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Santa Monica Daily Press



smdp.com

CANDIDATE PROFILES 2018 Rent Control Board



NAOMI SULTAN

The Daily Press will run a profile of each candidate in the 2018 election.

NAME: NAOMI SULTAN

AGE: 44

OCCUPATION:

VETERANS' RIGHTS ATTORNEY

NEIGHBORHOOD OF RESIDENCE:

OCEAN PARK

OWN/RENT: RENT

MARITAL STATUS: SINGLE

KIDS: 0

POLITICAL AFFILIATION: DEMOCRAT

SQUARE FOOTAGE OF CURRENT HOME:

APPROX. 700

WHY SHOULD HOMEOWNERS OR MARKET RATE RENTERS CARE ABOUT THE STATUS OF RENT CONTROL?

Rent control helps preserve neighborhood stability and diversity. Without rent control, only wealthy people would be able to rent in Santa Monica. Seniors and veterans with limited fixed incomes, young families, students, and low-income workers would be excluded from our housing market. We all benefit when our neighborhoods host people of a wide range of ages, occupations, and experiences.

HOW MANY RESOURCES ARE AND SHOULD BE PUT INTO ENSURING TENANTS ADHERE TO RENT CONTROL RULES

SEE SULTAN PAGE 11

School board preview: Mariachi, money and more

ANGEL CARRERAS

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica students will soon be hitting both the books and bailando due to a soon-to-be implemented program.

At the upcoming October 18 SMMUSD school board meeting, several items will be up for discussion including adding mariachi class to current middle school curriculum, updating the Board on money

raised by the Education Foundation, and approving a master agreement for Malibu to establish The Shark Fund, the Malibu school district's fundraising entity.

The Mariachi Education pilot program will begin on January 8 at Edison elementary school and eventually branch out to more school sites.

According to internal documents, the SMMUSD says their goal with the Latin-flavored

education is to provide students of various ethnicities "an exceptional educational experience that would expand their cultural awareness and promote a lifelong appreciation for music."

They say their program will do this by providing equity, engagement, collaboration, diversity and civility in their curriculum, which will teach students how to play appropriate mariachi instruments as well

as appreciate the historical development of mariachi music.

In addition to the new curriculum, Malibu will also have a newly-approved fundraising entity. Due to the SMMUSD separation, both communities were tasked with forming their own fundraising vehicles. Santa Monica established their own with the Santa Monica Education

SEE MARIACHI PAGE 4



Courtesy Paul Jimenez

MEN OF COLOR CONFERENCE

A. Doctor Brad Stone delivers a speech to minority students.

B. Students from El Camino College Sean Min and Wiley Wilson participate in the First Annual Men of Color Conference at Santa Monica College.

C. Among the services offered at the conference were professional headshots.

Newsom eyes return to spotlight as California governor

JONATHAN J. COOPER

Associated Press

For eight years, Democrat Gavin Newsom bided his time as California's lieutenant governor, a job with little responsibility and little interest to him. He was so eager to start the next phase of

his political life that within three months of winning a second term in 2014 he announced his candidacy for governor.

Now he's a heavy favorite to defeat Republican John Cox in November and become California's top elected official. And already questions are coming

about what many believe is his ultimate goal: president.

Newsom says he's not considering that possibility. Yet few believe him, he acknowledges, not even his friends. They've seen him as presidential timber since he was a high school student wearing a suit and tie to school.

With perfect hair, sparkling teeth, deep-pocketed supporters and a meteoric rise to national prominence, Newsom always seems headed for something bigger. Right now, he insists, that's limited to being governor of the

SEE NEWSOM PAGE 3

Isabel A. Ash Esq.

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- Ashley Powell,
Santa Monica
City Council Candidate

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LORI BROWN



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Calendar

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Hospital Fundraiser

John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary Annual Membership Luncheon & Boutique at the Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills. Luncheon honors Jane Seymour with the Public Service Award. Boutique, 10 a.m.; luncheon and awards, 12 p.m. Tickets are \$150. For information, please email jwciaevents@gmail.com or visit www.jwciauxiliary.com.

Soundwaves Concert

New music concert. Main Library, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting

The Santa Monica Planning Commission normally meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month in the City Council Chamber. 1685 Main St. 7 p.m.

Montana Book Discussion Group: Moonglow

A tale inspired by long-buried family history imparts the deathbed revelation of an ancestor's involvement in a mail-order novelty company famed for ads in mid-20th-century periodicals and the family's experiences around World War II and the space program in culturally divided regions of America. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 18

Housing Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Housing Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street, 1st Floor. 4:30 p.m.

Author & Illustrator Talk with Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson

Please join the multiple award-winning team of author Matt de la Peña and illustrator Christian Robinson for a presentation and drawing demonstration of Carmela Full of Wishes. Book signing to follow. Limited space; tickets will be

available 30 minutes before the program. Co-hosted by Children's Book World. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Back Pain Remedies

Dr. Michael Sinel, a nationally recognized expert in back pain and spinal disorders, as well as the author of Back Pain Remedies for Dummies and Win the Battle Against Back Pain- An Integrated Mind Body Approach, discusses how to help avoid and remedy back pain. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Current Events Discussion Group

Join organizers for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 19

Rebozos: Art, History, Culture & Fashion

A memorable lecture and exhibit on the beautiful Mexican Rebozo. Miriam Quezada will guide you through the history and significance of rebozos, an important garment for women in Mexico and around the world. The lecture followed by a fashion show to enjoy the variety of craft skills and to highlight the art of the weaving rebozos. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Mat Pilates

Learn the techniques of Pilates, a system of controlled exercises that engage the mind and condition the total body. Please bring a yoga or Pilates mat. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 4 - 5 p.m.

Craft Supply Swap

Do you have leftover yarn, extra buttons, or scraps of ribbon you haven't used in months? Join us to share your crafting supplies or find new crafting treasures. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide
Santa Monica Police Activities League Presents ‘Spooktacular’ 2018

The Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL) is creating “Spooktacular” a wonderful community event and safe haven for local youth on Wednesday, October 31 from 5-8 p.m. at Santa Monica PAL Youth Center at 1401 Olympic Blvd.

The Halloween Carnival includes family fun, costumes, trick-or-treat lane, arts and crafts, game booths and a haunted house all courtesy of major donors. PAL is a nonprofit organization and relies on the generosity of companies in the community. Various “Spooktacular” sponsorship levels ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 are now available, interested sponsors can contact Eula Fritz at 310-458-8988.

“Our goal is to provide a safe and fun place for kids to be on Halloween. This is only made possible each year with the support of our donors and sponsors,” says Eula Fritz, Director at Santa Monica Police Activities League. “The Spooktacular event continues to grow and has become one of our most popular events. We are grateful for everyone’s continued support over the years and hope to also find the backing of interested new parties.”

“Spooktacular” is open to all youth and their families. More than 500 local families, children and guests participate each year in a safe evening full of frolicking fun and festivities.

The Santa Monica PAL is a nonprofit organization operated by the City of Santa Monica dedicated to providing a safe and supervised place for young people ages 6 through 17. PAL teaches skills, promotes self-respect and respect for others, and helps kids reach out to their peers and to adults. PAL provides free academic and cultural programs and a wide variety of recreational activities. Each year hundreds of youth learn to work and play in groups, with individual attention available whenever it is needed. The Santa Monica Police Activities League is located at the PAL Youth Center at 1401 Olympic Blvd. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 12-10 p.m. and Saturday from 12-6 p.m. For more information, call (310) 458-8988 or visit smpal.org.

SUBMITTED BY CAMERON ANDREWS

Citywide
Dating Sites Christian Mingle, Jdate Settle Consumer Protection Case with California Prosecutors

Spark Networks USA, LLC, the parent company of niche dating sites Jdate and Christian Mingle, among others, has agreed to change its website and sales practices to better protect California consumers. The Los Angeles-based company also will pay \$500,000 in penalties and up to \$985,000 in restitution to customers whose subscriptions automatically renewed or who were denied refunds when requested.

The Santa Monica City Attorney’s Office acted as lead counsel for the People of the State of California on the case. The terms are part of a final court judgment negotiated with a task force of local prosecutors that also included the district attorneys of Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties.

The task force learned that Spark’s dating sites were automatically renewing customer payments, without their express prior consent as required by federal and state law, among other alleged violations of law.

THE JUDGMENT REQUIRES JDATE, CHRISTIAN MINGLE, AND ALL OF SPARK’S OTHER DATING SITES TO HAVE FULL TRANSPARENCY WITH CONSUMERS ABOUT AUTOMATICALLY-RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS. THE COMPANIES NOW MUST:

- Clearly and conspicuously disclose the renewal terms;
- Get consumers’ consent, through a separate check-box (or similar mechanism) that does not include other terms and conditions;
- Send a clear summary of the renewal terms after consumers pay; and
- Allow consumers to cancel easily.

“Automatic renewal is one of the critical areas in consumer protection today,” said Chief Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky, head of Santa Monica’s Consumer Protection Division. “Consumers always have the right to know where their money is going.”

Spark Networks cooperated with the task force to reach the resolution.

“The Santa Monica City Attorney’s Office is committed to protecting consumers from unfair and unlawful business practices,” said City Attorney Lane Dilg. “This joint effort is an important victory to ensure that consumers will not be subject to recurring charges without their clear consent.”

The judgment was filed today in Santa Monica Superior Court. Online “subscriptions” and other automatically recurring charges have proliferated in the U.S. in recent years. Some renewals come after “free trials,” where consumers need to cancel in time to avoid the charges.

Federal and state law requires businesses to make these auto-renewals clear to consumers, and to get their “express, affirmative consent” - before they collect any money. However, many businesses still don’t follow this law.

In January 2018, a similar group of prosecutors that included the Santa Monica City Attorney, obtained a \$2.2 million judgment against eHarmony, another prominent dating site, for automatic-renewal violations.

In August 2017, the Santa Monica City Attorney obtained a \$3.6 million judgment against Beachbody, one of the world’s largest sellers of exercise videos, supplements, and weight-loss programs. That settlement included the first injunction in California to require the separate check-box to consumers’ consent.

“The separate check-box is the key,” said Radinsky. “Otherwise, it’s confusing and consumers can’t properly consent. Companies have too many ways to hide the auto-renewal terms.”

“Jdate and Christian Mingle now will have one of the best online disclosure and consent pages in the business.”

Deputy City Attorney Gary Rhoades also worked on the case.

The Santa Monica City Attorney’s Consumer Protection Division promotes fairness through awareness and enforcement of the law. To report a consumer issue, go to smconsumer.org or call (310) 458-8336.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, SANTA MONICA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

NEWSOM

FROM PAGE 1

nation’s most populous state.

“I have no interest in anything to do with any of that,” the former San Francisco mayor said of a run for president. “I mean, I don’t know how else to say it. It’s just anathema to anything I’m interested in in life.”

Newsom relishes the idea of replacing Trump administration foil Jerry Brown as governor and being the point for California’s resistance to the president. Left unsaid is that perch leaves him perfectly situated to create a more appealing national profile for Democrats should he decide the White House no longer is anathema.

Riding in the back of his campaign bus through the Central Valley recently, Newsom went over his life story and pushed back on the persistent narrative that’s dogged him since the start of his political career — that he had a privileged upbringing and rode the coattails of his father’s wealthy and connected friends to political success.

He doesn’t deny his father’s friends are wealthy and connected. Bill Newsom was close to Gordon Getty, who inherited a multi-billion-dollar oil fortune, and was lifelong friends with Brown, who also was governor during Newsom’s youth. Getty invested in Newsom’s first business.

Cox has seized on the narrative to paint Newsom as out of touch and opportunistic.

But Newsom, about to turn 51, insists that ignores his struggles as a child with dyslexia raised by a mother who held multiple jobs and moved all the time, and a father who, despite his connections, faced constant financial pressures. His parents separated

when Newsom was young.

“I grew up very differently,” he said. “Everybody thinks I was born at 18 or 20.”

He was privileged to know the Gettys, he said, and to get experiences he’d never otherwise have, like foreign vacations they paid for as a teenager. But it wasn’t his whole reality.

“Going on vacation once a year was not my life 360 of the other days,” he said. “My life was working. Mom crying at night because she’s struggling and stressed out.”

With help from Getty and, he said, 12 other investors, Newsom was in his 20s when he opened his first business, a San Francisco wine store called PlumpJack. The PlumpJack portfolio would grow to include boutique hotels, wineries, bars and restaurants mostly in Northern California. Newsom has largely stepped away from the business and turned over management to his younger sister, Hilary.

Newsom said he hasn’t decided how he’d build a separation between his businesses and his role as governor. He said he’ll fully step away from all decision-making but won’t sell his interests.

California Democratic power broker Willie Brown, then San Francisco’s mayor, gave Newsom his first political job when he appointed him to the city’s Parking and Traffic Commission and later, at the urging of longtime local Democratic lawmaker and operative John Burton, to a vacancy on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Burton and Newsom’s father were childhood friends.

“I thought that he’d serve the city quite well,” Burton said. “And life’s proven I’m a prophet.”

At 36, Newsom was San Francisco’s youngest mayor in a century when just three

months into his term he ordered marriage licenses be granted to same-sex partners, a move that immediately thrust him into the national spotlight.

He was credited with advancing the civil rights of gays and lesbians more than a decade before the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage nationwide. But he also was faulted by many Democrats for foisting the issue into the 2004 presidential campaign, in which Republican George W. Bush was re-elected, long before same-sex unions were widely accepted outside liberal coastal enclaves.

Thousands of couples were married in San Francisco before the state Supreme Court shut it down.

Now, the decision is central to his pitch to voters — that he has the courage to do the right thing, no matter the consequences.

As mayor, he also was known for his homelessness and health care initiatives, and for scandals in his personal life.

His “Care Not Cash” program reduced cash assistance for people living on the streets and replaced it with housing and services. “Healthy San Francisco” provides basic health care to everyone in the city, even those living in the country illegally, funded largely by businesses and the city’s general fund.

But he had a sometimes rocky relationship with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. His ambitious pledge to end homelessness never came to fruition and that problem now is more pronounced than ever.

After his glamorous marriage to prosecutor-turned-Court TV personality Kimberly Guilfoyle ended in divorce, it came to light he’d had an affair with an aide who, at the time, was married to Newsom’s campaign

manager and close friend. In his current race, he says he’s been open and honest about the episode and learned from it.

Guilfoyle went on to work for Fox News and now is dating Donald Trump Jr., the president’s son. Newsom married Jennifer Siebel, an actress and filmmaker whose work has focused, among other things, on gender stereotypes. They have four children.

Newsom has focused his campaign on opposition to Trump. He supports a state ballot issue to rescind a gas tax increase earmarked to improve infrastructure. Cox has made the repeal a focus of his campaign.

Newsom also has pledged to build 3.5 million housing units by 2025 to provide more options for poor and middle-class families, a promise many experts find overly ambitious, and to extend health coverage to the uninsured, including immigrants living in the country illegally.

On the campaign trail, Newsom memorizes his speeches and all the facts and figures that go in them, a necessity because of dyslexia, a disorder that makes it difficult to read and comprehend written words.

“I just have to quadruple prepare, which is just not easy,” Newsom said, then added: “But look, I’m only here because I do all this.”

During his recent bus tour, he demonstrated the laborious coping mechanism he’s developed to retain what he reads. He underlines important information, then goes back and rewrites key points in his own hand. He dates the page and stores them in binders separated by subject matter.

“You will never find my fifth-grade teacher (to) say, ‘I always knew he was going to be governor,’” he joked. “There’s no teacher in my life — they’re all just sitting here going, ‘How the hell did that happen?’”



Your column here

By Jim Hayes

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Supporting small cells

The op/ed by Councilmember McKeown brings up an interesting topic, but some of the issues could use a bit more complete information. And technical explanation. I'm a former telecom entrepreneur, now a technical writer, curriculum developer and educator in telecommunications, so I'd like to take a crack at it. My actual job is running, along with my wife Karen, the FOA - Fiber Optic Association - the international professional society of fiber optics. We have 200+ schools in 40+ countries around the world that have trained and certified about 75,000 fiber optic technicians, including many of the installers building fiber optic networks here in Santa Monica and Southern California.

What does fiber optics have to do with wireless, you might ask? Those cellular sites are mostly connected on optical fiber, so we actually offer training and certification for techs in "Fiber Optics For Wireless." Not only does fiber make your mobile devices like smart phones and tablets work, it is the backbone of the Internet, connects those cameras and smart traffic lights at intersections and connects up city offices, libraries, schools and many businesses here in Santa Monica.

Back to those wireless sites, as they are called. The older sites, the ones on high towers and the sides or roofs of some buildings, have big antennas that many workers in the business call "ironing boards" for their shape. Those antennas are designed to cover large areas, many miles, so they need a lot of power. Each antenna has around 40 watts of radio frequency power to reach the range required. A full cell tower can have dozens of these antennas so the total power is substantial and would be dangerous to workers near them. So to work on them, they generally shut them off and work on them in the middle of the night when most people are sleeping. But working on those towers in the dark is dangerous work, making this a very dangerous job.

The new installations of small cellular antennas on street lights that are being made in Santa Monica and many other SoCal neighborhoods are called "small cells." Small cells are designed to cover small areas, a couple of blocks, and as a result, small cells don't need much power. A typical small cell has a power output comparable to a WiFi antenna (called an access point) you use for wireless indoors for your laptops, phones, tablets and maybe even TVs and home automation devices. I'll bet 99% of

the homes in Santa Monica have at least one WiFi antenna and a handful of devices with WiFi antennas built into them. Are any of you worried about them?

These small cells are not "5G" wireless. They are current generation 4G or LTE systems, just like the big cell towers, just lower power for smaller service areas. 5G is not even a standard for cellular systems. As a speaker at a recent wireless conference I attended said, "5G is not a standard, it is a GOAL." The only installations of 5G are small experimental sites being tested by wireless service providers. You cannot buy a 5G phone today because the industry has not agreed what 5G is.

What has been proposed for 5G is to use higher frequency radio waves for transmission - really high frequencies. That's because higher frequencies can transmit more information. But there are technical difficulties. The very high frequencies proposed are absorbed by rain, fog, leaves and completely stopped by walls and, yes, people. All that water in your body stops the high frequencies proposed for some 5G systems completely. I've heard people say that using 5G indoors would require antennas in every room of a building or house to get full coverage. That's going to be very expensive, worry a lot of people - including me - about health issues - and is probably makes it a non-starter.

Perhaps you are familiar with the one constant of high-tech, HYPE. If you believed everything you read about tech in the last decade, or maybe the last year or two, you'd think today we'll all be riding around in self-driven cars, taking vacations in space, and having a drop of blood analyzed for every possible ailment under the sun. Ain't happening for a long time, if ever. Same for 5G.

As I walk around the streets here in Santa Monica, I'm happy to see all those small cells going in. That's because cellular service in my neighborhood is absolutely awful. It has not gotten better in the last dozen years, even with a change in service provider. Based on what I know about small cells, including what I've learned from people we've trained on fiber optics, I think it has the best chance of improving our wireless service. And it's hard to get upset about small cells from an aesthetics point of view when they are added to the poles of street lights.

Jim Hayes, President The Fiber Optic Association Inc.

MARIACHI

FROM PAGE 1

Foundation this past summer.

On the topic of money and fundraising, the school board agenda will also feature an update provided by the Santa Monica Education Foundation. According to documents to be shown at the board meeting, \$1,325,536 have been raised by the foundation to date as of September 30.

Average donations per household are the highest they've ever been so far in the school year, with donors dishing out

an average of \$695 each. This includes corporate donors, parents and staff. The foundation plans to continue outreach and begin new initiatives beginning next year.

Additional items to be discussed at the board meeting include quarterly updates on disability harassment and hate-motivated behavior in schools, various amendments to campus construction projects and a public hearing concerning negotiations between SMMUSD and the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers' Association.

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LEMLE LAW GROUP, PC

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER

Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Robbie Piubeni
robbie@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Tyree Beavers
tyree@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

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

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

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



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Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Voting is (not-) incumbent

KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO?

After the election?

I'm going to start writing about all the good things that go on in our fair city, all the good things our City staff does, all the good that comes from our elected officials. There's plenty of it. And won't that be uplifting? And a lot nicer for me?

However —

I can't in good conscience do that until those people stop doing way more harm than good. I know they don't see themselves that way, but many of us do, and that's something they really should pay attention to. But they don't.

We feel dismissed, unheard, even reviled, for loving Santa Monica as much as they do but differing, drastically, on vision. We feel we are without a voice in the direction our city is being pushed, which is over the palisades cliff.

Our city. The one we chose and cherish and have lived in for years or decades or even generations. Whose city is it, if not ours? We want our children to be able to live in a Santa Monica they too will still cherish. Doesn't look good for that right now. And not having a say, sucks.

OUR CITY IS DYING

In so many ways. The buck stops with the current Santa Monica for Renters' Rights (SMRR)-anointed, Forward-backed, Union 11-aided civic leaders, and ultimately with our City Council. And since many of them have had years if not decades to change their evil ways — Term Limits, anyone? — it would appear voting them out may be the only way to stop the degradation and pain.

Sounds simple enough. But if you're even half-informed, you know things have changed in the voting booth. The Republican party has pushed through voter suppression in 23 of 50 states since the Supreme Court ridiculously decided there was no longer any need to monitor the ways states conduct elections. The very next day the GOP in some states began their attack on our most precious right, the right to vote.

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

Every once in a while I get a good laugh when someone rises up indignantly in a local social media thread and declares, well, if you don't like an elected official here, just vote them out!

That's how you can tell that someone just moved to Santa Monica, and hasn't yet started paying attention.

Elections should be simple. One person, one vote, count them up. But that's not where we're at. No voter suppression here (that I know of) but, why does it take a minimum \$150,000 to win a Council seat (that pays barely \$12,000)? Political Action Committees (PACs) throw in hundreds of thousands and candidates claim, like Sgt. Schultz in Hogan's Heroes, "I know nothing. Nothing!" Why are you almost dead in the water if you can't get the endorsement of kingmakers SMRR? If things have gotten so bad here and the incumbents are clearly to blame and all this money and political machinery is set up to keep it all going, what hope is there?

THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE

As long as we have a vote, because we are the many. The problem is, we have to

come out in droves, an absolute tsunami of voters who previously stayed home or voted in ignorance, to overcome the numbers of people who do vote in ignorance. They grab the last postcard they got in the mail and vote for the ones every "good name" endorses, nearly all incumbents. Not knowing that those endorsements are literally paid for.

Are there any good incumbents, that we should keep? In my opinion, no — almost. In the most important race, City Council, I have recently spoken kindly of one, but you can vote for three candidates so I shall vote also for two challengers whose platforms would please everyone I know who feels as I do. One other challenger is a SMRR golden boy who has not, as he claims, spent a "lifetime" in Santa Monica and should be rejected, and the other someone I found to be so uninformed and unfocused that even her good social positions should not earn a seat on the Council. We have one good incumbent and two really good challengers. Against all odds, let's change Council and turn this sinking ship around. That's your most important local vote.

For Rent Control Board you have three challengers to the all-lawyer board. One is a lawyer, also coming straight from SMRR. Of the other two, only one is a property owner and as I said last election, it's not right to not have them represented, with at least one member, since all the RCB business concerns also property owners. It make sense to get them in the mix for the best outcome for our many renters. I will bullet vote for only that one.

The college board of trustees has two challengers, one of whom I believe, from conversations, will be great. I will vote for both, and only those two. The SMMUSD school board race has one challenger that absolutely needs a seat there. I will also vote for one of the incumbents, but you will just have to guess. (Don't overthink it.) Again, two votes only.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK: About bond measure SMS: With very nearly a billion of our dollars at stake, why is there no "Argument Against," only "For," on the City's Vote 2018 site? Was the PTA endorsement of it really representative of parents? Where is the League of Women Voters study/analysis that led to their endorsement of it? Why not wait two years until the next election to have a bond measure that is specific as to where the money will go? Why the rush when we still have \$2M/week available through 2020 to spend from reserves and the last school bond measure we generously approved? How much will this cost renters? (Even the Rent Control Board doesn't know.) Are you OK that 20 of the 29 contributors to the campaign for the bond were companies from outside Santa Monica that provide consulting, design, engineering and construction services? Follow the money.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Every election is sort of an advance auction sale of stolen goods." — H.L. Mencken.

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

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TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION

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AND CLEANING
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Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) Inviting Bids

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type "B or C-20" license, on the following: **Bid #19.15. ES - DSA#03-118434 Santa Monica High School – HVAC Barnum, Music, Admin & North Gym Buildings Project at Santa Monica High School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000** and is for work in 4 adjacent buildings, which includes: the removal of existing rooftop HVAC units; the installation of new rooftop and ground mounted package units, electrical and controls: retrofitting existing fans with new motors; and installing new makeup air fans and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be filed in the Districts Purchasing Office located at 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 on or before 11/21/18 no later than 2:30 PM at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Each bid must be sealed and marked with the bid name and number. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 10/30/18 at 11:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission:

All applications are due no later than 11/6/18 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at <http://fipcontractors.smmusd.org/fip-office-website.aspx>.

Mandatory Job Walk:

Tuesday, 10/30/18 at 11:30 AM

Job Walk location:

Santa Monica High School located in Santa Monica, CA – **All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the 4th Street pedestrian gate, adjacent to the Double Tree Hotel, opposite the Civic Center parking structure. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location.**

Bid Opening:

Wednesday, 11/21/18 at 2:30 PM

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualitybidders.com directly.

VOTE EARLY



Nicole Phillis Naomi Sultan Steve Duron

YOUR PROGRESSIVE RENTER SLATE RUNNING FOR THE RENT CONTROL BOARD

WE'RE ENDORSED BY:



Protecting Renters and Santa Monica Values.

Paid for by Re-Elect Nicole Phillis for Rent Control Board 2018 - ID # 1410928, Naomi Sultan for Santa Monica Rent Control Board 2018 #1411464, Re-Elect Steve Duron to Santa Monica Rent Control Board 2018 #Pending

Rotary News

By Alanna Shepard

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rotary International's END POLIO NOW Campaign

The 6th Annual World Polio Day is October 24, 2018. One of the primary focuses of Rotary International is the eradication of the polio virus. There are three variations of the virus, the few cases of wild polio virus that we see now are all type 1. The last case of type 2 was in 1999, and the world was certified type 2 free in 2015. The last case of type 3 polio virus was in 2012. The virus mostly infects children under the age of five because they are the least likely to be fully vaccinated. There is no cure and 1 in 200 polio infections leads to irreversible paralysis. In the past 30 years, the world has gone from 125 polio-endemic countries to only two, a 99.9% worldwide reduction of cases. In 2018 there are only 18 new cases reported in these two countries, Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Nigeria is in its second year toward the three years without wild polio virus that are required for a country to be certified polio free. Without the eradication efforts of Rotary International since 1988, 17.4 million currently healthy people would have been paralyzed with polio.

From 2010 to 2017, the Rotary Foundation awarded nearly \$700 million in PolioPlus grants. Vaccines are largely covered by other donors, so Rotary provides funds to cover the gaps. Research (\$16.6 million), surveillance (\$72.5 million), technical assistance (\$132 million), social mobilization (\$141.4 million), vaccines (\$20.4 million) and operational support (\$308 million) are funded in part by the Rotary Foundation. Rotary has pledged \$50 million per year for three years to help fund the effort to reach Polio-free certification (the total interruption of the wild polio virus for three years). The Gates Foundation has pledged to match ALL donations to Rotary 2:1 for ending polio.

Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) have worked to reach 430 million children in 39 countries during polio immunization campaigns in 2017. Rotary International is the Advocate and its partners in GPEI consist of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (The Largest Private Funder), US Centers for Disease Control (The Virus Hunters), UNICEF (The Immunizers) and the World Health Organization (The Strategists).

An article in the October 2018 issue of ROTARIAN magazine profiled a young Rotaractor in Uganda, Patience Asimwe, who worked with a Rotary vaccination team in the mountain community of Tapac, an 8-hour drive from her home in Kampala, Uganda.

Asimwe works for the Uganda Cancer Society but joined Rotaract in 2016 at age 21 following a suggestion by her mother Margaret Okello, a member of the Rotary Club of Kampala Naguru. In November 2017, she took a week off from her job in order to vaccinate children against the polio



Courtesy photo

POLIO: The Rotary Club of Santa Monica is part of an effort to eliminate polio.

virus. During this expedition, a film crew documented the immunization effort for Rotary's newest virtual reality film, Two Drops of Patience that can be viewed on Rotary International's website, rotary.org.

There is no electricity in the Tapac area, but luckily solar panels were donated to run the refrigerator, since the polio vaccination has to be kept cool. The team was taught how to vaccinate the children without contaminating the vial. Because of a history of violent conflict among tribes, the village people were suspicious of everyone. The team had to move with the nurse familiar to the village because she spoke their native language, and the parents of the children had to be convinced that the vaccine was going to help their child, not harm them. While Asimwe was initially nervous that she would make a mistake, her unease turned into awe because when the two drops were placed in the mouth of a child, she knew its life was changed for the better.

"It is essential that we maintain the momentum for the complete eradication of polio in the world. We are very very close, but until every country is certified polio free and there are no more new cases of wild polio, there remains the real danger that it can come roaring back" said Judy Neveau, Polio Chair for Rotary District 5280 in Southern California.

The goal is a 100% polio-free world! We're almost there. Let's do our part to vanquish the virus. If you want to get involved in the END POLIO NOW Campaign, please visit rotary.org for more information.

PAL PRESENTS



Spooktacular

PAL Youth Center

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Family Fun, Costumes, Tricks, Treats & More!

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FREE!

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Trick or Treat Sponsor



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The Pretenders Studio & Dance For A Difference - UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica
Baker & Hostetler, LLP - Bourget Bros. Building Materials - Charlie Yen
Coalition Board of Santa Monica Employees - Earth Wind and Flour
Costco - Gelson's - Real Property Group - Santa Monica Pet Medical Center - Tacos Por Favor -
The Galley - The Lindsey Family - Trader Joe's



Santa Monica welcomes people of all abilities in our programs. The PAL Youth Center is accessible to wheelchairs. If you have any disability-related request, please contact (310) 458-8988 at least three days prior to the event. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus line #5 & #7 serves the PAL Youth Center.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO

• Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218
• Santa Monica, CA 90401 • letters@smdp.com

California agency, gas tax backers worked closely together

SOPHIA BOLLAG

Associated Press

As the political battle to overturn California's gas tax increase intensified, the state transportation agency coordinated frequently with the public affairs firm working to block the repeal on behalf of unions, construction companies and local government groups, emails obtained by The Associated Press show.

The California State Transportation Agency and Sacramento-based Bicker, Castillo & Fairbanks organized news conferences and other efforts to promote legislation to raise the tax to fund road and bridge repairs, which passed the Legislature in April 2017. After Gov. Jerry Brown signed it, the agency and firm continued planning events and coordinating social media posts as opponents gathered signatures for repeal.

Three ethics experts interviewed by the AP said the emails raise concerns that the agency's relationship with the firm was too close, but none saw a clear violation of campaign laws, which prohibit the use of public resources for political campaigns.

The repeal qualified for the November ballot in June. The firm, BCF, continues to work for the anti-repeal coalition, which includes the League of California Cities and the California Chamber of Commerce.

Some communications between BCF and the state agency involved politics, according to more than 200 emails from 2017 and the first half of this year obtained by the AP through the California Public Records Act.

Last fall, the agency and firm discussed opinion pieces "targeting" U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa and three other vulnerable Republicans in Congress. National Democratic leaders see those seats as key to winning control of the U.S. House.

In January, a BCF partner, Kathy Fairbanks, communicated with the agency about designing a campaign logo for Proposition 69, a June ballot measure involving how gas tax proceeds are spent. And an undated memo shows the agency and firm also planned to coordinate efforts for several months through the primary.

Loyola Law School Professor and government ethics expert Jessica Levinson said the relationship between the firm and agency appears too close, and the exchange about the congressmen crossed an ethical line.

"I mean way over the line," she said.

BCF and agency officials said the communications were appropriate to educate the public about the law and that they ramped down coordination when the firm took an official campaign role.

"Clearly the agency was trying to coordinate with the campaign, and they shouldn't have," said Bob Stern, a government ethics expert who helped write California's campaign laws. But he added the actual amount of time government workers spent coordinating with the firm was likely minimal.

Ann Ravel, who served on the Federal Election Commission and California's Fair Political Practices Commission, said the

SEE GAS TAX PAGE 11

Gelson's

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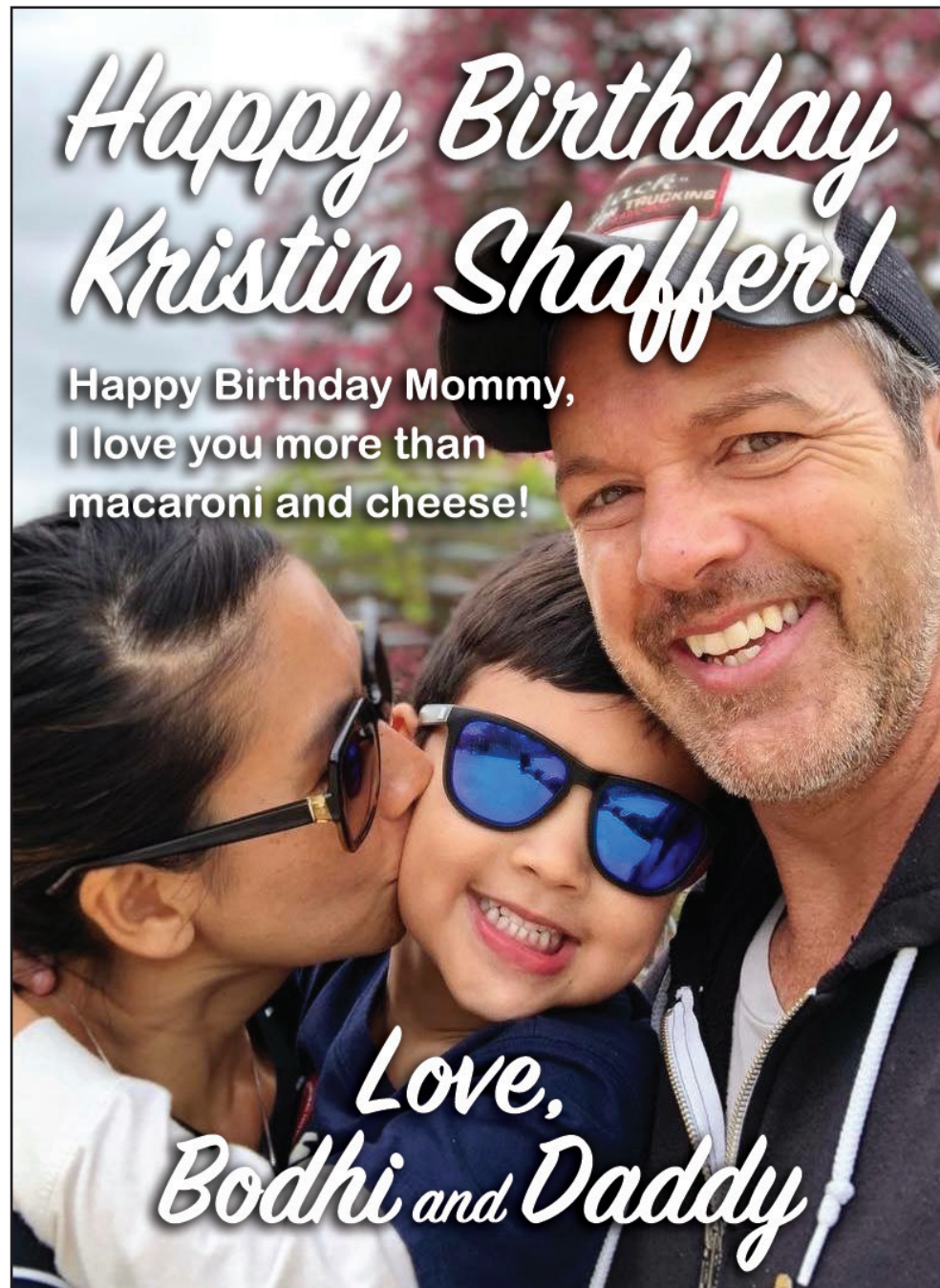
CALL NOW. SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP.

424-316-5111



Happy Birthday Kristin Shaffer!

Happy Birthday Mommy,
I love you more than
macaroni and cheese!



*Love,
Bodhi and Daddy*



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OCTOBER 19 - 21

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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 65.5°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft waist to stomach high
Long period SW swells; one easing, one slowly building.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4 ft waist to chest high
Continued SW swell. May see new WNW swell pick up for select exposures through the day.



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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 OCTOBER 3 AT ABOUT 7:30 P.M.

A patrol officer was driving in the 600 block of Ocean Avenue when he witnessed a male in possession of a shopping cart containing recyclables, and at a city owned trash bin removing items in violation of the City's municipal code. The officer recognized this individual as a suspect who has been trespassing on resident's property as well as acting aggressively towards them. When the officer contacted the individual he became verbally aggressive and uncooperative with him. The officer was unable to identify this individual, so subsequently placed him under arrest. Luis Alredo Aguilar, 26, of Los Angeles, was arrested for theft of recyclables. Bail was set at \$500.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 387 Calls For Service On Oct. 15.

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

Family disturbance 1900 block Ocean Way 12:13 a.m.
Animal related incident 2600 block 28th 01:04 a.m.
Person down 1500 block Ocean 01:22 a.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1600 block Appian 01:31 a.m.
Traffic collision w/injuries 20th/Santa Monica 04:54 a.m.
Sexual assault 400 block Expo Line 05:19 a.m.
Domestic violence 1600 block Ocean Front Walk 07:04 a.m.
Domestic violence 300 block Santa Monica Pier 07:07 a.m.
Vandalism 900 block 19th 07:09 a.m.
Vandalism 1200 block 23rd 08:04 a.m.
Burglary 2300 block Lincoln 08:44 a.m.
Prowler 400 block 14th 08:48 a.m.
Animal related incident 1300 block Oak 09:01 a.m.
Animal related incident 11th/Ocean Park 09:03 a.m.
Fight 2600 block Main 09:34 a.m.
Burglary 1300 block 7th 09:49 a.m.
Burglary 2300 block Lincoln 09:51 a.m.
Grand theft 2400 block Broadway 10:19 a.m.
Grand theft 1400 block 3rd Prom 10:36 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block 4th 10:58 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block 18th 11:30 a.m.
Traffic collision w/injuries 7th/Colorado 11:44 a.m.
Death investigation 1100 block Euclid 11:45 a.m.
Strong-arm robbery 700 block Broadway 12:02 p.m.
Vandalism Ocean/Bay 12:23 p.m.

Vandalism 3300 block Pico 12:44 p.m.
Auto burglary 4th/Santa Monica 12:47 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injuries 2200 block Wilshire 12:49 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1300 block Wilshire 1:04 p.m.
Overdose 1000 block 3rd 1:08 p.m.
Bike theft 2500 block Pico 1:16 p.m.
Battery 600 block Pico 1:25 p.m.
Hit & run felony Pacific Coast/California Incline 1:47 p.m.
Encampment Cloverfield/Olympic 1:52 p.m.
Injured person 1200 block 4th 2:02 p.m.
Prowler 1300 block Yale 2:05 p.m.
Illegal weapon 2500 block Santa Monica 2:52 p.m.
Burglary 2400 block Michigan 2:56 p.m.
Battery 5th/California 3:14 p.m.
Urinating/defecating in public 3rd Prom/Santa Monica 03:40 p.m.
Indecent exposure 2600 block Santa Monica 3:49 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1500 block 19th 5:41 p.m.
Missing person 300 block Olympic 5:51 p.m.
Battery 100 block W. California 5:58 p.m.
Elder abuse 1300 block 15th 6:03 p.m.
Burglary 600 block Ocean 6:03 p.m.
Battery 4th/Colorado 6:07 p.m.
Vandalism 900 block 19th 6:48 p.m.
Auto burglary 2900 block 31st 7:50 p.m.
Grand theft auto 2100 block Lincoln 8:08 p.m.
Grand theft 1300 block 3rd Prom 8:19 p.m.
Sexual assault 1600 block The Beach 8:37 p.m.
Overdose Ocean/Broadway 9:12 p.m.
Grand theft 2800 block 28th 9:34 p.m.
Overdose 400 block Expo Line 9:51 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 48 Calls For Service On Oct. 15.

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

Automatic alarm 2700 block Pennsylvania 01:09 a.m.
Elevator rescue 1200 block 16th 04:38 a.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 20th/Santa Monica 04:55 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2400 block Colorado 05:37 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service 1400 block 2nd 06:24 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block Ocean 07:02 a.m.
EMS 1300 block Franklin 07:10 a.m.
EMS Ocean/Seaside 07:46 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Cloverfield 08:19 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1600 block Santa Monica 08:33 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block Pearl 09:32 a.m.
EMS 3300 block Exposition 09:35 a.m.
EMS 2400 block Santa Monica 10:12 a.m.
EMS 600 block Wilshire 10:46 a.m.
Transformer fire 1000 block Pico 11:10 a.m.

Automatic alarm 700 block Pico 11:14 a.m.
Electrical fire-No fire visible 1400 block Olympic 11:18 a.m.
Elevator rescue 1900 block Euclid 11:35 a.m.
EMS 1100 block Euclid 11:39 a.m.
EMS 7th/Colorado 11:44 a.m.
EMS 500 block Olympic 11:55 a.m.
EMS 1900 block 22nd 12:17 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 2200 block Wilshire 12:49 p.m.
EMS 1000 block Pico 1:03 p.m.
EMS 1000 block 3rd 1:08 p.m.
Wires down 1000 block Ashland 1:51 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 1:56 p.m.
EMS 1200 block 4th 2:02 p.m.
Bee emergency 300 block Olympic 2:02 p.m.
EMS 100 block Colorado 2:06 p.m.
Automatic alarm 900 block 6th 2:50 p.m.
EMS 1000 block Maple 3:35 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 10/3
11 14 32 43 65
Power#: 15
Jackpot: 345M



Draw Date: 10/12
4 24 46 61 70
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 667M



Draw Date: 10/13
3 23 30 38 40
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 14M



Draw Date: 10/15
1 6 17 34 36



Draw Date: 10/16
MIDDAY: 3 5 2
Draw Date: 10/15
EVENING: 3 4 8



Draw Date: 10/15
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:45.37

WORD UP!

linguaphile
1. a language and word lover.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LALEE

Last Words
■ “God will pardon me. That’s his line of work.” – Heinrich Heine (1797-1856), a German poet best known for lyric poetry set to music by contemporary composers such as Robert Schumann and Franz Schubert

Med School
■ Q: Muscle cells are more efficient at burning calories than fat cells. How many times more efficient?
a) 2
b) 3
c) 5
d) False. Muscle cells and fat cells burn calories at comparable rates.
■ A: 3

MYSTERY PHOTO



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

REPAIR BILL by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Channel covering Congress
6 Phone downloads
10 Owl-like, supposedly
14 Chicago airport
15 Bugs Bunny or SpongeBob
16 Some nest eggs, for short
17 Pick-me-up beverage
18 “I’m treating!”
19 Windshield darkener
20 Roles with scripted dialogue
23 Stocking tip
24 South Florida island
25 Minor ankle injury
29 Clumsy one
31 Lab rodent
34 Wipe clean
35 Stray animal
36 Spot for home napping
37 Assembly-line principle
40 Virtuosos
41 Busy time at luncheonettes
42 Writer T.S.
43 Homer Simpson neighbor
44 Up to the task
45 Authors’ representatives
46 Egg ___ yung
47 Go public with
48 Levy in the UK
55 Getting little rain
57 Cape Canaveral org.

DOWN

1 Camp beds
2 Look for bargains
3 Window glass
4 Diva’s solo
5 Common Father’s Day gifts
6 Make up for
7 Ping-___
8 Stately display
9 Slip away
10 Quick with quips
11 Part of the eye
12 ___ Antonio, TX
13 Superlative suffix
21 Charged particle
22 Chianti’s color
25 Family car
26 Cost
27 Gave a great review
28 Without a warranty
29 Kayak cousin
30 Long-tailed Oz visitor
31 Batman’s pal
32 Sherlock’s “underway”
33 Fruity pastries
35 Winter fabric
36 Money-saving event
38 Not out of play
39 Parts of recliners
44 “You’ve got mail” company
45 Assist
46 No longer colorful
47 Change with the times
48 Loathsome
49 ___ Grey tea
50 Where the Himalayas rise
51 Event near the end of *Hamilton*
52 Fey of *30 Rock*
53 Bit of matter
54 Gen-___ (boomers’ kids)
55 Hibachi residue
56 Shad eggs

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CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 10/17/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (OCT. 17)

It's a nonstop learning process this year. As soon as you master one area, you'll move on to the next. At this rate, you'll soon be at the top of your field of interest. Other delights of the solar return will include a visit from afar, unexpectedly generous gifts sprinkled through the seasons and fun updates to your domestic scene. Gemini and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 1, 27, 38 and 31.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Since most work will be done by, through and with the cooperation of people, anything you do to enhance your individual effectiveness will positively impact the performance of the entire team.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You can theorize all the livelong day, but you'll never know what will happen until you try it out in real life. Your cosmic gift of the day is the guts to jump in and put your ideas to the test.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

There are things important enough to do whatever the odds are of succeeding. When it's a matter of right and wrong, the odds are irrelevant. As for the rest, it's only smart to look at the statistics.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Unless you disrupt the tendency, you'll drift into a comfortable pattern. This may not be a bad thing; it just depends on what you really want for yourself and how badly you want it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

People may wear a familiar face as they listen to you, but you never quite know how they are processing the information internally. That's why it will be important to ask questions and be alert to cues.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

People working things out together – it's a form of love, or maybe it just is love. That's what you'll get today, and even better, you'll appreciate it. Special connections: Gemini and Libra.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Pay attention to how other people pay attention. It will tell you what you need to know about how to plan your next move. There are no bad positions, but there are some that are easier to navigate than others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You care about relationships more than you care about being right, and these things go together very, very well. Compassion, softness and tolerance are what will hold you in good stead today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You needn't fear the change that's on the horizon. You're adaptable, and you will quickly figure out what's in it for you. It's right to be a little selfish about this. You need to get a sure footing before you can help others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Try and concentrate exclusively on what you want to happen. Giving any attention to what you don't want will only diffuse your power to make good things happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The challenge on the table will take a certain amount of physical ability and a whole lot more brain-wrangling concentration. You're gifted in both areas, and you should have no problem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Natural talent can only take a person so far. It is better not to rely on gifts and to instead put in the work, because then you know how to get results and you can repeat the process.

LUNAR EDUCATION QUEST

It is said that those who don't want to learn can't be helped, but it's not really true. The learning-resistant are usually either confused or asleep. Loud realities will reorient them. Meanwhile, anyone who is determined to learn cannot be stopped under this magnificent Aquarius moon.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO

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Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



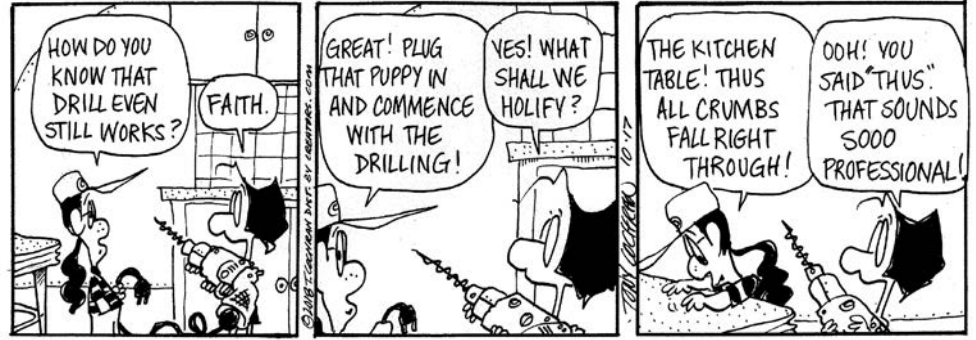
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



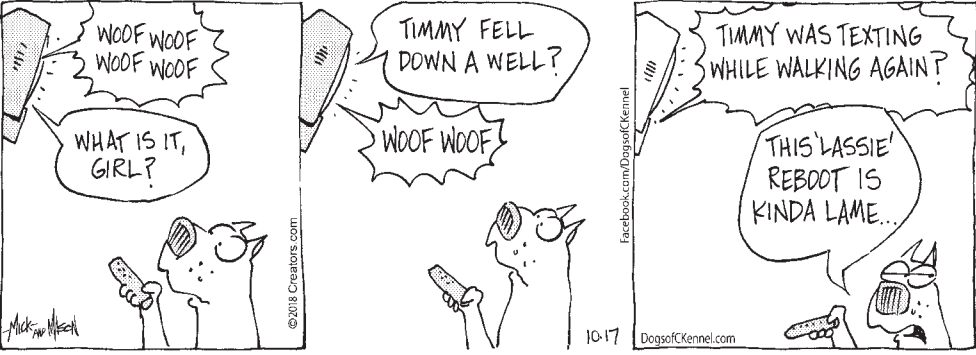
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



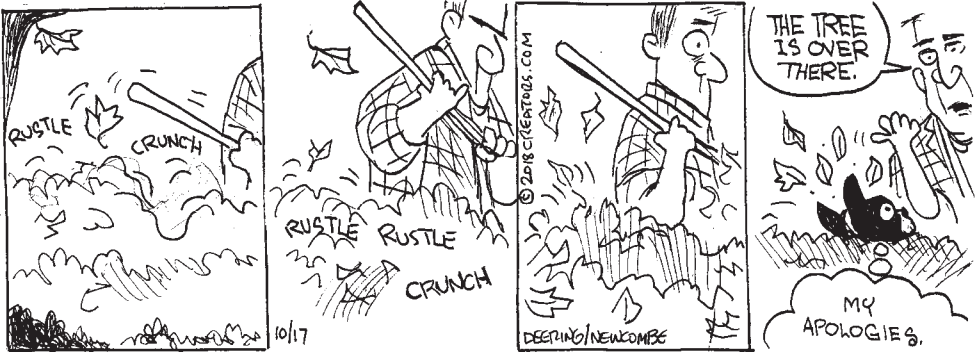
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Zack Hill

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SULTAN
FROM PAGE 1

VS. PURSUING LANDLORDS WHO BEHAVE BADLY?

I support putting additional city resources into combating the harassment of tenants and the loss of our affordable housing stock. When tenants report code violations and/or landlord harassment, the city needs to act expeditiously on their concerns. Corporations skirting regulations to turn formerly rent-controlled apartments into exorbitant corporate housing and hotel rooms is particularly alarming.

HAVE YOU WATCHED ANY REAL-ESTATE BASED TV SHOWS? IF SO WHICH ONES?

Little House on the Prairie was my favorite TV show growing up. I identified strongly with Laura Ingalls, who was a bit of a free-thinking tomboy. I love seeing old pictures of Santa Monica from that era, back when people still traveled P.C.H. by horse-drawn carriage.

DO YOU THINK LANDLORDS ARE CURRENTLY GETTING A “FAIR RETURN” ON THEIR INVESTMENTS VIA THE ANNUAL RENT ADJUSTMENT FORMULA?

Santa Monicans voted on the annual adjustment formula in the Rent Control Law. The Law also provides landlords due process if they are not earning a fair return. Landlords can petition the Rent Control Board for an upward rent adjustment based on the expenses they are facing in their particular situation. If landlords take advantage of this process, they should be earning a fair return.

WHAT QUALIFIES YOU TO LEAD AN ORGANIZATION WITH THE BUDGET AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RENT CONTROL BOARD?

In response Los Angeles’ burgeoning homelessness crisis, I created, implemented, and managed a medical-legal partnership between two Los Angeles non-profits, which provided legal services to hundreds of homeless and at-risk veterans with disabilities. I am prepared for the responsibilities of the Rent Control Board due to my front-line experience combating the housing crisis and my extensive knowledge of laws impacting renters.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KEPT A HOUSEPLANT ALIVE AND WHAT DOES THAT KIND OF PLANT SAY ABOUT YOUR PERSONALITY?

My longest living houseplant is actually an “officeplant”—inherited in 2015—living in my office at work. It has grown long, wild, and free. I’ve had to repot it twice and it could benefit from an even bigger home. It curls up and around my office walls so I put up a Dolores Huerta poster for it to frame.

IS THERE ANYTHING THE RENT CONTROL BOARD CAN OR SHOULD DO TO ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO BUY INTO SANTA MONICA REAL ESTATE AND OPERATE RENT CONTROLLED BUILDINGS?

We don’t want to encourage current owners to sell their rent-controlled buildings. 41% of Ellis evictions occur within the first year after a building is sold. The Rent Control Board can ensure Santa Monica landlords make a fair return on their rent-controlled buildings through the voter-approved petition process discussed above.

DOES THE CITY HAVE A HOUSING CRISIS, AFFORDABILITY CRISIS, NEITHER OR BOTH?

Santa Monica has both. Housing production has not kept up with demand. At the same time, wages and disability benefits have not kept up with increasing rents. Consequently, anyone who is low- or middle-income cannot enter the rental market, and working folks attempting to raise families or age in place face increasing pressures.

WHICH TELEVISION CHARACTER HAS THE LEAST REALISTIC LIVING SITUATION?

I guess everybody already knows that the Friends apartment was super unrealistic. I used to live in New York and I didn’t know anyone with an apartment that awesome who wasn’t wealthy. I really hope that Santa Monica is able to maintain its economic diversity in a way that New York City has been unable to do.

WHAT ROLE DOES RENT CONTROL PLAY IN ESTABLISHING THE CULTURE OF THE CITY?

Santa Monica prizes diversity and community safety and stability. Rent control protects affordability, which in turn protects ethnic, age, and economic diversity. Rent control also creates stability for our neighborhoods because people stay in one place and become part of the fabric of the community. This makes our communities safer, happier places to be.

TENANT EVICTIONS WERE ALREADY INCREASING BEFORE PROP. 10 BECAME PART OF THE DISCUS-

SION. IF NEW LIMITS ARE IMPOSED ON MARKET RATE RENTS, WHAT’S TO STOP ELLIS ACT EVICTIONS FROM EXPLODING IF LANDLORDS FLEE THE MARKET?

The Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, which Proposition 10 would repeal, placed three significant limits on local rent control laws. First, it limited rent control to buildings built before 1979 (in Santa Monica). Second, it prevented rent control from covering single-family dwellings (Berkeley had this). And third, it prevented cities from limiting rent increases between tenancies, requiring what is known as “vacancy decontrol.”

According to the Rent Control Board’s 2017 Annual Report, Ellis evictions have actually been down over the last 10 years. 2017 saw only 56 rental units removed from the market, even less than the previous year. Of course, any Ellis Act eviction is a loss to our community of both a neighbor and an affordable rental unit, so it is important to do as much as we can to prevent Ellis evictions – including passing Proposition 10.

If we look at the history of our city, the passage of Costa-Hawkins in 1995 actually led to a increase in Ellis Act evictions in the late-1990s. In 2000, the year after Costa-Hawkins went fully into effect, we saw a major spike in Ellis activity, with over 200 rental units lost to the market. This is because vacancy decontrol increased property values, so landlords were incentivized to sell and speculators to buy.

If Proposition 10 passes, land values will continue to stabilize, encouraging landlords to hold on to their properties longer and discouraging speculators who are planning to turn around and evict all the rent-controlled tenants from investing in Santa Monica real estate.

WHAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE STABILITY OF HOUSING FOR RENTERS, AND WHAT ARE YOUR SOLUTIONS?

The most significant threat to housing stability is tenant harassment and the loss of our affordable housing stock due in large part to vacancy decontrol. Before Costa-Hawkins, Santa Monica’s Rent Control law limited the extent to which landlords could raise rents between tenants. Vacancy control prevented harassment of current tenants and kept Santa Monica rents affordable. In 1997, before Costa-Hawkins was fully into effect, I landed my first job after college working as a waitress at a local restaurant, and was able to find lovely Santa Monica apartment

just off Montana Avenue for approximately \$600 per month. I could afford to live in Santa Monica on a waitress’ salary because vacancy control was still in effect, and my landlord had not been permitted to raise the rent dramatically when the previous tenant moved out.

More than 20 years later, we now live in a run-away Santa Monica housing market made possible by vacancy decontrol. In 2018, a waitress or hotel worker making \$15 per hour would have to work 107 hours per work to afford a one-bedroom apartment in Santa Monica – that’s more than 2 ½ full time jobs (based on the Santa Monica Housing Authority Payment Standard). In addition to keeping out low- and middle-income folks who would like to live in Santa Monica, vacancy control also puts enormous pressures on current renters, some of whom experience ongoing harassment from landlords who have a profit motivation to evict. Harassment can put a particular strain on the elderly and those with disabilities, many of whom do not have the physical, emotional, and/or economic capacity to move.

If Proposition 10 passes, Santa Monica citizens will once again be in the driver’s seat when it comes to rent control. I hope that Santa Monica citizens, in consultation with stakeholders from the both the landlord and tenant communities, will consider re-instituting some form of common sense vacancy control to increase stability for tenants and neighborhoods.

Even if Proposition 10 does not pass, there is a great deal we can do to counter tenant harassment and displacement. For example, I support strengthening our anti-harassment ordinance and increasing relocation payments to tenants who are evicted through no fault of their own. There should also be more stringent requirements surrounding buyout offers to make sure that tenants know what rights they have before they agree to anything. If possible, I would like to see the Rent Board more actively involved with tenants whose landlords want to buy them out in order to decontrol the units. For instance, if landlords were required to report any buyout offers to the Rent Board, the Rent Board could be more involved in scrutinizing buyouts and counseling tenants as to their rights while the tenant still has the opportunity to reject or rescind a buyout offer.

GAS TAX
FROM PAGE 7

volume of emails raises questions about whether the agency aided one side.

“It seems like maybe it’s a little too cozy, but I wouldn’t say that it’s clearly inappropriate,” Ravel said.

The legislation approved last year raised gas taxes by 12 cents per gallon and added diesel and vehicle fees to generate \$5 billion annually. Proposition 6 would repeal the increase and require voters approve gas and vehicle tax increases.

The ballot measure is a centerpiece of California Republicans’ efforts to boost turnout. GOP Congress members — including House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield and Orange County’s Mimi Walters — are among the repeal’s biggest financial backers.

Leaders of the repeal campaign have asked the federal government to investigate their claims that public resources have been used against them, based on emails and other documents that show local government workers discussing the repeal effort. Those documents are different from the ones the AP obtained. Opponents also circulated a video of a Caltrans contractor

passing out anti-Proposition 6 fliers to drivers.

The California Department of Transportation, known as Caltrans, falls under the state transportation agency.

Melissa Figueroa, the agency’s deputy secretary for communications and strategic planning, said it’s the agency’s job to inform the public about the impact of laws, and it has done so in the past, including for California’s “motor voter” registration law.

“We’re trying to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars,” Figueroa said.

The agency communicated much less frequently with the firm and stopped coordinating social media posts once the official anti-Proposition 6 campaign started, Figueroa said.

“Prior to that point, it was more of a collaborative effort because they were not in campaign mode,” Figueroa said.

BCF partner Brandon Castillo said the coalition registered as a fundraising committee in December and officially became a ballot measure campaign in March to support Proposition 69.

BCF and other gas tax supporters routinely asked the agency for information, but they did not coordinate on creating campaign materials, Figueroa said. The agency also fulfilled numerous public records requests filed by gas tax opponents, she said.

However, an undated memo outlining

agency and coalition plans from March through the primary election shows the firm and the agency coordinated the timing of announcements and events. It details plans for the state to tout new construction projects while the coalition campaigned for Proposition 69.

The agency and coalition coordinated their schedules, but the agency wasn’t involved in campaigning for Proposition 69, Figueroa said.

Castillo sent the email about op-eds focused on GOP candidates Sept. 20, 2017.

“Hey Melissa — We’re penning opeds (sic) targeting the following congressional republicans,” he wrote. He identified Reps. Jeff Denham, Steve Knight, Walters and Issa and asked Figueroa for information about projects funded by the gas tax increase in their districts.

At the time, the coalition was working to persuade California’s influential Republican congressional delegates to reject the repeal.

Several days after Castillo’s email, Figueroa suggested she or Brian Kelly, then the agency’s leader, help find an author for the piece targeting Issa, considered the most vulnerable California incumbent before he decided against seeking re-election.

Castillo responded saying coalition members were working on it and asked: “Do you have anyone in mind that could

influence Republicans/Issa?”

The documents obtained by the AP don’t include further exchanges on the issue. In interviews, Castillo and Figueroa said the agency never suggested an author. Figueroa said she offered help because the op-ed would educate people in Issa’s district.

The piece ultimately was written by the mayor of Encinitas, a suburb north of San Diego, and ran the following month in the San Diego Union-Tribune. It touted projects in the district funded by the gas tax increase but didn’t mention Issa.

Levinson found the exchange surprising because it seemed to directly reference campaign activities.

“I don’t want to say it’s a smoking gun, but that is so much more explicit than I ever would have predicted they would be,” she said.

Prominent gas tax repeal supporters, including gubernatorial candidate John Cox and conservative activist Carl DeMaio, criticized the agency’s activity.

“It’s against the law, and it also shows that you can’t trust them with money,” DeMaio said. “I think that what you’re seeing is just the tip of the iceberg.”

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