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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY
11.01.18
Volume 17 Issue 296

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City rejects calls for oversight of internal Uller investigation

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Calls for a citizen oversight committee for the Eric Uller investigation were rebuffed Tuesday night by city officials who said such a group could compromise the independence and confidentiality of the probe.

Uller was arrested this month and charged with several felonies related to child molestation while a volunteer with the Police Activities League (PAL). Following his arrest, several community members have accused the City of ignoring past complaints about Uller and City Hall has hired an outside law firm to conduct an internal investigation regarding who knew what about Uller and when.

The oversight committee was proposed for the City's internal report, not as part of the ongoing criminal investigation into Uller.

SEE **INVESTIGATION** PAGE 11





PUMPKINS

Madeleine Pauker

The Santa Monica Farmers Market organized its annual All You Can Carry Pumpkin Patch on Oct. 31. Participants can keep whatever they can carry in one trip.

US states split on allowing citizen ballot initiatives

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

Every two years, citizens across the U.S. manage to place some eye-catching measures on state election ballots, posing questions to voters that can be divisive and sometimes historic. But more than half of states offer no such opportunity.

Twenty-four states — mostly in the Western half of the country — have ways for citizens to bypass the Legislature by gathering signatures and taking proposals directly to voters. In one of those states, Illinois, the process is so restrictive that only one citizen initiative has ever passed.

In the other 26 states, there's no option for ballot measures — and no sign that politicians are eager to create one.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the first state to adopt the initiative process was South Dakota in 1898. Since then, 23 other states have followed suit, but none since Mississippi in 1992.

"Overall, the breakdown isn't changing," said Patrick Potyondy, the NCSL's legislative policy specialist. "Whatever state you're from, you think your process is normal."

States with an initiative process include liberal bastions such as California and conservative strongholds such as Idaho. There's similar diversity with non-initiative states, which include Republican-controlled Texas and Democratic-dominated New York.

In the 1970s and '80s, some leading Texas Republicans favored creating an initiative process, and until 1994 that stance was part of

SEE **INITIATIVES** PAGE 11

Homeless advocacy group seeks to educate the community, detractors and all

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

As election day approaches, one topic will be beneath a magnifying glass — the city's ongoing homeless epidemic. While some candidates have radically different views on how to solve the crises, one advocacy organization seeks to

SEE **EDUCATE** PAGE 6

New program provides county-wide funding to fight homelessness

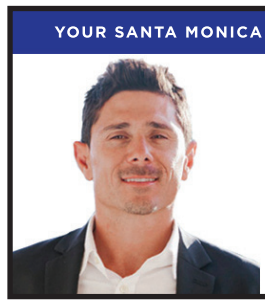
MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Los Angeles County is increasing services for homeless residents and local officials hope improvements in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles will have a trickle down effect on the local crisis.

The County's Board of Supervisors voted Oct. 30 to declare a state of shelter emergency in unincorporated areas of the County so homeless services providers in those localities can apply

SEE **FUNDING** PAGE 7


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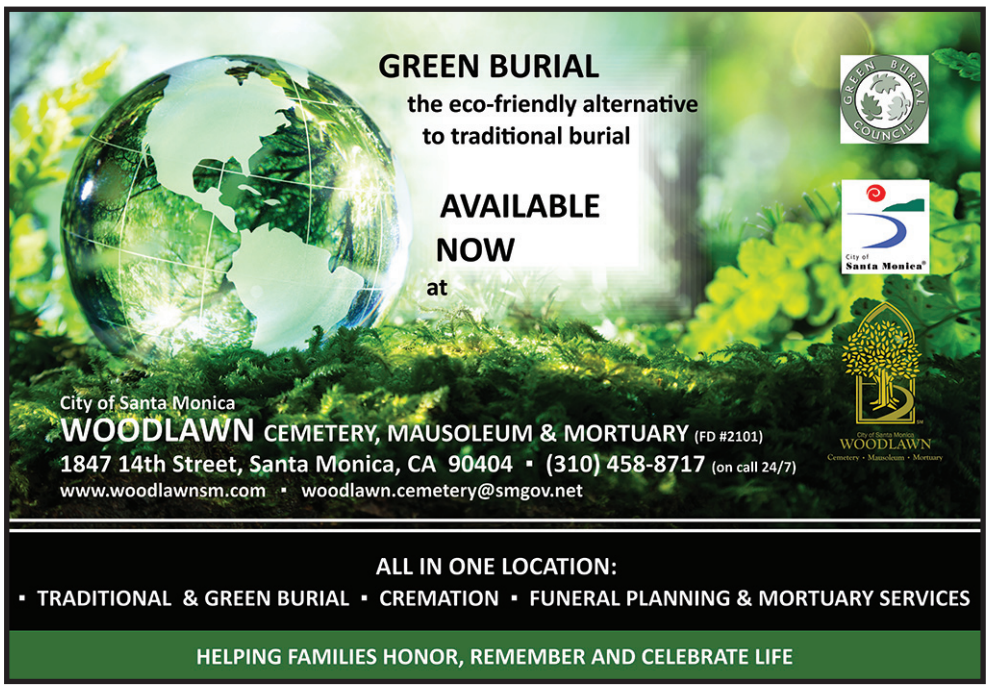
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Nov. 1

NOMA Meeting

The North of Montana Neighborhood Association continues its discussion of local elections on the November ballot with presentations from candidates for the SMMUSD School Board, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees, and Rent Control Board at its meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, November 1, at the Montana Branch Library. All are invited, with meet-and-greet at 6:30 pm.

Neighborhood Safety Meeting: Ocean Park

Meet your Neighborhood Resource Officer, Peter Lashley, for a discussion about Community Safety. Bring your questions, meet your neighbors, and find out what you can do to help your community. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Life In This Ocean: Artist Talk

Join the artists of 'Life In This Ocean' for a discussion of their work and artistic inspirations. Donna Bates, Lena Rushing, Deirdre Sullivan-Beeman, and Kathy Taslitz in conversation. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 6 - 8 p.m. http://annenberg-beachhouse.com/beachculture

Sugar Skull Decorating

Decorate ceramic skulls and learn about the history of sugar skull art, used to celebrate Day of the Dead. Limited space; free tickets available 30 minutes before program. Ages 4 - 10. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 4 - 5 p.m.

Middle School Council

Learn how you can help with programs, get volunteer hours, and more. For Middle School Students. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 4 - 5 p.m.

Remember Me: Día de los Muertos Altar

Bring a picture to add to the día de los muertos altar and honor those who have passed away. Draw a picture of their favorite food, drink, or activity, and make a paper flower. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 1 - 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 2

Guest House open

Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Homeless Steering Committee Meeting

Begin with a tour of a Community Corporation affordable housing property followed by a walk down the street to tour a Step Up permanent supporting housing project. 502 Colorado Ave. 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 3

News Media Literacy Boot Camp

Need help separating fact from fiction? BuzzFeed researcher Rachel Schnalzer leads a discussion about the public's relationship with news media and shows you how to interpret the news using tools available through the Center for Media Literacy. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 3 p.m.

How to Teach Your Teen To Drive: Tips from a Race Car Driver

Teens have the highest fatality rate of any age group that drives. Author and former race car driver Loren Elmer teaches the fundamental techniques that help you stay alive while driving. A book sale and signing will follow the presentation. For Teens and Parents. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 3 p.m.

Friends' Bookstore Children's Book Sale

Visit the Friends' Bookstore for special deals on children's books, board books, holiday books, picture books, gift books, and more! Proceeds from this sale help the Friends of the Library support the Summer Reading Program for Kids and Teens. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Virginia Ave Park

SMC and SMMUSD Candidate Forum:

As the November 6 elections approach, The Committee for Racial Justice (CRJ) and The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica Education Fund will collaborate to present the second of two community forums for candidates running for office in Santa Monica. To the second forum, all candidates for the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and those running to be on the board of the Santa Monica/Malibu United School District have been invited. All but one have confirmed attendance.

The SMC Trustee candidates will go first, and, after making opening statements, they will each respond to questions posed by CRJ, The League of Women Voters, and members of the audience. Then, the SMMUSD candidates will follow the same format. This is a great chance to hear these candidates respond to social justice questions that they probably will not be asked at other forums. This forum will be moderated by Dr. Karen Gunn, Psychologist - Educator, Organizational and Management Consultant, Trainer and Facilitator, Leadership and Life Coach. Dr. Gunn also chairs the Santa Monica Human Relations Council.

As usual, we will be meeting in the Thelma Terry Bldg. at Virginia Avenue Park in Santa Monica. But the time changes to 5:30pm for potluck supper and the program starts at 6 p.m.

This is part of an ongoing monthly workshop series sponsored by the Committee For Racial Justice and co-sponsored by the African American Parent, Staff, Student Support Group and the Church in Ocean Park.

For more information, call Joanne at (310) 422-5431.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Free Workshop. Potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. and program starts at 6 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Bldg. 2200 Virginia Ave. Child care provided

SUBMITTED BY JOANN BERLIN

LOS ANGELES

2 murders added to LA County human remains investigation

A man described as a person of interest in the investigation of three sets of human remains found on a high desert property is also being sought for questioning in a double killing earlier this year, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said Wednesday.

Detectives say they're looking to question 34-year-old Jesus "Chuy" Guzman about killings that occurred on Feb. 20 in unincorporated Littlerock, a barren desert area in the Antelope Valley north of Los Angeles.

"We're very interested in talking to him to see what information he holds," sheriff's Lt. Rodney Moore said.

At the time of the double killing, detectives said a relative who had come to visit found the bodies of two men shot dead in an outbuilding of a home. The men's names were not released, but one of them, a 41-year-old, lived at the property.

Moore said that Guzman was seen with the two men not long before they were killed. He did not immediately know exactly how shortly before the deaths Guzman was seen with the men.

Detectives began looking for Guzman after the skeletal remains of three people were found on Oct. 11 at another location in Littlerock where he had lived. The home and a car had been burned out, though that was unrelated to the subsequent discovery of the remains.

Additional skeletal remains were subsequently found there but authorities could not immediately say if they were part any of the original sets of remains.

Authorities haven't identified any of the remains. Moore said detectives are looking into whether the remains could belong to those of two men and a woman who vanished in the area in January.

He declined to say whether Guzman has been separately linked to the three people who vanished.

Moore said Guzman is known to carry weapons and should be considered armed and dangerous.

AMANDA LEE MYERS, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourism Talks

Misti Kerns Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism Welcomes 2018/2019 Executive Committee and New Board Members

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT) has announced the appointment of its newest Board of Directors member along with the installment of its 2018/2019 executive committee. Lauralee Asch has been newly appointed to the SMTT Board of Directors. The new Board of Directors executive committee is comprised of: Chairman Richard Chacker, President/ Owner, Perry's at the Beach; Vice Chair Nicole Flynn, Assistant Vice President, Marketing, Macerich; Treasurer Damien Hirsch, General Manager, JW Marriott Santa Monica Le Merigot; Secretary Albin Gielicz, Santa Monica resident.

As President/CEO of SMTT I'm pleased at the wealth of expertise, leadership ability and commitment to our destination that each of our 2018/2019 board members bring to the table. These skills will be key in propelling SMTT forward to meet our strategic goals benefiting our local community. Our position as an integral part of Santa Monica's municipality will be expanded as we leverage the diversity of their expertise.

New board member Lauralee Asch is a recent retiree of the Santa Monica Police Department where she served for 29 years, most recently as Lead Crime Prevention Coordinator. She played a key leadership role within the police department, planning National Night Outs, facilitating Community Police Academies and more. A longtime resident of the City, she also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Police Activities league.

Local small business owner Richard Chacker will step into the role of Chairman after serving on the SMTT Executive Committee as treasurer for two years and the organization's board of directors for six years. He opened Perry's Café and Beach Rentals in 1977 and continues to run the local company with five locations on the beach in Santa Monica as well as Blazing Saddles on the Pier. In addition to Perry's, Chacker is also part owner of the Santa Monica Bike Center and a Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce executive board member.

Chacker will be supported by Vice Chair Nicole Flynn, who brings with her more than 20 years of experience of marketing strategy and public relations for 16 regional shopping centers located throughout the state of California. Flynn is the assistant vice president of marketing for retail leader Macerich, the country's third-largest owner, operator and developer of major retail projects in many of the nation's most desirable markets. Flynn has previously served on the board of directors for the past four years in both secretary and treasurer roles.

Damien Hirsch joins the executive committee as treasurer. Currently the General Manager of JW Marriott Santa Monica Le Merigot, Hirsch has proven passion for tourism and guest service. Beginning his career as a banquet server, Hirsch worked his way up through the hospitality industry and has served as a General Manager for the past seven years as well as on the TMD committee.

Santa Monica resident Albin Gielicz will serve as secretary, having been a member of the board of directors for the past two years. As the International Channel Director for Revitalash Cosmetics, Gielicz is a marketing/business development generalist and sustainability advocate with substantial international experience in the United States and in emerging markets. A strong community advocate, Gielicz is a Buy Local Executive Committee Member, Montana Avenue Merchants Association Board Member and is a Recreation and Parks Commission Member.

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT), formerly Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, is a non-profit organization designed to increase visitor expenditures, tourism revenues and local employment opportunities through the promotion of Santa Monica as a travel destination. For travel and accommodation information or a free copy of the official Visitors Guide, the public can write to the Santa Monica Visitor Center, 2427 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405; call (800) 544-5319 or (310) 393-7593; visit www.santamonica.com; or email info@santamonica.com. Follow SMTT on Instagram (@SeeSantaMonica), Twitter (@GoSantaMonica) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/visitsantamonica).

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

People Send You Stuff

SKP GOT SOME REALLY GOOD STUFF

Last week in this space I told the tale of the "locksmith" who beat me out of a music journalist gig at a prestigious industry magazine in LA in the late '70s, and went on to fame and fortune (I can hear you laughing, Stephen!) as a result while I got left in the dust with advertising gigs.

Just kidding, on the regret. My buddy Stephen Peeples has an absolutely remarkable and priceless collection of memories and photos of his glory music days, but I met a backup singer in a bar, the Palomino, and somehow talked her into some 36 years of hanging out and having fun and great adventures and that might never have happened if I were in Stephen's shoes. Which I never would be because they weren't Western boots, "manly footwear," all you'll ever see me in, thank you. Plus, he fled to the Santa Clarita Valley for affordable housing, fine for him, but I've been six blocks from the beach in SM for 33 years, through a little bit of magic and smarts and hard work, and I'll take that.

Oh, the advertising gigs? At the LA Weekly in the early '80s, handling all the nightclub advertising and all the privilege and insanity that went with it (I had clients who are still in prison, at least one for murder) — I probably was making more than Peeples in those days, and did he sit across from Tom Petty at the unannounced Neil Young gig at one of my clients' venues? (Thank you, Tommy.)

But all that is in jest, and what made me think of Stephen recently was when I got a note from one James Fitzgerald, "just a fan of '60s music," correcting some of what I wrote about Dylan's famous "Subterranean Homesick Blues" video from 1965.

"Actually, the video was made in London in this alley which is located next to and to the right of the Savoy Hotel when viewed from embankment side." He attached the photo he took. Looks exactly right.

Regarding my snarky comment in a previous column about the Stones being wimps for not forcing tRump to stop using their songs without permission, Fitzgerald pointed out correctly (I had forgotten) "the Rolling Stones don't have any say what happens to their songs that were recorded before 1970. Their then-manager Allen Klein basically stole the publishing from them, getting them to sign some dodgy papers!" You indeed can't always get what you want, unless you have no qualms about stealing it.

So that's the thing that made me think of Stephen. I get stuff like that because I'm out there with a music column, and I learned back in my college FM radio days at UNM that some people just love L-O-V-E to catch you in a mistake Mr. Big Shot Music Expert and tell you about it. (I enjoyed my exchange with Fitzgerald, though.)

Peeples was a lightning rod for all things Beatles when he started, wrote and produced "The Lost Lennon Tapes" for once-mighty Westwood One Radio, from early '88 to fall of 1990. It went worldwide, and obsessed souls who had some obscure piece of Beatlemania would contact him, badger him, in an effort to get it included in the archives. Memorialized for all eternity.

"Usually it was some godawful quality recording that they thought the world was waiting breathlessly to hear," Peeples laughed. Like the Australian bloke who had a bad recording of a drunk John Lennon singing badly at some party in the mid-'60s during one of the Beatles' "Down Under" tours. But Peeples spent his years at prestigious jobs with pretty good paychecks while I drifted in and out of the biz. I got some good stuff, he got much better stuff. And those photos. https://www.facebook.com/skpeeples/media_set?set=a.2256923100761&type=3

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! & Fri, Sat, Sun - L.A. PHILHARMONIC with Principal Guest Conductor SUSANNA MALKKI (m'man Mahler went more conventional with his 5th Symphony after messing with people's minds the first four but it's got plenty to deal with, not even all in the same key, lasts more than an hour, big orchestra with glockenspiel, harp, tam-tam, tympani, tuba, even a whip, hang on to your seats because the evening leads off with a new STEVE REICH world premier, Music for Ensemble and Orchestra, co-commissioned by the LA Phil, thank you Dude), Thurs, Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, downtown LA, $20-$194.

TONIGHT! - SATYAGRAHA by PHILIP GLASS featuring Sean Panikkar - LA OPERA (Sanskrit for "truth force," this may be exactly what we all need right now, the finale of the Glass trilogy of operas about personalities who changed the world with the force of their ideas, based on the early life of Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa, where he developed his ideas about non-violent resistance, described as "a powerful meditation on the lasting effects of human goodness," it has gotten rave reviews worldwide), Thurs, next Thurs 7:30 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, downtown LA, $21-$300.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - JOAN JETT & the BLACKHEARTS, Morrissey (I know, I know who the star of this show is, Morrissey is God but not to me, I'll watch original Runaway Jett kill the opening set then walk out and hand my ducat to some poor sniveling Morrissey minion who couldn't get in and stroll off before he can profusely thank me for saving his pathetic life), Thurs 7 p.m., Microsoft Theater, downtown LA, $50-130.

SONYA YONCHEVA (I know what you're thinking, the old rocker is getting all full of himself, trying to go legit with all this classical stuff, well here's the thing, I've been listening seriously and lovingly to all kinds of classical music since college, a stint in management at the fantastic but short-lived Odyssey Music chain taught me a lot and when my LP collection hit 7,000 almost a third of them were classical, but I never acquired the deep knowledge, extensive concert experience and resultant vocabulary to be a serious classical music critic but I know a lot and I know what I like and to be honest I don't know a thing about Sonya here except the flyer I got billing her as one of the world's leading sopranos, "a revelation" said the New York Times, and SMC's the Broad Stage is bringing her right to your doorstep, no fighting traffic to get downtown LA so why wouldn't ya?), Wed

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 5

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.



Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In America They Left Their Mark

Several hundred women — and a smattering of men — gathered at a lovely home in Brentwood this past Sunday to participate in the opening of the 11th season of the Jewish Women's Theater. Abiding by its overall mission of "celebrating Jewish life onstage, one story at a time", the JWT presented a program titled "Jews in America."

Sadly, the program began with a moment of silence in commemoration of the 11 persons killed in a Pittsburgh synagogue the previous day. Followed by the "We, the People" preamble to the Constitution, delivered by the six actors of the day's performing ensemble.

As Ronda Spinak, founder and artistic director of the JWT explained, the programs presented by the company are meant to identify "what unifies us" and "to provide a legacy for future generations."

The first offering was the reading of an address delivered by Rabbi Moses Seixas in 1790 to George Washington on the occasion of Washington's visit to the synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, followed by an answering letter from Washington to the "Hebrew Congregation" of the Newport synagogue. Both messages acknowledged the good fortune that Jews in America enjoyed.

Next, a nurse in a hospital in Richmond, Virginia, in 1862, told of the death of a wounded soldier after the Battle of Fredericksburg.

A letter from a mother, Getty Bechmann, written in 1880 to her son who was leaving for America, instructed him on how to behave in the new country and commented sadly that it was unlikely that she would ever see him again. This son, however, fared well enough to endow a hospital by the time he was 20.

In 1917 an address by Rabbi Krauskopf called for the women's vote, noting that 1/4 of the wage earners in America at that time were women.

Lt. Frances Slanger of Roxbury, Massachusetts, in a moving letter from Normandy in 1944 noted that she had to wade ankle deep in mud "while your men have to lie in it." She was killed an hour after writing the letter by German gunfire.

The final selections, dated from the 1950s to the present, included "What it Means to be Jewish", written by the celebrated Rabbi Laura Geller; "How Jose Ignacio Maria de Jesus San Juan e Yndurain Learned to Dance the Hora", written by novelist Barbara Mujica, professor of Spanish literature at Georgetown University; a commission of the JWT entitled "Laughs, Liberty, and the Pursuit ofHappiness", written and performed hilariously by TV, film, and stage writer and actor Shelly Goldstein; and "I, Citizen", an incredibly beautiful and emotional declamation written by Susan Baskin as a commission of JWT.

The performers were AJ Meijer, Susan Morgenstern, Cliff Weissman, Shelly Goldstein, Rena Strober, and Andrew Fromer who, in addition to acting, provided background music and songs on his guitar.

Shelly Goldstein, in her comic monologue, had urged the crowd to "Walk softly and carry a big shtick". And, as they say in Yiddish, a good time was had by all.

The JWT holds a series of salons in homes throughout Southern California as well as scheduled performances and art exhibits at The Braid, 2912 Colorado Ave. #102, in Santa Monica. Call (310) 315-1400 for reservations and information or visit www.jewishwomenstheatre.org.

Cynthia Citron has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com.

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 4

7:30 p.m., the Broad Stage, Santa Monica, $95-$185.

LELAND SKLAR (sure you know him, how can you forget that name, that Father Time beard, that bass that's recorded with and toured with quite possibly everyone from his gettin' famous days with James Taylor through Ray Charles, Leonard Cohen, the Bee Gees, BB King, Alice Cooper, Michael Jackson, Joe Cocker, Diana Ross, Dolly, Bette, Barbra, Merle, the Doors of Venice, Santa Monica's own Judith Owen, Derek Smalls, Waddy Wachtel and Jackson Browne and many more, roughly 2,600 albums so do you think he's got some stories? — it's a lecture and performance), next Thurs 7:30 p.m., Grammy Museum, downtown LA, $30.

JANE MONHEIT, Billy Stritch, Jim Caruso (harmonize on "Hollywoodland: Songs from the Silver Screen," personally I'd rather have all Monheit but those two other cats own Broadway and they'll probably quickly make you forget you're in the Valley), next Thurs 7:30 p.m., Vitello's Italian Restaurant, Studio City, $25-$45.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He 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 therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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EDUCATE

FROM PAGE 1

discuss their approach to the problem.

The Santa Monica Homelessness Steering Committee will hold its first "Coffee, Conversation and Change" event this Friday, an initiative meant to spark conversation to demystify homelessness and its accompanying challenges and stereotypes.

"This is the first of a series of coffee chats where during brief meetings we cover different topics associated with homelessness," Tara Barauskas, Executive Director of the Community Corporation of Santa Monica said. "The idea is community members can come together, learn and voice their concerns and opinions."

The event will also share Community Corporation's affordable housing efforts in the city, ending with a walk to Step Up on Colorado where Step Up CEO Tod Lipka will discuss how permanent supportive housing has benefited formerly homeless in Santa Monica.

This month's topic will focus on affordable housing and services while following months will consist of other topics concerning the homeless.

Barauskas says the steering committee was born late last year due to the public's frustration with homelessness. The City created committees to help curb the homeless epidemic, including public safety, public spaces and this steering committee's role, advocacy.

Alisa Orduña, City Senior Advisor on Homeless, will also be present to answer questions and concerns. Before arriving in Santa Monica, Orduña was the Director of Homelessness Policy for the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, a role she began in 2015. There, she worked with many community stakeholders to battle homelessness.

This event, she says, is good for the community, whether you approve of the City's efforts towards homelessness or not.

"Don't come feeling like we're going to try to change your mind about anything," she said. "Just come to be aware of the tools we use to help homeless."

Orduña says City's efforts to combat homelessness are countless, despite often being blamed for not solving the problem.

She says the City "meets homeless where they are" on a daily basis, sending outreach teams to homeless hot spots such as public parks, with clinicians and a nurse.

There they begin case management, providing services such as helping homeless to connect with family, assisting with physical and mental illnesses, and providing guidance to government help such as Veteran benefits, food stamps, and housing.

Eventually, the hope is homeless will feel empowered to look for work.

"Is it enough to end homelessness? No," she said. "It takes partnerships with all across jurisdictions and with all community stakeholders — state, county, faith and business communities, it'll take all of us. It's a human reaction to point the finger while being surrounded by a problem, but the government can't do it alone. We need to break bread together. If you just sit back and point a finger, you're part of the problem."

The Santa Monica Homelessness Steering Committee's "Coffee, Conversation and Change" event takes place this Friday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Community Corp's residential building at 502 Colorado Ave. No RSVP is required and admission is free.

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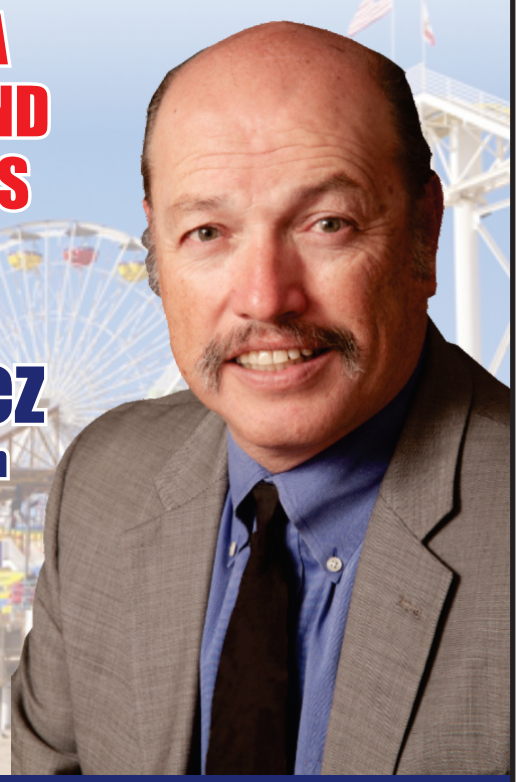
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FUNDING

FROM PAGE 1

for $81 million in state Homelessness Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding. The Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) recommends the funding be used to prevent people from becoming homeless, move more families and youth into permanent housing, and build more shelter beds, among other programs.

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, author of the motion, said, "This important funding will go a long way to cover costs for bridge housing and emergency services. The Homeless Services Authority has been working with community stakeholders for months to develop this request for $81 million to invest in interim housing, prevention and rapid rehousing strategies, and strengthening the Coordinated Entry System which manages the case information of every person experiencing homelessness in the County. State funding could be very helpful right now to fortify the efforts we began with Measure H funding a little over a year ago."

Officials hope better homelessness services in unincorporated Los Angeles could precipitate a drop in homelessness countywide, which in turn could mean fewer people using Santa Monica's shelters, medical facilities, and mental health and substance abuse clinics. The city's homeless population surged by 26 percent last year, ahead of a 23 percent increase countywide.

"(Building more housing) would relieve the impact on local service providers," said Alisa Orduña, the City's senior advisor on homelessness. "People shouldn't have to come to Santa Monica to sleep on the beach because it feels safe, they should have a bed and a space to stay that's meant for human habitation."

Addressing the homelessness crisis at the County level will more evenly disperse housing and services through the Los Angeles region, Orduña said. People experiencing homelessness would no longer have to cluster in the few areas where homelessness services are concentrated, such as Santa Monica or Skid Row, and could instead stay in their communities.

She added she thinks service providers could build new supportive housing, case management offices, or community centers on underutilized land in unincorporated areas of the County. There is currently a countywide shortage of 3,250 shelter beds, according to a LAHSA report.

"If every community took a small chunk, community-based facilities would blend in so well and increase overall well-being for everyone," Orduña said.

Alex Visotzky, a legislative affairs supervisor with LAHSA, said the agency will ask service providers around the country to submit proposals for projects once it receives the state funding. Local jurisdictions have to declare a shelter crisis to receive some types of HEAP funding, such as money for capital projects and types of rental subsidies.

"We do try to fund with geographic equity in mind, where the need is greatest," he said.

Orduña said the funding will allow service providers to intervene more effectively with people who are recently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. She estimates that 60 percent of the homeless population can be supported with rental subsidies, while the other 40 percent who may need special services for mental illness or disabilities will benefit from bridge housing staffed with case managers that HEAP can fund.

"If we can help subsidize someone's rent before they become chronically homeless, it's far cheaper than allowing them to live on the street," she said.

Jurisdictions across California must spend the HEAP funds by 2021, according to the official Los Angeles County Shelter Crisis Declaration.

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 68.3°

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-3 ft Knee to chest high
SW/S swell mix for exposures. Small windswell.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-3 ft ankle to waist high
Small SW/S swell mix and traces of NW windswell.

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"** license, on the following: **Bid #18.14.ES.R1 John Adams Middle School – Auditorium Demo at John Adams Middle School. This project is subject to a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), which is included in the bidding documents.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$500,000 - $600,000** and includes construction of site preparation including controls, access, fencing, re-routing of existing utilities, patching and protecting of existing buildings and trees, Abatement and full Demolition of the Auditorium Building K; protect and coordinate the removal of the existing shoring/scaffolding, site grading and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be filed in the SMMUSD District Purchasing Office, 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, California 90404 on or before 12/6/18 no later than 2:00 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 11/13/18 at 10:00 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 11/21/18 - 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 limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the SMMUSD FIP website at http://fipcontractors.smmusd.org/fip-office-website.aspx

Mandatory Job Walk:
Tuesday, 11/13/18 at 10:00 AM

Job Walk location:
John Adams Middle School – 2425 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405 - All Attending Contractors MUST meet representatives outside the front entrance of the school.

Bid Opening:
Thursday, 12/6/18 at 2:00 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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Meaningful legislation

Editor:

I wish to applaud Santa Monica's city council for voting to provide 100% renewable energy as the default power option for our city starting next February. This decision is particularly timely as it comes on the heels of two momentous reports over the past several weeks containing dire warnings for the future of our planet.

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its latest report calling out the urgent need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. This was followed by the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine calling on governments of the world to embark on a crash program to develop the technology to remove carbon from the atmosphere. In their opinion, reduction of carbon emissions alone will not be enough to save the planet from the worst effects of climate change.

Hopefully we will see meaningful legislation addressing both of these fronts in the next congress. In the meantime, thank you Santa Monica for taking this big step that sets an important example for cities around the world.

Barry Engelman
Citizens Climate Lobby

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 401 Calls For Service On Oct. 30.

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

Lewd activity 1200 block 5th 12:03 a.m.
Person w/gun 14th/Wilshire 03:32 a.m.
Auto burglary 900 block 6th 05:16 a.m.
Auto burglary 900 block 6th 05:18 a.m.
Auto burglary 900 block 6th 07:03 a.m.
Auto burglary 500 block 7th 07:05 a.m.
Auto burglary 400 block 10th 07:06 a.m.
Auto burglary 500 block 10th 07:38 a.m.
Burglary 1000 block 11th 07:40 a.m.
Grand theft auto 800 block Berkeley 07:45 a.m.
Auto burglary 14th/Washington 07:46 a.m.
Vandalism 1000 block 11th 08:55 a.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block Washington 08:59 a.m.
Auto burglary 3300 block Barnard 09:02 a.m.
Auto burglary 3100 block Neilson 09:09 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1800 block San Vicente 09:13 a.m.
Auto burglary 3100 block Neilson 09:16 a.m.
Auto burglary 3300 block Barnard 09:51 a.m.
Traffic collision w/injuries 15th/Santa Monica 10:08 a.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block Washington 10:30 a.m.
Injured person 20th/Broadway 10:42 a.m.
Injured person 1400 block 20th 10:43 a.m.
Traffic collision w/injuries 21st/Michigan 10:47 a.m.
Drunk driving Lincoln/Wilshire 11:11 a.m.
Burglary 1000 block 11th 11:13 a.m.
Auto burglary 3100 block Neilson 11:46 a.m.
Person w/gun Pacific Coast/California Incline 12:04 p.m.
Indecent exposure 2200 block Santa Monica 12:25 p.m.
Vandalism 600 block San Vicente 12:33 p.m.
Animal related incident 2600 block Ocean Park 12:39 p.m.
Grand theft 00 block Pacific Ter 12:48 p.m.
Domestic violence 3100 block Main 12:51 p.m.
Battery Ocean/Colorado 1:08 p.m.
Grand theft 1900 block Ocean 1:04 p.m.
Person down 700 block Broadway 1:22 p.m.
Grand theft 200 block Georgina 1:31 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 600 block Wilshire 1:51 p.m.
Battery 2600 block Highland 2:04 p.m.
Critical missing person 1800 block 9th 2:21 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1000 block 3rd 2:45 p.m.
Sexual assault 3000 block Santa Monica 3:19 p.m.
Indecent exposure 2200 block Michigan 3:33 p.m.
Sexual assault 1800 block 19th 3:37 p.m.
Person down 1200 block California 4:36 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1000 block 3rd 5:00 p.m.
Shots fired 900 block 4th 5:06 p.m.
Shots fired 1000 block 4th 5:07 p.m.
Auto burglary 500 block 10th 6:26 p.m.
Person w/gun 700 block Broadway 7:24 p.m.
Person down Cloverfield/Michigan 8:28 p.m.
Battery 1500 block Ocean 9:21 p.m.
Auto burglary 1000 block 11th 9:29 p.m.
Battery 3rd/California 9:56 p.m.
Person down 1500 block 9th 10:01 p.m.
Person down Highland/Raymond 11:50 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 33 Calls For Service On Oct. 30.

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

Emergency Medical Service 2000 block California 01:58 a.m.
EMS 1800 block 20th 04:48 a.m.
Automatic alarm 600 block Santa Monica 04:53 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block 3rd Prom 05:24 a.m.
EMS 3300 block Virginia 06:30 a.m.
EMS 2200 block Lincoln 09:23 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 09:38 a.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 15th/Santa Monica 10:08 a.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block 9th 10:44 a.m.
EMS 21st/Olympic 10:47 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2300 block 34th 11:59 a.m.
Automatic alarm 400 block Wilshire 12:57 p.m.
Transformer fire 2300 block Kansas 1:02 p.m.
EMS 1700 block 12th 1:20 p.m.
EMS 700 block Broadway 1:22 p.m.
EMS 500 block Olympic 1:39 p.m.
EMS 500 block Olympic 2:43 p.m.
EMS 1600 block 9th 3:09 p.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block 11th 3:30 p.m.
EMS 100 block Fraser 4:54 p.m.
Transformer fire 1000 Block 4th 5:17 p.m.
EMS 900 block 3rd 5:22 p.m.
EMS 2200 block Virginia 6:01 p.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block 9th 6:32 p.m.
EMS 2100 block Ashland 7:15 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Pico 7:56 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block California 8:29 p.m.
EMS 2100 block Ocean 8:47 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 2nd 9:26 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 9th 10:01 p.m.
EMS 1100 block 3rd 10:54 p.m.
EMS 1600 block Lincoln 11:25 p.m.
EMS Highland/Raymond 11:50 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:
Power#:
Jackpot: M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date:
Mega#:
Jackpot: M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date:
Mega#:
Jackpot: M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date:

DAILY 3
Draw Date:
MIDDAY:
Draw Date:
EVENING:

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date:
1st:
2nd:
3rd:
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WORD UP!

ghosting
1. Informal. a. the practice of suddenly ending all contact with a person without explanation, especially in a romantic relationship: He was a victim of ghosting.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Medical History

■ This week in 2013, the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") began open enrollment for individuals and families. According to White House estimates at the time, more than 8 million people signed up for private insurance in the Health Insurance Marketplace and millions more in health plans that met ACA standards or in expanded Medicaid coverage. Last year, The New York Times reported that almost 20 million Americans had gained health insurance since 2010.

Body of Knowledge

■ Gums are renewed every one to two weeks.

MYSTERY REVEALED!

SPONSORED BY Ice at The Plaza at Santa Monica



Joy Bailey correctly guessed the location of this image captured at Peek Kids clothing store @ 1015 Montana Avenue. They win a prize from the Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

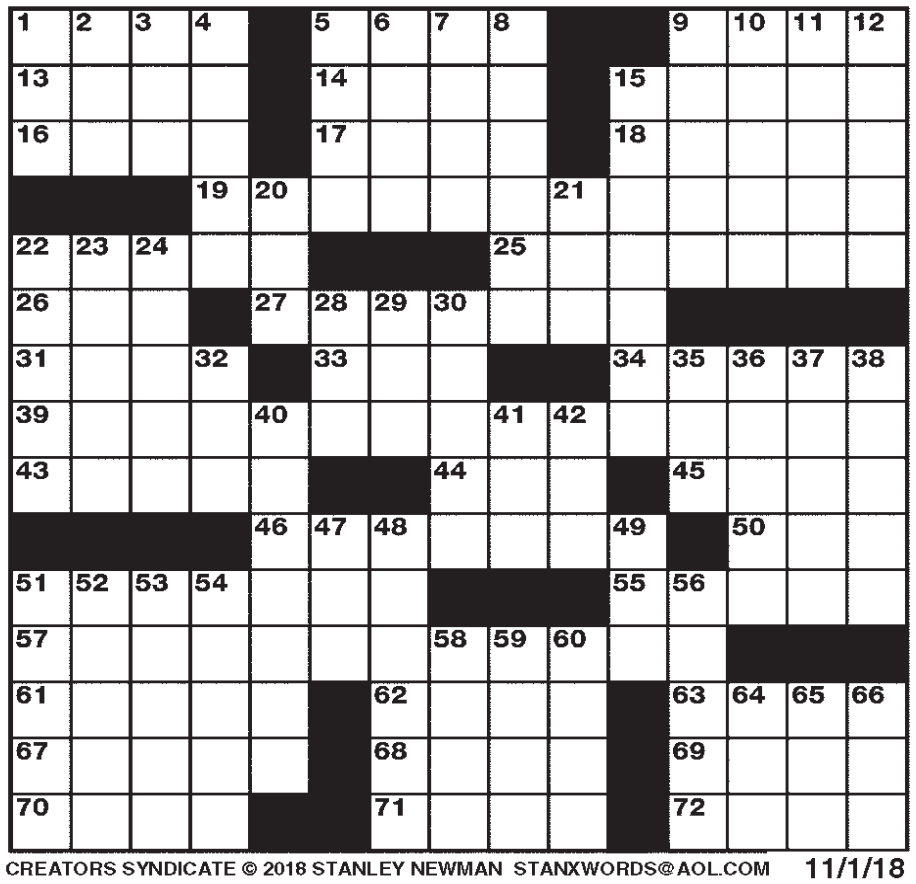
4		8					5	3
9				2	6			
		1	5	8		9		4
	8		9		5	7		
	9	4				2	3	
		7	2		1		9	
7		5		6	9	3		
			7	1				6
2	1					8		9

Newsday Crossword

UNDER YOUR HAT by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Potpie ingredients
5 Get rid of
9 Knight's protection
13 Legal affirmation
14 Work on the road
15 Bamboo muncher
16 Adidas alternative
17 Curriculum portion
18 Incite
19 Compromise position*
22 Autumn beverage
25 On-air partners
26 USPS delivery
27 Short solo
31 Acronym urging alacrity
33 Doctrinal suffix
34 Not done anymore
39 Emcee's accessory*
43 Poke (around)
44 Move swiftly
45 Get tired
46 Dessert pudding
50 Contend
51 Clip out
55 Brandish
57 How some mouthwash is made*
61 Prefix for physics
62 Plastic choice
63 "In that event . . ."
67 Search high and low
68 Supermarket section
69 Melancholy-sounding instrument
70 Sound of derision
71 Mil. truant
72 What surrounds the answers to the starred clues

DOWN
1 Toaster sound
2 *Café*, mostly
3 PIN requester
4 Extreme embarrassment
5 Source of chips
6 Watch rotator
7 Deviltry
8 Pick up on
9 Nearsighted toon
10 Cattle from Scotland
11 Brief denial
12 Countries
15 Unsure response
20 Roth plan, e.g.
21 Figured out
22 Chowder chunks
23 Golf announcer's phrase
24 Harry Potter adversary
28 Pull apart
29 Suffix meaning "sort of"
30 Texter's icon
32 Tour player
35 DOJ agency
36 Soothing stuff
37 Slowpoke
38 Moved gradually
40 Chooses
41 Opposite of paleo-
42 And more, for short
47 Division of Verizon
48 Paper sold off by Yeltsin
49 Amazement
51 Shatter to bits
52 Computer networking giant
53 __ deep (over one's head)
54 Swagger
56 "Dog-tired" or "cat burglar"
58 Scenery seen
59 Scandinavian port
60 Support bar
64 DOJ agency
65 Jupiter, to Saturn
66 British ref. set



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 11/1/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (NOV. 1)

You've weathered storms of all sorts, and now it's time to revel in emotional sunshine. Not one to let life overwhelm you, you'll make an exception in matters of love. Developments in your personal life inspire special events, travel and the integration of other families and friend groups. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 3, 33, 28 and 50.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
The best people to be around aren't the ones who nag you to be different; they are the ones who make you want to be better by modeling a different way of being.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Sometimes you're the apprentice, and sometimes you're the master. To help another person give life to their dreams is a gift to you as well, and vice versa. The roles are interchangeable and equal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
What you learn today will light your way. Tomorrow will be better because of it. If there's some waiting around or a little stress, it's par for the course. Life is on track. Things are getting better.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Many appreciate what you do. Not everyone. The ones who get it really get it. Those are the ones you're aiming your best efforts toward. Keep company with those who uplift.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You'll solve the problem by thinking less and feeling more. Imagine yourself as a coral-like receptor, with the ocean flowing around and through you. As you move in response, how can it be anything but right?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
There are a few dynamics at play that are no longer ideal for you, to say the least. You can always make a change. That's an option you have; you just have to decide to take it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
To have an awareness of your shadow side is a start. But to know that your shadow is actually just the flip side of the best that's in you is the golden ticket to success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Don't underestimate the detrimental impact of too much seriousness. A deficit of fun is a drain on vitality. It may not be noticeable at first, but letting the levels get too low puts all that's good in jeopardy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You won't forget your manners. You almost never do, and that is among the reasons you'll be chosen for today's task, which calls for someone who can be reliably polite.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
There are a few options on the table, one of which seems particularly appealing if not for the fact that it will take a very long time to realize. Don't let that deter you. The time will pass no matter what you're doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Nothing develops a person quite like traveling. And you needn't go far. Even a visit inside the next-door neighbor's house will fortify you. The important part is that you learn about others. Ask questions.

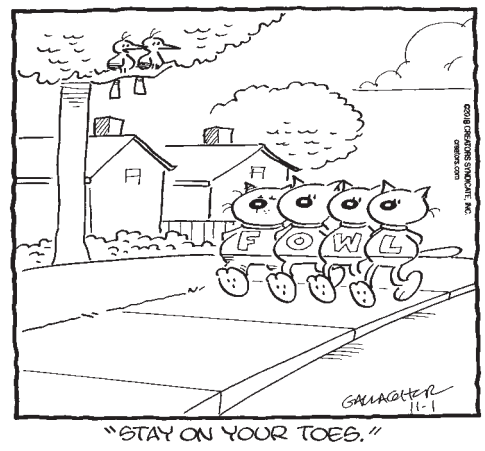
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
If silliness is a skill, it's an important one. People need silliness. It takes a certain amount of confidence to risk being seen as foolish. And it involves an instinct for guessing what will make the other person laugh.

MOON OF HEARTS FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

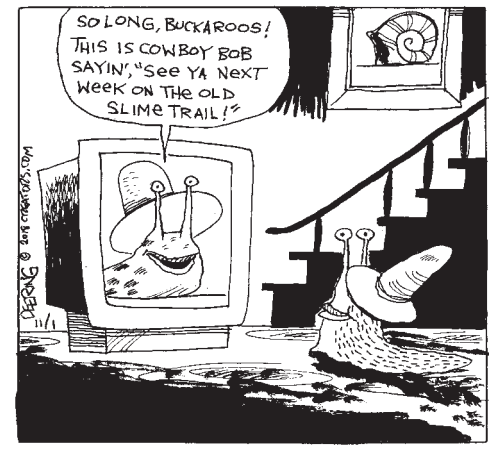
Because people move and change, relationships will come and go. The mature view is to take comfort in the fact that if we're living right, at some point, we will all become fond memories. This All Saints' Day under the moon of the heart will focus our love especially on the maternal ancestral line due to a trine of Jupiter and Chiron.

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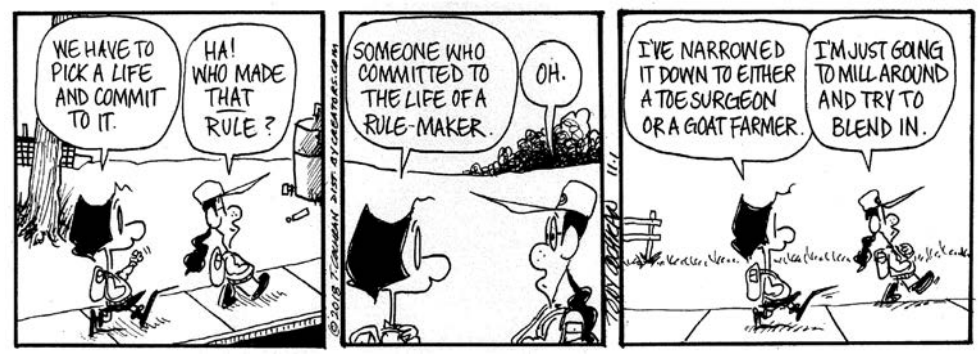
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



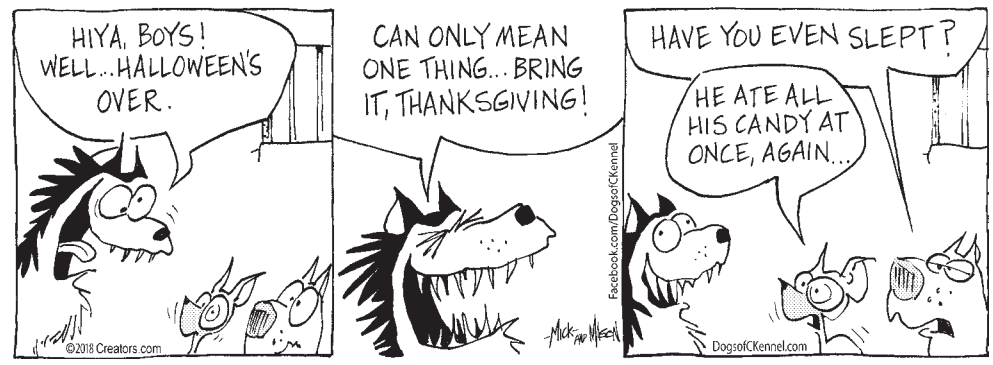
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



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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INVESTIGATION

FROM PAGE 1

City Attorney Lane Dilg said the City wants input from residents and remains committed to a community dialogue about the case. She suggested individuals with relevant information, either about the criminal case or the City's internal investigation, should talk with the appropriate investigators but those investigators should have the freedom to pursue the case as they see fit.

"With respect to a Citizens' oversight committee of the investigators, it's not a thing that's done and there's a reason for that," she said. "And the reason is that the investigators need to be independent in deciding who to interview, what questions to ask, so that they can follow where the facts lead. That's what criminal investigators do, that's what civil investigators do."

Dilg said the City will continue to provide information about current policies and procedures, including any changes proposed as a result of this incident.

Councilwoman Sue Himmelrich said there's a place for residents in the process.

"Victims and families have a right to their privacy. This is a confidential and private investigation," she said. "That said, people in this room should not be voiceless about these issues. That voice needs to be coming up with better policies and preventions, not overseeing investigators."

Many who attended the meeting agreed and expressed anger that the City did not more thoroughly question PAL's current and former volunteers and members after Don Condon, a former PAL volunteer, was convicted of child molestation in 2015. Others brought up allegations that officials covered up Uller's crimes by allowing him to continue volunteering with PAL and most recently work at the City's Youth Tech Program, despite rumors about his behavior.

Oscar De La Torre organized the meeting on behalf or the Pico Neighborhood Association (PNA) and said the goal was to understand why it took so long to arrest Uller.

"PNA is very concerned because many of victims lived in Pico neighborhood and some of them continue to live in the Pico Neighborhood," he said. "It's been generational trauma that our community has faced because of how long this individual operated within our city, first as a volunteer and then as a city employee. Our hearts go out to the victims, to the families. Many of the individuals affected are also parents, so their children have had to face various issues stemming from these incidents. The purpose of this dialogue is to understand how this can occur not once, but twice."

Armen Melkonians, founder of the Facebook group Santa Monica Residocracy, said members of the group said they had been involved with PAL in the 90s and knew about his crimes. Melkonians said some said they worked there and tried to tell officials what was going on, but were written up for spreading rumors and forced to quit.

City officials said they and the investigators are taking those allegations seriously and will follow wherever the facts lead. Dilg said the outcome of the investigation will inform how to protect children in the future and encourage staff to report misconduct.

"We want to look back on and figure out why it happened and how it happened, but also look forward to make sure best practices are in place to make sure it never happens again," said Assistant City Manager Katie Lichtig.

PAL's 1996 president, Joe Palazollo, claimed the organization did not know about Uller's behavior.

"I knew a lot of the people (in PAL) and ran into Uller a couple times, and what I find incredible is the allegations people have made that they covered things up," he said. "The people I knew there would have killed the guy if they knew. They were there for the kids, and I can't imagine them staying silent."

Current volunteers and members of PAL defended it, saying that the organization has changed since the 90s and is a valuable resource for youth and parents.

"This situation is being brought up as if it as current at PAL," said volunteer Ebonicia Fisher. "I'm deeply saddened to hear what happened to these young men, but it's hard to hear you scrutinize PAL in this way as if it was directly them."

Fisher and others asked officials to proactively educate children about how to protect themselves from sexual abuse, which Lichtig said the City would consider and may reach out to Santa Monica Unified School District and private schools.

"We know now we need to restore trust and confidence in the City," Lichtig said. "There's hurt, anger, sadness, and we want to thank you for expressing that. It's going to take time to get enough information, but we are … committed to taking action once we know the facts."

editor@smdp.com

INTIATIVES

FROM PAGE 1

the state GOP's platform. With Republicans in full control of state government since then, there's been no serious discussion at the statehouse of allowing citizen initiatives.

"It hasn't been talked about for 20 years," said Republican Jerry Patterson, who served three terms as state land commissioner. "If you're out of government, you're in favor of initiatives. If you're in government, they become not so appealing."

Cal Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University, said the initiative process became entrenched in many Western states during the progressive area of the early 1900s.

"It was part of the reaction to political party corruption to allow citizens to directly offer initiatives," he said. "Texas has always been more skeptical of citizen involvement. ... The lawmakers and lobbyists think the deals they cut are preferable to any decision the voters might make."

At New York's statehouse, there's been little serious discussion of the initiative process since Republican George Pataki touted the concept during his tenure as governor from 1995 to 2006. With the Legislature and major labor unions opposing any change, it would likely take a constitutional convention to allow it, but 83 percent of voters in 2016 rejected holding such a convention.

Likewise, in the states that allow citizen initiatives, there's been no serious talk of abandoning the process. But political battles have been waged over efforts to restrict it.

In California, Gov. Jerry Brown in 2013 vetoed a bill passed by his fellow Democrats in the Legislature that would have limited the use of paid circulators to collect signatures for proposed ballot measures. Labor unions backed the bill, saying it would "prevent billionaires and wealthy corporations from hijacking the ballot initiative process." Brown said the bill was flawed, but encouraged further efforts to improve the process.

In 2014, Brown signed a bill inviting groups that were promoting initiatives to work with lawmakers in the hopes they could strike a compromise and keep the measure off the ballot.

Because of its size and relatively accommodating initiative process, California has produced some of the most tumultuous and expensive ballot-measure campaigns.

Of the eight initiatives on California's Nov. 6 ballot, the costliest thus far is a measure that would cap profits for dialysis clinics. A health care workers' union has spent about $20 million to support the measure. Major dialysis providers and their allies have contributed about $100 million in opposition, seeking to prevent the measure from becoming a model for other states.

More than $35 million has been contributed by supporters and opponents of a proposal to repeal California's gas tax.

Susan Lerner, executive director of Common Cause New York, previously worked for a good-government advocacy group in California, giving her a clear picture of the states' contrasting policies.

"I've worked in the two extreme examples of how much dysfunction there can be," she said. "In California, there's too much direct democracy and in New York there's none. Neither is the right solution."

"I came out of California feeling its initiatives were out of control — and now I'm nostalgic for them," she added, recalling instances when California lawmakers would tackle difficult issues to defuse a potential initiative campaign.

Lerner expressed interest in a compromise proposal floated unsuccessfully about 20 years ago in Vermont. Called the Citizen Initiative, it would have enabled voters — if they gathered enough signatures — to put a policy proposal before the Legislature and require an up or down vote on it.

Josh Altic, a ballot-measure expert at the online political encyclopedia Ballotpedia, said the high spending on initiatives in California and elsewhere provides ammunition for critics of the process, who see it as vulnerable to powerful out-of-state forces.

"The narrative for those people is that this isn't a grassroots process," he said. "This is a process that's easy to use for large wealthy interest groups and hard to use for the average citizen."

California has placed more than 370 citizen initiatives on its ballot since adopting the process in 1911, with about one-third winning approval. In contrast, Illinois has voted on a policy-making initiative only once, in 1980, when voters reduced the Legislature's size from 177 members to 118.

Initiatives in Illinois can be used only to change the structure and function of the Legislature, said Matt Dietrich, spokesman for the state election board.

Craig Burnett, a political science professor at Hofstra University on Long Island, said powerful politicians in non-initiative states generally don't want to give citizens a means of bypassing lawmakers. But overall, he said, the initiative process is popular wherever it exists.

"It can be misused or manipulated — it can be a little silly at times," he said. "But on the whole, it ends up being a positive avenue for voters to express themselves."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles port container explodes in industrial accident

Authorities are investigating a shipping container explosion in the Port of Los Angeles as an industrial accident.

The container was loaded with scrap metal for export when it blew up late Tuesday afternoon at the Evergreen Shipping terminal.

There were no injuries but more than 100 people including truckers were evacuated during the investigation.

Port Police Deputy Chief Randy Allen says there's no indication it was anything other than an industrial accident.

Other containers were checked to make sure there was no additional danger.

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LOS ANGELES

Woman convicted of husband murder in LA's Koreatown

A Los Angeles County jury has convicted a 28-year-old Korean national of the domestic violence killing of her husband.

The district attorney's office says the jury found Misun Yoo guilty of second-degree murder on Tuesday.

The jury also found true a special allegation that she used a knife in the commission of the murder.

Prosecutors said during trial that the defendant stabbed her husband during an alcohol-fueled argument in their Koreatown apartment.

She could face 16 years to life in prison when she's sentenced on Jan. 28.

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LOS ANGELES

California mother, boyfriend enter pleas in killing of boy

A mother and her boyfriend have pleaded not guilty to torturing and murdering her 10-year-old son in Southern California.

Prosecutors say Heather Barron and Kareem Leiva entered pleas Wednesday after a grand jury indictment was unsealed.

The district attorney's office says the murder charge includes a special circumstance allegation involving the infliction of torture. Prosecutors have yet to decide whether to seek the death penalty against the pair, who are due back in court Dec. 3.

Anthony Avalos died in June after being found unresponsive at home in Lancaster, in the desert north of Los Angeles.

Barron called 911 to report her son had fallen down stairs.

The death prompted an audit of LA County's child welfare department. Anthony had been the subject of 13 calls to the department.

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