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smdp

Santa Monica Daily Press

FRIDAY
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Crime Watch
Three room bust.
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@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

Meet the Icelandic couple designing flameproof eco-friendly buildings in Santa Monica



Courtesy photos

HOMES: A Santa Monica company is working to make homes less prone to fire damage.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

So far 2020 has been California's worst fire season in history, with thousands of homes perishing in

flames. Icelandic architects Erla Dögg Ingjaldsdottir and Tryggvi Ingjaldsdottir want to change that. Instead of rebuilding houses with new flammable structures, they have designed the mnmMOD

Panel System — an alternative to wood framing that uses EPS foam and steel to build eco-friendly fire-resistant homes.

SEE **ECO-FRIENDLY BUILDINGS** PAGE 11

Council to discuss leasing revisions Tuesday

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica homeowners and renters can now view the proposed revisions to the city's medium-term leasing ordinance, which is

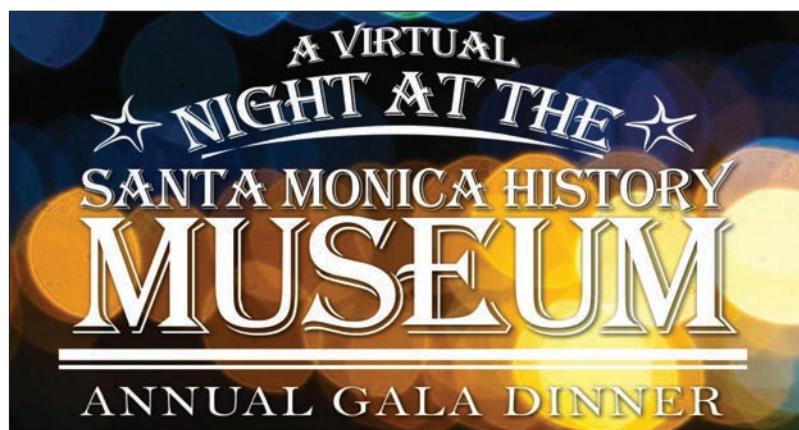
expected to be amended when City Councilmembers meet Tuesday.

In an effort to keep developers from exploiting loopholes in current laws, Council introduced new leasing requirements in August that required all residential rental

properties in the city to be rented unfurnished to natural persons who intend to occupy the unit as their primary residence for longer than a year.

SEE **LEASING** PAGE 2

Santa Monica History Museum to host virtual gala fundraiser



Courtesy image

HISTORY: The museum is going online for its annual fundraiser.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

On Sunday Oct. 11, the Santa Monica History Museum plans to fulfill its mission of "Keeping Our History Alive" by bringing its annual

gala dinner directly to your home. In its biggest fundraising event of the year, the museum will host a virtual exhibit tour and silent and live auction while attendees dine on

SEE **VIRTUAL GALA** PAGE 11

SHINE ON SANTA MONICA

Local Job Resources in Challenging Times



Many were shocked by the news following the beginning of quarantine; come home from work, wear a mask and stay inside unless you're gathering the essentials. After nearly seven months of closures, we are slowly but surely seeing many businesses reopen once again, looking to replenish their fallen workforce. As unemployment rates reach an all time high in the state of California, the City of Santa Monica has created a one-stop resource for residents to assist in their next career change, including unemployment resources, hosting virtual employment webinars, and providing links to

SEE **JOBS** PAGE 6

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LEASING

FROM PAGE 1

“Due to the far-reaching applicability of the ordinance, public correspondence was received in the wake of the ordinance’s passage requesting consideration for a variety of scenarios,” a staff report for Tuesday’s meeting reads. “The written comments have been largely from homeowners who are concerned about losing their ability to temporarily rent their home when they are on vacation, sabbatical, home swap or other reasons. They have communicated that they rent their homes, often furnished and for at least 31 days, and these occasional rentals are a source of income that allows them to continue to live in Santa Monica.”

Students looking to rent only for the length of the school year, patients needing temporary medical care and Santa Monica residents displaced due to emergency repairs were also cited as reasons why the city should continue allowing medium-term rentals.

“Staff reviewed the correspondence regarding various exemption scenarios but is not proposing exemptions for different potential users of ‘medium-term’ housing as it is challenging to carve out exceptions for different users without creating inadvertent loopholes thereby undermining Council’s objective to curtail temporary leasing activity,” the report states. “Therefore, in response to public input — but still keeping within the spirit of Council’s direction to continue to ensure strong protections against permanent multi-unit housing stock being used for temporary rentals,” staff proposed a few exemptions to the new ordinance.

OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL UNITS

This amendment would enable an owner-occupied unit to be rented for less than one year if the primary resident who rents the unit intends to return at the end of the lease to again occupy the residence, staff said. “The unit would be allowed to be rented furnished

and there would be no requirement that the tenant use and occupy the unit as their primary residence... This would allow for reasonable use of single-unit dwellings and condominiums,” and also provide a potential housing option for Santa Monica residents who may temporarily need to vacate their homes due to emergency repairs, remodels, and similar situations.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

If Council were to approve staff’s recommendations, Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units would also receive an exemption from the recently-enacted law, meaning there would be no limitation on the number of times in a year an ADU or JADU could be rented as long as owners of the property live on-site for the duration of the lease.

“Owners would be permitted to rent out an ADU or JADU for a term of more than 30 days but less than one year,” the report states, adding: “The proposed exemption would not modify the existing prohibition against renting out an ADU for a term of less than 30 days...”

TENANT RELOCATION

The proposed tenant relocation exemption seeks to address an inadvertent conflict of the new leasing requirements by allowing medium-term rentals to be leased to tenants who are subject to relocation provisions in the Municipal Code.

“Leases in this specific circumstance would not need to comply with any of the four main aspects of the leasing requirements,” the report states, “and would further a landlord’s ability to relocate tenants to comparable temporary rental housing within the City.”

To view the full agenda for the upcoming meeting, which is set to begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, visit <http://bit.ly/SMleasing>.

Brennon@smdp.com

Transparency Project

By Mary Marlow

[Send comments to editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

Following the Money; City Council Race

SM City Council Candidates 2020 Elections	\$ Contributions (Includes Monetary, Non-Monetary & Loans \$340 limit) 1/1/2020 thru 10/7/2020	Incumbent Total \$	Challenger Total \$
Phil Brock	\$14,425		\$14,425
Gleam Davis	\$19,559	\$19,559	
Oscar de la Torre	\$24,134		\$24,134
Mario Fonda-Bonardi	\$15,758		\$15,758
Ana Maria Jara	\$1,700	\$1,700	
Kristin McCowan	\$13,806	\$13,806	
Terry O'Day	\$18,619	\$18,619	
Christine Parra	\$4,495		\$4,495
Ted Winterer	\$25,357	\$25,357	
Total	\$137,853	\$79,041	\$58,812

As our mailboxes fill with election mailers, it is important to understand who is supporting the candidates for City Council. Santa Monica limits candidate contributions to \$340 from an individual, business or PAC. However, since the Citizen’s United decision by the Supreme Court 10 years ago, Political Action Committees (PACs) can collect and spend unlimited money.

Since 2010, PACs supporting or opposing City Council candidates have raised much more money than the candidates themselves. So far, this year PACs are again the drivers raising the most money in support of “their” candidates, almost always the incumbents.

City Council candidate committees limited to \$340 per donor have raised \$103,853 as of September 24, 2020. Incumbents have \$68,541; challengers \$35,312.

PACs focused on Santa Monica election races (Santa Monicans for Change, Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, Santa Monica Firefighters, Police and City Employees, Santa Monica Democratic Club, Community for Excellent Public Schools, and Santa Monica Forward Candidates Committee) have raised \$277,382, more than two times the individual candidates. Unite Here, the hotel workers union, has raised \$338,391 to support local, regional and state candidates. Although the next required reporting date is not until the end of October, PACs must still report \$1000 or more within 24 hours of receipt. Almost every day PAC reports of large contributions over \$1000 are being posted on the SMVote.org website <https://public.netfile.com/pub2/Default.aspx?aid=CSM>

See smdp.com for a chart showing PAC donations.

Santa Monica incumbents rely on money from non-resident PACs to win. Development and business interests are the largest donors, seeking return on their investment through future Council approval of their new or pending developments.

The largest PAC contributors to Council incumbents, include the police, fire, city employees, hotel workers, and developers. They all have some donors that live in Santa Monica - but a large majority do not. These non-resident donors are donating to buy influence over key City decisions without living with the negative consequences of those decisions.

Meanwhile, residents look around at our city jammed with traffic, cookie-cutter apartment buildings rising on every other downtown corner, mega-hotel projects, parks housing the homeless and their possessions, city services sliced by the pandemic, and a City Council absolutely intent on approving every development and tourism booster project that appears before them.

You will be living with whatever choice you make on a daily basis until the next election in two years. Elections matter - PLEASE VOTE.

CORRECTION:

In our September 18, 2020 article entitled “Here’s Why This Is a Highly Unusual Council Race” we said “only one of the four incumbents running for a 4-year seat identified themselves as a councilmember on the ballot.” We should have said “only one of the four incumbents identified themselves as a councilmember in listing their occupation on their candidate statement.” We have now reviewed the incumbents’ ballot designations and apologize for the error.

SEND YOUR TIPS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press

office (310) 458-7737



INSIDE
THE DAILY PRESS
PODCAST

smdp.com/pod

ALSO AVAILABLE ON 

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 312 CALLS ON OCT. 07

Fight 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:47 a.m.
 Attempt Strongarm Robbery Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 3:49 a.m.
 Domestic Violence 1100blk Pico Blvd 5:22 a.m.
 Fight 2000blk Pier Ave 5:24 a.m.
 Fight 2000blk Ashland Ave 5:24 a.m.
 Prowler 1800blk 11th St 5:29 a.m.
 72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 200blk San Vicente Blvd 6:11 a.m.
 Construction Noise Main St / Ashland Ave 6:26 a.m.
 Fight 2800blk Broadway 7:02 a.m.
 Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk 20th St 7:09 a.m.
 Abandoned Vehicle 1600blk Stanford St 7:40 a.m.
 Petty Theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 7:48 a.m.
 Grand Theft 1000blk 22nd St 8:12 a.m.
 Red Zone Violation 1900blk 12th St 8:16 a.m.
 Burglary 700blk Palisades Beach Rd 8:18 a.m.
 Fraud Unkn 8:29 a.m.
 Exhibition Of Speed 14th St / Broadway 8:32 a.m.
 Indecent Exposure 2600blk 2nd St 8:44 a.m.
 Petty Theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 8:48 a.m.
 Battery 2nd St / Arizona Ave 9:01 a.m.
 Found Property 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 9:11 a.m.
 Burglary 200blk Bicknell Ave 9:13 a.m.
 Battery 2nd St / Broadway 9:28 a.m.
 Harassing Phone Calls 200blk Ocean Ave 9:54 a.m.
 Drinking In Public 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:58 a.m.
 Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 10:02 a.m.
 Illegal Weapon 300blk Santa Monica Pl 10:03 a.m.
 Encampment Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 10:18 a.m.
 Red Zone Violation 1500blk Washington Ave 10:26 a.m.
 Encampment 1800blk Main St 10:52 a.m.
 Burglary 200blk 22nd St 10:52 a.m.
 Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100blk 14th St 10:54 a.m.
 Person With A Gun 1200blk 14th St 11:18 a.m.
 Encampment 1500blk The Beach 11:40 a.m.
 Encampment Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 12:07 p.m.
 Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 12:52 p.m.
 Abandoned Vehicle 300blk Montana Ave 12:59 p.m.
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd E 1:14 p.m.
 Public Intoxication 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 1:21 p.m.
 Encampment 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 1:27 p.m.
 Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 00blk Pico Blvd 1:27 p.m.
 Traffic Collision With Injuries City Prop Involved 2300blk Virginia Ave 1:31 p.m.

Petty Theft 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 1:35 p.m.
 Drinking In Public 800blk Grant St 1:40 p.m.
 Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2400blk Beverley Ave 1:41 p.m.
 Petty Theft 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 2:21 p.m.
 Found Property 1000blk 12th St 2:30 p.m.
 Vehicle Parked In Alley 1600blk 14th St 2:31 p.m.
 Found Property 800blk 3rd St 2:36 p.m.
 Exhibition Of Speed 2600blk Barnard Way 2:43 p.m.
 Encampment Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 2:43 p.m.
 Fraud 1000blk 19th St 2:49 p.m.
 Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk 6th St 3:04 p.m.
 Petty Theft 23rd St / Pearl St 3:04 p.m.
 Domestic Violence 1400blk 5th St 3:29 p.m.
 Found Property 1400blk 2nd St 3:34 p.m.
 Abandoned Vehicle 1900blk 14th St 3:39 p.m.
 Traffic Collision - Unkn Injuries 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:40 p.m.
 Keep The Peace 600blk Broadway 3:46 p.m.
 Fraud 800blk 6th St 3:58 p.m.
 Indecent Exposure 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 4:57 p.m.
 Indecent Exposure 2300blk Ocean Front Walk 4:57 p.m.
 Fraud 2600blk Centinela Ave 5:07 p.m.
 Auto Burglary 200blk Bay St 5:12 p.m.
 Public Intoxication 800blk Pacific St 5:21 p.m.
 Petty Theft 500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:38 p.m.
 Domestic Violence 2nd St / Colorado Ave 5:42 p.m.
 Battery 800blk Broadway 5:55 p.m.
 Construction Noise 1200blk 17th St 6:11 p.m.
 Traffic Collision With Injuries Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 6:17 p.m.
 Petty Theft 500blk Wilshire Blvd 6:17 p.m.
 Found Property 1300blk 11th St 6:23 p.m.
 Smoking Violation 2900blk Main St 6:35 p.m.
 Battery 2300blk Main St 6:42 p.m.
 Missing Person 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:57 p.m.
 Encampment 800blk Pico Blvd 7:07 p.m.
 Grand Theft 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:34 p.m.
 Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1100blk 15th St 8:17 p.m.
 Missing Person 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:27 p.m.
 Fight Ocean Ave / Bay St 8:38 p.m.
 Lewd Activity 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 8:46 p.m.
 Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk 14th St 8:48 p.m.
 Oversize Vehicle Violation 1500blk Berkeley St 9:00 p.m.
 Party Complaint Centinela Ave / Wilshire Blvd 10:06 p.m.
 Defrauding Innkeeper 1700blk Ocean Ave 10:32 p.m.
 Battery 1300blk 26th St 10:38 p.m.
 Party Complaint 1000blk Centinela Ave 10:54 p.m.
 Battery 1300blk 26th St 11:13 p.m.
 Encampment 2400blk 3rd St 11:15 p.m.
 Exhibition Of Speed 1400blk 5th St 11:52 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 30 CALLS ON OCT. 07

EMS 2700blk Neilson Way 2:30 a.m.
 EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:49 a.m.
 EMS 2000blk Euclid St 2:56 a.m.
 EMS 1300blk 15th St 3:13 a.m.
 EMS 2000blk Euclid St 5:42 a.m.
 EMS 1400blk 11th St 7:51 a.m.
 EMS Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 8:09 a.m.
 EMS 2700blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:58 a.m.
 EMS 400blk Expo Line 9:07 a.m.
 EMS 2700blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:18 a.m.
 EMS 500blk Wilshire Blvd 10:47 a.m.
 EMS 1400blk Sunset Ave 10:54 a.m.
 Smoke Investigation 1200blk Franklin St 10:57 a.m.
 Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1200blk Lincoln Blvd 11:46 a.m.
 EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 2:04 p.m.
 Odor Investigation 2500blk 18th St 2:12 p.m.

EMS 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:28 p.m.
 EMS 1300blk Franklin St 2:32 p.m.
 EMS 1200blk Ocean Ave 3:47 p.m.
 EMS 600blk Bay St 3:59 p.m.
 EMS 1300blk 15th St 4:32 p.m.
 EMS 1100blk 7th St 5:39 p.m.
 Broken Water Main 1100blk Georgina Ave 5:48 p.m.
 EMS 1200blk 16th St 5:48 p.m.
 EMS 1400blk 17th St 5:58 p.m.
 Automatic Alarm 1100blk 7th St 6:10 p.m.
 Traffic Collision With Injury Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 6:17 p.m.
 EMS 2300blk Main St 6:56 p.m.
 EMS 1200blk 17th St 7:24 p.m.
 EMS 1000blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:27 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 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

SMPD Officers responded to a radio call regarding Fraud that had taken place at the Wyndham Hotel. The Officers spoke with a hotel representative who stated that Deantoiné Wade had booked three rooms with a fraudulent credit card. The hotel's Human Resources Manager had contacted the bank and was told that the card owner lived in a different state and that the card had been fraudulently used beginning September 21. The hotel representative advised that Wade was on the premises and directed officers to his location. Deantoiné Charles Wade was booked on a 530.5(a) PC- Identity Theft and was released with a citation, per COVID-19 guidelines.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

Richard Mollica Named Acting Planning Director as Planning Director Bonnie Blue Prepares to Move on from Malibu

On October 7, 2020, Assistant Planning Director Richard Mollica has been named the Acting Planning Director for the City of Malibu effective October 21, 2020. After five years as the City's Planning Director and a total of 14 years working for the City, Bonnie Blue announced plans to relocate to her home state of Florida to be closer to her family. Bonnie will be stepping down from her current role on October 20, 2020 following the October 19, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting. During her time with the City, Bonnie shepherded many planning initiatives including the Dark Skies Ordinance, the Formula Retail Ordinance and Fire-Resistant Landscape Ordinance to protect Malibu's rural resident character and unique natural environment.

"Having served as a Planning Commissioner for over six years, I know first-hand what a competent, professional job Bonnie has done leading the City's Planning Department and I am very pleased that Richard Mollica will be serving in this acting capacity," said Mayor Mikke Pierson.

After graduating from Malibu High School, Richard Mollica earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California Los Angeles and a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California Irvine. Richard is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners and has worked for the City for over 15 years in various roles within the Planning Department. In recent years, Richard has helped manage the planning process for the City's fire rebuild effort making it easier for residents to rebuild. Richard was promoted to Assistant Planning Director in July 2019.

The Planning Department is responsible for assisting the community in planning for the future and helping guide growth consistent with the community vision. Planning Department staff provide professional advice and services in a wide range of areas to members of the public, applicants, outside agencies, Planning Commission, and City Council. Planning Department functions include current planning, long-range planning, code enforcement, and staff support for commissions and committees including the Planning Commission.

Naming Richard Mollica as Acting Planning Director will ensure continuity of planning services while the City continues its search for a permanent Planning Director.

Residents, applicants and others with planning questions may contact Acting Planning Director Richard Mollica at 310-456-2489, ext. 346 or via email at rmollica@malibucity.org.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com



Letter To The Editor

By Justin Gordon

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

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Robert Lemle

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I read the Yes on Prop 19 “letter to the editor” on your site. I decided to google the name because I assumed it was a realtor, and what do you know, it was!

Proposition 19, and the ads for it, are extremely deceitful, and don’t explain the true effect if it passes. It’s a massive property tax increase for children who inherit the family home from their parents. This will lead many children who can’t afford the increased property taxes to sell it, which is why it’s sponsored by...the realtor lobby! I think it should have been disclosed that Ryan Hass is a real estate agent.

Another benefit to realtors is that it allows those over 55 to keep their tax basis on new houses up to three times! More sales for realtors!

This proposition hurts millennials and younger folks who are already having trouble buying their first home, pay enormous

property taxes if they are able to do so, and now, if they are lucky enough to inherit their parents’ home, will receive sticker shock when the property taxes get reassessed. Moreover, many first time buyers will have to compete in a market where those with a low property tax basis (i.e. people who purchased their home decades ago), can transfer that property tax basis (3 times, anywhere in the state!) to other homes, and outbid those who would have high property taxes.

There’s no “lobby” for No on 19, but I think it’s the duty of newspapers across the state to explain what will actually happen. I’m an estate planning attorney, and if my clients really understood how they would be affected, they would vote no.

Thanks for your time!

Justin Gordon, Santa Monica

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

City of Malibu Staff Teams Up With Community Volunteers to Conduct Wildfire Preparedness Outreach in Eastern Malibu Neighborhoods

The City of Malibu’s Public Safety staff teamed up with members of the Malibu CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), Sheriff’s Volunteers on Patrol (VOPs), and the volunteer Arson Watch to do direct wildfire preparedness outreach in the neighborhoods of Big Rock, Las Flores Mesa, Rambla Pacifico and Rambla Vista on September 26 and October 3.

“With mega-fires ravaging communities across California, it is more important than ever for everyone in Malibu to be prepared for the next catastrophic wildfire,” said Mayor Mikke Pierson. “I applaud the partnership between the City staff and volunteers to go directly into neighborhoods to help residents get prepared, especially in this era of information overload on the internet, social media and the news, which can lead people to tune out.”

The project was part of the City’s ongoing efforts at disaster preparedness and 2020 Wildfire Season preparedness. Those neighborhoods were selected because the eastern section of Malibu did not burn in the Woolsey Fire and has not experienced a major wildfire in years, resulting in a huge buildup of trees, vegetation and other fuel for a potential wildfire.

The staff and volunteers walked the areas to make sure the community has the latest information about the City’s Evacuation Plan, Evacuation Zones and evacuation terminology, and a copy of the City’s new Emergency Survival Guide. Between the two Saturdays, 11 teams of volunteers fanned out and contacted nearly 200 residents. The same outreach effort will be conducted in neighborhoods in central and western Malibu in the near future.

Residents were encouraged to get prepared and schedule a free Home Ignition Zone Assessment with Fire Safety Liaison Jerry Vandermeulen. The free no-obligation service provides low and no-cost recommendations for to help homeowners harden their homes against flying embers, a leading cause of homes catching on fire during wildfires. To schedule an appointment, visit www.malibucity.org/firesafety.

To see the City’s Evacuation Plan, Evacuation Zones and to search for the Zone you are in, visit www.malibucity.org/evac.

To learn how you can be better prepared for wildfires or other disasters, you can request a printed copy of Malibu’s Emergency Survival Guide or make an appointment to pick up multiple copies to distribute to your neighborhood, school or organization, contact, Sarah Kaplan, Public Safety Specialist, at skaplan@malibucity.org or 310-456-2489, ext. 368. To download or print the guide, visit www.Malibucity.org/SurvivalGuide.

To learn more about the City’s disaster preparedness efforts, visit www.malibucity.org/publicsafety.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

Santa Monica Daily Press

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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STAFF WRITERS

Brennon Dixon
brennon@smdp.com
Clara Harter
clara@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Charles Andrews,
Cynthia Citron,
Jack Neworth,
David Pizarra,
Sarah A. Spitz

PRODUCTION

Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER

Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rose Mann
rose@smdp.com



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Jack Neworth

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Super Spreader and Stupid Spreader

The day Donald Trump essentially checked himself out of Walter Reed Hospital, he put on a show returning to the White House via Marine One that landed on the South Lawn. Wearing a mask Trump walked slowly up the stairs but not bad for an obese 74-year-old man with Covid-19. (That said, he was high as a kite on steroids.)

Reminiscent of the fascist Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, he stood on the balcony and saluted the exiting helicopter. (Benito ended up hung by his ankles in the town square, which I don't care how much Aqua Net he uses, would play havoc with Trump's hair.)

Trump pulled off his mask like a macho man except his mouth looked like a goldfish as he was gasping for air. Posing for photos he directed the photographer to get so close to him she'll likely be quarantined. Then he went into the White House and exposed any poor soul. With Trump having turned the place into the new Wuhan and his being clearly off his rocker, the White House is like a combination ghost town, bio hazard and psyche ward.

With only 25 days until the election, curiously I've been thinking of when Gerald Ford assumed the presidency after Nixon resigned in disgrace. Ford gave a speech to reassure the nation, "My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over." The Trump era is so much worse than Watergate I pray Ford's second sentence can still hold true, "Our constitution works."

With Trump and Bill Barr shredding our democracy, I've come to realize how deeply I care about its survival. But Trump is more erratic by the minute. At Walter Reed he posed for a photo working at his "office" signing a document. Except, that upon closer inspection, the paper was blank!

Then Trump staged a bizarre visit of the relatively few supporters lining the street. Despite being infected "with a deadly and easily transmitted virus" (his exact words to Bob Woodward on February 7) Trump took the "Corona caravan" and waved to the Kool-Aiders from the backseat. But in doing so he exposed the helpless Secret Service to the virus. (Yes, they're trained to take a bullet for the president but not when it's the president doing the firing.)

One particularly boisterous Trumpster kept shouting "I'd gladly die for that man." If Trump rolled down the window and coughed on the guy, in two weeks his wish might come true. (Vanity Faire reports Don Jr. said of the event his father needs an intervention because "he's acting crazy," though frankly I don't know how he can tell the difference.)

At least 34 people across Trump's White

House and re-election campaign have tested positive for coronavirus and the numbers are going up daily. The list includes Melania, Chris Christie, three GOP Senators, RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel, Kelly Anne Conway, Press Secretary Kaley McEnany and political adviser/speech writer and Samohi alumnus Steven Miller. (About whom some have jokingly tweeted was voted by his graduating class as "Most likely to promote ethnic cleansing.")

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Mark A. Milley, and several members of the Pentagon's senior leadership went into quarantine after the vice commandant of the Coast Guard tested positive. In fact, it's been suggested because almost all the Joint Chiefs are quarantined, God forbid if we were attacked by a foreign adversary, we could only coordinate a counter attack if there was an available Zoom link.

Meanwhile Trump, apparently still tripping on all the drugs, declared catching Covid-19 was "a blessing from God." The side effects of Dexamethasone are: aggression, agitation, anxiety, blurred vision, dizziness, fast, slow, pounding, or irregular heartbeat or pulse headache, irritability, depression and mood changes and yet he's still carrying the nuclear codes? (To be fair, Trump had many of those conditions before he got Covid.)

It's so fitting that anti-science Trump who mocked Joe Biden at the Presidential Debate for wearing masks, only days later would come down with the virus. But Trump cavalierly commented on having Covid-19, "It's not so bad." Tell that to the families and friends of the over 210,000 Americans who have died from the deadly disease. (Since Walter Reed, as Trump has bragged how great he feels, he never once has mentioned how Melania's doing.)

And yet Trump insists, "Nobody that's a leader would not do what I did." (Say what?) David Gergen, a highly respected political adviser to four presidents and not one given to hyperbole, made an ominous statement about Trump. "The U.S. is in the grips of a madman."

During his final night in the White House, Nixon persuaded Henry Kissinger to pray with him beneath portraits of former presidents. If Trump convinced Chief of Staff Mark Meadows to do that, Meadows would likely be wearing a hazmat suit.

With Kleenex nearby, go to YouTube and type, "Covid widow's message to Trump." Few enjoyed the V.P. debate except perhaps for the fly that sat on Pence's head for over two minutes. Jack is at jackdaily@aol.com

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**SANTA
MONICA
SHINES**

Agencies team up to help build training, networking and connection services to new jobs.

JOBS

FROM PAGE 1

job preparedness organizations.

After Governor Gavin Newsom initiated the state's Stay at Home Order on March 19, many businesses were forced to shut their doors, subsequently sending home their workers and driving unemployment rates up. The State of California reached a record high for unemployment at 16.4% in May, compared to just 4% in June of 2019 according to the Employment Development Department. As regulations continue to relax, so do the numbers due to more industries reopening their doors and hiring staff back, causing a steady decline in the unemployment rate. Many people are itching to get back to work and provide for themselves and their loved ones again, but it can be difficult navigating the new job market.

The City of Santa Monica has created a one-stop resource concerning all things employment related. All you have to do is access santamonica.gov and hover your mouse over "Economic Recovery" and click on "Employment Resources" for a full list of helpful resources including free webinars, employment prep and career training resources.

This past summer, Santa Monica launched the Entrepreneur Series, a collection of six workshops designed to assist those curious about starting their own business. Former entrepreneur and Santa Monica business owner Kathleen Benjamin moderated the event which she says was a "101, how to start a business." Benjamin says that when she started her own business, she had to figure it out on her own, which can be complex and confusing for new entrepreneurs. She said the series was meant to help local entrepreneurs navigate their ventures in a collaborative setting.

The workshop was a hit, covering topics ranging from what it takes to start your own business, how to form a business plan and understanding how to properly execute your ideas and make it a reality. Local experts were invited to speak, including Paul Helmy of Matthew Edward Cavanaugh, a mortgage company, Kera Blades of Blades & Associates and many more. Community Service Program Coordinator and organizer of the series, Michael Jackson, says that they are contemplating having a second series sometime after the New Year, but is happy that he was able to "be able to help people walk through finding their skillset."

Due to the success of the virtual series, City of Santa Monica's Economic

Development Task Force, which leads the city's accelerated economic recovery, saw it fit to introduce the Ready to Work Webinar on September 23: a two-hour, free webinar hosted by local employment agencies over Zoom, to assist with job search, employment prep, career training and career change efforts. The team partnered with local agencies, including JVS WorkSource, Hospitality Training Academy, Chrysalis, Santa Monica College - Noncredit Initiatives, SMMUSD Adult Education Center, and Santa Monica Public Library to assist community members in their search for their new career. The webinar discussed the fundamentals of the hiring process and seeks to match residents seeking work with local opportunities through these hiring and training development agencies. The Spanish language version of the webinar was presented on September 30. Both webinars were recorded and are available on the Job Resources webpage. This is

all part of a bigger priority, initiated by the Economic Recovery Task Force to drive businesses to hire locally.

One participating agency is JVS WorkSource, a great destination for low-income residents and youths to generate useful skills needed to find employment, such as career assessment, coaching and training. The agency provides free employment and training services funded by Federal, state and local and private grants "to get people jobs" says Deputy Director of JVS SoCal, Katherine MaKinney. Founded in the midst of the Great Depression, JVS SoCal utilizes federal, state and private grants to support their mission by providing free career assessment tests, career coaching and training which will give those most in need a platform to search for their new job or career. Although the workforce looks different during this time, MaKinney says that "there are plenty of jobs" out there and that "personal ambition and determination

is key."

For many industries in the field, a college degree or some level of training is required for employment, but an old dog can absolutely learn new tricks, especially when the community is cheering you on. Santa Monica College has a great catalog of free, non-credit initiatives "designed to help folks who have barriers to employment" and help "transition into college or want to transition into a career" according to Project Manager of the non-credit initiative program, Ashley Mejia. The non-credit initiatives do not replace a degree, nor does it offer credit towards one, but they do offer valuable skills needed to help you enter the workforce and are "a no-risk option" for many people, says Mejia.

There are resources in multiple languages, SMC offers an English as a Second Language (ESL) course that supports students with reading, writing, and speaking English. Additionally, the course prepares interested noncitizens for the USCIS citizenship exam,



oral interview, and offers help with the N-400 application. Other workshops include free computer basics courses that teach you the basics of Microsoft Office programs, free early care and education classes for those wanting to work with young children in child care and education, as well as courses in sustainability, healthcare and business. The flexible courses allow you to explore options for your education without the burden of worrying about grades, financial aid or degree progress, while still giving you the tools necessary to learn the basics of your desired industry. Once you complete the course, Mejia says that they refer their students to JVS SoCal for further assistance in career coaching, training and to help place them in their desired industry.

Santa Monica's hospitality industry provided robust employment and tax revenues over the last few years however, travel employers and workers have been by far the hardest hit of any U.S. industry by the effects of COVID-19, causing a temporary halt to the travel industry. As we carry on further into 2020, travel and tourism is slowly but steadily increasing and many Santa Monica hotels, restaurants and other "must-see and -do" businesses within the destination are looking to hire once again.

Now that you have mastered your skills,

it's time to put them to the test and start the application process. To assist you in your search, the Santa Monica Public Library (SMPL) has compiled a docket of information with links to professional job listing sights, ways to research possible careers and companies, as well as resources to help improve your resume and cover letter, which can be found under the "employment resources" tab on santamonica.gov. Anyone with their own Santa Monica Library Card can also access the Brainfuse Adult Learning Center where they offer "live guidance on various subjects at basic, intermediate, and advanced levels, tips on using software like Microsoft Office, and even citizenship test preparation and guidance" according to SMPL Youth and Family Services Coordinator, Lenore St. John. You can also access Brainfuse's JobNow platform meant to provide additional resources and career tools for Veterans. With the proper tools in your back-pocket, there will be no stopping you on your career search.

As businesses open their doors and the economy begins to restart, dedicated workers will become the backbone of the COVID-19 economic recovery effort set out nation-wide. Whether you lost your job at the beginning of all this, or it gave you the push you needed to start your

dream career, the City of Santa Monica will lend their services to you and provide the community support needed to overcome this

moment in time. Stay informed of the latest employment resources at santamonica.gov/economicrecovery/jobresourcesupdates.



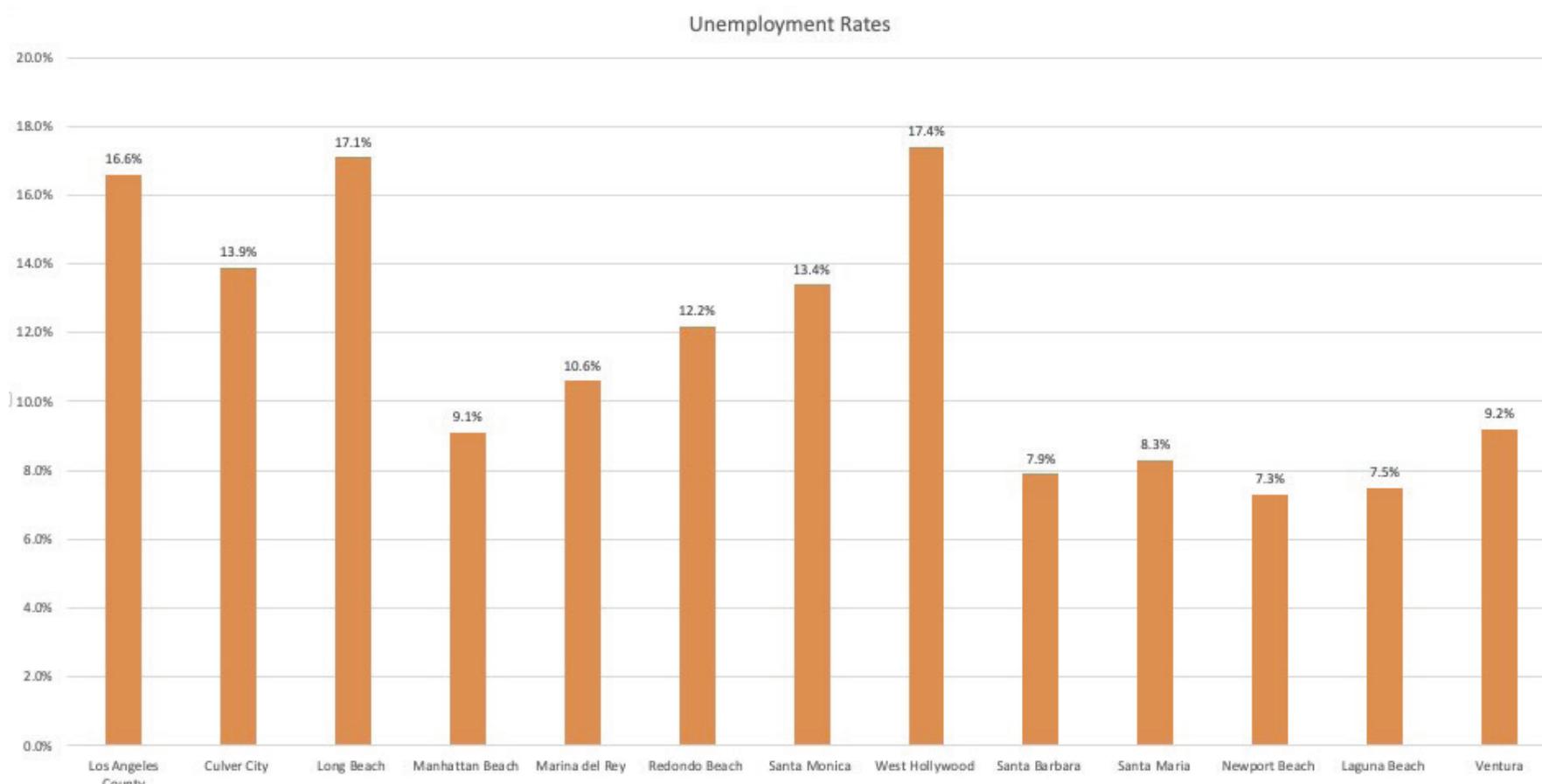
Assurance businesses program

Look for the Santa Monica Shines COVID-19 Assurance program seals in the storefronts of Santa Monica businesses. These businesses have gone above and beyond to ensure you feel safe and comfortable.

- Big Dean's
- Blazing Saddles Beach Rentals and Tours
- Le Meridian Delfina Santa Monica
- Lunetta
- Main Street Visitor Center
- Meat on Ocean
- Pacific Park
- Perry's Cafe and Beach Rentals 1200 PCH
- Perry's Cafe and Beach Rentals 930 PCH
- Perry's Cafe and Beach Rentals 2600 PCH
- Physical Therapyworks

- Rusty's
- Sea Blue Hotel
- Solstice Sunglasses
- The Albright
- The William Warren Group
- Tidbits by Dialogue
- Trapeze School New York
- Viceroy
- Water Grill
- Westside Music Conservatory

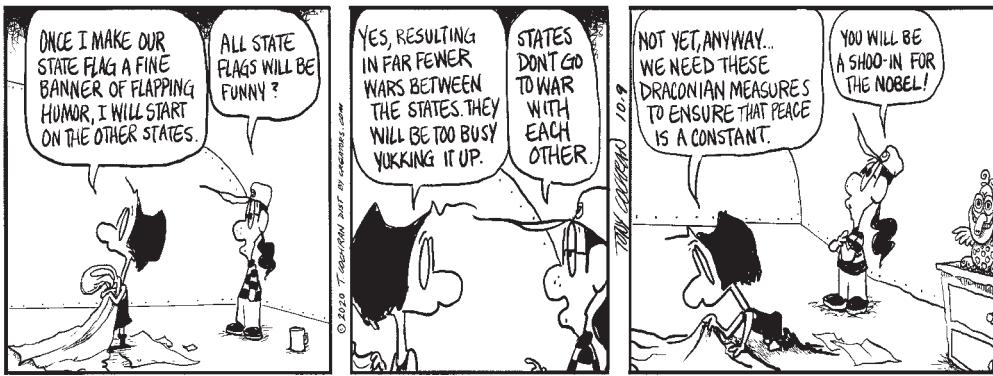
REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



Santa Monica's unemployment rate is 2.2% lower than Los Angeles County, but is higher than neighboring Marina Del Rey and Manhattan Beach.

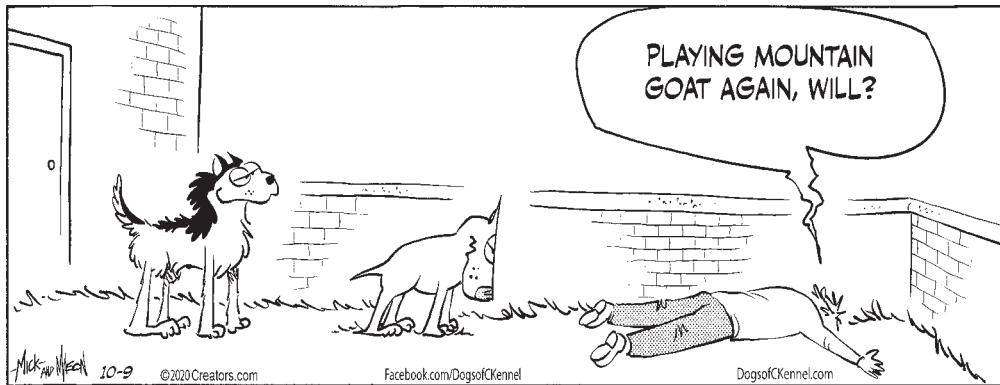
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

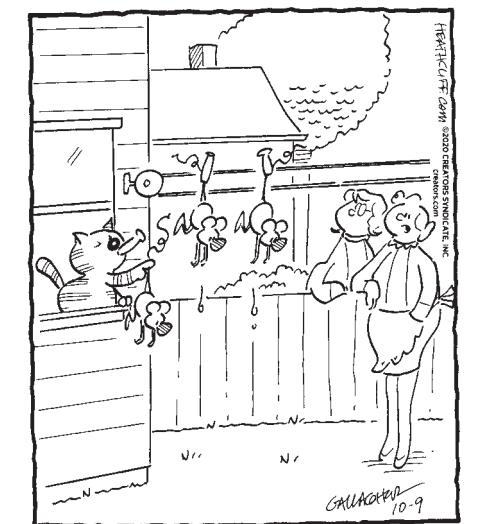


Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



SURF REPORT

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 69.6°

FRIDAY - FAIR - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high

SW swell creeps up through the day -- most size west of Pt Dume. Clean in AM and should be rideable, especially for big boards.

SATURDAY - FAIR - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high

Small SW swell holds. Should be cleanest/best in the AM for most spots. Some onshore wind bump for the PM at open and exposed breaks

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 67.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 65.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/10/09	Fri	2:33 PM	4.53	H
2020/10/09	Fri	11:12 PM	0.86	L
2020/10/10	Sat	07:10 AM	3.69	H
2020/10/10	Sat	10:38 AM	3.44	L
2020/10/10	Sat	4:18 PM	4.62	H
2020/10/11	Sun	12:07 AM	0.49	L
2020/10/11	Sun	07:18 AM	4.01	H
2020/10/11	Sun	11:56 AM	2.98	L
2020/10/11	Sun	5:35 PM	4.95	H
2020/10/12	Mon	12:50 AM	0.16	L
2020/10/12	Mon	07:36 AM	4.39	H
2020/10/12	Mon	12:46 PM	2.35	L
2020/10/12	Mon	6:35 PM	5.33	H
2020/10/13	Tue	01:27 AM	-0.08	L
2020/10/13	Tue	07:58 AM	4.84	H
2020/10/13	Tue	1:31 PM	1.65	L
2020/10/13	Tue	7:27 PM	5.64	H
2020/10/14	Wed	02:02 AM	-0.17	L
2020/10/14	Wed	08:24 AM	5.32	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
 Draw Date: 10/07
 6 24 30 53 56
 Power#: 19
 Jackpot: 62 M

Fantasy 5
 Draw Date: 10/07
 3 20 22 34 37

MEGA MILLIONS
 Draw Date: 10/06
 15 16 18 39 59
 Mega#: 17
 Jackpot: 60 M

Daily 3
 Draw Date: 10/07
 Evening: 2 0 1
 Draw Date: 10/07
 Midday: 8 9 5

SuperLotto PLUS
 Draw Date: 10/07
 38 41 42 43 45
 Mega#: 25
 Jackpot: 16 M

Daily Derby
 Draw Date: 10/07
 1st: 06 - WHIRL WIN
 2nd: 03 - HOT SHOT
 3rd: 02 - LUCKY STAR
 RACE TIME: 1:43.54

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (OCTOBER 09)

Once you decide that something is for you, you follow through with passion, creativity and commitment, qualities that eventually add up to experiences few in the world have been privy to. Friendship turns into a working arrangement, and most auspiciously so! You'll be able to help family in the ways you've dreamed of. Virgo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 8, 50, 23 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No matter how dreamy an experience may be, there's going to be a point in which the fun becomes work. Also, work will get to a similar turn and become something you can't help but smile through.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You thought that if you didn't stay true to a certain belief, you wouldn't be you. But here you are, years later, having let go of the belief long ago and you're still somehow you -- simultaneously changed and unchanged.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The hotter a relationship is, the more attention it needs. It's happening in a skillet, not a crockpot. There's no "set it and forget it" mode. It needs constant watching and stirring to keep from going up in

flames.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As the expert fisher knows, what you catch often has to do with the lure. Different bait brings different fish. Of course, if someone's very hungry, then they'll bite on whatever you decide to put on the hook.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Does someone seem dependent on your reaction? The less internally motivated a person is, the more they need external validation. You'll come across those who need to see the reaction of others to feel relevant, important and alive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The result you want is going to take a whole lot of work. Even if you want that result very badly, the prize won't be enough. You have to be in love with

the work itself for this to happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The best ideas are not for everyone. Thankfully, you've a strong sense of purpose and do not have to feel understood or validated to feel good about who you are and what you're doing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Either you don't see your own strengths or you're just bored by them. This is why you need to be around new people. They'll see you as remarkable, and you should definitely let them fawn over you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Underserved things happen all the time. Those stuck in the model of "deserving" will be too busy making judgments to get results. It's better to think in terms of cause and effect -- of actions and

consequences.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Art is highly subjective. If absolutely everyone likes it, it's probably not very good. The best art pushes boundaries. In many ways, you're an artist, and a particularly bold one right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Control what you can. The trouble sets in when people mistakenly believe they have more or less control than they do. Good living depends on knowing what you have power over and focusing on that.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The bottom line is that you feel more vital around certain people. Or, more to the point, there are people who seem able to drain your very essence, and they are to be avoided today.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

BEAR WITH US by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Toasted treats
- 5 Preteen toon since '87
- 9 Post-coup council
- 14 Home of Interstate H1
- 15 Six-sided state
- 16 Piccolos' frequent neighbors
- 17 Alternative to Will
- 18 What's so "___ next"
- 20 What Carson warned about
- 21 Last silent-era holdout
- 22 One of the Balkans
- 24 BABY BEAR
- 27 Ivy Leaguer
- 28 Text "Alternatively . . ."
- 29 Toll payee: Abbr.
- 32 Seams right
- 33 Chekhov sister
- 34 Very little
- 35 SMOKEY BEAR
- 39 Financial pledge
- 40 Apportion sounding like "plenty"
- 41 Former home of many Oxonians
- 42 Longtime NBC staple
- 43 Newman's same-initials *Hud* costar
- 44 Varieties
- 46 YOGI BEAR
- 49 Last-place team's admission
- 52 Fell in a forest
- 53 Freed (of)

- 54 Southwestern World Heritage site
- 55 It means "entire"
- 57 Mocha ___
- 58 Houston sch.
- 59 Powerful team members
- 60 Star pair, in the papers
- 61 Is forbidden to, old-style
- 62 Small bouquet
- 63 Cone droppers

DOWN

- 1 Makes heavy, as Helvetica
- 2 Saw
- 3 "What a shame!"
- 4 Arithmetic exercise
- 5 Jumper's gear
- 6 Every thing, essentially

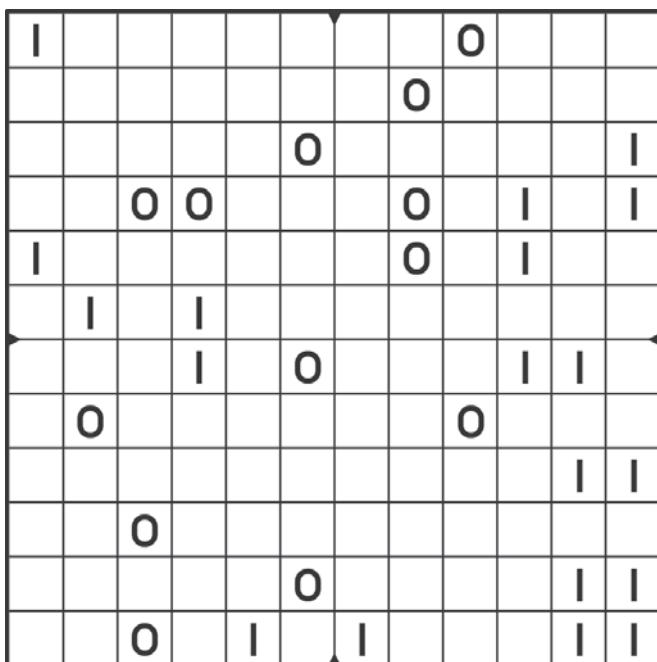
- 7 Mall or gym frequenter
- 8 Best Picture before *Argo*
- 9 One of *The View's* first panelists
- 10 Vessel of the World Wars
- 11 Any thing
- 12 Actress Hatcher
- 13 ". . . against ___ of troubles"
- 21 Millennium's beginning
- 23 Spaghetti western director
- 25 Dictionary's alternate spelling
- 26 Largest of the British Virgin Islands
- 29 Influential posters

- 30 Traditional Old West border
- 31 Acute
- 32 Amélie's "am"
- 33 Fly Hawaiian Airlines, perhaps
- 36 Scurried around
- 37 Court pick after Sonia
- 38 Bought or sold
- 44 Dresden's state
- 45 What some rail cars carry
- 46 Rugged bunch
- 47 Barn bundles
- 48 *Dilbert* drawer
- 49 Amiable
- 50 Director Kazan
- 51 Somewhat improper
- 56 Tic-tac-toe nonwinner
- 57 Smucker spread

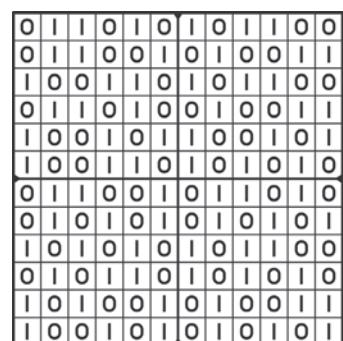
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21				22	23					
24			25				26							
	27						28				29	30	31	
32							33				34			
35					36	37					38			
39					40						41			
42					43					44	45			
				46						47				48
49	50	51						52					53	
54						55	56				57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE



"The City of Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned, diligent news coverage." - Terry Francke, Journalist

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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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4896

Newspapers

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------|---------|
| Anchor | Editor | Inquiry | Prime |
| Anger | Enus | Issues | Radio |
| Articles | Extra | Item | Rush |
| Bank | Films | Jobs | Sadness |
| Beat | Fine | Lead | Sell |
| Births | Flash | News | Sport |
| Care | Fonts | Notes | Trial |
| Check | Gigs | O'Brien | Truth |
| Community | Guilty | Obituary | Wars |
| Concise | Hall | Op-ed | |
| Copy | Harvey | Overseas | |
| Crew | Hook | Phillips | |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

English is a tricky tongue

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Miscellaneous

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VIRTUAL GALA

FROM PAGE 1

a delicious to-go dinner from Lunetta.

"Santa Monica has such a rich and vibrant history. Our gala dinner helps us tremendously with operational support, program support, and really assists us in being able to provide the service that the history of Santa Monica deserves," said John Klopping, Museum Manager.

During the celebration, which will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., the museum will celebrate its two honorees: The League of Women Voters, as 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, and Frontline Healthcare Workers, as they risk their health to protect our community.

Dinner tickets are \$150 and can be purchased online or by calling the museum. There will also be a link provided to join the virtual event for free, so everyone can participate in celebrating Santa Monica's History, which Klopping says is far more complex and surprising than the average resident may assume.

"There are a lot of really cool things that Santa Monica has been involved in over the years that you wouldn't really think Santa Monica contributed to. For example, Santa Monica had a very big impact within the suffrage movement. On display we have a Miramar Hotel guest book signed by Susan B. Anthony and Reverend Ann Shaw, during their 1895 visit to Santa Monica to rally support for the statewide suffrage ballot," said Klopping.

This is part of the Museum's ongoing "All is Possible: Women's Suffrage in California" exhibit, which will be presented during the virtual tour portion of the gala. Since the

ECO-FRIENDLY BUILDINGS

FROM PAGE 1

Fires can spread from a single ember floating from one house to another. As neither the EPS foam nor the steel in mnmMOD's panels will support flame, mnmMOD structures will not spread wildfires, offering protection to the homeowners and their surrounding community.

"It's the future of building. Now we are constantly building and burning homes and rebuilding them the same way. Instead we have a solution that we really want to get out there and have more people know about," said Erla.

In addition to their fire resistant properties, these panels have many cost saving and environmental benefits. They are made from 30 percent recycled content and are 40 percent more energy efficient than a traditionally-built home. mnmMOD panels are also 98 percent recyclable, provide state-of-the-field insulation, and do not support mold, termites, or warping.

"Around 30 percent of wood in construction ends up in landfill. We wanted to make something that would be prefabricated, because in a factory you can recycle things that are not usable, but on a job site it all gets mixed in a big container," said Tryggvi. "You can't manufacture something and put the responsibility on the consumer. As a manufacturer you have to be responsible for the entire project of the recyclability."

Erla and Tryggvi founded mnmMOD in Santa Monica in 1999, and were at the vanguard of non-flammable building designs. The first panels were built at a small factory at the Santa Monica airport and the first house was constructed on Superba Ave in Venice.

"We both come from Iceland and I think our love of Santa Monica has something to do with

outbreak of the pandemic, the museum has shut its doors and pivoted to a wide range of virtual activities.

"We've been working really hard at making sure our social media really reflects Santa Monica's History. We share fun facts, tips for storing your own archival photographs, and information on our current exhibitions. We also started creating narrated slideshows where our archivist picks a topic, like Muscle Beach, and picks photos that follow the history of it," said Klopping.

In addition, the Museum team has been updating the website so the public can access its wide range of historic photographs and exhibitions, and discover surprising episodes in Santa Monica's history—such as the Battle of Santa Monica Bay.

"The Battle of Santa Monica Bay is a history of the Rex gambling ship which was in the Santa Monica Bay right around 1938 to 1939. The police would raid it quite frequently because there were these interpretations of the law as to where a ship could be anchored to allow people to gamble," said Klopping. "The final decision by the California Supreme Court led to the final raid on the Rex. Law enforcement officials got out to the boat and Tony Cornero refused to give it up and he held out for ten days with giant water cannons."

Those interested in learning more fascinating stories about Santa Monica can support the museum by attending its gala dinner. For sponsorship or donation information, contact John Klopping (310) 395-2290, jklopping@santamonicahistory.org

Clara@smdp.com

the ocean breeze, us being islanders," said Erla.

"Is there anything on the other side of the 405? I don't know yet," said Tryggvi. "We love the City. We have three daughters, they all use the school system here — it's a fantastic town."

mnmMOD panels are fully customizable, so customers can design any home layout they would like. The panels form the frame of the house, while the plumbing, wiring, and furnishing can be completed by any company the customer chooses.

The panels are very similar in cost to traditional wood framing, but extra savings come down the line as the panels do not have termites, warp, rot, mold or mildew, according to Chris Gardener, Project Manager at mnmMOD.

"The insulation quality of the EPS foam we use is very high so the electricity you use in the home is minimized and your savings continue on," said Gardener. "The money saving is also in construction. Due to our panels being prefabricated at the factory, when they arrive at the site you just put them up and screw in place, there is no carpenter or framer necessary."

When mnmMOD was launched in 1999, it was one of the only companies looking into these alternative building methods. Today the flame-proof building market is growing, but according to Erla and Tryggvi it's not growing quick enough.

"We hope this building technique will become more mainstream in the future. My hope is that we don't see houses that were just rebuilt burn down again, and again, and again, and that we can be part of a change," said Erla.

"We want to do something good for this world," said Tryggvi. "Leave it better than when we came."

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