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Multitude of dead cormorants spotted on Venice Beach



Emily Sawicki

BIRDS: Locals reported several dead birds along the Venice shoreline this week.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

If you've walked along the sand on Venice Beach this week, you may have come across the body of a dead cormorant.

Santa Monica nonprofit Heal the Bay confirmed it had received reports of several dead sea birds on the sand in the area around Venice Boulevard that came in on Tuesday evening, Jan. 25, and Wednesday morning, Jan. 26. But the environmental advocacy group was not able to confirm how many birds were found or how the animals may have died.

"Heal the Bay doesn't have the capacity or expertise to respond to an incident like this," water quality scientist Luke Ginger said Wednesday. "So, we immediately notified people to reach out to the International Bird Rescue, which is a nonprofit that does work locally and does respond to incidents like these."

After being sent photos and videos of the dead birds via social media, Heal the Bay representatives identified them as cormorants. By Wednesday at midday, the bodies of two dead sea birds that appeared to be cormorants remained on the sand, right around the high tide line. Ginger said International Bird Rescue or the LA County Fish and Wildlife Commission — an office under the LA County Supervisors — may have collected specimens to perform a necropsy. Scavengers and high tides may have washed others away.

Russ Curtis, a spokesperson for International Bird Rescue, said the group focuses mostly on rescuing and rehabilitating distressed or injured birds and, though it had also been made aware of the incident, it was more likely LA County Fish and Wildlife Commission would be launching an investigation.

LA County Fish and Wildlife did not respond to an interview request by Daily Press deadline.

Both Ginger and Curtis said the best thing to do if you come across a dead or distressed marine animal is to call a local rescue or animal control center.

"What we recommend the public to do is what they did in this instance, which is they took photos, took notice of where this incident occurred, and they left the birds in place, which is the proper procedure," Ginger said. "There are some times where we get photos or reports that are very vague, when what we really need is the context, in order to properly direct people where to go. So we thought that was great."

SEE **CORMORANTS** PAGE 2

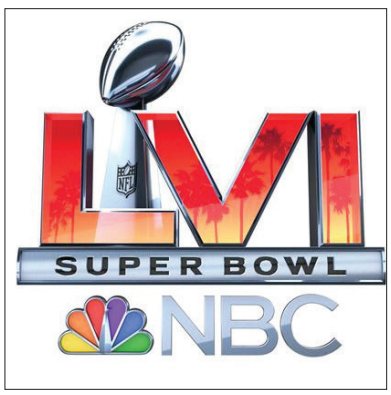
Super Bowl Pregame Show to broadcast live from the Pier

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

While Angelenos are excited for the upcoming hometown Super Bowl, Santa Monicans can take extra pride as that a portion of the country's largest annual sporting event will take place in their own backyard.

This year's Super Bowl Pregame show will be broadcast live from the Pier on Feb. 13 with NBC Sportscaster Maria Taylor making her Super Bowl hosting debut. She will be joined on the Pier by Former NFL quarterback Chris Simms, whose father was MVP of Super Bowl XXI as quarterback of the New York Giants.

"With the Super Bowl returning to Los Angeles for the first time in nearly three decades, we will highlight the host city and scene



Courtesy image

GAME: Los Angeles will host.

SEE **SUPER BOWL** PAGE 2

Arts and Letters closing the book after decades on Main Street



Matthew Hall

CLOSING: The current owners of Arts & Letters are retiring.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

In a few weeks, Lee and Linda Oppenheim will be settling into retired life — maybe doing some work on their Calabasas home, finding volunteer opportunities or planning a trip.

But until then, you can find them most days at their shop on Main Street that they've owned for nearly 20 years: Arts and Letters.

The married couple announced earlier this year that they would be closing down the legacy stationary and curio shop to enjoy retirement. The decision came two or three

SEE **ARTS AND LETTERS** PAGE 11

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www.nickthegreek.com

CORMORANTS

FROM PAGE 1

The same is true for other calls, such as marine mammals or certain types of pollution on beaches, Ginger added.

Curtis said that, in some instances, it's OK for people to pick up birds in distress and take them into rescue centers. He mentioned birds that may be tangled in fishing line and begin to experience high levels of stress.

"If you feel comfortable enough to bring a towel and a box and gently wrap the bird up so it doesn't get anymore stressed and put it into a box and get it to us quickly, we're OK with that," Curtis said. However, some birds may be dangerous — with pecks and scratches a bigger worry than avian-borne illnesses.

"We've had people that have been injured — even our volunteers — and so we always tell people to be careful around wild animals," Curtis added.

Curtis said he believed the birds to be Brandt's cormorants, a subspecies common along the Pacific Coast.

"Sociable at all seasons, it is often seen flying in long lines low over the water. Groups roost together on rocks near water, and feed in flocks offshore, often associating with other seabirds," according to the Audubon Society website. Representatives for the Santa Monica Audubon Society were not available for comment by Daily Press deadline.

Curtis said cormorants were diving birds, often recognizable on rocks and jetties drying their wings which, interestingly, are not waterproof.

And, although to the common beachgoer it could appear that cormorants and gulls share similar behavior and territory, their differences in feeding style and habitat could mean an ailment or hazard that affects cormorants could have no effect on other sea birds, which could be seen in droves along the beach at midday on Wednesday.

"It appears that the only dead birds that we know of [on Venice Beach] are cormorants and that could be attributed to differences between the birds — it could be like what type of foods they're going after, it could also be linked to their behavior," Ginger said. "So, cormorants are going to be spending more time in the water, less air, vs seagulls, and they're going to be congregating in different areas. So, you know, without knowing a cause, we really can't say what difference there is. But these different pieces of hers are behaving very differently, even though they're out on the beach."

If you come across a distressed marine bird, contact the International Bird Rescue at 310.514.2573 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call 866.WILD.911. For marine mammals, contact Marine Animal Rescue at 800.39.WHALE.

As for marine mammals, Ginger said: "We recommend not touching the animal or trying to return it to the water if you know it's the kind of animal that needs to be in the water. We do not recommend pouring water on the animal or moving it in any way. We recommend folks to keep their distance and call the appropriate rescue hotline and take a picture and note down details."

Other agencies to notify include California Wildlife Center, LA County Fish and Wildlife Commission and Heal the Bay.

emily@smdp.com

SUPER BOWL

FROM PAGE 1

for viewers across the country," said Tommy Roy, Coordinating Producer, NBC Sports. "Beginning early in the Super Bowl LVI Pregame Show on NBC and Peacock, we will showcase Santa Monica Pier — an iconic destination, with its breathtaking views, sounds, and atmosphere."

The Pregame show will kick off at 10 a.m. and run for five hours in the lead up to the 3:30 p.m. game. NBC, Telemundo and Peacock will be showing the day's programming, which will include a record breaking total of 27 hosts, analysts and commentators participating from eight locations in Los Angeles and the SoFi Stadium. Other parts of the Pregame show will be filmed at SoFi Stadium, the NFL tailgate, the AFC and NFC team hotels and several LA landmarks.

In the lead up to the big day there are several additional exciting Super Bowl events taking place in Santa Monica.

First up is an NBC Sports activation in Santa Monica Place, where on Jan. 31 the popular outdoor shopping area will be transformed into a winter wonderland complete with real snowmaking machines. This is part of NBC's "Once in a Lifetime" campaign, which highlights the fact that for the first time ever the Winter Olympics and Super Bowl will both take place on the same day and be screened on the same network. Olympic coverage will take place before the pregame show, and after the game.

Santa Monica Place will also be the site of the 21st Annual Off The Field NFL Wives Association Super Bowl Charity Fashion Show. The OTF fashion show is a ticketed event that will benefit the HollyRod Foundation and OTF scholarships and family programming. The event will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 11.

The HollyRod Foundation is a non-profit founded by actress Holly Robinson Peete and her husband, former NFL quarterback, Rodney Peete. The organization raises awareness about Parkinson's disease and autism and provides resources to families who have a loved one affected by these diseases.

On Super Bowl weekend the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers are helping host a special football festival on the 3rd Street Promenade to celebrate the Super Bowl's long awaited return to LA. The festival is organized by NFuse 360 Entertainment along with its partners iHeartMedia (AM 570 and KFI), Fox Sports Radio and KTLA-TV Channel 5.

The festival will feature live broadcasts from several famous LA sportscasters as well as a range of family friendly games including field goal kicks, blocking and tackling skill challenges, corn hole and football throws. This free public event will run from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Feb. 10, 11 and 12 on the 1300 and 1400 block of the Promenade.

"Downtown Santa Monica is ready to kickoff celebrations for this year's Super Bowl," said Mackenzie Carter, acting executive director, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. "Whether it's the Rose Bowl or the Los Angeles Marathon, this community knows how to be a great host, which comes from decades of welcoming people from all over the world to our beautiful beaches, iconic Pier and Promenade."

Clara@smdp.com

Los Angeles Takes Major Step Toward Banning New Oil, Gas Drilling In City

BY MARGARET SHUTTLEWORTH
City News Service

The City Council took a major step Wednesday toward banning new oil and gas wells in Los Angeles, as well as to begin the amortization process necessary before phasing out existing oil and gas drilling.

Council members unanimously approved a series of recommendations from its Budget and Finance Committee, including:

— having the Department of City Planning and the City Attorney's Office draft an ordinance to prohibit new oil and gas extraction and make extraction activities a nonconforming use in all areas of the city;

— having the Los Angeles Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety hire an expert to conduct an amortization period for existing wells, a prerequisite to decommissioning existing oil fields to allow the oil company to recoup its investment if it hasn't already; and

— having the Los Angeles Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety create a framework for plugging and remediating abandoned oil wells, which can leak hydrocarbons and methane, with the intention of having the oil companies bear the responsibility.

The ordinance to ban future oil drilling will have to come back for another vote of the City Council.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted last year to ban new oil and gas wells and phase out existing wells in unincorporated areas.

The city of Los Angeles has 26 oil and gas fields and about 5,274 oil and gas wells, according to the Department of City Planning. Seventeen drill sites are either active, idle or perform gas drill operations.

"There are oil and gas facilities in nearly every section of the 503 square miles of the city," Vincent Bertoni, director of the Department of City Planning, wrote in a Sept. 23 letter to the City Council Budget and Finance Committee.

Nearly one-third of Los Angeles' oil and gas wells exist outside drill sites and are dispersed throughout the city, Bertoni added, citing data by the California Geologic Energy Management Division.

"This is a momentous step forward for Los Angeles, and a clear message we are sending to Big Oil," Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, the chair of the City Council's Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice and River committee, said in a statement to City News Service.

"These actions — drafting an ordinance to declare oil drilling a non- conforming land use throughout the entire City, initiating an amortization study, proper clean-up of all abandoned wells, and City participation in a task force to protect and assist workers — are critical to our ambitious `LA100' efforts, which will achieve 100% carbon-free energy in Los Angeles by 2035."

Speaking before the vote Wednesday, O'Farrell said L.A.'s actions would be "a model for the nation and the world."

The potential ordinance to phase out existing oil drilling would rely heavily on the amortization study, according to the Department of Planning, which recommended in its report to the Budget and Finance Committee that the city move forward with the ordinance to ban future oil wells in the interim, because it doesn't require an amortization study.

Several council members on Wednesday thanked the STAND-L.A. coalition for its work pushing the city to ban oil drilling.

"What the STAND-L.A. coalition has done after all these years has fundamentally changed the way we look at this issue. It has fundamentally changed the way I look at this issue," Councilman Paul Krekorian said.

The coalition said on Twitter that the move was "a historic moment for frontline communities on the frontlines of oil extraction. #NoDrillingWhereWereLiving."

Ashley Hernandez, a Wilmington youth organizer for STAND-L.A. co-chair organization Communities for a Better Environment, spoke alongside council members on Wednesday at a news conference outside City Hall.

"I've lived in the front lines of neighborhood oil drilling my entire life and can't begin to express what I'm feeling inside being here in this moment after all of the years of work front-line residents, partners and allies have fought for," she said.

Hernandez credited the council's action to "the courage and resistance of Black and Brown communities rising up against oil extraction that does not belong in our neighborhoods." She said growing up in Wilmington, she experienced nosebleeds and eye infections and saw teachers fall sick due to oil drilling in the community.

"Days like today remind us that every single petition, every single voice, every single action and every single person that's come from the front lines of neighborhood oil drilling has mattered enough."

Councilman Joe Buscaino, who represents Hernandez's Wilmington neighborhood, said before the vote:

"To say that the issue before us hits close to home for my district would be a serious understatement, colleagues. My district ... had the highest concentration of oil and gas wells in the city, with nearly 400 active well sites. In my district, we're at home to over 55% of the active sites citywide ... you can imagine the disruption that this would cause on a daily basis."

In response to a request for comment, the California Independent Petroleum Association sent City News Service a 2019 letter its CEO sent to Council President Nury Martinez opposing the city's efforts.

According to the letter, "increased setbacks and additional restrictions ... will devastate the vitality of the city of Los Angeles by:

SEE **OIL** PAGE 5

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 248 CALLS ON JANUARY 25

Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 1300Blk Ocean Ave 12:23 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2700Blk Pico Blvd 12:23 a.m.
Family Disturbance 1700Blk 4th St 1:26 a.m.
Battery 1400Blk 7th St 1:38 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1700Blk Stanford St 3:33 a.m.
Burglary 1700Blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:22 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100Blk Montana Ave 7:13 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 34th St / Pico Blvd 7:31 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 2900Blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:46 a.m.
General Parking Problem 100Blk Georgina Ave 7:55 a.m.
Encampment 2600Blk Main St 8:01 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:07 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 700Blk California Ave 8:29 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1300Blk 4th St 8:30 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:00 a.m.
Attempt Auto Theft 2000Blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:17 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2700Blk Main St 9:20 a.m.
Burglary 800Blk 12th St 9:43 a.m.
Fight 1600Blk 5th St 9:53 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 12th St / California Ave 10:02 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 800Blk 16th St 10:02 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400Blk 10th St 10:20 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2800Blk 11th St 10:53 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2100Blk Michigan Ave 11:06 a.m.
Overdose 300Blk Olympic Dr 11:14 a.m.
Battery 2800Blk Pico Blvd 11:17 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000Blk 12th St 11:26 a.m.
Panic Alarm 2500Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:34 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000Blk 4th St 11:38 a.m.
Fraud 1400Blk 14th St 12:21 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2000Blk Pico Blvd 12:25 p.m.
Speeding Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 12:42 p.m.
Battery 2200Blk Delaware Ave 12:43 p.m.
Encampment 700Blk S Bristol Ave 12:53 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk Ocean Ave 1:05 p.m.
Grand Theft 1500Blk 4th St 1:09 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:16 p.m.
Burglary 1500Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:38 p.m.
Vandalism 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:38 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600Blk Barnard Way 1:45 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 1:51 p.m.
Fight 500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:05 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1900Blk Delaware Ave 2:09 p.m.
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 2:19 p.m.
Person With A Gun 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 2:28 p.m.
Speeding 1500Blk California Ave 2:28 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 500Blk Marguerita Ave 2:31 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100Blk Oak St 2:33 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2000Blk Ocean Ave 2:41 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1200Blk 5th St 2:51 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2nd St / Broadway 2:53 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Now 1500Blk Princeton St 3:08 p.m.
Battery 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 3:10 p.m.
Fraud 1400Blk 16th St 3:18 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1700Blk Stanford St 3:20 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Lincoln Blvd / Bay St 3:21 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:38 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 200Blk Broadway 3:57 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 4th St / Arizona Ave 4:05 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 300Blk Olympic Dr 4:09 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000Blk 18th St 4:10 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900Blk 20th St 4:11 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400Blk 5th St 4:24 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2700Blk Olympic Blvd 4:49 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:56 p.m.
Municipal Code Violation 1200Blk Centinela Ave 4:58 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1700Blk Appian Way 5:01 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 400Blk San Vicente Blvd 5:05 p.m.
Battery Now 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:06 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 5:22 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2500Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:56 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500Blk Colorado Ave 6:09 p.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Arizona Ave 6:14 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600Blk 10th St 6:28 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:40 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 JANUARY 14

SMPD and SMFD responded to a palm tree on fire near the Lincoln Blvd Offramp to the I-10 freeway. Witnesses report seeing a female standing near the burning tree. Upon officer arrival, SMFD had extinguished the blaze and a female suspect was located in the surrounding area. Ana Rincon, 44 years old, was found in possession of a lighter and charred money. She was transported to the Santa Monica Jail and booked for arson.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 30 CALLS ON JANUARY 25

Miscellaneous Outside Fire 3000Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:09 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 7th St 1:42 a.m.
EMS 1800Blk Olympic Blvd 7:40 a.m.
EMS 2100Blk Delaware Ave 9:43 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk 7th St 9:55 a.m.
EMS 1000Blk Pico Blvd 9:59 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 10:40 a.m.
EMS 300Blk Olympic Dr 11:14 a.m.
EMS 100Blk Marguerita Ave 11:27 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 4th St 11:27 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100Blk Georgina Ave 11:37 a.m.
EMS 2700Blk Main St 1:03 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 1:20 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400Blk 16th St 1:26 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:30 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 9th St 1:37 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 9th St 1:39 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 1:53 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:05 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 4:00 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 26th St 5:09 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 11th St 6:08 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Washington Ave 6:26 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600Blk Stewart St 8:15 p.m.
EMS 700Blk 9th St 8:24 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk Main St 9:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100Blk 4th St 9:26 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1100Blk Pico Blvd 9:48 p.m.
EMS 2900Blk Neilson Way 10:25 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk 20th St 3:44 a.m.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR BIG BLUE BUS PROPOSED FARE CHANGES

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by Big Blue Bus on the following date:

Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 5:30pm-7:30pm
Santa Monica Main Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, 90401

A short presentation will be conducted at the beginning of the hearing, from 6pm to 6:30pm, and a public comment period will be held for the remainder of the hearing, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

Under the proposed fare structure, Big Blue Bus would implement the following changes:

- Reduce the price of some existing fare products and introduce free Big Blue Bus to Big Blue Bus transfers
- Discontinue three (3) underutilized fare products to make fare options easier to understand
- Raise the age at which children ride free on Big Blue Bus
- Limit fare payments to contactless only (i.e., TAP card and mobile ticket), and discontinue acceptance of cash, tokens, and paper tickets on-board

See details of this proposal at bigbluebus.com/meetings.

Big Blue Bus will review all public comments submitted during the comment period until Thursday, February 17, 2022. Based on feedback received, Big Blue Bus may make adjustments to the draft proposals as necessary, before submitting a Staff Report for City Council review in April. If approved by City Council in April, fare changes would become effective June 2022.

Interested parties may comment in person at the hearing, or may submit written comments prior to the hearing. Written comments may be submitted by mail to Big Blue Bus, 1660 7th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401, Attn: Robert McCall, Community Engagement Manager. Feedback may also be shared through an online survey at bigbluebus.com/meetings.

The Santa Monica Main Library is wheelchair accessible. For disability and translation accommodation requests, please contact 310-458-1975 ext. 2386 at least three (3) days prior to the hearing. All written materials are available in alternate formats upon request. Big Blue Bus Routes 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 18, and Rapid 3, Rapid 7 and Rapid 10 serve the Main Library. Visit bigbluebus.com for trip planning and schedule information.

big blue bus

SMC Attorney Challenges Claims in Student's Vax Mandate Suit

City News Service

A Santa Monica College freshman is suing the Santa Monica Community College District, alleging the school's coronavirus vaccine mandate for in-person learning violates his religious freedom and his right to privacy, but the school's lawyer says the plaintiff's claims are flawed.

Carter Sparks' Santa Monica Superior Court lawsuit, filed Jan. 11, seeks court orders declaring that the mandate is unconstitutional and that it exceeds the powers of the district. Sparks also seeks injunctive relief preventing the mandate from being enforced as well as compensatory damages.

The suit also names as a defendant Susan Fila, Santa Monica College's health services officer, who Sparks believes was among those who denied his request for a religious exemption.

But in a Sept. 9 letter from campus counsel Robert Myers to one of the plaintiff's attorneys, John Howard, Myers maintains that Sparks, who is Catholic, did not qualify for a religious exemption.

"Carter's application for a religious exception did not articulate a sincerely held religious opposition to vaccination," according to Myers' letter, a copy of which was obtained by City News Service. "All the college knows about Carter's religion is that he is Catholic and went to Catholic school. However, being Catholic does not entitle someone to a religious exemption from vaccination."

Contrary to what Howard said, Sparks' parents never asked Myers why his exemption was denied, according to Myers.

"My only communication with Carter's parents was to inform them that a (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) authorization would be required for the college to provide them with information," Myers wrote.

The two sides agree that the district's Board of Trustees voted on Aug. 3, 2021 to require that students get a COVID-19 vaccine before attending in-person classes during the fall semester.

"The board gave vague reasons for this policy, stating, for example, that the shots represent the best way to slow the spread of COVID-19," the suit states.

However, only the state Legislature has the power to impose a student vaccine directive and it has not done so, according to the suit.

"Moreover, forced vaccination policies violate Californians' right to privacy, an express constitutional right that protects an individual's freedom of bodily integrity," the suit states.

Sparks submitted a request for religious and medical exemptions, stating his belief that he has already contracted COVID-19 and thus has natural immunity to the virus while also providing a letter from a doctor, the suit states.

Myers' letter cited Pope Francis' support for the COVID-19 shots. Sparks is currently enrolled in an online course at Santa Monica College and more than 80% of the college's courses are delivered in that manner, according to the letter.

The doctor who wrote a letter on behalf of Sparks' claim for a medical exemption did not state anything supported by medical evidence, Myers' letter states.

"The fact that she did not do so undermines any claim that Carter has a bonafide medical condition that would prevent receiving the COVID-19 vaccine," Myers wrote.

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State Adds $50,000 Reward for Information Leading to 16-Year-Old Girl's Killer

City News Service

The state has added $50,000 to the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the shooting death of a 16-year-old girl whose body was dumped alongside the Harbor (110) Freeway in South Los Angeles, officials said Wednesday.

During a news conference seeking the public's help in solving the crime, Assistant Chief Jesus Holguin of the California Highway Patrol told reporters that he had just gotten news that Gov. Gavin Newsom approved the $50,000, which brings the total possible reward money being offered for the capture of Tioni Theus' killer to $110,000.

The girl's body was discovered Jan. 8 on the side of the freeway on the Manchester Avenue on-ramp near South Figueroa Street.

"We're very confident that we're moving forward in a positive direction and hopefully have some good news in the very near future," Holguin said during a Zoom news conference in which Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón joined other elected officials.

City Councilmen Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Curren Price have introduced a motion calling on the city to offer a $50,000 reward for information involving the teen's killing. The motion is expected to be voted upon in the coming week.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a $10,000 reward offer Tuesday.

The district attorney said there is evidence indicating that "this young girl may have been the victim of human trafficking," and noted that the investigation into her death is ongoing.

"We need the public's help," Gascón said. "Please help bring Tioni's murderer to justice, and if you have any information, please contact the California Highway Patrol."

Harris-Dawson said he was grateful to community members who "literally on the next day were on the steps of the 77th (Street) police station in Los Angeles, demanding that our police department, California Highway Patrol, the county sheriff's and everybody get involved to bring this assailant to justice.

"It is what we owe Tioni and it is what we owe all the children of our community so that they know they live in a place where if anybody lays a hand on them the community will rally to their protection and to their defense," the councilman said.

County Supervisor Holly Mitchell vowed to "continue to seek justice" on the family's behalf, with Price pledging to the girl that she has "not died in vain."

Assemblyman Mike Gipson said he was "damn mad," calling the girl "someone's daughter that was taken away from us senselessly."

Last Saturday, a group of activists gathered and pushed for elected officials to offer a reward for information in the girl's killing. They said then that the absence of a reward in the killing of the young Black girl stood in stark contrast to the $250,000 reward offered in the search for the killer of 24-year-old Brianna Kupfer, a Pacific Palisades resident and UCLA grad student who was fatally stabbed Jan. 13 inside a boutique furniture store in Hancock Park.

Tioni was last seen Jan. 7 after telling a family member she was going to meet a friend to go to a party, officials said. No further information was provided, and no suspect description was available.

Speaking to the Los Angeles Police Commission, Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michel Moore said Tuesday the case was something that "all of Los Angeles should be paying close attention to."

He added that other than the anticipated reward money, "the incentive should be that we know in our community that this murder did not occur in a vacuum and that ... this young girl was tragically taken from us and the people responsible are still amongst us, which poses an imminent risk to all of us."

The investigation is being handled by the CHP, but the LAPD offered investigative assistance. Moore told the Police Commission the CHP hasn't yet identified a suspect and does not yet have a description of the suspect or involved vehicle.

"Ms. Theus lived in Compton and was a student at Centennial High School," according to the county motion. "She was reportedly living with her father as her mother recovered from a serious hit-and-run accident. Family members say she was a straight-A student and enjoyed dance and golf.

"Investigators are urging anyone with information about this incident to contact the California Highway Patrol. A reward will encourage members of the public to come forward with information that can help identify the individual(s) responsible for her death."

Speaking with community activists at Saturday's news conference, Rashida Kincy, a cousin of Tioni, described her as a "vibrant young lady that was just cut from so much that was ahead of her."

"This has been a tragedy to my family, to the community," she said.

On Wednesday, CHP Capt. Jeff Lofton asked anyone with information about the case to come forward.

"If you're from the community here and you have cameras in your vehicle and you were driving along the route, along the 110 Freeway that morning, please look at your video," Lofton said. "If you find something at Manchester and the 110, call investigators."

On Thursday, the CHP posted photos of Tioni on Twitter and asked for anyone with information about her killing to call the agency at 323-644-9557.

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Santa Monica Daily Press

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CHLA Awarded Grant to Participate in Study of Long-Term COVID Effects

City News Service

Children's Hospital Los Angeles received an $8.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the long-term effects of COVID-19 infection in children and young adults, in hopes of identifying the best ways of treating the virus in younger patients, the hospital announced Wednesday.

"We estimate that 5 to 15% of youth infected with SARS-CoV-2 develop long COVID. Given the population of Los Angeles, that is a lot of young people who will be affected," Dr. David Warburton, principal investigator at CHLA, said in a statement. "With this study, our objective is to learn more about the progression of this condition, how to treat it and most importantly, how to prevent it."

More than 30 institutions nationwide will join CHLA in the sweeping study dubbed RECOVER, or Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery, and focused on the after-effects of COVID infections. The overall study will examine patients of all ages, including pregnant women, but CHLA is one of several pediatric hospitals that will study a combined 20,000 children and young adults under 25.

The pediatric study subjects will include people with long-term effects of COVID, those who recovered fully from their infections and those who never got COVID.

According to hospital officials, long-term effects of COVID can include headaches, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, shortness of breath, changes in heart rate and sleep disorders. Patients in the study will receive regular screenings of the heart, lung, liver and kidneys over the course of four years, with some participants undergoing more extensive testing.

The nationwide study will also include 800 pediatric COVID patients who developed the virus-related condition Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children, or MIS-C, and 200 with COVID vaccine-associated myocarditis.

CHLA officials noted that long COVID can often go undiagnosed since its symptoms are similar to other maladies.

"Our goal is to identify children and young adults who may have this condition and help them toward recovery," Dr. John Wood, pediatric cardiologist at CHLA and co-principal investigator on the study, said. "If your child or a child you know is still experiencing symptoms that interfere with daily life, talk to your pediatrician about being evaluated for long-term effects of COVID and consider participating in this study."

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OIL

FROM PAGE 2

eliminating thousands of high-paying, middle-class jobs; costing the city tens of billions of dollars; relinquishing tens of millions of dollars in local tax revenues; raising the cost of living for all Angelenos; worsening the housing and homelessness crisis; and threatening the economy and the livelihoods of Angelenos by increasing dependence on unreliable foreign sources of oil."

Several people called into the City Council meeting Wednesday to voice their support for an end to neighborhood oil drilling ahead of the vote.

Many community groups have lobbied Los Angeles to stop oil drilling, citing the harms it has on communities, which are disproportionately felt in working-class communities and communities of color.

"Communities in L.A. have demanded an end to urban oil drilling and for years have been denied," said Food & Water Watch Senior Organizer Jasmin Vargas.

"But with the passage of this motion, Los Angeles has the opportunity to create a pathway to clean energy with a just transition for oil workers. Climate action like this can and should be replicated across the state. I hope Gov. (Gavin) Newsom is watching."

Newsom proposed new rules on Oct. 21, under which new oil wells or drilling facilities in California would have to be at least 3,200 feet from homes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and other "sensitive locations." Newsom cited the impacts drilling's toxic chemicals have on communities, including asthma and birth defects. The proposal is undergoing an economic analysis and public comment before taking effect. The governor has also called for a statewide phase-out of oil extraction by 2045.

A USC study published on April 15 linked living by urban oil wells with wheezing and reduced lung function, symptoms disproportionately borne by people of color in Los Angeles.

In some cases, the respiratory harm rivals that of daily exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke or living beside highways spewing auto exhaust, the researchers found.

The study focused on drilling sites in two South L.A. neighborhoods, Jefferson Park and North University Park, yet could have implications elsewhere in the region. About one-third of L.A. County residents live less than one mile from an active drilling site — and some live as close as 60 feet.

"Oil and gas extraction occurs in densely populated neighborhoods next to where residents live and go to school," said researcher Jill Johnston, an assistant professor of preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. "In this community-driven research, we found that living close to oil sites is associated with lower lung function. These results persist across ages, sex and racial/ethnic groups."

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SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County will receive sealed proposals on the following: RFP# 22.06 – High Speed Lit and/or Dark Fiber Optic Network. All proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure Bids at https://colbisecurebids.com/o/smmusd/erate on or before: **March 2, 2022; 2:00 pm.** Bid forms and specifications requests may be obtained by emailing knguyen@smmusd.org.

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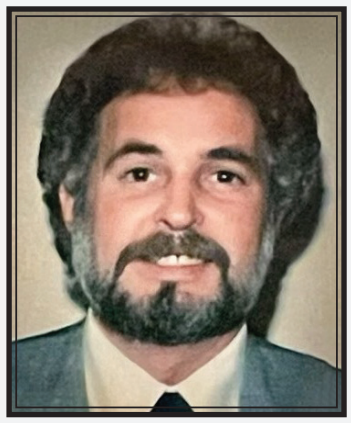






Clara Harter

NOW OPEN: **The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting on Wednesday morning for one of Montana Avenue's newest businesses: McCall's Meat & Fish Co. Store founders, City Councilmember Phil Brock and representatives from the Montana Avenue Merchants Association attended the event. This is the second location for the gourmet neighborhood market, which first opened a store in Los Feliz in 2010. The Santa Monica store is located at 1426 Montana Ave. and more information can be found at www.mccallsmeatandfish.com/.**



Dennis Lee White

September 28, 1949 – January 15, 2022

Mr. Dennis Lee White of Rock Hill, South Carolina died Saturday evening January 15, 2022, at Atrium Health Hospital in Pineville, NC. He was 72 years old.

Dennis was born September 28, 1949, in Charles City, Iowa to Russell James White and Bernita Marguerite White. At age 6, Dennis and family moved to Santa Monica, California and this is where he spent his childhood and early adult life. Dennis graduated from Saint Monica Catholic high school and attended Santa Monica City College.

Dennis was proud to have been a part of the Santa Monica police department from 1975-81 and always looked back fondly of those days. After his work with the police, Dennis began security work in the private sector and worked as head of security for a variety of different companies in California. Dennis took a different security job with TJ Maxx distribution center that took him and his family across the country to York, South Carolina in the summer of 1998. Dennis worked in several other different jobs in South Carolina before his retirement in 2017.

Dennis loved music growing up and was proud of his role as the lead singer for the group "The Area Codes". Dennis also identified with the old West. He often took the family to Tombstone, Arizona and other western sites and was a collector of guns, rifles, turquoise rings, and boots. Dennis loved animals and owned numerous different animals over the years: cats, dogs, horses, a rabbit, desert tortoises, and others. Dennis rescued and helped feed different stray cats in the Rock Hill area even into his retirement.

Dennis loved family most of all. He is survived by his daughters, Sara Louise Jackson, and Deni Lenay Urda and her husband, Dr. Michael Martin Urda; his son, Jacob Richard White; his brother, Charles Russell White; grandchildren, Rylee Catherine Ayres, Hannah Isabelle Jackson, and Jameson Phillip Jackson; as well as his many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Dennis was preceded in death by a sister, Bernice White LeMonds, and a brother, Richard Paul White.

The Bratton Funeral Home of York, South Carolina is serving the White family and online condolences may be made to the family at www.brattonfuneralhome.com. Details for Dennis's memorial service this spring in Simi Valley, California will be posted on this site when they are confirmed. In lieu of flowers, please donate the humane society of York County, South Carolina https://humanesocietyofyorkcounty.org/donate/donate.html or the ASPCA.





Noteworthy

Charles Andrews Send comments to editor@smdp.com

McCabe's Is Back!



photo courtesy McCabe's

MCCABE'S: Get picky with the selection of instruments at McCabe's.

SENSATIONAL NEWS!

Keep in mind, we lost a lot of great venues, for good, during this awful pandemic. Hard for any business to keep going when they can't open their doors for nearly two years.

I figured McCabe's would be OK because they also sell and repair instruments and provide music lessons, which can be done virtually. Also, they own the land and building so are not subject to some greedy landlord's whims.

Still, that famed stage in the back room has been silent for so long, we've almost forgotten what it meant to look forward to special, sometimes unique performances there. The talented concert director for many years, Kora "Koko" Peterson, recently left for unshuttered doors, and will be missed. "Her contribution was monumental to the success of the Concert Series. She was always a champion of young upcoming artists. She also produced the very successful 'Concert in the Park' series for the City of Santa Monica." (And made it the best ever, I would add.)

Who said that? The new guy. Except he's not a new guy, for this important, influential position. The perfect outcome, I would say, has emerged, with a bang. Wayne Griffith has been in the sound room there for 35 years and McCabe's is known for having superb sound, one of the reasons they get the acts they do. Griffith also handles anything else that comes up. You know how that goes in a small operation. So he knows every capo and pedal there. The only question: does the sound guy have the impeccable taste to book this famous room, not just make it sound great?

Well, he recently sent an email unleashing a passel of bookings, and I'm convinced already that McCabe's concert series is in good hands. Whew.

They've had Janis Ian (3/11, 12 - sold out) booked for a long time, in March, on her farewell tour, but look who else now (a sampling): Loudon Wainwright III, Tom Rush, Eliza Gilkyson with Nina Gerber, Pierre Bensusan, Chris Smither, Robbie Fulks, Griffin House, Julie Christensen. And they are now again offering music lessons in person.

Thank you Jesus.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

The Four Freshmen concert at Pepperdine last weekend was entertaining, but the boys missed an obvious opportunity.

You're a noted vocal harmony group formed in the late '40s who the Master of Vocal Harmonies, Brian Wilson, has always cited as a major influence on his work.

You're performing a show in his backyard, Malibu. There's a chance he might even be there. But nonetheless, you have the perfect opportunity to make the connection to your audience, with the most influential cultural icon in California history. You can raise your hipness quotient exponentially, with one song. Put down your instruments and crowd the mic and give us your best version of "In My Room." I guarantee the silver-haired crowd would have gone nuts. Oh well.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Concert for MUSICARES honoring JONI MITCHELL – Musicares is a great organization that helps musicians down on their luck, recognizing what a gift music is to the entire world. This annual tribute concert is their biggest fundraiser. It should be great, with an OK lineup announced but it's Grammy week and God might show up (not everyone knows but She plays a mean bottleneck), all paying tribute to the guest of honor by performing her songs and saying sappy but heartfelt things about this queen of music. I'd like to report on it but it appears my ducats got lost in the mail. Curse you, DeJoy. Sat 8 p.m., Convention Center, DTLA, $2,500-$6,000 (sorry, the Gold ticket cheap seats are sold out).

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - HAMILTON — Still with us, thank goodness, but only six more weeks. I think I can only go wrong by not recommending it, from what I've heard and read. Tonight - Thurs, Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed,

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

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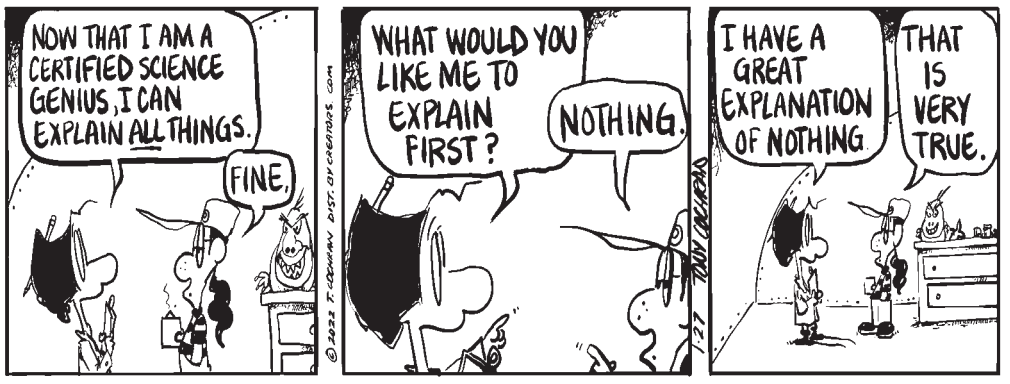
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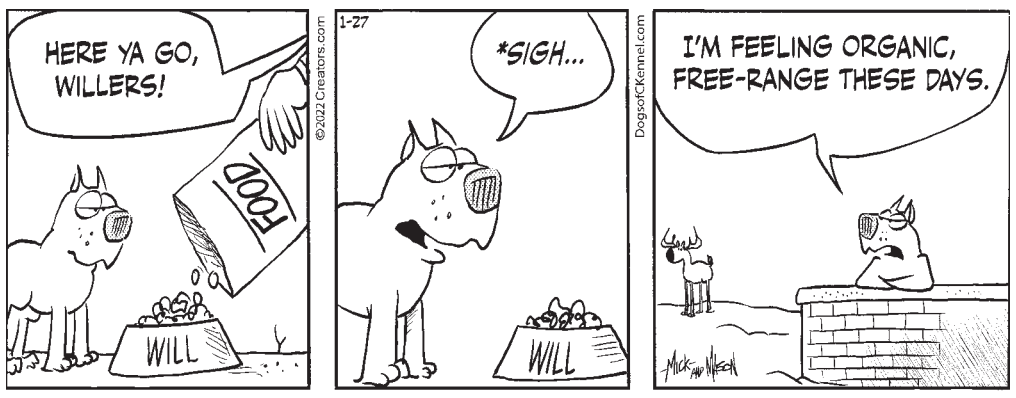
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



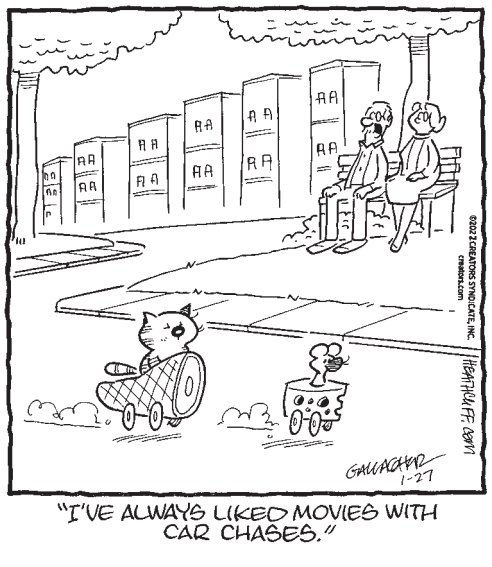
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I'VE ALWAYS LIKED MOVIES WITH CAR CHASES."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.5°

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Gradual ease in surf as reinforcing WNW swell backs down. Still a touch of SSW swell. Conditions currently look best in the morning, then PM sees light onshores.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Could be a clean day but with easing and smaller surf. Deep high tide early morning slows things down - most spots improve with the dropping tide through the AM. Stay tuned.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 72. Northeast wind around 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51. North northwest wind around 10 mph.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. North wind 10 to 15 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/01/27	Thu	04:30 AM	5.47	H
2022/01/27	Thu	12:15 PM	-0.24	L
2022/01/27	Thu	6:54 PM	3.06	H
2022/01/27	Thu	10:46 PM	2.33	L
2022/01/28	Fri	05:29 AM	5.95	H
2022/01/28	Fri	1:06 PM	-0.97	L
2022/01/28	Fri	7:46 PM	3.41	H
2022/01/28	Fri	11:55 PM	2.27	L
2022/01/29	Sat	06:24 AM	6.39	H
2022/01/29	Sat	1:52 PM	-1.51	L
2022/01/29	Sat	8:26 PM	3.71	H
2022/01/30	Sun	12:54 AM	2.07	L
2022/01/30	Sun	07:15 AM	6.73	H
2022/01/30	Sun	2:35 PM	-1.82	L
2022/01/30	Sun	9:04 PM	3.95	H
2022/01/31	Mon	01:46 AM	1.80	L
2022/01/31	Mon	08:02 AM	6.88	H
2022/01/31	Mon	3:16 PM	-1.88	L
2022/01/31	Mon	9:40 PM	4.14	H
2022/02/01	Tue	02:35 AM	1.57	L
2022/02/01	Tue	08:48 AM	6.79	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/24
11 29 30 47 53
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 91 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/25
3 12 38 53 58
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 421 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/22
25 36 43 44 46
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/25
6 14 23 28 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/25
EVENING: 5 0 9
Draw Date: 1/25
MIDDAY: 8 3 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/25
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:40.54

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 27)

You'll thrive on a balance of structure and spontaneity, which comes effortlessly. The loads of love heaped on you are well-deserved, not because you racked up the good karma in the past (you did, but that's beside the point ...) You were always worthy of the sweetest the world has to offer. Let yourself have more of it. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 44, 43, 27 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't have to try to be different; your uniqueness is innate. You don't have to try to be the same either; you have all the commonalities necessary to belong.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be a gamemaster of sorts. You have a knack for dreaming up creative challenges. If there's a simple setup and a clear goal, people will compete for the prize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your internal clock goes elastic, causing you to be in your own time zone. Some things are sped up, some take forever — and because of this, being punctual takes real effort but is so worth it!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've seen people do unpredictable things out of fear, so you go out of your way to make others comfortable, allay doubts and assuage worries. As a result, you'll project the future of the relationship with greater accuracy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're working on a co-creation. How people treat each other affects the progress and development of the project. A successful outcome will be the ultimate sign of group health.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your interpretation of a subject is also a subject. How you see things is how you see you. And there's no action you can take now that won't point to what's on your heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're preoccupied with playing out hypothetical conversations in your head. These mental negotiations, arguments and investigations will help you gear up for real-life scenarios of the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some of your experiences are like a concentrated spice: essential to the dish, but a dash goes a long way. These more intense flavors of life are best mixed into the fullness of many mundane activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Four excruciating words will be uttered: "Not yet, but soon." Since the waiting is indeed the hardest part, don't wait. Make sure your spot is being held and go do something else.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The challenge is to focus on how things are, not how they were. As you interact with things in real time, you find certain regrets breaking off and drifting ever further away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The snack between meals can contain more calories than the meal. The parking can cost more than the event. The casual mention in party conversation can impact more than the entire celebration.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll learn what you need to know with casual observation and indirect questioning. Tip: The question that causes people to hesitate, fidget or laugh is too direct and will also cause them to hide the truth.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

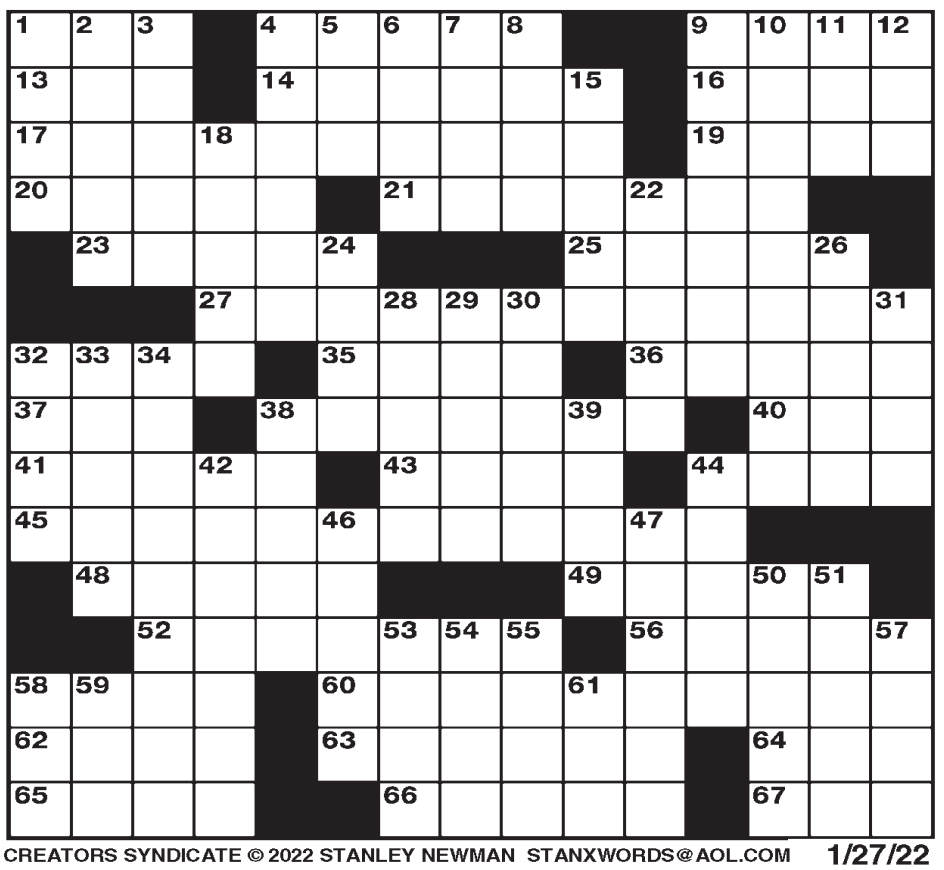
1	3	5	2	9	6	4	8	7
2	4	7	8	1	5	6	9	3
6	9	8	4	3	7	2	1	5
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8	5	6	9	2	4	3	7	1
3	2	9	5	7	1	8	6	4
7	1	3	6	4	2	9	5	8
9	8	2	7	5	3	1	4	6
5	6	4	1	8	9	7	3	2

Newsday Crossword

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Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS
1 Golfer's target
4 Frozen breakfast selections
9 "Sorry to say . . ."
13 Ancestor to all
14 Got close to
16 Prudent word-processing action
17 Salesperson's perk
19 Skedaddle
20 Horde in motion
21 Possible cold symptom
23 Eavesdropping pros
25 Hiking locale
27 Triple-decker lunch
32 Horde
35 Umpire's call
36 Really get to
37 Corp. head
38 Don't take seriously
40 One-up
41 Response to *"gesundheit!"*
43 Kimono closer
44 Easy pace
45 Training for a floating team
48 Solid or liquid, to physicists
49 Fussy people
52 Without time for niceties
56 Crushing, as a quiz
58 Musical subject for Ken Burns
60 Thing in a swag bag
62 Surveyor's calculation
63 Apartment instrument
64 Time to remember
65 City near Scottsdale
66 Small clashes
67 Farm structure

DOWN
1 Torso muscles
2 States with surety
3 Plan again, as a strategy
4 Cookware coating
5 Demographic cohort, for short
6 '70s Motown star
7 Swimmer to steer clear of
8 Put a black crust on
9 [see diagram]
10 Dressed down
11 Filmmaker DuVernay
12 Ready to roll
15 Tired-looking
18 Pretty high, in a way
22 Cantata conclusions
24 Muslim mystic
26 Kitchen utensil
28 __ nova (Brazilian dance)
29 Poison ivy relative
30 Top-tier group
31 Heavy promotion
32 Adapter designation
33 Nurtures from birth
34 Makes pay
38 Profundity
39 Model in a bottle
42 Year-end celebration
44 Nikon competitor
46 Gets the benefit of
47 Arts' partner
50 Yields to pressure
51 Say through the nose
53 Undermines
54 Take a spill
55 Multi-erupter of 2021
57 Cloudy-looking
58 Tough spot
59 "My lips __ sealed!"
61 Nevertheless



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | JAN 27

COURTYARD & SPLASH PAD OPEN
The Annenberg Community Beach House gated area, including the courtyard and splash pad, are open to the public daily. Please note, from September - May hours are subject to change with short notice. Check the Beach House website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

THE JUMP OFF!
The Jump Off is a monthly comedy showcase where the Westside Comedy Theater picks the best up-and-coming performers in LA and pairs them with popular headliners from around the country who have performed on Netflix, Comedy Central, HBO, Showtime, and more! Recent headliners have included Nikki Glaser, Megan Gailey, and Erik Griffin. 1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. $20. https://www.westsidecomedy.com. Show is 21 and over.

FRIDAY | JAN 28

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, LOW
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY | JAN 29

MANOS A LA OBRA POP-UP ARTISAN MARKET
A community celebration of craft and art at the Manos a la Obra pop-up Artisan Market. The market will feature different products produced and/or sourced by local artisans who have been collaborating with artists Cog•nate Collective to establish a community-led public market in Santa Monica. Purchase handmade artisanal crafts and view the exhibition Manos a la Obra in 18th Street Arts Center's Propeller Gallery. 3026 Airport Avenue, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THE SHOWCASE AT ST. MONICA
Inviting the greater Westside community to St. Monica's kickoff to Catholic Schools Week. The arts appreciation night will feature food trucks, refreshments and performances direct from its innovative TK-12 classrooms. St. Monica elementary and high school student hosts will introduce classmates' song and dance numbers from solos to quartets and from tap to jazz to liturgical dance. On stage there will be improv comedy and even some drama in skits and a special poem/rap – plus a violin performance you won't want to miss. An Art Walk display will Showcase selections from the TK class through advanced high school art classes. Food trucks start serving at 5 pm and the show premieres at 6:30 pm. St. Monica Catholic Schools, 1039 7th St., Santa Monica (enter Hilton Schoolyard via parking driveway on California Ave.)

SUNDAY | JAN 30

COURTYARD & SPLASH PAD OPEN
The Annenberg Community Beach House gated area, including the courtyard and splash pad, are open to the public daily. Please note, from September - May hours are subject to change with short notice. Check the Beach House website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MONDAY | JAN 31

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, HIGH
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m

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

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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

Acts	Conflict	Grass	Rates
Advice	Cost	Ideas	Role
Analysis	Crucial	Laws	Share
Argue	Debt	Library	Silence
Ball	Director	Local	Speaker
Beach	Documents	News	Staff
Bins	Dogs	Notification	Talk
Boss	Drive	Open	Town
Chat	Dues	Outdoor	Trees
Civil	Enjoy	Ovals	Urban
Clash	Ethics	Plan	
Close	Funds	Power	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Catch the Glenelg tram

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ARTS AND LETTERS

FROM PAGE 1

years earlier than planned, Lee said, due to the challenging retail environment amid the ongoing pandemic.

"Main Street — it just seems like retail in general — it's going to take years and years to come back, if at all, for small businesses," Lee said. "Between ecommerce, COVID, and then, even vendors being our competitors online, taking a piece of the pie. It makes it harder and harder to own a store, we feel."

The Oppenheims first came to Santa Monica as vendors doing consignment in numerous stores throughout Southern California. They were vendors at Arts and Letters for years and fell in love with the shop, so in 2003 when previous owners Marilyn and Jerry Golin, who had owned the store since 1992, reached out to offer them the business, they jumped at the opportunity.

"I just love the store," Linda said. "I've always loved paper, always loved cards. It's just a quaint little place, and I just really wanted the store."

So the couple, who were raising their two young boys at the time, bought the business and made it their own. For two decades, the Oppenheims have commuted 45 minutes or more each way from Calabasas to work at the shop, where they said they've made many friends in the community.

"I love the relationships that I've built with the customers," Linda said. "Being a mom and pop shop, people come in. They feel like family, and we're always welcoming them here. One of my favorite things to do is find greeting cards and wrapping paper. I love helping customers pick out the ideal gift [and] wrapping their gift."

In the past, Linda and Lee used to work with a lot of customers who were getting married and throwing baby showers, helping them select stationary for invitations. Nowadays, most people just go online.

"Unfortunately, the internet has taken that away," Linda said.

That's meant a loss of income for Arts and Letters, but Linda said it's also a loss for the customers.

"I think it's important for people to touch and feel products," Linda said. "Nowadays, everything's done online, and you don't always know what you're getting. And it's certainly not the [same level of] customer service."

With nearly 45 years' experience as business owners (having started out with a pet shop before getting into greeting cards), Lee and Linda passed on lessons to their sons, Brian, now 34, and Jason, 30, although neither is following in their parents' footsteps.

"We're a close family," Linda said. "They've been a help to us."

The Oppenheims shared advice for new business owners hoping to find success in retail operations.

"Don't be an absentee owner — that's the first thing," Lee said. "Definitely have an online presence along with your store. Have unique items that you don't find everywhere at the big box stores."

"And customer service," Leslie added.

"Yes, that's number one," Lee agreed.

"Our philosophy is to help people," Lee added. "Be nice to people. You would hope that other people continue to do that."

Arts and Letters is located at 2665 Main St C, Santa Monica, CA 90405. It's open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, until Feb. 28 or earlier if inventory sells out.

emily@smdp.com

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 7

next Thurs 8 p.m., Sun 1 p.m., 6:30 p.m., also Sat 2 p.m., Pantages Theater, Hollywood, $49-3000+, depending on date/time.

BJORK – What is there to say? No one knows what she will do, for any given show, even on a tour. When I was dragged to a show of hers some years ago I was, predictably, not totally knocked out by the music (but it was much better than I anticipated), but she is all about the visuals and no one tops her. Expect the provocative, outrageous and delicious. Sat, Wed 8 p.m., Shrine Auditorium, LA, $64-673.

SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends – Who knows about her friends but Silverman is someone you either can't stand or love a lot, put me in that last basket. Sat 8:30 p.m., also 2/19, 3/5, Largo at the Coronet, LA, $35.

JOHN MAYALL – the term "legend" is thrown around pretty liberally but Mayall qualifies, indisputably. Yes he was the long standing godfather of British blues, recruiting players such as Clapton, Mick Taylor, Peter Green, John McVie and Mick Fleetood, Champion Jack Dupree, Jack Bruce, Paul Butterfield, Don "Sugarcane" Harris, Harvey Mandel, Albert King, Blue Mitchell, Ernie Watts, Billy Gibbons, Otis Rush, Steve Cropper, Steve Miller, Joe Walsh – the list goes on. Know someone by the company they keep, or play with. Mayall has multi-instrumental chops and soulful if not standard blues pipes. He wrote a lot of excellent songs too. He made quite a mark in a short time before fleeing Britain for America, home of all the blues he loved. This is probably his last tour. He's just over the border in Venice, on Lincoln. Go, for pete's sake. Sun 8 p.m., also 2/27, Venice West, $35.

NORWOOD FISHER presents IN-JAMATION – Norwood of course of Fishbone infamy, a founding mother, loves to put together these messy jam sessions (Trulio Disgracias) that have their moments of transcendence. Sometimes big name players show up. But it should be fun in our local Trip on Lincoln, on a Thursday night for no cover. At worst you have a beer and meet some new people. At best you witness history, a lifelong story to unfurl. Next Thur 9:30 p.m., The Trip, Santa Monica, free.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: SPARKS, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 2/7,8; LA PHIL with ESA-PEKKA SALONEN plays Strauss, Smith, and Salonen, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 2/11,12; BARBARA MORRISON, Vibrato, 2/13; GARRCK OHLSSON plays all Chopin, Walt Disney Concert Hall,2/13; LA PHIL with SALONEN plays Bartok, Bjarnason, Sibelius, Walt Disney Concert Hall,, 2/18,19,20; SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends, Largo at the Coronet, 2/19, 3/5; PETE ESCOVEDO, Vibrato, 2/20; LA PHIL with FATHER JOHN MISTY, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 2/25; JOHN MAYALL, Venice West, 2/27; HERBIE HANCOCK, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 2/27; THE ENGLISH BEAT, The Bourbon Room, ¾,5.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 36 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that Los Angeles County Public Works is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide On-Call Consultant Services for Implementation and Other Support for Safe, Clean Water Program for various projects throughout the Los Angeles County (BRC0000302), will be received by Public Works, on February 15, 2022 by 4:00 p.m. The RFP and link to the virtual conference may be obtained by accessing the link at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/ or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-2593. 1/27/22 CNS-3547053# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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