11th Street Historic District wins long-delayed approval

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Landmarks Commission has recommended City Council designate a strip of bungalows along 11th Street as Santa Monica’s fourth historic district. The commission voted Monday night to support creating a historic district from ten buildings on 11th Street between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue, seven of which are houses in California bungalow, Craftsman and Spanish revival styles built between 1905 and 1925. It will be the city’s first historic district east of 7th Street and is intended to preserve a style of architecture built for the working class as Santa Monica expanded east from the beach in the early 20th century. Local groups Mid-City Neighborhoods and Friends of 11th Street have been trying to protect the bungalows from demolition or alteration since 1989, when one of the bungalows was demolished to make room for a three-story apartment building. Members say homes in California bungalow and Craftsman styles once abounded in Santa Monica but have been demolished at the rate of about two per year since the late 1980s.

The commission voted against recognizing 11th Street as a historic district in 1989, but the two groups decided to initiate the process again this past January.

The commission considered the proposal at its Nov. 12 meeting but decided to continue its discussion to Dec. 10. In November, some commissioners indicated they did not think the proposed district contained enough historical buildings to justify creating a district but voted unanimously in favor of the proposal on Monday.

“The commission considered this district in 1989 and it failed, so it’s going to take a lot more evidence to show us the benefit of creating a historic district,” Commissioner Marsden Donahue said.

Former City Councilman Zuma Donohue, who chairs the commission, said he believes the buildings are significant enough to warrant the protection the district would provide.

SMC’s new member to leverage healthcare knowledge for student careers

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor’s Note: This article is the first in a series on newcomers to City Council, the Rent Control Board and the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees. Greg Morena, Naomi Sultan and Sion Roy were sworn in Tuesday night.

The new member of the board that governs Santa Monica College plans to focus on preparing local high school students to succeed at the college and use his connections with hospitals in the area to explore expanding the college’s healthcare curricula.

Sion Roy, a cardiologist at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and UCLA professor, will use his new role as a Santa Monica College trustee to create a dialogue between hospitals like UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and Providence Saint John’s Health Center around training students for the healthcare field. More than 10 healthcare specialties have workforce shortages in California, Roy said.

“They offer great jobs for students of all types,” he said. “This would be similar to what we’ve done in offering partnerships with the tech field in the past two years.”

Roy also plans to focus on improving outcomes for SMC students who matriculate from Santa Monica High School or Malibu High School. Only 18 percent of those students come to SMC college-ready in English and math, he said.

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What's Up Westside

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WEDNESDAY
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New SMC Board member to leverage healthcare knowledge for student careers

MAKELE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

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SMC’s 41st Holiday Art Sale Returns This Weekend

This weekend, Santa Monica College’s annual Holiday Art Sale is back for its 41st year. Featuring creative works by both students and faculty, the three-day event will offer fine art in media ranging from ceramics, glass, and sculpture to painting, prints, and jewelry. Proceeds from the sale help support the SMC Art Department. Hosted in Barrett Art Gallery at the college’s Broad Performing Arts Center, the sale will run from Friday through Sunday.

Semi-Private Music Lessons for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

Music is big in Santa Monica with schools acting almost as feeder systems for orchestras and ensembles. SMMUSD students routinely perform around the city at various events and now

Angel Carreras
Daily Press Staff Writer

Student wellbeing, music and more fill the agenda of the Thursday, December 13, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District meeting.

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what’s up westside ........................................

wildfire cleanup ................................. PAGE 3

Tangler time ...................................... PAGE 5

crime watch ...................................... PAGE 8

Mystery photo ................................. PAGE 9

see approval page 7

see debate page 6

see healthcare page 7
If someone in your life has passed, you probably aren’t the only one who will miss them.

Inform the public of the passing of a loved one, friend, or coworker in the Daily Press. An obituary is a wonderful way to commemorate someone's life as well as to give information on when a funeral or memorial will take place.

**Wednesday, Dec. 12**

**Montana Mystery Book Group: The Dry**
Receiving a sinister anonymous note after his best friend’s suspicious death, federal agent Aaron Falk is forced to confront the fallout of a 20-year-old false alibi against a backdrop of the worst drought Melbourne has seen in a century. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

**Mindful Meditation**
Instructor Henry Schipper, graduate of UCLA’s Mindful Awareness program, teaches the basics of Mindful meditation. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main, 7 – 8 p.m.

**Holiday Pajama Storytime**
Kids can wear PJs and bring your favorite stuffed animal to get cozy with holiday stories. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main, 6:30 – 7 p.m.

**Cocoa & Canvas**
Just for teens! Sip hot cocoa while you create your own masterpiece with PAINT:LAB. Limited space; registration required. Sign-up in person or call (310) 458-8682. For grades 6-12. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**Movie screen of Climate Warriors**
Climate Warriors is a unique cinematic documentary that motivates everybody to become part of the climate warrior movement. A Panel discussion moderated by Bronwyn Major, Community Organizer, Surfer, Activist will take place after the film. Aero Theater, 1328 Montana Ave. 7 p.m. Please reserve your seats at https://climatewarriors-screening.eventbrite.com.

**Thursday, Dec. 13**

**Gallery Open**
Annenberg Community Beach House 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Trump administration asks Supreme Court to allow asylum ban

The Trump administration is asking the Supreme Court to allow enforcement of a ban on asylum for any immigrants who illegally cross the border.

Two federal courts have temporarily blocked the policy President Donald Trump announced in November in response to caravans of migrants that were approaching the border. Last week, the federal appeals court in San Francisco said the ban is inconsistent with federal law and an attempted end-run around Congress.

The administration said in its filing that the nationwide order preventing the policy from taking effect “is deeply flawed” and should be lifted pending an appeal that could reach the high court.

Trump’s proclamation is among measures that “are designed to channel asylum seekers to ports of entry, where their claims can be processed in an orderly manner; deter unlawful and dangerous border crossings; and reduce the backlog of meritless asylum claims,” Solicitor General Noel Francisco wrote in his Supreme Court filing.

Lee Belenrt, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer representing immigrant advocacy groups challenging the asylum policy, said, “The Trump administration is asking the Supreme Court to bypass the normal judicial process and reinstate a blatantly unlawful policy.”

Justice Elena Kagan, who handles emergency appeals from California and other western states, called for a response from opponents of the asylum policy by midday Monday.

In the first court ruling on the issue, U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar said on Nov.19 that U.S. law allows immigrants to request asylum regardless of whether they entered the country legally.

The president “may not rewrite the immigration laws to impose a condition that Congress has expressly forbidden,” the judge said in his order.

The ruling prompted Trump’s criticism of Tigar as an “Obama judge” and led to an unusual public dispute between Trump and Chief Justice John Roberts, who rebuked the president with a statement defending the judiciary’s independence.

NEW YORK

Study finds female-led films outperform male ones

Female-led films have consistently outperformed male-led movies at the box office, according to a study initiated by Time’s Up, the organization formed by prominent women in the entertainment industry to promote gender equality.

The study analyzed the 350 top-grossing films worldwide released between January 2014 and December 2017. Researchers found that in films with small, medium and large budgets, all averaged better global grosses when a woman was listed as the lead star.

Conducted by the talent agency Creative Artists Agency and the tech company shift7, the study found that films that passed the Bechdel test do better, too. The Bechdel test, an invention of the cartoonist Alison Bechdel, rates whether a movie features two female characters having a conversation about something other than a man.

Researchers found every $1 billion film at the box office – including films like “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” “Jurassic World” and “Beauty and the Beast” – passed the Bechdel test. Among films that failed the Bechdel test, and grossed more than $100 million to make, the ones that passed the Bechdel test grossed on average $618 million worldwide, while those that didn’t averaged $413 million.

“Women comprise half the box office, yet there has been an assumption in the industry that female-led films led were generally less successful,”CAA agent Christy Haugbog, who participated in the research, said in a statement. “We found that the data does not support that assumption.”

For budget data and determining lead actor, researchers depended on data from the Nielsen’s box-office data collection company Gracenote. Gracenote’s Studio System defines a “female-led” film as one that was written, directed and produced by women.

Of the 350 films studied, 105 qualified as female-led and 245 registered as male-led. The greatest gap was in larger budgeted films. In movies with a budget greater than $100 million, there were 75 male-led films and 19 female-led films.

The study was headed by a group that formed through Time’s Up, including Amy Pascal, former chairman of Sony Pictures. Earlier research by academics has chronicled similar rates of inequality in top-grossing Hollywood releases, and the financial benefits of inclusion.

“This analysis affirms data showing that diversity has a positive impact on a company’s bottom line,” said Lisa Borders, Time’s Up president and chief executive. “As studios consider their fiduciary responsibilities to their investors, these findings offer a clear approach to delivering the best results.”

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles deputy charged in unarmed man’s death

A deputy with the nation’s largest sheriff’s department was charged Tuesday with voluntary manslaughter in what a prosecutor said was the “unjustified and unreasonable” fatal shooting of an unarmed man – a move that marked the first time in more than 18 years a police officer in the massive county has been charged in an on-duty shooting.

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputy Luke Liu pleaded not guilty in the shooting death of 26-year-old Francisco Garcia. Liu’s bond was set at $1 million.

“We believe the officer’s use of deadly force was unjustified and unreasonable under the circumstances,” District Attorney Jackie Lacey said in a statement.

Liu was on patrol in February 2016 when he pulled behind a car at a gas station that he thought may have been stolen and approached the driver, Garcia, according to prosecutors.

Liu went toward the back of the car, and when he returned to the front seconds later, Garcia began to drive away at about 5 mph (8 kph), they said.

That’s when Liu pulled his gun, ran alongside the car and fired seven shots at Garcia, hitting him four times, prosecutors said. At the time, sheriff’s officials said Liu opened fire because he saw Garcia reach for something in the backseat.枝他 said he was hit by the car, suffering minor injuries. 

Evidence in the case includes multiple witness statements and video, they said.

Liu, a 10-year veteran of the force who has been on desk duty since the shooting, was placed on administrative leave Monday, the sheriff’s department said in a statement.

“The (department) has complete confidence in the criminal justice system and the public we serve,” the statement said. “The facts will be presented, and the ultimate outcome of the case will be determined in a court of law.”

If convicted, Liu faces up to 21 years in prison. At Liu’s hearing Tuesday, sheriff’s officials filled a couple rows in the courtroom in a show of support.

The union that represents more than 7,800 sheriff’s deputies said in a statement that its membership was standing behind Liu “based on the information that is available to us about the scene he encountered” at the gas station.

“Our own experiences in these dangerous and high-risk scenarios affirm our belief that a deputy, or any sworn peace officer, has the right to use force to protect themselves and members of the public,” said the statement from the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sherrifs.

“Based on what we know, Deputy Liu’s in-the-moment actions were justifiable.”

The union said that Garcia also was on meth, was in fast driving a stolen car, and that he disobeyed orders “while speeding away,” hitting Liu with his car.

Liu has never had any previous disciplinary issues and once received a life-saving award for his actions, the union said.

Lacey said in a statement that “there is an inherent danger for law enforcement officers every time they put on the uniform.”

“We applaud their dedication and bravery to make split-second decisions in potentially life-threatening situations,” she said. “But we also must hold them accountable when their conduct is unlawful.”

Lacey and her office have been criticized for declining to charge officers involved in on-duty shootings for years, including a case in which the Los Angeles police chief made a rare move by announcing that his officer should be criminally prosecuted.

Lacey said in March that prosecutors declined to charge Officer Clifford Proctor because they couldn’t prove he acted unlawfully when he shot Brendan Glenn in the back in 2015 in Venice. The 29-year-old Glenn was on his stomach and trying to push himself up when Proctor shot him, police said.

The last officer to be charged with shooting a civilian, Los Angeles police Officer Ronald Grosco, was sentenced to five years in prison. He pleaded no contest to shooting an unarmed driver in the back in September 2000, the man survived.

SAN FRANCISCO

California wildfires cleanup to cost at least $3 billion

State and federal authorities estimated Tuesday that it will cost at least $3 billion to clear debris from 19,000 homes and businesses destroyed by three California wildfires last month.

The disaster relief officials said the cleanup costs will far surpass the record cleanup expense of $1.3 billion the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers spent on debris removal in Northern California in 2017.

California Office of Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilarducci said the state will manage cleanup contracts this time. Hundreds of Northern California homeowners complained contractors last year paid by the ton hauled away too much dirt and damaged unprotected driveways, sidewalks and pipes. The state OES spent millions of dollars repairing that damage.

Ghilarducci said the state OES will hire auditors and monitors to watch over the debris removal in hopes of cutting down on the number of over-eager contractors.

“We learned a great number of things,” last year, Ghilarducci said.

He said the U.S. Corps of Engineers was asked to lead the effort last year because state resources were stretched thin after responding to more than a dozen wildfires. This year, he said state officials can manage the cleanup and costs will be shared among state, federal and local authorities.

He said he expects the cleanup to begin in January and take about a year to complete. State and federal officials are currently removing hazardous household materials from the damaged properties.

Most of the work will occur in Northern California, where the state’s most destructive wildfire destroyed the city of Paradise.

Insurance companies estimate the industry will face at least $10 billion in claims from homeowners and businesses destroyed or damaged in the latest wildfires.

California Insurance Commissioner said the carriers received $11.8 billion in claims because of the 2017 wine country fires.

Jones has warned increasing risk from wildfires in California could prompt insurers to raise premiums or decline to sell policies entirely to homes in high-risk areas.

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Los Angeles-area development approved in high fire zone

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

The tension between the need for more housing in California and the danger of building in fire-prone mountains collided Tuesday as Los Angeles County supervisors approved a massive rural housing development.

The supervisors voted 4-1 to grant final approval for the development amid a statewide housing shortage, high rents and a very visible homelessness crisis as recent wildfires have drawn attention to the danger of building in rural terrain that rings California’s urban areas.

The 19,000 home Centennial project at Tejon Ranch off Interstate 5 in rugged mountains that separate Los Angeles from the Central Valley to the north has been in the works for two decades.

While supporters touted the number of homes that would be built, including 18 percent affordable units, and the jobs that would be created, opponents criticized environmental destruction in the undeveloped area and took aim at the fire hazard it presented.

“Centennial can include all the safety measures they like in the new development, but the fires will not conform to these precautions,” said Lesley Goren. “The fires will not excuse our short-sightedness — rather our poorly thought out mistakes will just burn like the fuel they are.”

County planners and fire officials signed off on the project, and developers said the community 65 miles north of downtown Los Angeles would be built to minimize fire hazards and roads would be widened to help people evacuate if there is a fire.

Greg Medeiros, a vice president with Tejon Ranch Co., said the development was planned in the flattest areas nearest to highways and would use anti-embour construction and buffers around homes.

Four new fire stations would be built in the several villages planned.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who represents the area where the development would be built, spoke in favor of the project. She said she was confident concerns about impact on traffic would be alleviated and that she was relying on the opinion of fire experts that the risk of fire was minimized.

She cited the state’s need for 180,000 new homes a year — a goal it falls shy of by 100,000 units. She said the shortage had put a strain on affordability and the homelessness problem and suggested Centennial would contribute to solving those problems without creating the runway development associated with Southern California.

“This is not just another sprawl project,” she said.

The state has deemed the area a “high” and “very high” fire hazard zone. There were 31 wildfires greater than 100 acres within five miles of the development, including four within its boundaries in the past half-century, county planning documents said.

The project surrounded by rugged mountains received a boost from several prominent environmental groups, such as Audubon, Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council who signed on in support a decade ago in exchange for developers setting aside nearly 90 percent of the 420 square-mile (1,085 square-kilometer) area.

Groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity have opposed the plan.

Supporters wore green “I support Centennial” stickers and opponents wore red stickers saying “Stop Centennial” and displaying the image of a condor, one of the threatened species in the area.

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl cast the lone dissenting vote, saying she didn’t think it was wise to build a city so far from necessary resources. She also doubted promises that half the people living there would be able to work locally.

“I think it’s a little bit of pie in the sky,” Kuehl said. “There’s an enormous number of things wrong with this project.”

Fresh on the minds of many speakers was the death and devastation from recent fires that ripped through Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains nearby and the Camp Fire in Northern California that killed at least 85 people and destroyed about 14,000 homes, laying most of the city of Paradise to waste.

Vicki Kirschenbaum asked supervisors to imagine months of drought, soaring temperatures and a neglected camp fire getting out of control.

“Flames igniting highly flammable grasses, fire spreading house to house, consuming Centennial’s 19,000 homes. Fifty-seven thousand people desperately trying to evacuate with one major road out,” Kirschenbaum said. “You have the power to make sure that nightmare never happens.”

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It’s Tangier Time

“IT’S A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY” — the young American (Canadian?) traveler obliquely described Fez to me as we disembarked from our cab at close to 7 a.m. He probably thought he was telling the older American something he didn’t know. “It looked like the last time I was here,” I growled back. That was six years ago.

I was pretty grumpy at that moment, having been flown on to Fez at half past midnight after my connecting flight from Barcelona made two attempts to land in thick fog at the Tangier airport, suddenly running the engines and climbing straight up just as the landing strip was barely below us. Whoaa! Since we were told nothing, it was a bit unnerving.

AFTER WE SAT IN FEZ

For a couple of hours — again no announcements, will we spend the night on the plane? — our final landing was pretty bumpy, and a young woman sitting behind me, a teenager in head scarf with her family, broke down sobbing in tears. I think we all felt like that.

But my adventure was not over. I wound up in a cab with a driver who could not find my hotel by using the map or by the phone on my phone. My new plane friend Soufiane had given him directions before getting out at his home — “you are just a short way from here,” he assured me — but the driver continued to drop off everyone else and drive some more and even pick up another fare from the street. I felt like Charlie on the MTA (Kingston Trio). But at least Charlie and the MTA spoke the same language.

A SHORT, DARK BEARDED MAN

In a traditional djellaba robe emerged from the shadows when the cab driver finally dropped us off, and said he would take us the rest of the way, “it’s not far.” Right, I thought, I’m hauling a suitcase and a laptop down narrow cobblestone streets at dawn and I’m going to follow this new guy knows how far until he announces, I can’t quite remember where it is but for another 100 dirham I might. I’m already paying 150 ($16) for a too-long cab ride that isn’t taking me where I need to go — and I had to insist a few times to get my change from a 200 — and now this?

I DIDN’T HAVE MUCH CHOICE

And that was when my young fellow traveler made his remark. The next day I realized my arrival in Morocco indeed “wasn’t like this the last time I was here” — it was worse. Funny thing, memory. I was in our van with my family waiting to get official papers to enter when my daughter yelled, “some guy is trying to get into the back of our car!” He didn’t get anything.

Any country where most of the people try to survive on a lot less than any tourist who has the money and travel there is going to be about the same. You just have to be aware. No thieves in Santa Monica?

The djellaba man indeed took me just a few steps to my hotel. And held out his hand and insisted, “tip, tip.” I wasn’t about to hand him my smallest bill, a 50, so with irked reluctance I reached into my pocket and held out all my coins, for him to take the local money, when he grabbed it all.

“Hey!” I barked, “I don’t know how much is there!” He stared down and fingered the American and Moroccan coins and declared “19 cents!” in perfect English and perfect disgust, and dumped it all back into my hand and walked away. But I was standing at the beautiful carved wood door of La Maison Blanche, breathed a sigh of relief, was taken to my room, drew a comforting warm bath in the glorious tiled bathroom with filigreed lighting fixtures and a latticed wood window cover, then fell gratefully, soundly asleep. (Not in the bath.)

NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING A “THIRD WORLD” COUNTRY

Whatever that is, these days. Morocco may not be in the elite group of wealthy industrialized nations but it probably wouldn’t be on that “third world” list either. Most places Americans would travel that aren’t in Europe/Australia are just different, mostly because they are thousands of years older, and visitors have to adjust. If you don’t value other cultures, go to Miami or Milwaukee.

I’m not going to tell you what I went through to get use of my laptop again after my charger cord broke in transit (Khalid, an electronics wizard just down the street, with limited inventory, came through just in time) but I can’t really close to sitting in a corner and tapping this column out on my phone. It’s all just another page in the blog.

MOST IMPORTANTLY

I have connected with my two Moroccan friends. My reason to come was Bachir Attar, leader of the Master Musicians, who had this chemical urge to meet up again with Bachir, also a master storyteller, and see if there wasn’t... something, I could write, or that we could write together. But I didn’t know what. That’s kind of a crazy vague reason to go 6000 miles. But even if he wasn’t available I figured I could see my friend Aziz Begdouri, Morocco’s top guide, now with a luxury boutique hotel in the kasbah that he built from bare walls, a really interesting man and a most wonderful human being.

The worst would be that I would spend my days sitting outdoors at Cafe Hafa, drinking sweet mint tea and gazing at the Mediterranean just below, and my nights wandering the kasbah and the medina taking it all in. Beats mowing the lawn.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

“Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.” — Helen Keller

“Because in the end, you won’t remember the time you spent working in the office or mowing your lawn. Climb that goddamn mountain.” – Jack Kerouac

“Travel isn’t always pretty. It isn’t always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts, it even breaks your heart. But that’s okay. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind.” – Anthony Bourdain (RIP)
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Local
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018

DEBATE
FROM PAGE 1

957 socio-economically disadvantaged SMMUSD music students may get their chance to add their tune to the city.

On the agenda for Thursday’s board meeting is a potential award of contracts for semi-private music lessons.

Funded by a music endowment overseen by the Santa Monica Ed Foundation, lessons will be provided by six different vendors vetted by the district. The District has set aside a 1.905% reserve.

Each vendor will determine its hourly rates, instructional materials, and methods of monitoring student progress with costs not to exceed $550 per student for the 2018-2019 school year.

Vendor fairs were held in Santa Monica and Malibu where families could meet these vendors and further inquire about services, rates and contact information. Families were provided a list of these vendors as well.

Vendors include: Elemental Music, Outreach Through the Arts, Santa Monica Academy of Music, Santa Monica Youth Orchestra, Santa Monica Conservatory of Music and Malibu String Academy.

DATA-DRIVEN COUNSELING

Postponed from an 11/15/18 board meeting, this agenda item will focus on how counseling in the district has become more active due to data-driven metrics.

The SMMUSD counseling team will update the Board on how they have and continue to reform and reshape counseling services in a presentation to be shown.

The presentation will show a five-year plan for students that begins in middle school to help improve student achievement and satisfy LCAP goals.

The plan will focus on academic, social/ emotional and postsecondary life.

EARLY LEARNING OPTIONS

Early Learning staff will lead a presentation providing information in regards to the current status of early learning at SMMUSD.

Staff will discuss how to provide preschool opportunities for all Santa Monicans as well as challenges families are facing that impede their student attending preschool.

The District Advisory Committee will also look at data to gather from preschool, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten to maintain quality of programs and better serve students and families.

Staff will also look at what Head Start services can look like in the future, such as having once weekly teacher visits at home and family socializations twice a month.

Additionally, staff will also seek the board direction in regards to early learning programming in SMMUSD, such as reapplying for a Head Start grant or moving forwards with a Santa Monica - Malibu seaside preschools expansion.

Other items rounding out the agenda are several awards of contract, school organization updates, and elections.

Elections of an annual representative to the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association (LACSTA) for 2019, a voting representative to elect members to the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association updates, and elections.

Other items rounding out the agenda are several awards of contract, school organization updates, and elections.

Elections of an annual representative to the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association (LACSTA) for 2019, a voting representative to elect members to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, and a potentially nominating a board member to run for the CSBA Delegate Assembly will be discussed.

angel@smdp.com
not be as engaged in doing well in school because they feel the finish line is easily attainable for them,” he said. “They’re going to show up unprepared.”

SMC counselors could engage with SMMUSD students interested in attending the college, Roy suggested. Making sure students show up prepared is particularly essential because of the new student performance-based funding formula California lawmakers enacted in June.

“I have to explore how we can do this, but we have to find a way to reach those students early in their high school careers,” he said. “You want to go to SMC, we want to make sure you show up prepared.”

Roy wants to engage with the older members of the community in addition to high school students.

“I feel like there’s a number of people who view the college as a guest behemoth in the middle of the community that’s perhaps unrelated to it,” he said. “It’s up to the college to really communicate with the community and make them aware of the services they offer for the community to take advantage of.”

Louise Jaffe, a trustee who was re-elected in November, said Roy’s priorities align with what the board is already working on. The college has made it easier and free for local students to enroll at SMC while they finish high school and is strengthening its career pathways.

“In terms of expanding our healthcare presence, we’re all in favor, but it’s a pretty detailed and costly process to add programs,” she said.

Jaffe added she believes Roy will be effective in making connections with hospitals, SMMUSD and the state legislature.

“(Roy) is interested in dealing with the larger political world … and this is a period of enormous change for California community colleges even without a new governor coming in,” she said. “Once we see what Newsom’s funding preferences are, we may be in a whole other game … the funding formula has changed and to some extent, we’ll have to reshape the college.”


daughter of the city as a teenager and learned in the middle of the community that’s perhaps unrelated to it,” he said. “It’s up to the college to really communicate with the community and make them aware of the services they offer for the community to take advantage of.”

Louise Jaffe, a trustee who was re-elected in November, said Roy’s priorities align with what the board is already working on. The college has made it easier and free for local students to enroll at SMC while they finish high school and is strengthening its career pathways.

“In terms of expanding our healthcare presence, we’re all in favor, but it’s a pretty detailed and costly process to add programs,” she said.

Jaffe added she believes Roy will be effective in making connections with hospitals, SMMUSD and the state legislature.

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Strickfaden was an important figure in early cinema. He worked on the original Frankenstein and The Wizard of Oz, also a special effects pioneer who worked on the Pacific Exhibition.

Sloane also said the district creates the distinct sense of time and place necessary to qualify it as a historic area.

“I’ve walked that street so many times … even the altered buildings have a feeling of the period,” she said. “You’re definitely taken back to a time.”

About 30 people attended the Monday meeting and the room erupted into applause when the commission voted in support of the district. Mid-City Neighbors vice president Andrew Hoyer, who signed the application to create the district, said the vote creates the basis to landmark more buildings of a similar type in the area and incorporate them into the district.

One owner of a property in the proposed district, however, said historical designation places a burden on property owners, a sentiment another homeowner expressed at the Nov. 12 meeting.

“Our mother is 96 years old and we want the freedom to do what we want with the property,” said the owner’s son, Jamie Lennon. Commissioner Ruth Shari, who initially opposed the proposal, said she empathizes with property owners but believes the bungalows should be preserved.

“I want to remind owners who may not be in sync with this move that they are free to develop the rear of the property, as it’s just the front of the buildings that convey historical significance,” Shari said.

The tax breaks on historical properties will also increase the bungalows’ value, Hoyer said.

“The tax break stays with the property,” he said. “Someone who buys it gets that tax break, thereby greatly increasing the value of the property for sale.”

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**DAILY POLICE LOG**

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To Calls For Service. HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

**CRIME WATCH**

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 26, AT ABOUT 8:39 P.M.**

While patrolling the 2900 block of Lincoln Blvd an officers saw a subject riding a bicycle at night with no lighting equipment a violation of the vehicle code. An enforcement stop was conducted and the officers learned the subject was on probation with search conditions. A search of the subject led to the recovery of a methamphetamine smoking pipe. A computer check revealed the subject had an outstanding parole violation warrant for his arrest. The subject was taken into custody. Michael Renard Gibson, 58, from Los Angeles was arrested for possession of narcotics paraphernalia, a parole violation; and identity theft. He was denied bail.

**DAILY FIRE LOG**

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To Calls For Service. HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

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New people come into your family. And though there’s loving support all around you, you still develop incredible self-reliance this year. You’ve so much drive burning inside you to make your life match up to the picture in your head that you can’t help but do the things that will get you there. Those things make you strong. Virgo and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 39, 2 and 4.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You give love in many ways throughout the day. Most of the ways do have to do with showing up and doing the regular things that the team counts on you to do. Then sometimes it’s what you don’t do or say that is the most loving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You have a healthy respect for danger, but you’re not about to let fear keep you from taking risks. What’s on the table now is an opportunity to get into something totally new.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Studies prove that placebos can work even when the person taking them knows they are a placebo. Rituals can be a kind of placebo, too. So the important thing is not in the belief but in doing what works.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
You’re trying to think your way through a situation, and it’s taking a lot of energy. It’s tiring you out. So ask your heart. Actually direct the question to the beating thing in your chest. Here comes the right answer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Funny cat videos are awesome, but it’s time to get more strategic about social media. Who do you want to know better? Who do you want to align with? Controlling what you look at is to control who you’re influenced by.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Even though you have plenty of time, the best moment to do a thing is when it comes to the front of mind, or when it arises in the process of action, or when you’re talking about it. In other words, now.

Tips for the Mercury Transit
This Mercury transit brings the desire for fresh adventure, new alliances and electric experience. Now what’s behind all this drive to change? The impetus matters to the outcome. The best way is to move toward the future in the spirit of curiosity and wonder, as opposed to moving forward in the manner of someone running from a bear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Today you’ll be given a choice. Good news. There’s no correct preference that will prove you have taste or refinement or superiority in any way. So just choose what you like, what you can use or what you think will work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Work is work. It doesn’t matter what the job is; the time and energy you put in must be balanced with rest, fueled with nutrition and recharged with leisure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
The reasonable ideas have no more of a chance of working than the wacky ones, so try both. You might be surprised at what ridiculousness works, and if nothing else, you’ll get a laugh out of it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
A Zen proverb suggests, “If you want to climb a mountain, begin at the top.” The rest of the zodiac is turning to you, mystical goat, with questions and novel about a thing that’s been “over” for a while now and reignite a spark.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Does it feel like you’re behind the times? That’s not a bad place to be. You’ll find something new and novel about a thing that’s been “over” for a while now and reignite a spark.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Are you reaching too far? Probably not. Whether you reach for the moon, the sun or Jupiter, you’ll get the same stretch. So reach for what makes you feel the most delight.

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Donald Thompson

There might be a fire season in California," Pimlott said.

"We're getting to continue to raise the bar on what we're doing and local land-use planning decisions need to be part of that discussion," he said.

California's population has doubled since 1970 to nearly 40 million, pushing vulnerable areas, the state's top firefighter says.

"No other state, or even the federal government, are putting the amount of investment into this space as California," Pimlott said.

The department's philosophy for many years has been to stamp out fires quickly to protect people and property. Prescribed burns were previously used sparingly out of concern they could get out of control, but he said the department is making "a sea change" by recognizing that starting fires under optimum conditions is a good way to reduce dangerous fuels.

Recent fires that have burned into cities have made clear that those protections need to be centered around vulnerable communities, he said. Paradise, for example, was built on a ridge atop steep canyons that helped channel the wind-driven fire, while wildfires have repeatedly blown into Northern and Southern California subdivisions from neighboring wildlands thick with tinder-dry fuel.

Pimlott rose through the ranks from seasonal firefighter to deputy director of fire protection before his appointment as chief of the agency. In that role he doubles as the state's chief forester and oversees a department that includes nearly 8,000 firefighters, forest managers and support staff.

He said he has seen fire conditions worsen each passing year during his three decades with the agency, taking its toll on residents and firefighters alike.

"Folks can say what they want to say, but firefighters are living climate change. It's staring them in the face every day," he said.

To adapt, he advocates wildfire warning systems that not only use new technology like automated phone calling systems, but maybe restoring civil defense-style emergency sirens in some areas. City planners must prepare communities "unlike we ever have before" with easy evacuation routes and new evacuation centers.

And he said Californians must treat "red flag" extreme fire danger warnings the way Midwesterners treat tornado warnings — as imminent threats.

"The reality of it is, California has a fire-prone climate and it will continue to burn," he said. "Fire is a way of life in California and we have to learn how to live with it, we have to learn how to have more resilient communities."
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