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Santa Monica Daily Press
FRIDAY
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Volume 19 Issue 26
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Returning to the scene
A suspect was arrested after breaking a window.
Page 3

Make America Flush Again
A toilet flushing fiasco.
Page 7

Shore Hotel forced to lower some rates to $180

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

The owner of a luxury hotel in Santa Monica will replace the moderately priced accommodations that were demolished to build the hotel.

Sunshine Enterprises LP told the California Coastal Commission Thursday that it will set aside 72 rooms at $180 per night in the Shore Hotel, which usually charges $300 to $800 per night. The rooms are intended to replace lower-cost rooms that were lost in 2011 when Sunshine Enterprises tore down two motels on the site to build the hotel without a permit from the commission.



Matthew Hall

AGREEMENT: The Coastal Commission has made a deal with the Shore Hotel to require 72 rooms be offered at lower prices to make up for the loss of cheap rooms when the current hotel was first built.

The development company, which is managed by Steve Farzam, obtained a permit from the Coastal Commission in 2009 to replace the 72 motel rooms with a moderately priced hotel, but let the permit expire and built a 164-room luxury hotel instead.

The rooms that were lost comprise 35% of the affordable visitor accommodations that Santa Monica has lost in the past 30 years, according to commission staff.

The commission, which is charged with preserving affordable accommodations along the California coast, fined Sunshine Enterprises a record $15.6 million

SEE **HOTEL** PAGE 11

Fresh Finds: Wild-Caught Alaskan Salmon

TATIANA BLACKINGTON JAMES
Special to the Daily Press

The Wednesday Santa Monica Farmers Market is the big daddy of the four. Chefs and restaurateurs load up pallet trucks with produce. Foodies arrive early, lurking before the official opening time to snag the choicest items. The Saturday market may be smaller, with a more casual clientele, but it has charms all its own, including products and vendors unavailable during the week.

At Frog's Bakery, for example, regulars queue impatiently for glistening pastries and golden loaves of bread, sometimes obscuring their unassuming neighbor, Fisherman's Daughter.

Presiding over his Spartan stand, owner Patrick Ashby sells only one item – flash frozen salmon filets – the harvest of a lifelong love affair with the ocean. Ashby grew up in the Palisades, surfing and taking fishing trips with his dad to Mexico.

"I've always been kind of an outdoors guy."

He was a student at U.C. Santa Barbara when a friend convinced him to go fishing in Alaska. It turned out to be grueling.

"I wanted to get out of there right away. Mentally it's just challenging 'cause you're being told to go to bed at two in the afternoon when it's rough – rough meaning heavy fishing — so you can rotate guys."

But the money was good enough that Ashby decided he could stand it two months a year. He's been going ever since.

Even with considerable expenses — travel to Alaska, a round-the-clock crew, not to mention the $500,000 permit fee — Ashby hasn't raised his prices in years. The firm, delicate filets cost $21.50 per pound, a bargain given the quality.

"Wild caught is just simply plucked from the ocean. Farmed fish comes from the ocean as well but it's the same as a caged chicken or a caged cow. They can't exercise and move around like every living thing should, they're fed things that aren't of their normal diet and there's so much genetic manipulation."

Ashby's salmon comes from Bristol Bay in the Bering Sea and is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and their team of biologists.

SEE **FRESH FINDS** PAGE 11

MLB, union agree to testing for opioids after Skaggs' death

RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

Major League Baseball will start testing for opioids and cocaine, but only players who do not cooperate with their treatment plans will be subject to discipline.

Marijuana will be removed from the list of drugs of abuse and will be treated the same as alcohol as part of changes announced Thursday to the joint drug agreement between MLB and the players' association. In addition, suspensions for marijuana use will be dropped from the minor league drug program.

Opioids are classified as a drug of abuse under the joint big league program, which began in late 2002 and until now has limited testing to performance-enhancing substances and banned stimulants.

Talks to add testing for opioids began following the death of Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs, who was found dead in his hotel room in the Dallas area July 1 before the start of a series against the Texas. A medical examiner's office said the 27-year-old died after choking on his vomit with a toxic mix of alcohol and the

SEE **TESTING** PAGE 6


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SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

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

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

Post Construction Projects at Student Services Building:

- Replace existing fire sprinklers in Liberal Arts Vault Room P200N with dry suppression system;
- Fire rate existing IDF room walls and provide new air conditioning;
- Remove and replace existing doors in the DSPS department with automatic doors;
- Install traffic rated bollards near the west entrance;
- Install ceiling mounted IP speakers;
- Install additional lighting in the parking levels.

Estimated Construction Cost Range

- $1M - $1.2M

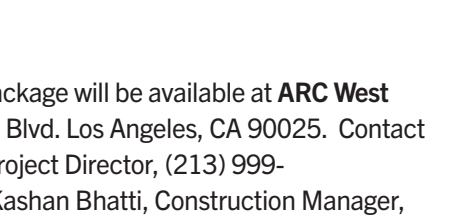
Procedure

- **Tuesday, December 10, 2019,** bid package will be available at **ARC West LA Brach** located at 1736 S Sepulveda Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90025. Contact for all inquiries; Gabriel Murillo, SMC Project Director, (213) 999-2284, gabriel.murillo@vanir.com and Kashan Bhatti, Construction Manager, (213) 216-7116, kashan.bhatti@vanir.com
- **Contractor's License Classification:** California Contractors License A or B.
- Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk: **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019 at 9:00 am.**
- **Location:** 1530 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica CA 90405.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS: 1:00 PM, Friday January 10, 2020. BIDS MUST BE HAND-DELIVERED.
LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, ATTENTION: CHARLIE YEN

1. **Contractors License Classification.** In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §3300, the District requires that contractors possess the following classification(s) of California Contractors License A or B. Any General Contractor not so duly and properly licensed will result in denial of pre-qualification.
2. **Labor Compliance Program (AB 1506).** The District has established a Labor Compliance Program ('LCP") pursuant to Labor Code 1771.5. The Contractor qualifying to bid the work shall comply with the LCP and provisions of the Contract Documents relating to implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of the LCP.
3. **No Withdrawal of Bid Proposals.** Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee prices quoted in their respective Bid Proposals.
4. **Award of Contract.** The Contract for the Work, if awarded, will be by action of the District's Board of Trustees of Tuesday January 21, 2020, to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsible and responsive Bid Proposal.

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What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Dec. 13

QuickLook Legal Research Class and Office Hours
December QuickLook Topic: Evictions - Many people can't afford a lawyer to handle their legal issues. For those facing eviction issues without a lawyer, his class will help tenants and landlords alike get started by teaching essential information about the eviction or "unlawful detainer" process and what resources are available to help. Learning important fundamentals about eviction law can make the legal journey easier and more successful. This class covers the eviction or "unlawful detainer" process and going to court; negotiations and settlement; resources for further information and where to seek help. Main Library, Multipurpose Room, 2nd Floor, 1:30 - 5 p.m.

Open Guest House
Visit anytime for a self-guided or docent tour. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Yoga
All levels. Drop in for $15/class or purchase package through Reserve Santa Monica. Parking included. Annenberg Community Beach House, Sand & Sea Room, 9 - 10 a.m.
https://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/classes.aspx

Saturday, Dec. 14

Documentary Screening & Discussion: The Biggest Little Farm (2018)
This film follows dreamers John and Molly Chester on an eight-year journey filled with successes and failures as they work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles. A panel discussion with John Chester follows the screening. (Film runtime: 91 min.) Main Library, Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Frau Fiber's Sewing Rebellion and Craft Lounge
Catch Frau Fiber's regiment of Faux Fraus leading sewing, altering and repurposing projects each month. Sewing machines and sewing tips included. As always, participants are welcome to bring their own projects and mending, or work on collage and other crafts. The featured Sewing Rebellion project for September - December is 'Motifs, Migrations and Misappropriations,' a thoughtful dive into how fast fashion exploits traditional motifs and patterns, and how those patterns cross borders while the people who created them cannot. The project guides participants in transforming T-shirts into caftan shirts based on a Syrian caftan from the textile museum in Washington, D.C. Palisades Park, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Preschool Explorers: Human Body
Learn about the human body with stories, and then craft a stomach or heart simulator. Ages 3 - 6. Main Library, Children's Activity Room, 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Classics Book Group at Fairview
This long-running book discussion group discusses literary classics from around the world. December 2019's book: Bel-Ami by Guy de Maupassant. Fairview Branch Library, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 15

Snowy Plover Beach Walk
Revel in this guided walk exploring the habitat and life cycle of the small, white snowy plovers that make this stretch of beach their winter home. Binoculars will be provided, or bring your own!
The Snowy Plover Beach Walk with the Santa Monica & LA Audubon Societies is a free event. Reservations are requested. Recommended for adults. Annenberg Community Beach House, 8:30 - 10 a.m.

Open Gallery
Exhibit "Memories of Diaspora: Immigration Narratives of Los Angeles." Annenberg Community Beach House, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Open Guest House
Visit anytime for a self-guided or docent tour. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 36 CALLS ON DEC. 11

EMS 1900blk Centinela Ave 3:58 a.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 4:31 a.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 800blk 19th St 7:09 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 15th St 7:51 a.m.
EMS 100blk Wadsworth Ave 8:51 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1200blk 16th St 9:53 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:07 a.m.
Traffic collision with train 11th St / Colorado Ave 10:48 a.m.
EMS 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:16 a.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 11:53 a.m.
EMS 900blk Idaho Ave 12:00 p.m.
Odor of Natural Gas 800blk Euclid St 12:00 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Colorado Ave 12:21 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Oak St 1:04 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Pico Blvd 1:23 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 1:26 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 3:00 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 3:55 p.m.
EMS 600blk Wilshire Blvd 3:58 p.m.
EMS 1700blk 21st St 4:19 p.m.
EMS 700blk 19th St 5:03 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 5:55 p.m.
EMS 900blk Idaho Ave 6:19 p.m.
Vehicle fire 2500blk Pico Blvd 6:57 p.m.
Broken water main 1500blk 2nd St 7:56 p.m.
Haz mat - level 1 700blk Ozone St 8:01 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 8:44 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 8:57 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 8:57 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 9:19 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 9:47 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 9th St 10:12 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 10:29 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 10:34 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 11:40 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 11:52 p.m

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 16, AT 9:25 P.M.

Officers responded to a radio call of an "open door" to a business in the 900 block of Santa Monica. When they arrived they noticed the front window of the business was smashed in. Officers conducted a search of the interior and did not find anyone. The business provided officers surveillance footage of the incident. On November 27, officers responded back to the business because the suspect returned. The suspect was located and taken into custody. The cost to repair the window was $1500. Timothy John Hollis, 37, homeless, was charged with vandalism, bail was set at $20,000.



File photo

TIMOTHY JOHN HOLLIS

CORRECTION / CLARIFICATION

The X, LOS STRAITJACKETS show will be on Thursday, Dec. 19 and Friday, Dec. 20. Incorrect information was provided in the Dec. 12 edition of the Daily Press. Both shows will be at the Teragram Ballroom.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

DATE/TIME: Monday, December 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- 19ARB-0293: 1802 Delaware: Three Unit Condo Building
- 19ARB-0492: 2232 20th Street: Second Dwelling Unit
- 19ARB-0457: 2906-2918 Santa Monica Boulevard: Mixed-Use
- 19ARB-0505: 1614-1616: Ocean Park Boulevard: Parking Gate
- 19ARB-0372 & 19ARB-0498: 800 Colorado Avenue: Sign Program and Building Materials

PRELIMINARY REVIEW(S):

- 701 Colorado Avenue

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Promenade 3.0 Update
- Design Principles and Standards

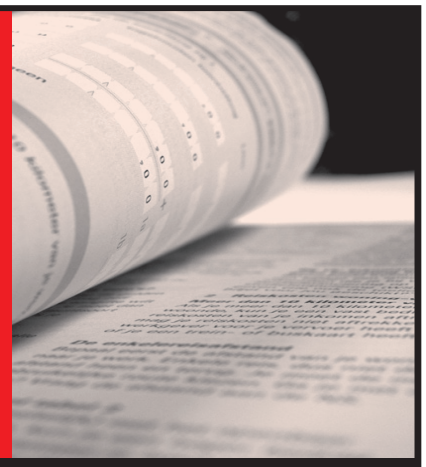
More information is available on-line at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail russell.bunim@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica City Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, Rapid #10, and #18 service City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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House panel presses toward historic Trump impeachment vote

MARY CLARE JALONICK AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

The House Judiciary Committee pushed deliberately toward a historic vote Thursday to approve articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, split sharply along party lines. The daylong session was expected to end with charges being sent to the full House for action next week, before the holidays.

The committee, made up of some of the most strident Democrats and Republicans in Congress, clashed for hours in pointed and at times emotional debate, drawing on history and the Constitution to argue over the two charges. Trump is accused, in the first article, of abusing his presidential power by asking Ukraine to investigate his 2020 rival, Joe Biden, while holding military aid as leverage, and, in the second, of obstructing Congress by blocking the House's efforts to probe his actions.

Trump is only the fourth U.S. president to face impeachment proceedings and the first to be running for reelection at the same time. He insists he did nothing wrong and blasts the Democrats' effort daily as a sham and harmful to America. Republican allies seem unwavering in their opposition to expelling Trump, and he claims to be looking ahead to swift acquittal in a Senate trial.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi sounded confident Thursday that Democrats, who once tried to avoid a solely partisan effort, will have the votes to impeach the president without Republican support when the full House votes next week. But she said it was up to individual lawmakers to weigh the evidence.

"The fact is we take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," Pelosi told reporters. "No one is above the law; the president will be held accountable for his abuse of power and for his obstruction of Congress."

The outcome poses potentially serious political consequences for both parties ahead of the 2020 elections, with Americans deeply divided over whether the president indeed conducted impeachable acts and if it should be up to Congress, or the voters, to decide whether he should remain in office.

The president has refused to participate in the proceedings, tweeting criticisms as he did Thursday from the sidelines, mocking the charges against him in the House's nine-page resolution as "impeachment light." But Pelosi said the president was wrong and the case against him is deeply grounded.

Democrats note that the investigations go back to special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of the 2016 election that put Trump in the White House. And they say his dealings with Ukraine have benefited its aggressive neighbor Russia, not the U.S., and he must be prevented from "corrupting" U.S. elections again and cheating his way to a second term next year.

"It is urgent," Pelosi said.

The Judiciary Committee session drew out over two days, with both sides appealing to Americans' sense of history — Democrats describing a sense of duty to stop what one called the president's "constitutional crime spree" and Republicans decrying what one said was the "hot garbage" impeachment and what it means for the future of the country.

Trump, apparently watching the live proceedings on television, tweeted his disapproval of two Democratic women on the panel, Reps. Veronica Escobar and Sheila Jackson Lee, both of Texas. He called their comments about his actions inaccurate.

"Very sad," Trump tweeted. No, there was no room for misinterpretation, Jackson Lee said.

As lawmakers dug in for the second day at the stately hearing room in the Capitol, Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., immediately asked for a full reading of the two articles of impeachment against the president as TV cameras carried the live proceedings. Then came a long day of fights over amendments, primarily by Republicans trying to stop the impeachment. They were being rejected by Democrats along party lines.

"The central issue of this impeachment is the corruption of our institutions that safeguard democracy by our president," Nadler said. "We cannot tolerate a president subverting the fairness and integrity of our elections."

The top Republican, Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, called the proceedings a "farce" and said they should be halted until his side was provided a chance for its own hearing. The request was denied, with the chairman saying the process was in line with the impeachment hearings of Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton.

First up was an amendment from GOP Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, who tried to delete the first charge against Trump. "This amendment strikes article one because article one ignores the truth," he declared.

Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., argued there was "overwhelming evidence" that the president with his lawyer Rudy Giuliani, in pushing Ukraine to investigate rival Biden, was engaged in an abuse of power "to corrupt American elections."

Debate on that one amendment lasted for hours before it was defeated, 23-17, on a party-line vote.

Another amendment, from Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., sought to replace part of the article that says Trump "corruptly solicited" Ukraine to launch an investigation into Biden with his reference to Biden's son Hunter Biden and the gas company in Ukraine where he served on the board. That, too, was rejected by the panel on party lines. Others followed.

Thursday's hearing picked up where

SEE **VOTE** PAGE 11

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

Judge blocks enforcement of LA law that takes aim at NRA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A federal judge on Wednesday blocked enforcement of a Los Angeles law requiring businesses that want city contracts to disclose whether they have ties to the National Rifle Association.

The NRA's request for a preliminary injunction was granted by U.S. District Judge Stephen V. Wilson in Los Angeles. It temporarily prohibits enforcement of the measure while the case unfolds. The next step could be an appeal by the city or an NRA request to make the injunction permanent.

The judge also threw out part of the lawsuit on technical grounds and removed the city clerk and Mayor Eric Garcetti as defendants but he refused to entirely dismiss the lawsuit.

The ordinance that took effect in April was passed in response to mass shootings around the country, including a November 2018 attack that killed 12 people at a bar in Thousand Oaks, northwest of L.A. It requires those wanting city contracts to disclose whether they have contracts or sponsorship from the gun-rights group.

"Public funds provided to such contractors undermines the city's efforts to legislate and promote gun safety," the law said.

The NRA argued that the measure violates the constitutional First Amendment right to free speech and association and the 14th Amendment right to equal protection. NRA attorney Chuck Michel called it "modern-day McCarthyism" that would force NRA supporters to drop their memberships for fear of losing their livelihoods.

In his ruling, the judge said the city contends that granting contracts to those "with business ties to the NRA invariably creates more NRA membership, which leads to more pro-gun advocacy, laxer gun laws, and inevitably more mass shootings."

"Even if this chain of logic was supported by fact, the city is not permitted to restrict political speech as a means of achieving its goal of safer cities," Wilson ruled.

Messages seeking comment from an NRA spokesperson and attorneys for the city were not immediately returned.

The NRA has been battling a number of challenges to its operations in recent months, including an investigation by the attorney general in New York, where its charter was formed, and the attorney general in Washington, D.C., where authorities are questioning whether its operations are in violation of its nonprofit status. Several corporations also have cut ties to the group.

The NRA sued the city of San Francisco earlier this year over a September resolution by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors that declared the group a "domestic terrorist organization." The NRA alleged the resolution, which had no legal weight, violated the group's free speech rights. However, it withdrew the suit in November.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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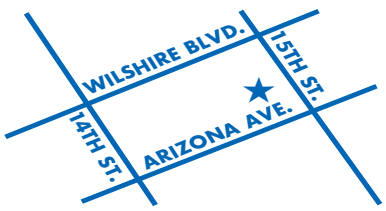
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TESTING

FROM PAGE 1

painkillers fentanyl and oxycodone in his body.

"Players from our side of the equation recognize that there was an opportunity to take a leadership role here in this discussion," union head Tony Clark said. "Players aren't immune to issues that affect all of us, and so the situation this year only heightened that, brought it even closer to home."

Clark said the extent of opioids use among players is "difficult to gauge" and the union concluded there "wasn't necessarily a need to take a census as much as there was taking a leadership role in the conversation."

"I'm just thankful that the players union and MLB were able to address a serious issue in our nation that doesn't have any boundaries and crosses lines into sport and work together for the betterment of our players," Angels general manager Billy Eppler said. "It shows a lot of human touch on the powers that be and I'm thankful for it."

Under the changes, MLB will test for opioids, Fentanyl, cocaine, and synthetic Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Players who test positive will be referred to the treatment board established under the agreement.

"It is our collective hope that this agreement will help raise public awareness on the risks and dangers of opioid medications," deputy baseball commissioner Dan Halem said.

Until now, big league players referred to the treatment board who failed to comply with their treatment plan for use or possession of marijuana, hashish or synthetic THC had been subject to fines of up to $35,000 per violation. Going forward, marijuana-related conduct will be treated the same as alcohol-related issues, and players generally referred to mandatory evaluation and voluntary treatment.

Players and team staff will have to attend mandatory educational programs in 2020 and 2021 on the dangers of opioid pain medications and practical approaches to marijuana.

Moves by some states to legalize marijuana use factored into the change.

"It was a part of a larger conversation that was reflective of the attitudes changing in many parts of the country," Clark said.

Players subject to the minor league testing program, who are not on 40-man rosters and not covered by the union, were suspended until now for a second or subsequent positive marijuana test. Halem said the big league and minor league programs will treat marijuana use the same way going forward.

"The minor league program obviously affects a number of our PA members every year because we have a number of guys who sign major league contracts, then wind up finding themselves removed from the 40-man roster during the course of the year," Clark said. "So this was something that, again, as part of the discussion for the overarching baseball player community, was important."

AP Baseball Writer Janie McCauley contributed to this report.



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Make America Flush Again

Surreal as it was, on January 20, 2017 Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States. Curiously, the Inaugural was attended by so many Russians it looked like a scene from Dr. Zhivago. Even the cloudy and cold weather felt Russian. Triumph, the hilarious insult comic dog, joked, "The sun was just one of many stars who refused to attend." (As the winning candidate, Trump lost the popular vote by the greatest margin in history.)

While precipitation had been forecast, Trump insisted that "God would not let it rain on my Inaugural." Apparently God didn't get the memo. In fact, the crowd was filled with spectators wearing plastic ponchos and or holding umbrellas, which was what Melania did. But to this day, Trump swears there wasn't a drop of rain.

Afterwards, Press Secretary and future "Dancing With the Stars" contestant, Sean Spicer (whose hideous green fluffy-sleeved outfit on the show was reminiscent of a Seinfeld episode) infamously proclaimed Trump's Inaugural was the most watched in history. Suddenly America was introduced to "alternative facts," or, as most people might call them, "lies."

Bill and Hillary Clinton and George and Laura Bush sat next to each other as Trump began his dystopian speech. Though nationwide violent crime and illegal southern border crossings were at 50-year lows, Trump declared, "This American carnage stops right here and right now." Stunned, W. whispered to Hilary, "Can you believe this sh*t?" (Essentially what I've been saying for the past 1057 days.)

On Trump's watch hate crimes and gun mass murders are at all-time highs. So is the deficit and national debt at $23 trillion, which Trumpers forget to mention when bragging about the "great economy." (Trump has actually said that by the time those issues come to fore, he'll be long gone.)

With the climate crisis threatening the world and impeachment threatening Trump's world, and fresh off being laughed at and humiliated at NATO, he's recently turned to... weak water pressure in sinks, showers and toilets. He disclosed he's working closely with the EPA (which should be renamed the "Environmental Pollution Agency") to rollback Obama water conservation regulations. While thought to beneficial for the planet, to Trump, they're apparently a big pain in his big butt. (Fact: Trump is the most obese POTUS in 100 years!)

Trump claims that many people report to him that low flow toilets require 10 to 15 flushes. Almost always when Trump says "people tell me" there are no people, he's just projecting. So if anyone is flushing 15 times it's Trump, perhaps not surprising given his fat-laden fast food diet.

The "flushing factor" is just one of many Trump-created crises for which he alone has the solution. For example, he revealed that windmills cause cancer. Who knew? He also postulates that if you get your energy from wind power, "If it's not windy that day, you won't be able to watch your favorite NFL game." (Can anyone really be this ignorant?)



Courtesy photo

BATHROOM: A fool's gold toilet.

In late August, as hurricane Dorian approached the U.S., Trump advocated we drop a nuclear bomb in the eye of the storm. What could go wrong with that? Fortunately, Trump was talked out of that dangerous and cockamamie idea. But within days he took a black Sharpie and covertly altered an official Hurricane Center map rather than admit he had been wrong.

Another example involves Guantanamo Detention Camp. Trump has often suggested that if water boarding doesn't get supposed terrorists to reveal secrets, we should murder their families. (Even the mafia doesn't touch the families.)

As for undocumented people attempting to scale border walls, Trump has asked the Justice Department if we couldn't just shoot them. When told that would be a crime against humanity, he countered, "What if we just shoot them in the knees?"

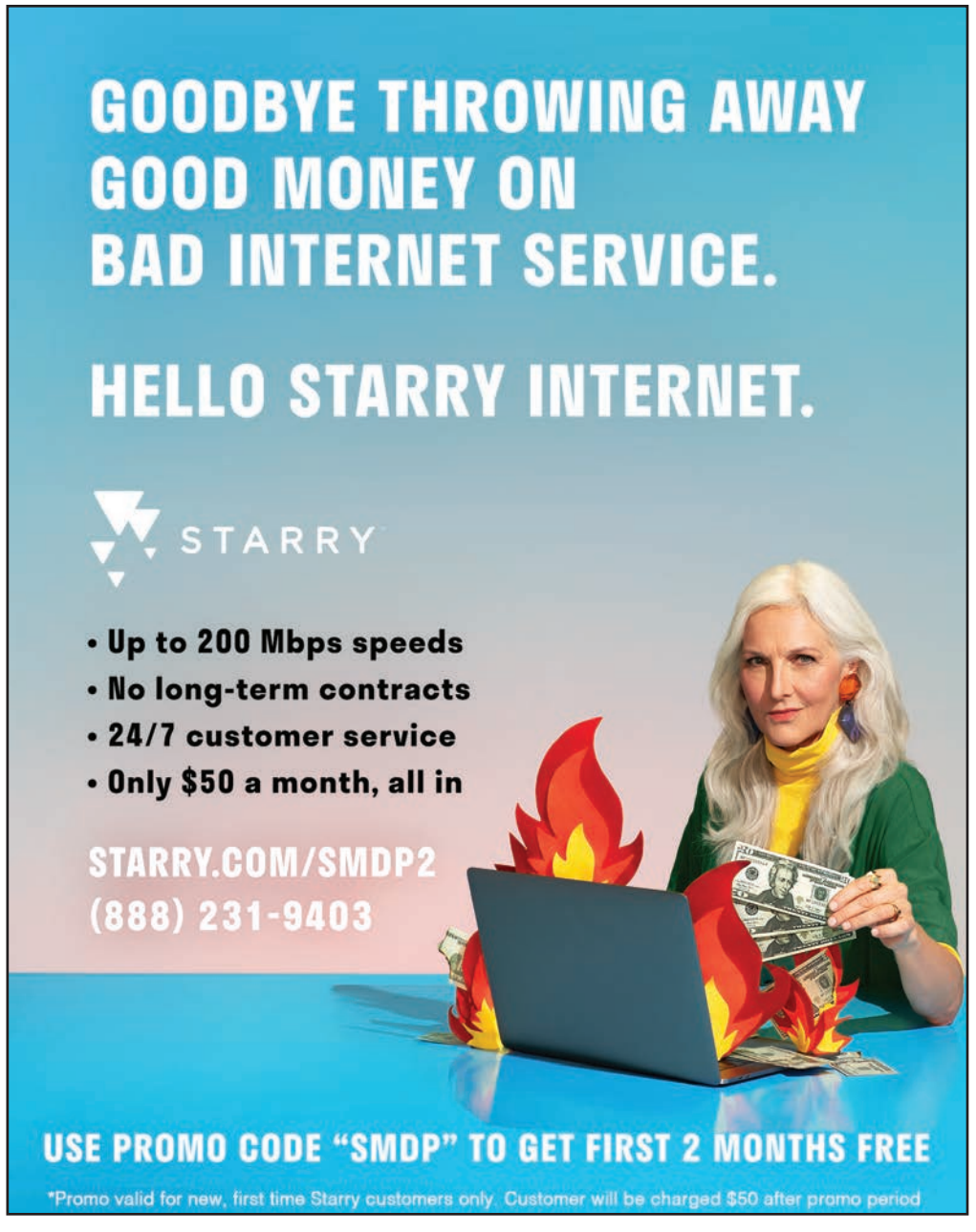
Another Trump brainstorm was to build a moat (he spelled it "moot") at the Southern Border and fill it with snakes and alligators. (Reportedly, some staffer had to write a feasibility report. I only hope it wasn't the same poor schnook that had to write one about "Nuking Hurricanes.")

So now Trump is facing impeachment because, claiming he was concerned about widespread "corruption," he withheld almost $400 million in military assistance to Ukraine unless they dug up dirt on Joe Biden. (So much for "widespread.") His defense has been there was never an investigation and he still released the funds. Then why did he? Because, with the whistle blower, he got caught!

So Trump did what any compulsive liar would do, he lied about something else. Somehow his attention-deficit brain landed on solving our non-existent need to flush our toilets 15 times. Realistically, there's no chance, but it would only be poetic justice if the imminent House impeachment and Senate trial could flush him right out of office.

Please Google: "Triumph attends Trump's Inauguration." Jack is at jackdailypress@aol.com.





TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 13)

Long ago, you longed for the kind of recognition you'll receive this year. From the light of a loved one's eyes indicating that deep understanding has been reached to the sound of applause and the satisfaction of "likes," you'll treasure the experience while realizing you no longer need it as much as you once did. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 18, 40, 33 and 28.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can't control the weather outside. But by thinking in less dramatic terms, you can influence your internal climate. Take the temperature down a few notches. Keep it comfortable and stable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The biggest reason for dishonesty is a fear of truth's consequences. To make it easy for you to be accountable to yourself, take away the threat of self-punishment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't have to let the little bothersome interferences deter you from progress. Perspectives of time will help you keep relationships in balance. Will you even remember this little issue next week?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't have to make a move or form a definitive opinion on matters just yet. It takes some restraint, but there's a lot of benefit from waiting, watching and processing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It takes no effort at all to stay current on the topics that interest you, as all you have to do is follow your curiosity. To stay abreast of a loved one's interests, too, is an act of selflessness that will repay you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The question will arise as to whether you might be able to handle more than you currently are. To level up, you'll need more efficient systems. Ask around because knowledgeable friends will help you figure it out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There is a way of telling a story that is accurate and encouraging, and there is a way that is accurate and deflating. Try it both ways privately and cherry-pick the public message.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). For you, teaching what you know isn't so much a job as it is a calling. Teaching helps you understand things at deeper levels. Furthermore, it makes you feel very connected to the fabric of existence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you can't quite figure out how to change your behavior or attitude, change your circumstances. What you're dealing with may not be a lack of willpower; rather, it's a case of an unsupportive environment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The extra work you do will bump up your stock. A small rise in value every day will add up to something substantial. Eventually, you'll be able to trade in on this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). For many, silence can bring its own kind of chaos. Many are uncomfortable in the stillness and will reflexively fill it with noise and movement. To resist this urge and relax into the quiet will invite restoration.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're willing to consider other sides of an argument, probably because you don't feel threatened by ideas. You find it pretty easy to respect people, even if you don't agree with them. Many could learn from you.

Happy Friday the 13th

Throughout history, there have been many groups named "The Thirteen Club," some philanthropic, many secret, some with the aim of breaking superstition and others to uphold it. With the Jupiter-ruled Sagittarian energy at the helm of this Friday the 13th, your own personal views about superstition are the ones most likely to be true for you.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST

ARIES: You kid around with the ones you love. The underlying meaning of jokes will be telling. TAURUS: You're not willing to settle for less than you think you deserve in relationships, nor will you ever be. GEMINI: The aesthetics that matter to you will impress someone else and vice versa. CANCER: People getting to know you will put more weight in your overall vibes than in any one thing you say. LEO: It's natural to be skeptical about what people want from you. Be honest about this and give people a chance to allay or validate your trepidation. VIRGO: As a diligent student of human nature, what you learn this weekend gives you a social edge. LIBRA: No one will know where the chapters begin or end until much later. Fully play through the moments and you'll have no regrets. SCORPIO: The wins are catching. Celebrate others; soon you will revel for reasons of your own. SAGITTARIUS: Electricity between people will be unexpected and without reason. CAPRICORN: There is an attractive power in having a greater awareness of your internal monologue. AQUARIUS: In time, you'll think of the way a relationship is developing right now as something that fits beautifully into the scheme. PISCES: The heart-pounding aspects of love will be small moments rather than big events.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

Sagittarius and Cancer have an issue. One loves to travel and the other loves to stay home. The key to togetherness is in making the relationship its own kind of home – heaven in a bubble, a mobile sanctuary, a space that's also a feeling that's also a promise. The safety of love will transcend the petty logistics of suitcases. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Brobdingnagian
Adjective
Of huge size; gigantic; tremendous.

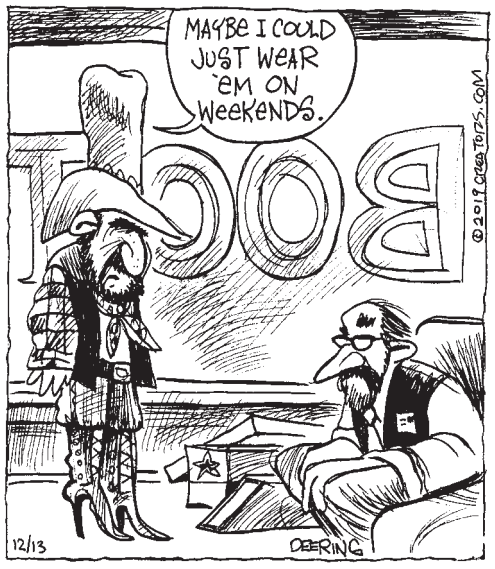
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



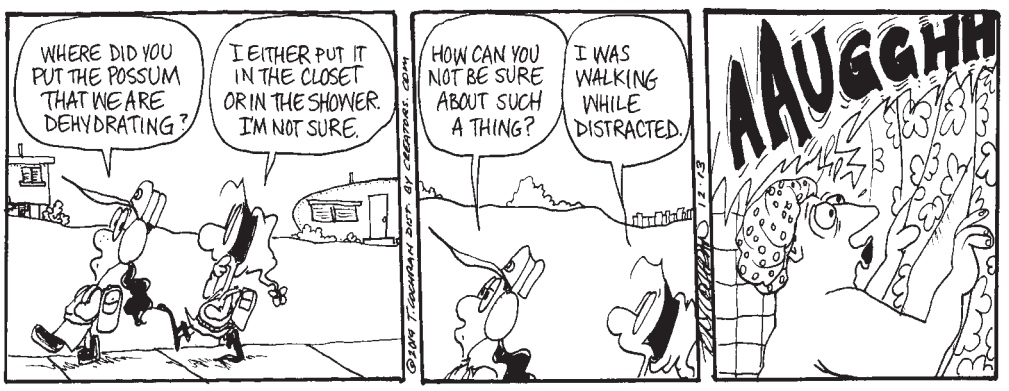
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



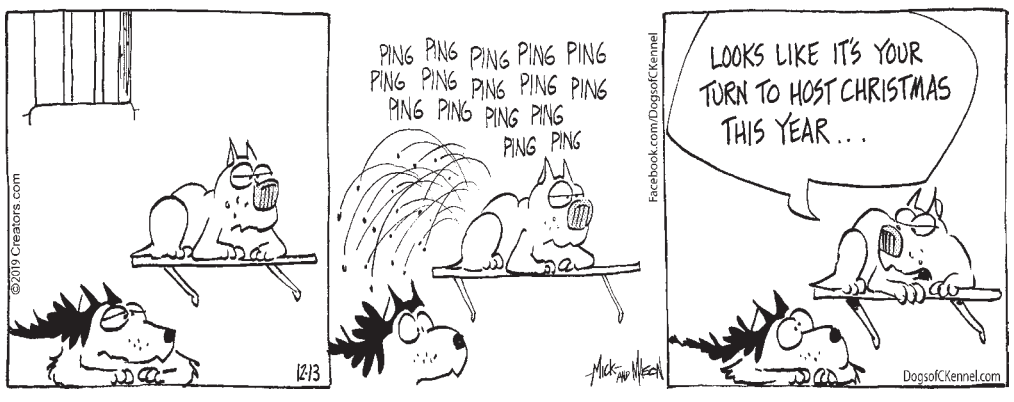
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



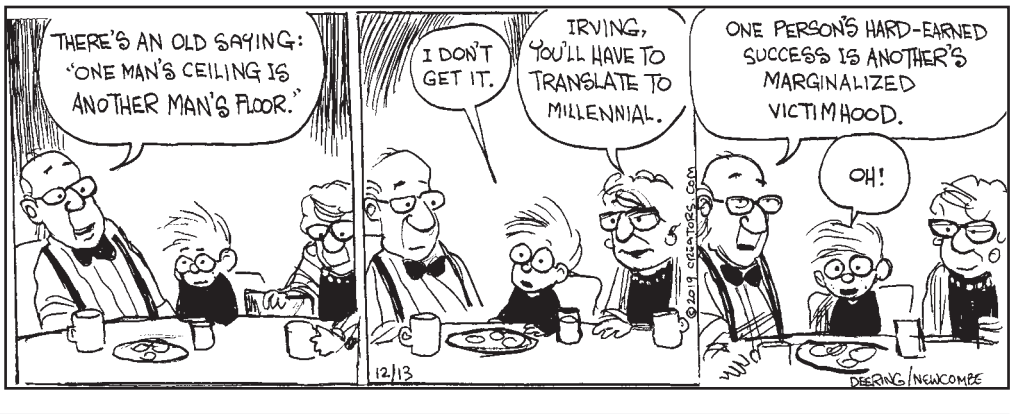
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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POWERball
Draw Date:12/11
24 29 42 44 63
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 150 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/06
18 31 46 54 61
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 340 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 12/11
2 3 6 9 11
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/11
6 7 14 21 24

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/12
Midday: 4 1 8
Draw Date: 12/11
Evening: 1 1 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/11
1st: 11 - MONEY BAGS
2nd: 04 - BIG BEN
3rd: 05 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
RACE TIME: 1:49.71

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 62.1°

FRIDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ waist to shoulder high
Long period new WNW swell builds through the day as SSW/S swell drops out.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-5ft+ waist to head high occ. 6 ft
Topped out WNW swell holds through the morning before easing. Winds/conditions looking best early. NW wind protected breaks best for the afternoon.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

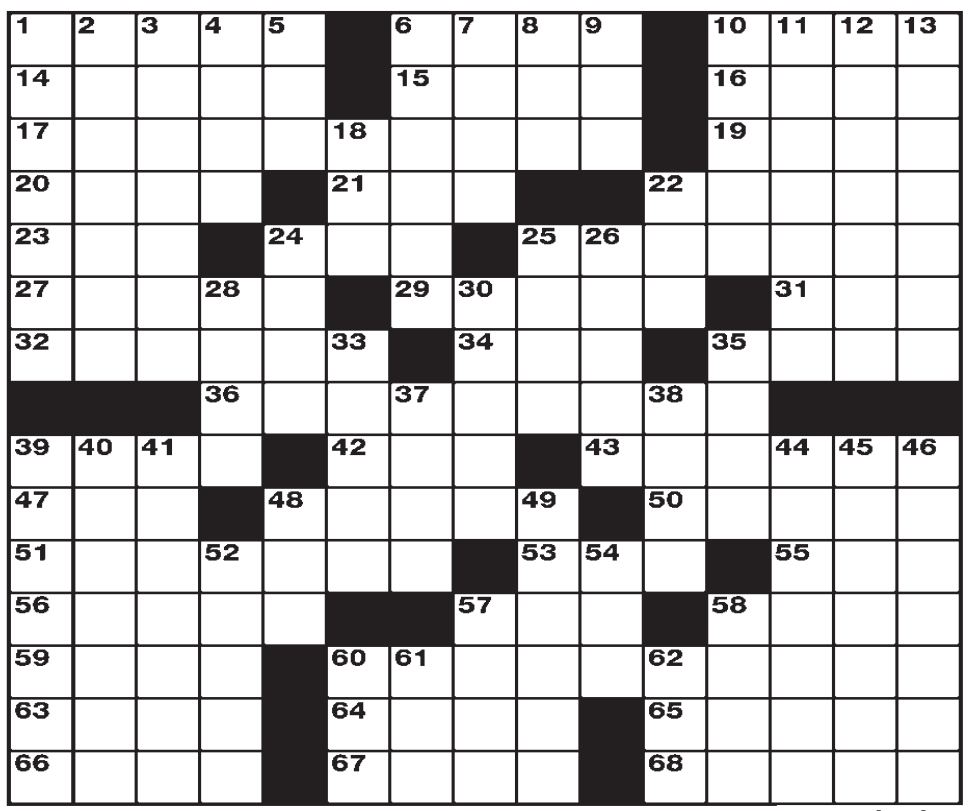
5		4	7	9		3		
	3			8		7		
6						8		
	4				7		6	
7		6		5		9		1
	5		6				8	
		3						8
		9		7			4	
		5		4	1	6		2

Newsday Crossword

WHAT TO DO by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Prospector's companion
6 Job for a tow truck
10 More than a sip
14 Depleted
15 See 7 Down
16 Winter frost locale
17 Do the __
19 Kellogg brand
20 Disparage
21 Vegan milk ingredient
22 Gung-ho
23 Product of dates
24 Extended warranty period: Abbr.
25 Do the __
27 Color above clouds
29 Pedestrian
31 Name on "Alphabet" books
32 A euro predecessor
34 One on a rack
35 Ones who shall not be named
36 Do the __
39 Analogy phrase
42 Miner concern
43 Certain Southwesterner
47 Heart of a PC
48 Pile up
50 Yoga posture
51 Do the __
53 Seat softener
55 AOL alternative
56 Golf great's nickname
57 Exemplar of patience
58 One of the 2016 Ghostbusters
59 Common letter closer
60 Do the __
63 Forget to do
64 Word on December decorations
65 Basketry willow
66 Disallow
67 Brewery hardware
68 Doesn't soak through

DOWN
1 Sight near a sink
2 Take advantage of
3 Leo's bright star
4 Rhine region
5 Prefer, with "for"
6 Warmed-over rendition
7 With 15 Across, graduation requirement for some
8 Unwanted review
9 Text with a "!"
10 Pipe up
11 Jokey
12 Casting director's type
13 Cohan tribute musical
18 NHL city northwest of BUF
22 Part of some canopies
24 Hairy *Monsters, Inc.* character
25 Move from freezer to counter
26 38 Down movers
28 Make over
30 Exclamation of exultation
33 Unseen attraction
35 Fight stoppers
37 Server's server
38 Way through a place
39 Sleepy Hollow character
40 "Puh-leeeeeze!"
41 Hits the hay
44 South Africa neighbor
45 Stored, as grain
46 Park protectors
48 Elicit a "Wow!" from
49 Ersatz coffee tables
52 Simple song
54 What sit-ups work
57 PC photo file format
58 Learned
60 Soybean product
61 *Simpsons* beer server
62 __ story (empathy inducer)



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DBA

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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FRESH FINDS

FROM PAGE 1

"[It's] a year-round job for them. There are nine large river systems. All the salmon know which river they need to go into and each biologist is assigned one of the rivers. It's so sustainable and so managed that nothing can really go wrong."

Salmon fishing put Ashby's kids through USC, but they aren't involved in the business or, as one might assume, the reason for its name.

One night after he'd been fishing a few years, Ashby went to a party still sporting the seasonal facial hair he lets grow while he's on the boat. When he explained this to the woman he was flirting with, she told him that her father, a Croatian immigrant, had been fishing in Alaska since the 1960s. It turned out he and Ashby worked in the same fishery.

"She is the Fisherman's Daughter," Ashby said of the woman he later married, "and it was her idea to sell at the Market."

Santa Monica has four weekly farmers markets including the Wednesday Downtown market on Arizona Avenue between 4th and Ocean from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Saturday Downtown market on Arizona Avenue between 4th and 2nd Streets from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Saturday Virginia Ave. Park market at 2200 Virginia Avenue from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the Sunday Main Street market at 2640 Main Street from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

editor@smdp.com

HOTEL

FROM PAGE 1

earlier this year after a Los Angeles Superior Court judge said the developer had pulled a "bait and switch" by building the Shore Hotel without a valid permit.

The developer paid the fine in August and applied for an after-the-fact permit that included a plan to replace some of the lower-cost rooms with a 34-bed hostel.

The Santa Monica City Council and multiple elected officials, including local representatives Senator Ben Allen and Assemblymember Richard Bloom, wrote to the commission before it considered the plan Thursday to express concern that 34 hostel beds would be an inadequate replacement for 72 motel rooms.

The commission took the same stance Thursday and told Sunshine Enterprises that it would only issue a permit if the Shore Hotel offered 72 rooms at a moderate rate.

"The core mission for us is to protect the accessibility of the coast to all segments of the population, and here you had a place where working families could have access to Santa Monica State Beach," said vice chair Donne Brownsey. "I believe that the only resolution is to replace those rooms on-site."

Sunshine Enterprises responded by scrapping the original plan and said they would price 58 rooms throughout the hotel at $180 per night within 30 days. The $180 rate is based on the average charged by the two motels in 2009 adjusted for inflation.

Steve Kaufman, the attorney for Sunshine Enterprises, said the additional 14 required rooms would be built in the space that would have accommodated the hostel. He said the hotel will waive the resort fee for the 72 rooms and charge a reduced overnight parking rate of $20 to $25, which is consistent with the price of public parking in the area.

Kaufman also said Sunshine Enterprises will offer the 14 smaller rooms at no cost to programs that bring youth from marginalized communities to the coast, a plan that was included in the developer's hostel proposal.

The commission approved the revised proposal with a 7-5 vote and said Sunshine Enterprises will have to pay an additional $2.3 million in fees. The agreement includes a monitoring plan to ensure compliance.

"The coast is for everybody," said commission chair Steve Padilla. "If you can afford millions of dollars in fines and in-lieu fees, you should be able to accommodate people of lesser means in your hotel."

But for many of the commissioners who voted no and for several environmental organizations that testified during the hearing, the agreement did not go far enough.

Jennifer Savage, California policy manager for the Surfrider Foundation, said she thinks the commission should have ordered the hotel to shut down to send a strong message to developers that breaking the law would not be tolerated.

"I think it's a better outcome than the original project and I appreciate the commission's efforts to restore to the extent possible what was lost," Savage said. "The message that is sent still can be interpreted by other developers that they can ultimately do business in an underhanded, irresponsible fashion that impacts the people of California in a negative way."

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 270 CALLS ON DEC. 11

Family disturbance 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:15 a.m.
Vandalism 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:53 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 1300blk Ocean Ave 12:59 a.m.
72 Hour psychiatric hold 300blk Arizona Ave 1:32 a.m.
Burglary 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 3:12 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 900blk 4th St 5:36 a.m.
Hit and run 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 6:33 a.m.
Hit and run 300blk Olympic Dr 6:34 a.m.
Traffic control request 2nd St / Arizona Ave 6:38 a.m.
Trespassing 1500blk 4th St 6:42 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 900blk 3rd St 6:48 a.m.
Medical emergency 1100blk Ocean Front Walk 7:12 a.m.
Trespassing 800blk Broadway 7:17 a.m.
Violation of restraining order 1600blk 12th St 7:58 a.m.
Grand theft 900blk Ocean Ave 8:35 a.m.
Hit and run 200blk Palisades Beach Rd 8:51 a.m.
Death investigation 900blk 10th St 9:09 a.m.
Burglary 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 9:09 a.m.
Burglary 900blk Ocean Ave 9:22 a.m.
Child abuse 1000blk 7th St 9:35 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating in public 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:06 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 11th St / California Ave 10:25 a.m.
Disturbance at a business 700blk Pine St 10:31 a.m.
Vehicle parked on sidewalk 1500blk Ashland Ave 10:33 a.m.
Traffic control request 11th St / Olympic Blvd W 10:53 a.m.
Disturbance at a business 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 11:10 a.m.
Drunk driving 700blk Broadway 11:14 a.m.
Strongarm robbery 800blk Pico Blvd 11:18 a.m.
Disturbance at a business 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 11:56 a.m.
Burglary 1700blk 9th St 12:27 p.m.
Hit and run 800blk 20th St 12:43 p.m.
Stolen vehicle 2200blk Delaware Ave 12:50 p.m.
Vandalism 1100blk 20th St 12:52 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1800blk Montana Ave 1:08 p.m.
Traffic collision - unknown injuries Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 1:22 p.m.
Grand theft 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:28 p.m.
Hit and run Lincoln Blvd / Ashland Ave 1:41 p.m.
Trespassing 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:44 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1600blk Montana Ave 1:54 p.m.
Theft suspect in custody 700blk Broadway 2:09 p.m.
Disturbance at a business 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:23 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 1200blk Harvard St 3:46 p.m.
Disturbance at a business 300blk Pico Blvd 3:47 p.m.
Disturbance at a business 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:15 p.m.
Trespassing 800blk Pico Blvd 4:32 p.m.
Family disturbance 1800blk Pico Blvd 4:36 p.m.
Family disturbance 1400blk 6th St 4:36 p.m.
Traffic collision - city prop involved 16th St / Pico Blvd 5:02 p.m.
Elder abuse 900blk 3rd St 5:02 p.m.
Elder abuse 400blk Euclid St 5:03 p.m.
Death investigation 700blk 19th St 5:11 p.m.
Vandalism 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 5:25 p.m.
Petty theft 1300blk Arizona Ave 6:00 p.m.
Person with a gun 2000blk Ocean Ave 6:33 p.m.
Battery 300blk Santa Monica Pier 6:38 p.m.
Domestic violence 700blk Lincoln Blvd 6:42 p.m.
Battery 200blk Broadway 7:03 p.m.
Prowler 1100blk Arizona Ave 7:15 p.m.
Family disturbance 1300blk Franklin St 7:24 p.m.
Petty theft 200blk Arizona Ave 8:08 p.m.
Found property 5th St / Wilshire Blvd 8:31 p.m.
Public intoxication 200blk Hill St 8:48 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1100blk 12th St 9:16 p.m.
Vandalism 1500blk 4th St 9:39 p.m.
Threats 1900blk Pico Blvd 10:03 p.m.
Hit and run 2000blk Pearl St 10:51 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1300blk Ocean Ave 11:12 p.m.

VOTE

FROM PAGE 4

Wednesday's late-night session left off.

Into the night, Democrats and Republicans delivered sharp, poignant and, at times, personal arguments for and against impeachment. Cicilline asked Republicans standing with Trump to "wake up" and honor their oath of office. Republican Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana responded with his own request to "put your country over party." Rep. Lou Correa, D-Calif., shared his views in English and Spanish.

One Democrat, Rep. Val Demings of Florida, told the panel that, as a descendant of slaves and now a member of Congress, she has faith in America because it is "government of the people" and in this country "nobody is above the law." Freshman Democratic Rep. Lucy McBath of Georgia emotionally talked about losing her son to gun violence and said that while impeachment was not why she came to Washington, she wants to "fight for an America that my son Jordan would be proud of."

But Jordan of Ohio insisted Democrats were impeaching because "they don't like us" — referring to Trump voters in what he called "fly-over" states like his.

Said Nadler: "History will look back on our actions here today. How would you be remembered?"

One Republican, Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan, who is not on the panel, announced Thursday he would not support impeachment.

The House is expected to vote on the articles next week, in the days before Christmas. That would send them to the Senate for a 2020 trial.

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman, Alan Fram, Padmananda Rama and David Eggert contributed to this report.

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