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Crime Watch
A free lunch.
Page 2

Guilty verdict
In 2018 rape case.
Page 2

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Investigation concludes allegations of corruption in Malibu are untrue

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A report investigating allegations of corruption in Malibu has determined the accusations are false and that the credibility of the source is questionable.

Former Malibu Councilman Jefferson Wagner filed an affidavit in December of 2020 alleging multiple instances of wrongdoing by officials and staff within the city. The council hired an outside law firm to investigate and made their findings public this week.

"To the extent that the Affidavit purports to reveal corrupt acts (such as an offer to pay or the payment of bribes, or providing services or official functions or actions based on favors or illegal inducements), the allegations are incorrect, untruthful and/or not substantiated by the information obtained by the undersigned counsel," said the report prepared by special council Evan A. Jenness and George B. Newhouse, Jr.

The attorneys interviewed 28 witnesses, reviewed written materials, litigated a motion to unseal materials related to certain allegations in the affidavit, reviewed publicly available records and media pertaining to select matters, and analyzed potentially applicable laws, regulations and other authorities.

Wagner alleged that a contractor had attempted to bribe him over a City Hall construction contract, that the City government acted improperly in the construction of a crosswalk adjacent to the Malibu Beach Inn, abuse of governmental authority regarding renewal of the former City Manager's contract, retaliatory actions against him over his actions and a general belief in corruption within Malibu's

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 11

SMC Film wins at Cannes

HOLDEN GERING
SMDP Intern

Santa Monica College's film student, Niccolo Rolim, has won "Best Student Film" 6,000 miles across the Atlantic at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival in France. Rolim's short film, "Broken Layers," is SMC's first win ever in Cannes and marks another impressive production and representation of the community college's excellent film program.

Niccolo Rolim was given the award amidst the virtual exhibition of The 24th American Pavilion Emerging Student Showcase during the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, which took place from November 14-16, 2021. The first-generation American from Riverside, said the win was thanks to both the countless hours put into the filmmaking process and SMC's efficient production and publishing process.

SMC was one of seven U.S. film schools, and the only community college, represented in the category at the festival. The competition included student directors from much larger and prestigious film schools such as USC (consisting of a film by SMC alum Kevin Maxwell), The George Washington University, NY Film Academy, and the School of Visual Arts. Rolim said that

SEE **SMC** PAGE 7

DTSM hosts Town Hall to discuss safety Downtown









Clara Harter

DTSM: Downtown Santa Monica Inc., hosted its second public safety town hall in partnership with the Santa Monica Police Department to help address resident and stakeholder concerns about the conditions Downtown and on the Promenade. SMPD personnel explained that while year on year crime is down Downtown, several factors such as Covid jail restrictions, staffing challenges, and the reclassification of certain felonies as misdemeanors limit officers' ability to make arrests for petty theft and quality of life crimes related to homelessness. Councilwoman Lana Negrete said the Santa Monica community needs to be more outspoken in support of police officers if it wants to see more resources and enforcement from the department. The vigilance of SMPD officers, DTSM ambassadors and Allied Security personnel was praised for so far preventing any large smash and grab incidents Downtown.


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Jury returns guilty verdict in Santa Monica rape case involving homeless man

JAMIE PAIGE
Special to the Daily Press

A Los Angeles jury deliberated for almost a day before finding Dylan James Jenson,42, of Los Angeles, guilty on seven counts that included rape, sodomy, sexual battery, burglary, and assault with a deadly weapon on Tuesday.

Jensen, 42, was homeless when he broke into the victim's home and raped her on the early morning of June 4, 2018.

Police say that Jensen entered the victim's apartment through the sliding door of an elevated patio, took a knife from the kitchen, and went into the victim's bedroom while she was sleeping.

During the trial, the victim testified that she woke up to Jensen putting his hands over her mouth and a knife up to her face. She said she began to make noise but that Jensen had repeatedly told her to "shut up."

Throughout her testimony, the victim continued to tell the prosecuting attorney she wanted to survive the rape--and do what she could do to "not die."

Jurors also heard testimony from police and a Los Angeles County psychiatrist who had treated Jensen for his addiction to meth and depression.

The next phase of the case is to determine whether or not Jensen was "insane" at the time of the rape.

If the verdict or finding is that the defendant was sane when the rape happened, the court can then sentence Jensen as provided by law.

If the verdict or finding is that the defendant was insane at the time of the rape, the court will direct that the defendant be committed to the State Department of State Hospitals, or the court can order the defendant placed on outpatient status.

The next portion of the case is expected to begin in late January.

Published in partnership with the Westside Current

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 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AT ABOUT 9:26 P.M.

Officers responded to a business on the 1500 block of Ocean Avenue for a "Defrauding an Innkeeper" call. Upon arrival the manager informed officers that an individual was refusing to pay his bill after ordering his meal and drink. The individual had attempted to leave the location without paying several times and was now sitting inside continuing to refuse to pay. Officers made contact with the subject and found he was also in possession of a glass bulbous pipe. Ultimately, the subject continued to refuse to pay and was arrested for Defrauding an Innkeeper and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 35 CALLS ON DECEMBER 6

EMS 400Blk Colorado Ave 12:12 a.m.
EMS 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:56 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 7th St 12:58 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 300Blk Civic Center Dr 2:04 a.m.
EMS 800Blk Pacific St 3:15 a.m.
EMS 200Blk Pacific St 5:58 a.m.
EMS 1800Blk 7th St 8:02 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 22nd St / Wilshire Blvd 9:35 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Franklin St 9:40 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400Blk Broadway 9:47 a.m.
EMS 1700Blk Ocean Ave 9:59 a.m.
Mutual Aid Request 4300Blk Tuller Ave 10:32 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Broadway 11:19 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 900Blk 18th St 11:37 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:54 a.m.
EMS 2800Blk Pico Blvd 11:56 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 5th St 12:01 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 3000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:18 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 2nd St 1:55 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:14 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:25 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 7th St 2:32 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2700Blk Colorado Ave 2:46 p.m.
Flooded Condition 1800Blk Pico Blvd 3:18 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 12th St / Pico Blvd 4:09 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 4:20 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Montana Ave 5:39 p.m.
EMS 1600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 6:03 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:32 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1000Blk 5th St 6:50 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 2nd St 7:11 p.m.
EMS 100Blk Fraser Ave 7:34 p.m.
EMS 2600Blk Expo Line 7:41 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk San Vicente Blvd 8:18 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Franklin St 11:29 p.m.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 292 CALLS ON DECEMBER 6

Domestic Violence Just Occurred 1700Blk Ocean Front Walk 1:11 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 600Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:36 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 200Blk Pacific St 4:33 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:50 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 27th St / Pearl St 6:01 a.m.
Battery Report Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 6:54 a.m.
Panic Alarm 1300Blk Ocean Ave 7:05 a.m.
Burglary Report 00Blk Pico Blvd 7:12 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2800Blk Pico Blvd 7:27 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500Blk Broadway 7:47 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 25th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:54 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:14 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1700Blk 15th St 8:23 a.m.
Burglary Report 500Blk Broadway 8:25 a.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 8:55 a.m.
Prowler Report 1500Blk 16th St 9:00 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 4th St / Pico Blvd 9:03 a.m.
Lewd Activity 300Blk Pico Blvd 9:04 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1400Blk 9th St 9:17 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2700Blk 31st St 9:27 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 22nd St / Wilshire Blvd 9:35 a.m.
Assault Now 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:47 a.m.
Encampment 2900Blk The Beach 10:05 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1200Blk Franklin St 10:05 a.m.
Encampment 1300Blk Euclid St 10:09 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1500Blk Palisades Park 10:26 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 600Blk Broadway 10:27 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600Blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:53 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2600Blk 32nd St 10:54 a.m.
Encampment 14th St / Colorado Ave 11:03 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400Blk Broadway 11:18 a.m.
Burglary Report 500Blk Broadway 11:21 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2000Blk Ocean Ave 11:44 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000Blk 20th St 11:55 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2500Blk 5th St 11:58 a.m.
Lost Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 12:06 p.m.
Encampment 1400Blk 23rd St 12:07 p.m.
Person With A Gun 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 12:17 p.m.
Prowler Report 200Blk Bicknell Ave 12:31 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 2600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:32 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 900Blk 15th St 1:14 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 600Blk Pico Blvd 1:16 p.m.
Expired Registration 1000Blk California Ave 1:17 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500Blk 6th St 1:21 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 500Blk Broadway 1:50 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2600Blk Montana Ave 1:51 p.m.
Identity Theft 2300Blk Hill St 2:02 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:06 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 3200Blk Donald Douglas Loop S 2:23 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2800Blk Main St 2:24 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 4th St / Olympic Blvd W 2:39 p.m.
Expired Registration 900Blk 9th St 2:45 p.m.
Loud Music 1500Blk 6th St 2:52 p.m.
Fraud Report 2300Blk 33rd St 2:56 p.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 17th St 3:06 p.m.
Domestic Violence Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 3:11 p.m.
Burglary Report 500Blk Broadway 3:17 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2900Blk Pennsylvania Ave 3:28 p.m.
Loitering 800Blk Grant St 3:35 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 3:41 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2700Blk Washington Ave 3:49 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400Blk Euclid St 3:59 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 12th St / Pico Blvd 4:09 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 2500Blk Pico Blvd 4:17 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 500Blk Broadway 4:22 p.m.
Expired Registration 1300Blk 18th St 4:28 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500Blk 6th St 4:31 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1500Blk California Ave 4:39 p.m.
Encampment 1000Blk 6th St 4:41 p.m.
Found Property 1300Blk Arizona Ave 4:55 p.m.
Loud Music 1000Blk Ocean Ave 5:02 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000Blk 18th St 6:21 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500Blk 20th St 6:32 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk 19th St 6:44 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Main St / Marine St 6:46 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 400Blk Broadway 6:56 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1500Blk 2nd St 7:02 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 100Blk Broadway 7:24 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:24 p.m.
Prowler 700Blk San Vicente Blvd 7:30 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 1400Blk Franklin St 7:38 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 800Blk 14th St 7:40 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 600Blk San Vicente Blvd 7:44 p.m.
Injured Person 2400Blk Ocean Front Walk 8:05 p.m.
Burglary Report 1400Blk Idaho Ave 8:23 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400Blk Centinela Ave 8:40 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 8:53 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report Neilson Way / Hill St 9:14 p.m.
Fraud Report 1200Blk 23rd St 9:18 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 100Blk Hollister Ave 10:12 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 10:39 p.m.
Encampment 200Blk Santa Monica Pier 10:54 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1200Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:26 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1300Blk 4th St 11:28 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk 5th St 11:30 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 500Blk Georgina Ave 11:51 p.m.

Biden, Putin talk as tension grows on Ukraine border

AAMER MADHANI AND DASHA LITVINOVA
Associated Press

Face to face for over two hours, President Joe Biden and Russia's Vladimir Putin squared off in a secure video call Tuesday as the U.S. president put Moscow on notice that an invasion of Ukraine would bring sanctions and enormous harm to the Russian economy.

With tens of thousands of Russian troops massed on the Ukraine border, the highly anticipated call between the two leaders came amid growing worries by the U.S. and Western allies about Russia's threat to its neighbor.

Putin, for his part, came into the meeting seeking guarantees from Biden that the NATO military alliance will never expand to include Ukraine, which has long sought membership. The Americans and their NATO allies said that request was a non-starter.

There appeared to be no immediate breakthroughs to ease tensions on the Ukraine question, as the U.S. emphasized a need for diplomacy and de-escalation, and issued stern threats to Russia on the consequences of an invasion.

Biden "told President Putin directly that if Russia further invades Ukraine, the United States and our European allies would respond with strong economic measures," U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said after the call.

He added that Biden said the U.S. would also "provide additional defensive materiel to the Ukrainians … and we would fortify our NATO allies on the eastern flank with additional capabilities in response to such an escalation."

That could include additional deployments of U.S. troops to eastern European NATO allies, the adviser said.

A top U.S. envoy, Victoria Nuland, said a Russian invasion of Ukraine also would jeopardize a controversial pipeline between Russia and Germany. She told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday that if Russia invaded, "our expectation is that the pipeline will be suspended."

Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov dismissed the sanctions threat during a conference call with reporters.

"While the U.S. president talked about possible sanctions, our president emphasized what Russia needs," Ushakov said. "Sanctions aren't something new, they have been in place for a long time and will not have any effect."

He described the presidents' video conference as "candid and businesslike," adding that they also exchanged occasional jokes.

In a brief snippet broadcast by Russia state television, the two leaders offered friendly greetings to each other.

"I welcome you, Mr. President," Putin said, speaking with a Russian flag behind him and a video monitor showing Biden in front of him. "Good to see you again!" Biden replied with a chuckle. He noted Putin's absence from the recent Group of 20 summit in Rome – Putin took park by video link because of concerns about COVID-19 – and said, "I hope next time we meet to do it in person."

At the White House, Sullivan said, "It was a useful meeting," allowing Biden to lay out in candid terms where the US stands.

As the U.S. and Russian presidents conferred, Ukraine grew only more anxious about the tens of thousands of Russia troops that have been deployed near its border. Ukrainian officials charged Russia had further escalated the smoldering crisis by sending tanks and snipers to war-torn eastern Ukraine to "provoke return fire" and lay a pretext for a potential invasion.

U.S. intelligence officials have not been able to independently verify that accusation, according to an administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter. But the official said that the White House has directly raised concerns with the Russians about "resorting to their old playbook" by trying to provoke the Ukrainians.

The Kremlin, in a post-call readout, said, "Putin emphasized that it's wrong to put the responsibility on Russia, since it is NATO that has been making dangerous attempts to expand its presence on the Ukrainian territory and has been expanding its military potential near Russian borders."

The Russian leader also proposed to lift all mutual restrictions on diplomatic missions and help normalize other aspects of bilateral relations, the Kremlin said. Sullivan said the leaders would direct their staffs to continue negotiations on that.

The leader-to-leader conversation — Biden speaking from the White House Situation Room, Putin from his residence in Sochi —was one of the most important of Biden's presidency and came at a perilous time. U.S. intelligence officials have determined that Russia has massed 70,000 troops near the Ukraine border and has made preparations for a possible invasion early next year.

Sullivan said the U.S. believes that Putin has not yet made a final decision to invade.

Biden was vice president in 2014 when Russian troops marched into the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea and annexed the territory from Ukraine. Aides say the Crimea episode — one of the darker moments for President Barack Obama on the international stage — looms large as Biden looks at the smoldering current crisis.

Politically in Washington, Republicans are framing this moment as a key test of Biden's leadership on the global stage. Biden vowed as a candidate to reassert American leadership after President Donald Trump's emphasis on an "America first" foreign policy. But Republicans say he's been ineffective in slowing Iran's march toward becoming a nuclear power and has done too little to

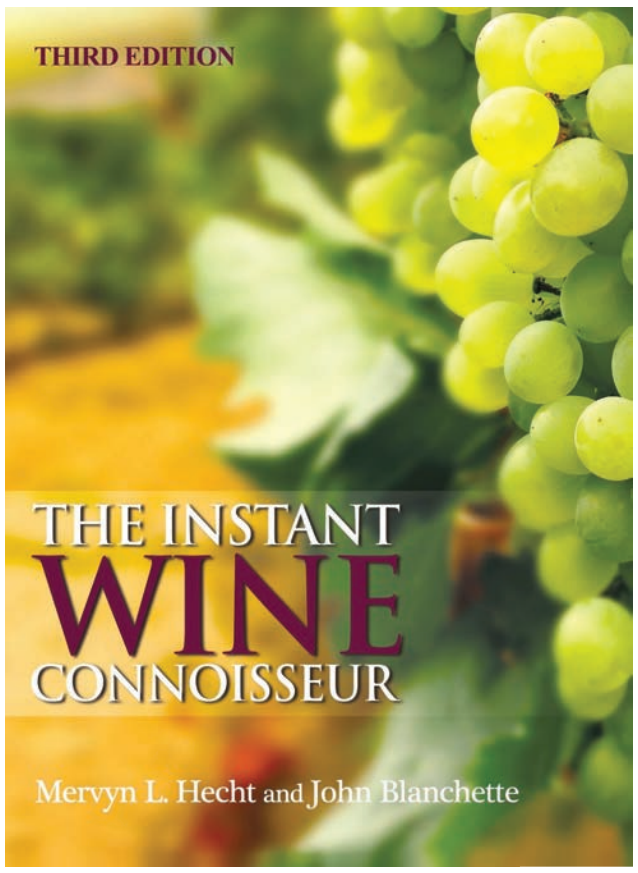
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★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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New York City poised to give voting rights to noncitizens

BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
Associated Press

New York City, long a beacon for immigrants, is on the cusp of becoming the largest places in the country to give noncitizens the right to vote in local elections.

Legally documented, voting-age noncitizens comprise nearly one in nine of the city's 7 million voting-age inhabitants. Under a bill nearing approval, some 800,000 noncitizens would be allowed to cast ballots in elections to pick the mayor, City Council members and other municipal officeholders

Noncitizens still wouldn't be able to vote for president or members of Congress in federal races, or in the state elections that pick the governor, judges and legislators.

Little stands in the way of the effort becoming law. The measure has broad support within the City Council, which is expected to ratify the proposal Thursday. Mayor Bill de Blasio has raised concerns about the wisdom and legality of the legislation, but said he won't veto it.

The law would give an electoral voice to the many New Yorkers who love the city and have made it their permanent home, but can't easily become U.S. citizens or would rather remain citizens of their home nations for various reasons.

It would also cover "Dreamers" like Eva Santos, 32, who was brought to the U.S. by her parents at age 11 as an unauthorized immigrant, but wasn't able to vote like her friends or go to college when she turned 18.

"It was really hard for me to see how my other friends were able to make decisions for their future, and I couldn't," said Santos, now a community organizer.

More than a dozen communities across the United States currently allow noncitizens to vote, including 11 towns in Maryland and two in Vermont.

San Francisco, through a ballot initiative ratified by voters in 2016, began allowing noncitizens to vote in school board elections — which was also true in New York City until it abolished its boards in 2002 and gave control of schools to the mayor.

The move in Democrat-controlled New York City is a counterpoint to restrictions being enacted in some states, where Republicans have espoused unsupported claims of rampant fraud by noncitizens in federal elections.

Last year, voters in Alabama, Colorado and Florida ratified measures specifying that only U.S. citizens can vote, joining Arizona and North Dakota in adopting rules that would preempt any attempts to pass laws like the one being considered in New York City.

"I think that there's people in our society that go to sleep with so much fear of immigrants that they try to make an argument to disqualify their right to elect their local leaders," said New York City Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez, who is originally from the Dominican Republic and was unable to vote until he became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

"This is about whether we are living in New York City, we are contributing to New York City and paying taxes in New York City," said Rodriguez, a Democrat.

De Blasio, though, has questioned whether the measure would survive a legal challenge. Federal law allows states and local governments to decide who can vote in their elections, but some, including the mayor, have raised concerns about whether state lawmakers must first act to grant the city the authority to extend voting rights to noncitizens.

"Look, there's obviously an argument: We want people involved, we want to hear people's voices," de Blasio recently said on the television news program "Inside City Hall."

"I still have a concern about it. Citizenship has an extraordinary value. People work so hard for it," he said. "We need people in every good way to want to be citizens."

The minority leader of the City Council, Joseph Borelli, a Republican from Staten Island, said the measure will undoubtedly end up in court.

"It devalues citizenship, and citizenship is the standard by which the state constitution issues or allows for suffrage in New York state elections at all levels," Borelli said.

The proposal would allow noncitizens who have been lawful permanent residents of the city for at least 30 days, as well as those authorized to work in the U.S., including so-called "Dreamers," to help select the city's mayor, city council members, borough presidents, comptroller and public advocate.

The law would direct the Board of Elections to draw up an implementation plan by July, including voter registration rules and provisions that would create separate ballots for municipal races to prevent noncitizens from casting ballots in federal and state contests. Noncitizens wouldn't be allowed to vote until elections in 2023.

Giving nonresidents the right to vote could empower them to become a political force that can't be easily ignored, said Anu Joshi, the vice president of policy of the New York Immigration Coalition.

New York City, with more than 3 million foreign-born residents, would be a fitting place to anchor a national movement to expand immigrant voting rights, said Ron Hayduk, now a professor of political science at San Francisco State University but who spent years in New York steeped in the movement for noncitizen voting rights.

"New York, the home of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, prides itself on being the place of immigration," he noted. "So there's this question of what's the place of immigrants in our city — are they really New Yorkers, are they full New Yorkers in the sense of qualifying and deserving the power of the vote and to shape its political future?"

The answer should be a "resounding yes," he said.

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In and outside court, Smollett fights for reputation, career

SARA BURNETT AND CHARLES REX ARBOGAST
Associated Press

Outside the courtroom where former "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett is fighting charges accusing him of lying to Chicago police about being the victim of an anti-gay, racist attack, his publicist has introduced a roster of supporters to the assembled TV cameras.

Renowned opera singer Lauren Michelle, who also appeared on "Empire," spoke of how one of her best friends from high school has maintained his humanity despite the attacks on his character. Smollett's pastor from New York, Damon Mack, said the person prosecutors are portraying in court is not "the Jussie I know."

And activist Bella BAHHS, who met Smollett while protesting the police murder of a 16-year-old, said she doesn't trust Chicago police not to make things up — including the allegations against her friend.

The daily turns at the microphone are part of a broader strategy underway since Smollett's trial started at the Chicago courthouse roughly one week ago: trying to ensure the 39-year-old emerges from this scandal and legal troubles with his reputation and career intact, or at least having suffered as little damage as possible, whatever the outcome.

The charges against Smollett — six counts of disorderly conduct for lying to police about the January 2019 attack — are low-level felonies and carry a possible sentence of three years in prison. Legal experts say if convicted he would most likely get probation and be ordered to perform community service.

The impact on his livelihood could be far more serious. Taking the witness stand Monday, Smollett testified that " I've lost my livelihood." His media relations team, which is led by a former Chicago TV reporter, released a statement to The Associated Press from family friend Fania Davis, who said Smollett already has lost income and "many professional opportunities" due to a "character assassination and disinformation campaign" by Chicago police.

"This is an injury to his personal reputation, to his career and his soul," said Davis, whose sister is civil rights activist Angela Davis. "He could easily have copped a plea, with a slap on the wrist and then moved on with his life. But he chose instead to stand up to injustice."

Publicist Danny Deraney, who works with entertainment figures and often takes on crisis PR clients but is not working with Smollett, said the performer will be hurt in any attempt to return to his career because he was far from a household name before, and so many learned his identity because of the alleged attack and charges against him.

"Nobody really knew who he was, unless you watched the show," Deraney said. "For the time being, I don't see any other way of people seeing him and not knowing him for this."

The atypical accusations, the absurdity of his alleged crime and his tendency to be fodder for comedians may hurt him more than accusations, even of serious crimes.

"Being in the public eye as far as being on television or film or whatever it is, that's going to be hard for him. I don't think people are going to take him seriously," Deraney said. "People who become the butt of jokes, of doing things as ridiculous and absurd as what allegedly happened, have a harder time working."

Some of the Smollett strategy is playing out in the court proceedings, where Smollett testified he was a victim of a hate crime after two brothers said the actor recruited them to carry out the attack on him so he could publicize it via social media. Police testified they were able to corroborate the siblings' accounts.

Smollett's defense attorneys have argued that the brothers committed the attack because they are homophobic and don't like Smollett, who is gay. They say the men told police it was all staged by the actor so they could shake him down for $1 million each to not testify.

Smollett's legal team also has said Judge James Linn is biased against them, at one point asking for a mistrial — which Linn denied — after he cut off her questioning of one of the brothers about homophobic language he used, calling it "collateral" material. A defense attorney also claimed Linn "lunged" at her — all of which they could use as grounds for appeal if Smollett is convicted, and to argue in the court of public opinion that the legal system unfairly wronged him.

And separate from the trial, Smollett's team and his family — which includes five siblings, most of whom are also actors and a mother who was active in fighting for civil rights — have been promoting both the man and his talents.

On the first day of his trial, Smollett learned that a film he wrote, directed and produced, "B-Boy Blues," won the "fan favorite narrative feature" award in the American Black Film Festival Awards. His publicist blasted the news out to journalists, along with a link to a 2016 New York Times article about the Smollett family's acting chops and activism — supporting causes like HIV/AIDS and the Black Lives Matter movement — and a letter of support from activist and artists, including Davis and Danny Glover.

On Monday, his team sent out a photograph of Smollett and his family meeting with civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson over the weekend.

Early in his acting career, Smollett starred along with his brothers and sisters in the TV series "On Our Own," about a group of orphaned siblings, that aired for one season. He had other roles in TV and movies, including playing Langston Hughes in "Marshall," about Thurgood Marshall, the first Black Supreme Court justice.

His biggest role was on "Empire," a musical drama about an entertainment company that was filmed in Chicago. Smollett starred on the program for four years starting in 2015. Producers renewed his contract for the sixth and final season in 2019, but he never appeared in an episode.

Deraney said it can be difficult to predict who will be accepted back into public life. A supportive family in the entertainment industry like Smollett has – sister Jurnee's acting career is thriving – might not be a huge

SEE **SMOLLETT** PAGE 7

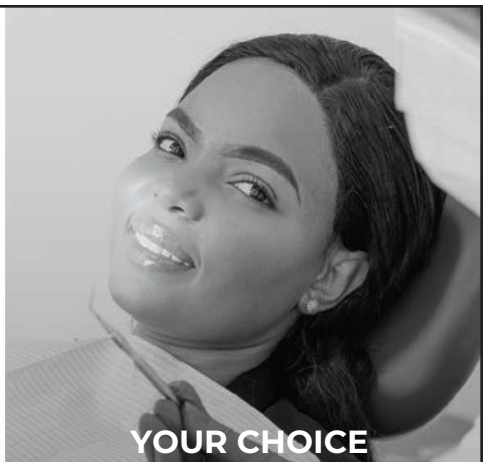
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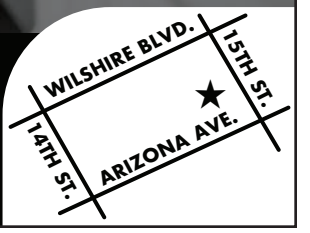
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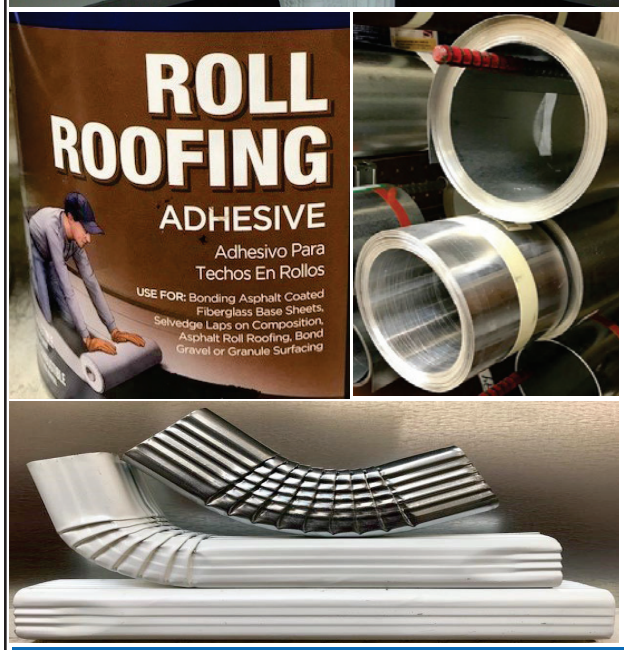
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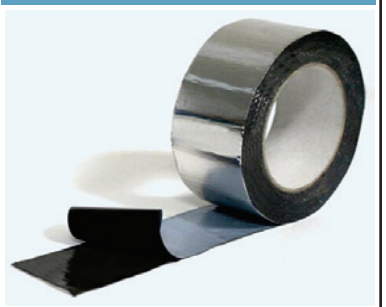
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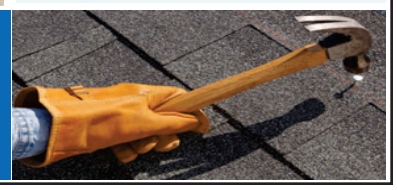


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California's governor writes children's book about dyslexia

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom still can't spell the word "dress." He can't read aloud from a piece of paper in public. That's why his speeches are long, mostly from memory and sprinkled with some awkward moments when his words bump into each other.

Newsom accepts these challenges as part of his dyslexia — a common learning disability that makes it harder for him to read and do many things related to reading. He's had dyslexia for most of his life, but it came into sharper focus for him recently after watching some of his own children fall behind in reading.

That prompted him to search for picture books about dyslexia to use with his kids. But he was surprised when he did not find many. So he wrote one.

"Ben & Emma's Big Hit," published by Philomel books, comes out Tuesday. The book tells the story of a young boy named Ben who uses baseball to cope with his dyslexia, along with the help from a caring teacher and a friend.

The book is presented as a bridge to help some children with dyslexia understand why it's harder for them to read. But beyond that, it's a semi-autobiographical account of Newsom's childhood that offers a glimpse of what shaped his personality and his politics.

"It doesn't go away. I'm dealing with this every day," Newsom said in an interview with The Associated Press. "So many folks (with dyslexia) do give up, and that has tragic consequences. And others that don't (give up) start to discover that this is the greatest gift in their life and they can't imagine a life without it. That's really been my experience."

Newsom, a Democrat, left California on Monday to kick off a book tour in New York with interviews at national media outlets. He has pledged to donate all proceeds from the book to the International Dyslexia Association.

Newsom said his dyslexia caused him to make a lot of mistakes in school that isolated him and made him feel anxious about reading. He said he often pretended to be sick to get out of reading in class.

But over time, Newsom said making mistakes made him resilient, which he said has become a useful tool in the world of politics.

"The problem is, we're in a racket, where anytime I make a mistake, man it's all over the AP. And that's hard, right? And that's why we're cautious. But in that caution, perhaps, is the biggest mistake in politics and why people can't stand (politicians) anymore," Newsom said.

But Newsom said people with dyslexia are "experts in mistakes."

"We're like, pros," he said.

Newsom didn't learn he was dyslexic until he was 10, when he discovered some medical evaluations about him in his mother's room. His mother, who was single and worked multiple jobs to support him and his sister, had kept the diagnosis from him in an effort to protect him.

But Newsom said learning that he had the disability was a relief because he realized why he had been struggling in school and that it had nothing to do with his intelligence. The discovery taught him to overcompensate for his flaws — something he says he still does.

Newsom said he can't read and understand anything without making notes, including underlining, circling and putting stars next to words.

But that makes it hard to read speeches in public, so he compensated by developing his memory. His annual news conference announcing his state budget proposal often lasts for more than two hours as Newsom, without notes, recites facts and figures he has painstakingly memorized.

"You could ask me any budget number from last year — public education, $123.9 billion," Newsom said. "I have to be right because I have to overcompensate because I'm so often wrong. And so you just you learn you have to do more. You have to be more, you have to work harder. You have to, in order to compete."

The book — printed in a special font designed to help dyslexic people read it more easily — has a baseball theme because, as a kid, Newsom said his self-esteem strengthened on the baseball diamond, where he saw the field of play better than words written on pages.

Newsom was good enough to get a partial baseball scholarship to Santa Clara University. He didn't play much, but it allowed him to get a four-year degree, which Newsom said changed his life. After graduation, he founded a winery that grew to include a number of restaurants, wineries and retail stores before entering politics.

Now 54 with four young children, Newsom said he's seeing dyslexia from a new parental perspective and that it has given him a deeper appreciation for his mother, Tessa Newsom.

She died in 2002 and there is a subtle homage to her in the book. One scene takes place in the hallway of the school. Above the door is the room number "5902," which corresponds to May 9, 2002, the day Newsom's mother died.

"It's the one thing I never, you know, was able to express to her is a deep appreciation for what she did for me and how much she sacrificed and how hard that must have been for her," he said. "That's what this book is about. It's about authenticity. It's about marching down your own path. It's about making mistakes. It's about not fearing failure."

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BIDEN

FROM PAGE 3

counter autocratic leaders including China's Xi Jinping and Putin.

"Fellow authoritarians in Beijing and Tehran will be watching how the free world responds," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said from the Senate floor before the Biden-Putin meeting.

Sullivan said Biden and Putin had a "good discussion on the Iran issue" and called it an area where the two countries could cooperate.

"The more Iran demonstrates a lack of seriousness at the negotiating table," the more there will be a sense of unity among the U.S. and the parties to the 2015 nuclear accord including Russia and the European Union, he said.

Trump, who showed unusual deference to Putin during his presidency, said in a statement that "Vladimir Putin looks at our pathetic surrender in Afghanistan, leaving behind dead Soldiers, American citizens, and $85 billion worth of Military equipment. He then looks at Biden. He is not worried!"

Ahead of the Putin call, Biden on Monday spoke with leaders of the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy to coordinate messaging and potential sanctions. He also to spoke with them again following his call to brief them out the outcome. Biden is also expected to speak with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday.

Putin apparently sees the current situation as a moment to readjust the power dynamic of the U.S.-Russia relationship, analysts agree.

Beyond Ukraine, there are plenty of other thorny issues on the table, including cyberattacks and human rights. Before the call, Kremlin spokesman Peskov said U.S.-Russian relations are overall in "a rather dire state."

"Russia has never planned to attack anyone," Peskov said. He characterized the Biden-Putin call as a "working conversation during a very difficult period," when "escalation of tensions in Europe is off the scale, extraordinary."

SMOLLETT

FROM PAGE 5

career advantage initially, but if they get into prominent positions and can hire him for roles, it might.

"If you've got people behind you that are financially secure, This whole industry is built on nepotism, it's all about who you know. If his family stands behind him, that's going to be fine for him," Deraney said.

Fania Davis said in her statement to AP that Smollett comes from "a family of justice warriors" like her family and her sister's family.

"We are very proud that even in this difficult period, Jussie has persevered and created art at the highest level and we are confident he will continue to do so," she said.

Associated Press entertainment writer Andrew Dalton contributed to this story from Los Angeles.

SMC

FROM PAGE 1

SMC's film school was capable of competing with the larger and affluent film programs in the category due to all 55 cast members working on "Broken Layers" having an all hands on deck mentality and being dedicated to creating an extraordinary short film.

"Winning an award like this comes down even to the guy fixing the light in the corner and the script supervisor," said Rolim. "When you tell the students and staff at SMC what you want to achieve, they connect with it and I think that was partly the inspiration for the story."

"Broken Layers" portrays Rosa, a half Latina, half Arab U.S. Marine, who fights bravely in the Iraq War and displays her life after serving back home.

When creating Rosa's identity, Rolim caught inspiration from his brother who served in the U.S. military along with countless first-generation American friends who have also served in the armed forces.

"The sentiment that I wanted to get across definitely with her character background was that this is more prevalent than maybe people realize," said Rolim. "There are more stories and backgrounds like Rosa who serve in the military than what many people think."

"Broken Layers" sheds light onto the identity crisis that many veterans struggle with when coming back home and trying to live a "normal" life. Rolim said that both the aftermath of serving in the military and the appreciation for veterans is a mixed bag in our society today. That different regions and cities in the country appreciate veterans more than the other. This was revealed to Rolim as his family moved from Riverside at age eight, and moved to a small town in Pennsylvania.

Rolim said that growing up in a small town in Pennsylvania exposed him to a brand new patriotic culture, where serving in the military was a proud and common tradition for families. Moving from the west to the east coast at age is never easy, and Rolim said his life in Pennsylvania got lonely and cold at times. However, film was always there for him and uncovered an art form where the genres and boundaries were limitless.

"I was a lonely kid, but I always had the VHR set with a bunch of DVDs, hundreds of them," said Rolim.

For the director of SMC's "Broken Layers" and the winner of the "Best Student Film" award at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, film was Rolim's first love. Creating an award-winning film like "Broken Layers" is a tremendous stepping stone for Rolim's career as a director and demonstrates the impressive talent that is prevalent at SMC's film school.

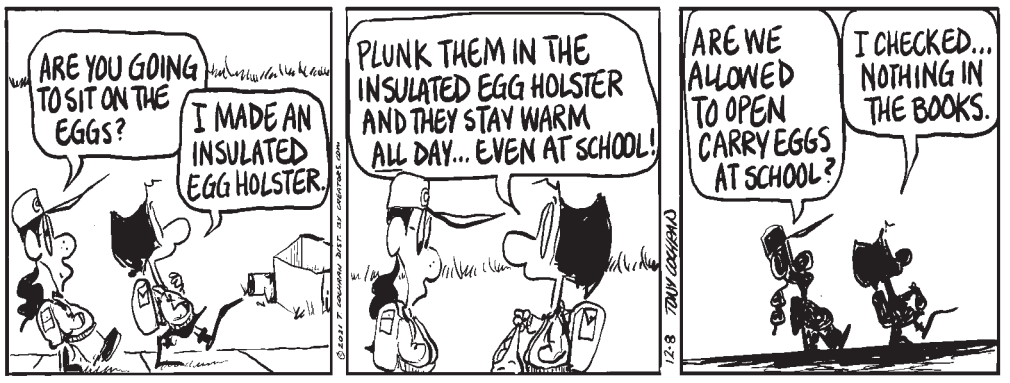
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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



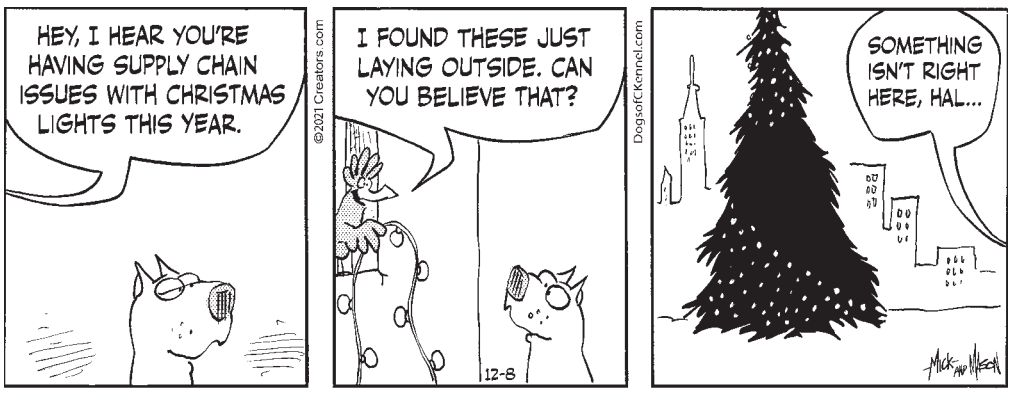
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



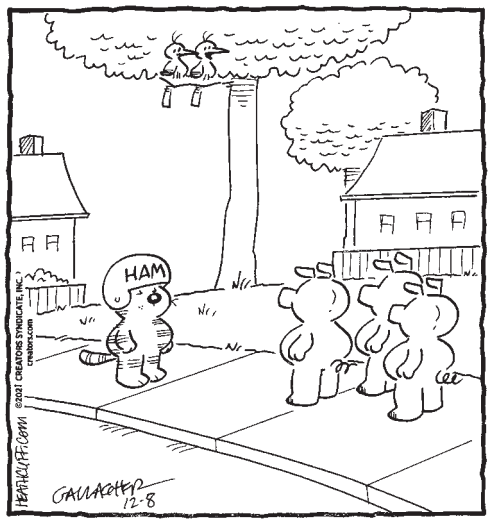
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT JUST GOT REAL."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.7°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 0.5-1ft Shin to knee high
AM offshores and some peaks. WNW swell-mix eases but there will be some added NW windswell mixing in from the blow-through of NW wind Thursday.

THURSDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Weak blend of NW energy early builds through the day along with onshore flow.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 58.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.
Thursday: Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/12/08	Wed	01:10 AM	3.80	H
2021/12/08	Wed	05:24 AM	2.74	L
2021/12/08	Wed	11:36 AM	5.70	H
2021/12/08	Wed	7:12 PM	-0.61	L
2021/12/09	Thu	02:21 AM	3.94	H
2021/12/09	Thu	06:49 AM	2.89	L
2021/12/09	Thu	12:43 PM	4.98	H
2021/12/09	Thu	8:14 PM	-0.13	L
2021/12/10	Fri	03:27 AM	4.21	H
2021/12/10	Fri	08:43 AM	2.77	L
2021/12/10	Fri	2:06 PM	4.32	H
2021/12/10	Fri	9:17 PM	0.31	L
2021/12/11	Sat	04:20 AM	4.55	H
2021/12/11	Sat	10:25 AM	2.27	L
2021/12/11	Sat	3:39 PM	3.86	H
2021/12/11	Sat	10:12 PM	0.70	L
2021/12/12	Sun	05:03 AM	4.89	H
2021/12/12	Sun	11:35 AM	1.63	L
2021/12/12	Sun	5:02 PM	3.63	H
2021/12/12	Sun	10:58 PM	1.07	L
2021/12/13	Mon	05:39 AM	5.19	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 12/6
3 21 38 50 59
Power#: 6
Jackpot: 291 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/3
22 45 48 58 61
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 122 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 12/4
7 11 14 19 46
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/6
12 15 28 33 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/6
EVENING: 9 7 2
Draw Date: 12/6
MIDDAY: 3 5 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/6
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:47.91

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 8)

You give the love you want to receive, thus modeling with magnetism and attracting just your brand of attention and affection. In the end, your triumphs are celebrated. What you care about is supported, and people will go out of their way to accommodate your wishes or just spend time with you. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 10, 33, 1 and 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's noise in your head that's too cacophonous to sort. You'll do better to listen for the silence around it. Eventually, everything organizes around your own pulse, the beat that connects you to all of life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As for those things you feel you must or mustn't do, though you really don't know why, your obedience won't apply to today's little puzzle. To work this one out, you will have to forget there were ever any rules.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No one is born knowing everything. You'll glimpse a gap in your knowledge. There's no shame in ignorance -- only in pretending to know. That is what keeps people from learning.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The hours with people you do not enjoy can be like long, weary roads that lead to the wrong place. Since you can't always choose your company, you like to exercise exciting options when the choice is yours to make.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This scene you're a part of exists in a state of tenuous balance. You've an urge to test things to understand what's important and how it works. Remove every element one by one to see what is lost or gained.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If there's no such thing as perfection, then why does today's peaceful, easy feeling seem like it just may have all the qualities of pristine goodness? The only flaw will be that it doesn't go on forever.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You need someone to agree to your plan, or to choose you over the others. A direct approach won't work. The game you're playing requires a subtle strategy. Employ principles of attraction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't yet know enough to make your next move, and to complicate matters further, not everything you're told is the truth. Instead of voicing your doubts or challenging people, keep observing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Meditations and mantras that focus on detaching from unhelpful or stressful situations, thoughts and patterns will be helpful. Deep breaths and the simple mantra, "Let it go," will do wonders.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People want what they can't have. Do you think it's mean to offer a reason for someone to reach out and then pull it away, causing them to grab at space? Maybe. Or maybe setting up such a game is a kindness -- a gift.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As for the things that make your life full and interesting: If you didn't have them, you'd pay a lot to acquire them. In fact, you already have. Don't let the newness wear off. Enjoy it like it's your first time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What was once exciting can be, in another season, quite taxing. Familiarity can ease the way or complicate everything. Tension will make or break an endeavor. You'll dance between polarizations and delight in ironies.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

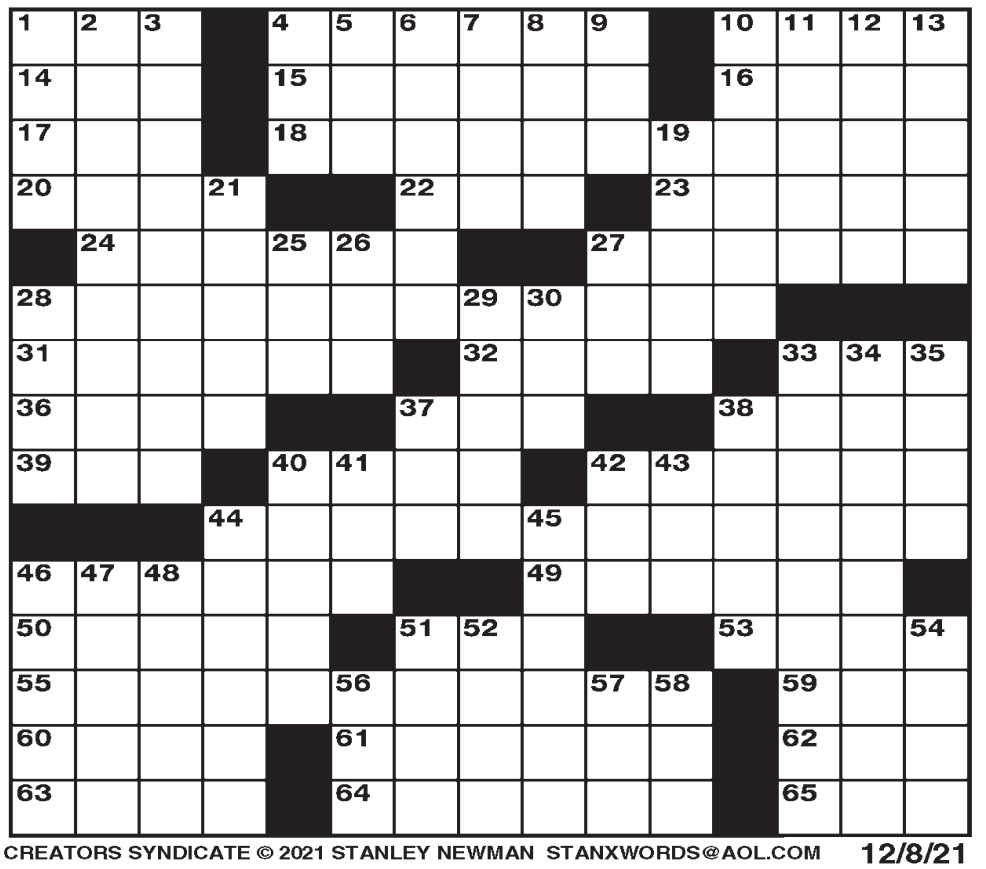
1			2			3		6
	2		8					
4				9	3		1	
		1		5		4		
	5						6	
		3		6		7		
	3		7	8				4
					4		7	
8		7			2			9

Newsday Crossword

RAPID TRANSIT by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Norm: Abbr.
4 Commit a 46 Down crime with cattle
10 Go by
14 Teeny
15 Round Table king
16 Diva's delivery
17 __ snail's pace
18 The press, in Britain
20 Maryland athlete, for short
22 Dispenser candy
23 Zig and zag
24 Hard Italian cheese
27 Got the suds off
28 Not yielding
31 Of the pre-Easter period
32 "It __ over till it's over"
33 Bro or sis
36 *Beetle Bailey* dog
37 Moonshine container
38 Central part
39 Stew veggie
40 Took legal action
42 Popeye or Sinbad
44 Cornmeal concoction
46 Cause affront to
49 Causes affront to
50 Bowling lane
51 24-hr. cash convenience
53 Parade spoiler
55 Pop music superstar
59 Wedding ceremony phrase
60 Lake bordering Ohio
61 One of the B vitamins
62 Strawberry color
63 Tear apart
64 Say "Yes"
65 Snaky letter

DOWN
1 Smack hard
2 Private chat
3 December letter starter
4 WWII fliers
5 WWW address
6 Trample underfoot
7 "My country, 'tis of __"
8 Figure skater's jump
9 Ambulance destinations: Abbr.
10 Mom or dad
11 Carpet calculations
12 Kitchen strainer
13 Overfilled
19 Bottle cap removal motion
21 Spotted-coat horse
25 Suffix for block or stock
26 Bar bottle
27 Did a 5K, say
28 Pigsty dinner
29 Too showy
30 Mediterranean fruit
33 Game for one
34 Armor-plated warship
35 Arctic ice mass
37 Typical airliner
38 Autumn drink
40 Sony competitor
41 Amer. currency
42 Have an evening meal
43 Internet pop-ups
44 Followed obediently, as a dog
45 Pedicurist's stone
46 Western film
47 Road emergency light
48 Arrive by air
51 Without a warranty
52 "__ the night before Christmas . . ."
54 Indicates 64 Across
56 Single-helix molecule
57 Scuba diver's footwear
58 Explosive initials



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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

WEDNESDAY | DEC 8

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Multipurpose Room
Your donation is urgently needed! To make an appointment visit: redcrossblood.org/make-donation and enter sponsor code SantaMonicaLibrary.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St.

DANNY TREJO BOOK SIGNING
Book Monster in Santa Monica will host Hollywood's favorite bad boy-Danny Trejo. The book signing will be taking place on December 8 from 1-3 p.m., featuring Danny's beloved cookbook as well as his memoir. 212 Santa Monica Blvd.

PROPOSITION 19 TOWN HALL ON ZOOM
Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang and Antonio Vazquez, chairman of the California Board of Equalization, will be the featured speakers. The purpose of the Town Hall is to solicit feedback from the public and real estate professionals as to the exact nature of the problems, challenges and criticisms of this highly charged proposition that later can be crafted into public policy. RSVP at www.assessor.lacounty.gov/events.

THURSDAY | DEC 9

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL REGULAR BOARD MEETING
The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. 7 p.m. Visit https://www.smgov.net/rentcontrol for more information.

ARTOPIA
Weary Livers presents Artopia. Hosted by KTG and GOLDNBROWN. Featuring: Chris Cuseo, Dave Van Patten, Alison Oksen, Melinda Love Dean. Live acoustic set by Thomas Furr. 11:30 p.m. Weary Livers. 2819 Pico Blvd.

FRIDAY | DEC 10

WINDOWS OF ENCHANTMENT
The historic Merry Go-Round windows come to life with a one-of-a-kind festive, iconic and nostalgic holiday installation by the Santa Monica Pier Corporation. Santa Monica Pier Merry Go-Round Building, 200 Santa Monica Pier.

SANTA MONICA MYSTERY QUEST
Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. in partnership with Santa Monica Mystery Quest have launched a free scavenger hunt series on the Third Street Promenade. Lovers of mystery and adventure will enjoy this real-world, immersive experience to solve the case of the missing Promenade dinosaur. Participants will follow clues, collaborate with teammates, collect points and win prizes. 1351 3rd Street Promenade. 7 p.m.

MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE
Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute visits docent tours are available on a walk-up basis, for groups of up to six people on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 – 2 p.m. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. Masks are required while indoors. Schedule subject to change, call (310) 458-4904 to confirm dates and hours.

SATURDAY | DEC 11

18TH STREET COMMUNITY WINTER OPEN HOUSE
Stop by 18th Street Arts Center and join staff, artists-in-residence, friends, and community members in a festive gathering to mark the end of a year and the beginning of another. Join them outside for a warm drink, friendly catch up, some fun tunes, and pick up a special postcard with images made by artists.

MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET
Kids activities starting at 1 p.m., followed by Santa and the tree lighting at 4 p.m. at the Heritage Museum lawn. The holidays are all about tradition, which is why the 40-foot tall Shopping Cart Tree inside the Frank Gehry designed Edgemar building, will be lit up for the 27th year in a row. 84 shopping carts will be staged in the shape of a Christmas tree and lit up with 1,500 lightbulbs, held together with 4,000 zip ties.

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

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Human anatomy

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

Ankle	Duct	Lobe	Palm	Thigh
Anus	Ears	Lower jaw	Pelvis	Thumb
Appendix	Eyes	Lung	Pore	Tongue
Arch	Femur	Mouth	Pubis	Triceps
Arms	Foot	Nails	Sebaceous gland	Ulna
Big toe	Groove	Nasal		Ureter
Bladder	Hips	Navel	Skin	Uvula
Brain	Ilium	Neck	Skull	Vein
Brow	Knee	Node	Sole	Vena
Cavum	Leg	Nose	Spleen	Waist
Cheek	Limb	Oral	Teeth	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Good day at the track

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MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

government.

According to the report, none of the five issues raised are true.

Jenness and Newhouse strongly refute the first accusation.

"There are many reasons why the allegation, the essence of the Wagner Affidavit, are unworthy of belief. Substantial evidence does not support, and indeed refutes, the allegation for the following reasons," they said.

They cite a lack of corroborating witnesses, Wagner's inability to provide basic information about the bribe, Wagner's lack of follow through on his alleged complaint, a lack of law enforcement involvement, documents showing Wagner's timeline was impossible and inconsistent details provided by Wagner during different conversations.

In his second allegation, Wagner accused a pair of local developers and city staff of colluding to bypass city regulations. However, the report stated the construction was entirely outside City purview and while unusual, it was not corrupt.

"As noted, we found no evidence materially corroborating Wagner's insinuation that City personnel, including but not limited to former City Manager Feldman, or Mani Brothers, engaged in any inappropriate activity (including bribes, pay-offs, illicit inducements, threats or improper favoritism) regarding the crosswalk. Multiple witnesses described the process by which the crosswalk was installed, and none was aware of any evidence of wrongful conduct by City personnel (or Mani Brothers). The publicly available agreement by which the crosswalk was approved by the Coastal Commission corroborates that permission by the City was not required for its installation," said the report.

Wagner makes two accusations against former City Manager Reva Feldman alleging improper influence was put on the council to extend her contract and that she orchestrated a law enforcement raid of his home in retaliation for his vote against her contract.

Feldman ultimately left her position with a $300,000 buyout after alleging a hostile work environment over actions by Wagner and councilman Bruce Silverstein. Silverstein had campaigned on a platform of removing Feldman from her position and was involved in creating Wagner's affidavit.

The report said both accusations regarding Feldman were unsubstantiated. They said nothing untoward occurred during Feldman's contract negotiations, accusations of inappropriate lobbying lacked any evidence and the search of Wagner's property was the result of a preexisting investigation (no criminal charges resulted from the search).

The report dismissed Wagner's final accusation of miscellaneous corruption.

"Finally, Wagner offers a host of other allegations of corruption in Malibu. These go unsubstantiated because Wagner could not provide corroboration, or could not (or would not) provide credible leads for us to follow regarding the claims, or because they are overly general in nature and thus could not serve as grounds for further investigation," said the report.

The lawyers also take issue with the way the affidavit was produced citing a lack of transparency about Councilman Silverstein's participation and ultimately a lack of cohesion in the different stories about its writing.

"Wagner's Affidavit does not state that it was prepared with the assistance of counsel or any other third party," said the report. "When the Affidavit was made public, neither Wagner nor Councilmember Silverstein disclosed that Silverstein was involved in its preparation. The omission is particularly noticeable because Paragraph 4 of the Affidavit otherwise describes Wagner's views of Silverstein and their relationship. Subsequently, Wagner and Silverstein gave Counsel differing descriptions of the way in which the Affidavit was prepared. This further impairs the Affidavit's credibility."

Silverstein said he is pleased the investigation gave Malibu a clean bill of health and while believes the report should conclude the matter, he doesn't necessarily agree with all the conclusions made.

"To say I believe the investigating lawyers were experienced and independent also does not mean that I believe they were unbiased," he said in a statement. "Although one of the two investigating lawyers served as a prosecutor at an early stage of his career, it is a fact that both of the investigating lawyers are criminal defense lawyers, and the contents of the Report and Interview Notes suggest to me that the investigating lawyers' analyses and assessment of the evidence and witness statements was infected by a certain level of defense bias – a bias that has been identified by some residents after reading the Report without the benefit of the Interview Notes."

Jenness and Newhouse do not recommend any further action on the issue given the lack of evidence supporting the claims.

"We agree that the issues raised in the Wagner Affidavit are serious and deserve the attention of Malibu's leadership," they said. "However, to the extent that the Affidavit alleges corruption by City personnel and/or officials, our investigation has established that such allegations are incorrect in nearly all material respects and/or unsubstantiated. Wagner's motives and credibility also are in serious doubt."

editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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Help Wanted

Principal Solution Consultant (pre-sales), Cornerstone OnDemand Inc., Santa Monica, CA. Req: Bach in Comp Sci, InfoSytms, Bus. Admin, Occup Psy, HR or rltd fld +5 yrs prog post-bacc exp in job offrd or as Soln Cnslt, Sales Engnr, SolnArch or rltd pos. May telecommute 100% from anywhere in U.S. Req apprx 30% domestic and intrnl travel. Mail resume toAttn: HR, 1601 Cloverfield Blvd., Ste 600S, Santa Monica, CA 90404; Ref KWPSCJOG . Must be legally auth to work inthe US w/o sponsorship. EOE.

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