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Volume 18 Issue 297
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**Drug death guilty plea**
A Venice man sold fentanyl to a 19-year-old man who suffered a fatal overdose. Page 3

**Postal service robbery**
Postal worker helps steal $238,457. Page 11

# Local students explore the world through music







Courtesy photos

**MUSIC: The Santa Monica Youth Orchestra is expanding opportunities for youth to learn music.**

**BRENNON DIXSON**
SMDP Staff Writer

The musical tunes of mariachi filled Colorado Park last Friday as local residents enjoyed the sounds of violas and guitarrons prior to a screening of "Coco." And thanks to a partnership between the Santa Monica Youth Orchestra and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, residents will have many more opportunities to hear the local students jam out before the year's end.

Visitors of local parks in recent weeks may have noticed dozens of students rushing oversized cases to and from buildings at Virginia Park in an attempt to make it to practice on time.

Herded by teachers who have performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Dodger Stadium and places as local as Samohi, the mini-musicians first crammed into their seats to prepare for last week's show less than 4 weeks ago.

Since the initiative kicked off last year in the fall, the Santa Monica Youth Orchestra's music program has allowed more than 100 local children the opportunity to improve their skills in European-based Western classical music, while also venturing out into other parts of the world by offering opportunities to learn Latin American, Chinese, Hawaiian and West African music, according to SMYO Executive Director Shabnam Fasa, who can be seen bustling from opposite ends of the practice room assisting students and answering parents' questions.

"This is the first project of its

SEE **STUDENTS** PAGE 4

# Crews battle wildfires in Los Angeles and in wine country

**TERENCE CHEA AND DON THOMPSON**
Associated Press

Firefighters battled destructive wildfires in Northern California wine country and on the wealthy west side of Los Angeles on Monday, trying to beat back flames that forced tens of thousands to flee their homes.

California's biggest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, cut off power to an estimated 2.5 million people in the northern part of the state over the weekend in yet another round of blackouts aimed at preventing windblown electrical equipment from sparking more fires. And more shut-offs are possible in the coming days.

The blaze that broke out last week amid Sonoma County's vineyards and wineries north of San Francisco exploded to at least 103 square miles, destroying 96 buildings, including at least

SEE **WILDFIRES** PAGE 5

# Getty Fire brings smoke, ash and evacuations



LAFD

**GETTY FIRE: A fire broke out near the Getty Center on Monday morning.**

**MADELEINE PAUKER**
SMDP Staff Writer

The Los Angeles Fire Department ordered residents living west of a fast-moving brush fire along the 405 Freeway to evacuate Monday morning.

LAFD issued an evacuation order for an area bordered by Mulholland Drive to the north, the 405 to the east, Sunset Boulevard to the south and Temescal Canyon Road to the west. The evacuation zone included Pacific Palisades and small parts of Santa Monica north of San Vicente

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 11

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# CITY OF SANTA MONICA
## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

**DATE/TIME:** **10:30 a.m., November 12, 2019**

**LOCATION:** Council Chambers, Room 213, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Santa Monica at the above noted time and place in regard to the following requests:

**714 Kensington Road, FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 19ENT-0272.** The applicant requests approval of a hedge and fence height modification to allow a 44"-62" high fence in front of a 7'-8' high bamboo hedge along the front and side parcel lines within the front yard setback. The request also includes a 70" high entrance gate along the west side parcel line within the front yard setback. The subject property is located in the Ocean Park Low Density Residential (OP2) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050, fences, walls, and hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.050(D), in the cases of fences, walls, or hedges that are parallel to and within 5 feet of a public sidewalk, grade shall be the elevation of the closest point on the sidewalk. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request modifications to these height and depth limitations in the front yard setback. [Planner: Gina Szilak] **Applicant/Property Owner: Eleanor Gaver.**

**1450 Ocean Avenue, MINOR USE PERMIT 19ENT-0375.** The applicant requests approval of a Minor Use Permit (MUP) to install two (2) new radio units with built-in antennas and associated conduit on an existing light pole. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.32.040(A), review and approval of an MUP is required for all personal wireless facilities except for those that are exempt under SMMC Section 9.32.040(B) or that are governed by SMMC Section 9.32.040(C). [Planner: Scott Albright] **Applicant/Property Owner: City of Santa Monica.**

**HOW TO COMMENT**
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Zoning Administrator public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the Zoning Administrator at the meeting.

Any person may comment at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter to the City Planning Division, Room 212, P.O. Box 2220, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2220. Plans are available for public review at the City Planning Division. For more information, please contact the City Planning Division at (310) 458-8341. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 64009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, Rapid #10, and #18 service City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

*Esto es un aviso sobre una audiencia publica para revisar applicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Esto puede ser de interes para usted. Si desea mas informacion, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la Division de Planificacion al numero (310) 458-8341.

**SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR**
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

# What's Up Westside
## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

### Tuesday, Oct. 29

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

**Youth beach volleyball**
Ages 7-15; all levels; in a semi-private setting. Annenberg Community Beach House, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

**Ha-Ha-Halloween!**
Get ready to hear and share some silly Halloween jokes and stories! Learn some public speaking tips to improve your joke skills. For ages 4-12. Ocean Park Branch Library, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, Oct. 30

**All You Can Carry Pumpkin Patch**
Who has more fun - onlookers or participants? it's hard to tell, but everyone is sure to have a wonderful time at the Santa Monica Farmers Market pumpkin patch, which features the most beautiful, round, bright orange, California grown pumpkins you can find. Costumes welcome but not required. $5.00 per person all you can carry - 1 trip per person. Arizona Avenue & 2nd Street, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. or until the pumpkins run out.

**Scary Stories Writing Contest & Costumes Dance Party**
Like scary stories? Write your own scary story and turn it in to our spooky box by October 23 for a chance to win a prize and have your story read before the costume dance party! You will have a chance to hear stories that inspire the movie "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark." Costumes are encouraged. Pico Branch Library, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

**L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now**
One-on-one access to volunteers available to help students with homework assignments and reading comprehension. Main Library, 3:30 - 6 p.m.

### Thursday, Oct. 31

**Halloween Mini-Carnival**
Enjoy games, crafts and snacks before you start trick-or-treating down Montana Ave. For families. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 2:30 - 4 p.m.

### Friday, November 1

**Dia de los Muertos: Exposicion Cultural**
Acompañe a Familias Latinas Unidas (FLU) y a la biblioteca a celebrar el día de los muertos de una manera íntima y respetable. Habrá exposición de altar de muertos y documental filmado en México. Están invitados a traer una foto de sus familiares que ya no están con nosotros para que tomen parte del altar que se hará en honor a ellos. 5:30 - 8 p.m. Pico Branch Library

### Saturday, Nov. 2

**Read and Play**
Spend the afternoon playing with family and friends in our indoor play space featuring a short family story time at 3:30 p.m., followed by play activities for ages 0-5 designed to cultivate key developmental skills. Fairview Branch Library

**Costumed Still Life Drawing with Mimi Haddon**
Using Mimi's 'Talmasque' series of ambiguously embodied images as a jumping off point, participants will work in groups to outfit studio mannequins with soft sculpture and costume elements to create spirited characters. Each participant will take a vantage point and make sketches of the narratively rich still life. Mimi may invite a live model in to do poses depending on availability. No drawing experience required. 1450 Ocean, 1 - 3 p.m. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/costumed-still-life-drawing-with-mimi-haddon-tickets-65330189355

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

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**LOS ANGELES**

## Police: Gang extortion attempt led to LA market shootout

A shootout that wounded at least one person outside a Los Angeles market on Monday involved the business owner and members of a street gang who had been trying to extort him out of $100,000, a police official said.

Employees were washing gang graffiti from the walls of Royal Fresh Market in North Hollywood when armed gang members returned shortly after 8 a.m., Sgt. Frank Preciado said.

"What the suspects weren't counting on was the victim was armed too," Preciado said.

The market's owner had two weapons, and he and the gang members exchanged dozens of rounds that struck several cars and left the parking lot littered with spent casings, the sergeant said.

One male gang member was shot in the shoulder and arrested when he collapsed while trying to run away, Preciado said. His injuries were not life-threatening. Police searched for three other men who sped off in a light-colored Audi.

Witnesses reported seeing one fleeing gunman limping, but it wasn't known if he was shot, Preciado said.

No other injuries were reported.

The sergeant said the graffiti contained obscenities and the amount of money demanded by the gunmen: $100,000.

Members of the gang Armenian Power had been trying for weeks to extort the market owner, who is also of Armenian descent, Preciado said. He was being interviewed by investigators, and his name was not released.

The owner told detectives he had a long gun and an automatic handgun, but investigators didn't immediately recover the weapons, Preciado said.

The market is in a small strip mall in the San Fernando Valley, about 15 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Venice**

## Venice Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Criminal Charge for Selling Fentanyl that Caused Los Angeles Man's Fatal Overdose

A Venice man who sold the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl to a 19-year-old man who suffered a fatal overdose last year pleaded guilty today to a federal narcotics offense.

Julian Miles Mayers-Johnson, 32, pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute fentanyl. He has been in custody since his arrest on April 17.

Mayers-Johnson admitted in his plea agreement that on October 19, 2018, outside a fast-food restaurant in Venice, he knowingly possessed fentanyl, intending to distribute it. That same evening, at the same location, Mayers-Johnson sold one-half gram of fentanyl to the victim, who was residing at a sober living home in the Beverlywood neighborhood of Los Angeles, according to court documents. The victim later ingested the fentanyl that Mayers-Johnson sup-plied, resulting in the victim's overdose on October 20, and, one day later, the victim's death, the plea agreement states.

A search of the victim's cell phone resulted in law enforcement determining that Mayers-Johnson sold the fatal dose of fentanyl to the victim, according to court documents.

United States District Judge Otis D. Wright II scheduled a May 4, 2020 sentencing hearing, at which time Mayers-Johnson will face a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison.

This matter was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the High In-tensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Opioid Response Team, which is tasked with investigating suspected opioid-related overdose deaths in Los Angeles County.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys J. Jamari Buxton and Ali Moghaddas of the General Crimes Section.

SUBMITTED BY CIARAN MCEVOY, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS**
**DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive no later than the below-stated date and time, sealed BIDS from General Contractors. The District has determined that bidders must be prequalified to bid on this Project. The Project encompasses the following overall scope:

**NEW WATER MAIN SERVICE:** Removal of abandoned Water main service at Civic Center Way and installation of new water main service including reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly, double detector check valve device, new fire hydrant and all improvements shown on drawings for the new SMC Malibu Campus/ Sheriff's substation to be built at 23555 Civic Center Way Malibu CA 90265.

**Estimated Construction Cost Range**

- $1.2M to $1.4M

**Procedure**

- **Friday, October 25, 2019,** bid package will be available at **ARC West LA Brach** located at 1736 S Sepulveda Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90025. Contact for all inquiries; Gabriel Murillo, SMC Project Director, (213) 999-2284, gabriel.murillo@vanir.com or Kashan Bhatti, Construction Manager, (213) 216-7116, kashan.bhatti@vanir.com
- **Contractor's License Classification:** California Contractors License **A or B.**
- **Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019 at 11:00 am.**
- **Location:** 23555 Civic Center Way, Malibu, CA 90265.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS: 1:00 PM, Friday November 15, 2019. BIDS MUST BE HAND-DELIVERED.**
**LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS:** SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, ATTENTION: CHARLIE YEN

**1. Contractors License Classification.** In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §3300, the District requires that Pre-Qualifying contractors possess the following classification(s) of California Contractors License **A or B.** Any General Contractor not so duly and properly licensed will result in denial of pre-qualification.

**2. Labor Compliance Program (AB 1506).** The District has established a Labor Compliance Program ('LCP") pursuant to Labor Code 1771.5. The Contractor qualifying to bid the work shall comply with the LCP and provisions of the Contract Documents relating to implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of the LCP.

**3. No Withdrawal of Bid Proposals.** Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee prices quoted in their respective Bid Proposals.

**4. Award of Contract.** The Contract for the Work, if awarded, will be by action of the District's Board of Trustees of **December 03, 2019,** to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsible and responsive Bid Proposal.

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City of Santa Monica

## CITY OF SANTA MONICA

### NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

**Citywide Sidewalk Repair Project (FY 2018-19)**
**SP2573, Drawing No. 6965**

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than **2:30 p.m.** on **November 1, 2019** to be publicly opened and read aloud after **3:00 p.m.** on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

**MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: TBD**

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: $1,000,000**
**CONTRACT DAYS: 180 Days**
**LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,100 Per Calendar Day**

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have an Class A license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

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## STUDENTS

FROM PAGE 1

kind," Fasa said during an October practice at Virginia Park. "Our mission is to not only teach (the students) mariachi music but also teach them the different cultures that are in and around Los Angeles because there's really so many."

Fasa said students studied music from Japan, Bali and China earlier in the summer and are now focusing on seasonal songs like "La Bruja."

"The other really cool thing is there's no other program in Santa Monica where kids from multiple schools can come and meet each other," she said.

When the program was in its early stages, Fasa asked for assistance from prominent mariachi artist Willie Acuña, who was initially hesitant to participate in the pilot program but now enthusiastically refers to the students as "My kids."

"I was reluctant to do it because this is important to me. Not only is this my job but it's my heritage and I really respect my antepasados — those who came before me — so I wanted to make sure the kids got that because it's not just about them taking a music class. It's about honoring the culture and traditions that are special to somebody else," Acuña said. "So I didn't know if they'd be able to explore all of that but, sure enough, we got in there and they blew me away."

There are kids who don't speak Spanish at home, "but they speak it here while they are singing and playing the music," Acuña added, describing the program as an ideal situation for him and the students. "It's been so rewarding. I can't even begin to explain how much I've learned from the kids... It's forced me to become a better musician, a better writer — and I've played for stadiums, but this is more nerve-wracking to me because these are my kids and you really want them to do well."

Acuña and his peers Gracie McAleer and Dan Taguchi are fixtures at the weekly practices, which are free of charge to children in kindergarten through 12th grade and occur at Virginia Park from 4-6 p.m.

During the practice sessions, the twangs of guitars and violas ring throughout the room as students rehearse in sections for a few rounds until they are confident they've mastered a song. Soon after, the group is usually compelled by Fasa and the instructors to leave the shelter of the practice area and head outside to play the recently-learned pieces in front of anyone who cares to listen.

SMYO Board Member Susan Jain said in a letter to local councilmembers that the gathering evolves into an intergenerational event with parents actively socializing with each other, "and supporting the program both logistically (by) moving chairs, and musically (by) coaching, playing and singing along."

Those who have witnessed the program in action have described it as historic and a once in a lifetime opportunity for the children.

The website states students should have previous experience with an instrument, but Fasa said all locals are encouraged to come whether they have musical knowledge or not.

Last year, students in the program performed at Los Angeles' biggest Mariachi festival, the Hammer Museum and LACMA, and the group will have a few more opportunities to be seen again this year.

Although the program is now up and running, there is still a need for additional resources, according to those involved.

"We don't have a lot of money to hire people, so we're always looking for ways to bring in additional funding," parent Warda Agsous said, mentioning the volunteers who make the program possible. "The quality of instruction is amazing here, and not only are (students) learning music but they're also learning about culture," which is very important in the development of a well-rounded person.

"I encourage you to drop by on a Tuesday afternoon to see the elementary and middle school programs in action," Jain said. "While there, please sing along and have a discussion with the leadership about ways to support the program. In the meantime, please widely share the joyful news of Santa Monica's new mariachi program. It's something that we can all be proud of."

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## WILDFIRES

FROM PAGE 1

40 homes, and threatening 80,000 more structures, authorities said. Nearly 200,000 people were under evacuation orders, mostly from the city of Santa Rosa.

In Southern California, the Los Angeles fire erupted before dawn Monday and roared up slopes into well-to-do neighborhoods, threatening thousands of homes. Tens of thousands of people were ordered to clear out.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said that the fire had grown to 500 acres and that he had seen five burned homes. Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas said he expects the number to climb.

Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James tweeted that he and his family had to evacuate their home in the city's exclusive Brentwood section. There was no immediate word on its fate.

"I pray for all the families in the area that could be affected," he tweeted. "Pretty please get to safety ASAP."

The fire was burning in the upper elevations of the Brentwood area. The evacuation area extended westward through Pacific Palisades down to the Pacific Coast Highway, encompassing some of the most exclusive real estate in California, where celebrities and executives live in mountain and ridgetop retreats that cost tens of millions of dollars but are surrounded by tinder-dry vegetation.

David Boyle, 78, said he awoke at 3 a.m. to his doorbell ringing and police officers pounding on the front door. They warned him the wildfire was advancing toward his Brentwood home near the Getty Center arts complex.

"They said, 'You need to evacuate.' I'm like, 'When?' They said, 'Now,'" Doyle said. He grabbed dog food and his wife's jewelry and hustled his dogs out the door. They went to a recreation center.

"It's a fact of life when you live in this area," he said. "Every place has some problem with disasters. People talk about earthquakes here, but I don't think it's as bad as hurricane season."

Night-flying helicopters made water drops before daybreak, and airplanes unleashing loads of water and bright pink fire retardant joined the battle after the sun came up.

The Getty, with its collection of priceless art, was built with special fire protection features, and Los Angeles fire Capt. Erik Scott said it was not threatened.

But Mount St. Mary's University evacuated 450 students from its Chalon campus nearby. And the University of California, Los Angeles in the city's Westwood section canceled classes — not because of any direct threat from the fire but because of road closings and evacuations affecting people on their way to UCLA.

Similarly in Northern California, some 40 school districts in Sonoma County canceled classes. And the University of California, Berkeley, called off classes because of the power outages there.

Fire conditions statewide have made California a "tinderbox," said Jonathan Cox, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Of the state's 58 counties, 43 were under warnings for high fire danger Sunday, with flames driven by gusts that reached more than 102 mph.

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency over the weekend.

The biggest evacuation was in Sonoma County, where some people who were packing up and fleeing Sunday had done so two years ago, when devastating wildfires swept through Sonoma, Napa and neighboring counties, killing 44 people.

At an evacuation center at Napa Valley College, Francisco Alvarado, 15, said he, two younger brothers and his parents decided to leave their Calistoga home in advance of evacuation orders. Two years ago, the family had to flee, but in the middle of the night.

"I'm pretty mad that we have to keep evacuating," he said. "I just want to be home. I'm trying to leave here tomorrow; I want to sleep in my bed."

Hundreds of people arrived at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa by Sunday. Some came from nursing homes. More than 300 people slept in an auditorium filled with cots and wheeled beds. Scores of others stayed in a separate building with their pets.

Among them was Maribel Cruz, 19, who packed up her dog, four cats and fish as soon as she was told to flee her trailer in the town of Windsor, about 60 miles north of San Francisco. She also grabbed a neighbor's cat.

"I'm just nervous since I grew up in Windsor," she said. "I'm hoping the wind cooperates."

A historic attraction outside Healdsburg was lost Sunday when embers carried by wind sparked a blaze that engulfed the Soda Rock Winery. The buildings included a general store and post office founded in 1869.

In central California, a tree toppled in strong wind Sunday killed a woman and injured a man, officials said.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, gusts knocked over a 30-foot tree at a farmers market in Martinez, injuring nine people, including a toddler.

---

Associated Press writers Daisy Nguyen and Janie Har in San Francisco, John Antczak and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles and Julie Watson in San Diego contributed to this report.

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## What's the Point?


David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com


# Breasts over bruises, and baubles over business basics

As the end of October beckons, Domestic Violence Awareness month comes to a close. This year there was little in the press that I saw raising consciousness and driving awareness. The world did not turn purple for DV awareness. Maybe that's because it is competing with campaigns like "Save the Boobies" for breast cancer awareness and the world turns pink for a problem that will impact 1 in 8 women.

That's the power of marketing and a good catchy phrase like "Save the TaTa's". There is no such thing for domestic violence (or prostate cancer either, which will impact 1 in 6 men). It's just not sexy to talk about emotional abuse, physical abuse that leaves bruises, and the long term damage that is done to children when they are witness to parents attacking each other. No corporation like Campbell's Soup Company is willing to get behind a non-profit that wants to stop DV but they will for breast cancer. Okay the NFL did, but only under extreme duress and only when one of their players was caught on video literally knocking his spouse out and dragging her. It was a token effort at best, with someone hired to be the face, and put out a report and recommendations.

But we can talk about breast cancer all day long. Heck the Susan G. Komen foundation walks are three days long and are sponsored by Bank of America, Amgen and Mohawk Flooring. See? A bank with a need for good PR that makes sense. A drug manufacturer – chemotherapy that makes sense. A FLOORING COMPANY?!!? Yes. That makes sense also. Women buy interior design products. A lot. It's good marketing for Mohawk. Someone should get an AttaPerson for that decision.

Domestic violence though is just not attractive no matter what you do to dress it up, it's still mean, ugly, painful, and every story hurts. In a nod to Sarah Palin, I'm going to say "You can't even put lipstick on this pig."



Photo by D. Pisarra

**SUPPORT:** Ashley Flores has her picture taken by the LinkedIn profile booth. Casey King of Chad Hudson Events was there for technical assistance.

Which is why we need to still talk about it. It's why I do this series every year, because it's a much bigger problem than most people understand and no one wants to talk about it. If they are willing to discuss it, it's in the most superficial and dismissive ways of "we have to end it" and then offer no solutions or understanding of the root causes. Much like the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace, which similarly gets reactionary expressions of concern, and then little if any, actually meaningful discussion or change happens.

This past weekend TheWrap.com's foundation WrapWomen hosted the Power Women Summit at the Fairmont Miramar in Santa Monica. Thursday night about 500

SEE **VIOLENCE** PAGE 11




## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**The Beach**

### UCLA CALPIRG Students hosts Beach Clean up for Plastic Free Seas

The UCLA chapter of the California Student Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG Students) hosted a Beach Cleanup on the 26th of October to advocate for the University of California system to ban single use plastics which are polluting our oceans. The goal of the beach clean up was to bring light to the issue of plastic pollution and to clean parts of the Santa Monica beach. A press conference was also hosted where State Senator Ben Allen gave an inspiring speech about the importance of protecting our oceans from plastic pollution. Student leaders from CALPIRG Students and UCLA's Student Wellness Commission gave speeches about the importance of our oceans and the unnecessary use of plastics.

CALPIRG Students advocates to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastic products, including bags, straws, and foam containers.

"Plastic fragments have been found ingested by hundreds of different species, including 100% of all recently studied sea turtles, and nearly half of all seabird and marine mammal species. This is a serious issue and it's time for us to tackle it," said UCLA CALPIRG Students Chapter Chair and Plastic Free Seas Campaign Coordinator Sithara Menon. "We know that it is possible to go plastic free. We just have to take the next steps towards using reusable, and biodegradable containers!"

State Senator Ben Allen, author of the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act (Senate Bill 54) , spoke on his landmark bill which would drastically reduce plastic pollution in California to protect our environment for the future. "Our culture of convenience is sacrificing our ecological future", said Senator Allen. The senator thanked CALPIRG Students for their advocacy, saying that moving the UC system away from single-use plastics will serve as a model, and that the whole state of California can follow in the footsteps of the UC system.

CALPIRG Students is aiming to gather 10,000 petitions in support of phasing out all single use plastics in the UC system, and will be signing up 8,000 UC Students as dues paying members of their statewide association in support of this initiative to fund their program. CALPIRG Student worked with the UCs just this past year to commit all the campuses to 100% clean purchased electricity. "As a student, I'm really excited that the UCs took this huge step in protecting our environment, and we know the UCs can take the next big step and lead the way in sustainability by phasing out single use plastics!" said Nicholas Fay, CALPIRG Students Beach Cleanup Coordinator.

The speeches were followed by students cleaning up the Santa Monica beach, collecting over 10 full bags of trash that would have ended up in the ocean.

SUBMITTED BY SITHARA MENON, PLASTIC FREE SEAS CAMPAIGN INTERN

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## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (OCTOBER 29 )

Be thoughtful when you add to the phrase "I am" because it will be like a magical incantation. You'll state who you are and become that person. Another theme this solar year: You are more powerful than you know. Test it. Try things you don't think you can do. Jump before you're ready. You'll amaze yourself. Leo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 28, 1, 18, 32 and 24.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To give someone your heart and express yourself from a deep place in your soul is a risk. You have to be ready for any kind of response including resistance. Just know that it says more about them than it does about you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A disruption is coming. Get ahead of the situation by planning a vacation or some kind of delight so that the shake-up is a pleasure of your own making instead of a surprise package that destiny lobs in your direction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Sometimes in order to see your game, you have to take yourself out of it. Get away for a few days so you can come back with fresh eyes. By Friday, you'll feel differently about this situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is a higher vantage point available, but you cannot see how to get there from your current spot. To find the way up, first find the way out. Open the door to the "room" that confines you, find the exit, walk toward sunshine.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The perception of you from the outside will be very different from the one you're having internally. It begs the question, "Do they really have the right to judge you?" And more importantly, do you?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Kindred spirits emerge to bond with you. The thing is that you'll bond over whatever you put out into the world. So put out the part of yourself you'd most like to be accepted instead of the part you think the world will find most acceptable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Clarity of purpose is more precious than money. In a very practical way, it saves you money today. You'll acquire only what you'll use and enjoy and avoid purchasing anything that doesn't speak to who you really are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Two wonderful choices have appeared for you, and you could even say that you love them both. Take the second choice. If the first were so stellar, then you wouldn't have kept looking for something better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't need to be a perfect example in order to teach or inspire. To teach, you only need to know a little more than the person you're showing. And to inspire, you only need to overcome something they want to overcome.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If your day is stuffed full of old stuff, then how can anything new come in? Something's got to give. Probably, it's not even a thing you'll miss. You'll still have to box it up and send it out of your life though.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are confident. It doesn't mean you expect that they'll like you; it means that it really doesn't matter to you either way. What makes you confident is a purpose that has nothing to do with feedback.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Getting a sense of your own reputation and public approval rating can feel strange, even though it's all favorable. Their ideas will still intrude on your own self-concept. Steer clear of the seduction of "likes" and ratings.

### A Lunar Conjunction Exercise

Today's scene gets confusing if you sort it with five senses. You can expect bits of information to clash, and it's hard to know what to believe. Here's an exercise to coincide with the lunar alignments in Scorpio: Close your eyes. Let your alliance drift to the gravity center of the situation. Inner knowing has its own mysterious and trustworthy processes.

### HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

"I remember when we were all trying to look as scary as possible. I went to a Halloween party last week where witches, cats, pirates, vampires were all seemingly re-interpreted by lingerie designers. When did Halloween get so sexy?" I'm going to estimate about 2,000 to 3,000 years ago, but it could have been earlier. Celtic traditions of matchmaking around this time of year are the stuff of legends. Of course, popular games always get paid forward, and so it goes with pagan rituals added to Roman dates. The two themes present in the Halloween-type holidays of yore were dead people (communicating with, atoning for, paying homage to, appeasing, etc.) and matchmaking. With thousands of years to account for, there are too many matchmaking strategies to mention. Some had to do with hiding rings in food (and marrying the one who gets the ring), naming acorns after suitors and then putting them into the fire to see which one cracks first (bingo! Marry that one!) and lots of rituals around apples (bobbing for apples is a carryover of the theme.) So you see, for many, Halloween season represents the height of the dating season and perhaps this is how it's always been.

### COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND

From "Edward Scissorhands" to "Stranger Things," Winona Ryder has an internal homing device to guide her to mysteriously captivating projects where she'll be celebrated for the magic and Scorpio charisma she adds. Natal Mercury and Venus are also in magnetic Scorpio, and Ryder's Pisces moon is a secret weapon for completely morphing into the characters she creates. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

### WORD UP!

**Macabre**
Adjective [muh-kah-bruh, -kahb, -kah-ber]
Gruesome and horrifying; ghastly; horrible.



## Heathcliff

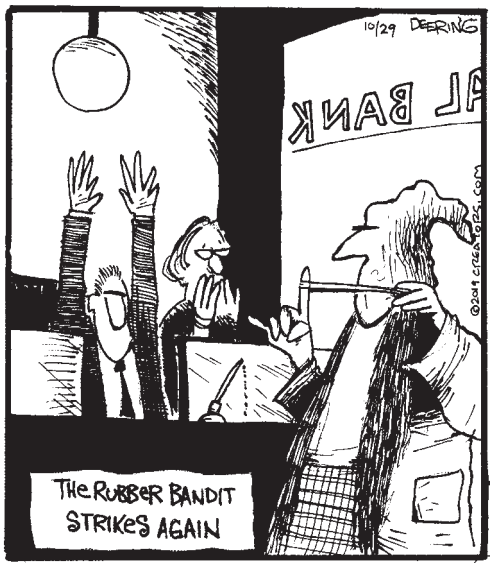
By PETER GALLAGHER




"YOU CAN FEEL THE EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR."

## Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



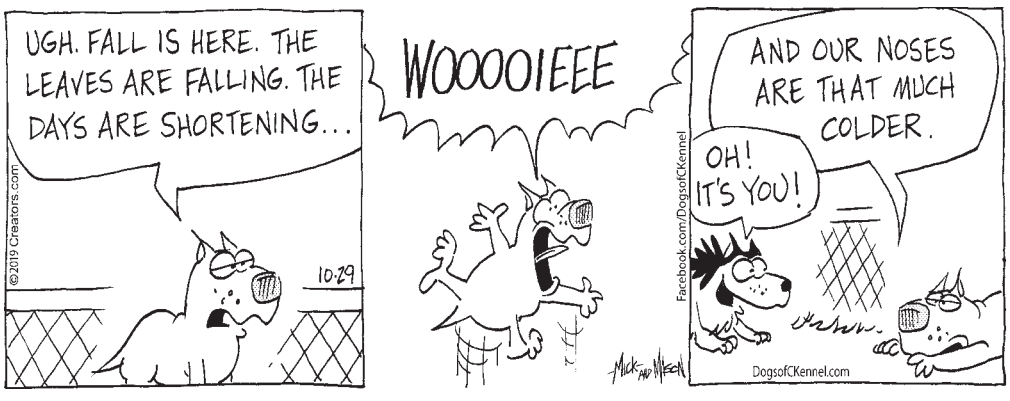

## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



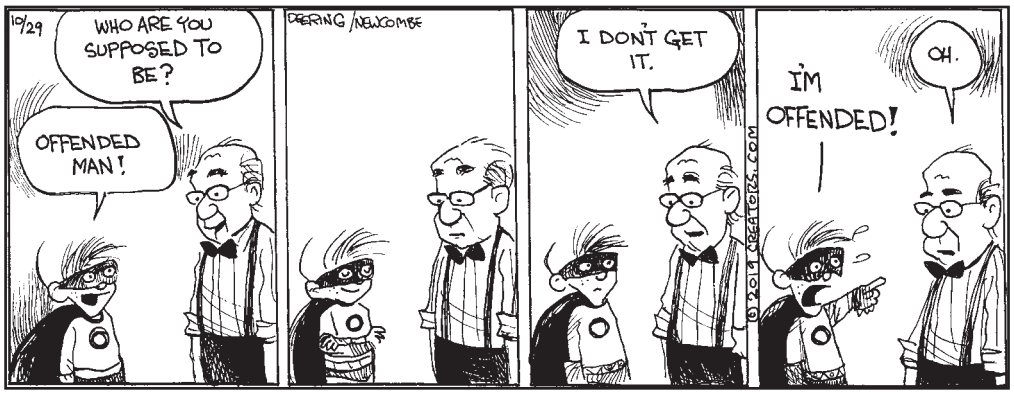

## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART




## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE





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## DAILY LOTTERY

**POWERball**
Draw Date:10/26
3 20 48 54 59
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 140 M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 10/25
16 24 25 52 60
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 105 M

**SuperLotto PLUS**
Draw Date: 10/26
8 11 16 19 23
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 23 M

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 10/27
3 6 23 1 32

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 10/27
Evening: 1 5 2
Draw Date: 10/27
Midday: 5 1 8

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 10/27
1st: 07 - EUREKA
2nd: 04 - BIG BEN
3rd: 06 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:49.82

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## SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 72.7°

FRIDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
Lingering S swell. Modest new NW swell to pick up through the PM. Early tide push.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
Reinforcing S swell. Modest NW swell. Most size for combo breaks through western half of the region. Early tide push, breezy offshore flow returns.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

## Sudoku

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

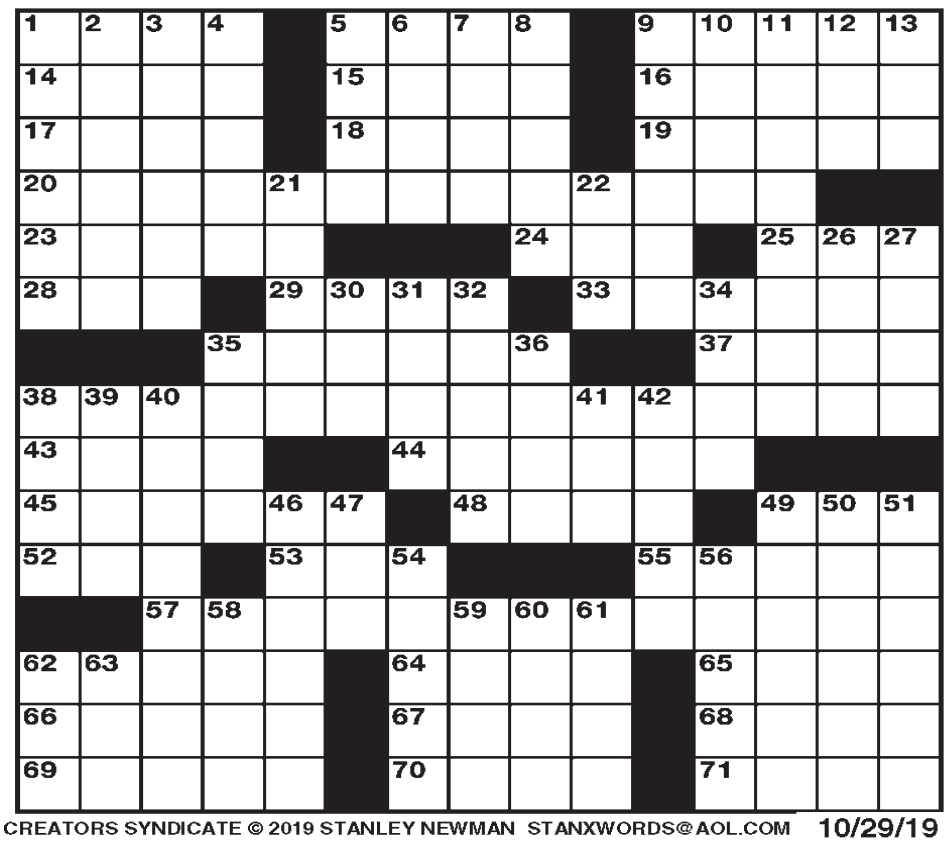
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 |
| 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 |
| 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 7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

## Newsday Crossword

**WHINY SOUNDS** by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**
**1** Swimsuit tops
**5** Choose
**9** *Today* weatherman Al
**14** Grocery shopper's handwritten sheet
**15** Author unknown: Abbr.
**16** Musical about Mrs. Perón
**17** Norway's capital
**18** Sport played on horseback
**19** Did battle with
**20** Laments loudly
**23** "__ my case"
**24** *Car Talk* broadcaster
**25** Network that once employed VJs
**28** Cough syrup meas.
**29** Solemn pledge
**33** Overnight flight
**35** Ventilate
**37** Completely spellbound
**38** Title for Lady Diana
**43** Your first cousin's mom
**44** Snow glider with a bike frame
**45** Make changes to
**48** Mix, as paint
**49** French "me"
**52** Airport screeners' org.
**53** Donkey
**55** Sharp point on a rose
**57** Sea mammal conservation slogan
**62** Capital of Egypt
**64** Very scarce
**65** Twiddling one's thumbs
**66** Church singing group
**67** Diva's solo
**68** Final or midterm
**69** Like a beach surface
**70** Jury member, in theory
**71** "Beware the __ of March"

**DOWN**
**1** Botch an opportunity
**2** Theater stage platforms
**3** In dreamland
**4** Halts
**5** Biggest of the Three Bears
**6** Drop __ (visit briefly)
**7** Cooler than cool
**8** Been acquainted with
**9** Bring back on staff
**10** Roundish shape
**11** Fast food for small fry
**12** Approximate landing hr.
**13** Pied Piper follower
**21** Unemotional
**22** Busy IRS month
**26** Prepare an email
**27** Animal docs
**30** "My lips __ sealed"
**31** Throw gently
**32** Corn coverings
**34** Dull in color
**35** Prefix meaning "against"
**36** "There's nothing __!" ("Easy!")
**38** Role for a performer
**39** Has regrets about
**40** Raid into enemy territory
**41** "Most Wanted" list agcy.
**42** Monetary value
**46** Tasty
**47** Point opposite WNW
**49** Shaped, as with clay
**50** End of an ultimatum
**51** Maps within maps
**54** Watchband
**56** Dominican Republic neighbor
**58** Dry as a desert
**59** Rabbit's cousin
**60** Toledo's lake
**61** Have on
**62** Includes on an email, for short
**63** "I've solved it!"



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 10/29/19

## DAILY FIRE LOG

### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 36 CALLS ON OCT. 27

Emergency Medical Service 1600blk Arizona Ave 1:30 a.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 1:53 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 2:25 a.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 2:25 a.m.
EMS 7th St / Arizona Ave 3:46 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 4:06 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 6:48 a.m.
EMS 400blk Montana Ave 8:27 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Pearl St 10:30 a.m.
EMS 700blk California Ave 10:39 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 31st St 12:01 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1500blk Ocean Ave 12:08 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 3200blk Pico Blvd 12:17 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Euclid St 12:19 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 12:29 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Virginia Ave 1:21 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 1:30 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:38 p.m.
Automatic alarm 700blk Wilshire Blvd 1:41 p.m.
EMS 200blk Bicknell Ave 2:02 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Centinela Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 2:56 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Pico Blvd 3:11 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 3:34 p.m.
Automatic alarm 3000blk Main St 4:14 p.m.
EMS 200blk Hill St 4:25 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 4:55 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 6:43 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:47 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Pier 7:04 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:05 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 7:42 p.m.
Elevator rescue 200blk Wilshire Blvd 8:55 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 2nd St 9:19 p.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 10:01 p.m.
EMS 300blk Marine St 10:22 p.m.
EMS 3300blk Barnard Way 10:42 p.m.

## DAILY POLICE LOG

### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 361 CALLS ON OCT. 27

Petty theft 2600blk Main St 1:03 a.m.
Critical missing person 2300blk Virginia Ave 1:21 a.m.
Party complaint 18th St / Bryn Mawr Ave 1:49 a.m.
Party complaint 800blk Maple St 3:15 a.m.
Vandalism Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 3:20 a.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 4:22 a.m.
Assault 200blk Broadway 6:26 a.m.
Construction noise 600blk Ozone St 9:09 a.m.
Encampment Longfellow St / Marine St 9:28 a.m.
Silent robbery alarm 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 9:31 a.m.
Burglary 1400blk 7th St 9:57 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 1400blk Ocean Ave 10:04 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300blk 20th St 10:15 a.m.
Petty theft 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 10:17 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 800blk 7th St 10:25 a.m.
Hit and run 1700blk Oak St 10:45 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:13 a.m.
Grand theft 1100blk 6th St 11:22 a.m.
Petty theft 1900blk Pico Blvd 11:48 a.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 3200blk Pico Blvd 12:17 p.m.
Out of order traffic signals 20th St / Wilshire Blvd 12:52 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 2600blk 2nd St 12:58 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper in progress 1700blk Ocean Ave 1:21 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 1:24 p.m.
Theft of recyclables 1000blk 7th St 1:34 p.m.
Encampment 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:51 p.m.
Battery 300blk 15th St 1:51 p.m.
Fraud 1300blk Washington Ave 1:56 p.m.
Petty theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:05 p.m.
Lewd activity 1500blk Ocean Ave 2:37 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries Centinela Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 2:45 p.m.
Illegal weapon Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 2:52 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 300blk Olympic Dr 2:55 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200blk California Ave 3:21 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1700blk Ocean Ave 3:31 p.m.
Lewd activity 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 3:41 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 700blk Euclid St 4:04 p.m.
Hit and run 3000blk Lincoln Blvd 4:11 p.m.
Abandoned vehicle 800blk Arizona Ave 4:13 p.m.
Fight 2000blk Pico Blvd 4:26 p.m.
Speeding 5th St / Broadway 4:35 p.m.
Petty theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 4:55 p.m.
Abandoned vehicle 1900blk Arizona Ave 5 p.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 5:15 p.m.
Silent robbery alarm 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:18 p.m.
Petty theft 100blk Santa Monica Pl 5:30 p.m.
Person with a gun 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:10 p.m.
Fight 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 6:42 p.m.
Auto burglary 2400blk Main St 6:43 p.m.
Auto burglary 400blk Colorado Ave 7:16 p.m.
Malicious mischief 3100blk Colorado Ave 7:29 p.m.
Auto burglary 2700blk Main St 7:38 p.m.
Auto burglary 100blk Hill St 7:56 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 300blk Santa Monica Pl 7:57 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1800blk Euclid St 8:15 p.m.
Drunk driving 2nd St / Colorado Ave 8:16 p.m.
Auto burglary 2300blk 20th St 8:24 p.m.
Burglary /walk through 500blk San Vicente Blvd 8:24 p.m.
Threats /s 2800blk Pico Blvd 8:30 p.m.
Auto burglary 2400blk Main St 8:30 p.m.
Vandalism 3100blk Lincoln Blvd 8:42 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1000blk 21st St 8:49 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1200blk 4th St 8:53 p.m.
Hit and run Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 9:05 p.m.
Overdose 1100blk 2nd St 9:19 p.m.
Public intoxication 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 9:19 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 9:45 p.m.
Domestic violence 2300blk Kansas Ave 9:58 p.m.
Auto burglary 2400blk Main St 10:06 p.m.
Domestic violence Highland Ave / Marine St 10:22 p.m.
Speeding 18th St / Michigan Ave 10:41 p.m.
Indecent exposure 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:04 p.m.
Speeding 4th St / Broadway 11:55 p.m.

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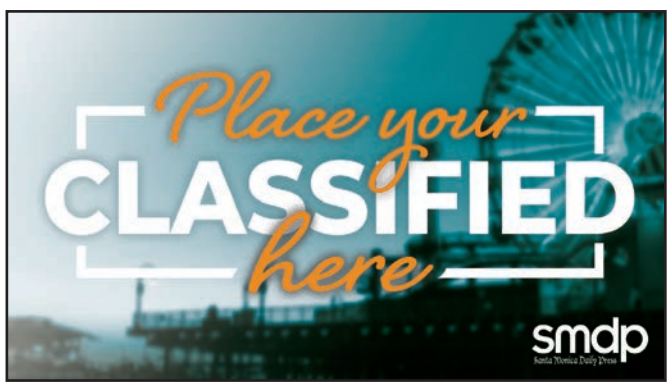
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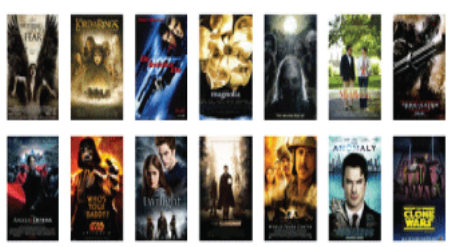
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## VIOLENCE

FROM PAGE 6

women gathered to discuss how to move the entertainment industry towards a 50/50 status of male and female staffers in the workplace. It was a lovely event that began with a cocktail reception and performance by Chrissy Metz who was then interviewed by Editor Sharon Waxman.

I thought the interview was very empowering and interesting – to a point. The story of Chrissy's journey from smallish town Florida to Hollywood Agent to award winning actress was a study in how to make it in life and an industry that is wearing, cutthroat and brutal. Her success is definitely to be lauded. What I found disconcerting was the need to discuss Chrissy's size. She's a big woman. But so what? She's a good actress. She's a good performer. She's a good cast member who shows up on time, ready to work, lines memorized and with a good attitude. These are the things that keep her employed. Maybe she got the job because there was a casting note that fit her, but that's not what keeps her there. I could be wrong, but I think the emphasis of the Power Women Summit should be on things that actually empower women. Things like the skills and attitudes that will keep someone climbing that ladder.

I had the same reaction at the end of the event. The final reception was on Friday and there was the usual snack food of pizza slices, sliders and ice cream (all mini sized so you can eat three of them and not feel guilty). In the sponsor room were those companies that paid to be pressing the flesh with the attendees. There were about 6 artists selling paintings and sculptures, a jewelry maker with necklaces to be embossed with "your word of intention." There was the ubiquitous candle seller. And then there was LinkedIn.

LinkedIn was there with an employee of Chad Hudson Events, the event planner, to help the guests take photos for their LinkedIn profiles. I thought this was genius, and a true benefit to those who attended. The three photo stands that LinkedIn had were being manned (yes I went there!) by Casey King, who was assisting people with getting well lit, properly focused photos with appropriate backgrounds for their LinkedIn profiles.

I think if the point of the Power Women Summit was to assist women be more professional, career capable and have greater representation in the workforce and upper management they need to have more companies like LinkedIn providing actual useful tools and get away from the art and candles crowd. But hey, I'm just a guy, what do I know?

I guess the point of this column is that we seem to avoid talking about the difficult subjects, and prefer to have feel good campaigns like "Save the Ta Ta's" and buy a "confidence candle" than to confront the hard problems and needs. In my estimation, we haven't discussed domestic violence in a meaningful way that addresses the problem from a holistic aspect that takes into consideration both men's and women's needs and perceptions. In the same way we haven't discussed what makes women successful in the business world and emphasized the skills that break down barriers.

We need to have both those conversations and more.

David Pisarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra

## FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

Boulevard. Residents were notified by a Wireless Emergency Alert at about 2:45 a.m.

The Getty Fire broke out at about 1:30 a.m. Monday and burned more than 600 acres near the Getty Center, destroying at least eight homes. The fire was propelled to the west and south by strong Santa Ana winds, which are expected to return Wednesday.

LAFD Capt. Erik Scott said about 3,300 homes were threatened in the Mountaingate and Mandeville Canyon areas and more than 10,000 structures were in the mandatory evacuation zones. The southbound 405 was closed Monday morning through 3 p.m. from Valley Vista to Sunset Boulevard.

About 1,100 firefighters were battling the fire as of noon Monday, fire officials said.

"They were literally overwhelmed. They had to make some tough decisions on which houses they were able to protect," said LAFD Chief Ralph Terrazas. "It depends on where the ember lands. We saw homes that were adjacent to homes that were totally destroyed without any damage."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said it is not yet known what caused the fire, but officials are investigating it as an arson case. Unlike the 2017 Skirball fire, it was not caused by a homeless encampment, he said.

In Santa Monica, smoke and ash were visible in the sky and poor air quality in some parts of the city prompted many to don masks before going outside. All public grade schools in Santa Monica and Malibu have closed for the day, as well as Crossroads School. Santa Monica College and UCLA both canceled classes.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Ben Drati said in an email to parents that the district decided to close schools because the fire blocked the 405 for many teachers and staff, air quality was unhealthy in many neighborhoods and Malibu is on notice for power shutoffs and extreme fire risk.

Drati said he expects schools to reopen Tuesday, but will notify parents of any closures by 5:45 a.m.

Evacuation centers were set up at recreation centers in Westwood, Sherman Oaks, Pacific Palisades and Cheviot Hills. The West Valley Animal Shelter, West LA Animal Shelter and the Hanson Dam Recreation Area opened their doors to animals displaced by the fire.

Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin encouraged residents to be ready to go if they are in an evacuation warning zone.




LAFD

**MAP: The Getty Fire burned about 600 acres by Monday evening.**

"If you are in the areas for a potential evacuation, get ready, get set and if you want to go, go now," he said.

Councilmember Paul Koretz had a strong message for anyone in the mandatory evacuation area.

"If you're in the mandatory evacuation zone and you're still there watching this, you're an idiot, get the hell out," he said. "It's way too dangerous."

On the northernmost edge of Santa Monica, residents continued to jog up and down the Santa Monica Stairs, a popular workout spot.

Alex Vlassopoulos said he wasn't concerned about air quality in the area near the evacuation zone because the wind had carried the smoke away from the area.

"I wouldn't be here doing the stairs if I was concerned about the air quality," he said.

Bill Crowe, a Loyola Marymount University student who was visiting his parents' home on Amalfi Drive over the weekend, said he walked for half an hour to get out of the evacuation zone and call an Uber to campus. The air irritated his throat, he said.

"I started coughing a bit while I was walking," Crowe said.

madeleine@smdp.com

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**LOS ANGELES**

### Former Postal Service Employee Sentenced to 11 Years in Prison for Scheme in Which USPS Trucks Were Robbed at Gunpoint

A former United States Postal Service employee was sentenced Monday to 132 months in federal prison for participating in two armed robberies and one theft of USPS trucks carrying cash – incidents that caused nearly a quarter million dollars in losses and significant trauma to one of its victims who later took his own life.

William Crosby IV, 33, of Inglewood, was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge S. James Otero, who also ordered Crosby to pay $238,457 in restitution.

On July 31, Crosby pleaded guilty to one count of robbery of United States property and one count of brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a violent crime.

Between August 2017 and March 2018, while a USPS employee, Crosby conspired with others to plan two armed robberies and a theft of USPS trucks carrying cash. The armed robberies and theft caused cash losses of $238,457, Crosby admitted in his plea agreement.

"These violent episodes left lasting impressions on the (victim) USPS drivers, including one, who according to his loved ones and his supervisor, suffered extreme emotional trauma after the robbery before he apparently tragically took his own life," prosecutors wrote in the government's sentencing memorandum.

Crosby is a former acting USPS supervisor and knew when the agency transported cash generated from the sale of money orders and USPS merchandise – information that is not known to all of its employees, according to court documents.

On August 1, 2017, Crosby signaled to his co-conspirators that a USPS truck carrying a large amount of cash was on the loading dock at the Dockweiler Post Office in South Los Angeles. A co-conspirator wearing a USPS shirt walked onto the loading dock and stole a container inside the truck that contained approximately $128,236 in cash.

On February 1, 2018, Crosby – who then was assigned to the Wagner Post Office in Los Angeles near the city boundary with Inglewood – provided information to co-conspirators that a USPS truck carrying cash was leaving the facility. During the robbery, in which Crosby acted as a lookout, a minivan blocked the USPS truck just outside the Wagner Post Office, the robber threatened the truck driver at gunpoint, and the robber stole $37,658 in cash.

On March 1, 2018, while Crosby was taking sick leave without pay from his job at the Wagner Post Office, he again conspired to rob a post office, this time the Dockweiler Post Office, where he previously worked. Less than one hour before the robbery, Crosby parked at a grocery store parking lot across the street from the Dockweiler Post Office in a spot where he could see the post office's loading dock area.

After the USPS truck left the facility, Crosby, along with his co-conspirators, followed the truck, according to the plea agreement. Crosby's co-defendant – his half-brother, Myron Crosby, 28, of Athens – used a rented a Mercedes-Benz SUV to box in the USPS truck as it exited the southbound 110 Freeway at Slauson Avenue. At that time, another co-conspirator exited another vehicle, brandished a gun to control the USPS driver, and stole $72,563 in cash.

Myron Crosby pleaded guilty on August 19 to one count of robbery of United States property. Myron Crosby's sentencing hearing is scheduled for November 25, at which time he will face a statutory maximum sentence of 25 years in federal prison.

This matter was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Secret Service.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Thomas F. Rybarczyk of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section and Jeffrey M. Chemerinsky of the Violent and Organized Crime Section.

SUBMITTED BY CIARAN MCEVOY, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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