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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY
10.02.19
Volume 18 Issue 274
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A FAST FOOD STABBING
A man was stabbed outside Jack in the Box last week. Page 10

NOMA MEETING THURSDAY
WISE, SMDP updates and zero waste options. Page 2

Spa guests allegedly assaulted at hotel



Madeleine Pauker

SPA: A former employee has filed a suit against a local hotel.

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

A lawsuit filed against the JW Marriott Le Merigot hotel alleges an employee was wrongfully terminated after she reported that spa employees had allegedly sexually assaulted guests.

Former Le Merigot spa manager Christina Mills said she repeatedly asked the hotel's general manager Damien Hirsch to fire the staff members who allegedly sexually assaulted spa guests, but he ignored her and the employees then allegedly assaulted more guests. The Santa Monica Police Department investigated at least one incident, according to the lawsuit filed Sept. 19.

"(Hirsch) treated (Mills) as if she was hypersensitive and overreacting to claims of sexual assault because she was a female," Mills' attorney, Anthony Liberatore, wrote in the lawsuit. "(She) was told by

SEE **LAWSUIT** PAGE 5

Muir Woods Mural could be on the chopping block



Brennon Dixson

MUIR WOODS: The school formally known as John Muir Elementary and Olympic High School is being renamed in honor of the Obamas.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Board members of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are expected to discuss a number of items that are pertinent to the community when they gather Thursday in Malibu for the first school board meeting of the month.

NEW PROGRAM

In an effort to improve the academic, emotional and physical well-being of students, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District could soon partner with the county's office of education to participate in the Community Schools Initiative.

Board members have postponed considering a memorandum of understanding with the Los Angeles County Office of Education since Aug. 1, but if the prospective MOU were to be approved Thursday, SMMUSD would become one of 15 districts across the state chosen to participate in the program, according to this week's agenda.

The board item has been rescheduled a few times as the district awaits the final MOU from LACOE, district spokeswoman Gail Pinsker said in an email Monday, stating that she expects the board to approve the pilot program once all the paperwork

SEE **MURAL** PAGE 11

Fed-up San Francisco neighbors use rocks to block homeless

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

A group of San Francisco neighbors said they had to do something to make their street safe. Their answer? Some giant rocks.

Fed up with what they see as the city's failure to combat homelessness and rampant drug use, the neighbors had boulders delivered to their sidewalk to block people from pitching tents on their street.

That started a fight that shows the frustration with an unprecedented homelessness crisis in California. Cities are struggling to address the lack of affordable housing and a growing number of homeless encampments that are popping up on city streets, sometimes in neighborhoods.

"Everyone was so desperate that we decided to team up because this was not a tent or two with homeless people," said John, a neighbor who spoke on the condition he only be identified by his first name because of threats residents have received over the boulders. "These were drug dealers in large tents, and people coming in and out, and people not feeling safe walking to their own home at night."

The boulders went up in an alley

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 7


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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

156 Fraser Avenue, Variance 19ENT-0036. The applicant requests approval of two Variances to allow for an addition of a third story to an existing single-unit dwelling and for a reduction of required parking from two spaces to zero. The subject property is located in the Low Density Residential (R2) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.42.020, Variances may be granted with respect to development standards upon the discretion of the Planning Commission. This item was reviewed and continued by the Commission on May 22, 2019 and by staff on September 4, 2019. [Planner: Ross Fehrman] **APPLICANT: Chris Stage. PROPERTY OWNER: Smith-Hantas Family Trust.**

1639-1649 9th Street, Conditional Use Permit 19ENT-0202. The applicant requests approval of a Conditional Use Permit (19ENT-0202) to allow the operation of a kennel in conjunction with a non-profit dog rescue operation known as the Happy Dog Project within a new two-story, 13,413 square foot building on a 29,034 square foot parcel in the Industrial Conservation (IC) zoning district. [Planner: Scott Albright] **APPLICANT: Quezada Architecture. PROPERTY OWNER: 1639 9th Street LLC.**

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

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

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or to provide comments, please contact Steve Mizokami at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at steve.mizokami@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.smgov.net.

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

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

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

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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. 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.

Mindfulness Meditation
Natalie Bell, Mindful Wellness consultant, and/or guest facilitators from UCLA Mindful Awareness Center, will guide a session, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 5:30 - 6 p.m.

Thursday, October 3

NOMA meeting
The mission and offerings of WISE and Healthy Aging services; the plans of the Santa Monica Daily Press in our city presented by Editor-in-Chief Matthew Hall, and what all residents should know about SM's new Zero Waste Plan will be the main topics of discussion at the North of Montana Avenue Neighborhood Association's monthly meeting Thursday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Montana Branch Library. All are invited, with social time beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Just for Seniors: Computer Basics I
Hands-on introduction to computers. Learn how to use a mouse and keyboard, work with Windows, and basic computer terms. Beginner level. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, please visit the Main Library Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library Computer Classroom, 2nd floor, 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Community Kids: Art and Social Justice
Come create your own social justice-themed artwork. For children ages 6-12. Main Library, Children's Activity Room, 5 - 6 p.m.

Library Board Meeting
Library Board Meeting in Administration Conference Room, 2nd Floor near computer commons. 7 - 9 p.m.

Soundwaves: Michael Vincent Waller
Post-minimalist composer Waller's work performed by R. Andrew Lee (piano) and William Winant (percussion). Main Library, Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, October 4

Paola Escobar Dance Performance
Choreographer-in-Residence Paola Escobar presents the culminating performance of her residency project. The work, tentatively entitled "Darning and Patching without a Nail," ranges across the Beach House site and uses a collage technique to refer to Escobar's identities as a Latina artist, an immigrant, and a practitioner of multiple dance forms. Annenberg Community Beach House, Center Lot, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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

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

GOP attorney sues California for alleged voter violations

JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

A Republican lawyer who has waged lawsuits on behalf of the Trump administration sued the state of California and its Department of Motor Vehicles Tuesday, saying the agency is failing to verify citizenship for voter registration.

A federal lawsuit filed by attorney Harmeet Dhillon comes after a state audit found the California DMV's "motor voter" program that started last year was riddled with technical problems that led to hundreds of thousands of discrepancies in voter registrations. Dhillon said that audit helped bring issues raised in her lawsuit to light.

The lawsuit alleges that California Secretary of State Alex Padilla and the director of California's DMV, Steve Gordon, have violated the National Voter Registration Act and that Padilla has "forsaken his duty to ensure that non-citizens" are kept off voter rolls. She said the lawsuit does not allege voter fraud but that the state is neglecting one of its duties as outlined by the voter act.

"It is important for the sanctity of our elections that only people who are entitled to vote, which for federal elections means citizens, be allowed to vote," Dhillon said at a news conference.

Dhillon, a Republican National Committee member, filed the lawsuit on behalf of three U.S. citizens living in California, Roxanne Beckford Hoge and Ali Mazarei, both of whom are naturalized citizens, and Corrin Rankin.

Dhillon said all three are Republican voters but that the lawsuit was nonpartisan. The plaintiffs "feel passionately that the right to vote should be restricted to citizens only, as the law requires," she said.

The lawsuit asks a court to rule that California be required to use a variety of data to verify citizenship eligibility before enrolling people to vote.

Padilla said in a statement that the lawsuit was "a fundamental misrepresentation" of the voter act.

"The plaintiffs claim they are protecting voters, but this is nothing more than an underhanded attempt to bring their voter suppression playbook to California," Padilla said in a statement. "California remains committed to ensuring the integrity of our elections, empowering citizens to participate in democracy and defending the right to vote."

Dhillon said the secretary of state's office has 90 days to respond. Padilla's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

California launched the "motor voter" program in April 2018. It automatically registers people to vote when they visit the DMV unless they opt out. Potential errors in voter registration and other issues prompted former Gov. Jerry Brown to initiate an audit by the Department of Finance, which then hired the private firm Ernst & Young to help.

The audit, released in August, found that the system was confusing to voters and full of technical problems that led to discrepancies in voter registrations sent to the secretary of state. It said none of the discrepancies in about 3 million voter records reviewed resulted in major voter registration efforts, such as recording the wrong political party for a voter or allowing someone to vote who should not have but the audit did not rule out the possibility of major errors in other registrations.

Last year, DMV officials said an error may have allowed about 1,500 people, perhaps including non-citizens, to incorrectly register to vote. After the report's release, the secretary of state's office said six people who were registered to vote despite opting out cast ballots in 2018.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

RFP: # 239 WEB-TO-PRINT

- **Submission Deadline is, October 31, 2019 at 12:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **City's Online Vendor Portal**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The Santa Monica Housing Authority (SMHA) is pleased to announce the selection of the following owners for the award of Project-Based Housing Choice Vouchers: Moussa Mahyar Spencer Hunt, Joseph W. Baur, 410CAL, LLC, Benjamin Strock, Step Up On Second Street Santa Monica Christian Towers, Inc., Westminster Towers, Step Up on 26th, LLC., Donna Hay, John Fasal, Jose Corral, Pico Apartments, LLC, Scott Cherkasky, Sean Scofield, Claude R. Short, LLC, Ann D'elia, Community Corp Of Santa Monica, Valdez, Frank, Wong and Barth, a partnership c/o Blackstone Realty & Management, Inc., Kayla & Talia, LLC, Leonard Billet, 14th Street Partners, LLC and K & W Enterprises. SMHA wishes to thank the owners for their participation in the program and for being a part of the solution to address affordable housing needs.

The award of the vouchers furthers SMHA's goal of de-concentrating poverty and expanding economic and housing opportunities for low-income families in the City of Santa Monica, California. SMHA will continue to accept applications on an ongoing basis from owners interested in Project-Based Housing Choice Vouchers for apartments located in the City of Santa Monica. For information and the application, please contact Patrick Gregorian at 310-458-2200 x5798 or Patrick.Gregorian@smgov.net. SMHA will continue accepting applications until further notice.

SMHA is an equal employment and housing opportunity agency.

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Court: FCC can dump net neutrality, but can't bar state laws

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

A federal court has cleared the way for state and local governments to bar internet providers from favoring some services over others, even as the court affirmed the Federal Communications Commission's right to dump national rules.

Even so, legal experts say state and local efforts will be subject to challenges.

Tuesday's appeals court ruling is the latest development to shine a light on states' lead on tech policy. California has enacted a strict data privacy law to protect users on services run by Facebook, Google and Amazon, for example, while Congress is still debating a national privacy law.

And it's California that passed the strongest net neutrality law in the wake of the FCC's 2017 repeal of federal rules approved during the Obama administration.

While the appeals court ruling handed Trump-appointed regulators a partial victory in affirming the FCC repeal, consumer advocates and other groups viewed the ruling as a victory for states and local governments seeking to put in their own net neutrality rules.

The California law had been put on hold until Tuesday's decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

"The pathway has been cleared," said Ryan Singel, a fellow at the Center for Internet and Society at Stanford Law School. "They can still be challenged, but that challenge just became easier for them to win."

But it's not a slam-dunk, said Daniel Lyons, a professor at Boston College Law School. State laws will now be taken up on a case-by-case basis to see if they conflict with federal policy. Lyons said he anticipates most of the state efforts will fail.

Net neutrality has evolved from a technical concept to a politically charged issue, the focus of street and online protests and a campaign issue lobbed against Republicans and the Trump administration.

The FCC's 2015 net neutrality rules had barred internet providers such as AT&T, Comcast and Verizon from blocking, slowing down or charging internet companies to favor some sites or apps over others.

After the FCC repealed the rules, phone and cable companies were permitted to slow down or block services they don't like or happen to compete with. Companies could also charge rivals higher fees and make them pay for higher transmission speeds. All companies had to do was disclose such practices.

Meddling with internet traffic has happened before. In 2007, for example, The Associated Press found that Comcast was blocking or slowing down some file-sharing. And AT&T blocked Skype and other internet calling services on the iPhone until 2009.

Tech companies and 22 states challenged the FCC repeal in court. They included Mozilla, developer of the Firefox web browser, and Vimeo, a video-sharing site. Aligned with the government were big internet providers including AT&T, Verizon and Comcast.

"Today's decision is a victory for consumers, broadband deployment, and the free and open internet," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement. He maintained that speeds for consumers have increased by 40% since the agency's 2017 repeal "and millions more Americans have gained access to the internet."

The federal court directed the FCC to rework its order to include the impact of its repeal on public safety, utility pole access and Lifeline, a program that provides internet access to low-income consumers.

Last year, Verizon was criticized for slowing down firefighters' internet service while they battled what became the largest wildfire on record in California. Verizon responded by promising to lift restrictions on public safety customers and provide full network access when other disasters arise.

Pai said the agency will address the "narrow issues" cited by the court.

The FCC has long mulled over how to enforce net neutrality. The agency had twice lost in court over net neutrality standards before a Democrat-led commission in 2015 made internet service a utility, bringing phone and cable companies under stricter oversight. An appeals court sanctioned the 2015 rules.

After the 2016 election, net neutrality became one of President Donald Trump's first targets as part of broader government deregulation. Pai, the more industry-friendly FCC chairman he appointed, made rolling back net neutrality a top priority. He repealed the rules in 2017, saying they had undermined investment in broadband networks.

AP Technology Writers Mae Anderson in Atlanta and Tali Arbel in New York contributed to this report.

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ASSAULT

FROM PAGE 1

supervisors not to speak to detectives that responded to the sexual attack."

The JW Marriott Le Merigot is located on Ocean Avenue near the Santa Monica Pier. The hotel has recently come under fire from the hospitality union UNITE HERE Local 11 for refusing to recognize its housekeepers' 2017 vote to join the union.

Mills was hired as spa manager in September 2016 and was quickly promoted to spa director. She received an award from the hotel in 2017 for turning the spa, which had been losing money, into a profitable enterprise.

Hirsch wrote that Mills had addressed the spa's problems and optimized its productivity, according to the lawsuit.

"She was the absolute perfect fit for what needed to happen in this hotel," he wrote.

Mills told Hirsch and other members of upper management that the spa's hairstylists, nail technicians and massage therapists were allegedly illegally misclassified as independent contractors rather than employees.

Because the staff members were classified as contractors, they did not get full pay and benefits nor meal and rest breaks, according to the lawsuit.

Liberatore said he contacted several Santa Monica hotels about how they classified spa workers, including Loews, Shutters on the Beach and the Fairmont Miramar. All classified staff members as employees.

She also asked Hirsch for permission to fire spa employees whom guests said had inappropriately touched them. He refused to allow Mills to terminate them because he was afraid the employees would sue them for allegedly misclassifying them as independent contractors, according to the lawsuit.

In May 2018, after Mills had achieved the goals Hirsch set for the spa, she told him she planned to move to New York City. Hirsch asked her to stay for 12 months at a salary of $70,000, plus the ability to earn an additional $5,000 for her own spa appointments.

Despite the fact that Hirsch and Mills agreed to those terms, Mills was fired in November 2018. Liberatore said she was fired for reporting sexual assault and labor violations.

"Given the ongoing issues surrounding sexual abuse of guests by staff and (Mills') continued reporting ... of ... misclassification, (the defendants), decided they should fire (Mills) to prevent her from being around to potentially speak with law enforcement," Liberatore wrote in the lawsuit.

"(The defendants) also fired (Mills) because (she was) the ideal witness to be used against the hotel in the inevitable labor claim that was forthcoming from staff based on unlawfully treating them as independent contractors rather than employees," he wrote.

Liberatore filed the lawsuit against Hirsch and Columbia Sussex, a hotel company that operates the JW Marriott Le Merigot. Mills seeks damages to cover lost past and future income and benefits in a sum to be determined at trial.

Columbia Sussex Corp. declined to comment on the lawsuit. Hirsch could not be reached for comment.

madeleine@smdp.com

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 46 CALLS ON SEPT. 30

EMS 1300blk 15th St 12:05 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 12:05 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 12:48 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 12:57 a.m.
EMS 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:32 a.m.
EMS 00blk Pico Blvd 3:19 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 4:02 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 9th St 5:05 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400blk Montana Ave 6:25 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 2nd St 7:16 a.m.
EMS 1700blk 16th St 7:57 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:02 a.m.
EMS 700blk Idaho Ave 8:18 a.m.
EMS 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:24 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 10:16 a.m.
EMS 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 10:28 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 10:32 a.m.
EMS 400blk San Vicente Blvd 10:52 a.m.
EMS 800blk 10th St 10:55 a.m.
EMS 500blk Olympic Blvd W 11:59 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2300blk Wilshire Blvd 12:10 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 1:48 p.m.
Structure fire 2400blk Hill St 2:04 p.m.
EMS 2300blk 23rd St 2:09 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:41 p.m.
EMS 800blk Ocean Ave 2:43 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 20th St 3:07 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2800blk Pico Blvd 3:14 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Olympic Blvd 4:49 p.m.
EMS 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 4:54 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 4:56 p.m.
EMS 800blk Wilshire Blvd 5:02 p.m.
EMS 1800blk 7th St 5:13 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 5:27 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 6:34 p.m.
EMS Main St / Marine St 7:09 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Ave 8:34 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 10:05 p.m.
Assist LAFD 300blk Entrada 10:50 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 10th St 10:51 p.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 11:00 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 11:17 p.m.
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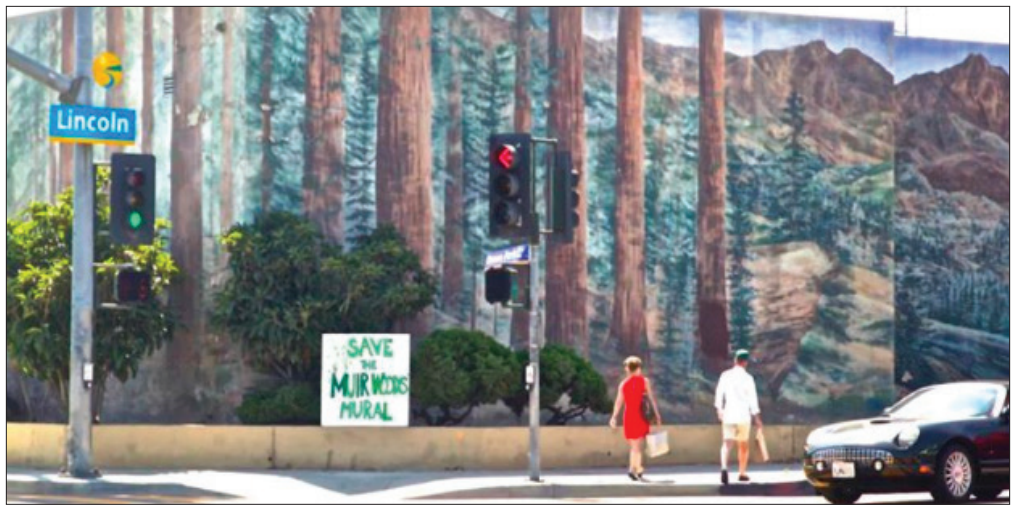
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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Muir Woods Mural slated for destruction



File photo

MURAL: Despite efforts to save the mural, its destruction is up for debate on Thursday.

IT HAPPENED PRETTY FAST

But it's not too late, if you speak up, NOW! Take just a moment, now. Email your support to save and restore this iconic, environmental 1978 mural at Lincoln and Ocean Park — to the Santa Monica-Malibu United School District (SMMUSD) School Board at:

brd@smmusd.org

Ask them to unanimously vote to consider saving, not destroying, the mural. Or at least to move the agenda item to a Board meeting held in Santa Monica — where the mural is — not Malibu. VERY important.

For more than five years the Save The Muir Woods Mural group — local peace and environmental activists Jerry and Marissa Rubin, and me — worked respectfully and diligently with Olympic High School and SMMUSD, who had declared their intention to paint over it and replace it with a different mural. Never then, or now, for any good or compelling reasons.

We followed the rules, participated in a months-long mediation process, kept many of our elected representatives and SMMUSD officials aware of our ongoing efforts to demonstrate widespread support, and all the other reasons why it must be preserved and restored.

SAVE THE MURAL! — *former Mayors Nat Trives, James Conn, Paul Rosenstein, Denny Zane, Michael Feinstein; SM City Council Member Sue Himmelrich; School Board members President Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Craig Foster, Oscar de la Torre, Ralph Mechur; former School Board member and current State Sen. Ben Allen, and his mother Elena, former chair of SM Arts Commission; SM Recreation and Parks Commission; SM Task Force on the Environment.*

We waited patiently, for years, for the matter to come before the Board, so we could make our case.

So now it has. But wait — at tomorrow night's Board meeting? — in Malibu?! Four days notice, and only because someone chanced upon the new agenda item:

"VI.C.1. Exterior Painting...

Recommended Motion: It is recommended that the Board of Education direct staff to paint the southeast walls of the Michelle and Barack Obama Center for Inquiry and Exploration the same exterior wall color as the rest of the school and add a painted sign identifying the facility's name."

Don't consider preserve or paint over. Only one choice. This "recommendation" came from the SMMUSD staff, without any input at all from our group. No notice, even, to our Save The Muir Woods Mural group, representing so many concerned residents and groups worldwide, that it would finally, finally be considered and voted on by the Board. This is not a mural of buildings or people, it's a redwood forest. Now, 2019, when we all know our environment is in crisis, you're going to trash that? Nice message for the kids.

SAVE THE MURAL! — *Michael Muir and Lynne Hanna Lincoln, Great Grandchildren of John Muir; Sierra Club: Executive Director Michael Brune, former national board member Marcia Hanscom, WLA Group and Chair David Haake, LA Chapter board member George Watland; founder and President of TreePeople Andy Lipkis; former Chair of SM Environmental Task Force Mark Gold (also a former President of) - Heal the Bay: former president and CEO Ruskin Hartley, President and CEO Alix Hobbs, board member Todd Flora; Ecology Center of Southern California Director Nancy Pearlman; President of NAACP SM Chapter Darrell Goode; minister of The Church in Ocean Park Rev. Janet McKeithen.*

Does this sound like a raw deal to you? Unfair, even underhanded? To make it even more certain the residents don't get to weigh in, it's on the consent calendar, which means it's voted on along with other items generally agreed upon, with no discussion allowed. I received an email from an honored

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 10

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

off Market Street, one of San Francisco's major thoroughfares. They stopped people from putting up tents for a couple of weeks, until homeless advocates learned about them and rolled some into the street.

The city stepped in because they posed a safety hazard, hoisting the giant rocks back onto the sidewalk. But the activists returned, pushing them onto the street again.

The tug-of-war appears to have ended this week after neighbors asked the city to remove the rocks, saying they are being harassed with calls, emails and people shouting threats when they leave their homes.

It shows the clash in California over how to curb a growing crisis. While residents want to protect themselves from drug dealing or other safety issues, advocates say there's nowhere else for people to go who have been squeezed out by rising housing prices and income inequality.

"I believe there has to be a better solution than blocking people from using a public sidewalk," Greg Aherne, who was bringing sandwiches and hygiene kits to the homeless, told the San Francisco Chronicle. "The rocks send the wrong message. But it shows how desperate people are."

Los Angeles also is struggling with homelessness, and the owner of a cultural center used a similar approach this summer by erecting massive planters to block people from camping around his building.

The crisis also has triggered a new fight with President Donald Trump, who accused San Francisco and Los Angeles of failing to clean up waste, including needles, and blamed their liberal policies for the problem. He has said he would do something to fix it but didn't offer specifics.

The mayors of both cities have pushed back on his claims but have said they welcome his help if he contributes federal funding.

In San Francisco, John said that in the last six months, neighbors started reporting dealers armed with knives and guns hiding drugs in planters outside their windows. Their street felt so unsafe that he and his wife would meet their guests at a grocery store nearby and walk them to their house, he said.

John said about 40 neighbors chipped in to buy the boulders after calling the city and police dozens of times. He said they asked the city to remove the rocks after the harassment started.

City workers removed the boulders Monday and are storing them while the neighbors decide what to do, Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru said Tuesday.

"Nobody wants drug dealers across the street from their homes, and the city has a responsibility to partner with neighbors to make sure they have a clean and safe neighborhood," Nuru said.

He said the neighbors did not have a permit for the boulders and agreed to work with the city in the future.

Despite a $12.3 billion annual budget, San Francisco has long struggled to house homeless people and keep streets clean of human waste and needles, especially in districts with many people who are homeless or addicted to drugs.

The city set up public toilets and announced formation of a team last year to clean up human waste. It says there are at least 1,000 people on a waiting list for shelter beds on any given day.

In Los Angeles, figures released in June showed a 16% jump in its homeless population over the last year, to 36,300 people — the size of a small city.

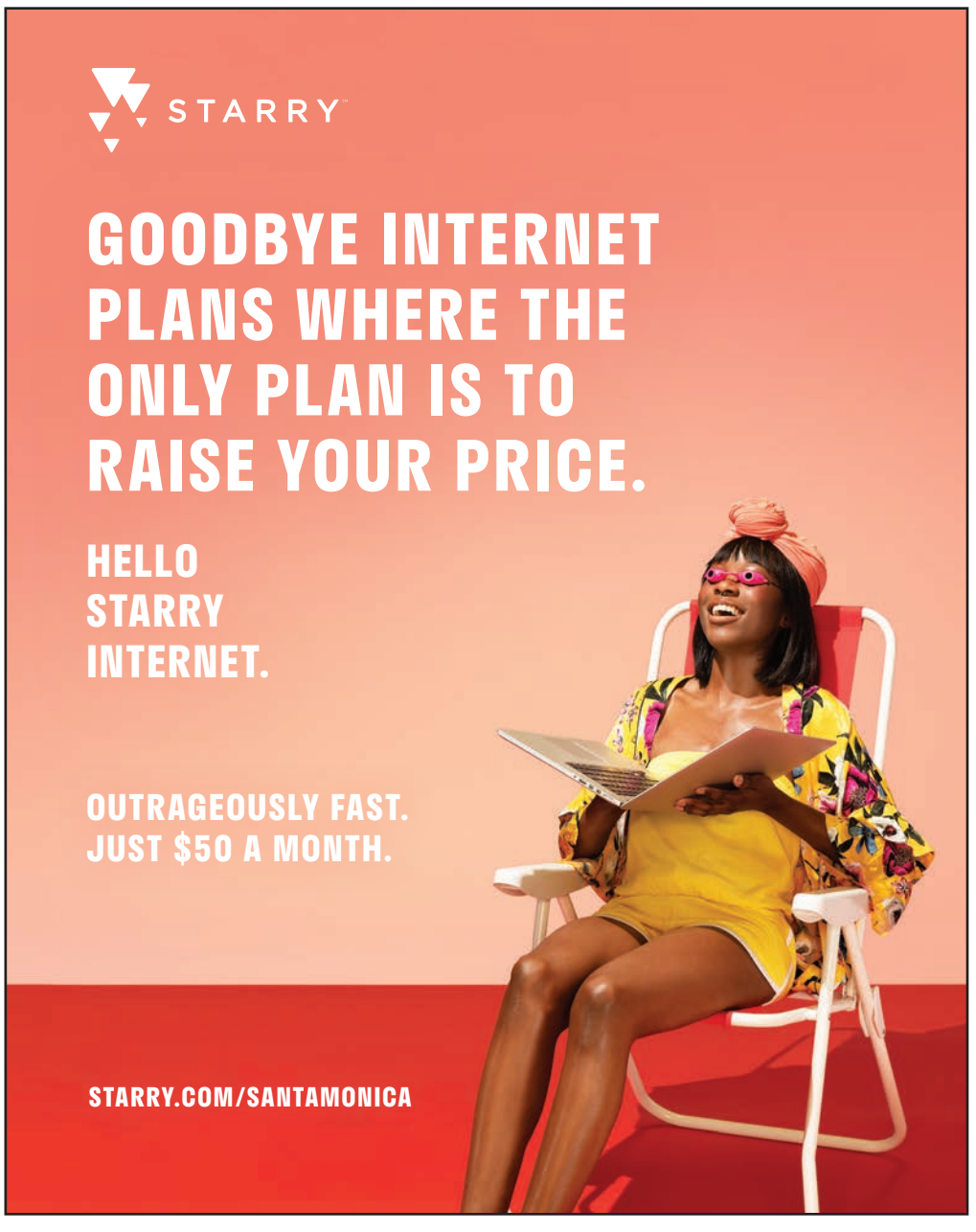
Peter Mozgo, who runs the Hungarian Cultural Center in downtown Los Angeles, had become so frustrated with losing business because of the rows of tents along the perimeter of the building that he set up about 140 planters on the sidewalk to prevent homeless people from camping.

"We lost so much weddings because people don't want to rent it anymore," Mozgo told the Los Angeles Times.

He didn't return a message seeking comment Tuesday.







TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (OCTOBER 02)

More than ever you want to help humanity at large. You find small ways to do it, though. At every turn, you do what you can and then discover one day that what you can do has quadrupled. This is the power of intention and consistent action in one direction. Fun friendships form. Your love life becomes richer, too. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 35, 31, 15 and 28.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You get a surge of power from helping. Seeing how you can favorably impact another person starts a trend that you definitely should not leave yourself out of – impact your own life favorably, too!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can see good in people, even when their actions don't happen to particularly reflect it. Just don't give more leeway than is good for you. Distinguish the decent but temporarily inept from the dangerously toxic individuals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're socially versatile, and you could find common ground with a space alien. Just know that you don't always have to be agreeable. Sometimes the best rapport is built by recognizing and accepting differences.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are those terrible listeners in your life who are prone to making wrong assumptions... you know who they are. Avoid communication errors by going extra lengths to be understood. Put it in writing if you have to.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're going through a cycle of increased sensitivity. It won't last forever, but in the days and weeks to come, you'll need more sleep, less noise, more peace and less exposure to rambunctious people and environments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Natural and/or aesthetic surroundings will lift you. Go to green spaces, open sky or anywhere there will be pretty things to delight your eyes. Beauty is soul balm!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Connection is built with compromise. Ideally, the compromise will be inconvenient enough that you feel it and take notice but not inconvenient enough that it seems to steal from your time and energy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't expect to process things as they happen. First of all, it's inhuman – we are always fractions of a second behind the present due to our slow senses. Second, some complexities take decades to come to terms with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As for your rarer traits, don't waste a second wishing you didn't have to deal with them, because they will be the source of your most cherished gifts. Figure out what's good in this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have to find that reward system that really works for you. It's the best thing you can do for your health and your overall sense of self-control.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sensibilities vary. You'll hear things that aren't meant to offend but nonetheless could. Consider letting up. It takes a lot of energy to be offended, and many times it's not worth it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You understand the way a person is and will try to help that person navigate in a world that is not so accommodating to special needs. This is an act of protection and love that won't soon be forgotten.

Pluto Turns Around

The five-month Pluto retrograde ends. This ruler of profound, life-changing and often mysterious power has been keeping a lid on that energetic intensity, turning it inward, referencing it in theory and foreshadowing but not showing a lot of the raw emotion through action. The months to come offer a direct expression of deeper truths.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS

"My boyfriend has wandering eyes, and I can't trust him. He insists that he would never cheat on me, but I have caught him ogling women many times, and to tell the truth, it's getting old. How do you get a Sagittarius guy to have eyes for only one girl?" Adventurous, passionate, enthusiastic Sagittarius is the sign of exploring. A roaming spirit is better for a pioneer than an eyeball. In a calm, cool and collected way, bring the issue up to your boyfriend. Tell him how his ogling affects you and makes you feel, and ask him to please stop. Make it clear how important this really is to you; tell him it's a nonnegotiable item. If he continues, then my advice is to toe a hard line and break up with him. It may seem harsh, but this habit is probably so ingrained in him that he may never change. And if it is possible for him to change, he would need a very good reason – like the fact that you just broke up with him – to be the catalyst for that change.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

One can never tell where television personality Kelly Ripa will turn up next. Whether she's playing herself on a hip comedy show like "Broad City" or joining the fantasy world of "Riverdale," her never-ending Libra enthusiasm and sparkling sense of humor shine through. Ripa has natal sun and Uranus in breezy, balanced Libra, and four luminaries in scintillating Scorpio. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

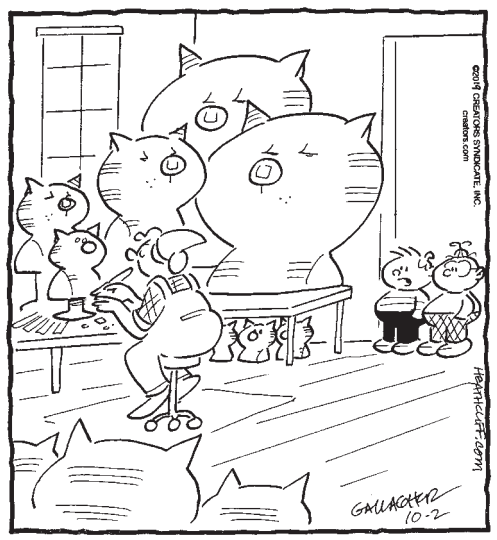
Extenuate

Verb (used with object) [ik-sten-yoo-eyt]

To represent (a fault, offense, etc.) as less serious: to extenuate a crime.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"MY GRANDMA IS INTO SCULPTURE."

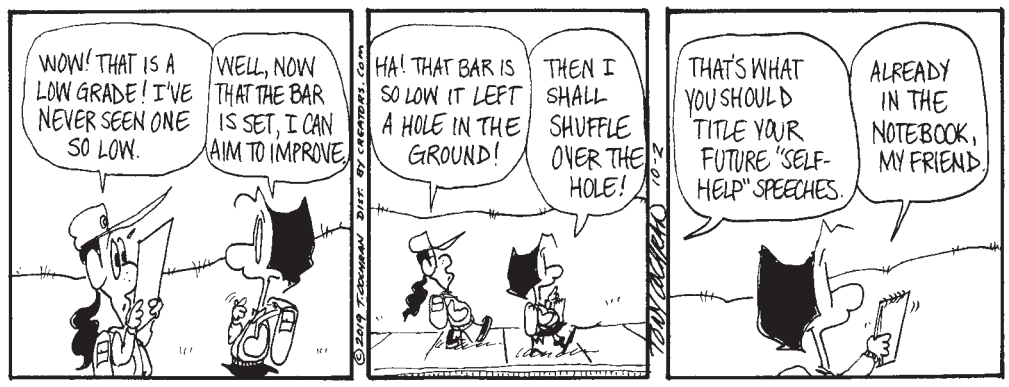
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



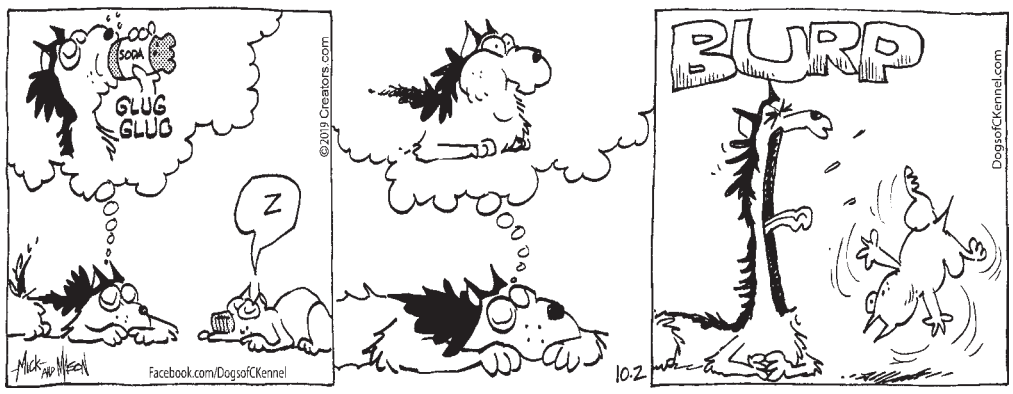
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



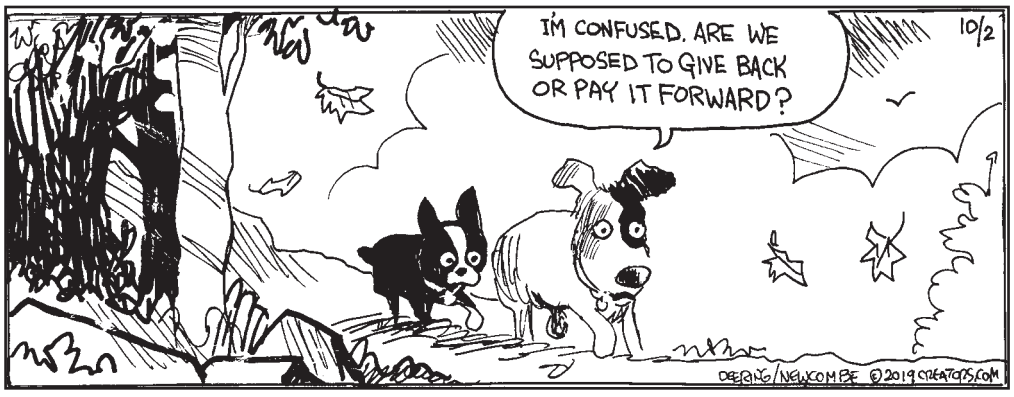
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date:09/28
15 23 34 51 55
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 60 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 09/27
12 20 31 43 45
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 45 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 09/28
5 13 33 38 39
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 09/30
5 13 14 18 22

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/01
Evening: 9 4 9
Draw Date: 09/30
Midday: 0 8 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 09/30
1st: 04 - BIG BEN
2nd: 07 - EUREKA
3rd: 06 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:41.28

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 66.7°

WEDNESDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
SSW swell peaks. Minor NW windswell.

THURSDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ waist to shoulder high
Holding SSW swell. Minor NW windswell.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

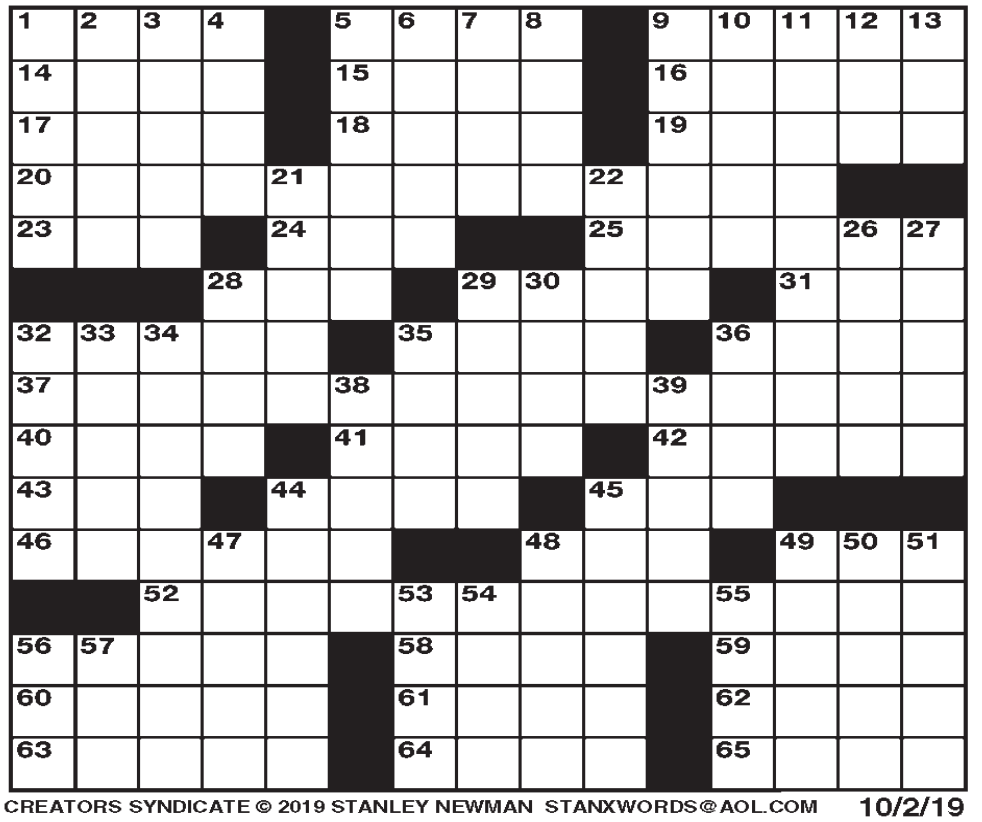
		7			2		4	
6		4						
			4			1	2	
7			5	3				4
	6		7		1		5	
3				8	4			7
	9	1			6			
						8		1
	4		9			6		

Newsday Crossword

UPLIFTING by Chris Josephs
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Carpeting measure: Abbr.
5 Competitor of Prego
9 Every 24 hours
14 Christmas season
15 Office bigwig, for short
16 Ed who's heard in *Up*
17 Store sign gas
18 Perfume bottle
19 Computer storage measures
20 Short play before a long play
23 Mediterranean, for one
24 A million 19 Across, for short
25 Literary spoof
28 "That's amazing!"
29 Fair-minded
31 Courteney of *Friends*
32 Washbowl
35 Country in the Andes
36 End of a chess game
37 Skyscraper's furniture transport
40 Glass in binoculars
41 Talks too much
42 Nonreactive, in chemistry
43 Hill-building bug
44 Porgy's beloved
45 Dryly comical
46 Republic of China
48 Eggy Christmas drink
49 Sunblock stat.
52 Pep talk's purpose
56 Supermarket staffer
58 Israeli airline
59 __-Cola (Pepsi rival)
60 Thickly packed
61 "That's clear to me now"
62 Economist Greenspan
63 Positioned, as a building
64 Common office plant
65 Half of a German car brand

DOWN
1 Aligns, for short
2 Waiting line, in London
3 Plant life of a region
4 Tepee, for instance
5 Film critic's article
6 Chopping down
7 Machine part with teeth
8 Sch. near Beverly Hills
9 Pats gently
10 So far
11 Complex, as a maze
12 Director Ang or Spike
13 Decade fractions: Abbr.
21 In a group of
22 Magazine edition
26 Machine part that spins
27 Apply, as effort
28 Nintendo game consoles
29 Vehicles for generals
30 WWW addresses
32 Alias for A sharp
33 Gladiator's workplace
34 Tender emotion
35 Bake sale sponsors: Abbr.
36 Numerous
38 African scavenger
39 Sign before Libra
44 Sounded like a setter
45 Made of fleece
47 Not as well done
48 Hoops pro
49 Burgled
50 Oval-shaped nut
51 Composer Liszt or Schubert
53 Explorer Ericson
54 Alternatively
55 Natural bandage
56 S&L savings vehicles
57 Hawaiian Airlines handout

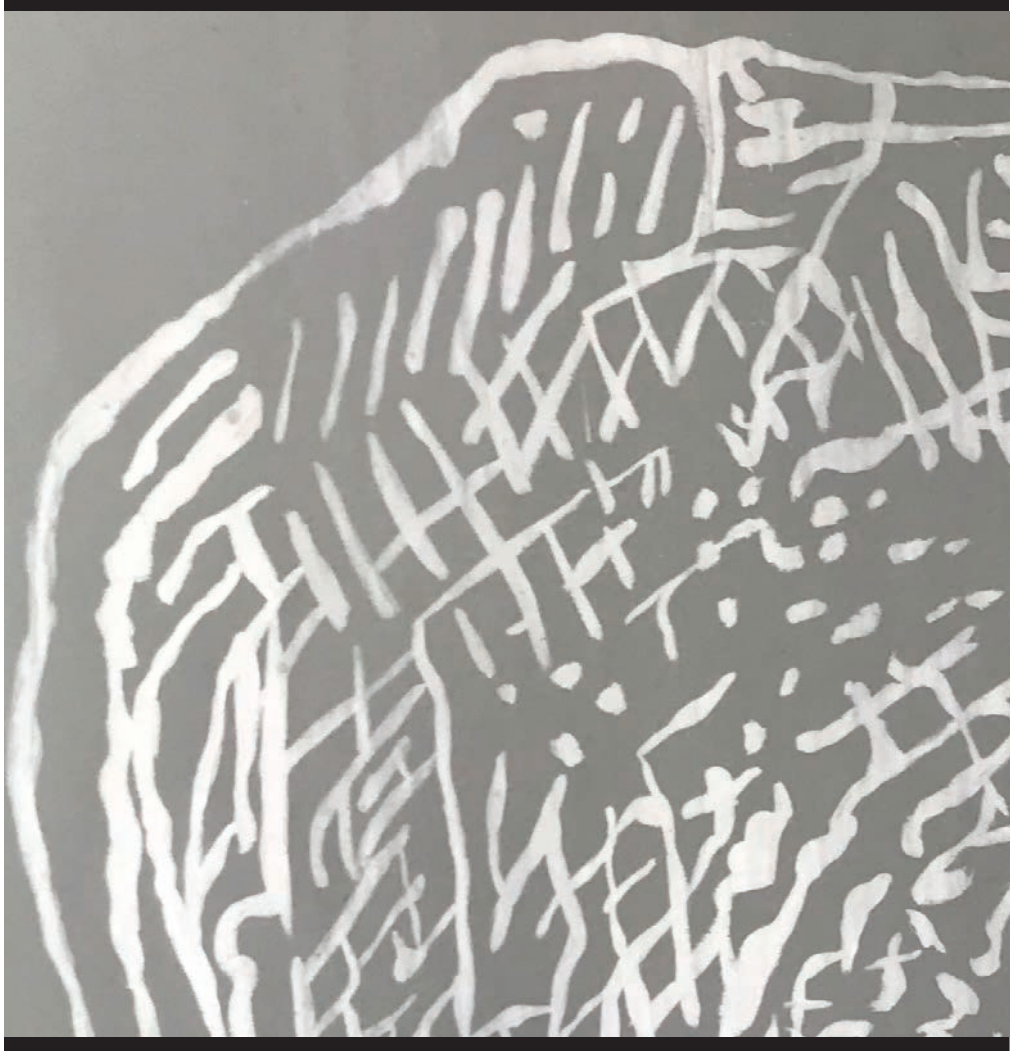


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MYSTERY PHOTO

Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

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CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 6

community leader that said, "What is going on? Could their contempt for public opinion be more obvious?" After we played nice and fair and by the rules for five and a half years.

But who is "they"? Who's to blame? Who knows? My guess is it's just a handful of SMMUSD staff who have their own agenda for taking down that mural. And that agenda does not include history, art, or community support.

So even if you don't love the mural, write the Board to ask for a fair shake. None of this is their fault. It's not Supt. Drati, it's not your hardworking SMMUSD teachers, principals and staffers. But — it's not fair, and despite my frequent whining about how our local government functions, I do believe that everyone else involved wants to do the right thing.

SAVE THE MURAL! — *actor, comedian, author, musician, filmmaker, radio host Harry Shearer (Simpsons, Spinal Tap); film actress, activist, singer Qorianka Kilcher; Associate Director of Ruskin School of Acting Michael R. Myers; creator/curator of spoken word performances Library Girl Susan Hayden; poet and environmental activist Susan Suntree; activist and actress (Baywatch) Alexandra Paul; SMRR Steering Committee member Michael Tarbet; SMC Associated Students Director of Sustainability Andrea Gonzalez Cabrera; former director of Earth Day LA Jim Stewart; founder of Kids for Peace Gayle Gale; former SM Arts Commissioner Zina Josephs and many current and former Arts, Rec & Parks, Planning and other Commissioners, Santa Monica Daily Press "Laughing Matters" columnist Jack Neworth; SM artists Diane Michelle, Marissa Rubin, Russell Poon-Fear.*

(see more endorsements and info at: Save The Muir Woods Mural)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Although they may not even know this new learning center has their names on it, do you think the Obamas, with Barack having done so very much to protect the environment and set aside more wilderness, would be happy to know this environmental message mural, at one of our busiest intersections, will be taken down so their names can be "branded' on the wall instead? Somebody tell them, NOW! Also, call Greta.

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

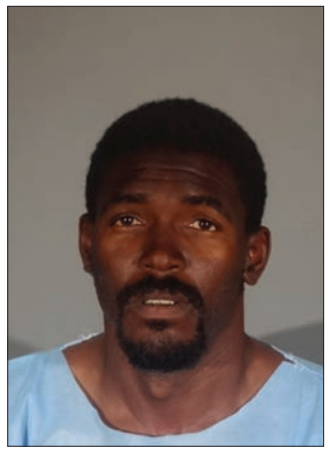
CRIME WATCH

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 26, 219 AT 10:30 P.M.

Officers responded to the Jack in the Box in the 800 block of Santa Monica for an Assault with a Deadly Weapon. They met with an eyewitness who told them, they had observed two men outside of the restaurant facing one another. One of the men looked like he punched the other in the stomach. Both men walked away in different directions. When Officers arrived, it was determined the man who had been punched was in fact stabbed. The suspect was located in the area with the weapon and taken into custody. Anthony Lindsey, 40, was placed under arrest.



File photo

ANTHONY LINDSEY

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 299 CALLS ON SEPT. 30

Battery 400blk Wilshire Blvd 12:30 a.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:04 a.m.
Family disturbance 2000blk Ocean Ave 3:08 a.m.
Battery 2000blk Ocean Ave 5:15 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 2800blk Kansas Ave 6:50 a.m.
Silent burglar alarm 1300blk 4th St 7:10 a.m.
Vandalism 1600blk Main St 7:12 a.m.
Domestic violence 800blk Marine St 7:45 a.m.
Rape 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:01 a.m.
Civil dispute 500blk Georgina Ave 8:28 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1200blk Carlyle Ave 8:29 a.m.
Petty theft 2000blk Olympic Blvd 8:36 a.m.
Burglary 1900blk Euclid St 8:48 a.m.
Auto burglary 200blk Santa Monica Pier 9:09 a.m.
Petty theft 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:09 a.m.
Bike theft 1300blk 2nd St 9:13 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 900blk 7th St 9:49 a.m.
Injured person 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 10:31 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 400blk Santa Monica Pier 10:43 a.m.
Traffic collision - city prop involved 1500blk 5th St 10:51 a.m.
Petty theft 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:10 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2200blk Michigan Ave 11:19 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2200blk Dorchester Ave 11:19 a.m.
Found property Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 11:20 a.m.
Family disturbance 1400blk Palisades Park 11:27 a.m.
Burglary 100blk Broadway 11:30 a.m.
Battery 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 11:31 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2700blk Wilshire Blvd 11:38 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 2300blk Wilshire Blvd 11:53 a.m.
Overdose 500blk Olympic Blvd W 11:59 a.m.
Battery 2500blk Main St 12:20 p.m.
Abandoned vehicle 2100blk Virginia Ave 12:24 p.m.
Burglary 800blk 4th St 12:39 p.m.
Identity theft 1100blk 24th St 1:09 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1200blk Grant St 1:11 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1500blk 19th St 1:13 p.m.
Battery 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 1:14 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1000blk Hill St 1:40 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 1500blk 2nd St 1:51 p.m.
Petty theft 300blk Santa Monica Pl 1:51 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1600blk 9th St 2:23 p.m.
Panic alarm 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 2:26 p.m.
Lewd activity 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:49 p.m.
Drunk driving 17th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:51 p.m.
Person with a gun 1500blk 4th St 3:19 p.m.
Battery 1300blk 6th St 3:24 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1100blk 21st St 3:31 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 100blk Hollister Ave 4:02 p.m.
Violation of restraining order 1200blk 11th St 4:02 p.m.
Stolen vehicle recovered 1100blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:34 p.m.
Person down 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 4:54 p.m.
Bike theft 1300blk 2nd St 5:01 p.m.
Vandalism 300blk 21st St 5:04 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1300blk Yale St 5:16 p.m.
Fraud 1900blk 18th St 5:17 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1700blk Montana Ave 5:44 p.m.
Found property 1700blk 14th St 6:12 p.m.
Indecent exposure 900blk Montana Ave 6:20 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 200blk Santa Monica Pier 6:53 p.m.
Hit and run Main St / Marine St 7:08 p.m.
Battery 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:16 p.m.
Fraud 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:48 p.m.
Fraud 2700blk 6th St 7:49 p.m.
Vehicle parked on sidewalk 2000blk Olympic Blvd 8:01 p.m.
Battery 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:43 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1600blk The Beach 8:52 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 400blk Santa Monica Pier 9:05 p.m.
Auto burglary 00blk Pico Blvd 9:53 p.m.
Burglary 00blk Pico Blvd 10:08 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1100blk Chelsea Ave 10:23 p.m.

MURAL

FROM PAGE 1

is in order.

"We are looking forward to this valuable partnership with LACOE to expand our current services we offer students," Pinsker said. "This will benefit our students tremendously and we feel fortunate to be one of the school districts selected for this program."

The purpose of the Community Schools Initiative is to highlight areas of need and leverage community resources so that students are healthy, prepared for college and are career and civic ready, according to the MOU.

The initiative is part of a broader push to "support the whole child," county officials said, mentioning the program will highlight areas of need and leverage community resources to increase schools' graduation rates and community engagement opportunities while also reducing the area's suspensions, chronic absenteeism and dropout rates.

To achieve the program's goals, students will have access to school-based mental health services that include workshops, counseling and referral services to other resources in the community, according to the MOU. The community should also expect increased opportunities to educate themselves or collaborate in their child's education as local libraries, health clinics and workforce professionals will be available to assist in the execution of the program's goals.

"Santa Monica-Malibu Unified was selected based on a comparison with other school districts within its supervisorial district," the MOU states, adding, the intended outcome is for the district to become a "hub in its neighborhood."

Santa Monica High School would be the district's designated site that would implement the project, meaning crisis prevention, family therapy and arts education services could be offered on-site if the program were to be established, according to county documents.

LACOE may also staff additional personnel on-campus, according to LACOE Public Information Officer Margo Minecki, who said each of the 15 campuses in the pilot program will have a full-time Program Specialist and a full-time Educational Community Worker, who will support parent engagement at the school site.

"The Community Schools Initiative is our way of fighting poverty and addressing longstanding inequities," said Dr. Debra Duardo, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools. "The goal is to ensure that all students receive the services and resources they need to succeed and that those services are accessible right at school where they feel safe."

If approved, the memorandum would extend through June 30, 2022.

MURAL

A decades-old mural at the former location of John Muir Elementary School may soon be painted over and replaced with a simple sign.

The District considered replacing the mural several years ago and the school board is expected to revisit removing the mural from school grounds this week. There is no plan to replace the art this time around, according to Thursday's agenda. Instead, "the plan, with board direction, is to encapsulate and paint the walls the same color as the rest of the exterior of the building."

The site's new name, Michelle and Barack Obama Center for Inquiry and Exploration, would then be painted on top, and a sign identifying the building would be hung where the mural is currently located.

There are two main reasons to move forward with covering the decor, according to Thursday's agenda. The first is that the school site and campus identity are changing.

"As part of this transition process, it is necessary to re-brand the look and feel of the campus to better represent its students, staff, and programs," the agenda states, before addressing the ways the Muir Woods mural has eroded over time.

"The lead paint has peeled, contaminated the planter and risks going into the stormwater system out to the ocean," the agenda adds.

The district attempted to address the problems posed by the lead paint by scraping the flaking paint and painting over it with a clear coat, according to Thursday's agenda, "(but) the result is an unsightly set of walls on a prominent corner of the facility."

District staff said a new mural could potentially be painted on the exterior corner in the future once the programs at the school are fully developed.

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