy," he said after the meeting. "I think everyone sees the growth of the industry as something that has become of interest to regulators and enforcers. How it might apply, that is still the open question."

The Justice Department said it will review the "insight" shared by the attorneys general and expects conversations on the topic to continue.

MICHAEL BALSAMO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SEATTLE**

## Disasters declared for salmon fisheries along West Coast

Federal officials have determined that commercial fishery failures occurred for salmon in Washington, Oregon and California, making those fisheries eligible for federal disaster assistance.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross on Tuesday also announced a commercial fishery failure for the sardine fishery in California but not for the state's red sea urchin fishery.

The governors from Washington, Oregon and California and multiple Native American tribes had requested the determinations between July 2016 and March 2018. Their requests noted unusually warm and poor ocean conditions that affected fish.

The disaster determinations make salmon and sardine fisheries eligible for some portion of $20 million in NOAA Fisheries fishery disaster assistance. The Commerce Department is figuring out how to allocate that money to eligible fisheries.

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City of Santa Monica

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City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**
**CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT FOR 2017 PROGRAM YEAR**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2017 Program Year. The CAPER is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provides a status report on how the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME grant funded projects and activities are meeting the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (2015-19) and Action Plan (2017-18), adopted by City Council in May 2017 and submitted to HUD. The City is seeking community comments on this report.

Copies of the CAPER are now available to the public for a 15-day community review period ending September 27, 2018. Copies are available at City Hall (Room 212) and on the web at www.smgov.net/hsd, or you may contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to Claire Hester at the above address or via email at humanservices@smgov.net by September 27, 2018.

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## Lions Roar

Susan Lee DeRemer
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Pancakes with a cause

**DURING TIMES OF NATURAL DISASTERS,** Lions Clubs rise to the challenge. As hurricane Florence battered the Carolinas and produced record amounts of rain, Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) was ready to provide Emergency Grants in both states.

Beyond the local service projects Lions are known for, Lions are able to ask for help from LCIF in the form of $10,000 grants to provide immediate assistance to their communities following a natural disaster, rather than collecting and distributing funds over a period of weeks or months. LCIF relies on their members to know first-hand what their community needs; letting them purchase and distribute necessities, such as food, water, clothing, blankets, first-aid items, and cleaning supplies.

In addition to Emergency Grants, LCIF is also able to offer Community Recovery Grants of up to $20,000 to support short-term cleanup and repair efforts in situations where other organizations have already addressed immediate needs.

The Santa Monica Lions are proud to be affiliated with LCIF, a Charity Navigator 4-star rated charity since 2011. If you want to make an immediate impact to those affected by hurricane Florence, please consider making a donation either online at LCIF.org or by mail. 100% of all money donated will go to the families in need.

If you prefer to help others locally, attend the Santa Monica Lions 64th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, September 29 at the Santa Monica Boys and Girls Club on Lincoln between 7:30 – 11 a.m. Start your day fluffy pancakes, scrambled eggs, delicious sausage, orange juice, coffee and milk. Want to add a bit of fun – participate in our raffle of fun prizes you get to select, or for children, we have games, a bounce house, balloon animals and face-painting. Tickets are only $5 and the money raised is used to support nonprofits in Santa Monica and the Westside.

To learn more about Lions Clubs International and the Santa Monica Lions, you are welcome to attend a lunch meeting on the 1st or 3rd Thursday of each month. Please contact Yoriko Fisher at santamonicalion@gmail.com. Our meetings are held at the Elks Lodge on Pico, between 10th and 11th Streets at 12:15 p.m.

For more information about the Lions Club, visit www.facebook.com/smlions or http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/santamonica, call (310) 623-4499 or reach them at P.O. Box 3435, Santa Monica, CA 90408.

## RAIL

FROM PAGE 1

The new initiative would redirect money that goes into state and local general funds so that it must be spent on transportation.

"It's not a new idea," said Michael Quigley, executive director of the California Alliance for Jobs, which opposes DeMaio's initiatives. "It's an old Republican idea that the Legislature has previously rejected because of its impacts on health care, higher education and public safety funding."

California's Democratic-led Legislature passed the increase on fuel taxes and vehicle fees last year. It is expected to raise about $5 billion a year for highway and road improvements and transit programs.

The gas tax is currently 41.7 cents per gallon, among the highest in the nation. This week, Californians are paying an average of $3.66 a gallon for gas, 80 cents more than the national average, according to AAA.

Republicans and Democrats agree the state needs a transportation overhaul but disagree on how to pay for it.

A Democratic state lawmaker from Orange County was recalled last year over his support for the fuel tax increase.

Those who support the tax increase contend it's critical to maintain the state's infrastructure. Opponents say gasoline has become too expensive and the Legislature should find other funding sources to cover the state's transportation needs.

California's high-speed rail project has become politically fraught as costs spike and its end date moves further back.

Voters approved roughly $10 billion in bonds in 2008 to construct a high-speed train that would take passengers between Los Angeles and San Francisco in less than three hours. It was supposed to cost about $40 billion.

Now, the cost has ballooned to an expected $77 billion, with the completion date pushed back to 2033.

Construction is underway in the state's Central Valley agricultural heartland, but the high-speed rail authority does not have enough money to complete the first phase from Bakersfield to San Francisco. As of April, the project had between $20 and $28 billion in hand.

Its funding comes from the bonds, federal dollars and revenue from the state's cap-and-trade program that requires businesses to buy credits to emit greenhouse gases.

The proposed ballot measure would halt funding for high-speed rail, force the state to cease activities on it and use any unspent bond money to retire the debt. The federal money has already been spent. The initiative does not specify how the cap-and-trade money earmarked for rail would be redirected.

High-speed rail is California's largest single infrastructure project. Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown is a staunch supporter, while Republicans largely detest the project.

Some Democratic lawmakers have grown frustrated by the cost overruns and delays. Republican gubernatorial candidate John Cox says he would kill the project, while the Democratic candidate, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, said he supports it but is concerned about its financing.

Associated Press writer Kathleen Ronayne contributed.

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## Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# 11/9 And Scott & Sue

**MICHAEL MOORE**

Artists must take risks. It's the only way to grow and to reach for something you might think is beyond you, but isn't.

I'm not talking about Moore, I'm talking about me. Putting his name at the top of my column may well convince some to stop right there. He's a polarizing figure, even among those politically aligned with him.

Don't worry, I'm going to get back to local politics, some pretty good stuff. That was my lead before I saw his newest film, "Fahrenheit 11/9," at the Monica on Sunday, (it's also at the Arclight). I emerged blinking in the bright sunlight, profoundly saddened and wiping away tears. One reviewer called it "remarkably bleak but affecting." Very affecting.

Well, there's a good come-on for getting you to see this film, eh? The truth is pretty ugly these days and most of us just want to forget about it. Moore may embellish and twist the truth but when he shows you the moving images, from our recent history, from real life, real people behind the headlines, it's something you're not getting on CNN, FOX or social media and you cannot deny it without huge doses of make-believe.

**HIS KITCHEN-SINK MESSAGE**

Jumping from the Parkland kids to poisoned kids in Flint to Trump committing his crimes in the open to the media moguls loving what he did for their ratings, is — if this bothers you, do something. Don't just sit there. Because if you don't do something…

Comparisons to Nazi Germany are dismissed by many, often angrily. Ridiculous, way overblown, impossible here. But most of those people weren't around then, and they darn sure weren't experiencing it in Germany. The Germans scoffed too. They were perhaps the most sophisticated, best educated nation on earth. In a brief but powerful segment, wrapped around commentary from a university professor, Moore makes his chilling point. He looks at a copy of the Constitution and says, we all figured this would protect us...

**BUT WHO COULD HAVE IMAGINED**

A USA where our government would rip innocent children from their families, imprison them in cages, drug them, and then tell us they "can't account for" 1500 of them. Who could imagine that our government would allow the governor of a state to take over cities, removing their mayors and city councils and installing his own cronies, and knowingly poison the water supply of a major city, damning every child there to a lifetime of the consequences of lead poisoning (it never leaves your body, ever), and he is never held responsible.

Who could imagine a City Council member would break laws to get someone fired, cost us a million dollars in a lawsuit, and never even be censured by her fellow Council members? (See — making it local.)

I know you know all this. But please go see "11/9." It will affect you, and we need that. Then do something. Get informed, inform your neighbors, get them to the polls and vote. Make calls to other states. Go to Orange County or anywhere to work to replace Republicans with progressive (not establishment) Democrats. We desperately need a blue wave to stop the slow lockstep march to demagoguery.

We have the numbers. Do we have the will? Hello, Parkland? The kids are alright. What about the rest of us?

**A PLAN**

I've been listening to some candidates for Council lately. Very discouraged until recently. A sliver of hope. His name is Scott Bellomo.

He does not have the backing of any powerful organizations like SMRR or the unions, and doesn't want it, he says.

"I am not running to become a city councilman. I am running to become a Resident Advocate who will be on the City Council. I have no agenda other than being at least one voice for the residents of Santa Monica. Not the developers. Not the tourists. Not the businesses who come to our city and litter our sidewalks and public spaces with their products."

He has virtually no money to spend — $2000 of his own, he says — so no mailers, no lawn signs, almost no nuthin'. He's also a single father with a demanding job so, no time. He won't take donations except from individual Santa Monica residents, because that's who he pledges to represent. And only them. So he doesn't have the chance of a snowball in hell, right?

**I SAY, LET'S GIVE HIM THAT CHANCE**

Isn't this just what many of us have been praying for? Someone who's lived here 30 years, his mother and his sister live here, he loves this town and he's just gotten so angry that he has stood up and said, I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore.

I heard him speak recently before a group of architects, and it could have been me sitting there. If you know where I stand on issues, he's right there. I mean, right there. He said he feels the rampant crime and violence we are experiencing is the first order of business and here's the best part: he says that until we get that under control —

**EVERYTHING ELSE STOPS**

All development, all transit schemes, all plans of any kind, because he thinks this forward rush regardless of the consequences is making it all that much harder, if not impossible. I say amen to that.

I'll be more specific next week. But here are the other two elements of my hail Mary pass: I will vote for Sue Himmelrich, because despite my constant litany against the entire City Council, despite her very close ties to SMRR and establishment politics, she is not beholden to outside money and has more often than not stood up for residents and voted the right way. Seven Sues would probably make a City Council I would be very happy with.

Part two: I will not vote for any other incumbent. They are the ones who got us here and continue to act irresponsibly. Nor for Greg Morena, the establishment's golden boy some call Pam Lite. He is being backed by all the wrong people to be the next generation of what we've got now, and who needs that?

Scott and Sue. That should be easy to remember.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "We don't go into journalism to be popular. It is our job to seek the truth and put constant pressure on our leaders until we get answers." — Helen Thomas (do we ever need her kind now)

**CHARLES ANDREWS** has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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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:

**Big Blue Bus Methane Detection System Upgrades**
**SP2371**

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 **Thursday, October 18, 2018**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after **3:00** p.m. on said date in **City Hall Council Chambers**. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

**PRE-BID JOB WALK:**
Date & Time: **Monday, October 01, 2018 at 9:00 AM**
Location: **Big Blue Bus Security Shack at 6th Street and Colorado Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90401**
Special Instructions: **All prospect bidders are required to bring their own safety vest to enter the BBB Transit-Maintenance Facility.**

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: $575,000.00**
**CONTRACT DAYS: 168 Calendar Days**
**LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $600.00 Per Day**

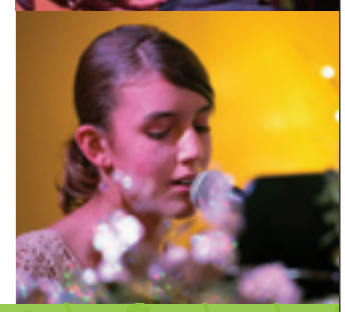
Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a Class A or B license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant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

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## Your column here


Alanna Shepard
Send comments to editor@smdp.com


# Rotary Club of Santa Monica Presents 11th Annual Wine & Food Festival

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA MONICA** will be presenting the 11th Annual Wine & Food Festival Sunday, October 7, 2018 from 4-7 PM at Playa Studios in Culver City. Enjoy premium wine tasting, a twilight buffet compliments of FIG Restaurant Santa Monica, exciting live and silent auctions plus live music. Rotary Clubs worldwide are turning their attention to the greatest human rights issue of our time: human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Therefore, the highlighted charity for this event is Saving Innocence, a Los Angeles based organization that helps underage kids who've been saved from prostitution to restart their lives with vitally needed support on multiple levels. Additional charities that will benefit are American Red Cross, END POLIO NOW, the Westside Food Bank, the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica, Meals on Wheels West, the Kenya Children's AIDS Project and others. Last year's festival raised nearly $100,000 which the club used to contribute to the above charities. For ticket information visit RotaryWineFest.org or call (310) 392-3654.

As part of its continued community outreach, the Rotary Club of Santa Monica has started the "Unsung Hero of the Month" award that honors community volunteers. This month's honoree is Barbara Browning, RN. She was nominated by the staff of WISE & Healthy Aging for her extraordinary service. Ms. Browning volunteers three days a week with WISE & Healthy Aging in addition to serving on the board. One day a week she volunteers in the Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica where she retired ten years ago after overseeing the Quality Assurance efforts as a nurse executive for 46 years. She is very active in her Lutheran Church, where she and the former pastor administered a volunteer hospice program while she was still working full time at the hospital. A longtime Santa Monican, Ms. Browning helps a number of the WISE & Healthy Aging elderly clients with their shopping, accompanying them to doctor appointments, and even visiting with them when they are hospitalized. One elderly, blind client who is suspicious of people, is only willing to be joined by Ms. Browning when running errands. She has been known to take on doing laundry for an elderly client who became too weak after returning from the hospital. When she is not on the phone checking on senior clients, or out being a visitor to another, she also voluntarily teaches caregiver training to family members. She is master-trained to teach a nationally-recognized, evidence-based caregiver curriculum. Folks who have taken her specialty Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia course rave about her patience, understanding and support. Congratulations to Ms. Barbara Browning, Rotary Club of Santa Monica's "Unsung Hero of the Month." As this is a new recognition, the Board of Directors of the club are seeking nominations for the coming months. Please let us know who you believe is our next Unsung Hero. Contact Savi at 310.917.3313 or email us at RotaryClubofSantaMonica@verizon.net.

Recent past speakers include Chris Evans, MD who talked about Opiate Addiction, the drug problem in the U.S. and how we got here. Alan Smyth and Sarah Elander, of the Wine and Food Festival's featured charity, Saving Innocence, addressed combatting human trafficking and modern-day slavery. It's estimated that up to 46 million people are enslaved worldwide. In the United States alone, over 300,00 children are sex trafficked annually. Our most recent speaker was Susan Dunlap, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Los Angeles (PPLA). Ms. Dunlap's 20-year career with Planned Parenthood has included work with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) leading advocacy efforts in battleground states across the country, as well as with Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California (PPAC) as a registered lobbyist ensuring that California's public policy framework guarantees reproductive health and justice for all Californians. Dunlap also serves on the Board of Directors of equality California and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. PPLA's 19 health centers provide comprehensive, reproductive and sexual health care services through 250,000 patient visits each year. In addition, PPLA also provides sex education to schools and communities throughout Los Angeles County.

Upcoming speakers include, actor, director, writer and producer John Kean who will discuss his award-winning film "After Auschwitz," that follows six female Holocaust survivors trying to find a sense of normalcy in the United States. Peter Mullin will talk classic cars. Bruce Reznik, LA Waterkeeper Executive Director, will discuss "A Smarter Water Future for LA."

The Rotary Club of Santa Monica is a dynamic group of business and civic leaders who have joined together to share fellowship and to support local and international charities. We are part of Rotary International which has over 1.2 million members in more than 33,000 clubs around the world. We are dedicated to service above self.


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# SCOOTERS

FROM PAGE 1

Lieutenant scored the dozen companies that applied to participate in the official Shared Mobility Pilot Program in seven categories, including compliance and safety. Rideshare giants Lyft and Jump (which is owned by Uber) scored highest. Lime and Bird, which were already operating with permits in Santa Monica at the time, scored poorly. In fact, Bird's initial application scored near the bottom (tenth out of twelve companies).

The selection committee ranked Spin third, with high scores for compliance, public education, and safety. The start-up operates scooter and bike share programs in fourteen cities and prides itself on forming public partnerships before launching.

Spin's team met with several officials including City Manager Rick Cole, Acting Chief Mobility Officer Francie Stefan, and Bike Share Coordinator Kyle Kozar in May and June. The company could have applied for a permit to launch before the pilot, similar to Bird and Lime, but decided not to.

"From our perspective, it didn't make sense for us to commit the resources to launch in the market when we knew this process was about to start. We also knew the city was going through a lot of headaches," said Brian No, Spin's head of public policy.

No was hopeful Martin would select his company based on the selection committee's rating. He was shocked when he got the news Bird and Lime were chosen.

"We don't think the process was done in a fair, objective way," No said, arguing the dramatic differences in scoring show the selection was arbitrary.

In a memorandum released earlier this month, David Martin wrote he was aware Bird and Lime had both incurred several hundred thousand dollars in fines, but said they had both recently shown a willingness to work with the city. The Planning Director gave the two companies top scores in every category except compliance, where he docked two out of ten points.

Martin valued local experience higher than those in the selection committee.

"To exclude such experience going forward would unnecessarily short-change the program by potentially excluding operators who have direct knowledge and experience," Martin wrote,

But Spin's letter argues his rational arbitrarily redefined the criteria to hurt qualified applicants and "reward specific low-ranked applicants that knowingly broke the law." The company has not filed a lawsuit at this time.

The city ordinance allowing the pilot allows "two shared mobility operator permits." The City has issued four scooter permits, allowing Lyft and Jump to deploy both e-bikes and scooters.

"The ordinance language mandates two in each category, but does not limit to only two in each category," Farrell said.

"I think we have a strong argument to make that if the city is able to make adjustments to the pilot program as it did when it issued a final decision, it should use that same flexibility to allow Spin to participate," No said.

The pilot program began Sept. 17 with 2,000 electric bikes and scooters distributed throughout the city.

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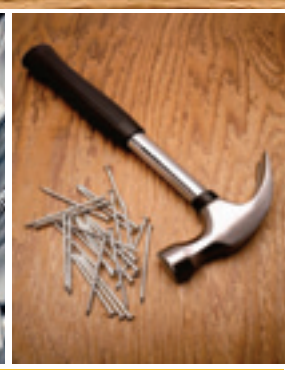
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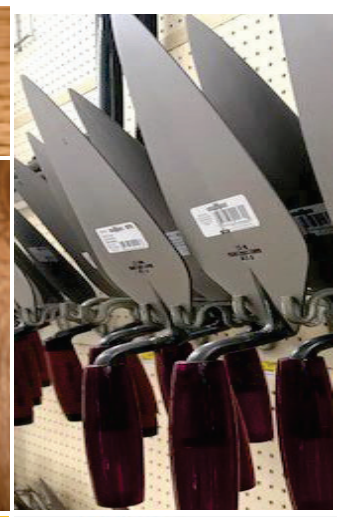
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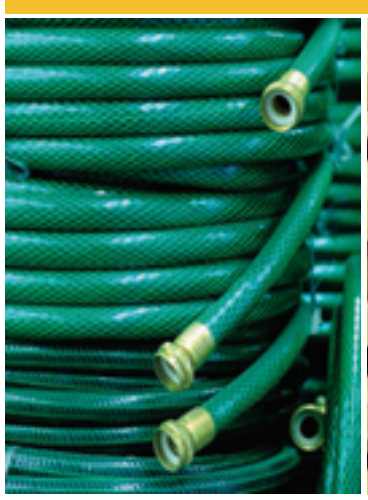




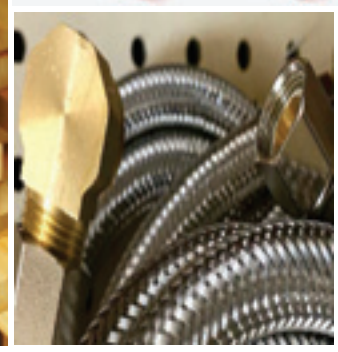


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## SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **68.3°**

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.

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** waist to stomach high
Overlapping SSW/S swells. Small NW windswell.

## DAILY POLICE LOG

### The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 356 Calls For Service On Sept. 24.

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

Vandalism 700 block Santa Monica 01:17 a.m.
Assault 300 block Santa Monica Pier 03:17 a.m.
Prowler 1200 block 23rd 05:02 a.m.
Burglary 200 block Pico 05:13 a.m.
Grand theft auto 00 block Pico 05:36 a.m.
Encampment 1600 block The Beach 05:55 a.m.
Battery 200 block Santa Monica Pier 06:11 a.m.
Encampment 1600 block The Beach 06:20 a.m.
Encampment 2000 block The Beach 06:42 a.m.
Person down 7th/Colorado 06:51 a.m.
Urinating/defecating in public 2500 block 4th 07:40 a.m.
Auto burglary 100 block Hill 07:47 a.m.
Burglary 800 block 6th 07:50 a.m.
Battery 1400 block 3rd Prom 08:08 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block Yale 08:18 a.m.
Auto burglary 400 block 7th 08:33 a.m.
Missing person 300 block Olympic 09:06 a.m.
Bike theft 00 block Pico 09:46 a.m.
Encampment 1700 block 14th 09:48 a.m.
Suicide attempt 1300 block Georgina 10:02 a.m.
Overdose 1300 block Georgina 10:03 a.m.
Person down 1200 block Santa Monica 10:12 a.m.
Burglary 1000 block Euclid 10:24 a.m.
Burglary 600 block Lincoln 11:05 a.m.
Auto burglary 100 block Hill 11:06 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1600 block Appian 11:12 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 23rd 11:18 a.m.
Auto burglary 1800 block 10th 11:30 a.m.
Person down 7th/Pico 11:51 a.m.
Critical missing person 1900 block Stewart 12:08 p.m.
Rape 300 block Olympic 12:38 p.m.
Burglary 100 block Wilshire 12:44 p.m.
Sexual assault 300 block Olympic 1:08 p.m.
Auto burglary 2600 block 32nd 1:28 p.m.
Vandalism 1300 block Pacific Coast 2:08 p.m.
Person down Lincoln/Pico 2:14 p.m.
Critical missing person 1700 block Ocean 2:22 p.m.
Encampment 1900 block Wilshire 2:45 p.m.
Indecent exposure 2200 block The Beach 3:24 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 23rd 3:28 p.m.
Burglary 1700 block Main 3:28 p.m.
Burglary 2300 block 24th 4:43 p.m.
Auto burglary 1900 block Ocean 5:28 p.m.
Strong-arm robbery 1300 block Wilshire 5:29 p.m.
Missing person 1400 block 6th 5:32 p.m.
Grand theft 2900 block Arizona 5:44 p.m.
Vandalism 1500 block 2nd 6:52 p.m.
Battery 400 block Colorado 6:53 p.m.
Battery 100 block Hart 6:55 p.m.
Burglary 900 block Euclid 7:27 p.m.
Battery Lincoln/Santa Monica 8:12 p.m.
Battery 600 block Washington 8:55 p.m.
Grand theft 1500 block The Beach 9:04 p.m.

## DAILY FIRE LOG

### The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 20 Calls For Service On Sept. 24.

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

Automatic alarm 2000 block Main 12:20 a.m.
Traffic collision w/injury Steward/Colorado 12:34 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service 500 block Pier 01:03 a.m.
EMS 2700 block Neilson 01:26 a.m.
Automatic alarm 0 block Marine 03:01 a.m.
EMS 800 block Santa Monica 04:59 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2500 block 28th 05:55 a.m.
EMS 1300 block Georgina 10:03 a.m.
EMS 1500 block 5th 11:58 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 4th 12:34 p.m.
EMS 2200 block 20th 1:56 p.m.
EMS Main/Olympic 4:11 p.m.
EMS 200 block Montana 4:19 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 23rd/Pico 4:52 p.m.
Automatic alarm 3300 block Barnard 5:03 p.m.
EMS 400 block 16th 5:25 p.m.
Fire out investigation 800 block 21st 7:11 p.m.
EMS 2500 block Euclid 8:47 p.m.
EMS Cloverfield/Michigan 9:32 p.m.
EMS 500 block 16th 11:49 p.m.

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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: 9/24
1 4 5 18 22

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 9/24
MIDDAY: 2 5 1
Draw Date: 9/24
EVENING: 4 8 7

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 9/24
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:41.21

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!

**toyetic**
1. (of a character or object from a movie, TV show, etc.) potentially marketable as a toy: a toyetic superhero.
2. (of movies or other forms of mass entertainment) having merchandising potential: toyetic comic books.

## WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

### Mania of the Week

■ Typomania: a craze for printing one's own lucubration, which are typically pieces of writing characterized by pedantry and overelaboration

### Number Cruncher

■ A Panda Bowl with orange chicken and mixed veggies from Panda Express (343 grams) contains 490 calories, 166 from fat. It has 18.5 grams of total fat or 28 percent of the recommended total fat intake for a 2,000-calorie daily diet, according to the CalorieCount.com database.

■ It also contains 80 milligrams of cholesterol (27 percent); 1,160 mg of sodium (48 percent); 61 grams of total carbohydrates (20 percent); 5 g of dietary fiber (20 percent); 24 g of sugar and 18 g of protein.

## MYSTERY REVEALED!

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### SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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| E | A | T | E | N | | S | A | G | E | | E | Y | E | S |

## 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

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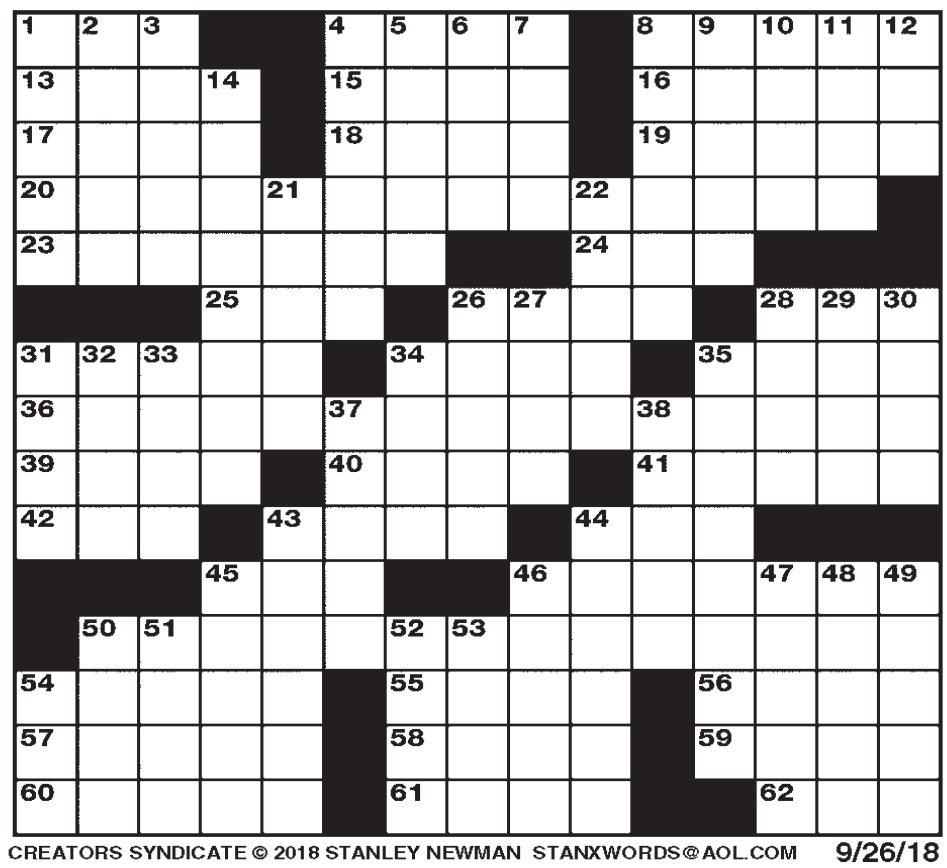
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## Newsday Crossword

**TIME OFF** by Pam A. Klawitter
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**
1 "Steady as __ goes"
4 They're spun by spiders
8 Papas' partners
13 Chat
15 Tubular sandwich
16 Build, as a building
17 Garfield's canine pal
18 Teheran's country
19 Towel fabric
20 Time off for new dads
23 Start of assembly instructions
24 Workplaces for surgeons: Abbr.
25 Vanderbilt of etiquette
26 Gym surfaces
28 5/6 of a dozen
31 Gradually lessen
34 Small ship
35 Young cartoon explorer
36 Time off for federal employees
39 Jogger's pace
40 Bullfight cheers
41 Industrialist Perot
42 "Big Blue" computer company
43 Weed-chopping garden tools
44 Fannie __ (mortgage agency)
45 Maritime distress signal
46 Waterfall
50 Time off for grade schoolers
54 Newcomer on the job
55 Des Moines' state
56 Unpleasant aroma
57 Poe's first name
58 Went by plane
59 Nevada casino city
60 Fortune-tellers
61 When planes are due to leave: Abbr.
62 __ Monte (Green Giant competitor)

**DOWN**
1 Halts
2 Did battle with
3 Cream of the crop
4 Horse's sound
5 Spooky
6 "Spoiled" kid
7 Maker of PlayStation game systems
8 Cab-fare calculators
9 Neighborhoods
10 Griffin of game shows
11 Farmland measure
12 Pigpen
14 Be persistent
21 Alfa __ (Italian auto)
22 State-run numbers game
26 Lawn burrowers
27 Sounds of satisfaction
28 Heading of a chore list
29 Memorable times
30 Negative Senate votes
31 Prefix for freeze
32 Sharp point on some farm fences
33 Molecule part
34 Hayloft bundle
35 Film-set boss
37 Rope loop
38 __ apso (dog breed)
43 Base-clearing hits
44 Colorful parrots
45 Makeup mishap
46 Sounded like a crow
47 Lent a hand
48 Lorna of literature and cookies
49 Sign up
50 __ dish (potato or rice)
51 Strong craving
52 Teeming (with)
53 1.5- or nine-__ battery
54 "For __ a jolly good fellow"



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 9/26/18

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 26)

Welcome to the year that allows the time and opportunity to use talents that were, until now, underappreciated. More highlights: One stroke of luck will vanquish 10 worries. You'll be brought in on a very exclusive deal. You'll follow your social intelligence into a wonderfully deep relationship. Capricorn and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 48, 2, 22, 10 and 13.

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)
When the task is hard, anything can be a distraction. Harness the power of writing to stay on track. Instead of acting on every whim, unload your unhelpful impulses onto a note. It will vanquish the impulse as if by magic.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
While everyone loves a happy ending, the same happy endings won't work for all people. No need to settle for the generic version of the story. Work toward your own very specific good result until you have it.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
It will be a full day of talking to people, and you definitely have the energy for the back-to-back interactions. In fact, you'll be a wonderful influence on those lucky enough to be around you.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Authenticity is a buzzword that gets a lot of play in your world lately. Funnily enough, the people who bring it up most today may be the furthest away from the basic truth. It's just something to notice.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Confident people aren't thinking of themselves. They're playing the moment. If you're thinking of how you're doing, it's a sign that you're not yet confident, but don't worry, keep going. You'll learn on the job.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
It's not your job to have all the answers, and neither is that your goal. The goal is to motivate the team want to find the answers, just as you do. It will be very important that you all get there together.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
There's no one you need to be beyond who you are naturally. You may choose to grow and to define and re-define yourself as you go, but don't put conditions on loving yourself. Be you and love that person.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You'll be in a position to appoint, cast or hire someone. To assess how a person would do in the role, check out how they've done in their current role. The evidence won't lie.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You've weathered scarcity and abundance. Both have their unique challenges. It's because you've figured out what it takes to get through all sorts of circumstances that you'll step forward in confidence today.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
It's a day to think about what you are doing to protect yourself from the world. Consider whether some of that could actually be holding you back from all the happiness you could be experiencing.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Advice from the top will help you only if that person started at the bottom and worked all the way up to the head position. What's required now is the nuanced perspective of a truly experienced individual.

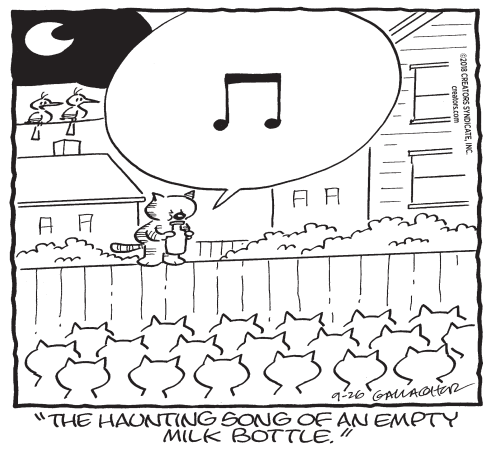
### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You don't always know when you're creating change, causing people to think differently or teaching them valuable skills... but you can assume that's what's going on with today's interactions.

### Lunar Square to Pluto

The glass, which is either half-full or half-empty, is causing an existential question that wouldn't arise in a circumstance where the glass is the right size for the amount of liquid to be contained. To think of efficiency in the early stages of an endeavor will prevent problems and keep a productive focus during this lunar square to Pluto.

**DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?**
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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

## Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



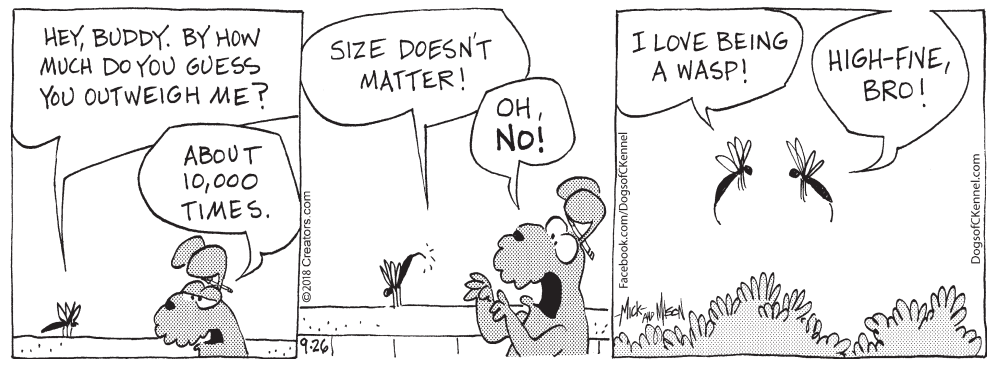

## Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



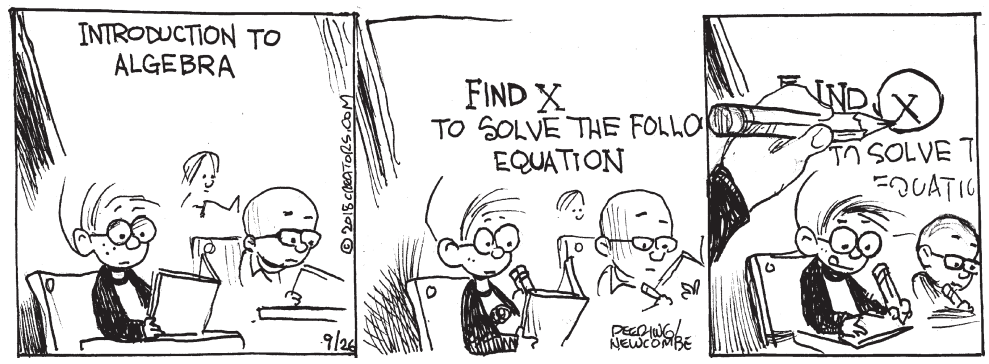

## Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN




## Dogs of C-Kennel
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART




## Zack Hill
By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




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# ARREST

FROM PAGE 1

pearances late last month of 60-year-old Dina Escobar and her brother, 65-year-old Rogelio Escobar, Houston police said in a statement.

Dina Escobar's burned van was found in Galveston, Texas, a few days after she went looking for her brother. She was last seen Aug. 28, two days after her brother disappeared, the statement said.

Ramon Escobar is their nephew, and Texas authorities said they want to talk to him.

Escobar spent five years in prison for robbery starting in the mid-1990s, Hayes said. Records in Texas show Escobar has had arrests for vehicle burglary, trespassing, failure to stop, public intoxication and two assaults, most recently in November 2017. That case was described as a misdemeanor.

Dina Escobar's daughter, Ligia Salamanca, said earlier Tuesday that the family was surprised to learn that Ramon Escobar was in California.

"We wouldn't know why he would be out there," she told reporters in Houston.

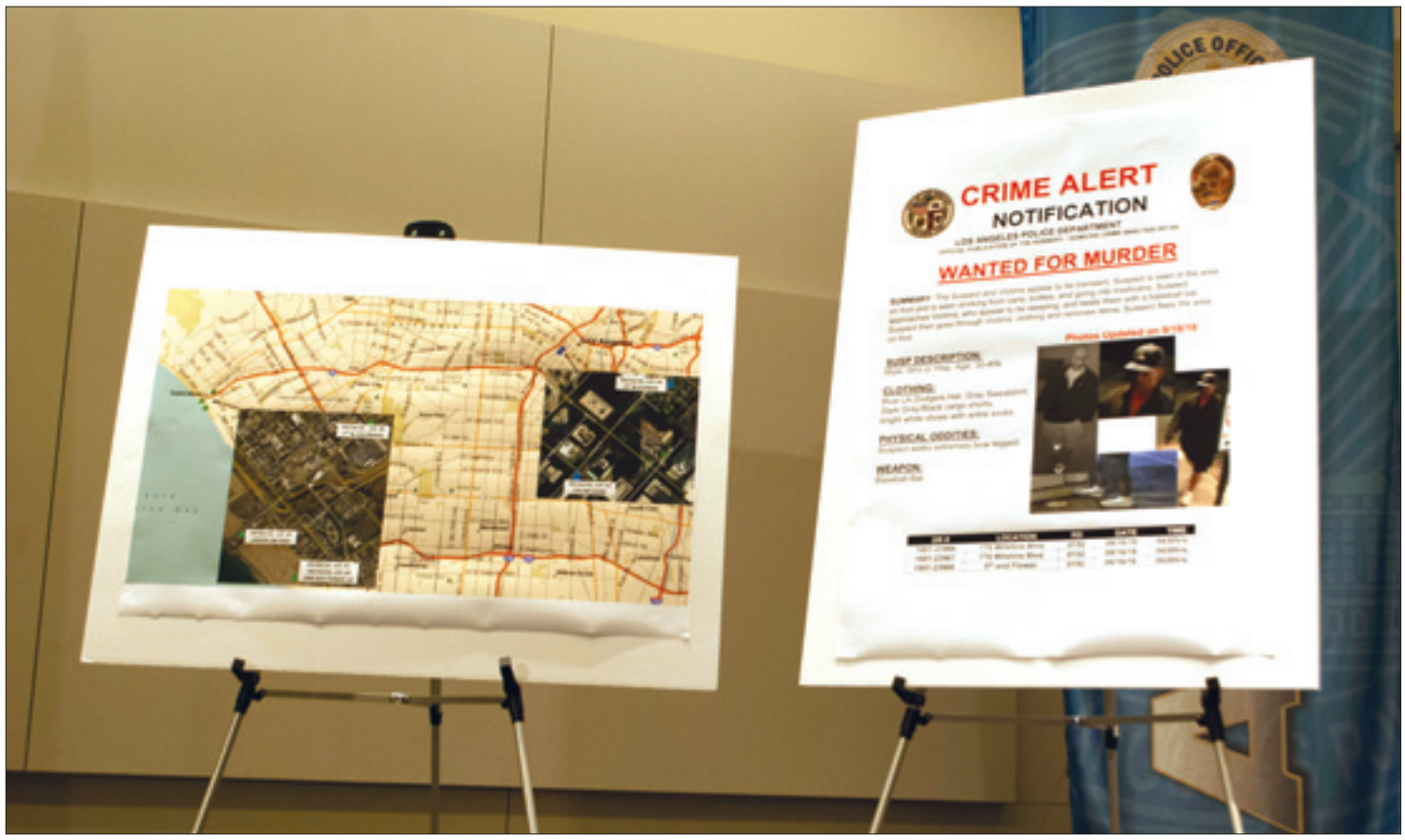
Investigators believe Escobar was the man who used a baseball bat to bash the heads of three homeless men sleeping on downtown Los Angeles streets before dawn on Sept. 16, police said in a statement. Two died.

He was recorded on surveillance video ransacking their pockets and belongings.

Two homeless men sleeping on the beach were bludgeoned in the head early on Sept. 8 and Sept. 10, leaving one in critical condition, officials said.

Another man who apparently was sleeping on the beach was found dead under the Santa Monica Pier on Sept. 20. Steven Ray Cruze Jr., 39, of San Gabriel, had been beaten to death.

Authorities at first described him as homeless, but family and friends said the father of two, who loved to fish at the pier, worked boats in neighboring Marina del Rey and sometimes camped out under the pier to avoid the long commute home.




Andrew Narvaez

**COOPERATION: Officers said Escobar drove to the area where he commited crimes in Los Angeles and Santa Monica before his arrest on Monday.**

Associated Press writers Robert Jablon and John Antczak in Los Angeles, David Warren in Dallas and researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York contributed to this report.



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