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Santa Monica Daily Press
MONDAY
09.30.19
Volume 18 Issue 272

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Development displaces 80-year-old hobby shop



Madeleine Pauker

AERO: Keith Alexander has owned Aero Hobbies & Games since 2006, but he's been a regular at the store since he was a teenager. Aero has moved twice from its original location in the Aero building on Montana Ave.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Jon Van Leuven played the role of a merchant, deftly sorting cards depicting silk, spices and gold on a folding table at the back of Aero Hobbies & Games in Mid-City. Across from him, his mother, Sarah, shuffled through her own cards and pushed a few toward the middle of the table.

When the two Van Leuvens play the card game Jaipur, they compete to be the wealthiest trader in Rajasthan's capital. In real life, Van Leuven is a special education teacher and Aero is one of the only businesses in Santa Monica he can afford to visit regularly, he said.

"It's somewhere I can take my mom out to play cards without necessarily having to spend money," he said. "Places like this are few and far between."

But Aero won't be around for long. Developer and film producer Marius Markevicius plans to build a three-story apartment building at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Yale Street, a site that includes the small building Aero has called home for 25 years.

SEE **SHOP** PAGE 11

Local activist makes waves with ocean cleanup website

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer



Mimi Ausland

PLASTIC: Mimi Ausland created freetheocean.com to tackle plastic pollution.

Mimi Ausland found it impossible to ignore the plastic that washed up on the coast of California when she moved from Oregon to San Diego.

Two years later, she launched a website that chips away at the 150-million-ton-problem piece by piece.

On freetheocean.com, anyone can remove one piece of plastic from the ocean by answering an educational question about plastic pollution. The website donates 100% of its advertising revenue to the nonprofit Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i, which organizes several volunteer beach cleanups each year that draw hundreds of volunteers and remove thousands of pounds of debris from Hawai'ian beaches.

"Once I knew about the plastic

SEE **OCEAN** PAGE 5

City Hall streamlines review process for some buildings renovations

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

It could soon get a lot easier for Santa Monica homeowners to remodel their houses and replace their landscaping.

The Architectural Review Board is planning to delegate approval of some projects to city staff, which would make it easier and faster for residents and businesses to renovate their properties. It would also allow the board to devote greater focus to larger projects.

"We're seeing more projects in the city than we usually do, and part of why we're bringing this to you is so you can spend more time on more important projects," Stephanie Reich, the city's urban designer, told board members as they discussed expanding staff authority Wednesday.

Reich said many property owners have been renovating their

SEE **RENOVATIONS** PAGE 6

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Report of Water Quality and Public Health Goals

DATE/TIME: December 10, 2019 / 5:30 PM

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

A public hearing will be held by the Santa Monica City Council to receive and file the 2019 City of Santa Monica Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals.

Each year the City of Santa Monica publishes its Annual Water Quality Report which includes details about the water that Santa Monica residents and businesses use every day. Along with information regarding important current water issues, the annual report includes information required by the Federal and State governments to illustrate how the quality of the water at the consumer's tap compares against established water quality standards. These water quality standards are established by Federal and State regulations as MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels). Consistently, Santa Monica's water is shown to be in full compliance with all regulatory water quality standards.

Every three years, all water agencies in California are required to prepare a Public Health Goal (PHG) report. A PHG is the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water that poses no significant health risk if consumed for a lifetime. PHG standards are lower than Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). The purpose of this report is to provide consumers with information on levels of contaminants even below the enforceable MCLs to inform them of whatever risks might be posed by the presence of these contaminants at levels below the MCLs.

Details about Public Health Goals, how they were developed, what they mean, and the current state of the City's water quality are included in the 2019 City of Santa Monica Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals. The report will be received and filed at a public hearing by the Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. Public comments can also be heard at this time. This report is available for public review at the City Clerk's office in City Hall, the Main Library, the Water Resources Division office, and online at the Water Resources Division website at:
https://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/Public_Works/Water/PHG%20Report%202019%20Final%20Combined.pdf

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

City of Santa Monica

Ordinance Number 2616 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2616 (CCS), which was adopted by the City Council at its September 24, 2019 meeting.

Ordinance Number 2616 amends Chapter 6.20 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to strengthen regulation of home-sharing by requiring that hosts be either a natural person owner or a long-term resident, restricting the number of occupants in and visitor vehicles at a home-share, limiting the number of groups to which a host may book a home-share, requiring hosts to obtain an annual home-sharing permit in addition to a business license, and clarifying requirements that the host lives on site and operates only one home-share.

The ordinance will become effective thirty days after adoption. The full text of the ordinance is available from the Office of the City Clerk located at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90401; phone (310) 458-8211.



What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Monday, September 30

Yoga
All levels. Drop in for $15/class or purchase package through Reserve Santa Monica. Parking included. Annenberg Community Beach House, Sand & Sea Room 9 - 10 a.m. https://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/classes.aspx

Beach Volleyball - Adult 6
Ages 16+ (co-ed); Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced options; in a semi-private setting. Check Reserve Santa Monica for more info. Location: Annenberg Community Beach House, 6 - 7:30 p.m. https://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/classes.aspx

Tween Tech Club: Green Screen FX
Love computers and tech? Join the Tween Tech Club and learn a new technology every month. This month, learn about green screen special effects! Visit the Pico Branch Library Annex to register starting September 9, 3:30 - 5 p.m. Contact Stephanie Aurelio at 310-458-8684.

L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now
One-on-one access to volunteers available to help students with homework assignments and reading comprehension. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Main Library, Children's Activity Room, 3:30 - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, October 1

Write Away
Gain feedback and encouragement in your writing efforts from fellow writers in this supportive writer's meet-up. Fairview Branch Library, 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Cybersecurity for Parents and Caregivers
Learn and discuss best current practices, tips and tools to keep children safer online at any age. Bring the kids and we'll keep them busy with on-theme activities. For parents and children. Ocean Park Branch Library, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Gentle Yoga at Fairview
A class that is safe for seniors and beginners, as well as relaxing and stress-releasing for pros, veteran instructor Raghavan guides participants through a gentle session of yoga and meditation. Space is limited. Please bring a mat or towel to the program. Fairview Branch Library, 6:30 p.m.

Soundwaves: Angel City Jazz Festival Young Artists Competition
The Southland's finest young jazz musicians (between 18-25) compete for a spot on the prestigious Angel City Jazz Festival. Library: Main Library, Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 2

Senior TAP Workshop at Ken Edwards Center
Seniors over 62 with a valid ID can apply for free senior reduced fare TAP card. Includes travel and TAP card use training. City Hall, Ken Edwards Center, 1 - 2 p.m. http://bigbluebus.com/tapworkshop

Green Prize for Sustainable Literature - Screening BLUE
Santa Monica Public Library's annual Green Prize for Sustainable Literature Awards, followed by a screening of the movie Blue and a panel discussion, Aero Theater, 1328 Montana Ave, 7 - 10 p.m.. Reserve a free seat at https://bit.ly/2lTYaoT

Field Sports Advisory Council Regular Meeting
Regular monthly meeting of the Field Sports Advisory Council (FSAC). FSAC is an advisory council to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Virginia Avenue Park, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Westside Writers Mingle
A monthly meeting of SCBWI, an organization of children's writers and illustrators. Open to all. October topic: Breaking Down the Gates: Getting an Agent. Ocean Park Branch Library, 7 - 8:45 p.m.

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

Westside Together

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Reality of Food Insecurity

By Darci Niva, Coalition Director of Westside Coalition

Food insecurity is a reality, even on the Westside. Food insecurity means is "limited, uncertain, or inconsistent access to the quality and quantity of food that is necessary to live a healthy life," according to the California Food Policy Advocates. So, low income populations, the homeless community, seniors on a fixed income, one in five college students and others often turn to community and government resources available to meet their particular deficit. The most notable resource for food insecurity is the SNAP program or food stamps. But there are proposed cuts, deep cuts, to SNAP benefits and if you talk to almost anyone on the SNAP program, you will find that it isn't enough to last through the month. When that happens, families and individuals turn to other resources to make up the difference. The proposed cuts to the SNAP program would disproportionately affect working families and seniors over the age of 60.

It seems as though many of the agencies and organizations that are members of the Westside Coalition have their own resource guides or pamphlets that they can hand out to folks coming to them for assistance. So, we put the various resource guides into one online google sheet and at first glance it seems as though there is a wealth of resources, including ample food. But as one might expect, it is never quite as easy as it seems. For those experiencing homelessness, one cannot purchase more than they can immediately eat if the food needs to be refrigerated, making grocery shopping more expensive and more frequent. For those in housing, food deserts are a very real issue. Food deserts are areas where access to affordable, healthy food such as fresh fruits and vegetables is limited because there is no grocery store nearby. People living in food deserts often buy food from convenience stores such as 7-11, which aren't necessarily known for stocking a lot of healthy choices. Even with the many food banks available through faith-based organizations and nonprofits, transportation becomes a barrier in a large city like LA. For seniors, trying to navigate the transit system and carry bags of groceries can seem insurmountable.

Years ago, when I worked for a city government as a case manager for the homeless population, I witnessed a pattern that I will never forget. It appeared to me that when a person first became homeless they were very motivated to do whatever it took to get back on their feet. They would see a case manager, look for work, do whatever they had to do. But within a few weeks time, I watched what could be called the survival mechanism set in. People were so busy just trying to stay alive (food, shelter, shower, etc.) that they didn't have a lot of time or energy left to actually work on getting out of the hopeless situation they found themselves in. One agency might serve breakfast but getting a shower could be a long way from there and bus tokens are hard to come by. If a friend is watching their possessions, they have to trade off, so that the second person can eat and get a shower at another location. Hours later, the first person looks for a second meal, a place to get a blanket or maybe wash their clothes, if they are lucky. It takes all of their energy to simply maintain their status quo.

When I look at the collective resource list, it is clear that it takes every program on this extensive list, every agency, every organization, every faith-based group to address the growing crisis of homelessness and the misery of food insecurity. I also realize how interconnected each resource is to make a successful "picture" that attempts to solve these very large problems. Each one of us has a part to play and sometimes just understanding that it isn't quite as simple as it might seem goes a long way toward healing our community. I am so amazed at the churches, synagogues, temples and mosques that serve meals or have food pantries or other programs in tandem with the social service agencies. An example is the Senior Celebration that Mt. Olive Lutheran Church has each month. Most of the seniors that come are not members of the church, but a wonderful, healthy meal is served. There is an interesting program in partnership with St. John's Hospital and all of the leftover food is divided up and sent home with people. The warmth, friendship and love is palpable. These are the kinds of incredible things that Westside community members are doing to help out. It makes me proud to be a part of such a giving community lovingly facing enormous challenges.

Email for the resource link: info@westsideshelter.org

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Ordinance Number 2615 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2615 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2615 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") amends Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 4.36.020 related to permanent relocation assistance. The ordinance adds an additional circumstance in which a landlord must pay a permanent relocation. Specifically, a landlord must pay a permanent relocation fee to a tenant whose tenancy is terminated if two conditions apply: 1) the landlord has been granted an exemption from rent control because the rental unit is owner-occupied with no more than three units; and 2) after the landlord received that exemption, the landlord notified the tenant of an intent to increase rent beyond the amount that would have been permitted pursuant to the rent control law. The ordinance also clarifies the language regarding the other circumstances in which a landlord must pay a permanent relocation fee.

Ordinance Number 2615 (CCS) was adopted on September 24, 2019, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Ordinance Number 2617 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2617 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2617 (CCS) ("the Ordinance")

The Ordinance adopts the 2019 California Energy Code, 2019 California Green Building Standards Code, as well as Santa Monica's local amendments to both codes. The Ordinance is accompanied by a resolution providing findings of local climatic, geological, topographical, and environmental conditions as is required in order to make local amendments. The City Manager is also directed to file Santa Monica's local energy amendments and a cost-effectiveness study with the California Energy Commission. The California Energy Commission will hold a public hearing to discuss and potentially approve Santa Monica's local energy amendments.

Ordinance Number 2617 (CCS) was adopted on September 24, 2019 and, upon approval by the California Energy Commission, shall be presented to Council for a third reading in order to become effective by January 1, 2020.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

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Week of September 30, 2019



ANNUAL WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

For the week of September 30, the contractor will be connecting the newly installed water main on Ocean Avenue between California Ave and Wilshire Blvd. They will also continue with street restoration on 17th Street between Robson and Pier Avenues and on Pico Blvd between 4th Street and Main Street. Traffic will be closed to northbound traffic on Ocean Avenue and reduced to one lane in each direction on Pico Blvd. Please use alternate routes whenever possible.

ADVANCED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, PHASE 5 PROJECT

For the week of September 30, construction will continue on the Advanced Traffic Management System, Phase 5 Project. This project will upgrade the traffic signal equipment at four locations and install fiber optic cables along Montana Ave and 26th St. The project will provide transit priority along the corridor, allow for real-time remote monitoring and management of the traffic signals, provide public Wi-Fi along the corridor, and connect the San Vicente Reservoir and the Montana Avenue Branch Library to the City's network. We appreciate your patience during the project, to provide this safety improvement and public enhancements. Please contact Andrew Maximous, Project Manager at (310) 458-8291 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

FIRE STATION #1 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

For the week of September 30, construction will continue throughout the project area located at 1377 7th Street which will affect the sidewalk and parking lane on the east side of 7th Street just north of Santa Monica Blvd. Sidewalk and parking lane will continue to be closed all day/night through the month. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Senior Construction Manager Sebastian Felbeck at (310) 434-2675.

ALLEY RENEWAL PROGRAM

For the week of September 30, alley renewal will take place at various locations throughout the city. No traffic impacts on surface streets, however temporary closures of alleys may occur. Residential parking passes will be issued, as necessary. Please contact Robin Jarrett at (310) 863-6773 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

DOWNTOWN /EXPO VEHICLE BARRIERS PROJECT

For the week of September 30, there are no planned closures on Colorado Ave between 4th St and 5th St. Remaining work to install bollards will be completed at a later time. Please contact Saad Malim at (310) 458-8293 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

ANNUAL WASTEWATER MAIN PROJECT

For the week of September 30, sewer main repair work will take place on 23rd Court between Washington Place and Idaho Avenue. Please contact Saad Malim at (310) 458-8721 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

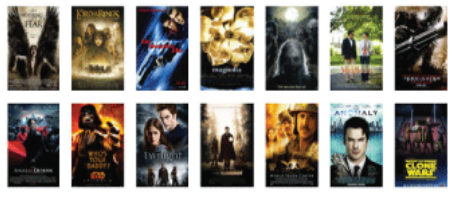
CITY YARDS MODERNIZATION PROJECT

For the week of September 30, construction will impact the project area located at 2500 Michigan Ave, which will affect the sidewalk and parking lane on the north side of Delaware Ave just east of 24th St. Please contact Project Manager Joel Cesare at (310) 458-8549 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

STORM DRAIN & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

For the week of September 30, storm drain catch basin improvements work will take place at 25th Street and Montana Avenue. Potholing work for a new storm drain line in Pier Place alley will also be underway. Please contact Saad Malim at (310) 458-8721 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Madeleine Pauker
madeleine@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

AWARD WINNER

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT MANAGER
Andrew Hilsberg
andrew@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Cynthia Citron,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Sarah A. Spitz

PRODUCTION
Esteban inchaustegui Moreno
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

AWARD WINNER

Santa Monica Daily Press
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 10,000 on weekdays and 11,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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OCEAN

FROM PAGE 1

problem, I couldn't not do something about it," Ausland said. "It's a huge, daunting issue, and I wanted to give other people a way to make an impact."

Like most members of her generation, 23-year-old Ausland is keenly aware of the climate crisis. While Free The Ocean is designed to allow users to make an impact quickly and easily, Ausland's hope is that the website will inspire people to reduce their plastic consumption and push for legislation that keeps plastic from ending up in the ocean in the first place.

Ausland, now a Santa Monica resident, is uniquely prepared to embark on that mission. At 23, she already has more than a decade of experience in nonprofit work.

When she was 11 years old, Ausland started a click-to-donate website called freekibble.com with the help of her parents to help feed shelter animals in her hometown of Bend, Oregon. The website quickly attracted media attention and a sponsor company, and has since donated more than 24 million meals to homeless dogs and cats around the country.

Ausland was serving as the face of Freekibble, but she was also learning what goes on behind the scenes of a click-to-donate website. Today, Ausland leans on that knowledge to handle the day-to-day operations of Free The Ocean — with advice from her father, Kelly, a business consultant, and help from Mittun, a Santa Monica-based website provider for nonprofits.

"I worked with her closely on the tech part of it, but it's completely guided by her in approach and voice," Kelly Ausland said. "She's true to her purpose and I think people respond to the authenticity of that."

In the roughly 40 days since Free The Ocean launched, it has generated enough revenue to remove more than 500,000 pieces of plastic from the ocean.

Equally important is the education that Free The Ocean provides those hundreds of thousands of unique users, said Rafael Bergstrom, executive director of Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i. In addition to the trivia questions users answer, the website also includes a list of 10 things people can do to reduce their plastic consumption and a broad overview of the plastic issue.

"Free The Ocean will create a much larger awareness of plastic pollution, which is crucial because the solution to the problem really lies in stopping the pollution at its source, which requires changing consumer habits, policy and business decisions," he said.

Bergstrom said he admires Millennials like Ausland who are dedicating their youth to addressing climate and environmental crises.

"It shows an understanding of how dire these situations are. When I was 23, I didn't have that much foresight," he said.

Ausland said her initial goals for Free The Ocean are removing one million pieces of plastic and reaching 50,000 daily users.

She's also hard at work finding ways to retain an active community of users. Incentives to keep coming back to the site include a leaderboard of how many pieces of plastic users have removed and photos of Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i's cleanups — and in the future, top users may be flown out to join the cleanups.

"I want people to be able to see the impact they make," Ausland said.

madeleine@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMMUSD Bond Oversight Committee Accepting Applications for School Facilities Improvement District No. 1

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's School Facilities Improvement District No. 1 (Santa Monica schools) Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee for Measure SMS is seeking qualified candidates who meet that criterion, in accordance with Section 5 - Membership of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee for Measure SMS Bylaws.

There is one (1) vacancy for a member of the community at-large. The committee shall consist of at least seven (7) members appointed by the board upon the recommendation of the superintendent from a list of candidates that have each submitted written applications, and based on criteria established by Proposition 39, to wit:

- _One (1) member shall be the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district.
- _One (1) member shall be the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district and active in a parent-teacher organization, such as the PTA or a school site council.
- _One (1) member active in a business organization representing the business community located in the District.
- _One (1) member active in a senior citizens' organization.
- _One (1) member active in a bona-fide taxpayers association.
- _Two (2) members of the community at-large.

Additional members of the community at-large may be appointed at the board's sole discretion; however, the board is only required to appoint seven members meeting the above criteria.

Qualification Standards.

(a) Committee members must be at least 18 years of age.

(b) As specifically prohibited by Education Code Section 15282, the Committee may not include any employee, official of the District or any vendor, contractor or consultant of the District.

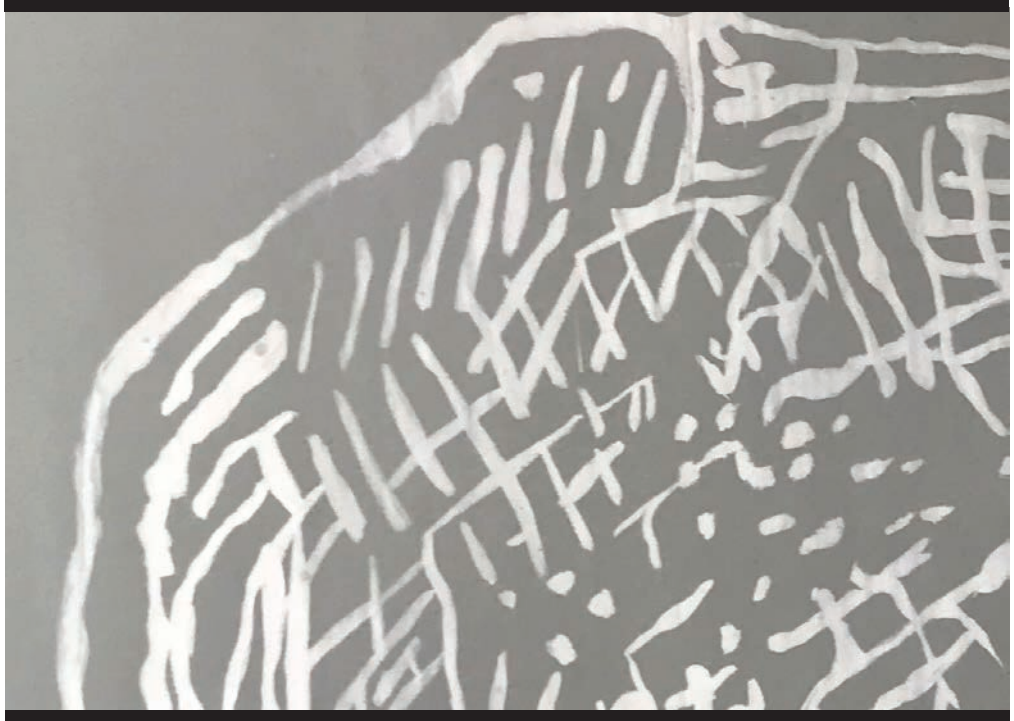
(c) Residency within boundaries of SFID No. 1 is not required for service on the Committee. However, preference may be given to applicants who reside within SFID No. 1.

Application forms are available through the Superintendent's Office or via the website: http://fip.smmusd.org/CitizensOversight/application.pdf

Applications can be mailed to the district office (1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404) or scanned and emailed to boc@smmusd.org.

SUBMITTED BY GAIL PINSKER GAIL PINSKER

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RENOVATIONS

FROM PAGE 1

buildings' façades in the past two years. Remodels to 1960s-era apartment buildings are particularly common.

Homeowners also regularly apply to add square footage to the backs of their houses or to construct freestanding rear units, she said.

The board often automatically approves façade remodels or rear additions or suggests only a few changes. Property owners could start their projects more quickly if staff reviewed their applications, Reich said.

Staff would ensure that property owners used high-quality materials in façade renovations, said city planner Russell Bunim. For example, Santa Monica enforces a de facto ban on white vinyl windows, he said.

Similarly, it would be easier for property owners to add or switch out landscaping if staff could review applications for new landscaping up to 1,000 square feet, Reich said.

Streamlining that process could encourage more property owners to replace existing landscaping with drought-tolerant landscaping, she added.

Board member Joshua Rosen asked that staff emphasize the preservation of mature trees when approving landscaping applications.

Reich said it is also very common for businesses to change their signage and recommended that staff review all applications for new signage that comply with the city's zoning code.

"Signage plays an important role in the beauty of our city, but I think we have a pretty developed signage code," Rosen said. "This would be an area where I personally would be more willing to let go of our review."

The Architectural Review Board would still review façade, landscaping, additions or signage changes to historic properties, buildings on the Third Street Promenade or Main Street.

Staff would also be able to require board review if a project appears too substantial or is otherwise not appropriate for administrative review.



Matthew Hall

DESIGN: Developers are eyeing Santa Monica properties for renovations.

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Earth Talk

By the editors of E Magazine

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



DEAR EARTHTALK: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM STORMS LIKE KATRINA, SANDY AND HARVEY ABOUT PROTECTING OUR COASTAL CITIES BETTER FROM THE WARMING-INTENSIFIED MAJOR STORMS HITTING THEM?

-- MITCH WYNDAM, BURLINGTON, VT

Major storms like Katrina, Sandy and Harvey were devastating to local populations and reformed the landscapes of the regions where they made landfall. They also changed the way we think about—and design—our coastal cities. Let's hope we've learned about where (and where not) to site habitable buildings as well as the importance of maintaining—even expanding—natural buffers that protect the places where people live from unnecessary property damage and/or loss of life.

New York City has gotten busy bolstering itself against future "super storms" like 2012's Sandy. Code changes like requiring electrical transformers to be in the upper floors (not basements) of commercial buildings, and developing feasible strategies for shuttering tunnels, airports and subways, are just a few of the changes wrought by Sandy.

Developing resilient infrastructure is another way that city planners are hoping to mitigate future flooding issues, like at the recently opened Hunter's Point South Park along the East River in Queens. One especially climate-resilient feature of this park is a big playfield made of synthetic turf that can "detain" a half million gallons of water when the East River overflows during a high tide or storm surge. When the tide goes back out—or the storm moves on—the detained water is slowly released back into the river through a network of exfiltration channels hidden beneath landscape features. An outer wall protects natural barrier marshes that filter water and can also absorb and detain more stormwater as needed.

It was surprising just how walloped New Orleans was by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, given that the city's leaders and residents were used to regular flooding during storm events. But the damage, displacement and loss of life from this "100-year-storm" event spurred long overdue efforts to bolster the city's defenses against floodwaters—including efforts to conserve and expand outer marshlands which serve as

buffers against storm surges and flooding.

New Orleans also bolstered its infrastructure and capacity to handle flood waters. "Given similar evacuation conditions to those seen in Katrina, the [new] system is expected to reduce potential loss of life by as much as 86 percent without pumping and up to 97 percent with 50 percent pumping for a 100-year flood event," reports Wolfgang Kron of insurance giant Munich Re. He adds that New Orleans' post-Katrina flood mitigation system should reduce property damage by 90 percent for a 100-year flood event and 75 percent for a 500-year event, compared to the pre-Katrina situation. While New Orleans hasn't been tested on such a major scale since Katrina, everyone is hoping the projections bear out when the next major storm hits.

As for lessons learned from 2016's Hurricane Harvey, it's too soon to tell, as many Houston-area residents are still in recovery mode. But no doubt some of the lessons from Katrina and Sandy will be applied in Houston and other coastal cities around the world getting ready for rising sea levels and more extreme flooding and storm surges as global warming heats things up.

CONTACTS: Hunter's Point South Park, nycgovparks.org/parks/hunters-point-south-park; Munich Re, munichre.com.

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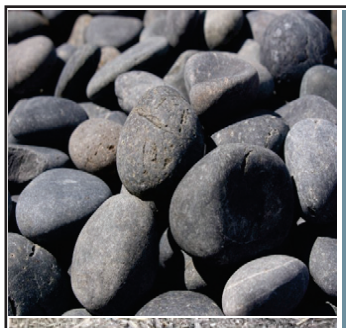
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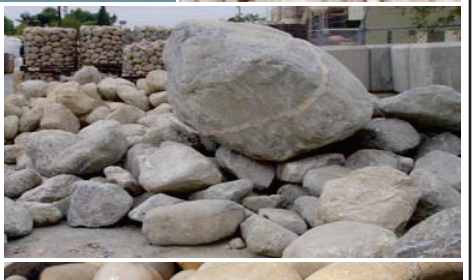
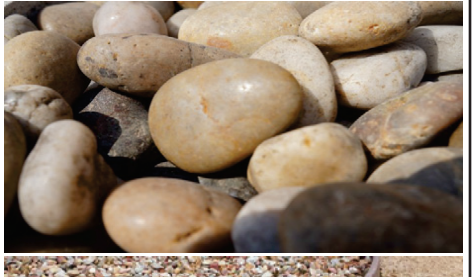
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 30)

This is not a zero-sum game. Many can and will win when you do. Keep trying new methods though because the traditional ways are flawed. You can and will simultaneously follow your ambition, keep your karma clean and lift those around you. Ready yourself for big November and May opportunities. Pisces and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 18, 4 and 13.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's better to focus on your desire than on what's blocking you from having it. Remember that you're very likely to get more of whatever you focus on, so keep your eye on the prize.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A self-care regimen is something that you don't give a lot of thought to because the habits are more or less engrained in you. Your needs are beginning to change though, so let your lifestyle lean into the shift.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It would be cruel to blame yourself for the coping strategies you created when you didn't know any better. There is not a human that walks this earth who doesn't have some kind of maladaptive way of dealing with stress.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Courage will speak to you with the vocal range of a great actor. Sometimes it's a whisper telling you to make move, try again, speak up... and sometimes it's a holler and a push.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The reason you should give yourself credit has nothing to do with pride or boastfulness; rather, it's the kindest thing you can do for those around you. When you know your worth, you don't lean on others to validate you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When it gets a little weird, one option is to retreat, a natural impulse. But it's not the best one to follow if you need a little help. You might be surprised who will step up if given the chance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Bringing people together changes things regardless of your reason for doing so. Whatever you can do to bring people together will be not only appreciated but also crucial to the alliances of the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't build, simplify. Shore up what already exists. Get rid of the excess, and you'll be struck by the value that was there inside all along. It's like finding a perfectly formed pearl inside a shell.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's OK to be out of your league. It's uncomfortable, and could even trigger a panic, but that is also OK because you'll live and learn. The gift of a big experience is that it teaches you quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You might not be able to say it the way the other person would like to hear it, but why should you have to? Instead of concerning yourself with other people's preferences, stay true to the essence of what you mean.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As you operate in groups today, spread your attention. Each person has something to contribute. Don't let yourself get so dazzled by the flashier talents that you ignore the rest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Actively seek help and a mentor will materialize -- the first of many. Maybe this one won't take you the whole way, but what's important now is getting inspired, educated and empowered to take the next step.

Pluto's Dramatic Pause

This cosmic square of Venus and Pluto is equivalent to that moment in the movie when the life-altering information drops, strike up the "duh-duh-duuuuuuum" music and watch the actors play their version of "stunned." Only since life isn't a movie, the information is nuanced, reactions vary, and the music is whatever is next on the playlist.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION:

"My parents are getting divorced, and it is really awful for me. It was pretty bad when they were living in the same house and fighting all of the time, so I'm glad that they are in separate places now. However, it's like they are obsessed with talking about each other to me, and each one is trying to poison me against the other. I think they are ridiculous and childish. I'm starting to wonder if I can get divorced from both of them. I'm 16 and a Libra. Do you think I should try to get emancipated?" As a Libra, you do have special luck with the legal system and if you choose to go this route you will make your case thoroughly. However, I believe that you should not try to be emancipated -- except as a last resort. You are diplomatic by nature. Is it possible that for all your kindness and diplomacy you have not told your parents how much their words hurt you? Urge each one not to talk to you about the other one. Stand up for yourself, and if you can't, get a counselor (such as an impartial family member, church elder, school or family therapist) to stand up for you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

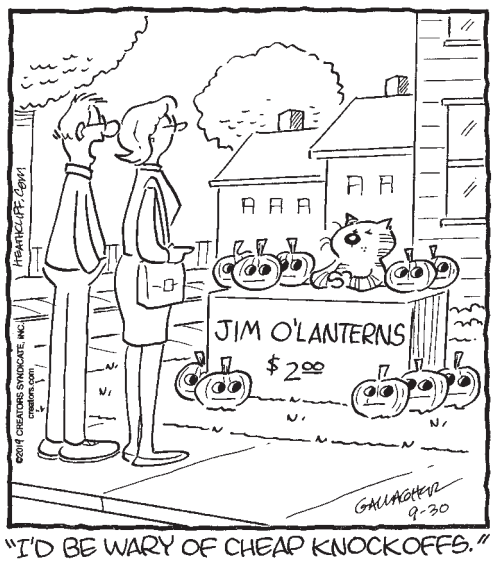
Turning 17 today, Maddie Ziegler has already shown more self-discipline in her work than many adults will in their entire careers by meeting the demands and pressures of excellence and artistry in her dance practice. The Libran innovator (with lucky Jupiter in Leo) is also an actress, alter ego for the pop star Sia and design collaborator with the Fabletics brand of activewear. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com**

WORD UP!

Viridity
Noun [vuh-rid-i-tee]
Youth; innocence; inexperience.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I'D BE WARY OF CHEAP KNOCKOFFS."

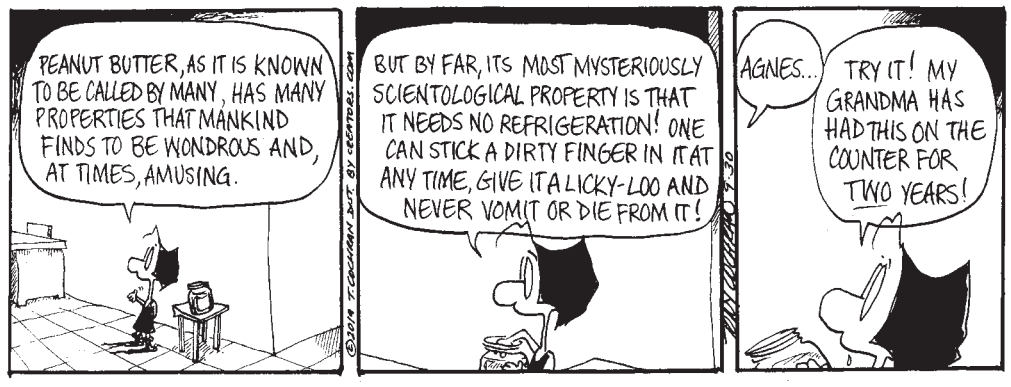
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



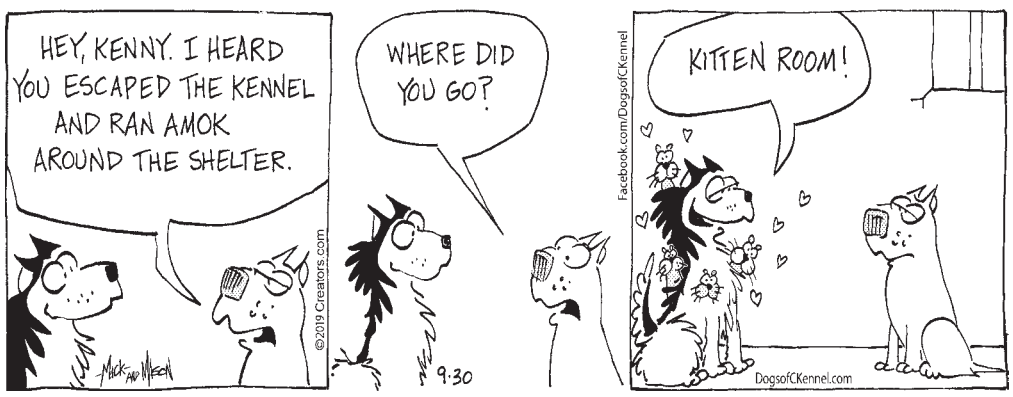
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

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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: 09/26
1 2 17 20 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 09/26
Evening: 0 7 2

Draw Date: 09/27
Midday: 2 5 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 09/26
1st: 06 - WHIRL WIN
2nd: 03 - HOT SHOTS
3rd: 11 - MONEY BAGS
RACE TIME: 1:41.81

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 71.6°

MONDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ waist to shoulder high
Long period SW swell holds. Lingering NW windswell. AM offshore winds.

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ waist to shoulder high
Easing SW swell. New SSW swell to fill in. NW windswell may continue. Potential for AM offshore flow.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

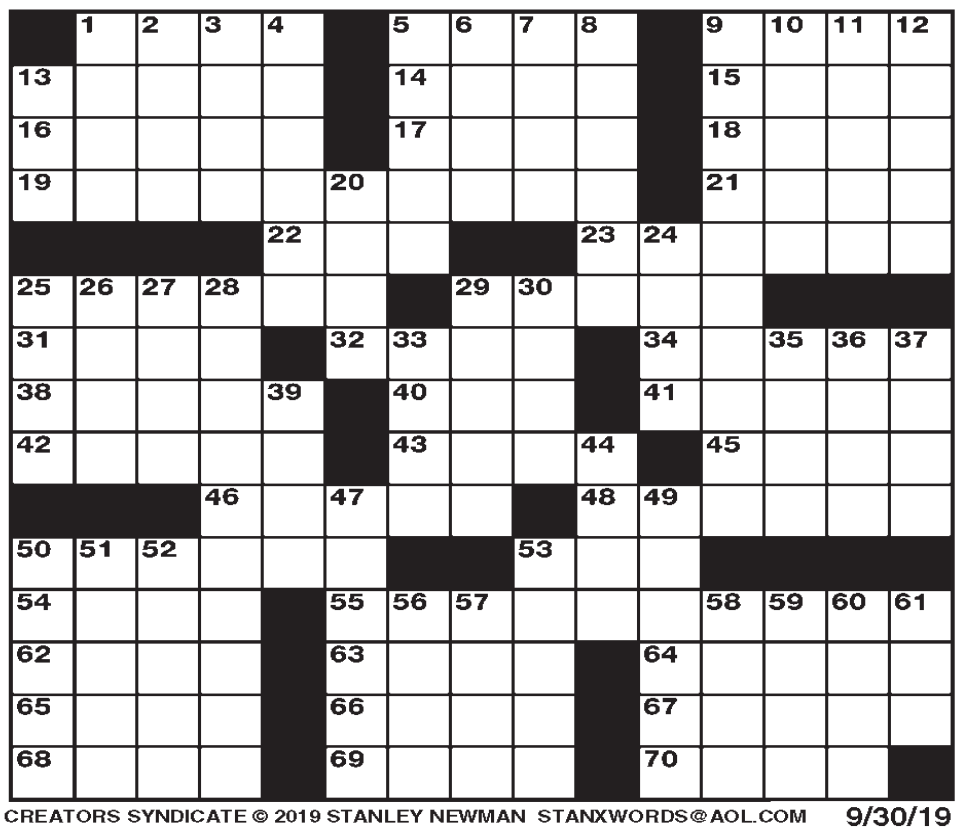
3	6	8	2		5			
	5			3		2		9
	9	2		6			3	
6		7			9			2
			7		1			
5			4			9		7
	8			1		7	9	
2		6		4			1	
			6		3	8	2	4

Newsday Crossword

FOR THE WEATHER by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Measure of carbs or protein
5 Numerical fact, for short
9 Thin lock of hair
13 Boxing match site
14 Sugar lump's shape
15 Turn ___ (become)
16 One eating at a restaurant
17 More than
18 Cozy corner
19 Blizzard cleanup machine
21 Sand hill
22 Once around a track
23 Creator of a pearl
25 Church steeples
29 Winfrey of TV
31 Alan of *M*A*S*H*
32 Angry, informally
34 Become edible, as fruit
38 ___ as a rock (reliable)
40 Round green veggie
41 Dig deeply
42 "Laughing" African beast
43 Spanish bull
45 Hawaiian garlands
46 Impolite
48 Foot-operated levers
50 Curved parts of feet
53 Rowboat blade
54 Parcel (out)
55 Beachgoer's eyewear
62 Grand-scale story
63 And others: Abbr.
64 No longer edible
65 Quick kiss
66 Identical
67 National bird
68 Sounds of disapproval
69 Backyard tool building
70 Sandwich breads

DOWN
1 Big smile
2 Nevada casino city
3 All over again
4 Rock used for sculptures
5 Ice-cream serving utensil
6 Letters after S
7 Busy as ___
8 "Holy" brat
9 Auto's front glass
10 Come ___ of the rain (dry off)
11 Boulder or pebble
12 Card game with flushes
13 Billboard displays
20 Young girl
24 Three-foot measure
25 Wide belt
26 Ruse
27 Not doing anything
28 Tickets for postponed baseball games
29 Triple-decker cookies
30 Bosc or Bartlett
33 ___ out (declines to participate)
35 "Not guilty," for one
36 Wicked
37 Loch ___ monster
39 Act boldly
44 White gem
47 Evaluate
49 Pencil mark remover
50 Highly skilled
51 Tug-of-war cords
52 Computer mouse sound
53 Stared at
56 Great Salt Lake's state
57 John, Jane, or Jackson
58 Remain
59 Wise person
60 Letters after kays
61 Take a look at



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019242173 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/09/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Giobella. 1323 12th St. Apt H , Santa Monica, CA 90401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Carlos Ramos 1323 12th St. Apt H Santa Monica, CA 90401. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Carlos Ramos . Carlos Ramos . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/09/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/16/2019, 09/23/2019, 09/30/2019, 10/07/2019.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019248894 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/13/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Teri Amberstone. 2528 29th St , Santa Monica, CA 90405. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Teri Davis Bernstein 2606 29th St Santa Monica, CA 90405. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Teri Davis Bernstein . Teri Davis Bernstein . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/13/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/23/2019, 09/30/2019, 10/07/2019, 10/14/2019.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019242257 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/09/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Hair By Yuya . 1422 2nd St Unit B , Santa Monica, CA 90401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Yuya Hatano 2033 S Sherbourne Dr Unit 12A Los Angeles, CA 90034. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)06/2019. /s/: Yuya Hatano . Yuya Hatano . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/09/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/30/2019, 10/07/2019, 10/14/2019, 10/21/2019.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019241563 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/06/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as NEIGHBARISTA. 23120 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 24 , NEWHALL, CA 91321. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: GOOD NRG, INC. 23120 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 24 NEWHALL, CA 91321. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:CHRISTOPHER JAN NOWINSKI. GOOD NRG, INC.. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/06/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/30/2019, 10/07/2019, 10/14/2019. 10/21/2019

Services

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Employment/Help Wanted

CAREGIVER NEEDED ~ job is for 5 Days a Week – 5 Hours per Day – Salary is $20 per Hour. For more details about the position, email me (jholtty147@gmail.com)

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 19SMCP00438
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of Rodrick Hersh for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: Rodrick Hersh filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Rodrick Hersh to Alberto Bosi. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing:
Date: Nov 8, 2019, Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K, Room: A-203
The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: Sept 12, 2019

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 19SMCP00417 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Kristin Hill for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Kristin Hill to Kristin Van	Vlack The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date: Nov. 1, 2019, Time: 8:30 a.m. , Dept: K, Room: A-203 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF	CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press. Date: Aug 29, 2019
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 19SMCP00419 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Shelana Miya Philip-Guide for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Tristan Earle Mount to	Tristan Earle Philip-Guide The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date: Nov. 1, 2019, Time: 8:30 a.m. , Dept: K, Room: A-203 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF	CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press. Date: Aug 30, 2019
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 19SMCP00447 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Kazue Takemoto Sakata for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Kazue Takemoto Sakata filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows Kazue Takemoto Sakata to	Sally Kazue Takemoto. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date: 11-15-19 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: k, Room: A-203 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF	CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press. Date: Sept 16, 2019
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 19SMCP00451 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Elizabeth Rose Noll for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Elizabeth Rose Noll filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows Elizabeth Rose Noll to Elizabeth	Rose Lefae. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date: 11-22-19 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: k, Room: A-203 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF	CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press. Date: Sept 18, 2019
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 19SMCP00317 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Ginfe Way for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Ginfe Way filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Ginfe Way to Gina Ginfe Way Orsborn.	The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date: 11/15/2019, Time: 8:30a.m, Dept: k, Room: A-203 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF	CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press. Date: September 20, 2019

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 AT 4:13PM

Officers responded to a shoplifting call at the TJ Maxx store located at 1251 4th St. Two male suspects were walking around the store and concealing items. One of the suspects was in a wheelchair and was concealing the clothing items in the backrest of his chair. The two suspects exited the store, not paying for the items and were followed out of the store by loss prevention. Police arrived on scene and met with Loss Prevention. The suspects were placed under private person's arrest and taken into custody without incident. No photos of the suspects were available. Jeffrey Burt, 34, and Alexander Bryant Goode, 29, were arrested and cited for shoplifting.

SHOP

FROM PAGE 1

Aero will likely close by the end of the year, said owner Keith Alexander. The 80-year-old business has changed locations twice before, but Alexander said that's not an option this time.

"There's nowhere affordable in Santa Monica or even the Westside anymore," he said.

Alexander said plans made more than a decade ago to redevelop the site were shelved when the recession hit. He said he expected the capital that has flowed into Santa Monica's housing market since then to reach his quiet corner of town eventually.

The new building at 2906-2918 Santa Monica Blvd. will contain 46 apartments — four of which will be restricted to households that earn less than $21,000 annually — and commercial space on its ground floor.

Across the street, construction on a three-story, 50-unit complex at 2822 Santa Monica Blvd. will begin soon and another apartment building up the street at 3008 Santa Monica Blvd. was completed in April.

"The land Aero is on is immensely valuable," Alexander said. "In the eyes of developers, the community we've built has no value."

Local and state lawmakers say building more housing will help solve California's affordability crisis. It's a simple economic calculation: enlarging the supply to meet the demand will lower prices.

But for Van Leuven, it's hard to see the upside in a luxury apartment building replacing his favorite hobby shop. He said Aero's impending closure feels symbolic of the economic stratification between the city's longtime residents and businesses and more affluent recent arrivals.

"All these new buildings are going up, but a lot of the time, the retail spaces in them either are vacant or turn over very quickly because the rent is so high," he said. "Only retail giants can survive here. The businesses that are part of the character of the city have to do really, really well to survive, or they're gone."

Alexander, who grew up in Santa Monica himself, first started working at Aero while attending Santa Monica High School in the 1980s.

"I worked for cash, but I never made any money," he said. "I spent it all in the store on games."

He graduated from Samohi in 1990 and was working as a sailor eight years later when the store's then-owner, Gary Switzer, asked him to run the store while he recovered from surgery for cancer. Alexander bought Aero when Switzer died in 2006.

Don Rice, who started going to Aero was a fifth-grader in 1975, said he went both to get his Dungeons & Dragons fix and to talk to Switzer about all things science fiction and fantasy.

"He had read all the books I'd read, I could ask him about any game and he had a career painting miniature figurines so I could ask him for tips on painting my armies," Rice said. "When (Alexander) took over the store, it was the same thing — he's knowledgable about all kinds of strange stuff you can't talk to anyone else about."

For the past 13 years, Alexander and his wife Shanti Ellis provided a place where customers can use tabletop role-playing games to concoct epic stories, exercise creativity by painting tiny, intricate models and make friends through competitive card and board games.

Alexander plans to start hosting private role-playing game sessions when Aero closes. But that means only those with the means to hire him will have access to the games that were previously available to any customer who walked into Aero, he said.

Not all will be lost for Santa Monica's nerds and geeks. Although Evett's Model Shop also closed earlier this year, Hi De Ho Comics, the Los Angeles region's longest-running comic book shop, offers space to play games in its Downtown Santa Monica location.

Still, Ben Shepard, a regular at Aero for the past five years, said Aero's closure will displace the tight-night communities that have formed around various games.

"I've met a lot of people and made some very close friends here," he said. "There are other game stores around LA. But Aero is special because Keith and Shanti made it so welcoming."

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