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Arguments but no resolution to ongoing voting rights lawsuit

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The judge will issue a final ruling in Santa Monica's voting rights case sometime in the near future but the most recent court date provided no new information on her thoughts or the possible borders of districts within the city.

The judge held a hearing on Dec. 7 to discuss her tentative ruling that found the City's at large election system violates the rights of minority residents. Her initial ruling was just a few sentences long and while the City had asked for an extensive explanation of her reasoning, the Friday hearing was limited to both sides reiterating positions previously outlined in written arguments.

Attorneys for the City have said they plan to appeal if the tentative ruling stands. However, they are requesting the judge allow the City hold a community input process to draw election districts if the ruling

SEE **LAWSUIT** PAGE 7

New internet service beams into Santa Monica

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Until Tuesday, Santa Monicans had only two internet providers to choose from but a new company is offering service to some who want to divest from the phone or cable company.

Starry offers residents an alternative to Spectrum and Frontier Communications, the only two high-speed internet providers operating in the city.

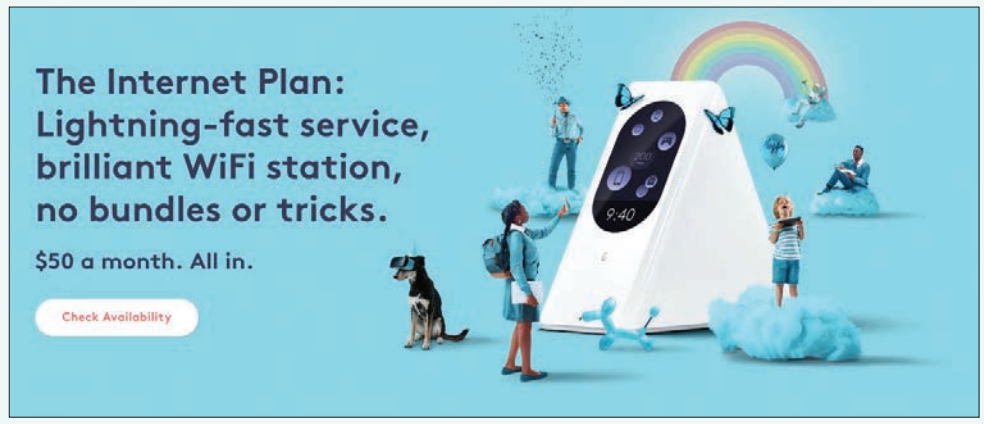
Starry customers pay $50 each month for up to 200 mps. Spectrum offers standalone internet for $44.99 per month, with starting speeds of 100 megabits per second. The highest-speed Frontier plan maxes out at 18 mps for $30 per month.

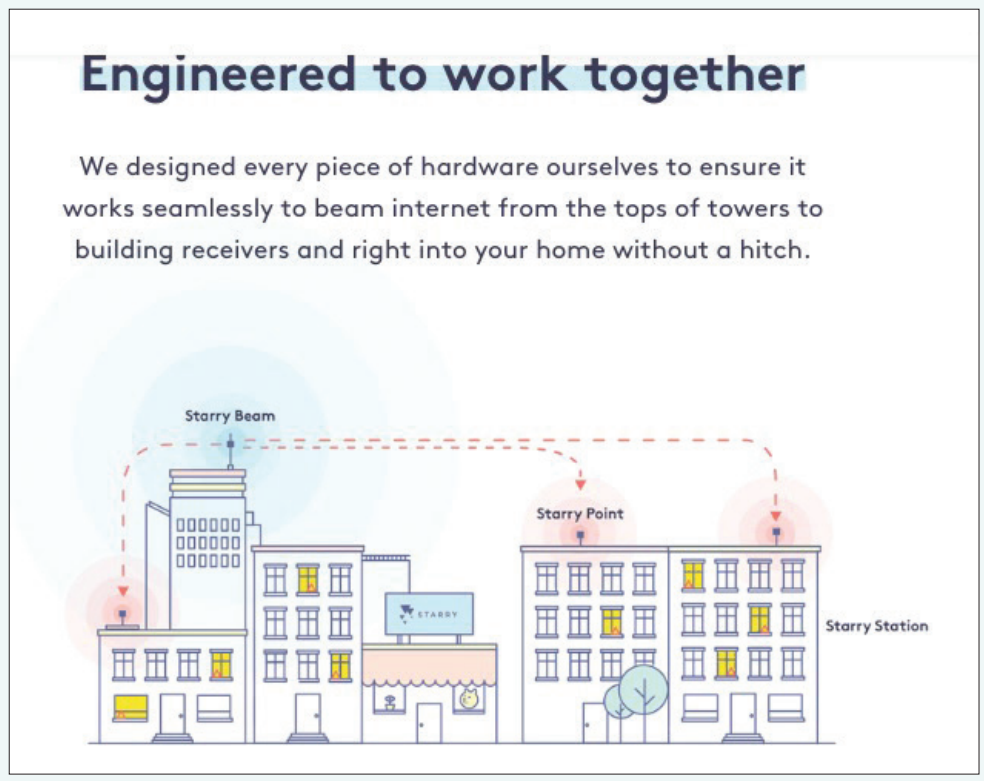
Gary Carter, communication broadband manager for the City of Santa Monica, said he thinks Starry will make the market for internet providers more competitive.

"I hope their option will offer a quality product residents can make use of," he said. "If they do a great job, I think they'll see an appetite for their services."

Starry launched in Boston in 2016 and has expanded in the last year to Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. after raising $100 million in funding. The startup is planning to set up shop in about a dozen other cities, including New York and Chicago.

The company delivers internet services via wireless rooftop connections. A Starry Beam is installed on a tall building, which connects to a Starry Point installed on each building it reaches. Starry has installed a Beam on a building on Wilshire Boulevard in Downtown Santa Monica and can reach Points up to two kilometers away, said David Monteirth, the general manager for





File Photos

SEE **INTERNET** PAGE 3

ISP: Starry hopes there's a market for a new internet service provider in Santa Monica

Malibu residents oppose plans to consolidate PCB removal with new construction

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

A non-profit, environmental protection organization is claiming the Santa Monica Malibu School District is putting Malibu children and educators in harm's way by delaying required removal of toxic chemicals.

District officials want to combine PCB removal with other construction work on

SEE **PCB** PAGE 8

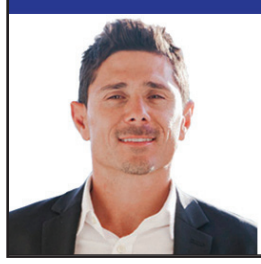
Storm brings record rainfall, snow to Southern California

AMANDA LEE MYERS
Associated Press

Crews were busy Friday assessing damage and cleaning up after a storm that brought record rainfall to Los Angeles, snowfall to northern elevations, snarled traffic and forced evacuations as debris flows hit areas burned by wildfires.

SEE **STORM** PAGE 8


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Dec. 8

Santa Monica Pub Crawl

Raising money for the Westside Food Bank. Tickets are $20 and give attendees access to food and drink specials at all participating bars. Four routes available (Wilshire route expected to have shortest lines). Tickets online at http://santamonicapubcrawl.com/tickets/

Starting a Business: What You Need to Know @ Main

Thinking about starting a new business, or recently started one? This workshop will give you a clear understanding of the legal requirements for starting a business, and the steps you can take to succeed. Key topics covered include: naming your business, licenses and taxes, insurance, financing sources, elements of a business plan and marketing considerations. You'll also hear how SCORE can help you succeed in your new venture. Main Library Community Meeting Room, 2nd Floor 10:30 am-12:00pm.

Cyanotype Workshop with Echo Park Film Center

Celebrate the 17th anniversary of Echo Park Film Center with members by learning the lovely art of cyanotype printmaking. Use sun and shadow to watch your images bloom before your very eyes! Cyanotype is a monochromatic contact process that produces beautiful blue and white images. We'll learn how to make our own simple cyanotype solution and apply it to fabric and paper before adding found objects and sunlight to create unique pieces of art. Workshop Facilitators: Dicky Bahto, Chloe Reyes and Penelope Uribe-Abee. Palisades Park 11:00 am-1:00pm.

Classics Book Group at Fairview

This long-running book discussion group discusses literary classics from around the world. December 2018's book: The Wrong Box by Robert Louis Stevenson. Fairview Branch Library 11:00 am-12:30pm.

Frau Fiber's Sewing Rebellion + Craft Lounge

Frau Fiber brings her nationwide project, Sewing Rebellion, to the Camera on the second Saturday of the month concurrent to our monthly Craft Lounge. Catch Frau Fiber's regiment of Faux Fraus leading sewing, altering and repurposing projects each month. Sewing machines and sewing tips included. December's Sewing Rebellion project is addressing the "problem of the t-shirt." The US sells so many t-shirts, many of them made in unethical conditions. Most of us have more t-shirts than we know what to do with. This month the project is creating wrap dresses from discarded t-shirts - bring your unneeded tops to remake. Palisades Park 11:00 am-2:00pm.

Make Your Own Camera Obscura with Echo Park Film Center

Take home your own unique little box of wonder after this hands-on workshop utilizing a few simple components and an ancient discovery. Workshop Facilitators: Brenda Contreras, Beaux Mingus, Gina Napolitian and Nicole Ucedo. Saturday, 12/8 1pm - 4pm
Cost: $5 Palisades Park 1:00pm-4:00 pm.

Amelie (2001) Le Cinema Français

Francophiles et francophones, join us for a screening of this charming and inventive film where naive Parisian Amélie discovers love while orchestrating the lives of those around her. In French with English subtitles. A discussion of the film, en français, follows the screening. (Film runtime: 122 min.) a delicious pastry of a movie, a lightheartedfantasy in which a winsome heroine overcomes a sad childhood and grows up to bring cheer to the needful and joy to herself. You see it, and later when you think about it, you smile ~Roger Ebert Main Library Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium 2:00pm-5:00 pm.

Free reading of "A Christmas Carol"

Get in the spirit of the season at our free reading of Charles Dickens's perennial tale of transformation and holiday cheer. Join in and read a passage or simply sit back and listen to the narrators. Free and open event. Lasts from approximately 2 p.m. to 5:30. Come and go as you please. The Christian Institute, 1308 Second Street. For more information, visit ChristInst.org.

Sunday, Dec. 9

Viceroy "Do Good Brunch" with TOMS

Viceroy Santa Monica will host a "Do Good Brunch" with TOMS from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. with a portion of the proceeds going to S.P.Y. (Safe Place for Youth). TOMS will host a trunk show for holiday shopping needs and both TOMS and the Viceroy Santa Monica hotel teams will be making toiletry kits for S.P.Y.'s youth. Special menu is $35/pp (without alcohol) and $50pp with bottomless mimosas or rosé wine. Reservations can be made my calling CAST restaurant at (310) 260-511.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Holiday Shoppers Reminded to "Save the Space" for Those with Disabilities

As holiday shoppers crowd store and mall parking lots, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds Californians to "Save the Space" designated for disabled individuals who legally display disabled person parking placards.

"With parking at a premium during the holiday season, it is important to remember that misusing a disabled person parking placard is not only against the law, but it negatively impacts the mobility of those with disabilities," DMV Director Jean Shiomoto said. "The DMV is committed to curbing fraud and will give offenders the gift of a citation. So, I ask you to save the space."

In November 2018, DMV investigators caught 132 people fraudulently using disabled person parking placards during 21 enforcement operations throughout the state. Offenders had their placard confiscated and were issued a misdemeanor citation that carries a fine that ranges from $250 to $1,000.

Since July 1, 2018, DMV investigators have verified 8,596 disabled person parking placards and found 881 being misused.

The DMV holds as many as 24 enforcement operations each month throughout the state targeted at curbing disabled person parking placard abuse.

SUBMITTED BY THE DMV

Westwood

Cancer Lecture

In 2017, there were more than 79,000 new cases of bladder cancer in the US. The first line standard therapy for patients with advanced cancer up until recently was chemotherapy. However, the response rate was low, and the 5-year survival was 5%. The treatment landscape is changing with the approval of novel immunotherapy drugs. Our presenters discuss how these drugs are incorporated into current practice and how a once-terminal disease is being transformed into chronic one. They will discuss clinical trials and treatment options for patients with localized bladder cancer.

In 2017, there were 64,000 new cases of kidney cancer in the US, with more than 25% presenting with metastatic disease. Our presenters will describe these new protocols being used to improve survival. They will also discuss novel immunotherapeutic drugs currently in clinical trials and kidney-sparing options for patients with localized kidney cancer.

SPEAKERS:

Alexandra Drakaki,MD, PhD, received her MD in Internal Medicine at a Tuft's University affiliate program. She completed her hematology/oncology training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard Medical School and her research fellowship at Dana Farber Cancer Center Harvard Medical School in Boston. She specializes in genitourinary cancers, specifically cancers of the bladder, testis, urethra, prostate, and kidney. Her research interest is studying the role of a novel class of genes (non-coding RNAs, including microRNAs and linkRNAs) in genitourinary malignancies and is part of the Translational Oncology Research Laboratory at UCLA developing novel new drugs and leading clinical trials.

Karim Chamie, MD, MSHS, is the Director of the Bladder Cancer Program at the IUO. He attended USC Medical School and completed Urological training at UC Davis and a SUO certified fellowship in Urologic Oncology at UCLA. He has numerous clinical trials for patients with localized bladder cancer. His primary research interests are health services research and clinical trials in bladder cancer. His clinical interests include all areas of urologic oncology, with an emphasis on bladder cancer and robotic surgery.

Allan Pantuck MD, MS, Director of the Kidney Cancer Program at the IUO, attended Columbia University before going to Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Pantuck has a master's degree in clinical research, and he bridges the gap between the basic laboratory research and clinical trials. His research focuses on gene and immune therapies for GU cancer, molecular and genomic characterization of kidney cancer, and nutritional chemoprevention of prostate cancer.

Insights Into Cancer: Advances in Bladder and Kidney Cancers will be held on Dec. 11 from 7 – 9 p.m. at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, B Level, Rm B130, 757 Westwood Plaza, LA 90095. Attendance is Free. Parking is available at the Medical Plaza or Ronald Reagan Medical Center lots for $12.00

SUBMITTED BY MARCIA BRITVAN

Citywide

Crossroads Launches Strings Competition for Prospective Music Students

The Elizabeth Mandell Music Institute (EMMI), Crossroad School's elite pre-professional orchestral and chamber music program, is holding a competition for prospective music students on Saturday, Feb. 9, at Crossroads' 21st Street Campus in Santa Monica. Appropriate candidates for the competition are advanced violinists, violists and cellists who are currently in grades 8-11 and who practice and perform high-level solo and orchestral repertoire.

Merit scholarships of first prize ($15,000), second prize ($10,000) and third prize ($5,000) will be awarded to the winners who apply for admission and are accepted to Crossroads. Winners who are not accepted for admission to Crossroads will not receive merit scholarships.

"Crossroads has a rich history of commitment to classical music education, and we are thrilled to provide this incredible opportunity for highly gifted music students who are interested in attending our amazing School," says Grace Park, director of K-12 strings and director of EMMI. "These students potentially have the chance to build on the legacy of Crossroads' music program, which has produced numerous professional classical music performers and composers."

Participants in the Feb. 9 competition will perform one or more solo pieces of their choice (with or without an accompanist) to demonstrate both fast, technical playing as well as slow, lyrical playing. A movement or movements of a sonata or concerto will be accepted.

Registration for the competition is available online here.

Any questions about the competition may be sent via email to Emily Doerner, assistant director of secondary admissions, at EDoerner@xrds.org.

The Elizabeth Mandell Music Institute (EMMI) at Crossroads evolved from the School's unique music major program, which was established in 1978. Student musicians are accepted into this exceptional and unique program by audition and are committed to the study, performance and composition of classical music. As members of the Crossroads community, EMMI students benefit from our college preparatory program while also pursuing their passion for classical music.

EMMI alumni have consistently gone on to perform in some of the finest professional symphony orchestras in the world. In addition, they have assumed leadership roles in opera companies, professional societies and in teaching. Among the roster of accomplished EMMI alumni are Robert Chen, concertmaster for Chicago Symphony; opera vocalist Danielle de Niese; Sheryl Staples, professor at Juilliard and principal associate concertmaster in the New York Philharmonic; Haldan Martinson, principal second violin of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Carol Ou, professor at New England Conservatory; and Nokuthula Ngwenyama, composer in residence of the Phoenix Chamber Music Society.

SUBMITTED BY SARA RING, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

INTERNET

FROM PAGE 1

the company's Los Angeles market.

Customers access the internet from a Starry Station inside their homes, a small, triangular device that functions as a modem. It features a touchscreen customers can use to check their internet speed, schedule a call from support staff and set parental controls, such as offline hours and a content safe mode, on specific devices.

"We can connect to it and monitor it to make sure everything is working properly," Monteirth said. "In any service call, we know exactly what's going on in the network."

So far, the company has targeted apartment buildings, and its website provides a form for tenants to email their property managers about allowing Starry to install equipment. The company plans to expand to single-family homes as its technology evolves.

Monteirth said property managers and owners have responded well to the service because Starry can reach a full building of tenants in less than a day by setting a Point on the roof and connecting to the building's existing internal wiring. Other providers usually have to put up multiple antennas to serve each tenant and run new wires through the building.

"It's a real benefit to property owners because they can put an antenna on the roof to serve the whole building and don't have to rewire to get 200 mps to each customer," he said.

For more information, visit https://starry.com/internet

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The Double Life of Oscar de la Rascal

CHAPTER I: GETTING TO KNOW YOU

I vividly remember the first time I saw Oscar de la Rascal, a Golden Retriever puppy who would grow up to be a Santa Monica legend. Case in point, his photo was once on the Big Blue Bus as a "Community Hero. This was because of "America Reads," a PAL program for at-risk kids who would read to Oscar sitting so patiently in a chair you'd swear he was listening to every word!

On this day, Oscar was 5 months old and nestled in the lap of his owner, and my neighbor, Colleen Hughes. They were in her motorized wheelchair on the cement pathway from Ocean View Park. I was late to the tennis courts but when I saw Oscar he began wagging his tail and he was irresistible.

Oscar was a trained seizure alert dog and, as such, he would always look right at you. Whatever the reason, everyone commented he had remarkably human facial expressions. Colleen set Oscar down and he raced gleefully toward me.

I dropped my tennis bag and bent my knees to greet him. But, to my bewilderment, Oscar raced right past me and literally dove into the bag so only his tail stuck out. With his front paws he began furiously flinging tennis balls onto the cement that slowly rolled downhill.

As I began picking the balls up, finally. Oscar found the one in the bag he apparently wanted and held it proudly in his mouth. Really late now, I quickly petted him goodbye and raced to the courts.

That night Colleen asked if I'd consider walking Oscar regularly. "Let's try it one time," I said. The next day, with Michael, a friend and tennis partner, we took Oscar to the courts. All but two were empty so we decided, if we shut the gate, we could take Oscar off the leash and let him hunt tennis balls to his heart's content.

Like a kid in a candy store, Oscar chased balls on the court and even some stuck under the mesh matting on the fences. His dogged (no pun intended) determination was hilarious until it was time to leave.

For fifteen frustrating minutes, Oscar, with a ball in his mouth, played keep away. Meanwhile the kids getting a lesson on the next court were laughing hysterically and who could blame them. Two middle-aged men unable to corral a playful puppy.

Much as Oscar was adorable, as I walked back to Colleen's, I sensed he might also be incorrigible. Before I broke the bad news, Colleen blurted out, "So, do you want to do this every day?" Yikes!

Diplomatically, I explained Oscar was too feisty and wouldn't obey. She said sternly, "Jack, just talk to him!" She assured me he would listen and pleaded with me to try just one more time.

The next day with Oscar, I stopped halfway to the courts. I made him sit and gave him a lecture. (Fortunately, no one was around to see me doing this.)

"If you don't come when I call you, Oscar, this will be our second and last walk. Got it?!" He looked at me like, "Why didn't you just say so?"

Once again, with the gate locked and Oscar off leash, he raced around the court. Finally came the moment of truth. "Oscar, we're leaving," I shouted. To my surprise, he raced over and obediently let me attach the leash. Of course he couldn't have understood my "lecture." Or had he?

When I returned to Colleen's, I shared the inexplicable transformation in Oscar's behavior. "I told you," she said as if to question why I was so surprised.

What followed was fifteen years of friendship and unforgettable adventures with Oscar. He had his day job of alerting Colleen of imminent seizures but in the afternoon and evenings, it was party time for Oscar and me.

We'd hike at Will Rogers Park (he even got nose to nose with the deer); we'd dive in the ocean at lifeguard station #26; we'd go to the Twilight Concerts on the pier; and everywhere we went he'd constantly got petted by beautiful women. (Including Pamela Anderson!) If that's a dog's life, where do I sign up?

At 15, Oscar could no longer walk and, sadly, it was time for him to leave us. He was gently put into a wagon and wheeled into the lobby where over 300 "Oscarphiles" came to say goodbye. (On Tuesday, when I saw Sully, George H.W. Bush's dog, lying devotedly by the casket, I thought of Oscar.)

In the lobby, with his last look at me, he seemed to be saying "It was great knowing ya." Given all the memories I hope to share in a book one day, the love feels forever.

Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

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Kelly expected to depart White House amid Trump shake-up

ZEKE MILLER AND JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

President Donald Trump inched closer to his long-teased major White House shake-up Friday, gearing up for the twin challenges of battling for re-election and dealing with the Democrats' investigations once they take control of the House. The biggest piece of the shifting picture: Chief of Staff John Kelly's departure now appears certain.

Trump announced he was picking a new U.S. attorney general and a new ambassador to the U.N., and at the same time two senior aides departed the White House to beef up his 2020 campaign. But the largest changes were still to come. Kelly's replacement in the coming weeks is expected to have a ripple effect throughout the administration.

According to nearly a dozen current and former administration officials and outside confidants, Trump is nearly ready to replace Kelly and has even begun telling people to contact the man long viewed as his likely successor.

"Give Nick a call," Trump has instructed people, referring to Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff Nick Ayers, according to one person familiar with the discussions.

Like all of those interviewed, the person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive personnel matters.

Trump has hardly been shy about his dissatisfaction with the team he has chosen, and has been weighing all sorts of changes over the past several months. He delayed some of the biggest until after the November elections at the urging of aides who worried that adding to his already-record turnover just before the voting would harm his party's electoral chances.

Now, nearly a month after those midterms, in which his party surrendered control of the House to Democrats but expanded its slim majority in the Senate, Trump is starting to make moves.

He announced Friday that he'll nominate William Barr, who served as attorney general under President George H.W. Bush, to the same role in his administration. If confirmed, Barr will fill the slot vacated by Jeff Sessions, who was unceremoniously jettisoned by Trump last month over lingering resentment for recusing himself from overseeing special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia investigation.

Sessions was exiled less than 24 hours after polls closed. But Trump's broader efforts to reshape his inner circle have been on hold, leading to a sense of near-paralysis in the building, with people unsure of what to do.

Trump also announced that State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert is his pick to replace Nikki Haley as the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and he said he'd have another announcement Saturday about the military's top brass.

All this came the same day that Trump's re-election campaign announced that two veterans of the president's 2016 campaign, White House political director Bill Stepien and Justin Clark, the director of the office of public liaison, were leaving the administration to work on Trump's re-election campaign.

"Now is the best opportunity to be laser-focused on further building out the political infrastructure that will support victory for President Trump and the GOP in 2020," campaign manager Brad Parscale said in a statement.

The moves had long been planned, and will give Kelly's eventual successor room to build a new White House political team.

Kelly was not at the White House Friday, but was expected to attend an East Room dinner with the president and senior staff.

Ayers, who is a seasoned campaign veteran despite his relative youth — he's just 36 — has the backing of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, the president's daughter and son-in-law and senior advisers, for the new role, according to White House officials. But Ayers has also faced some resistance. During Trump's flight home from a recent trip to Paris, some aides aboard Air Force One tried to convince the president that Ayers was the wrong person for the job, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Trump and Kelly's relationship has been strained for months — with Kelly on the verge of resignation and Trump nearly firing him several times. But each time the two have decided to make amends, even as Kelly's influence has waned.

Kelly, a retired Marine Corps four-star general, was tapped by Trump in August 2017 to try to normalize a White House that had been riven by infighting. And he had early successes, including ending an open-door Oval Office policy that had been compared to New York's Grand Central Station and instituting a more rigorous policy process to try to prevent staffers from going directly to Trump.

But those efforts also miffed the president and some of his most influential outside allies, who had grown accustomed to unimpeded access. And his handling of domestic violence accusations against the former White House staff secretary also caused consternation, especially among lower-level White House staffers, who believed Kelly had lied to them about when he found out about the allegations.

Kelly, too, has made no secret of the trials of his job, and has often joked about how working for Trump was harder than anything he'd done before, including on the battlefield.

Associated Press writer Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.

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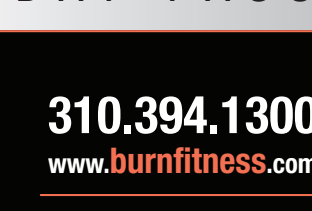
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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON NOVEMBER 20, AT ABOUT 2:55 P.M.

Officers responded to a radio call for service at the Luxe Apartments – 529 Broadway – regarding a theft investigation. Officers learned two subjects entered the subterranean garage and removed a television, cable box and cables from a common area of the complex. The property manager provided surveillance video of the incident. One of the subjects was recognizable to officers from previous contacts. On November 29, 2017 at about 6:35 p.m. officers located one of the subjects involved in the 2100 block of Lincoln Blvd. The subject was taken into custody. The second subject remains outstanding. Gabriel Daniel Gonzalez, 54, was arrested for burglary. Bail was set at $50,000.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 36 Calls For Service On Dec. 6.

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

Public assist 100 block Colorado 1:11 a.m.
Emergency 1700 block 18th 1:30 a.m.
Public assist 1500 block 5th 2:54 a.m.
Automatic alarm 300 block Olympic 4:00 a.m.
Emergency 1300 block 17th 4:08 a.m.
Automatic alarm 3000 block Main 4:30 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block 7th 6:36 a.m.
Emergency 1800 block 10th 6:52 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block 15th 7:40 a.m.
Emergency 1100 block 7th 8:29 a.m.
Automatic alarm 3000 block Main 8:39 a.m.
Emergency 4th / Colorado 9:31 a.m.
Emergency 5th / Colorado 9:46 a.m.
Emergency 1700 block Main 12:01 p.m.
Emergency 500 block Colorado 12:46 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block 15th 2:22 p.m.
Emergency 1900 block Pico 2:30 p.m.
Emergency 1000 block 3rd 2:37 p.m.
Emergency 1700 block 18th 3:29 p.m.
Emergency 2200 block Colorado 3:57 p.m.
Emergency 1900 block Pico 4:01 p.m.
Emergency 1600 block Arizona 4:40 p.m.
Emergency 2300 block Ocean Park 4:43 p.m.
Emergency 900 block 4th 4:47 p.m.
Emergency 2000 block 14th 5:17 p.m.
Emergency 1800 block 7th 5:24 p.m.
Structure fire 1300 block 14th 5:46 p.m.
Emergency 600 block Arizona 6:14 p.m.
Emergency 800 block 4th 7:06 p.m.
Flooded condition 1200 block 9th 8:11 p.m.
Emergency Main / Pico 8:14 p.m.
Emergency 1400 block Princeton 8:16 p.m.
Emergency 1300 block 20th 10:19 p.m.
Emergency 5th / Colorado 11:03 p.m.





LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 1

that Santa Monica's at-large election system discriminates against Latino voters stands on appeal.

At a Friday court discussion, the City's attorneys said the state's election code states that if a court orders a change in a city's election system, the city should solicit public input to decide on new districts in a 120-day process.

"It would be a democratic process inclusive of all communities," said City attorney Theodore Boutrous.

Attorneys for plaintiff Maria Loya and the Pico Neighborhood Association said they think the City is trying to delay changing the election system. They have argued that Judge Yvette Palazuelos should issue a prohibitory injunction to prevent the City from holding at-large elections as quickly as possible.

The plaintiff also released a map of the proposed districts that they are hoping will inform Judge Palazuelos' decision. The Plaintiff map divides the City into seven districts. It adjusts the borders of the existing neighborhoods but eliminates the existing Mid-City Neighborhood in favor of a new Downtown district.

"Latino voters of Santa Monica will continue to wait for their voting rights," said Plaintiff's attorney Kevin Shenkman. "We know what's happening. Many (City) Councilmembers live in the same district and will fight this because they want to stay in power."

Boutrous maintained that the City is not trying to delay the transition to a district-based system and is only trying to ensure that transition makes room for the democratic process.

"California law requires citizens be able to give input in the process of changing election systems," Boutrous said.

Attorneys for the plaintiff said the California Voting Rights Act directs the court, not the defendant, to implement appropriate remedies to illegal election systems.

Oscar de la Torre, the plaintiff's husband and an outspoken proponent of district-based elections, said he does not want the City to direct the process of drawing districts because he believes it will marginalize minority voices even if it solicits public input.

City Attorney Lane Dilg said the court will think about the City's request.

"We are pleased that the court gave serious consideration to and hope that it will adopt the City's argument that any district map must be drawn through the democratic public process required by the California Elections Code," she said in a statement. "That process will provide all Santa Monica residents the opportunity to weigh in on the important issue of how any required districts should be drawn."

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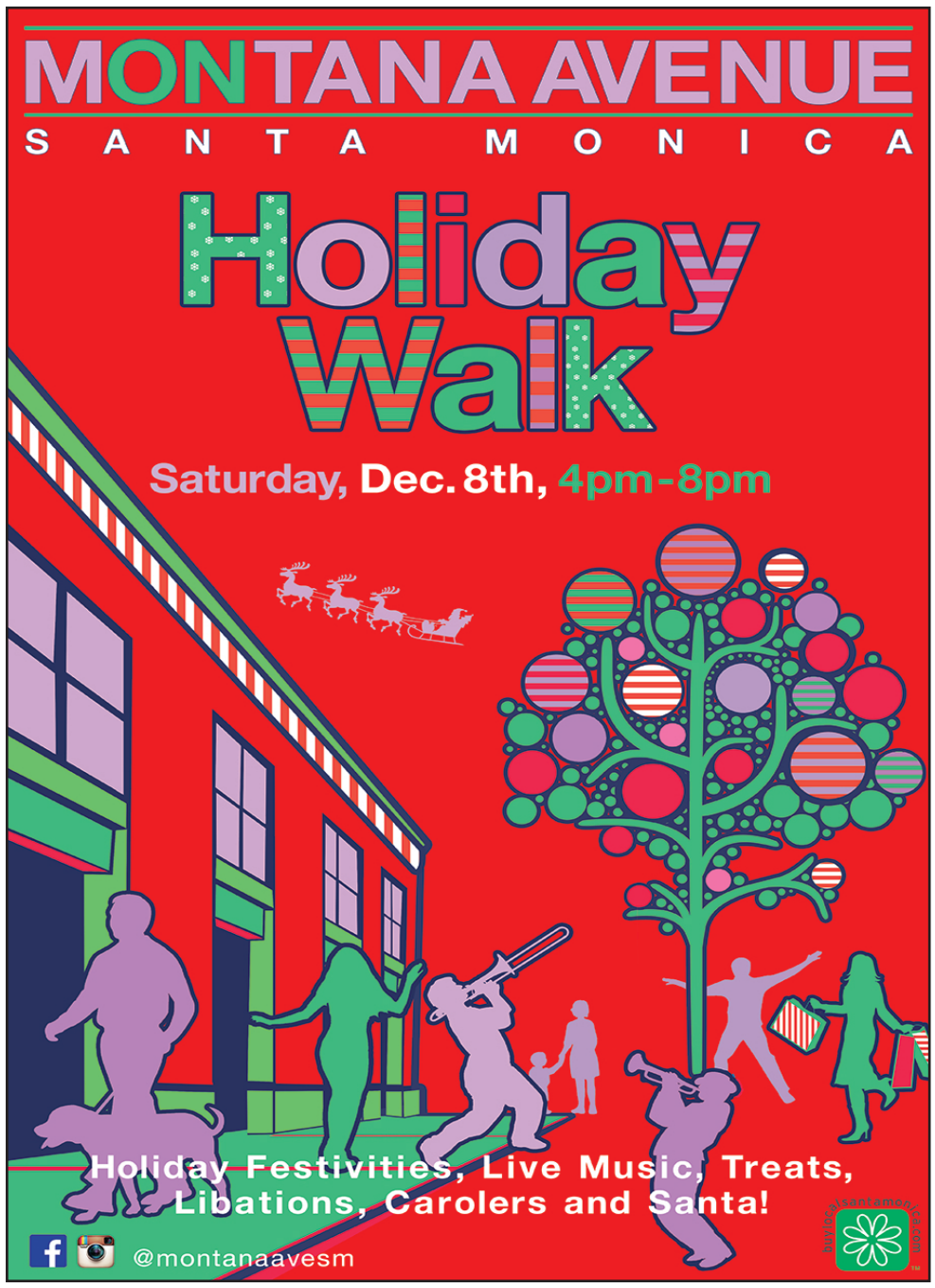
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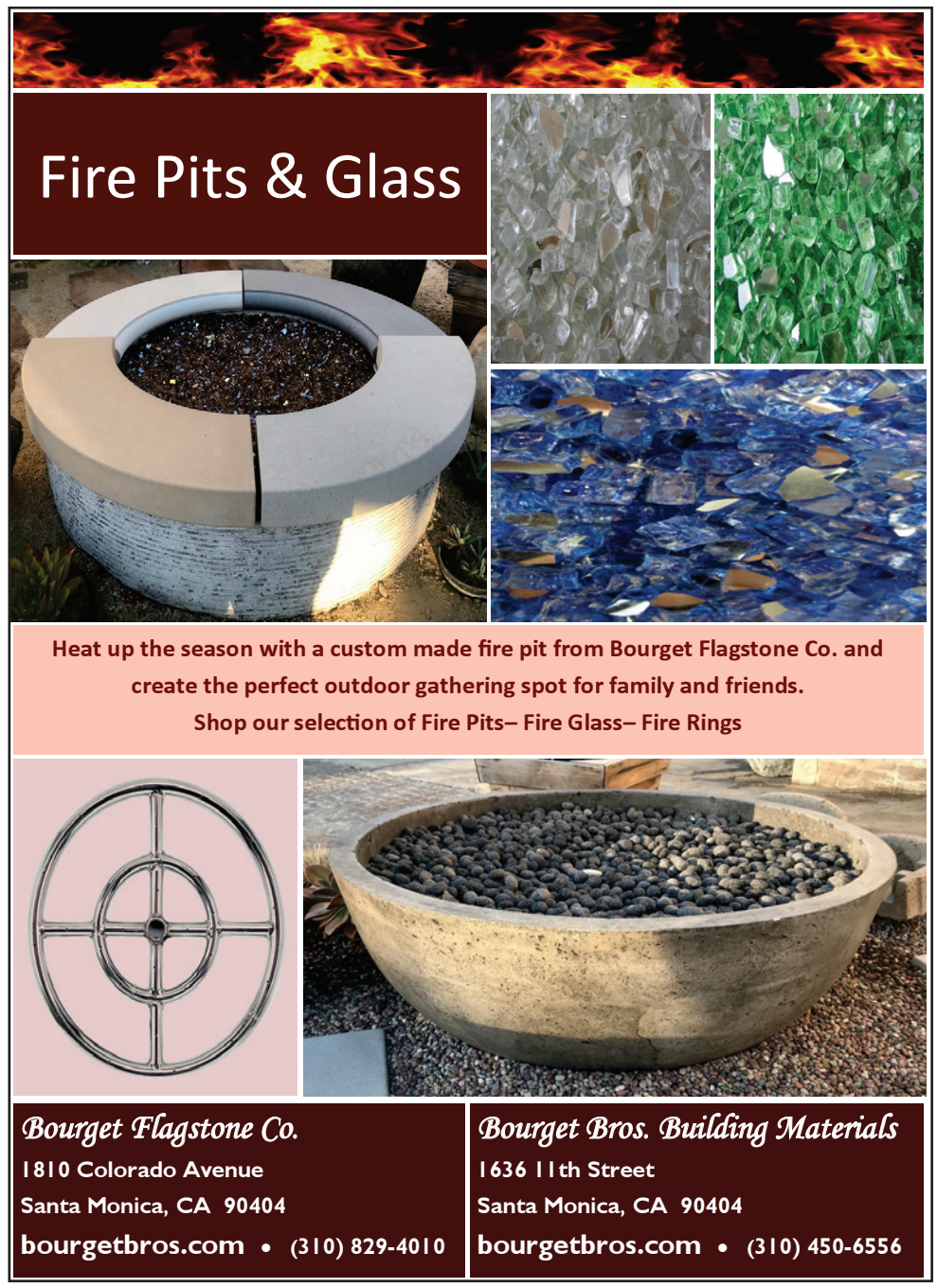
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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.2°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Modest long-period WNW swell on tap.

SUNDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft waist to stomach high
Easing WNW swell.

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STORM

FROM PAGE 1

Evacuation orders were either lifted or downgraded Thursday night and Friday morning as the storm moved out of the area.

That includes the area of Orange County's Trabuco Creek, which overflowed with debris that took down a guardrail and overcame a narrow bridge. Workers need to clear out the debris from the bridge and install a new guardrail.

Other crews were focused on Malibu, where a mudslide shut down the Pacific Coast Highway and surrounding roads in and around neighborhoods charred by wildfire last month that destroyed more than 1,000 homes and killed three people.

There were no reported injuries associated with the mudslide or debris flows and no homes were seriously damaged, though multiple people had to be rescued in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Diego counties as water overcame roadways and at times submerged cars. More than 300 people living in a San Diego shelter had to be evacuated to a stadium.

The storm also caused several roof collapses and sent an airliner skidding off a runway in Burbank, though no associated injuries were reported.

"It did cause a lot of headaches," said Eric Boldt, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

He said the storm was more typical of January or February for the region and called it a win for drought-weary Los Angeles.

"It does put us ahead for Los Angeles," he said. "It's kind of a good start for December."

The downtown area set a rainfall record for the day with 1.9 inches (4.8 centimeters) of rain, nearly double the previous record set in 1997, the National Weather Service reported. Normal monthly rainfall for December is only a bit more — 2.33 inches (5.8 centimeters).

Rainfall also broke a record in the high-desert city of Lancaster, northeast of Los Angeles. That city saw 1.4 inches (3.5 centimeters) of rain, beating the previous record of 1.2 inches (3 centimeters) in 1997.

Other total rainfalls exceeded 4.5 inches (11.4 centimeters) in some parts of Los Angeles County, including Avalon and the Pasadena foothills, and in San Diego County.

Some residents took advantage of the rare rainy day, with at least one man captured on video surfing down the street as an SUV pulled him. Another paddle-boarded in a wetsuit near a flooded truck in Costa Mesa.

While rain caused numerous accidents and backups on LA-area freeways, heavy snow forced the closure of Interstate 5 in the Grapevine area between Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley. The hours-long shutdown along the key north-south route caused backups for miles.

Drivers were urged to use caution on mountain passes, where up to 10 feet (3 meters) of snow fell at higher elevations.

PCB

FROM PAGE 1

several school sites. They have said they will ask a court for an extension to the required timeline to remove PCBs and that the request will save millions in total costs. In their request, the District said the extension would allow them to remove the contaminated buildings entirely rather than just clean them.

PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) released a press release Dec. 5 claiming SMMUSD's proposed 5-year Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) clean up extension would put students and staff in classrooms that would expose them to illegal levels of hazardous chemicals.

SMMUSD says plans are in place to prevent this and the plans were met with public approval at a recent school board meeting.

"I don't think they believe that this is dangerous, despite what federal law says," Jennifer DeNicola, President of America Unites for Kids said. "They don't think they're putting anyone in danger ... We have over 50 declarations of people in Malibu that oppose this motion. [SMMUSD] have 13 months to figure this out."

In September 2016, PEER and another group, President of America Unites for Kids, won a federal court order requiring SMMUSD to remove all PCBs from older buildings in Malibu High School and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School by December 2019 or cease using the toxic buildings.

In May 2018, the SMMUSD school board agreed to suspend PCB abatement at MHS due to the Malibu School Realignment that includes combining some schools, moving others to vacant locations and new construction on some campuses.

Due to the passage of Measure M, the district has the money to pursue it's plans and SMMUSD has filed a motion asking the court for an extension on the PCB removal completion date.

Without the extension, the district says only PCB remediation could occur. SMMUSD argues the extension would save roughly $10 million in costs as they should not have to remediate buildings with PCB that may be torn down in the Malibu school realignment.

"We are committed to moving students and staff out of impacted facilities as soon as we can," SMMUSD superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said in a letter to parents and staff.

Plans thus far include moving students to a new middle school building on the MHS campus, scheduled to open Spring of 2019; moving Cabrillo students and staff to Point Dume for the 2019-20 school year; moving staff to a new administrative building, currently under construction; and by remediating specific facilities to reduce exposure.

Drati says in the letter that specific details regarding students and staff will be moved will be developed as part of the MHS master campus plan.

"The interest of the community is to remove PCBs throughout the site instead of just remediating, and this plan would achieve that goal," he said. "There is some expediency to this request due to the time needed to meet the court order if our request is denied. As we previously planned, this request was made soon after Measure M was approved."

PEER says the lack of specifics is worrisome.

"They're asking for five years and making no commitment at all," Paula Dinerstein, general counsel for PEER said. "Although they say they're doing all they can, there's no concrete plan in Malibu. It's all tentative. They're asking for five years to do whatever they want to do."

Dinerstein says SMMUSD's motion is to be filed December 10 with a potential hearing on December 17.

angel@smdp.com

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 12/5
9 11 36 37 38
Power#: 11
Jackpot: 217M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/4
28 31 41 42 50
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 226M

SuperLOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 12/5
1 2 11 36 38
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 29M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/6
1 2 11 36 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 12/6
MIDDAY: 5 0 2
Draw Date: 12/6
EVENING: 8 0 3

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 12/6
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:46.27

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

WORD UP!

scrooch

1. Chiefly Midland and Southern U.S. to crouch, squeeze, or huddle (usually followed by down, in, or up).

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Best Medicine

■ A professional bagpipe player was asked by a funeral director to perform at a graveside service for a man who had no family or friends, but who reportedly had been an aficionado of Scottish music.

■ Unfortunately, on the day of the funeral, the bagpiper got lost and arrived late. He saw no one at the cemetery but a group of workers around a hole in the ground. They were eating lunch. The bagpiper peered into the ground and saw the metal top of the burial vault. He felt great remorse at missing the service and for his failure to honor the deceased. Pulling out his pipes, he began to play, better than he had ever played before.

■ Soon, the workers gathered around him. They wept. The bagpiper wept. It was a beautiful moment, and the bagpiper felt both joy and redemption as he packed away his instrument and headed back to his car.

■ "I've never seen anything like that before," said one worker, "and I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years."

MYSTERY PHOTO

SPONSORED BY Ice at The Plaza at Santa Monica



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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

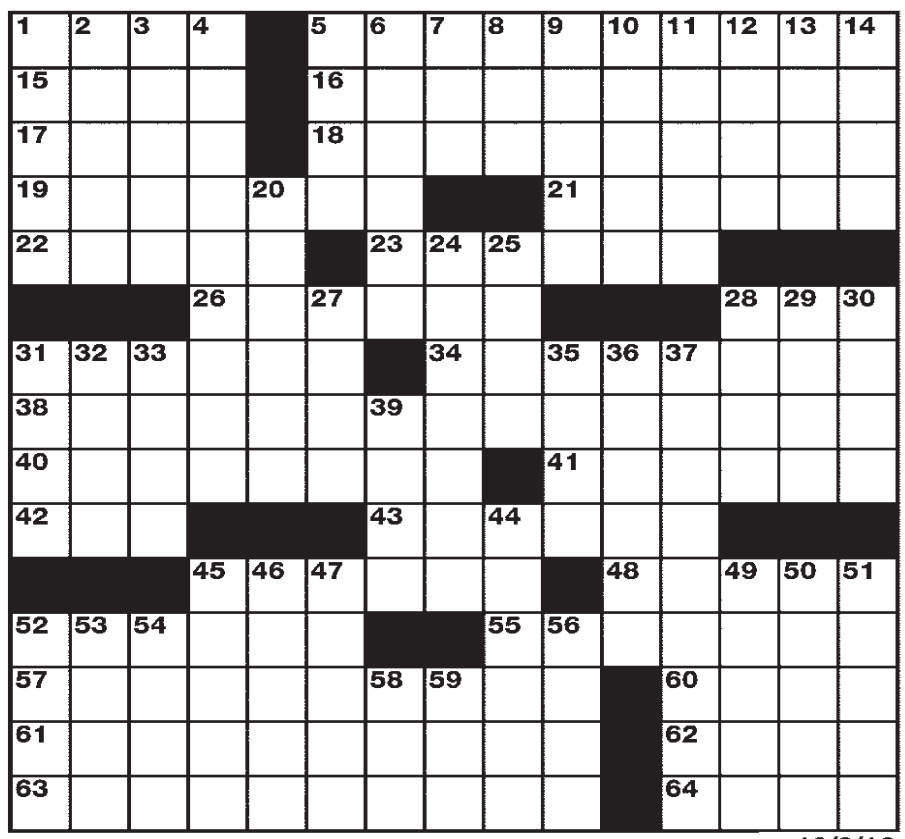
	5		9				3	
2				3				7
1			2		7	9		
		5				1		
	8		4		1		7	
		9				4		
		4	7		3			8
8				6				9
	2				9		6	

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Frank Longo
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Latter-day entreaties
5 Common daycare container
15 40 Across, to mathematicians
16 Perfect game spoiler
17 Not present or accounted for
18 Much-lauded four-Emmy football film of '71
19 Lapse preventer
21 Widens, as arteries
22 Reader of the daily *Hamshahri*
23 The world, per *Merry Wives . . .*
26 Popular style on Zappos.com
28 Something planted with plugs
31 City of northern Spain
34 Furtive
38 Pollutant in engine exhaust
40 Rings for dinner, perhaps
41 Batted around
42 Shape of some two-part desks
43 Phased
45 [Ouch!]
48 Code that's not encoded
52 Diehard
55 Many a public projection
57 Service status
60 Unsavory kitchen cluster
61 Advocate-in-chief
62 See 31 Down
63 Eurasia, in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
64 Symbol of attraction

DOWN
1 Onetime producer of plastic paddles
2 Someone planting
3 Scandinavian capital
4 Setting ending in *The Artist*
5 Foursome on a 1983 Swedish stamp
6 Bingo space
7 About 13, for NFL interiors
8 What clover might cover
9 Name that means "serious"
10 Fair, to Pierre
11 Name of at least eight track stars
12 Close __
13 Paltry pecuniary part
14 One way to measure work
20 "A poem begins in delight and ends in __": Frost
24 Open wide
25 Shot
27 Feature of many a classical statue
28 Improbably long
29 Chaucerian descriptor
30 Gone platinum, perhaps
31 With 62 Across, rehearsal request
32 Dropper holder
33 "__ keep"
35 Vacuous
36 Preferably
37 Very
39 Traditional home of the Bymes
44 Swans, in a December song
45 Literary region
46 One refusing to settle
47 Cart count
49 Pay when due
50 101, briefly
51 Examples, for example
52 Erases
53 Popular shade for window blinds
54 "Here's __ . . ."
56 "All my heart is yours, sir" speaker (1847)
58 Diversify with small things
59 Alma mater for RFK and Tina Fey



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/8/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 8)

Your past generosity has set the stage for some excellent karma to swing back around, and the solar return sets off the bounty. Other highlights include finding information you've been seeking for years, a sale that makes you proud and the feeling that you're finally coming into your own in a certain exclusive social world. Leo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 38, 20, 44, 1 and 7.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You're not out to change the world today; you just want to find a better way to live within it. Mostly this has to do with learning what's there and asking others how they're doing it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You don't always want attention or people around you. But when you do feel like company, the quickest way to becoming more attractive is to get happy. So how are you going to get happy?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Just because one person is serving another doesn't mean that the person is any less valued than the other. In fact, it takes a big heart and a solidly developed sense of self to serve others well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Chemistry, mutual admiration and shared humor are among the many things that contribute to the longevity and health of a relationship. However, nothing contributes more today than forgiveness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You don't always get the credit for what you do. Maybe that's a good thing today. If you have too much praise heaped on you, you'll attract jealousy and high expectations for next time – two pressures you don't need.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You've been taught that it's impolite to express boredom, and over time this has caused you to be oblivious to the symptoms. Wake up to boredom now. Boredom is a sign that you're not in the right place. It's a sign to move on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
The playfulness that's so cute in animals (including the human animal) is also very necessary; it gets the creature ready for life. Playing is often a simulation, a chance to hone some skills to prepare for the challenges to come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Whether something is offensive or not depends on many factors including (but not limited to) context, zeitgeist, social mores and, most importantly, who is the messenger. Know what story is yours and is not yours to tell.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Going with the flow just isn't appropriate in every situation. As your own advocate, you'll need to speak up today about what you need and what you don't understand. Get the knowledge and resources you're due.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
There's a significant event in the future that seems to be reaching back through time to poke you. This poke is a signal to heed. The event may seem very far off indeed, but if you wait until it's not, it will be too late.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You don't have to overthink your part in the timing of things. To be prompt will be enough. Promptitude will keep you within the boundary of good manners, fine reputation, dutiful service and bountiful fortunes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Among your many rights is the right to be left alone. This you desire not out of anti-social instincts but out of a sincere need for the peace and solitude that will engender a reconnection with the things that make you who you are.

Neptunian Quest

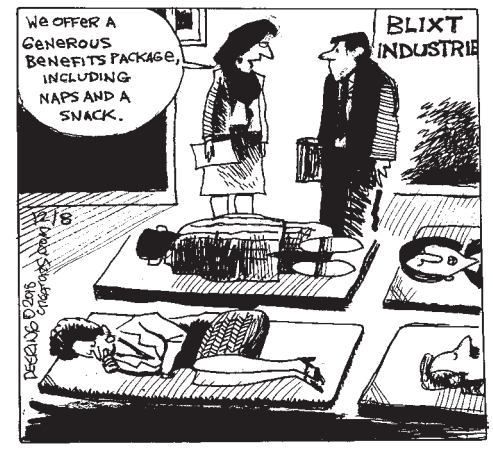
If the alignment of Mars and Neptune had a song, it would be "The Impossible Dream" by Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion. The lyrics recall a quest that includes, among other things, "To try when your arms are too weary, to reach the unreachable star." It sounds rather grand, but happens in small ways for today's courageous.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
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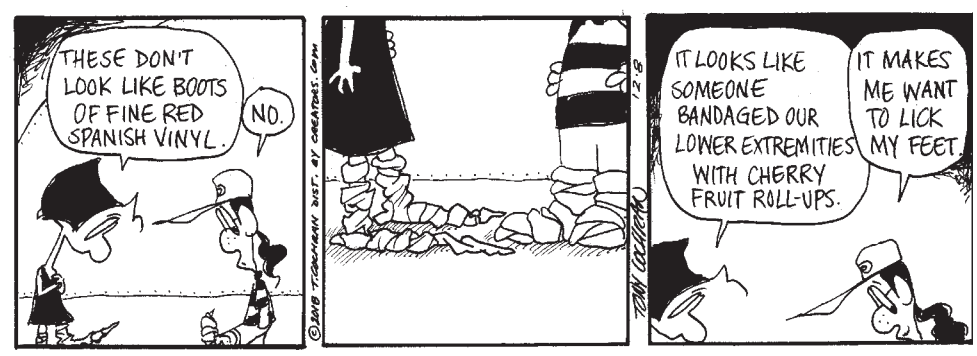
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



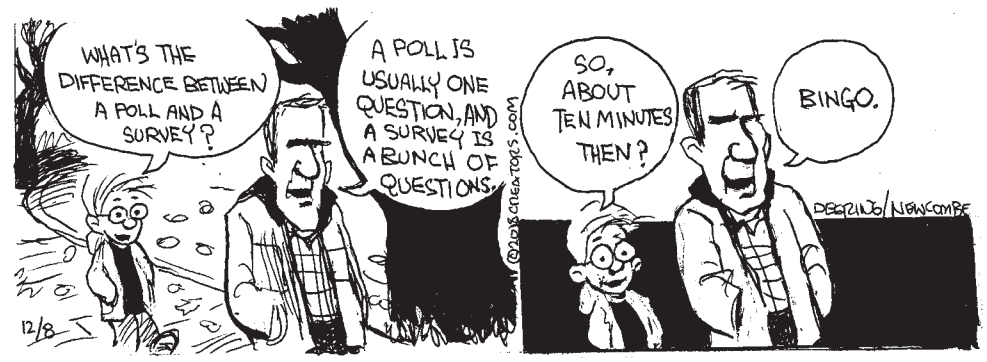
Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill
By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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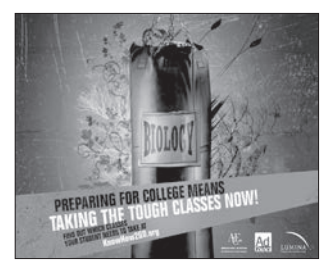
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Lamar leads Grammy noms, where women make a comeback

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

The music of "Black Panther," with Kendrick Lamar in its starring role, officially owns the 2019 Grammy Awards, where women are heavily represented in the major four categories following a year where their presence was barely felt.

The Recording Academy announced Friday that Lamar is the top contender with eight nominations, including seven for his musical companion to the Marvel Studios juggernaut starring Chadwick Boseman and Michael B. Jordan. "Black Panther: The Album, Music From and Inspired By" is up for album of the year, a category where women make up five of the eight nominees. Cardi B, Kacey Musgraves, Janelle Monae, H.E.R. and Brandi Carlile also are up for the top prize, along with Drake and Post Malone.

The upcoming Grammys is the first where the academy extended its top four categories from five nominees to eight.

The "Panther" nomination would give Lamar a chance to win album of the year after losing three times. His most recent loss was in February when his critically acclaimed "DAMN" fell short to Bruno Mars' "24K Magic," though Lamar's project would go on to win a Pulitzer Prize for music two months later, making him the first non-classical or jazz artist to win the prestigious honor.

Lamar's Top 10 hit, the SZA-assisted "All the Stars," is nominated for both record and song of the year (a songwriter's award). Five other songs scored nominations in both categories, including Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper's "Shallow" from "A Star Is Born"; Childish Gambino's "This Is America"; Drake's "God's Plan"; Zedd, Maren Morris and Grey's "The Middle"; and Carlile's "The Joke."

Ella Mai's "Boo'd Up" and Shawn Mendes' "In My Blood" earned song of the year nods, while Post Malone's "Rockstar" and Cardi B's "I Like It," featuring Bad Bunny and J Balvin, round out the nominees for record of the year.

Following Lamar, Drake — the year's most successful artist — earned seven nominations. Though nominated for album of the year, he was surprisingly shut out of best rap album, where his rival Pusha T earned a nomination.

Drake's frequent collaborator, producer Boi-1Da, earned six nods, as did Carlile, who also scored nominations in the American Roots category.

Cardi B, Gaga, H.E.R., Morris, Gambino, producer Sounwave and engineer Mike Bozzi scored five nominations each.

The nominees for the 2019 Grammys mark a departure from this year's show, where women were underrepresented in the top four categories. Of the eight best new artist nominees, six are women, including H.E.R., Chloe x Halle, Dua Lipa, Margo Price, Bebe Rexha and Jorja Smith. Rock band Greta Van Fleet and country singer Luke Combs also earned nominations.

Recording Academy CEO Neil Portnow was criticized earlier this year at the Grammys when he said women need to "step up" when asked about the lack of women in the top categories, which he later acknowledged was a "poor choice of words." It forced the academy to launch a new task force focused on inclusion and diversity; Portnow also announced he would be leaving the academy in 2019.

"In any given year there could be more folks from one area or one gender or one genre or one ethnicity that are making recordings and being successful with them than in another year. So, in many ways we're just a reflection of that," Portnow said in an interview with The Associated Press. "This year clearly there were many women not only making music but making great music and making music that resonates with our peer voters in terms of excellence, and so that certainly is at the forefront."

Another milestone for women is in the non-classical producer of the year category, where songwriting extraordinaire Linda Perry earned a nomination. She's just the seventh woman ever nominated for prize and first since 2004.

"Linda represents what we hope becomes the norm, which is the elimination of gender bias in producing and engineering in our industry," Portnow said.

Perry will compete with Pharrell Williams, Boi-1Da, Larry Klein and Kanye West, the only nomination he earned.

Taylor Swift, a two-time album of the year winner, also only earned one nomination — her "reputation" album is up best pop vocal album. Justin Timberlake, whose "Man of the Woods" albums flopped earlier this year, picked up a nod for "Say Something," his collaboration with Chris Stapleton.

Beyonce and Jay-Z, billed as The Carters, as well Ariana Grande, didn't earn any of the big nominations. The Carters earned two nods in the R&B category along with best music video, while Grande picked up two nods in pop.

Artists who were completely snubbed include Carrie Underwood, Sam Smith, Migos, Kane Brown, Nicki Minaj, XXXTentacion and Juice WRLD, whose "Lucid Dreams" was one of the year's biggest hits.

Some acts scored their first nominations ever, including Florida Georgia Line, whose megahit "Meant to Be" with Rexha is up best country duo/group performance. Camila Cabello, Malone, Mendes, Dan + Shay and DJ Mustard are also first-time nominees.

Gaga, who earned acting and music Golden Globe nominations Thursday, picked up four Grammy nominations for "Shallow," while "Joanne" is up for best pop solo performance. The soundtrack for "A Star Is Born" was released after Grammy eligibility, though "Shallow" was released in time and also earned Cooper two nominations.

Other famous faces outside of music to earn nominations include Tiffany Haddish and former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, both up for best spoken word album. Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, Fred Armisen, Jim Gaffigan and Patton Oswalt are up for best comedy album.

Mac Miller, who died in September, earned a nomination for best rap album with "Swimming." Chris Cornell, who died last year, is up for best rock performance with "When Bad Does Good."

Demi Lovato, who relapsed after six years of sobriety and was hospitalized for an overdose in July, earned a nomination for best pop duo/group performance for "Fall In Line," her duet with Christina Aguilera.

Those who earned four nominations are Musgraves, Malone, PJ Morton, Dave Cobb, Ludwig Goransson, Noah Shebib and SZA, who earned a Golden Globe nomination alongside Lamar for "All the Stars" on Thursday.

Lamar has won 12 Grammys throughout his career. Though seven of his eight nominations come from "Black Panther," he also earned a nod for co-writing Jay Rock's "Win," up for best rap song.

The 2019 Grammys will hand out awards in its 84 categories live from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 10, 2019.

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