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Santa Monica Daily Press

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@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

Father gets 4 months for bribing son's way into Georgetown

BY COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

A Los Angeles businessman was sentenced Thursday to four months in prison for paying $400,000 to get his son into Georgetown University as a fake tennis recruit.

Stephen Semprevivo, 53, pleaded guilty in May to fraud and conspiracy. He is the third parent to be sentenced in a sweeping college admissions scandal that has ensnared dozens of wealthy mothers and fathers.

Authorities say Semprevivo conspired with admissions consultant William "Rick" Singer to get his son into Georgetown as a tennis recruit, even though he did not play the sport competitively. His son was admitted to Georgetown in 2016 but was expelled over the scheme earlier this year.

Semprevivo was also sentenced to two years of supervised release, 500 hours of community service, a $100,000 fine and possible restitution to Georgetown to be decided later.

Prosecutors had asked for 13 months in prison. Semprevivo's lawyers said he deserved probation or home confinement, plus 2,000 hours of community service.

In an Aug. 17 letter asking for leniency, Semprevivo said he was driven by "foolish ambition" for his

SEE **BRIBE** PAGE 4

EPA: California homelessness causing poor water quality







Tony McGinn

EPA: The Federal Government is targeting cities like Los Angeles over homelessness and the environment.

JOHN FLESHER
AP Environmental Writer

California is failing to protect its waters from pollution, partly because of a worsening problem with homelessness in large cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday.

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler outlined a series of alleged deficiencies in California's compliance with federal clean water laws in a letter to Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, demanding a detailed plan for fixing the problems within 30 days.

"California needs to fulfill its obligation to protect its water bodies and, more importantly,

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 11

$1,000 fine for false paperwork

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Anyone who knowingly lies on paperwork submitted to the city of Santa Monica could face a $1,000 fine, six months in jail or both.

The City Council unanimously voted Tuesday to prohibit lying on official documents and in investigations. The measure is intended to prevent City Hall from making decisions based on false statements, which it defines as false, misleading or fraudulent statements or representations, said city attorney Lane Dilg.

The council on Aug. 13 asked city staff to strengthen laws protecting tenants and affordable housing, which resulted in the council raising fines for operating vacation rentals and unlawfully evicting tenants.

Councilmembers also asked staff to review whether a prohibition on false claims existed in the municipal code because some property owners and home-sharing hosts had lied to the city on official forms.

Dilg said city staff learned in the review that the city did not have a generally applicable "false statements against the government" provision and had only a few provisions that dealt with false statements made in the city's jurisdiction.

"In response, we're proposing an ordinance that would follow federal law in prohibiting false statements to the government to the extent that they are knowingly made and material, that is, non-trivial and

SEE **FINE** PAGE 4


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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.

Saturday, September 28

Opening Reception for 'Memories of Diaspora'
Join the artists of Art Division in an opening event for the new exhibit, 'Memories of Diaspora: Immigration Narratives of Los Angeles." Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 6 - 8 p.m. http://annenbergbeachhouse.com/beachculture

Meet Me at Reed
Santa Monica's summer outdoor cultural and recreational program is expanding into fall with free Saturday events throughout September and October. Bring picnic blankets, lawn chairs, food and enjoy a day at the park. To view the series lineup, please visit www.santamonica.gov/meetmeatreed. 3 - 5 p.m.

Santa Monica Rep 10-Minute Play Writing Workshop
In this workshop, Santa Monica Rep members teach the concepts of writing a 10-minute play. Learn how to hone your plot and dialogue into an impactful story that will have audiences cheering. Space is limited. To register, call the Fairview Branch at 310-458-8681. Fairview Branch Library, 2 - 4:30 p.m.

No Longer Forgotten: The Groags, Transplants of Viennese Modernism
Publisher Carrie Paterson and architecture professor Dr. Laura McGuire discuss and present a slide show on the work of Jacques and Jacqueline Groag, two pillars of Modern architecture who were nearly lost to history. Co-presented by the Society of Architectural Historians/ Southern California Chapter. Main Library, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

American Stories Book Group
Snowflower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See. Pico Branch Library, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Soft Fabric Mask Making with Mimi Haddon
Create inventive and colorful large soft masks using fabric, paint and wool filling. This class will require some hand stitching or hot glue use. Fabric will be provided, but if you would like to repurpose garments from your closet, feel free to bring. Participants can bring a digital camera or smartphone, and a seamless paper backdrop will be available to create costumed portraits and self-portraits. Free. 1 - 3 p.m. RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soft-fabric-mask-making-with-mimi-haddon-tickets-60645046968
or call (310) 458-2239.

Movement and Drawing with Natalja & Kristi
Guest Artist Kristi Karou offers a movement workshop in which participants dive into their own sensations and develop a sense of their moving body. Before and after the movement activity, the group is guided through a portrait drawing session by Natalja. Please wear clothes to move in. Free. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Register online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/movement-and-drawing-with-natalja-kristi-tickets-65715997317.

Voter Registration with the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica
In celebration of National Voter Registration Day, the League of Women Voters provides election information and on-site voter registration. Pico Branch Library, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

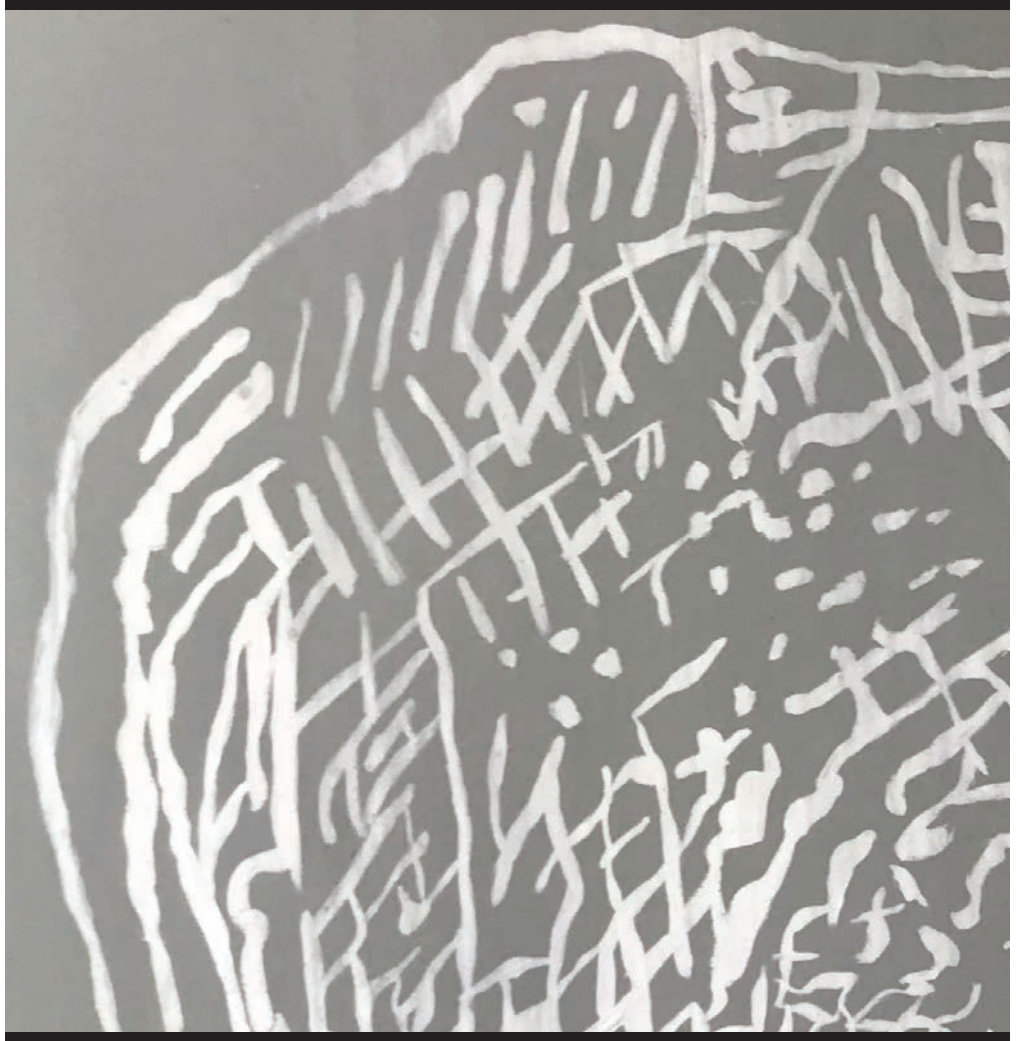
Community Garden Storytime
Join organizers at the Main Street Community Garden (2224 Main St) for a special Garden Storytime. Enter the garden through the middle gate on Hollister Avenue. Co-sponsored by the Main Street Community Garden. Ages 0-6, 10 - 10:30 a.m.

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

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Rain possible over the weekend

Santa Monica welcomed Autumn with small amount of rain on Thursday. Forecasters predict a slight chance of rain throughout the weekend clearing by Monday.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

Friday: Patchy drizzle before 11 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain after 11 p.m. Cloudy, with a low around 60. South wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: A slight chance of rain before 11am, then a slight chance of showers after 11 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 68. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers before 11 p.m. Patchy fog after 11 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Sunday: Patchy fog before 11 a.m. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 67.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

MATTHEW HALL, SMDP EDITOR

Citywide

PYFC to Host 11th Annual Hope & Unity Awards Gala

The Pico Youth & Family Center will host its 11th Annual Hope & Unity Awards Gala on Saturday, September 28, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the iconic Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows in Santa Monica. The event will feature a silent auction, dinner, community leadership awards, live performances and inspiring testimony from the youth who benefit from PYFC's unique and innovative programming.

This Gala's Awardees are Maria Loya and Underground Scholars of UCLA.

Maria Loya is being recognized for her historic legal victory against the City of Santa Monica's illegal and unconstitutional at large election scheme. Ms. Loya and her legal team confronted the local City establishment and one of the country's most expensive law firms in a six-week trial and won.

"District elections will make it less expensive to run for a seat on our City Council and will ensure every neighborhood is represented, making our democracy more accessible and inclusive," stated awardee Maria Loya.

Underground Scholars (US) of UCLA supports formerly incarcerated and system impacted students. US of UCLA provides various services and advocacy to help students succeed academically and graduate. "For us, it's about undoing the school-to-prison pipeline. "We are trying to create a prison-to-school pipeline. It's about creating that pathway." Rodriguez explained that the "school-to-prison pipeline" is a term that describes the systematic way many youth from low-income minority communities tend to be funneled from public schools into the criminal justice system. "PYFC has disrupted the "school to prison pipeline" in Santa Monica and has been a consistent supporter of historically marginalized youth and young adults in our community. Where most youth centers cut off services once you turn 18, PYFC keeps the doors open for us to realize our full potential as students," stated US co-founder Rodrigo Vazquez.

The PYFC is a unique youth center in Santa Monica that provides culturally relevant programming to underserved youth and their families. This innovative youth center opened the City's first public recording studio and also offers the ground breaking Social Justice & Mindfulness Summer Camp for kids. PYFC is a training ground for art, entertainment and technology and social justice work in our City. PYFC invites everyone to attend the 11th Annual Hope & Unity Awards Gala to raise needed funds to support underserved youth and to keep PYFC's mission and vision alive. To learn more about PYFC and the Gala visit: www.picoyouth.org

SUBMITTED BY OSCAR DE LA TORRE

DALLAS

LinkedIn asks users to think beyond professional networks

LinkedIn wants users to step outside their professional silos to boost someone else's career.

The company pushed Thursday to narrow a "network gap" that disadvantages people who don't have access to strong professional or alumni networks.

The service says it's not reversing its guidance that LinkedIn users accept connections only from people they know and trust. Instead, it's nudging people to reach outside their traditional networks – such as someone they share a ride with or sit next to on a plane.

It is pitched as an altruistic cause but could indirectly benefit LinkedIn's growth if some users invite others to join the service.

LinkedIn owner Microsoft says growth in the business has slowed down over the past year, though revenue has still been increasing more than 20% each quarter.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

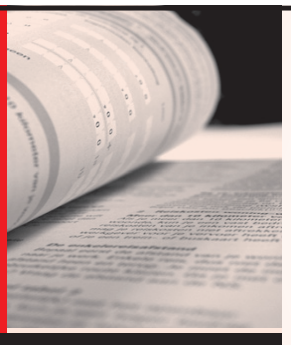
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Your column here

Whitney Scott Bain

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not April Fools

At first when I read the Daily Press' headline, "council considers ban on lying" I thought it was an advanced issue of the April Fool's edition.

Corruption and lying have been going on in this city since the 40's. Raymond Chandler wrote about it when he briefly lived here in his Phillip Marlow stories using Bay City as a stand-in for Santa Monica.

Its interesting that the city council follows the Orwellian doublespeak of the "do as I say, not as I do" mantra. They should check out a mirror.

BRIBE

FROM PAGE 1

son's happiness. He said he accepts "total and full" responsibility but also said he was drawn in and manipulated by Singer.

"Looking back, I can see that Rick Singer worked me over and got me to do and believe things I am ashamed of and deeply regret," he wrote. "I wanted the future for my son that he had worked so hard for. This was the main factor in my bad judgment."

He was accused of paying $400,000 to a sham charity operated by Singer in 2016. Authorities say Singer then bribed Georgetown tennis coach Gordon Ernst to label Semprevivo's son and the children of other Singer clients as recruited athletes. Singer has pleaded guilty to federal charges. Ernst, who was fired by Georgetown, pleaded not guilty.

Days after Semprevivo pleaded guilty, his son sued Georgetown in an attempt to block his expulsion, saying the school was unfairly trying to discipline him for a scheme that it "knew or should have known about" for two years. The lawsuit was withdrawn in July.

Prosecutors said Semprevivo deserved prison time because he failed to take full responsibility, and because he paid one of the largest bribes and enlisted his son in the scheme. They argued that Semprevivo orchestrated his son's lawsuit against Georgetown to avoid the consequences of his actions.

"Semprevivo defrauded Georgetown, and then sought to hold Georgetown accountable (with damages) for not discovering his fraud," prosecutors wrote in a Sept. 19 court document.

An entrepreneur who has spent much of career at technology companies, Semprevivo said he lost his job over the scandal and has been unable to find new work. Most recently he was executive vice president of Cydcor, a California company that helps companies outsource their sales teams.

Fifteen parents have pleaded guilty in the scheme, while 19 are contesting 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.

"Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman became the first parent sentenced after admitting to paying $15,000 to rig her daughter's SAT score. She was sentenced to 14 days in prison.

FINE

FROM PAGE 1

having a natural tendency to influence official city action," Dilg said.

McKeown said the new rule would, for example, apply to people who move into Ellised buildings and lied to the city that they are not paying rent. The Ellis Act is a 1985 state law that allows landlords to evict tenants in order to get out of the rental business, which means that property owners are not allowed to collect rent on Ellised properties.

"One reason why this has been suggested is that there has, as best we can tell, been abuse of people filling out forms that have to do with housing matters and not doing so fully truthfully," said Councilmember Kevin McKeown.

Dilg said the ordinance would only apply to statements made during official documents and investigative interviews.

"It would not apply, for example, in a street stop or chance encounter, only in an official investigation," she said.

Nor would it apply to statements made to the City Council during council meetings.

"City staff has no interest in enforcing a false statements provision (during council meetings) as it could impact the ability of members of the public to come and speak freely to you," Dilg said.

The city will notify the public of the rule before they complete any city forms, she added.

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WINNER

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Lung illnesses send chill through US marijuana vape market

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS AND JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

Vaping products, one of the fastest-growing segments of the legal marijuana industry, have taken a hit from consumers as public health experts scramble to determine what's causing a mysterious and sometimes fatal lung disease among people who use e-cigarettes.

The ailment has sickened at least 805 people and killed 12. Some vaped nicotine, but many reported using oil containing THC, marijuana's high-inducing ingredient, and said they bought products from pop-up shops and other illegal sellers. The only death linked to THC vapes bought at legal shops occurred in Oregon.

Amid the health scare, the amount of the legal pot industry's revenue that comes from vape products has dropped by 15% nationwide, with some states, including Oregon, seeing decreases of more than 60%.

Health officials in California, home to the world's largest legal marijuana marketplace, this week issued an advisory urging people to stop all forms of vaping until a cause is determined. Massachusetts, which like California allows so-called recreational use of marijuana by people 21 and older, went further than any other state, issuing a four-month ban on vape sales.

Vaping THC is popular for those desiring quick high without the smoke that comes from lighting up joints. Marijuana companies are trying to boost the public's confidence by promoting that their vaping products are tested by the government, demanding ingredient lists from their vendors and in some cases pulling items from shelves. Some also are scrambling to get liability insurance.

Still, many have seen notable declines in sales in the few weeks since the health scare emerged on a national scale.

"It's having an impact on how consumers are behaving," said David Alport, owner of Bridge City Collective in Portland, which in two weeks saw a 31% drop in sales of vape cartridges that hold the oil that vaporizes when heated. "People are concerned, and we're concerned."

In the United States' booming legal cannabis market, vaping products have exploded in popularity. In roughly two years, they have grown from a small fraction of overall sales to about one-third, with $9.6 billion in sales between 2017 and 2019, according to New Frontier Data, an economic analysis firm that tracks the industry. About one-fifth of U.S. cannabis consumers report using them.

New Frontier found a 15% decline in the market share for vape sales nationwide during the first week of September and saw no rebound in data collected through Sept. 18. At the state level, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Nevada and Montana all saw drops of one-third or more, while California fell by 6%.

Oregon, which announced its death at the beginning of the month and said it was from a vape purchased at a regulated dispensary, saw one of the biggest drops in market share for vape revenue — 62%, said John Kagia, the firm's chief knowledge officer.

Yet as vape sales sink, some retailers report sales of other cannabis products going up. Bridge City Collective, for example, saw its usually lackluster edible sales increase about 40 percent the same week vaping sales plummeted. Consumers also are showing more interest in the dried flower used in joints.

Analysts are watching to see if vape sales erode further after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Thursday that the number of suspected vaping-related illnesses had grown by 52 percent in the past week.

"This is a very, very fast-moving issue, and it will likely be a couple more weeks, if not months, before we understand the impact it's really had on the retail ecosystem and on consumers' attitudes," Kagia said prior to the announcement.

Doctors have said the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the lungs apparently reacting to a caustic substance. So far, no single vaping product or ingredient has been linked to the illnesses.

Health officials in New York are focusing on vitamin E acetate, a viscous solution that's sometimes added to marijuana oils. Retailers in some markets are pulling products from their shelves that contain that and other additives. Other companies have proactively released public statements saying their vape oils contain only pure THC.

Medicine Man, which operates five retail outlets in Colorado, announced Thursday it has stopped selling vape products with propylene glycol or vitamin E acetate.

"The decision to take this particular product off our shelves was significant, as the confidence and trust of our consumers is paramount to our core values," Medicine Man President and Chief Executive Officer Sally Vander Veer said. "Hopefully the rest of the industry will also conclude that removing these cannabis products with the chemical additives under scrutiny from the market is in the best interest of consumers and all of us as operators."

In Illinois, a message board for medical marijuana patients banned posters from sharing home vape recipes.

"I just do THC. No flavor additives. I won't even take that chance," said Lisa Haywood, a medical marijuana card holder who lives outside Chicago and follows the

SEE ILLNESSES PAGE 7

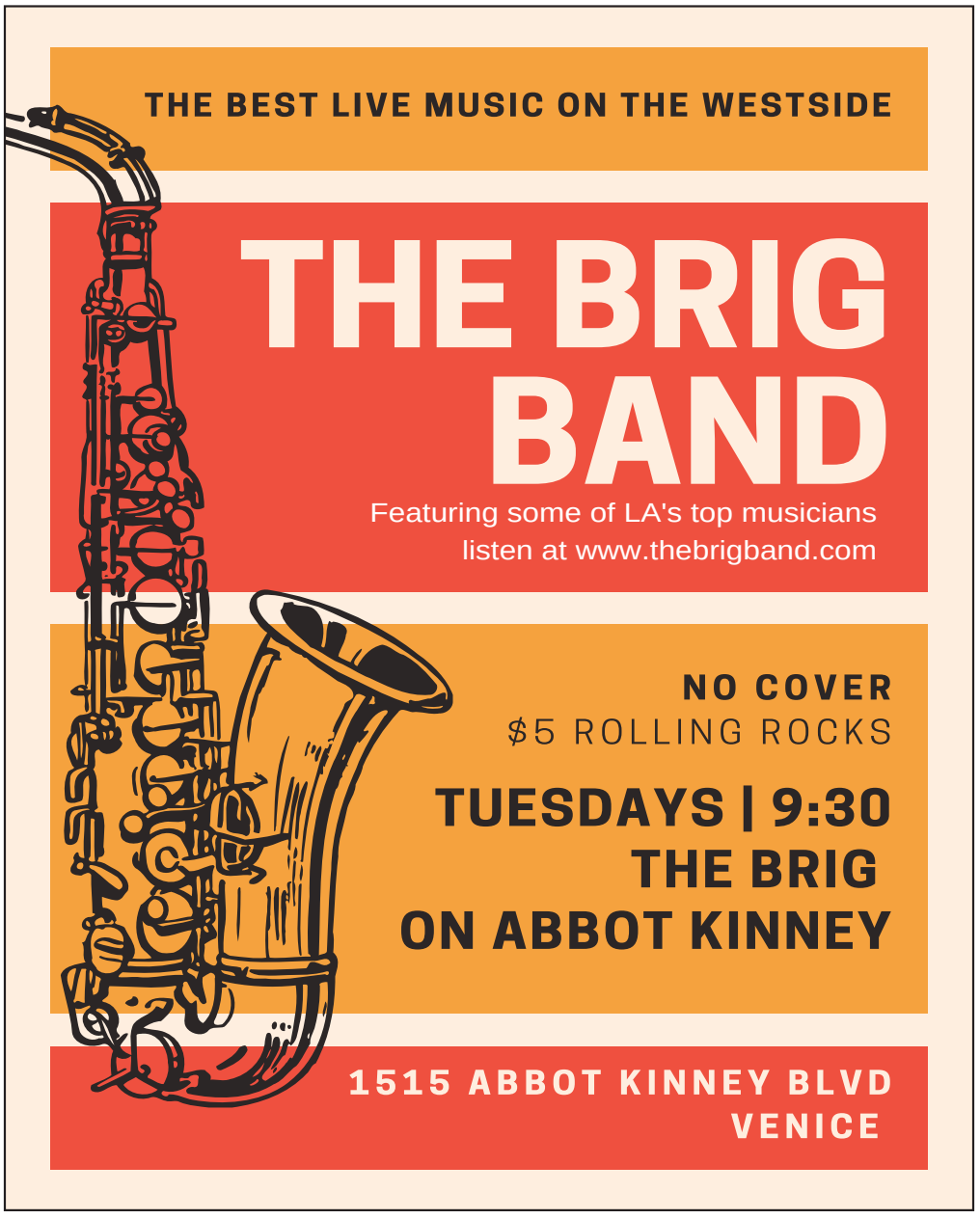
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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
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Kodi Lee Changed the World



Photo by Trae Patton/NBC | 2019 NBCUniversal Media, LLC.

WINNER: Pictured (center) is America's Got Talent Winner Kodi Lee with the AGT judges.

Regarding Ukraine and the "whistle blower complaint," Trump and Giuliani get their stories straight. Rudy insists "I didn't bring up Joe Biden with Ukraine's president," and seconds later says, "I did and I'm proud of it!"

Trump swears he didn't withhold Ukraine funds and later says "I'd do it again." First he made the phone call because of concerns about "corruption," and then it's because, "Europe and other nations don't pay their fair share." (Fact check: From 2013-2017 US aid to Ukraine was $1.4 billion while EU aid was $16.5 billion!)

In 2017, when Trump held his first meeting as president, he ordered his staff to "Treat each day as a reality TV show," suggesting the day be so filled with drama that the country would be clamoring to see what happens next. It's been 797 mind-numbing days and the 2020 election is in 401 days. I'm so "Trump drained" I wonder how I'm going to make it.

Perhaps you're exhausted as well. If so, may I recommend you take a ½ hour for a series of YouTube videos so inspiring and uplifting, you'll feel like you've taken a vacation from Trump (who appears guilty of a "cover up") and his dark cloud that hangs over a majority of Americans.

The "star" of this tale is 23-year-old pianist/singer Kodi Lee, who, I believe, is unlike anyone I've ever seen. (Or, maybe he's living proof there are lots of disabled people who courageously face such challenges on a daily basis?)

Kodi was born with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia, which left him blind at birth. At 4, he was also diagnosed with autism so severe he's seemingly unable to make conversation. It turns out, however, he understands everything around him and has monumental musical gifts that reveal his intelligence and spirit. As Kodi sang on "America's Got Talent," it felt like, if there is a God and it's in all of us, that's what was coming from within Kodi.

At first the judges on AGT looked very concerned when, at his audition, Kodi, with his remarkable mother, Tina, by his side, struggled to say his name and what he was going to perform. (Kodi's father, Eric, and siblings Derek and Kayla, were also in the wings rooting him on.)

When Tina walked Kodi to the piano and he sat down, she knelt beside him and whispered encouragement. She told him that twenty cameras were on him, which, instead of being nervous he was delighted. When she asked, "Are you ready?" Kodi replied enthusiastically, "Yeah!" Seconds later, I realized I needn't have worried about him.

Kodi's audition number was his rendition of Leon Russell's iconic, "A Song For You," not necessarily easy to play or sing. But with the first notes the judge's jaws dropped. They couldn't believe, nor could I, that this incredible voice belonged to a man who is both blind and autistic. After only moments of Kodi's passionate singing, tears were welling up in the judges' eyes, the audience's and mine. (Even to this day if I watch it again.)

When Kodi finished he received a thunderous standing ovation. He beamed with pride, perhaps second only to Tina who was thrilled for her son. Simon Cowell, who's not only a judge but owns AGT shows world wide, and not prone to lavish praise, thanked Kodi profusely. "I will remember this night for the rest of my life."

Actress Gabrielle Union, also an AGT judge, said, "Kodi's making people believe in something they didn't even know is attainable. He's magic." That night she told Kodi, "You have changed the world." For however long, he certainly had changed mine.

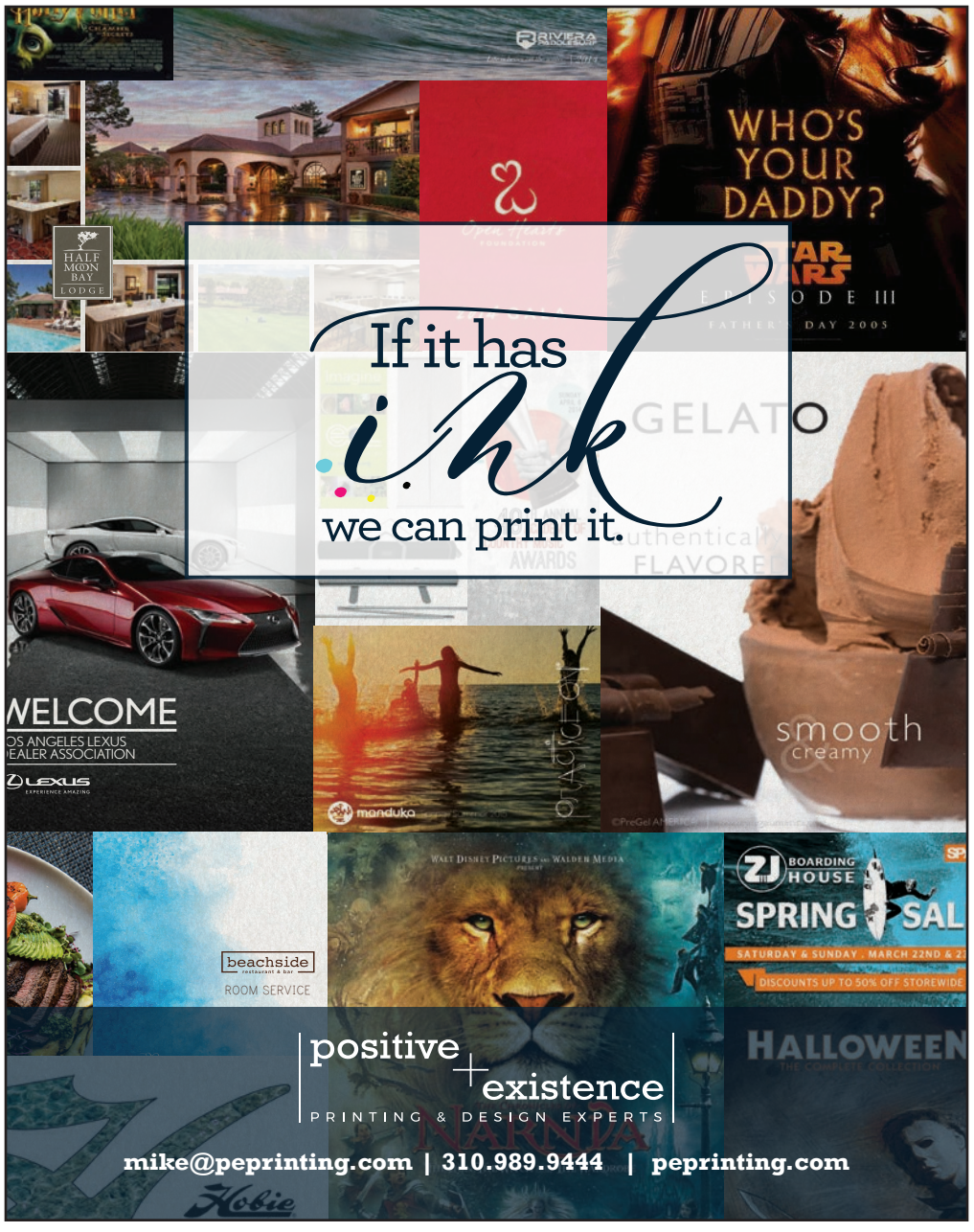
How does Kodi do it? Apparently he has "auto memory," so that when he hears a song only once, it's permanently etched in his brain. But that doesn't explain the passion and brilliance with which he sings.

At his audition, Kodi captured the hearts of everyone and the millions watching on television and later on YouTube. He also shattered stereotypes about disabilities.

Spoiler alert: Kodi won AGT's 14th season finale and was awarded $1 million. (Actually, $200,000 now or $25,000 for forty years.) He also won a three-day contract to headline at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino from November 7 to 10 and I'm sure that place will be packed.

So, if you haven't seen Kodi perform, do your soul a favor and Google him. Take the 20 minutes to view videos of his tremendous

SEE **KODI LEE** PAGE 11



ILLNESSES

FROM PAGE 5

board for advice and support.

State regulators track the cannabis sold to consumers but don't monitor what additives are in marijuana oil vapes. That's led states to begin discussions of how to tighten restrictions on vaping products even as retailers themselves try to determine which of the products on their shelves contain so-called cutting agents.

"We haven't evolved our system that far to think about what we would test for in those products. A lot of these additives were conceptual at the time when the (marijuana legalization) law passed and the program came into place," said Steve Marks, executive director of the Oregon Liquor License Commission, which oversees the state's cannabis industry.

"Figuring that out is part of the evolution that we have to do as a consumer protection agency," he said.

Hilary Bricken, a Los Angeles-based attorney whose firm specializes in cannabis business law and regulatory issues, said the legal marijuana industry is moving so fast that many states are "literally making this up as they go," and the vaping scare has stripped away the sense of security that consumers get from buying from a licensed dispensary.

The vaping crisis will undoubtedly hasten tighter regulation at the state level and force the industry to patrol itself better to avoid crippling lawsuits, she said. The idea of more regulation unnerves some medical marijuana.

If there's a ban, "what does it do for all these people who have been seeing relief? ... It is going to really impact patients and the industry that we've fought" to create, said Melanie Rose Rodgers, a Colorado medical cannabis patient and leader of the state's chapter of Americans for Safe Access, which advocates for medical marijuana patients.

Bobby Burleson, an analyst with Toronto-based investment and financial services company Canaccord Genuity, said the initial problems for the vape segment of the cannabis industry should moderate, and the health scare may in the end help the legal marijuana industry.

The crisis "should ultimately accelerate the shift away from the black market for cannabis products in the U.S.," he said.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 27)

You'll take on a project or relationship that's all-encompassing at first but totally worthwhile. At the end of the year, the whirlwind dies down to a steady breeze. An influx of money from a side hustle or unexpected windfall allows you to spend time on what you really want to do. Invest in February, recoup in April. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 21, 2, 16 and 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To tune into your intuition, you need your busy mind to hush down to library-level quiet. Focus on your breath, and let the wild information settle and organize itself into a sanctuary of shelves.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your possessions take up a lot of your time today, not because you're materialistic but because you understand that ownership always comes with the responsibility of maintenance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can send messages with your subconscious. It's not exactly telepathy, but people read you all the same. Don't let that stop you from asking directly for what you want, which will be the No. 1 most effective tactic.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're feeling pulled in different directions at once internally, and this makes it more challenging to decide how best to spend your hours. Just remember that you don't (SET ITAL) have(END ITAL) to do anything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll look at what's causing you stress and reassess your reasoning. Why are you doing the thing? Is it loyalty, preference, love, logic, economic sense... or has it really just become a habit?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've an unrelentingly positive attitude, and yet you feel the need to mix in a little mischief just to keep it interesting. After all, no one can relate to people who are all one way. Every human is a mixed bag.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a quality of attention you give that could only come from you and you alone. This is what your loved ones crave when they miss you, and what they sometimes take for granted when they have you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're worried that you might offend. Well, these days, it's hard not to. You may as well say what's on your mind and prepare to sort through the feedback, which you're certain to learn something from.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't control the entire picture of life, but you do get to control how you frame your part of it – that is, unless you give someone else control of the frame, which is not advised.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Relationships are like the transmission of a car – built to cruise in different gears. If you stay in one gear for too long, you can wear things out. It's healthy to periodically adjust the speed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Keep putting yourself in a situation to meet new people. You'll learn something from each interaction. Also, you've yet to meet the one who can help you and who needs exactly what you offer in exchange.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Availability can be such a funny thing. You'll want the thing you can't get to, and you'll be most desirable to someone else when you're unreachable. Think of a way to use this to your advantage.

New Moon Readiness Program

When you know what you give, generosity comes back to you many times over in ways you can understand and predict. If you don't know what you give, you'll still get back plenty, though unpredictably so. Get clear about what you give so you can take advantage of tomorrow's new moon opportunity in the realm of relationships.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST

ARIES: Avoid those who will treat you as an extension of themselves instead of as a whole and complete other person. TAURUS: Popularity grows by focusing on one person at a time. GEMINI: People will try to impress you in ways that land flat, but you'll help them save face because you're nice like that. CANCER: Don't worry about making people understand you. The mystery is good, too. LEO: The more you include people, the more charismatic you'll be. VIRGO: You learn a lot about people by discussing goals – theirs and yours. LIBRA: You'll feel grounded and safe in the presence of an earth sign (Taurus, Virgo or Capricorn). SCORPIO: You don't have to like all the same things as your date, but it's best to have at least one major interest in common. SAGITTARIUS: Love that feels a little dangerous will keep you coming back. CAPRICORN: Just because you're a loyal person doesn't mean you won't change your mind about who you want to be around. AQUARIUS: The bottom line this weekend is that when a person enriches you, you want to be around that person, and the reverse is also true. PISCES: Music makes everything more romantic and profound.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND

Libra is known for being fair, balanced, diplomatic, artistic and terrific at relationships of all kinds, as Libra is the sign of partnership, lovers, friends and soul-siblings. With both the sun and moon in Libra, it's a moment for two Libras to figure out the magic in this connection. Their conversations are sheer brilliance, and if they happen to live together, they'll design a truly inspired domestic life. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Simper
Verb (used without object) [sim-per]
To smile in a silly, self-conscious way.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I'LL GO DOWN THE WRONG PIPE."

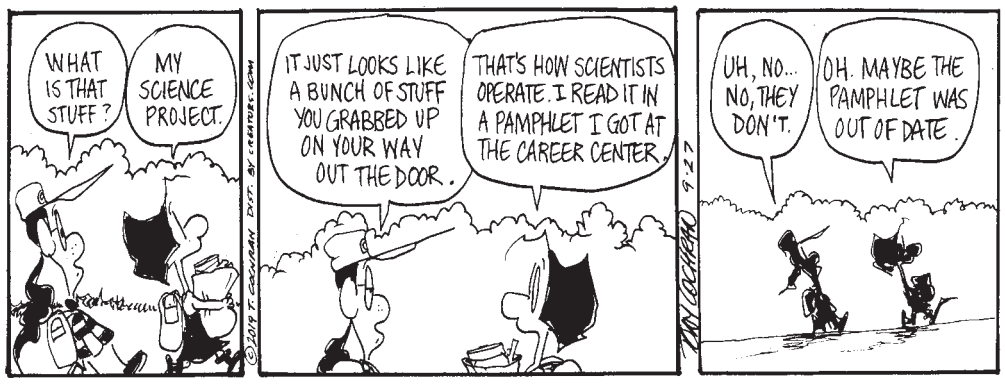
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



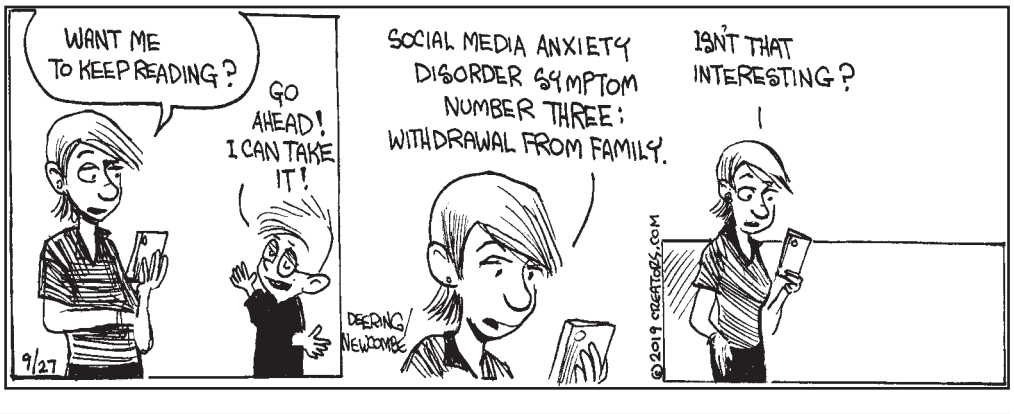
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:09/21
37 43 44 45 53 25
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 50 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 09/24
6 14 24 42 46
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 40 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 09/21
3 7 11 13 26
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 14 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 09/25
9 11 13 21 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 09/25
Evening: 1 1 4
Draw Date: 09/26
Midday: 0 8 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 09/25
1st: 04 - BIG BEN
2nd: 11 - MONEY BAGS
3rd: 10 - SOLID GOLD
RACE TIME: 1:47.00

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 72.7°

FRIDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
New SW swell shows. Small NW swell.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
SW swell trends up. Lingering NW swell. Conditions looking dicey with onshore flow.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

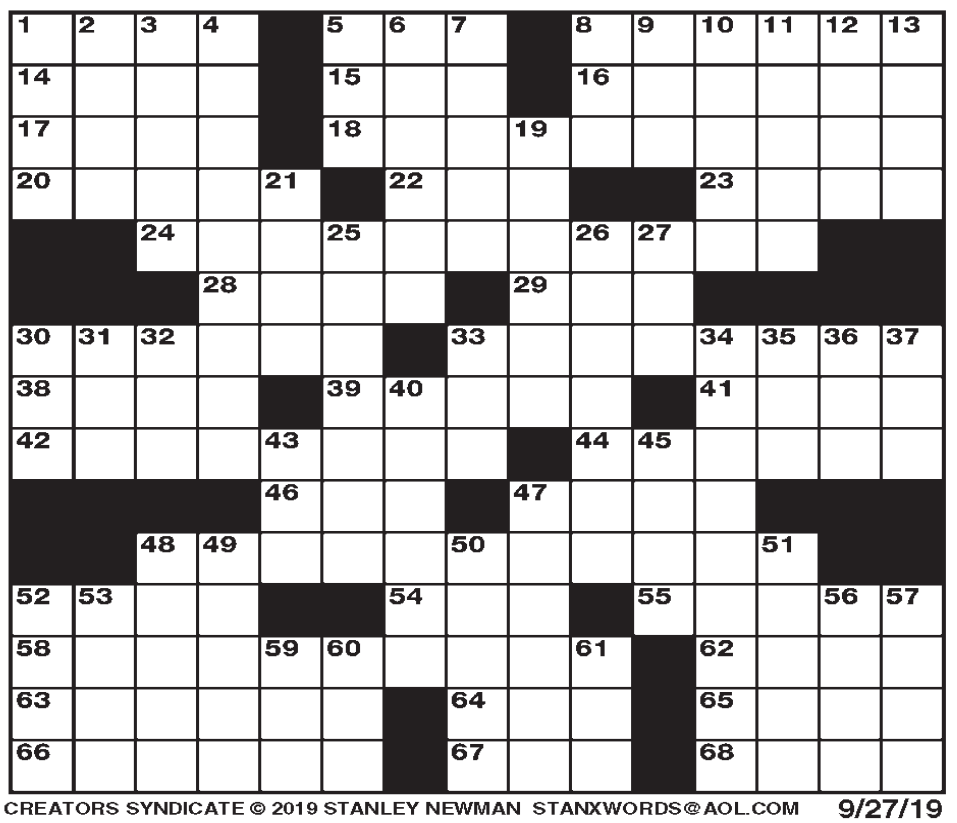
9	5	6	2	8	3	4	7	1
1	8	4	6	7	5	2	9	3
3	7	2	9	4	1	8	5	6
2	6	5	8	1	9	7	3	4
4	9	1	7	3	2	5	6	8
8	3	7	5	6	4	9	1	2
5	1	3	4	9	8	6	2	7
7	2	8	1	5	6	3	4	9
6	4	9	3	2	7	1	8	5

Newsday Crossword

PROPER PLACEMENTS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Schmidt once of Google
5 Common cask material
8 Political body
14 Looking up
15 Trusted authority
16 Major along with the Masters
17 Rough up
18 Good rep
20 Italian battleground of '44
22 See 24 Across
23 Intends
24 Bewitched [and what the answer is]
28 Wonderland waddler
29 Product from pines
30 Period of major changes
33 Baritone line starter
38 Persian poet
39 Maneuver around
41 Sleek, so to speak
42 It's north of Nogales on I-10
44 Fire up
46 *Curious George* byline
47 Paper mill material
48 Trapped [and what the answer is]
52 Rather big hair
54 See 48 Across
55 Occasions to celebrate, for short
58 Ready to drive away
62 Something coming to mind
63 Twix competitor
64 Celebrity roast garb
65 Sunday-through-Friday flyer
66 Vulgarian
67 Starter for center
68 Nothing other than

DOWN
1 First name in suburban humor
2 Stallion with speckles
3 Japanese truckmaker
4 Manicotti, essentially
5 Photo ___ (snapping sessions)
6 "Joint" prefix
7 Taekwondo's origin
8 Name on the cover of "Is for" fiction
9 Caesar's "is"
10 Lite to the max
11 Blossoming time
12 Be overrun
13 Extremities
19 Old-Timers' Day player
21 Possible memory trigger
25 Male with the most acting Emmys
26 Big name in vaccination history
27 Hosp. hubs
30 "Maybe ___"
31 Feathery fast runner
32 WWII female vet
33 Industry, familiarly
34 Motivational motto
35 Wildflower locale
36 Measure of work
37 Ill-wisher
40 Summer Olympics vehicles
43 Gold holder
45 Federal meditators' agcy.
47 PC scrolling key
48 Speak at a podium
49 Popular potation in Poland
50 Midler of music
51 Cider server
52 Clumsy vessels
53 Thwart
56 About 32 million seconds
57 Vendition
59 Whirling toon omnivore
60 Bastille Day season
61 Early sixth-century year



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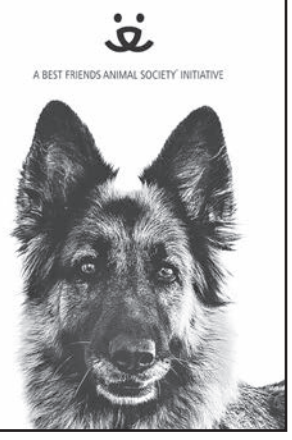
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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 40 CALLS ON SEPT. 25

Automatic alarm 400blk Broadway 12:03 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Pearl St 12:41 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:25 a.m.
EMS 800blk 3rd St 4:34 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 4:37 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400blk 2nd St 6:04 a.m.
EMS 18th St / Arizona Ave 6:44 a.m.
Automatic alarm 400blk Wilshire Blvd 7:43 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 8:32 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 12th St 10:15 a.m.
EMS 500blk Olympic Blvd W 10:44 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 10:49 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 11:51 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:03 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 12:58 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Stanford St 12:59 p.m.
EMS 800blk Ocean Ave 1:37 p.m.
Vehicle into a structure 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 1:57 p.m.
Public assist 300blk Civic Center Dr 2:30 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 2:35 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Broadway 2:48 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1000blk Ocean Ave 2:55 p.m.
EMS 400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:58 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:17 p.m.
Flooded condition 800blk 3rd St 3:21 p.m.
EMS 900blk Franklin St 3:42 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pier Ave 4:29 p.m.
EMS 600blk Broadway 4:43 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:08 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 6:13 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Virginia Ave 6:33 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 6:58 p.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 7:43 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 8:58 p.m.
Elevator rescue 1500blk 4th St 9:32 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 20th St 10:00 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 11:03 p.m.
EMS 600blk Wilshire Blvd 11:26 p.m.

HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 1

public health, and it should take this letter as notice that EPA is going to insist that it meets its environmental obligations," Wheeler said in a statement. "If California does not step up to its delegated responsibilities, then EPA will be forced to take action."

The letter escalates a feud between the Trump administration and California, a predominantly Democratic state that has filed more than 50 lawsuits opposing administration initiatives on the environment, immigration and health care.

"There's a common theme in the news coming out of this White House this week," said Nathan Click, spokesman for Newsom. "The President is abusing the powers of the presidency and weaponizing government to attack his political opponents. This is not about clean air, clean water or helping our state with homelessness. This is political retribution against California, plain and simple."

Wheeler criticized the California Air Resources Board on Tuesday for a backlog of pending rules and regulations intended to reduce toxic smog. State officials blamed the logjam on federal delays in approving the plans. The administration last week revoked California's authority to set its own automobile emission standards.

President Donald Trump warned last week that his administration would serve a violation notice on San Francisco for allegedly allowing needles and other waste to go through storm drains into the Pacific Ocean.

The San Francisco mayor's office did not immediately return a request for comment Thursday but last week Mayor London Breed called Trump's claim "ridiculous assertions." She told the San Francisco Chronicle that the city has a combined sewer system that filters debris before it goes out to the bay.

In his letter to Newsom, Wheeler said urban homelessness was taking a toll on the environment, citing news reports of "piles of human feces" on sidewalks and streets.

"The EPA is concerned about the potential water quality impacts from pathogens and other contaminants from untreated human waste entering nearby waters," Wheeler said. "San Francisco, Los Angeles and the state do not appear to be acting with urgency to mitigate the risks to human health and the environment that may result from the homelessness crisis."

San Francisco is among the few remaining large urban areas that combine stormwater and sewage flows but that have not reached legal agreements with the EPA to ensure those systems comply with the Clean Water Act, Wheeler said. He called on the city to invest billions of dollars on upgrading its sewage treatment system so it could stop releasing untreated and partially treated waste into San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean, a practice he said state regulators have long allowed.

"By failing to maintain its sewer infrastructure, the city allowed raw sewage to back up into homes and businesses," Wheeler said.

He said those shortcomings prompted an EPA review that uncovered problems with California's handing of other federal clean water programs, including 23 significant discharges of water pollutants in recent months that exceeded permit limits.

The investigation also found that in the most recent reporting period, the state had 202 community water systems that exceeded federal standards under the Safe Water Drinking Act for the presence of contaminants such as arsenic and lead, which put nearly 800,000 residents at risk, Wheeler said.

"These exceedances call into question the state's ability to protect the public and administer its SDWA programs in a manner consistent with federal requirements," he said.

Eric Schaeffer, director of the Environmental Integrity Project and a former head of civil enforcement at EPA, accused Trump and Wheeler of using the agency as a weapon to punish political enemies.

"It makes no sense to decide that homeless encampments are a major priority for Clean Water Act enforcement, when EPA has done so little to enforce illegal discharges from much larger sources across the U.S.," Schaeffer said.

AP reporter Janie Har contributed to this story from San Francisco.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 391 CALLS ON SEPT. 25

Living in a Vehicle 100blk Marguerita Ave 12:10 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2100blk Virginia Ave 12:25 a.m.
Living in a Vehicle 2200blk Virginia Ave 2:42 a.m.
Vandalism 1700blk Ocean Ave 3:07 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 700blk Arizona Ave 3:25 a.m.
Living in a Vehicle 200blk Ocean Ave 3:32 a.m.
Vandalism Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 5:47 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk OCEAN Ave 6:43 a.m.
Traffic Collision with Injuries 18th St / Arizona Ave 6:44 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:06 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk 5th St 7:18 a.m.
Person with a Gun 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 7:30 a.m.
Bike theft 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 7:30 a.m.
Encampment 1200blk 19th St 7:38 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 400blk 19th St 7:50 a.m.
Assault 1300blk Princeton St 8:16 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 3100blk Colorado Ave 8:33 a.m.
Encampment 400blk Santa Monica Pier 8:48 a.m.
Fight Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 8:50 a.m.
Grand theft Auto 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:09 a.m.
Vandalism 1500blk 17th St 9:14 a.m.
Battery 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:31 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk Harvard St 9:51 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 15th St 9:56 a.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 4th St 10:00 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 900blk Montana Ave 10:01 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1100blk 12th St 10:02 a.m.
Person with a Gun 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:14 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 17th St / Ocean Park Blvd 10:25 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 2900blk Neilson Way 10:43 a.m.
Panhandling 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 10:53 a.m.
Grand theft 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 11:03 a.m.
Lost Property 1100blk Palisades Park 11:03 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk Michigan Ave 11:21 a.m.
Assault 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:24 a.m.
Fraud 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 11:24 a.m.
Petty theft 100blk Santa Monica Pl 11:33 a.m.
Lost Property 700blk Wilshire Blvd 11:44 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 3100blk Colorado Ave 12:06 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk Pearl St 12:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 600blk Colorado Ave 12:24 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1300blk 2nd St 12:26 p.m.
Battery 1200blk Palisades Park 12:42 p.m.
Encampment Stewart St / Olympic Blvd 12:53 p.m.
Burglary 1900blk 18th St 12:58 p.m.
Encampment 800blk Pier Ave 1:04 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 700blk Euclid St 1:05 p.m.
Petty Theft Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 1:37 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk Washington Ave 1:48 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 1:57 p.m.
Fraud 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 2:40 p.m.
Assault 600blk Colorado Ave 2:44 p.m.
Vandalism 1800blk 9th St 2:48 p.m.
Fight Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 3:15 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk Yale St 3:31 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 25th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:31 p.m.
Encampment Lincoln Blvd / Cedar St 3:58 p.m.
Person With A Gun 4th St / Colorado Ave 4:03 p.m.
Burglary 2900blk 16th St 4:03 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 4:06 p.m.
Found Property 500blk Broadway 4:10 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 800blk 4th St 4:12 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 4:38 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 4:48 p.m.
Petty Theft 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 5:19 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 500blk Olympic Blvd W 5:34 p.m.
Domestic Violence Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 5:41 p.m.
Encampment 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 5:50 p.m.
Vandalism 900blk Palisades Beach Rd 6:25 p.m.
Petty Theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:44 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Ocean Ave / California Ave 8:04 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 2400blk 16th St 8:14 p.m.
Arson 2000blk Idaho Ave 8:26 p.m.
Petty Theft 2300blk 2nd St 8:26 p.m.
Drinking In Public 2500blk 2nd St 8:40 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1300blk Ocean Front Walk 10:17 p.m.
Petty Theft 1100blk 7th St 10:18 p.m.
Fight 1000blk Pacific St 10:30 p.m.
Burglary 1400blk 5th St 11:42 p.m.

KODI LEE

FROM PAGE 6

talent and soaring spirit.

Given the insanity of a Twitter/reality TV White House, Kodi might just renew your hope and optimism. At the risk of sounding cornier than usual, I practically guarantee his performances will bring tears to your eyes and joy to your heart. To that, I can only add, "Bless Kodi Lee."

Google: "All of Kodi Lee AGT performances." Jack is at jackdailypress@aol.com.

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