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Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY
03.04.21
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Crime Watch
Mac and Meth.
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Noteworthy
Our Hidden Human Treasures.
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Gus Harper's 'Gemscape' spreads light, luck, and levity across LA






Courtesy photos

ART: A local artist has created an art based scavenger hunt across the Los Angeles area.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

While art galleries are shut down, residents don't need a ticket to see local artist Gus Harper's latest installation—merely playful curiosity, a keen eye, and a little bit of luck.

Across Los Angeles, Harper and his friends have scattered over 70 painted wood cutout 'gems', each containing an envelope with money and instructions.

The lucky finders acquire a one-of-a-kind iridescent art piece and are told to either keep the cash or pay it forward to someone who needs it more. They are also encouraged to make a donation to the Pilot Light Foundation, which builds economic opportunities for people living in extreme poverty in Africa.

"I realized things were going pretty well for me and I thought 'well I really like sharing enthusiasm and happiness with others, how can I make this something that's more inclusive for all people, not just the people who can afford to buy art?'," said Harper. "I realized this was a great idea to give back a little, so I decided to also partner with Pilot Light."

Anyone who's not feeling up to street sleuthing is welcome to purchase a gem directly from Harper's studio where 50 percent of the profits will go to Pilot Light. Harper is also selling artwork to raise money for the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica.

The money hidden on the 'street' gems ranges from $2 to $100, with a goal of bringing whimsy and excitement into people's day-to-day lives.

"It's great to see people having a lot of fun in a day that might have otherwise been dreary," said Harper. "Often people find these gems and then post and tag me on social media saying 'the luckiest thing happened to me today: I was walking down the street, I found this gem and feel so lucky I get to take it home.'"

While the Gemscape installation strives to spread light in a dark time, Harper said this is the sort of project he would do regardless of the pandemic.

"I do projects all the time and

SEE **GEMSCAPE** PAGE 4

Changes likely coming to City's micromobility pilot

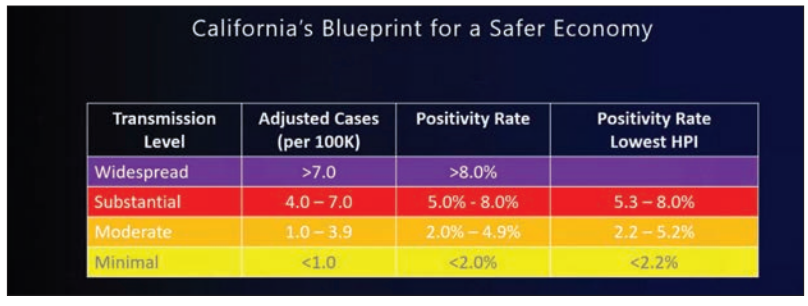
BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

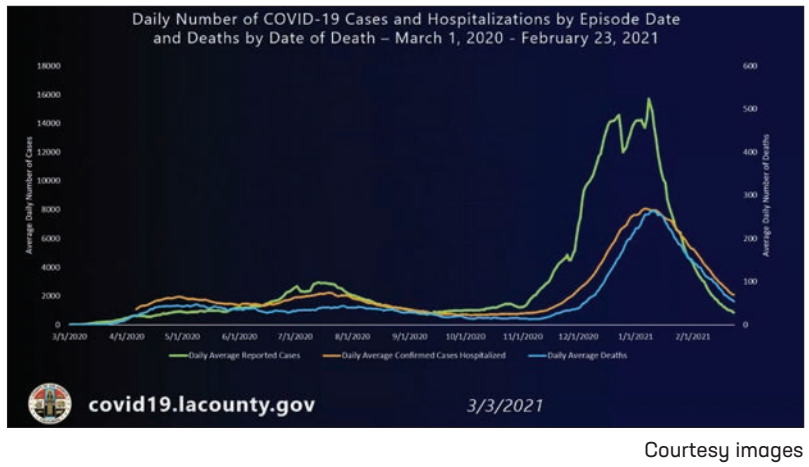
Santa Monica launched its first shared mobility pilot program in 2018 to test entirely new concepts relating to shared mobility businesses, but new challenges in the wake of COVID-19 have City Council wondering if it should backpedal on a previous decision.

After a pilot evaluation report in January 2020, City Council approved a second Shared Mobility Pilot Program that sought to reduce the number of companies allowed to operate in Santa Monica over the program's 18-month duration. Councilmembers said the city will

SEE **MICROMOBILITY** PAGE 11

Officials say secondary schools and indoor dining could open this month





Courtesy images

CASES: Case counts continue to decline and could allow more reopenings.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

L.A. County is poised to move into the red tier of Covid-19 restrictions, allowing for the reopening of secondary schools and many indoor businesses.

Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said it's "very possible that we'll enter the red tier as early as next week" as County case rates are currently at 7.2 per 100,000 residents.

Under the red tier restaurants, museums, and movie theaters can reopen indoors at 25 percent capacity and gyms can reopen indoors at 10 percent capacity. Retails stores that are currently open indoors at 25 percent capacity will be able to operate at 50 percent

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 11

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4407 HVAC MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES AT SANTA MONICA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (SaMoDOT).

Submission Deadline is March 19, 2021 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #283 COMMUNITY-BASED COMMERCIAL KITCHEN OPERATOR OPPORTUNITY

- **Submission Deadline is April 8, 2021 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION VIA TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

A discussion will be held by the Landmarks Commission on the following:

1659 Ocean Front Walk (Purser Apartments), Certificate of Appropriateness 20ENT-0294, Zoning: R3 BCH (Medium Density Residential / Beach Overlay). Consideration of the placement of a blade sign for the multifamily residence known as the Purser Apartments, a designated City Landmark, in accordance with S.M.M.C 9.27.030 (C). The proposed blade sign is similar to an original sign previously removed and requires a sign adjustment. **Applicant:** 1659 Ocean Front Walk in Santa Monica LLC. **Owner:** 1659 Ocean Front LLC and DP Frontwalk Investments LLC.

9 Vicente Terrace, Certificate of Appropriateness 21ENT-0024, Zoning: R3 (Medium Density Residential). Consideration of an addition, rehabilitation and partial demolition of a single-family residence, a designated City Landmark, in accordance with S.M.M.C 9.27.030 (C). **Applicant:** Robert Crockett, AIA. **Owner:** Vincent DeFilippo.

DATE/TIME: MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021 AT 7:00 PM

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Landmarks Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The public may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/bhkbtrby or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 6907872 #).

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Comments may be sent via email to planningcomment@smgov.net. Written information received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Landmarks Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Written information received after 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read aloud at the meeting for a total of three minutes.

QUESTIONS regarding the project may be addressed to Stephanie Reich, AIA, LEED AP, Design and Historic Preservation Planner at stephanie.reich@smgov.net.

MORE INFORMATION: For disability-related accommodations, please contact planning@smgov.net or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica sobre una solicitud para remodelar un edificio que tiene valor historico importante. Para más información: planning@smgov.net

California clinics: More vaccines going to rich than at-risk

AMY TAXIN AND JANIE HAR
Associated Press

Teresa Parada is exactly the kind of person equity-minded California officials say they want to vaccinate: She's a retired factory worker who speaks little English and lives in a hard-hit part of Los Angeles County.

But Parada, 70, has waited weeks while others her age flock to Dodger Stadium or get the coronavirus shot through large hospital networks. The place where she normally gets medical care, AltaMed, is just now receiving enough supply to vaccinate her later this month.

Parada said TV reports show people lining up to get shots, but "I see only vaccines going to Anglos."

"It's rare that I see a Latino there for the vaccine. When will it be our turn?" she said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has repeatedly called equity his "North Star" for vaccinating a diverse state of nearly 40 million. He partnered with the federal government to set up mass vaccination sites in working-class neighborhoods in Oakland and Los Angeles. And it's a big part of why he tasked insurer Blue Shield with centralizing California's patchwork vaccine system, asking the hospital chain Kaiser Permanente to assist.

Yet officials at community health centers that serve as the safety net for the poor in the U.S., focused on health equity, say they are not receiving enough doses for their patients — the very at-risk residents the state needs to vaccinate.

In California, nearly 1,400 such centers offer free or low-cost services to about 7 million people, many in communities with a higher concentration of low-income families and few providers who take Medicaid, which is known in California as Medi-Cal. Many of their clients speak a language other than English, work long hours, lack transportation and want to go to the medical care professionals they trust.

Dr. Efrain Talamantes, chief operating officer for AltaMed Health Services, said it was disheartening to watch initial doses go elsewhere while his patients continued to test positive for the virus.

"There is a clear disparity every single time there's a resource that's limited," he said.

Most states are grasping for ways to distribute limited vaccine supply, resulting in a hodgepodge of methods in the absence of a federal plan. Tennessee is among the states dispensing doses based on county populations, while California allocates them by eligible groups including teachers and farmworkers. The free-for-all has allowed people with the most resources to score scarce vaccinations.

Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco, said it seems obvious that the best strategy to get vaccines to hard-hit communities is to turn to the places where residents already get care. But big-box administrators tend to think of community health centers as less efficient because of their smaller size, she said.

"We're not very imaginative in the way we deliver vaccine efficiently. Our only creative solutions are to build mass vaccination sites, and maybe give people preferential access to those sites," she said.

As California has ramped up vaccination efforts through mobile and pop-up clinics at churches, work sites and schools, state data show how relatively few shots have gone to Latinos and Blacks compared to their populations.

African Americans have received 3% of vaccine doses while they make up 6% of the state. Latinos, who make up 39% of the state, have received 17% of doses.

Blue Shield officials say they plan to keep open health centers that are already administering vaccines, but the clinics worry they won't get enough doses.

State vaccine spokesman Darrel Ng said the governor's plan for equitable vaccination includes setting aside vaccines for "disproportionately impacted communities and ensuring that providers who serve these communities are part of the network." He said in a statement that it includes sending mobile clinics to places like Black churches.

Andie Martinez Patterson, vice president of government affairs at the California Primary Care Association, said while large-scale health systems can vaccinate people quickly, they likely won't reach the targeted residents.

Community health centers have worked hard to persuade their patients to take the shot, said Alexander Rossel, chief executive of Families Together of Orange County, adding his center has inoculated 95 percent of its patients age 65 and over.

Health centers watched in dismay as vaccine for health care workers initially went to larger hospitals in December. Then they watched as more affluent, internet-savvy English speakers with time to navigate web portals and drive long distances for appointments flocked to inoculation arenas.

When Orange County started opening large-scale vaccination sites in mid-January, community health centers asked for doses too, said Isabel Becerra, chief executive of the Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers.

"We don't have transportation. We don't speak English. We don't understand the technology you're asking us to use to register and get in line. So, can we vaccinate the 65 and older population in the comfort of their own facilities?" she said.

Jodie Wingo, interim president of the community health association for Riverside and San Bernardino counties, said member clinics were scaling up to inoculate more of their 500,000 patients. But now they're receiving only a few dozen doses at a time.

"Everybody is working toward equity, yet it doesn't look equitable. At all," she said.

AltaMed, in Los Angeles and Orange counties, recently started receiving 3,000 doses a week from the two counties. The supply should allow clients like Parada, who is originally from Mexico, to receive her vaccine this month.

AltaMed will send a vehicle to take her to a clinic for the shot that will protect her when she heads out, double-masked, to shop for the family.

"I'm the one who has to go out. I have to protect myself," she said.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 246 CALLS ON MARCH 2

Petty Theft Just Occurred 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 12:14 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 12:19 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2000blk 21st St 12:27 a.m.
Battery Report Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 12:50 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1800blk Euclid St 1:37 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 2:00 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 5:05 a.m.
Arson 4th St / Broadway 6:54 a.m.
Construction Noise 500blk 7th St 7:53 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 4th St 7:54 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 500blk San Vicente Blvd 7:59 a.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 17th St 8:27 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 900blk 4th St 8:59 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk 19th St 9:23 a.m.
Juvenile Annoying Investigation 2500blk 6th St 9:28 a.m.
Strongarm Robbery Report 12900blk 7th St Chino 91710 10:11 a.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 2000blk Oak St 10:13 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2900blk Main St 10:14 a.m.
Encampment 1300blk Palisades Park 10:15 a.m.
General Parking Problem 800blk 11th St 10:27 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 600blk Pier Ave 10:38 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 11:54 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle 3100blk Pennsylvania Ave 11:56 a.m.
Fight 2100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:02 p.m.
Suspicious Circumstances 900blk 7th St 12:18 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred Lincoln Blvd / Arizona Ave 12:20 p.m.
Sexual Assault 300blk Santa Monica Pier 12:24 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1500blk Palisades Park 12:34 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1900blk 17th St 12:37 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk Pearl St 1:04 p.m.
Burglary Report 2000blk Main St 1:20 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 500blk Adelaide Dr 1:28 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 1:37 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600blk Barnard Way 1:40 p.m.
Loud Music 2200blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:46 p.m.
Identity Theft 900blk 17th St 1:56 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk Grant St 2:15 p.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 3rd St 2:17 p.m.
Encampment 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 2:31 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1900blk 6th St 2:45 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1500blk Yale St 3:02 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk Bay St 3:04 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2500blk Broadway 3:14 p.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Ave 3:17 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 3:18 p.m.
Found Property 2nd St / Colorado Ave 3:34 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 3:58 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1300blk 2nd St 4:13 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 3rd St 4:29 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900blk 5th St 4:42 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 4:50 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1200blk Palisades Park 4:59 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk Oak St 5:09 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 700blk Michigan Ave 5:12 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 4400blk Overland Ave, Culver City 5:14 p.m.
Juvenile Annoying Investigation 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:14 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 5:26 p.m.
Found Property 4th St / Colorado Ave 5:35 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2300blk Kansas Ave 5:50 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 6:16 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 17th St 6:18 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred 2800blk Delaware Ave 6:19 p.m.
Fraud Report 1100blk 11th St 6:22 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 500blk Lincoln Blvd 7:03 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Pacific St 7:10 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Euclid St / Idaho Ave 7:56 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 11th St 8:45 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk Hill St 8:58 p.m.
Encampment 400blk Ocean Ave 9:11 p.m.
Prowler 100blk Hollister Ave 9:19 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 2000blk Arizona Ave 9:24 p.m.
Person With A Gun Ocean Ave / Alta Ave 9:31 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 200blk California Ave 10:25 p.m.
Loud Music 2400blk Euclid St 11:16 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1400blk Ocean Ave 11:37 p.m.

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 21 CALLS ON MARCH 2

Automatic Alarm 300blk Colorado Ave 12:30 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 1:18 a.m.
EMS 800blk Broadway 3:38 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 6:21 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 500blk Wilshire Blvd 6:47 a.m.
Wires Down 600blk 7th St 8:21 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 9:02 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Chelsea Ave 9:02 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk Broadway 11:36 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Pacific St 12:09 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600blk Broadway 12:19 p.m.
EMS 2700blk 11th St 12:24 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:38 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Euclid St 2:50 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Franklin St 5:28 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk 4th St 6:52 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Pacific St 7:09 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 8:43 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 100blk Georgina Ave 8:54 p.m.
EMS 2600blk 30th St 9:29 p.m.
Flooded Condition 800blk 18th St 11:10 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.

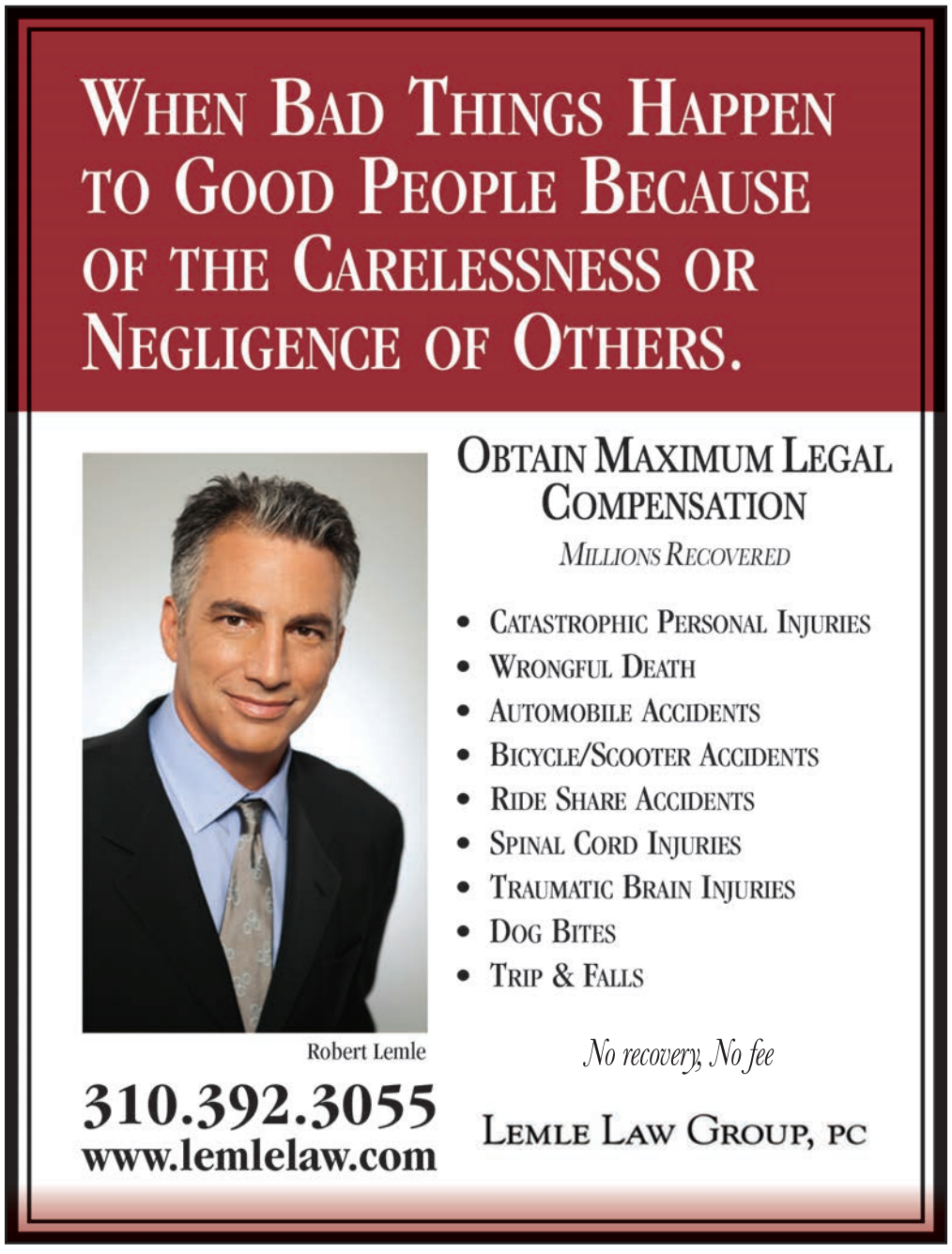
ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT 4:01 P.M.

Officers were flagged down on the 1500 block of 2nd Street regarding a subject who was acting erratic. The subject matched the description of the Suspect from an earlier call who had been throwing items at downtown ambassadors and security from the Mac Cosmetics store. Upon contact with the Suspect, Officers learned he was under the influence of meth-amphetamine. Damion Lorenzo Jimmerson was arrested for 647(F)PC- Public Intoxication and a Stay Away order from the downtown area was requested. A records check also found that Jimmerson was on probation for a 211PC- Robbery and a 245(A)PC- Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

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California court upholds now-lapsed LA County dining ban

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

A California appeals court has sided with Los Angeles County public health officials who halted outdoor dining during a November spike in COVID-19 cases.

While the order is no longer in effect because of a decline in cases and hospitalizations, the 2nd District Court of Appeal said the issue wasn't moot. The panel on Monday told a Superior Court judge to set aside an order that had granted a preliminary injunction to restaurants that temporarily halted the order.

The appeal court had previously stayed the lower court order. A statewide shutdown then went into effect, superseding LA County's closure.

Still, the ruling reverses what had been one of the few victories for those opposing shutdown orders.

The California Restaurant Association, which was a party to the lawsuit, called the appellate ruling disappointing and said it was considering its legal options.

The county's ban was issued without considering the "true risk" of COVID-19 transmission from outdoor dining, and with the "certainty that many restaurants would close" and many employees lose their jobs, Jot Condie, the association's president and chief executive officer, said in a statement.

LA County, the nation's largest with 10 million residents, was hard-hit by a fall and winter surge of COVID-19 cases that saw the state struggling to reduce infections by reintroducing strict regulations it had eased during an earlier dip in cases.

Restaurants, which already were struggling because of stay-at-home orders and a ban on indoor dining, were told to shut down outdoor service as well, reducing them to offering only takeout and deliveries.

The appeals court said it was sympathetic to the plight of restaurant owners and employees but that broad deference should be given to officials unless they act arbitrarily, capriciously or violate core constitutional rights.

"Wisdom and precedent dictate that elected officials and their expert public health officers, rather than the judiciary, generally should decide how best to respond to health emergencies," Justice Brian Currey wrote in the unanimous decision.

The appellate ruling said that the outdoor ban was issued "at a time when infection rates were surging, and Southern California's intensive care units were about to be overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients."

The court rejected the lower court ruling that would have blocked the closure until the county provided a risk-benefit analysis. The three-judge panel said that while the county had no specific study that demonstrated outdoor dining contributed to spread of the virus, it had a rational basis to believe it does.

The risk of transmitting COVID-19 increases "when people from different households gather in close proximity for extended periods without masks or other face coverings," the ruling said. "The risk also increases with unmasked talking and laughter. These conditions are often all present when people dine together in restaurants."

Los Angeles County still bans indoor dining, although that could change by the end of the month as infection, hospitalization and death rates plunge.

The decline has permitted several other counties to drop from the highest-level restrictions in the state's four-tier COVID-19 system — the purple tier — to the red tier, which does permit limited indoor dining.

San Francisco, Santa Clara and Napa counties in the Bay Area joined four other counties in moving to a lower tier on Tuesday.

GEMSCAPE

FROM PAGE 1

people ask what are you doing this for and I say for fun!" said Harper. "Why does a street artist paint a mural and walk away? Sometimes just for the joy of life and self expression."

This philosophy is central to Harper's artwork. He is known for using rich reds and blues to depict primal and naturalistic imagery that expresses themes of spiritual uplift and the childlike cheer that comes from imagination and creativity.

"I heard this theory that we're all artists when we're little kids and we just stop when we grow up. If you ask any six-year-old they'll confidently say 'yeah I'm a great artist,'" said Harper. "My art career started with me doing coloring books with my best friend Justin. We both thought we were going to be artists when we grew up, but unlike most people that never faded away for me."

Harper's playful gems come in many different shapes and forms. Some of the most common are his captivating blue and green eyes as well as his original diamond design. While diamonds are molecularly symmetrical, Harper finds perfection boring and loves stretching dimensions.

"I started making diamonds that were wonky, uneven, and misshapen, and I found it so much more interesting," said Harper. "We're all asymmetrical, so I thought this was a good chance to show off the idea of finding beauty in irregularities."

Other gem designs include chess pieces and paper airplanes. One of Harper's favorites is his knight, which represents getting to your destination via an indirect path and overcoming hurdles with ease, because the knight moves in an 'L' shape and can jump over other chess pieces.

The paper airplanes symbolize daydreams and are actually capable of flying. Harper recently launched an eight foot airplane that successfully soared over a mountain range.

Those interested in finding their own gem should follow @gusharperart on Instagram and @PilotLightFund on Twitter for hints on when and where they are hidden.

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WINNER

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Weather system brings rain, winds to Southern California

A touch of winter returned to Southern California on Wednesday as rain moved ashore from the Pacific, bringing a chance of snow in the region's mountains.

Rain was reported along many coastal locations by late morning as a low pressure system moved in, the National Weather Service said.

Winter weather advisories for snow and gusty winds were issued for the mountains of Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

The region has been experiencing a very mild winter, with rainfall well below normal and spring-like days.

The Los Angeles-area weather office said high pressure will build over the region Thursday and Friday, bringing back mostly sunny skies and pushing temperatures up to the 70s.

More rain could be on the way.

"Models are indicating a couple of impulses moving into California next week which will potentially lead us into a wetter and more dynamic pattern," the weather service said. "Still too early for details, but a couple of chances for light rain are possible."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Citywide

Facebook lifts ban on US political, social issue ads

Facebook says it is lifting its ban on political and social-issue ads put in place after the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Political candidates, groups and others will be able to place ads on Facebook and Instagram beginning on Thursday.

Restricting political advertisements following the November election was among the host of measures Facebook put in place last year in an attempt to ensure its platform is not used to sow chaos and spread misinformation.

Facebook halted U.S. political ads when the polls closed on Nov. 3, an extension of an earlier restriction on new political ads in the week leading up to Election Day. It said at the time that the ban would be temporary but did not give a clear end date.

"We've heard a lot of feedback about this and learned more about political and electoral ads during this election cycle," the company said in a blog post Wednesday. "As a result, we plan to use the coming months to take a closer look at how these ads work on our service to see where further changes may be merited."

Twitter has banned political ads permanently.

BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Citywide

Nurturing Our Queens : The Mix Tape

March is known as Women's Month. The March gathering of Committee For Racial Justice (CRJ) on March 7 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. by zoom will focus on supporting self-care and wellness for women.

Taking care of ourselves and our loved ones should be a guiding principle for everyone. Yet, creating self-care routines during a pandemic has been an obstacle course - especially for women of color. While learning to navigate through what appears to be a "new normal," Black women stand at the crossroads of this reckoning as leaders, nurturers, and providers. This workshop will explore why self-care matters and how to put self-care into action - empowering the mind, body, and spirit.

Resource panelists include Dr. Taska Moore, M.D., a board-certified Obstetrician & Gynecologist. She's spent more of her career working exclusively in underserved communities. Working in such communities of limited means presents challenges including battling diseases caused or worsened by poor health choices. Dr. Moore is determined to provide high-quality care to women with socioeconomic challenges and provides resources to empower them with better options. As a certified ACE health coach for the last 5 years, she uses her knowledge regarding exercise and nutrition to guide patients in their journey toward healthier lives. Dr. Moore will speak on honoring a queen's temple (body) - and how to maintain optimal health throughout every stage of a woman's life cycle.

FIT-lanthropist, Corey Taylor is rapidly becoming a leading innovator in physical fitness. He has increased the quality of life for entertainment and professional sports figures, which has added value to their career worth. Such clients include actress, Charmin Lee; Emmy-nominated actress, Niecy Nash; NFL great, Darrin Walls; Grammy Board artist, Mumu Fresh; and award-winning filmmaker, Ava Marie DuVernay. A full-time vegan athlete and amateur boxer, Corey Taylor will provide fitness insight on the power of health and mindfulness.

Nakeya Fields, is a mental health entrepreneur, author, and speaker. She is a Registered Play Therapist - Supervisor, certified field instructor, and clinical supervisor. Nakeya is licensed by the Board of Behavioral Sciences as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of California. She has more than 12 years of experience in developing and running mental health-related, community-focused programming. She is the Founder and Chair of the Board for the Therapeutic Play Foundation, a nonprofit that seeks to build a healthier, more resilient world for those in under-resourced communities. Nakeya will share tips on "Finding Your Super Power," how self-care routines create "life energy" that reinforces ideal health, as well as how allies and family members can support Black women.

There will be a lively discussion with all the women & men present and time for Q & A.

Call Joanne at 310-422-5431 for more information.

Sunday, March 7, 2021 from 6:30 -8 p.m. zoom meeting : https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89597697722

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

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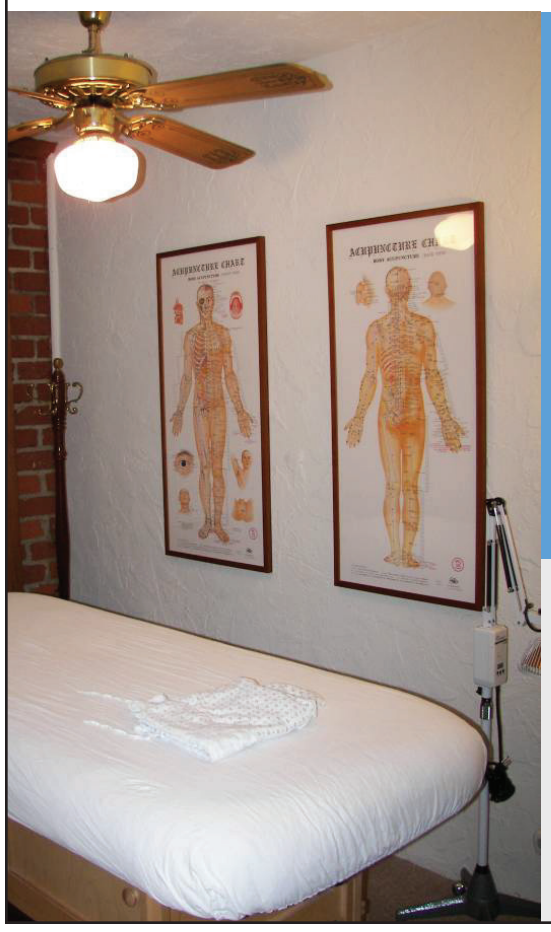


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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Our Hidden Human Treasures

YOU'VE SEEN HER AROUND TOWN

You can't miss her, with those outfits exploding with color on her very diminutive frame. And always a hat to match or add to the effect. A rainbow palette in motion.

She loves her hats, since junior high school. "I never leave the house without a hat." How many? "I think I had more than 200, but I recently donated about 100 of them to a thrift store."

Or you may have noticed her front yard, a raucous yet genteel fairyland tableau of tiny structures and statues of critters and the occasional mythical humans. "During holidays I have the best yard displays in town," she claims.

You will always see squirrels because Elaine Golden-Gealer is a squirrely person. Like her favorite local writer, the late Daily Press columnist Bill Bauer, whom she misses a lot. She now dabbles in journalism, disseminating her News You Can Use, her curated emailed assemblage of what she feels are important news stories from many sources. "I put a lot of time into that. I feel it's important for people to be well informed."

In a town known for being ultra-liberal and nearly completely Democratic (whether true or not), her politics are very conservative. She describes herself as "a former hippie turned Realtor." She owned a small apartment building for 40 years until selling it three years ago, and as a landlord ran for the Rent Control Board. "I got more votes than one of the incumbents," she declares proudly. "Even though SMRR had signs near all the polling places telling people not to vote for me."

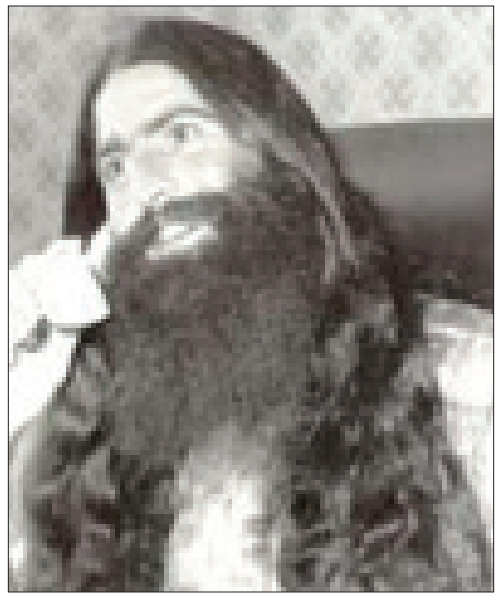
She was a social worker for many years, she says, in child services. "I went into some pretty tough neighborhoods, all alone, little ol' me," she related. "Maybe that wasn't so smart, but I survived."

FOLK SINGER

So there's all that about Elaine G-G, a local character indeed, but what you probably wouldn't guess is that she had another previous life as a recognized folk singer in her youth. She was briefly part of The Womenfolk ensemble in the mid-'60s, who released five albums on RCA and had a minor hit with their version of the Pete Seeger staple, "Little Boxes."

She also performed solo here in LA. "I called myself the Happy Blues Singer," she told me. "You know, when you sing the blues you're getting it out, your troubles and woes, and that makes you feel good." She said she sang some of her songs once for Lightnin' Hopkins, in her Silverlake apartment, and he said, "Girl, you sure do know the blues." "That compliment, from him, was one of the highlights of my life," she said.

How did she know and hang out with Lightnin' Hopkins, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, Big Mama Thornton, the Chambers Brothers, Mance Lipscomb, Jesse Fuller, Barbara Dane and the New Lost City Ramblers, and some of the Jefferson Airplane?



Courtesy photo

DJ: Council Member Kevin McKeown in his radio daze

THE ASH GROVE

"I practically lived at the Ash Grove," she said. "But I never performed there. When I left LA and moved to Berkeley, for the Free speech Movement, I was living with Carroll Perry, the former manager of the Ash Grove. We opened a coffee house called the Cabal Creamery, later renamed the Good Buddy, and started booking acts there. We would get a lot of the people who played the Ash Grove, making a small circuit. They would usually add some place in San Francisco and then have three gigs instead of just one."

And so Elaine Golden-Gealer is a prime example of what I find over and over in Santa Monica: people who have a really interesting history, that you might never learn about. Did you know our longtime City Council Member Kevin McKeown once helmed Pasadena's world-famous KROQ FM — just before it became world famous — and teamed with members of the Firesign Theater to give an alternate take on announcing the Rose Bowl Parade, and had a beard halfway down his chest and hair down to his belly? I know, hard to picture, but if you search you can probably find that picture online.

And that our own Bill Bauer also had a history in LA radio? When I found that out some years ago I got the two of them together to do an hour-long reminiscence on early LA rock and roll radio days. No politics allowed. (But McKeown fudged a couple of times.) It was for a specific project that never got off the ground, but someday, somewhere, that tape will surface.

MORE UP FROM THE ASH (GROVE)

Responding to last week's NOTEWORTHY noting the passing of Ed Pearl, the man behind the Ash Grove, I heard from our (sometimes) Ocean Park resident, Renaissance man of all voices and several instruments Harry Shearer,

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

GOP takes aim at Biden's health care pick on abortion rights

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR AND THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

President Joe Biden's pick for health secretary is taking heat from Republicans for his actions in support of abortion rights. They want to define him — and the new administration — as out of the mainstream.

The Senate Finance Committee deadlocked Wednesday along party lines on the nomination of Xavier Becerra, more of a speed bump than a stop sign. Under the rules, Democrats will take the nomination to a vote by the full Senate, and White House press secretary Jen Psaki says, "We remain confidently behind the nomination."

Becerra is paying a price for defending, as California's attorney general, some of the nation's most liberal laws and policies on abortion rights. The battle is also a test for abortion opponents. By a show of force, they're trying to deny a president who supports abortion rights his choice to run the Department of Health and Human Services with the coronavirus pandemic still untamed.

"It goes to show that California abortion policies are progressive enough that being associated with them is something that anti-abortion lawmakers want to make disqualifying for a Cabinet position," said Mary Ziegler, a law professor at Florida State University, who specializes in the legal history of reproduction.

Nationally, the abortion issue appears in flux. Lawmakers in 19 state legislatures have introduced almost 50 major bills this year to ban most or all abortions, according to the nonpartisan Guttmacher Institute. In South Carolina, Republican Gov. Henry McMaster signed a measure banning most abortions, though it was almost immediately suspended by a federal judge.

Abortion opponents are hoping that litigation over a state law will reach the Supreme Court, now clearly leaning to the right. It could serve as a vehicle for overturning the Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion. Yet despite the surge of state activity, the underlying political reality is tricky.

During the 2020 election, about 6 in 10 voters said abortion should be legal in most or all cases, according to VoteCast, an in-depth survey of the U.S. electorate conducted by NORC at The University of Chicago for The Associated Press. Roughly the same percentage of Republicans said abortion should usually be legal, the survey showed.

Becerra's GOP critics "don't represent where the majority of the American people are," said Planned Parenthood President Alexis McGill Johnson.

Becerra, 63, was a reliable Democratic vote for abortion rights during more than 20 years representing a Los Angeles-area district in the U.S. House. But he wasn't a leading voice. His issues were immigration, access to health care and education.

Perceptions changed after Becerra was appointed California attorney general in 2017. He sued the Trump administration over its restrictions on abortion, though his office says that only four of the 124 lawsuits Becerra filed against the previous administration dealt with abortion, birth control or conscience rights — key issues for religious conservatives. Becerra went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to defend a California law that required crisis pregnancy centers to provide information about abortion — and lost.

His legal advocacy grated on abortion opponents. "What I just see is his getting involved in way too many abortion cases," said Kristen Day, executive director of Democrats for Life of America. "He just made it part of his foundation. Yes, the laws were bad in California, but he has an abortion agenda."

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., echoed those views. As attorney general, "you spent an inordinate amount of time and effort suing pro-life organizations," he said, questioning Becerra recently. "If confirmed, how do you assure us? Because I think the majority of the American people would not want their secretary of Health and Human Services focused or fixated on expanding abortion when we got all of these public health issues to deal with."

"I understand that Americans have different deeply held beliefs on this particular issue," Becerra responded, adding that "it's my job to defend the rights of my state." He has also pointed out that his wife, Dr. Carolina Reyes, is an obstetrician recognized for caring for women with high-risk pregnancies.

Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden, D-Ore., says some Republicans are ignoring the pandemic "to peddle misleading or demonstrably false attacks." On Wednesday, he reminded Republicans that Becerra has promised to follow the law and science on women's health issues. "Folks have a constitutional right to say that's a radical position — I don't share that view," he said.

There seems to be no room for dialogue. "It's really hard to see where he is going to find, or be willing to find, any common ground with pro-lifers," Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said of Becerra.

Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., told Becerra that "I've got serious concerns with the radical views that you've taken in the past on the issue of abortion." And Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., accused Becerra of "targeting religious liberty" when he sued the Trump administration over its rules giving employers with religious or moral objections more leeway to opt out of covering birth control.

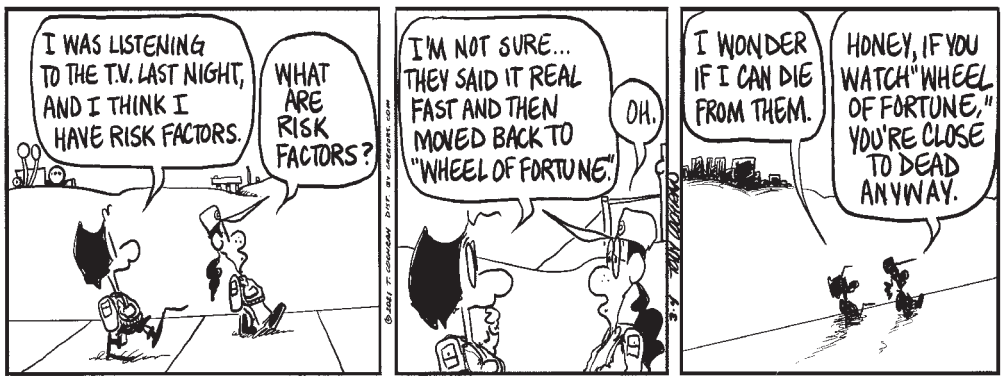
How far the Biden administration will get in expanding access to abortion is questionable. Democrats in Congress don't appear to have the votes to overturn the

SEE **GOP** PAGE 11



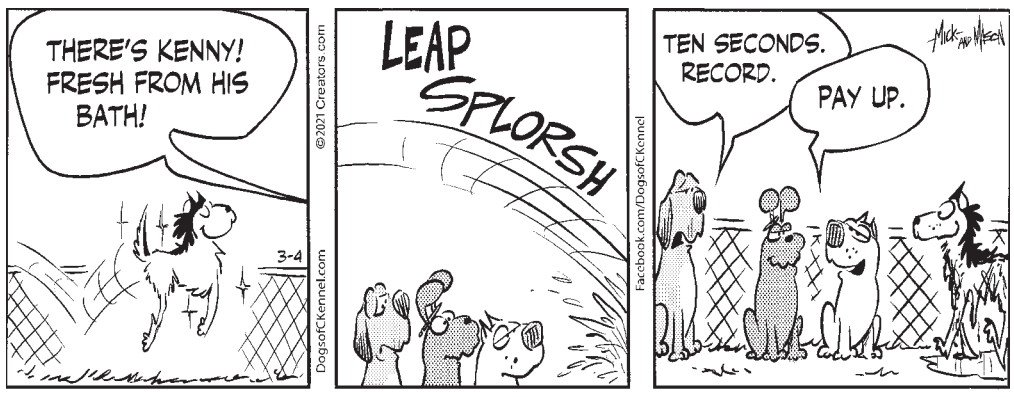
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE STUDIED AT A FRENCH GARBAGE DUMP."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.7°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Cleaner conditions across the board in the morning. Lingering NW and SSW swell combo.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Could be worth a look at long-period magnets. New, long-period SSW and NW swells fill in - Biggest late. AM window best with the cleanest surf and dropping tide.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 66.
Thursday Night: Sunny, with a high near 62.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/03/04	Thu	12:25 AM	5.12	H
2021/03/04	Thu	07:27 AM	0.49	L
2021/03/04	Thu	1:33 PM	2.99	H
2021/03/04	Thu	6:23 PM	1.72	L
2021/03/05	Fri	01:21 AM	5.02	H
2021/03/05	Fri	09:09 AM	0.37	L
2021/03/05	Fri	3:50 PM	2.68	H
2021/03/05	Fri	7:16 PM	2.34	L
2021/03/06	Sat	02:38 AM	4.93	H
2021/03/06	Sat	10:45 AM	-0.02	L
2021/03/06	Sat	6:03 PM	2.98	H
2021/03/06	Sat	9:29 PM	2.69	L
2021/03/07	Sun	04:05 AM	5.00	H
2021/03/07	Sun	11:55 AM	-0.47	L
2021/03/07	Sun	7:00 PM	3.41	H
2021/03/07	Sun	11:14 PM	2.54	L
2021/03/08	Mon	05:19 AM	5.22	H
2021/03/08	Mon	12:47 PM	-0.83	L
2021/03/08	Mon	7:34 PM	3.76	H
2021/03/09	Tue	12:20 AM	2.15	L
2021/03/09	Tue	06:20 AM	5.47	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/27
2 28 31 44 52
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 123 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/2
4 8 13 34 64
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 55 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/27
3 8 22 28 34
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 25 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/2
3 7 9 10 12

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/2
EVENING: 4 4 3

Draw Date: 3/2
MIDDAY: 4 1 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/2
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:43.62

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 4)

Your work won't be easy, but it will be super fun. You'll be challenged with bringing a group to the future. This is perfect for you, as you're not afraid of change and your emotional intelligence is off the charts. Financial incentives keep things interesting, and you maintain that winning spirit that attracts lady luck. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 18, 3 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's hard to say which is more difficult — the battering down of instinct necessary to resist the temptation your inner animal is lunging for or the consequences that go along with giving in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You think you know what you have, but you really don't. This is why it will be a delight to hear your admirers talk. Bonus: The compliments don't go to your head. You'll use your charms to make other people feel charming.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). First, you were dazzled by the potential in a person, and then later you asked yourself, "What did I see in that person?" The answer: what you wanted to see. Your vision becomes more accurate with every experience.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Anything that pays off intellectually pays off — period. If you're wondering if you're going to make money, consider that may be an irrelevant question when it comes to pursuits likely to polish your mind and soul.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Context and culture play a huge part in people's decision-making. Your work goes better when you dive deeper into understanding the values and challenges of the people you're trying to serve.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes, you are most helped by your supporters, but more often it is your competitors and enemies that are the true MVPs of your life. They inspire your best and sharpest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What is painstaking is also rewarding, and what is rewarding is also painstaking. The two cannot, in fact, be separated as the pain is what gives the reward its value.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). No one is born with the stuff that will automatically make them popular or rich. Even those born to the monarchy must earn their status in the eyes of their court and country. You rise to the challenge of creating yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To bring the vision of your mind into a form that others can see, too, you must build a bridge. It will require trial, error and excellent communication with cooperative entities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll ask yourself the questions that matter. How are you contributing? Who is better off because of your involvement, care and presence? And finally, what can you do to step it up a notch?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If people who functioned perfectly fine before they knew you now seem hopelessly dependent on what you do for them, this is an illusion and one that's healthy to shatter.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't forget about the part in the cycle of productivity in which nothing happens. This dormancy is as crucial as sleep, which all living things do in their own way, even the trees and the mushrooms.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

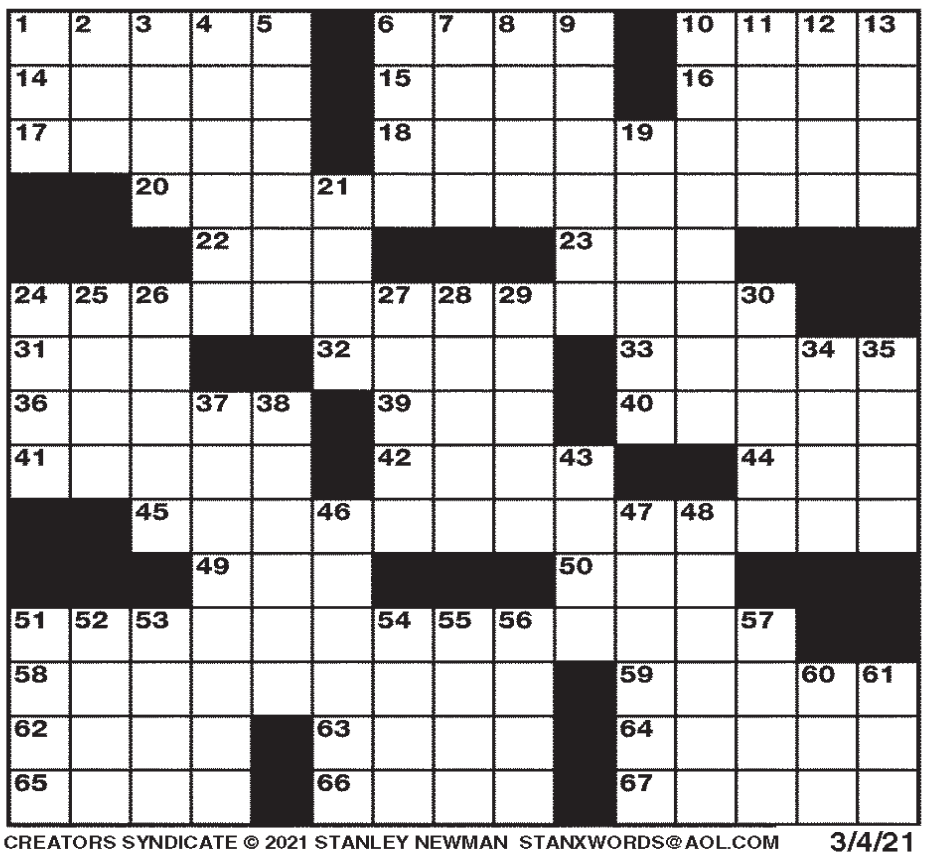
6	9	7	5	1	8	3	2	4
4	1	5	9	3	2	8	6	7
2	8	3	7	6	4	9	1	5
3	6	1	8	9	5	4	7	2
8	7	9	2	4	6	1	5	3
5	4	2	1	7	3	6	9	8
1	5	8	4	2	9	7	3	6
7	3	4	6	5	1	2	8	9
9	2	6	3	8	7	5	4	1

Newsday Crossword

NO MORE WORRIES by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Join a group
6 Delegates, for short
10 Link up with a space station
14 Clog-clearing brand
15 Liver product
16 Crucifix letters
17 Hip-hop headgear
18 Cut short
20 "No more worries!"
22 __ *de parfum*
23 NY neighbor
24 "No more worries"
31 Tai __
32 Encircle
33 Pass, as bills
36 Aerie bird
39 Stage device
40 Artoo-__
41 "Simple" one of rhyme
42 Fall into an easy chair
44 __-Magnon man
45 "No more worries!"
49 Jargon suffix
50 Corn holder
51 "No more worries!"
58 Suppressed
59 "Gotta do it"
62 Paper quantity
63 Are, to Bolívar
64 Show needing saddles
65 Bowling center space
66 Boardinghouse rental
67 Straight up and down

DOWN
1 Unexpected
2 Paid player
3 Playing field protection
4 Measured two-dimensionally
5 Hockey ref's ruling
6 Texter's "Look for its hidden meaning"
7 Irish Republic
8 Orchard fruit
9 Motion detector, e.g.
10 What's not heard from a cell phone
11 Being broadcast
12 A Canadian First Nation
13 Legendary pirate
19 Pulled a scam on
21 64 Across participant
24 Frozen treats
25 Southeast Asian
26 Sorority letter
27 Get-up-and-go
28 "And here it is!"
29 Orlando-area attraction
30 Keep tabs on
34 *Downton Abbey* countess
35 Tugboat sound
37 Eager for visitors
38 Cancels a project
43 Shoreline structure
46 Not-easy opportunity
47 Dramatic genre
48 Earth mover
51 Bottom-row PC key
52 Ostrich cousin
53 Its flag has Arabic words
54 "I have more to say . . ."
55 Overriding power
56 Dutch cheese town
57 Fella
60 Wall St. regulator
61 Daycare drop-off



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/4/21

Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I
O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I
I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	O
O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	I
I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O
I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O
O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I
O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O
I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O
O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I
O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I
I	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O

I								O			
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I	O		O						I		
						I	I				
	I								O		
		O	O				O			I	
									I	I	
				O					I		
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					O					O	O
O	I	I			O		I		O	O	
		I					I	I			O



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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Sparklers

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

Adamas	Colours	Gold	Pearl
Akoya	Contemporary	Grade	Pendant
Amulet	Costume	Inset	Platinum
Ankh	Crystal	Lapis lazuli	Pure
Artisan	Cut	Link	Ring
Bangle	Drop	Love	Topaz
Beads	Emerald	Lustre	Translucent
Bixbite	Gems	Necklace	Turquoise
Boxed	Geode	Onyx	
Carat	Gift	Pave	
Clasp	Gilt	Pay	

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MICROMOBILITY

FROM PAGE 1

be better able to administer the program if it concentrates its regulatory power on two to three companies that offer high-quality devices, stable pricing and systems that reduce sidewalk riding and haphazard parking

"Shared e-bikes and scooters have proven their popularity, with over 2.67 million individual rides in Santa Monica in the past year, half of those replacing car trips," Councilmember Kevin McKeown said in January 2020 when he discussed a need to clean up safety issues and make sure car-free mobility is affordable and accessible.

Shortly after the remarks, Council directed staff to create a second pilot program that would build on the successes of the first and better address the persistent challenges. It was set to launch on July 1, 2020, but like all aspects of life, shared mobility has been impacted by COVID-19.

City staff said in a report that Jump and Lime left the Santa Monica market, which reflects the trend of some companies downsizing and withdrawing from certain markets since COVID-19 has slowed movement across all transportation modes.

"Between 2019 and 2020, shared mobility ridership is down 77%, parking transactions are down 52%, (Big Blue Bus) ridership is down 59%," the report states as it details increasing Pay-as-you-go rates and companies that are reducing staff, devices, and operations to cope with financial stress.

As a result, other cities in the region are extending programs or shifting from permitting to contracting models to mitigate affordability concerns and volatility of service for customers. Cities are also rethinking fee structures to drive user rates lower and help shared mobility businesses through this difficult time, staff said, adding, "The pandemic will continue to disrupt daily life and business for the next several months, including causing uncertainty within the shared mobility industry."

This is why staff recommends that the program shift from its current permitting model to a contracting model in order to mitigate some of the aforementioned volatility. In comparison to the current model, contracting provides a stronger foundation for cities and companies to work together toward improved outcomes achieved through defined service level standards, incentives, penalties, and fees, staff said. There is also a recommendation to extend the first pilot program from April 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Council is expected to discuss the subject during its next meeting, which is set to begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

McKeown said Wednesday he isn't sure what next week's conversation will hold, but he does know the ongoing challenge will be controlling erratic user behaviors.

"Many Santa Monicans still have a bad taste in their mouths from when disruptive entrepreneurs first dumped scooters on our streets with no permission and no rules. Since then, the advantages of micro-mobility have become more clear," McKeown said Wednesday. "This latest proposal is a maturation of our community's relationship with the scooter and e-bike companies, from no rules to permits to iron-clad contracts."

Brennon@smdp.com

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

capacity.

Secondary schools will be allowed to reopen once the case rate has been at or below seven per 100,000 residents for two consecutive weeks.

At the elementary level, 34 school districts and 303 private and charter schools have been approved for in-person instruction in L.A. County.

Santa Monica-Malibu Schools will begin offering in-person experiences for transitional kindergarten through grade 5 the week of March 15. District officials have not yet announced a reopening plan for secondary schools.

Outbreaks at schools peaked at 15 during the height of the surge in January and have steadily decreased since then. In the month of February only one outbreak was recorded.

Ferrer noted that of the education staff that tested positive for Covid-19 since Sep. 1, many did not have an exposure at school. In this time period only 27 percent of infected staff were teachers while 67 percent were other essential education staff including food services, custodial, and transportation workers.

Secondary schools can already begin submitting reopening forms in what Ferrer described as a "pretty straightforward" approval process.

All schools must submit a Covid-19 safety plan to the California and County departments of public health and post their reopening protocol on their school website.

"We really need to recommit ourselves to use every single tool we have to reduce transmission, to vaccinate everybody who's eligible, and to get to a place for all our children to go back to school," said Ferrer. "We owe them all of our support and effort."

Clara@smdp.com

Adjusted Cases (per 100K)	Positivity Rate	Positivity Rate Lowest HPI
7.2	3.5%	5.1%

Courtesy image

CASES: The rapid decline in cases could move Los Angeles out of the bottom tier.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 6

who let me know that his early radio comedy troupe also played there.

"The Credibility Gap did a lot of gigs there, and Ed was a pleasure to work with," wrote Shearer. "And I had long since seen a lot of great blues and folk shows there—Jim Kweskin's Jug Band with the Muldaurs, chief among them. Unlike some comedy club owners in town, Ed paid all the talent who appeared on that stage."

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

ISHKUR'S GUIDE TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC — Originally created in 1999 by Kenneth John Taylor, aka Ishkur, this cult-classic website maps out some 150 subgenres of electronic music over the past 80 years, diagrammed in an interactive flowchart style. The user can zoom in on any subgenre, ranging from the more well known like techno, funk and Krautrock, to the far more obscure, such as "Aggrotech" or "Twinkle Prog." From there, one can click the entry, listen to audio clips in that style, and tap the "i" button at the bottom of the screen to read a description of the genre.

There are so many ways to explore this site, but I have found it particularly fascinating to follow the trajectory of one genre through time and listen to how it has changed, or morphed into something totally new. I always learn something new through Ishkur's Guide, and I always, always come away with some good new music.

The website received its first update in 18 years in 2019, and while I am nostalgic for the old clunky flash version, this new version is just as fun to explore and easy to navigate: http://music.ishkur.com/

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

GOP

FROM PAGE 7

Hyde Amendment, the term for a series of federal laws that bar taxpayer funding of abortion except in cases of rape or incest or to save the life of the woman. Biden, who supported Hyde restrictions throughout his congressional career, flipped his stance as a presidential candidate.

Among those backing Becerra is a prominent Catholic, Sister Carol Keehan, the retired head of the Catholic Health Association of the United States. She disagrees with his support for abortion rights but finds common ground elsewhere.

"He's got a heart for making sure that people have the ability to access health care in this country," Keehan said. "I happen to believe the way you reduce abortion is by giving people decent health care."

Beaumont reported from Des Moines, Iowa.

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