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A tenuous two week stay of execution, for the Muir Woods mural. Page 6

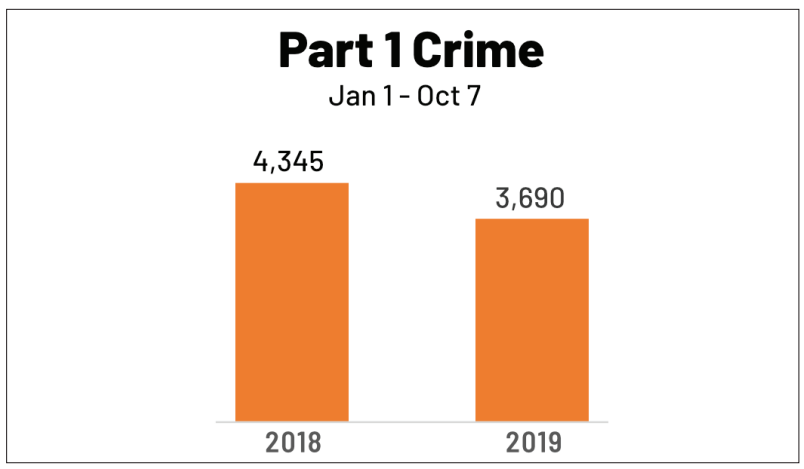
# SMPD: serious crime down by 15% so far this year

**MADELEINE PAUKER**
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica experienced a 15% drop in serious crime in the first nine months of the year compared to the same period last year, according to the Santa Monica Police Department.

Chief Cynthia Renaud announced Tuesday that there have been 655 fewer Part 1 crimes this year to date — about 2.3 fewer per day — and particularly significant decreases in car break-ins and assaults. Part 1 crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft.

If the trend continues, 2019 could be the first year that serious crime has fallen in five years after reaching a low in 2014 and climbing 29 percent between 2015 and 2018. It could also put Santa Monica on par with Los Angeles, where crime was down in almost every category last year for the first time in five years.




SMDP image

**CRIME:** Police Chief Cynthia Renaud announced a decline in crime.

Renaud said car break-ins have dropped by 17.5%, down by 120 incidents from last year in Downtown Santa Monica alone.

"The busiest parking structures are seeing reductions in criminal activity, which can be attributed to a few new changes we imposed, such as private security patrols and an intensified focus on our crime suppression missions," she said.

Murder fell by 50%, with three

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 11

# Governor signs law capping rent increases

**ADAM BEAM**
Associated Press

California is now the second U.S. state to cap rent increases statewide.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law Tuesday that will cap rent increases at 5% each year plus inflation. The bill also bans landlords from evicting tenants without just cause.

Earlier this year Oregon enacted rent caps of 7% plus inflation.

Sasha Graham, board president of the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, said the law would have helped her three years ago when her rent increased 150%. She was later evicted for no reason and was homeless for three years.

But Russell Lowery, executive director of the California Rental Housing Association, said the law will force landlords to increase rents to account for potential costly evictions.

The law would limit rent increases to 5% each year plus inflation until Jan. 1, 2030. It also bans landlords from evicting tenants for no reason, meaning they could not kick people out just to raise the rent. And while the law would not take effect until Jan. 1, it would apply to rent increases on or after March 15, 2019, to prevent landlords from raising rents just before the caps go into place.

Once signed, California would join Oregon as the only places that cap rent increases statewide.

California's rent cap would be noteworthy because of its scale. The state has 17 million renters, and more than half of them spend at least 30% of their income on rent, according to a legislative analysis of the proposal.

But California's new law has so many exceptions that it is estimated it will apply to 8 million of those 17 million renters, according to Chiu's office.

It would not apply to housing

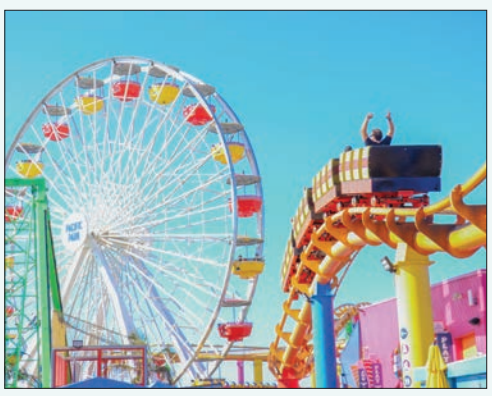
SEE **LAW** PAGE 11











Courtesy photos

**PIER DEL SOL:** Special Olympics Southern California hosted Pier del Sol at the Santa Monica Pier. Featuring 35 of LA's best restaurants and chefs, those in attendance enjoyed a fun-filled day of food, music and unlimited rides at the Pacific Park.


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City of Santa Monica

## CITY OF SANTA MONICA

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Consultants to complete and submit statements of qualification for the:

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**SP2624**

Statements of Qualifications shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, **Architecture Services** Division, 1437 4th Street, Suite 300, Santa Monica, CA 90401, not later than 3:30 p.m. on **November 13, 2019**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 4:00 p.m. on said date in **Architecture Services conference room.** Each statement shall be in accordance with the Request for Qualification.

Request for Qualification documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. Consultants wishing to be considered must submit Statements containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Qualifications.

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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

## Wednesday, October 9

### The Commission on the Status of Women Regular Meeting

The Commission on the Status of Women works to ensure that Santa Monica is a place where women and girls can fully realize their potential and have a strong voice in all aspects of the community. The Commission explores policy and issues relevant to women and girls, and supports leadership and career advancement opportunities. Ken Edwards Center, 7 p.m.

### Montana Mystery Book Group: Two Days Gone

What could cause a man to suddenly snap and destroy everything he has built? Sergeant Ryan DeMarco knows–or thinks he knows–that beloved professor Thomas Huston couldn't have been capable of murdering his family. But if Huston is innocent, why is he on the run? Discuss "Two Days Gone" by Ryan DeMarcho at the Montana Avenue Branch Library, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

### Movie: Yesterday (2019)

In this box office smash from director Danny Boyle, a struggling musician realizes he's the only person on Earth who can remember The Beatles after waking up in an alternate timeline where they never existed. Fairview Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

### Mindful Meditation

Henry Schipper, graduate of UCLA's Mindful Awareness program, teaches the basics of Mindful meditation. Ocean Park Branch Library, 7 - 8 p.m.

### Computer Class: 'Appy Hour' Library Apps Workshop

Bring your smartphone, tablet or e-reader and get help with using library apps and your device. Ocean Park Branch Library, 4 - 5 p.m.

## Thursday, October 10

### Stellar Personal Statements

Please join organizers at the Main Library at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 10 for "10 Steps to a Stellar Personal Statement" with college counselor Nick Soper, who will teach you how to write a college essay that captivates your reader, conveys your unique essence, and catapults you off the page. Learn 10 great tools for taking your college essay to the next level. This program is free, open to the public, and takes place in the Multipurpose Room at the Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard. Free validated parking (60 minutes) is provided if you park in our underground structure.

### Santa Monica Rent Control Regular Board Meeting

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. City Hall, 7 p.m.

### Drag Queen Story Hour for Adults

Why should kids have all the fun? Celebrate National Coming Out Day by joining Ms. Pickle for a glamorous hour of story time presented by Drag Queen Story Hour. A discussion follows the program. Ocean Park Branch Library, 7 - 8 p.m.

### Current Events Discussion Group

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

## Friday, October 11

### Bring Your Baby Book Club

A baby-friendly book club for parents and caregivers with young children and babies. Discuss books while the babies eat, sleep, or play. For adults and their babies. This week's title: "Masterminds & Wingmen: Helping Our Boys Cope with Schoolyard Power, Locker-Room Tests, Girlfriends, and the New Rules of Boy World," by Rosalind Wiseman. Main Library, Children's Activity Room, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

### Music and Movement at the Library

Develop early literacy skills in toddlers and preschoolers in this fun musical story time for ages 18 months to five years old. Fairview Branch Library, 3:30 - 4 p.m.

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

# Doctors turn to thumbs for diagnosis and treatment by text

**TOM MURPHY**
AP Health Writer

Dr. Anna Nguyen spoke with none of the five patients she treated on a recent weekday morning. She didn't even leave her dining room.

The emergency physician nevertheless helped a pregnant Ohio woman handle hip pain, examined a Michigan man's sore throat and texted a mom whose son became sick during a family trip to Mexico.

Welcome to the latest wrinkle in health care convenience: the chat diagnosis.

Nguyen's company, CirrusMD, can connect patients with a doctor in less than a minute. But such fast service comes with a catch: The patient probably won't see or talk to the doctor, because most communication takes place via secure messaging.

"We live in a consumer-driven world, and I think that consumers are becoming accustomed to being able to access all types of service with their thumbs," CirrusMD co-founder Dr. Blake McKinney said.

CirrusMD and rivals like 98point6 and K Health offer message-based treatment for injuries or minor illnesses normally handled by a doctor's office or clinic. They say they're even more convenient than the video telemedicine that many employers and insurers now offer, because patients accustomed to Uber-like convenience can text with a doctor while riding a bus or waiting in a grocery store line.

Millions of Americans have access to these services. The companies are growing thanks to a push to improve care access, keep patients healthy and limit expensive emergency room visits. Walmart's Sam's Club, for instance, recently announced that it would offer 98point6 visits as part of a customer care program it is testing.

But some doctors worry about the quality of care provided by physicians who won't see their patients and might have a limited medical history to read before deciding treatment.

"If the business opportunity is huge, there's a risk that caution is pushed aside," said Dr. Thomas Bledsoe, a member of the American College of Physicians.

Message-based care providers say they take steps to ensure safety and recommend in-person doctor visits when necessary. Nguyen, for instance, once urged an 85-year-old woman who contacted CirrusMD about crushing chest pain to head to an emergency room.

These companies note that a thorough medical history is not crucial for every case. They also say doctors don't always need vital signs like temperature and blood pressure, but they can coach patients through taking them if necessary. Doctors also can opt for a video or phone conversation when needed.

Even so, the companies estimate they can resolve more than 80 percent of their cases through messaging.

About 3 million people nationwide have access to CirrusMD doctors, mostly through their insurance. The insurer or employer providing the coverage pays for the service, allowing patients to chat with doctors at no charge.

At first glance, a visitor to Nguyen's Sacramento home wouldn't be able to tell if she was the doctor or the patient during her recent shift. She sat at her dining room table and tapped her iPhone to bounce between patients.

The doctor's phone started dinging shortly after her five-hour shift began.

She gave physical therapy recommendations to the pregnant woman and helped a Colorado man who hurt his back moving boxes at work. A Michigan man checked in about his sore throat as that conversation wound down.

Then the mom messaged from Mexico. Her 6-year-old started vomiting and developed a fever and diarrhea after his brother and father became sick during a vacation. Nguyen wanted to know how the boy was acting, so she asked several questions and requested a picture.

The emergency physician could tell by his skin color that he wasn't dehydrated.

"The picture itself looks reassuring," she said. "If he had encephalitis, he'd be really confused and out of it."

The doctor said she thought the boy just had a stomach bug, and she told his mother to make sure he kept drinking fluids.

Nguyen said she enjoys this type of care because the format gives her more time with patients.

"I think patients will like it a lot because most really hate going to their doctor," she said referring to the hassle of setting an appointment, getting to the office and then waiting for the visit.

Some patients simply don't have time for all that.

Ohio Wesleyan University student Jasmine Spitzer contacted a 98point6 doctor in a panic earlier this year because her throat was sore, and the music education major had an opera recital coming up. She texted for help as she walked to class.

The doctor couldn't prescribe anything. But she sent pictures of common medications Spitzer could buy, including cough drops with lower levels of menthol, which dries out vocal chords.

"I wish that there is a way for me to ... tell her, 'Thank you so much, you kind of saved my life,'" Spitzer said. "I was able to give my recital and it was great."

98point6 customers first describe their symptoms to a chatbot that uses a computer program to figure out what to ask. That information is then passed to a doctor for diagnosis and treatment.

"There are many, many cases where the physician does not have to ask a single additional question," CEO Robbie Cape said.

The company launched its service in January 2018 with 600 customers and expects

SEE **DOCTORS** PAGE 5









# MedMen's ends blockbuster deal adding to cannabis stock woes

**BY ALEX VEIGA**
AP Business Writer

Marijuana stocks have come down hard from their highs a year ago, and the skid isn't just spooking investors.

On Tuesday, MedMen Enterprises Inc., which sells legal cannabis in California and 11 other states, backed out of a blockbuster deal to buy PharmaCann, a Chicago-based marijuana company with operations in eight states.

In its announcement, Los Angeles-based MedMen cited the steep pullback in U.S. and Canadian cannabis stocks this year. It noted the Horizons Marijuana Life Sciences Index, a Canadian exchange-traded fund that tracks cannabis stocks, is down 47% since March.

"The underperformance has made it increasingly more critical to allocate capital efficiently, given the current industry headwinds," MedMen said in a news release.

The deal was announced in December and was seen as a forerunner of a wave of marijuana industry mergers and acquisitions promising big returns for investors.

Billions poured into marijuana stocks last year as investors got on board with the big, multistate operators with the funds to acquire costly licenses in the 11 states where it is legal to sell cannabis products.

A flurry of deals in late 2018 and early this year continued to entice investors. But hopes of mergers getting quick regulatory approval soon faded as the U.S. Justice Department began to review the deals for potential antitrust violations. That review process has yet to be completed, though some analysts expect the deals could begin closing as early as this month.

"There's been a delay in M&A activity and that's prompted investors to step away from the sector until they know M&A activity is going to pick up again," said Bobby Burleson, an analyst with Canaccord Genuity. "That's kind of dampened enthusiasm for the sector, because that was one exit path that looked like it was closed temporarily."

Investors have had no shortage of reasons lately to sour on marijuana stocks, beyond the delay in deal approvals.

Vaping-related deaths and illnesses have contributed to the slide in some cannabis stocks. States including Massachusetts and Montana have also temporarily banned sales of flavored electronic cigarettes and vaping products in a bid to reduce underage use.

Vaping of marijuana products in states where it is legal for adults account for over a quarter of revenue for the sector and, in some cases, 30% or more of sales, Burleson said.

"People are waiting to see whether or not there's been a negative impact over all on industry revenue," he said.

Also weighing on marijuana stocks is a increase in stock market volatility brought about by a slowing U.S. economy and uncertainty over the trade war between the U.S. and China.

Still, cannabis stocks are a big loser so far this year, relative to the broader market.

Consider, the ETFMG Alternative Harvest exchange traded fund, which focuses on cannabis stocks: It is down 19.6% this year and off nearly 50% from a year ago. And shares in some of the biggest marijuana companies, including Tilary, Canopy Growth, and Aurora Cannabis are down more than 50% from a year ago.

Many big companies that have invested in cannabis businesses are also down more than 10% from a year ago, including Altria Group, AbbVie, Molson Coors Brewing and Constellation Brands.

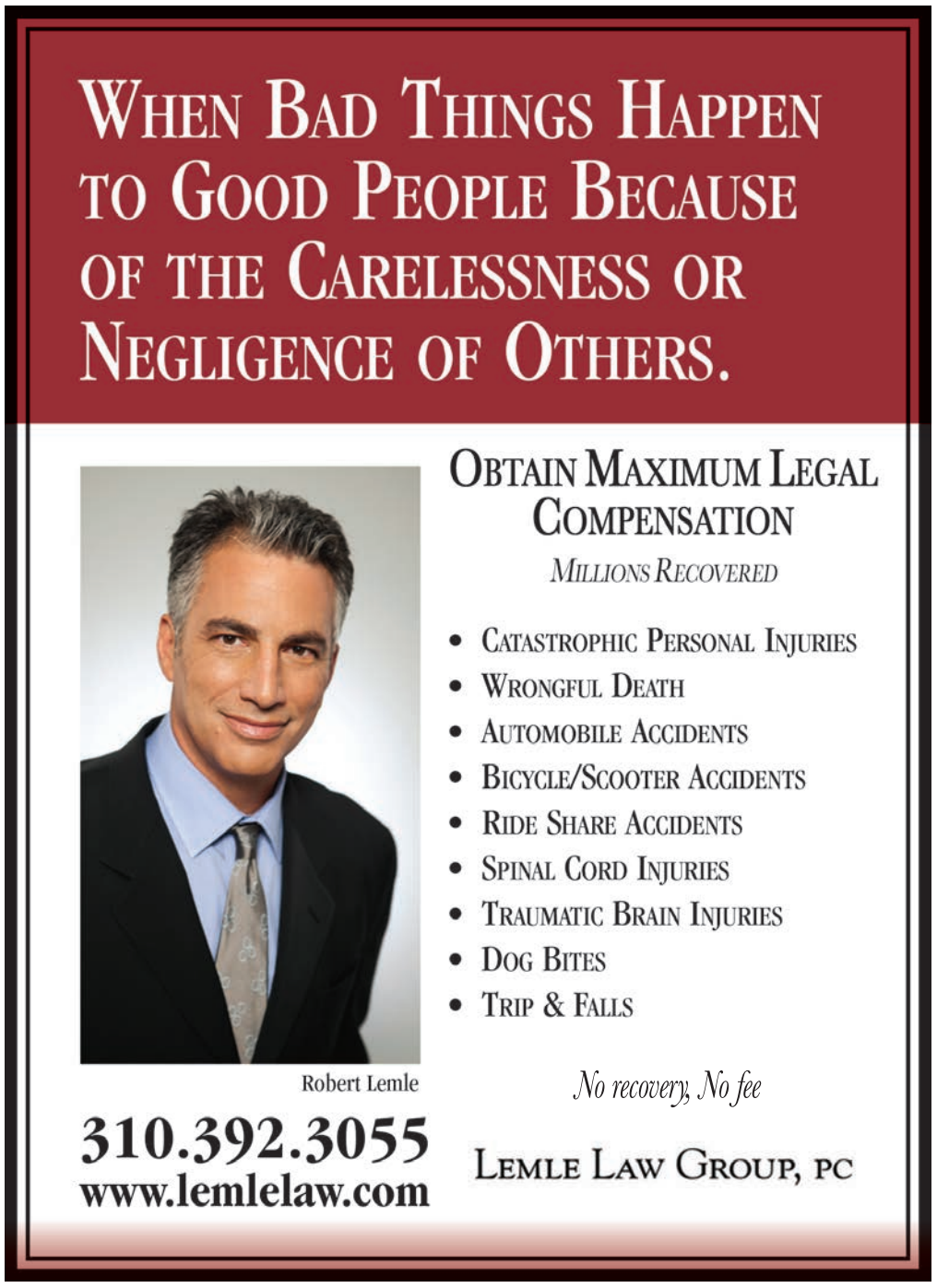
By comparison, the benchmark S&P 500 index is up 15.4% this year and hovering slightly above where it stood 12 months ago.

A less welcoming stock market can limit a company's ability to raise capital by issuing stock. MedMen noted that a large portion of PharmaCann's cultivation and manufacturing assets requires "significant capital expenditures."

"There's been a lot less ability to go to the markets and raise capital, so investors are scrutinizing the balance sheets of public companies to see who's best positioned to weather the dry spell in capital markets," Burleson said.

Now that it has backed out of its bid for PharmaCann, MedMen said it intends to focus on building its retail brand and online business. In exchange for forgiving some debt, the company is taking certain cannabis licenses and other assets in Illinois and Virginia from PharmaCann.

"Looking at the PharmaCann portfolio today, Illinois has emerged as the most attractive opportunity for our longer-term, strategic growth plan," said Adam Bierman, MedMen co-founder and CEO.




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# South Park, games company swept up in China censorship fury

**KELVIN CHAN**
Associated Press

TV show South Park and a major video game studio are the latest businesses swept into a growing debate over how to navigate China's censorship efforts.

The question has heated up after the NBA suffered a backlash in China over a pro-Hong Kong tweet by the Houston Rockets general manager.

South Park's creators tackled the issue head on, making the latest episode of their satirical cartoon about how Hollywood self-censors to gain access to China's vast consumer market. The show was quickly scrubbed from the Chinese internet.

A check of the popular video streaming sites Youku and Bilibili turned up zero mentions of "South Park." A search on the search engine Baidu did pull up mentions of "South Park," but some results were removed.

Creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone issued a faux apology, saying, "Like the NBA, we welcome the Chinese censors into our homes and into our hearts. We too love money more than freedom and democracy."

They were referring to a rapidly deleted tweet by the Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey supporting the Hong Kong protests. That angered Chinese authorities, with the state broadcaster canceling plans to show a pair of preseason games this week and reviewing all cooperation and exchanges with the league.

Meanwhile, video games maker Activision Blizzard said Tuesday it kicked a Hong Kong esports pro out of a tournament and seized his prize money after he voiced support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy protest movement.

The company also said it suspended Ng-wai Chung, known as Blitzchung, from the Hearthstone Grandmaster card game for a year.

Chung's offense was to shout "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times" during a post-game interview on the weekend with two Taiwanese "casters," or hosts, who ducked under their desk, apparently not wanting to be associated with the slogan used by protesters in the semiautonomous Chinese city.

Under the game's rules, players can be removed for behavior that results in public disrepute, offends the public or damages its image, Blizzard said, adding that the two hosts were also fired.

Chinese authorities generally do not officially comment on the myriad acts of censorship carried out on the Internet and in other forms every day.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver was trying to find a middle way as the league faced a firestorm sparked by Morey's tweet.

On a visit to Tokyo, Silver said he and the league are "apologetic" that so many Chinese officials and fans were upset, but also said he isn't apologizing for Morey's tweet.

"Daryl Morey, as general manager of the Houston Rockets, enjoys that right as one of our employees," Silver said. "What I also tried to suggest is that I understand there are consequences from his freedom of speech and we will have to live with those consequences."

Penny Wang and Elaine Kurtenback in Bangkok and Stephen Wade and Tim Reynolds in Tokyo contributed to this report.

## DOCTORS

FROM PAGE 3

to have about 1 million people signed up by the end of this year.

K Health also started in 2018 with a business that offers personalized health information to patients who might otherwise Google their symptoms. Those patients then have an option to chat with a doctor.

These companies say their doctors often answer an array of quick questions as well provide care. Nguyen had a Louisiana woman send her a picture of her thumb, which she punctured cleaning out a chicken coop, just to see if the doctor thought it might need attention.

Patients and doctors have long emailed outside of office visits, usually about prescription refills or follow-up questions. These newer, message-based treatments often involve care by a physician who doesn't know the patient and who may have a limited view of that person's medical history.

That concerns Bledsoe, the American College of Physicians doctor. He noted, for instance, that a patient who wants a quick prescription for another bladder infection may actually need a cancer test.

"Sometimes what seems to be a limited problem to a patient is actually part of a bigger problem that requires some more evaluation and treatment," he said.

Virtual care like this also might lead to antibiotic overprescribing, said Dr. Ateev Mehrotra. The Harvard researcher said it's probably easier for a doctor who knows a patient to explain face to face why they don't need a medicine than it would be for a stranger to deliver that news by text and risk upsetting a customer.

CirrusMD and 98point6 executives say they closely monitor antibiotic prescription rates and take other precautions. Neither company prescribes highly addictive painkillers, and 98point6 sends doctors through six months of training.

Instead of hurting care, these chat-diagnosis companies say they help by improving access, especially if someone's regular doctor isn't available.

"We're meant to fit into your life," Cape said.



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## Curious City


Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com


# NBA freedom, the Mural & the parking lady

**REPRIEVE**

But only a tenuous two week stay of execution, for our famous Muir Woods mural.

You definitely still need to write to your school board members at

brd@smmusd.org

to ask them to reject any proposals to paint over this historic, iconic, environmental mural. Many residents still remember passing by and seeing Jane Golden painting it there in 1978. Tell your school board why you want to see it remain, restored.

The next school board meeting, here in Santa Monica at the district offices at 1651 16th Street on Thursday, Oct. 17, will consider only the one damning report from some SMMUSD staff that calls for the mural's destruction, with no alternative notion or arguments for its preservation. It would be great if lots of folks showed up at that meeting to show support.

**WHO COULD HATE IT?**

The giant mural of a deep, calming redwood forest on the corner building of Olympic High School, sweeping south down Lincoln Boulevard and wrapping around the corner to continue up Ocean Park. There is not another mural space like this in Santa Monica, absolutely ideal for depicting a forest, with the majority of drivers, bikers etc at that very busy intersection getting an almost 3-D effect.

So even if you don't love it, write the Board to ask for a fair shake. They are officials we elected, not part of SMMUSD. None of this is their fault, so please don't yell at them. They alone have the power to save it or destroy it. Despite my frequent whining about how our local government functions, I do believe that everyone involved, save a handful with their own agenda for that wall, wants to do the right thing.

It's late, it's late 2019 and we all know our environment is in crisis. So you're going to trash that long-standing depiction of CA wilderness? Not a great message, especially for the kids. WWGD (What Would Greta Do)? What would the Obamas say, to have this done in their name?

**SUNDAY NIGHT**

Started out great for me with a fantastic performance at our own Jazz Bakery, with renowned local master John Clayton, big band leader and so much more and one helluva jazz and classical double bass player, leading a program of… all bass. He gathered eight of LA's best young plucker-slappers (and bows!), put them in all sorts of combinations, and it was endlessly fascinating, and good listening!

Then I had to rush off to the Monica Film Center for a one-night-only screening of Roger Waters' "US + THEM" concert film. Waters wrote many of the best-known Pink Floyd numbers, so it was a bit of a greatest hits show. Very well done. With some politics mixed in, something Waters has become known for. Congrats to the Laemmle Monica for playing it loud enough (almost… loud enough for me).

But when I walked back to my car in the parking structure across the street, paid my ticket by machine and got to my car, it was dead. Apparently I left my headlights on, as usual, which "always" shut off when the engine is shut off.

**AAA SAID 45 MINS, OH NO!**

Casey arrived and charged me up, and more oh no! He advised I should drive it for 45 minutes to really charge the Prius small battery. "I'm low on gas!" I whimpered — it's past 11 now. But I filled up and dutifully hopped on the 10 and drove past downtown LA to Alameda Street and doubled back. Inconvenient, it happens, no biggie, but here's what got me:

When I went to exit the parking structure, as expected my paid ticket, only good for 20 minutes, was rejected by the machine and it demanded $7.50 to let me go. So I buzzed the attendant, three times, who finally answered (oh, sorry, did I wake you or interrupt your video watching? I thought but did not say), I explained the situation and she said — "You still have to pay the $7.50."

"You've got a camera," I said, "you can see the AAA truck right behind me, this is not my fault, I'm not trying to get away with anything — I already paid."

Long silence, a sigh. "OK, this is too much trouble for me but NEXT TIME you will have to pay the $7.50! Sir!" I thought but did not say, who do you think you're working for? Who trains these people? Why do we residents constantly get disrespected, from City Council all the way down to the invisible parking structure lady?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: The best sports league? The NBA, hands down! After initially blowing it by slamming down Houston Rockets GM Daryl Morey for tweeting "Fight for freedom, stand with Hong Kong," 36 hours later NBA commish Adam Silver walked it back and said we will always support the freedoms this nation stands for and the rights of our representatives to express that. Even though the Chinese government reacted immediately, threatening billions of dollars of NBA revenue from the hoops-mad largest country on earth. Contrast this with reactionary NFL owners who will steal your career for taking a knee and drag their feet on players who beat women.

Note: Rocket star James Harden, with teammate Russell Westbrook standing beside him, held a press conference to basically grovel and apologize to China, for his own GM. Never did like that guy anyway.


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

# California faces historic power outage due to fire danger

**OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ AND JANIE HAR**
Associated Press

Millions of people were poised to lose power throughout California after Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and Southern California Edison announced Tuesday they would shut off power in the largest preventive outage in state history to try to avert wildfires caused by faulty power lines.

Malibu was notified late Tuesday of a possible power outage in the Western part of the city from 9 p.m. on Oct. 10 through 9 a.m. on Oct. 11.

"Individuals who are medically dependent on electricity service should consider proactively staying in another area until conditions change," said the City in a release. "Residents are encouraged to check on family members and neighbors who may need assistance."

PG&E said it would begin turning off power to 800,000 customers in 34 counties starting after midnight Wednesday amid forecasts of windy, dry weather that created extreme fire danger. To the south, Southern California Edison also said Tuesday that more than 106,000 of its customers in parts of eight counties could face power cuts.

The news came as residents in the region's wine country north of San Francisco marked the two-year anniversary of deadly wildfires that killed 44 and destroyed thousands of homes. San Francisco is the only county in the nine-county Bay Area where power will not be affected.

The utility had warned of the possibility of a widespread shut-off Monday, prompting residents to flock to stores for supplies as they prepared for dying cellphone batteries, automatic garages that won't work and lukewarm refrigerators.

Flashlights, batteries and propane tanks for barbecues were in high demand as people prepared for an outage that PG&E said may last "several days."

"We sold out of lanterns this morning. The shelf is completely empty," said Howard Gibbs, the manager at Ace Hardware in the town of Lafayette, 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of San Francisco. "We've got just a few flashlights left, and we're down to our last couple propane tanks, too."

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf asked residents Tuesday not to clog 911 lines with non-emergencies and urged people to be prepared. The city canceled all police officers' days off in preparation for the outages.

"We all know the devastation that fires can cause," she said.

In 1991, a grass fire torched the Oakland Hills, killing 25 people and destroying more than 3,000 homes.

PG&E said it was informing customers by text and email about where and when the power would be cut. But its website, where it directed people to check whether their addresses would be affected, was not working most of the day Tuesday after being overloaded with visitors.

The outage will also affect portions of the agricultural Central Valley, the state's northern and central coasts and the Sierra Nevada foothills where a November wildfire blamed on PG&E transmission lines killed 85 people and devastated the town of Paradise.

Jennifer Siemens, who lost her home in Paradise, rents a house in the nearby town of Oroville and said she was bracing for a third blackout in a month.

Siemens had her car gassed up, had stocked up on bottled water and flashlights and made sure all the family's electronic devices were fully charged.

"What's wrong with the power lines that they have to do this so much?" asked Siemens. "We don't want any more fires, obviously, but I feel like they are going a little overboard."

Winds can knock down live wires and power poles or drive trees and other vegetation into contact with them — and some of California's most destructive blazes in recent years were started by PG&E power lines.

But the planned outages will not be limited to fire-prone areas because the utilities must turn off entire distribution and transmission lines to much wider areas to minimize the risk of wildfires.

San Francisco-based Pacific Gas & Electric sought bankruptcy protection in January, saying it could not afford an estimated $30 billion in potential damages from lawsuits stemming from recent wildfire. As part of ongoing bankruptcy litigation, last month the company agreed to pay $11 billion to a group of insurance companies representing claimants from deadly Northern California wildfires in 2017 and 2018.

In Southern California, the largest numbers of potentially affected customers were in Los Angeles County and to the east in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

Public agencies throughout the region were urging people to prepare by buying water and non-perishable food, getting a full tank of gas, having cash at hand and parking vehicles outside garages or making sure they know how to manually open their garage doors.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention said it increased staffing in preparation for extreme fire weather and what was expected to be the strongest wind event so far this fire season.

"With some of the most destructive and deadliest fires occurring October through December, we need Californians to not be complacent," said Cal Fire Chief Thom Porter in a news release. "Residents need to be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice in the event of a wildfire."

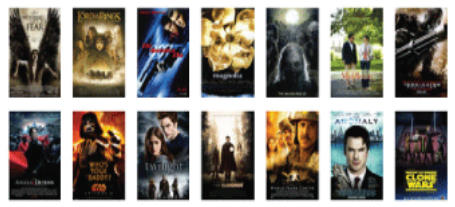
At the Dollar General store in Paradise, people were buying candles, gas cans, ice, flashlights, batteries and canned food and the store ran out of ice chests Tuesday morning, said manager Ben Humphries.

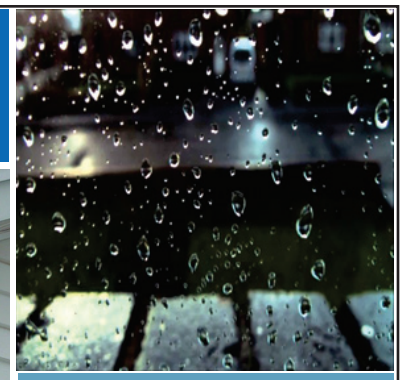
Humphries, who moved to Oroville with his family after losing his home in Paradise, said his family lost power two times already in the last month and he was making sure they had enough fuel for their generator and plenty of ice in coolers.

But he said there was a sense of irony to PG&E's aggressive action in the area now, after the company opted not to turn off the power ahead of the Nov. 8 fire that wiped out Paradise.

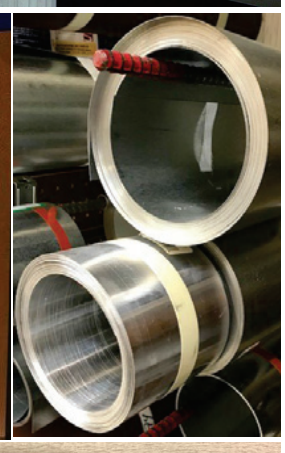
For additional information, visit https://www.SCE.com/PSPS.

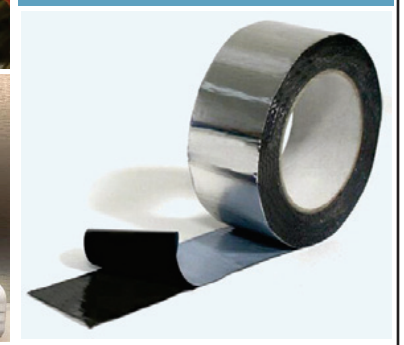
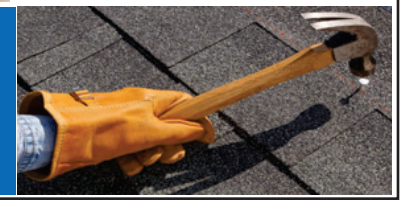
B"H
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## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (OCTOBER 09)

If you're not sure where to look for that one treasure of your soul that you've yet to uncover, then don't worry. That's a lie. There are actually fields and fields of treasure, and anywhere you start digging you're likely to find some. So excavate. Whether it's emotional, physical, spiritual, professional or other, you'll find gold. Leo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 8, 40, 33 and 32.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Good people are good to good people, but that's not how you can tell. It's when they are good to those who are not as good when the true character trait provides a model worth following.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your persistence and determination make this day interesting because you'll get to see what happens beyond the point where most would have given up. There's kookiness and magic on the other side of that boundary.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Inspiration always has an element of the novel, maybe a twist, or an expectation far exceeded. No one gets inspired by what they've already seen. You bring originality and that element of newness to what you do today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Do whatever you can to get some kind of consensus happening in the group, even if it's on the most basic tenant of reality. These days, agreement on a shared reality is, it turns out, a much harder achievement than one might think.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your imagination is going so strong it's sure to get the best of you. For this reason, you need to be extra-vigilant about what you feed it. Try a diet of positivity, humor and happy ideas. That's good stuff to chew on for a while.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're very teachable these days, mostly because you want to learn, are highly receptive and just happen to be surrounded by some of the best and brightest minds.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You weren't around when earlier generations of your family made their mistakes, and yet you're still affected by those and are likewise still being influenced by their successes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be on the lookout for examples of love, compassion, decency... and they're out there, really. Though you may have to start with a lower standard such as "people who don't bicker on social media" and work up from there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Ideas inspire you but examples give you something to strive for. Examples, plus instructions, followed by action is the magic sequence that will transform your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Theoretical knowledge could really let people down today so wherever possible, put the thing in action, give it legs, take it out of your mind and let it dance (or stumble around, as the case may be) on the stage of life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll have an exchange with an adjacent person in a public setting. This is true even if no words are exchanged, as you'll be picking up and deflecting all sorts of energies... and very effectively so today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your reasons for loving people don't always stay the same. As the relationship moves along, reasons are added, subtracted and adjusted. Stay flexible and open to the natural movement of life.

## Moon of Intuitive Perception

We tell the world what our role is by embodying it. Claims matter little. Under this intuitive Pisces moon, people gather a sense of us outside of what we say. The way we carry ourselves, dress, interact – and most importantly the way we treat ourselves – these are the indicators that people factor in to decide what to do, or not do, with us.

## ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS

ZOMBIES PART ONE: Before modern medicine, it wasn't quite as easy to discern the living from the dead. It often happened that people were prematurely written off, only to wake up from some unconscious state to find they'd already been grieved and buried with a Bible where it might have been nice to have, say, a pickax. This is why many cultures developed rituals to make sure not to get it wrong – like leaving a bell for the corpse to ring or chopping off a finger. If the digital snip startled the "corpse" alive, then whoops! There goes your guitar career, but at least breathing is once more an option. Ancient Greeks sometimes buried corpses under large rocks to make sure they didn't reanimate, an idea that is still a part of our collective unconscious, judging from what they make gravestones out of. Only the very strongest rotters are going to be able to join the zombie apocalypse. Nowhere are the lines between dead and being alive more blurred than in the case of zombies, which have ruled for decades as the prevailing monster of pop culture. More on this tomorrow.

## CELEBRITY PROFILES

The Strawberry Fields memorial in New York City's Central Park will fill with flowers and pilgrims today as fans will flock to honor the birth of John Lennon. True to his Libran ideals, the legendary rocker and poet imagined a harmonious world without boundaries. Lennon was born under the Aquarius moon, the sign of humanity, unity and dreamers. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

## WORD UP!

**Tellurian**

Adjective [te-loor-ee-uhn]

Of or characteristic of the earth or its inhabitants; terrestrial.



## Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER




"JILL-O'-LANTERN."

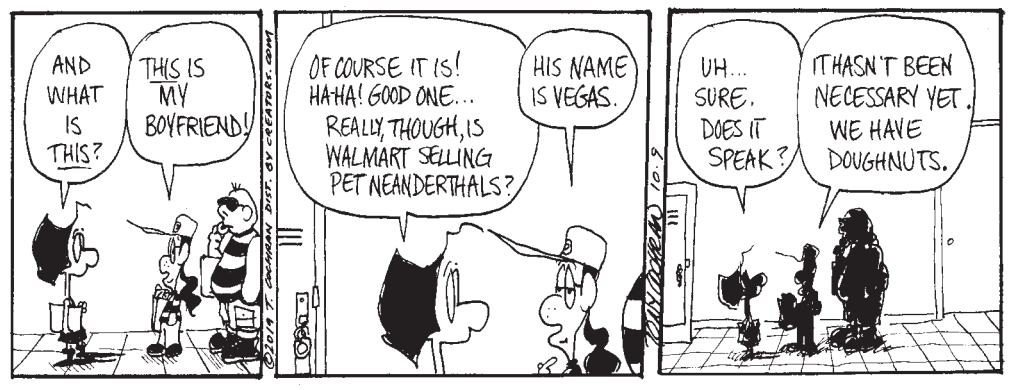
## Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING




## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



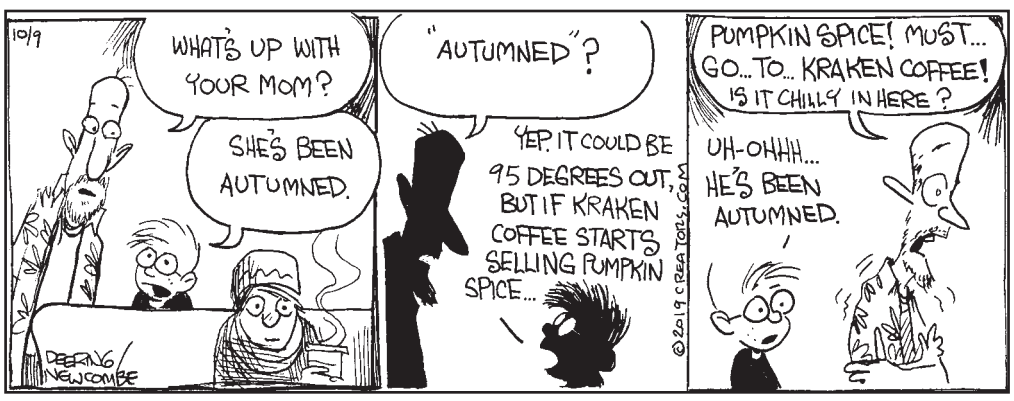

## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART




## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE





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## DAILY LOTTERY

**POWERball**
Draw Date:10/05
6 14 36 51 54
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 80 M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 10/04
11 38 44 48 70
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 55 M

**SuperLotto PLUS**
Draw Date: 10/05
8 27 33 42 47
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 17 M

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 10/07
4 19 27 37 39

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 10/07
Midday: 8 8 4
Draw Date: 10/07
Evening: 8 1 6

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 10/07
1st: 06 - WHIRL WIN
2nd: 01 - GOLD RUSH
3rd: 07 - EUREKA
RACE TIME: 1:48.36

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: 66.4°

WEDNESDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
SW and SSE swell mix. Minor NW swell-mix continues. Light AM wind may continue for the afternoon.

THURSDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft knee to waist high
NW and SSW/SSE swells trending down.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

## Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

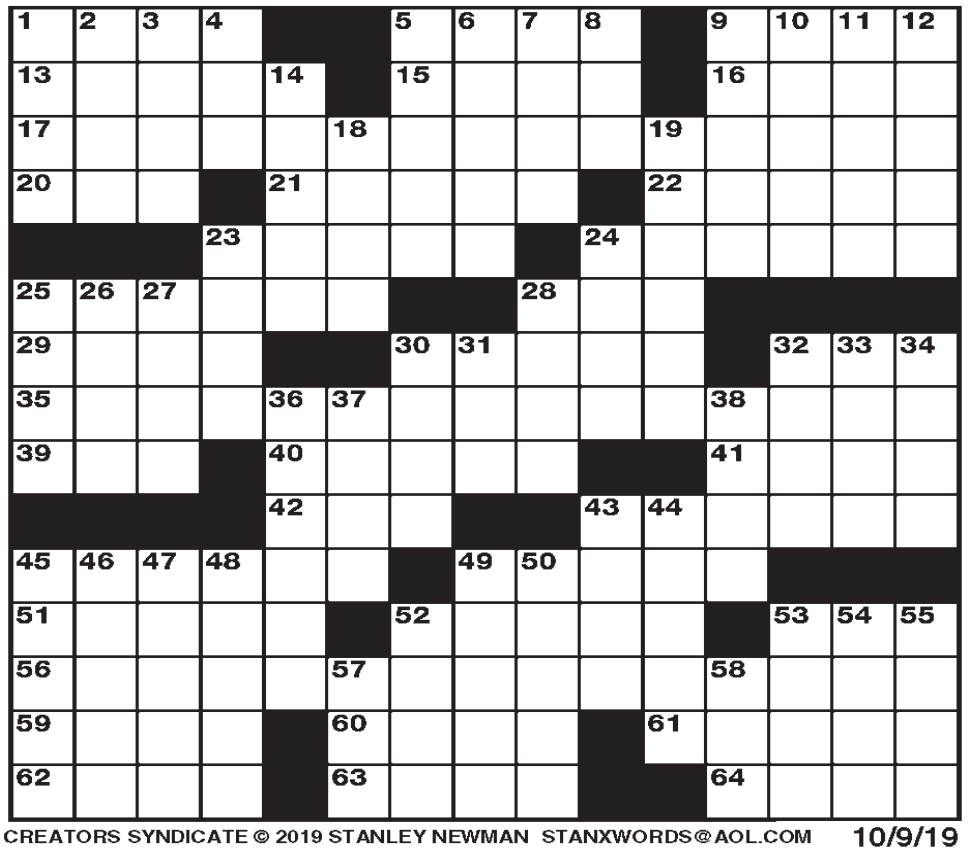
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| 8 | | | | | | 6 | | 1 |
| | 3 | | | | 6 | | | 5 |
| | | 7 | 6 | | 4 | | | |
| 2 | 8 | | | | | | 5 | 6 |
| | | | 5 | | 9 | 4 | | |
| 6 | | | 8 | | | | 7 | |
| 3 | | 5 | | | | | | 4 |
| | | | 3 | 9 | 5 | | | |

## Newsday Crossword

**BETTING TRIO** by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**
1 Well-mannered woman
5 Any sports contest
9 Tunnel sound
13 Ram in the zodiac
15 Cupid alias
16 Raindrop sound
17 Defeated one's comment
20 Remind too often
21 High-tech light
22 I, O or U
23 Urban districts
24 IHOP rival
25 Make recommendations to
28 Dec. follower
29 __ in the neck (pest)
30 South Korea's capital
32 Doze (off)
35 Bring very near
39 The S of RSVP
40 Invalidate
41 Clickable picture
42 Get dressed, with "up"
43 Autumn flowers
45 Nut that sounds like a sneeze
49 Narrow cuts
51 In combat
52 Dutch cheese
53 Some laptops, for short
56 "There's the door!"
59 Eccentric one
60 Worry (about)
61 Phi Beta __
62 Federally issued IDs
63 Intense anger
64 Home in a tree

**DOWN**
1 Mowed area
2 Opera performance
3 Minor fender damage
4 "For sure!"
5 Large water birds
6 Van Gogh hangout
7 Tie up, as a boat
8 Double-curve shape
9 HP rival in printers
10 Class comedian
11 Comfy and cozy
12 German autos
14 Flies alone
18 Mare's flowing hair
19 In equal shares
23 __ oxide (ointment ingredient)
24 Smear on
25 Tablet downloads
26 Spanish surrealist
27 Perfume bottle
28 Billy who sings "Piano Man"
30 Deliver a 2 Down
31 End of UCLA's URL
32 Congenial
33 Unwanted scent
34 Bears' homes
36 Diner or café
37 Blizzard, essentially
38 Tends tots
43 Office helper
44 Corn supporter
45 Big barrels
46 One of the Musketeers
47 Theatrical faint
48 Eagles' cousins
49 More angry
50 Strong and healthy
52 Wise advisor
53 Vatican leader
54 Coffee containers
55 GNP or RBIs
57 Slightly awry
58 Rooter



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## DAILY FIRE LOG

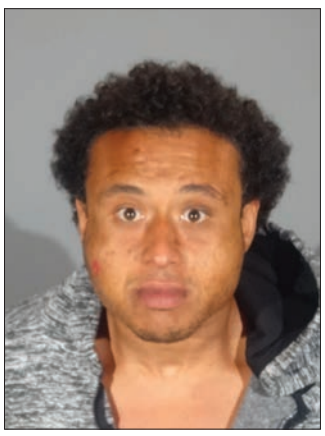
### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 60 CALLS ON OCT. 7

EMS 700blk Navy St 1:08 a.m.
EMS Main St / Ashland Ave 1:25 a.m.
EMS 800blk 7th St 1:35 a.m.
EMS 900blk 6th St 5:17 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:57 a.m.
EMS 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:22 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 8:51 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury 28th St / Ocean Park Blvd 8:57 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Ocean Ave 9:05 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:29 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:09 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 10:15 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1200blk 6th St 10:22 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 16th St 10:39 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Stewart St 10:42 a.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 11:18 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 11:40 a.m.
Elevator rescue 1600blk Wilshire Blvd 12:46 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 1:02 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 30th St / Ocean Park Blvd 1:03 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Yale St / Arizona Ave 1:55 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 2:02 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 2200blk Pico Blvd 2:13 p.m.
EMS 2800blk 11th St 2:19 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 2:37 p.m.
Automatic alarm 200blk San Vicente Blvd 2:56 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 2:57 p.m.
Smoke investigation 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:08 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Pico Blvd 3:10 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 3:11 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1100blk Olympic Blvd 3:34 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 3:55 p.m.
Automatic alarm 400blk 12th St 3:59 p.m.
EMS 19th St / Michigan Ave 4:47 p.m.
EMS 2600blk 2nd St 4:49 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 4:52 p.m.
EMS 7th St / San Vicente Blvd 5:07 p.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 5:15 p.m.
EMS 20th St / Pearl St 5:25 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 5:41 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 4th St 6:24 p.m.
EMS 2200blk California Ave 6:35 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Arizona Ave 6:45 p.m.
EMS 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:06 p.m.
EMS 34th St / Pico Blvd 7:13 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Lincoln Blvd / California Ave 7:41 p.m.
EMS 800blk Lincoln Blvd 7:48 p.m.
EMS 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:52 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:54 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Palisades Park 9:17 p.m.
Flooded condition 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 9:35 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Broadway 9:35 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Broadway 10:13 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 10:53 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 2600blk 34th St 10:55 p.m.




# 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.



File photo

JOSHUA LEWIS PAYTON,

### ON SEPTEMBER 24, AT 7:55 A.M.

Officers responded to a call of a person brandishing a firearm in front of OPCC Safe Haven located in the 1700 block of Cloverfield. Upon arrival, officers met with the victim who knew the suspect. The victim had called the police on the suspect when he observed him assaulting a female. The suspect saw the victim and pulled up the front of his shirt to reveal a medium sized semi-automatic handgun in his waistband. The suspect then yelled a threat to the victim and walked away. Officers were able to locate the suspect later on but did not recover a firearm. Joshua Lewis Payton, 34, from Los Angeles was arrested for brandishing a firearm. Bail was set at $25,000.

## DAILY POLICE LOG

### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 334 CALLS ON OCT. 7

Burglary 1100blk 21st St 1:13 a.m.
Fight 100blk Kinney St 1:14 a.m.
Lewd activity 31st St / Ocean Park Blvd 1:29 a.m.
Fight 1400blk 11th St 3:39 a.m.
Found property 1300blk 19th St 6:39 a.m.
Burglary 2400blk 14th St 6:41 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 14th St / Michigan Ave 6:58 a.m.
Battery Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 7:41 a.m.
Battery 1500blk California Ave 7:45 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1700blk Oak St 8:21 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 3000blk Goldsmith St 8:40 a.m.
Petty theft 900blk 11th St 9:01 a.m.
Auto burglary Appian way / Vicente Ter 9:26 a.m.
Burglary 1500blk 12th St 9:37 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 300blk Montana Ave 9:50 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:58 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1500blk Euclid St 10:05 a.m.
Found property 2600blk the beach 10:12 a.m.
Petty theft 700blk Broadway 10:18 a.m.
Battery 300blk Arizona Ave 10:39 a.m.
Hit and run 600blk Montana Ave 10:46 a.m.
Public intoxication 800blk Pico Blvd 10:48 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 2100blk Stewart St 11:03 a.m.
Petty theft 2500blk Pico Blvd 11:11 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1400blk 25th St 11:22 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk the beach 11:23 a.m.
Civil dispute 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 11:29 a.m.
Petty theft 2500blk Pico Blvd 12:55 p.m.
Auto burglary 1700blk Appian Way 1:01 p.m.
Family disturbance 1400blk 14th St 1:08 p.m.
Auto burglary 2200blk Colorado Ave 1:22 p.m.
Disturbance at a business 1300blk Lincoln Blvd 1:36 p.m.
Burglary 1200blk 11th St 1:46 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1500blk 15th St 1:55 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 2100blk Lincoln Blvd 2:18 p.m.
Petty theft 2400blk Pico Blvd 2:27 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 900blk 5th St 2:32 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 600blk Montana Ave 2:33 p.m.
Petty theft 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:37 p.m.
72 Hour psychiatric hold 300blk Santa Monica Pier 2:40 p.m.
Hit and run 700blk 17th St 2:41 p.m.
Petty theft 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 2:42 p.m.
Burglary 2900blk 31st St 3:02 p.m.
Petty theft 700blk Broadway 3:17 p.m.
72 Hour psychiatric hold 300blk Olympic Dr 3:24 p.m.
Found senile person 1500blk 4th St 3:28 p.m.
Found property 300blk Santa Monica Pier 3:42 p.m.
Petty theft 2500blk Pico Blvd 3:43 p.m.
Burglary 2900blk 31st St 4:04 p.m.
Fraud 2200blk Colorado Ave 4:26 p.m.
Vehicle parked on sidewalk 300blk 4th St 4:34 p.m.
Civil dispute 500blk Wilshire Blvd 4:52 p.m.
Vandalism 2700blk Main St 5:02 p.m.
Petty theft 2200blk Colorado Ave 5:12 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 20th St / Pearl St 5:25 p.m.
Grand theft auto 2300blk 5th St 5:28 p.m.
Vandalism 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:31 p.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 6:27 p.m.
Vandalism 2500blk 28th St 6:44 p.m.
Petty theft 1900blk 18th St 7:11 p.m.
Child abuse 900blk 4th St 7:52 p.m.
Petty theft 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:55 p.m.
Burglary 800blk 6th St 8:16 p.m.
Battery 1500blk Palisades Park 8:26 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 300blk Santa Monica Pier 8:31 p.m.
Found property 1400blk Ocean Ave 8:55 p.m.
Petty theft Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 9:16 p.m.
Family disturbance 1300blk Euclid St 9:35 p.m.
Living in a vehicle 2100blk Virginia Ave 9:53 p.m.
Family disturbance 2000blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:31 p.m.
Petty theft 1600blk the beach 11:39 p.m.
Hit and run 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:45 p.m.

## LAW

FROM PAGE 1

built within the last 15 years, a provision advocates hope will encourage developers to build more in a state that desperately needs it. It does not apply to single family homes, except those owned by corporations or real estate investment trusts. It does not cover duplexes where the owner lives in one of the units.

And it does not cover the 2 million people in California who already have rent control, which is a more restrictive set of limitations for landlords. Most of the state's largest cities, including Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco, have some form of rent control. But a state law passed in 1995 bans any new rent control policies since that year.

Last year, voters rejected a statewide ballot initiative that would have expanded rent control statewide. For most places in California, landlords can raise rent at any time and or any reason if they give notice in advance.

The law is aimed at combating California's housing crisis. The state has some of the most expensive homes prices in the country, driven in part by the high population and slow pace of construction. The state averaged 106,000 building permits for housing units in the first seven months of 2019, down from 127,000 a year ago.

The proposal faced strong opposition from real estate agents, who argued the 15-year exemption on new construction was still not enough to avoid discouraging developers from building new housing.

But advocates countered that restricting rent increases would also confront the state's homeless crisis. A 2018 study by Zillow found areas where more than 32% of the population were rent burdened "can expect a more rapid increase in homelessness."

## CRIME

FROM PAGE 1

occurring in 2019. There were 31 cases of rape in 2019, a 16% decrease.

Thefts are down 17%, but Santa Monica still experienced almost nine thefts per day in 2019. Burglaries decreased by 8% and occurred at a rate of 1.5 per day.

Assaults and robberies happened at a rate of less than one per day and dropped by 23% and 5%, respectively.

Arson was the only category of Part 1 crime that increased. SMPD recorded 22 cases in 2019 and nine cases the previous year.

Renaud has taken several steps to reduce crime since she was hired as chief of police, including hiring 20 officers, putting more officers on patrol, devoting more resources to problem areas like Downtown Santa Monica and establishing a unit dedicated to tracking and responding to crime trends.

"When I arrived in April of last year, I made a promise to the Santa Monica residents, businesses and the community overall that I would dedicate my first year to reducing crime and community outreach," she said.

SMPD spokesperson Lt. Candice Cobarrubias said the department has also focused on crime suppression strategies. SMPD analyzes where and when crime is happening and then patrols the area heavily, deploys undercover officers and asks non-sworn public safety and traffic services officers to serve as an extra set of eyes.

"People are less likely to commit crime if they feel there is a cop or police presence on every corner," Cobarrubias said. "The best metaphor I can think of is you have a bleeding wound, you saturate that wound with gauze, cover it and press on it until the bleeding stops. The same applies for crime prevention."

Renaud said she understands that a handful of recent high-profile incidents — which include two robberies on Montana Avenue, an officer-involved shooting in Ocean Park and a murder in Wilmont — have attracted media coverage and may have made community members feel unsafe.

"I want to reassure when crimes occur you have an extremely professional and highly trained police force working to keep you safe every day," she said.

She asked residents to stay aware of their surroundings and belongings, especially while using their phones, and to report suspicious activity to 911 or SMPD's non-emergency dispatch number, (310) 458-8495.

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