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THURSDAY
03.11.21
Volume 20 Issue 100

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Target Opens

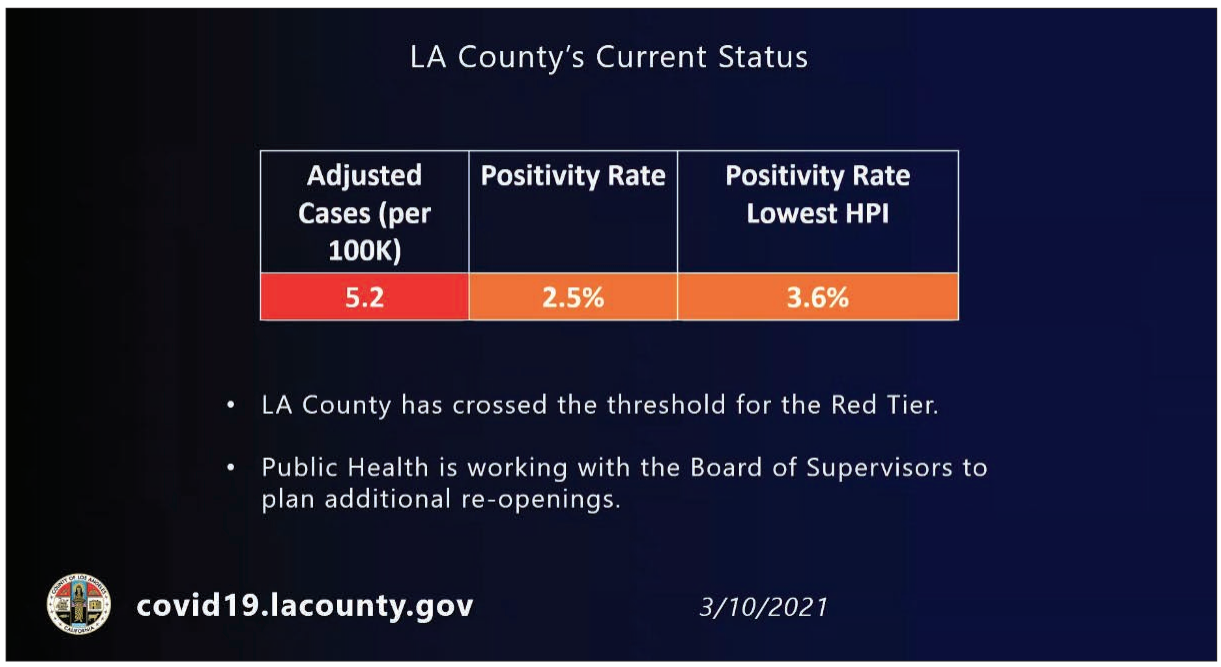




Matthew Hall

OPEN: Santa Monica's second Target is open. The store will have a formal Grand Opening celebration on March 14 but the location at 5th and Broadway is now open to the public.

L.A. County to enter Red Tier of reopening in 'coming days'



Courtesy image

RED: Los Angeles County has seen a significant decline in Covid cases over the past month.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

L.A. County is poised to enter the red tier of Covid-19 restrictions in less than a week, which will allow secondary schools and many indoor businesses to reopen.

The County is on track to qualify for these reopenings on March 17, however a new state trigger would allow it to enter the red tier as soon as 2 million doses of vaccines have been administered to California's least resourced communities.

"It may only be a few days until

SEE **COVID** PAGE 6

Investigations Into Malibu City Manager's Harassment Claims Move Forward

GENEVIEVE FINN
Malibu Times/ SMDP Staff Writer

The City of Malibu is putting legal muscle into claims made about corruption and harassment at City Hall.

Three city council members voted for the city to begin searching for an outside investigator to look into claims made by current City Manager Reva Feldman that Council Member Bruce Silverstein harassed her. Earlier this year, Feldman sent the city a letter through her attorney saying that she had been subjected to relentless emails, online vitriol and other forms of harassment from the newly-elected Silverstein.

Silverstein contended that Feldman had obstructed his ability to get information he needed through document requests and that she had refused to meet with him for a recorded meeting. During his campaign last fall and on social media, Silverstein used the words "corrupt" and "fascist," among others, to describe Feldman.

At Monday's vote, Silverstein—whom Interim City Attorney John Cotti advised was conflicted in the matter—recused himself from the Zoom.

Council Member Steve Uhring was the only voice to speak against opening an investigation. Uhring questioned Malibu Mayor Mikke Pierson about what the city would do if Silverstein was found guilty of harassment by an independent investigator. Pierson went so far as to suggest that there might be a recall.

"Let's assume it comes back, the lawyer says it's harassment, then what happens?" Uhring postulated. "What happens?"

"Well, I guess then we know

SEE **HARASSMENT** PAGE 11

Hero Pay is on its way to Santa Monica stores

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Council approved an ordinance this week that will require some local drug and grocery stores to pay employees an extra $5 per hour as soon as Thursday.

The city's new Hero Pay law applies to retail grocery stores, retail drug stores, and other large stores of 85,000 square feet or more that dedicate more than 10% of their floor space to grocery or drug sales in Santa Monica and is set to become effective Thursday. However, corporations will have until April 12 to make payroll adjustments, get into compliance and provide workers with any back-pay that is owed. The ordinance does include a credit for store operators who voluntarily provide ongoing hazard pay though.

City Attorney George Cardona said employees who fear the higher wages will interfere with benefits they may already be receiving could opt to take paid leave in lieu of the

SEE **HERO PAY** PAGE 11

Security camera hack exposes hospitals, workplaces, schools

MATT O'BRIEN AND FRANK BAJAK
Associated Pres

Hackers aiming to call attention to the dangers of mass surveillance said they were able to peer into hospitals, schools, factories, jails and corporate offices after they broke into the systems of a security-camera startup.

That California startup, Verkada, said Wednesday it is investigating the scope of the breach, first reported by Bloomberg, and has notified law enforcement and its customers.

Swiss hacker Tillie Kottmann, a member of the group that calls itself APT-69420 Arson Cats, described it in an online chat with The Associated Press as a small collective of "primarily queer hackers, not backed by any nations or capital but instead backed by the desire for fun, being gay and a better world."

They were able to gain access to a Verkada "super" administrator account using valid credentials found online, Kottmann said. Verkada said in a statement that it has since disabled all internal administrator accounts to prevent any unauthorized access.

But for two days, the hackers said, they were able to peer unhindered into live feeds from potentially tens of thousands of cameras, including many that were watching sensitive locations such as hospitals and schools. Kottmann said that included outdoor and indoor cameras at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, where 26 first-grade students and six educators were killed in 2012 by a gunman in one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history.

The school district's superintendent didn't return calls or emailed requests for comment Wednesday.

One of Verkada's affected customers, the San Francisco web infrastructure and security company Cloudflare, said the compromised Verkada cameras were watching entrances and main thoroughfares to some of its offices that have been closed for nearly a year due to the pandemic.

"As soon as we became aware of the compromise, we disabled the cameras and disconnected them from office networks," said spokesperson Laurel Toney. "No customer data or processes have been impacted by this incident."

Another San Francisco tech company, Okta, said five cameras it placed at office entrances were compromised, though there's no evidence anyone viewed the live streams.

Twitter said it permanently suspended Kottmann's account, which posted materials gathered in the hack, for violating its rules against ban evasion, which typically happens when users start a new account to circumvent an earlier suspension. Kottmann had earlier received a message from Twitter suspending the account for violating its rules against the distribution of hacked material, the hacker said.

The Verkada footage captured and shared by hackers included a Tesla facility in China and the Madison County Jail in Huntsville, Alabama. Madison County Sheriff Kevin Turner said in a statement Wednesday the jail has taken the cameras offline, adding "we are confident that this unauthorized release did not and will not impact the safety of staff or inmates." Tesla didn't respond to requests for comment.

Verkada, based in San Mateo, California, has pitched its cloud-based surveillance service as part of the next generation of workplace security. Its software detects when people are in the camera's view, and a "Person History" feature enables customers to recognize and track individual faces and other attributes, such as clothing color and likely gender. Not all customers use the facial recognition feature.

The company attracted negative attention last year when video surveillance industry news site IPVM reported that Verkada employees had passed around photos of female coworkers collected by the company's own in-office cameras and made sexually explicit comments about them.

Cybersecurity expert Elisa Costante said it's worrisome that this week's hack wasn't sophisticated and simply involved using valid credentials to access a huge trove of data stored on a cloud server.

"What is disturbing is to see how much real-life data can go into the wrong hands and how easy it can be," said Costante, vice president of research at Forescout. "It's a wake up call to make sure that whenever you are collecting this much data we need to have basic security hygiene."

Kottmann said the hacker collective, active since 2020, doesn't set out after specific targets. Instead, it scans organizations on the internet for known vulnerabilities and then works to "just narrow down and dig in on interesting targets."

BRIEFS

NEWPORT BEACH

Suspects identified in youth attack on man in Newport Beach

Youths suspected of being involved in an attack on a man on a Newport Beach street have been identified, authorities said.

The assault occurred Saturday night on Balboa Peninsula and was recorded on video that has been widely seen.

Officers responded to a report of a fight and found the man with serious injuries but the youths were gone.

The video showed a group surround the man in a crosswalk. A bystander came to his aid but someone kicked the man in the face and he fell to the ground, KTLA reported.

A police statement Tuesday said all parties were identified but no further information would be released because the incident involved juveniles.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 270 CALLS ON MARCH 9

Traffic Hazard 400blk Colorado Ave 12:41 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 4th St / Pico Blvd 12:58 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 2600blk 3rd St 1:20 a.m.
Person With A Gun 18th St / Ocean Park Blvd 1:33 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 200blk Montana Ave 1:59 a.m.
Missing Person 800blk Bay St 2:26 a.m.
Missing Person 800blk Bay St 3:00 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1200blk 4th St 4:04 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk The Beach 5:39 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:47 a.m.
Assault Just Occurred 1800blk 4th St 5:50 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 12th St / Arizona Ave 6:06 a.m.
Prowler 2000blk 3rd St 6:16 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 2900blk Main St 6:41 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk Bay St 6:56 a.m.
Encampment 1200blk The Beach 7:06 a.m.
Death Investigation 1300blk Franklin St 7:17 a.m.
Scar Investigation 2600blk Virginia Ave 7:20 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 400blk Idaho Ave 7:51 a.m.
Assault Just Occurred 3rd St / Pacific St 7:51 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk The Beach 7:55 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500blk 6th St 8:05 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 8:07 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 6th St / Pacific St 8:16 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 11th St 8:25 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400blk 24th St 8:34 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 400blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:45 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 8:46 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2500blk 4th St 9:10 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 9:26 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 0blk Arcadia Ter 9:27 a.m.
General Parking Problem 600blk Montana Ave 9:28 a.m.
Burglary Report 2900blk Main St 9:39 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 400blk 22nd St 9:41 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2500blk Broadway 9:43 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1500blk 5th St 9:44 a.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600blk Barnard Way 9:44 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 3100blk Main St 10:08 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk Stanford St 10:42 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:55 a.m.
Arson 2nd St / Marine St 10:59 a.m.
Found Property 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 11:02 a.m.
Battery Report 1500blk 5th St 11:06 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 23rd St / San Vicente Blvd 11:16 a.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 900blk Palisades Beach Rd 11:24 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 12:15 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1400blk 2nd St 12:21 p.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk 26th St 12:25 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 200blk 14th St 12:40 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1100blk 12th St 12:44 p.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 12:51 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Lincoln Blvd 1:01 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 1:09 p.m.
Domestic Violence Just Occurred 1400blk 7th St 1:18 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 700blk Arizona Ave 1:27 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1300blk 2nd St 1:31 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:43 p.m.
Fraud Report 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 2:00 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600blk Barnard Way 2:20 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Euclid St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:48 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:51 p.m.
General Parking Problem Euclid St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:00 p.m.
Identity Theft 800blk Lincoln Blvd 3:22 p.m.
Burglary Report 900blk 4th St 3:22 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk Broadway 3:33 p.m.
Identity Theft 600blk Ocean Ave 3:36 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk 9th St 3:40 p.m.
Burglary Report 900blk 4th St 3:45 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 500blk Montana Ave 3:45 p.m.
Arson 2600blk 4th St 3:57 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1300blk 6th St 3:59 p.m.
Battery Report 2000blk Arizona Ave 4:02 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk 16th St 4:13 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk 20th St 4:33 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 500blk Ocean Ave 4:41 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk 4th St 5:06 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1300blk 15th St 5:12 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:17 p.m.
Burglary Report 2000blk Main St 5:38 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000blk 14th St 5:40 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 20th St / Pico Blvd 5:46 p.m.
Found Senile Person Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 5:48 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2600blk 28th St 6:01 p.m.
Construction Noise 2300blk 30th St 6:24 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 7th St / San Vicente Blvd 6:38 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 500blk Wilshire Blvd 6:58 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 200blk Pico Blvd 7:08 p.m.
Burglary Now 2200blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:13 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2000blk Pico Blvd 7:36 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2000blk Pico Blvd 8:14 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

School reopening march

Open Up SMM Schools, a new advocacy group, is announcing plans to March For Our Students on Saturday March 13. The date coincides with the one-year anniversary of school closures across the country. But parents are not marching in celebration. Despite LA County Guidelines permitting schools to reopen, all SMMUSD schools remain closed.

Over three weeks ago, schools in Los Angeles County were eligible to reopen for grades TK-6, according to the LA Department of Public Health Guidelines, but the Santa Monica Malibu School District did not open. Yesterday, Los Angeles County entered the red tier, which means High Schools and Middle Schools are also eligible to return to campus on March 23. However, no plans have been announced by SMMUSD to return the 6-12 grade students to their campuses. Parents are growing increasingly frustrated and angry. "There has been no firm commitment or plan from our administration to return all students for core academic learning," said Harriet Fraser, Co-Founder of OpenUpSMM. "The principals at elementary campuses have been told to make their own decisions about how to open their campuses. This lack of leadership is causing widespread inequities across the district and creating unrest among parents, teachers and our community."

Edison parent Noelle Lewis says "I moved to Santa Monica to be in the school district for the educational benefits for my son, it was and is still a financial sacrifice. The city left it up to school principals to make critical decisions about reopening schools; it is chaos. Our principal has suppressed our rights to on-campus teaching and kept the Zoom classrooms. You wonder why this happened to our school, with the most students of color in the District. It just feels like we are being left behind again and given less than others."

Adding to the frustration is the fact that in February, the SMMCTA local teachers' union made an agreement with SMMUSD to return to in-person teaching 15 days after being offered the vaccination. The vaccine was provided on March 1, and the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ben Drati, made a commitment to open elementary schools on March 15. "We were thrilled that the teachers were being vaccinated, and we were excited when this was announced," said Gayle Gilman. "But now parents are being told that there will only be a single orientation day next week. It's really disappointing that again the District has delayed our return to school."

OpenUpSMM hopes that joining with parents and students on the anniversary of school closures will bring attention to the importance of returning students to school NOW. "We want the District Administration and the School Board to understand how critical it is on so many levels to return our students to school," said Fraser.

Visit www.openupsmmschools.org for more information.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE MARCH:

- 9:30 a.m. Gather at Historic Belmar Park 1840 4th St (parking at Civic Center)
- 10:30 a.m. March will begin at the Belmar Park sign on 4th St., and proceed up the north side of Pico Blvd to Virginia Park
- 11:15 a.m. Join us for a Rally on the East side of the park (the northwest corner of Pico and Cloverfield)

This is a family event, adults and children welcome. Masks required for all participants. Social distancing will be observed.

SUBMITTED BY HARRIET FRASER,

DAILY FIRE LOG

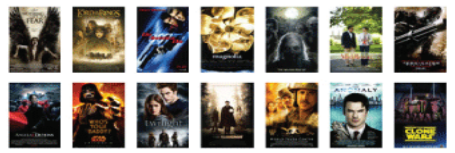
SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 30 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 9

Automatic Alarm 300blk Civic Center Dr 1:01 a.m.
EMS 100blk Wadsworth Ave 2:52 a.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 3:26 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 7th St / San Vicente Blvd 5:29 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 6:26 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Pico Blvd 7:21 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 6th St 8:29 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 100blk Montana Ave 8:45 a.m.
Lockout W/Ems Component 1300blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:50 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 9:53 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 10:21 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:21 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 2nd St / Marine St 10:59 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 11:08 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:39 p.m.
Wires Down 400blk 22nd St 12:46 p.m.
EMS 3200blk Wilshire Blvd 1:09 p.m.
EMS 2900blk 4th St 1:35 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 2:19 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Centinela Ave 2:33 p.m.
EMS 2700blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:57 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 6th St 4:02 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 4:05 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 5:06 p.m.
EMS 15th St / Arizona Ave 5:21 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Virginia Ave 7:06 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 8:22 p.m.
EMS 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:05 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Marine St 9:51 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 11:55 p.m.

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SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **Bid #21.18.SMS – DSA #03-120376 - Lincoln Building G & K Modernization Project at Lincoln Middle School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$550,000.00 - $650,000.00** and includes the modernization of the first-floor classrooms and restrooms and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be submitted electronically as per the instructions included in the bidding documents on or before 4/7/2021 no later than 2:00 PM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 3/24/21 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at https://www.smmusd.org/domain/4172.

Job Walk: will NOT be conducted for this project due to COVID-19 Stay Safer At Home Orders

Electronic Bid Submittal Deadline: 4/7/21 at 2:00pm

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop-Griego at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
CALLING FOR BIDS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 030321SH
TITLE: SMC 2714 PICO ROOFING PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as: SMC 2714 PICO ROOFING PROJECT.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: MARCH 23, 2021 – 10AM SHARP; NO LATE ARRIVALS

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $892,000.00

CONTRACT DAYS: 60 DAYS

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

The Contractor is required to have a B; CADIR; ASB – ASBESTOS CERTIFICATION; PCB-HAZWOPER license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the District's Request for Bids.

Substitute Security- In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this contract.



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Robert Lemle

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AWARD WINNER

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WINNER

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

From Lincoln to Hynkel



Courtesy image

PERFECT: CHAPLIN has something he wants you to hear.

DISNEYLAND!

I must be headed there because why else would it feel so good to be on the 405 late on a Friday afternoon, fighting traffic and knowing the return trip will be worse? Or maybe I have tickets to a Laker game? Or a South Bay reggae festival?

Traffic schmaffic, I'm out! Out of the house, out of the neighborhood, out of the Westside, obviously out of my mind trying to remember the last time driving in Friday afternoon traffic on the freeway felt so good.

But I'm headed north, to the Valley. To my appointment with the irrepressible, the inimitable Chuck Sloan, tax man to the (actors on their way to becoming) stars. And the occasional ragged writer husband of a star.

It's usually a trek I dread because I've been up all night, buzzing with strong coffee and fretting that I've forgotten something important or couldn't find it, and Chuck will berate me mercilessly (but creatively). He's a pretty funny guy. And who doesn't need a chuckle during the annual agony of income tax travail?

MY MOBILE MUSIC ROOM

Was at least half the reason for my good spirits. I love listening to stations on the car radio. I know, hopelessly Old School. Great sound, no interruptions or distractions, you can relax and close your eyes and... OK, maybe not but if traffic is slow and loose enough you don't really need to think much about anything else. Just stay in your lane and get lost in the music, and savor every note.

But first you've got to get a good tune, and you are relying on the DJs. I favor 88.5 FM nearly all the time because I like most of what they play, it's a good mix, deep cuts not just hits, and I have also discovered many new artists there that I now like. My next choice is usually to flip to the classical station KUSC, 91.5. And that one-two punch delivered two "perfect songs" during my short drive up.

WHAT IS "PERFECT"?

It's subjective as heck, of course, kind of a game I play with myself. I usually don't think of it until I'm halfway through a song and then realize, dang, every single thing works flawlessly, I wouldn't change a note. For a long time now I have listened to songs with an ear to what I would call, um, any lapse of good judgment for composition or performance, any missed opportunity or weakness. I'm not listening FOR those lapses but when they happen they jump out at me. Arrangements are awfully important, I think. And a big finish can erase the memory of a long mediocre middle.

I might make this a regular feature of NOTEWORTHY. "Perfect Song of the Week." Ha. And a short justification. You'll have to return next Thursday for that breakdown, but I will tell you that the two I heard Friday were Creedence Clearwater's "Run Through the Jungle," and one of my all-time faves, Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

Genre doesn't matter. What were they trying to do, and did they do it masterfully, arrestingly, dazzlingly, flawlessly, irresistibly? Did it capture you from start to finish? Did it move you? Did you whistle like Humphrey Bogart at the end?

And if you never once thought — guitar's too far down in the mix, drumming's not creative or melodic enough, too many choruses, where's the bass? — it just might be a Perfect Song.

If you have some candidates that do it for you, send them to me (my email is always on the bottom of my columns). I'll probably know by the end of the first listen whether or not I agree. If I do I'll make it a Perfect Song of the Week and give you credit. (That and a fiver will get you a cup of coffee.)

SPEAKING OF LINCOLN

CNN is running a series on him on Sunday nights and it is totally involving and so well done. Even amateur Lincoln-ologists like my

SEE **HYNKEL** PAGE 11

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

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 MARCH 10 AT APPROXIMATELY 2:05 A.M.

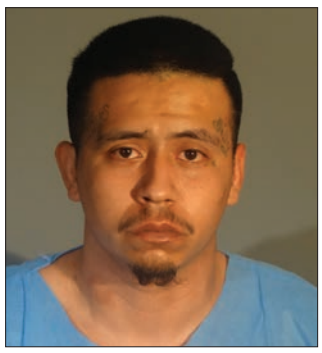
The Santa Monica Police Department responded to a call regarding a potential Grand Theft in progress. Dispatch relayed information regarding two individuals spotted underneath a parked truck near 23rd and Arizona Avenue. Upon arrival, officers observed a white vehicle fleeing the location.

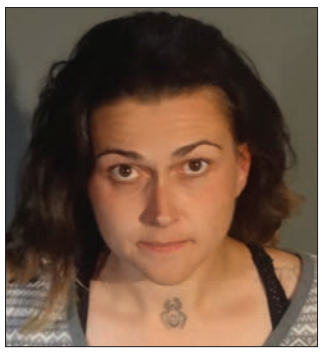
Officers conducted a traffic stop of the white vehicle with three occupants inside. A Sawzall with additional cutting blades, pliers, a vehicle jack and a catalytic converter were located inside the car. In addition to the items found within the vehicle, another cut catalytic converter was located under the truck where the vehicle occupants were originally spotted.

Based on the items found and a witness identifying the suspects, the occupants of the vehicle, later identified as Eduardo Ayala M/H 02/26/1978, Daniel Hernandez M/H 05/22/1995 and Tabatha Lukenzic F/W 08/21/1985 were placed under arrest for 182 (A)(1) PC- Conspiracy to Commit any Crime and attempted 487 (A) PC- Grand Theft. Ayala was also charged with 496 (A) PC - Receiving Stolen Property and 466 PC – Possession of Burglary Tools. All three suspects had prior theft-related arrests.

Anyone with additional information related to this incident in encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) at 310-458-8451 or the Watch Commander's office at 310-458-2249.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT RUDY FLORES





File photo

DANIEL HERNANDEZ AND TABATHA LUKENZIC

BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Murder suspect mistakenly released from custody

A murder suspect was mistakenly released from custody in Southern California Tuesday afternoon and remained at large, authorities said.

Steven Manzo, 23, was charged with fatally shooting a man in Long Beach in 2018. Manzo was arrested a year ago and had been incarcerated since then.

On Tuesday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office informed Long Beach police that Manzo had been released from custody. Officers were unable to locate him.

"Upon further review, it was determined he should not have been released," Long Beach police said in a statement Wednesday.

Court and jail records indicate his case was dismissed, though police say that's not the case.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said deputies received an "order for release" from the court, indicating the case was dismissed, on Tuesday.

"As such the Department complied with the court order and processed the individual for release," the department said in a statement.

Authorities referred questions to the district attorney's office, which did not immediately have a comment Wednesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Storm brings needed rain but unleashes mudslide

A Pacific storm brought much-needed rain and snow to California on Wednesday at the tail-end of a largely dry winter, but it also unleashed a mudslide in a fire-scarred canyon.

Mud coursed down Orange County's rustic Silverado Canyon in the Santa Ana Mountains, filling the yards of homes and trapping some cars in hubcap-deep muck.

No injuries were reported, but with more rain expected the Orange County Sheriff's Department ordered Silverado and two other canyons evacuated.

Winter storm warnings were in effect in the southern Cascades, down the length of the Sierra Nevada and the mountains of Southern California. Caltrans urged drivers to check for chain controls.

Conditions included showers, downpours, thunderstorms, hail and low-elevation snow.

For a time, the California Highway Patrol had to escort Interstate 5 traffic over Tejon Pass in the mountains north of Los Angeles.

To the east, heavy snow was reported on Interstate 15 in the high desert, Caltrans said.

In the Eastern Sierra, the Mammoth Mountain ski resort reported 13 inches to 15 inches (33-38.1 centimeters) of new snow, with more expected.

The Sierra snowpack is an important part of California's water supply, but at the start of March its water content was about half the average normally recorded on April 1, when it is typically at its most robust.

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[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P1500K; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).
6255

COVID

FROM PAGE 1

the 2 million threshold is reached," said County Health Director Barbara Ferrer. "We're now in the process of working with the Board of Supervisors and sector partners to prepare modifications to the County Health Officer order that would permit additional activities allowed in the red tier.

Although L.A. County will qualify to reopen indoor dining in the red tier, Ferrer said officials are still deciding to what degree they will allow this, citing concerns over the spread of Covid-19 in unmasked indoor settings.

"We'll have a definitive answer on that tomorrow, because we're still working out with the sectors and with the Board what our guidance will look like for that and what the directives will be," said Ferrer.

Ferrer emphasized that secondary schools will be encouraged to reopen to the greatest degree possible. Other businesses that qualify for reopening under the red tier are indoor gyms at 10 percent capacity, movie theaters and museums at 25 percent capacity, and retailers and malls at 50 percent capacity.

L.A. County's average daily case rate has now decreased to less than 700 — the lowest rate recorded since April 2020.

"Our case rates are really low right now and if we continue to make good progress I see in the future we could get ourselves to orange in a few weeks as well," said Ferrer, referring to the even less restrictive orange tier of reopening.

Under the orange tier, indoor business capacities would be increased and other sectors, such as indoor offices and outdoor bars, would also be allowed to reopen.

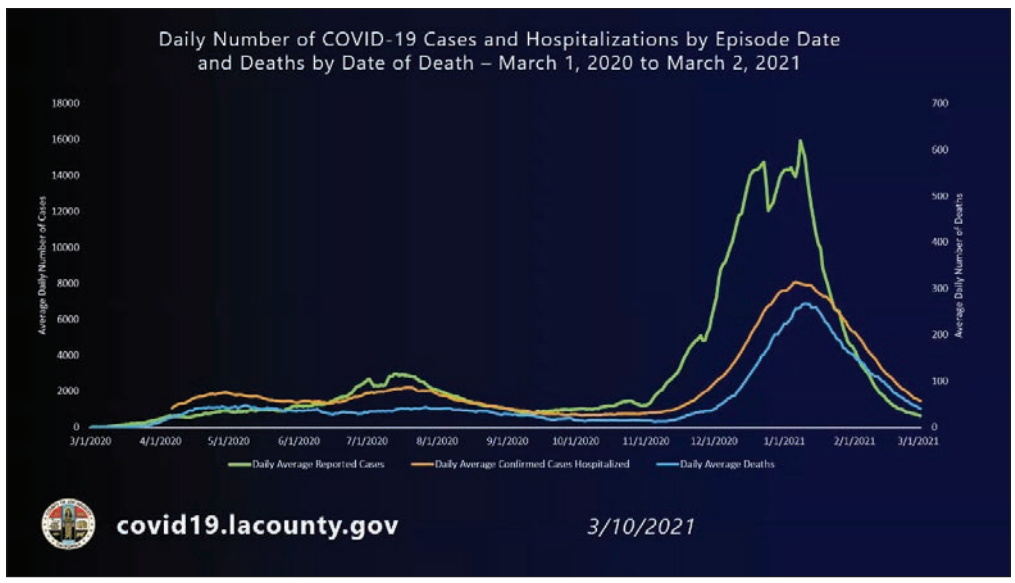
Starting next Monday the County will begin Phase 1C of its vaccination rollout, expanding eligibility to people age 16 to 64 who have underlying health conditions or disabilities that put them at high risk of becoming very sick from Covid-19.

This includes people with cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic pulmonary disease, down syndrome, solid organ transplant, pregnancy, sickle cell disease, heart conditions, severe obesity, and type 2 diabetes.

After receiving 54,000 doses of the single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine this week, Ferrer said the County expects to receive "little to no" Johnson and Johnson doses for the next two weeks as the company ramps up its production.

"We're all going to spend the next two to four weeks dealing with some more scarcity," said Ferrer. "I anticipate things will get much better in April and it will be much easier for people to get appointments then."

Clara@smdp.com



Courtesy image

TREND: As cases, hospitalizations and deaths all decline, more businesses can reopen.

BRIEFS

DAVIS

University offers students $75 to avoid spring break travel

The University of California, Davis is offering students $75 to be used for "staycations" to encourage them to avoid nonessential travel during spring break.

Students who choose to stay home during the March 22-26 break will get the money in gift cards. Student response has been "awesome," the university said in statement.

"The idea behind this was to provide a positive incentive for students to follow public health guidance," Sheri Atkinson, associate vice chancellor for student affairs, told the Los Angeles Times.

About 50% of the student body is living either on campus or in the Davis area, she said.

To receive a gift card, students must apply by giving a basic description of their spring break plans. They must pledge to stay in town for their weeklong break and complete a COVID-19 test.

The university initially planned to give 750 such grants, but because of student interest, it upped the cap to 2,000. The anticipated $150,000 program will be paid through philanthropy and other university funds – not student fees or tuition, Atkinson said.

Colleges around the country are scaling back spring break or canceling it entirely to discourage partying that could spread the virus and raise infection rates back on campus.

Texas A&M University opted for a three-day weekend instead of a whole week off. The University of Alabama and the University of Wisconsin-Madison also did away with spring break but are giving students a day off later in the semester. University of Mississippi also canceled spring break but will end the semester a week early.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate confirms Merrick Garland to be US attorney general

MICHAEL BALSAMO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

The Senate confirmed Merrick Garland on Wednesday to be the next U.S. attorney general with a strong bipartisan vote, placing the widely-respected, veteran judge in the post as President Joe Biden has vowed to restore the Justice Department's reputation for independence.

Democrats have praised Garland, a federal appeals court judge who was snubbed by Republicans for a seat on the Supreme Court in 2016, as a highly qualified and honorable jurist who is uniquely qualified to lead the department after a tumultuous four years under former President Donald Trump. Many Republicans praised him as well, saying he has the right record and temperament for the moment. He was confirmed 70-30.

Garland will now inherit a Justice Department embattled by a turbulent era under Trump, who insisted that the attorney general and the department must be loyal to him personally, battering the department's reputation. In the last month of Trump's presidency, Attorney General William Barr resigned after refuting Trump's false claims that widespread electoral fraud had led to his defeat.

Trump's pressure on officials, particularly on Barr and former Attorney General Jeff Sessions over the department's probe into his campaign's ties to Russia, prompted abundant criticism from Democrats over what they saw as the politicizing of the nation's top law enforcement agencies.

"After Donald Trump spent four years — four long years — subverting the powers of the Justice Department for his own political benefit, treating the attorney general like his own personal defense lawyer, America can breathe a sigh of relief that we're going to have someone like Merrick Garland leading the Justice Department," said Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., ahead of the vote. "Someone with integrity, independence, respect for the rule of law and credibility on both sides of the aisle."

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell — who prevented Garland from becoming a Supreme Court Justice in 2016 when he blocked his nomination — said he was voting to confirm Garland because of "his long reputation as a straight shooter and a legal expert" and that his "left-of-center perspective" was still within the legal mainstream.

"Let's hope our incoming attorney general applies that no-nonsense approach to the serious challenges facing the Department of Justice and our nation," McConnell said.

Garland's nomination was widely seen as a redemption after McConnell had blocked his Supreme Court nomination, taking a huge political gamble after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia by saying that the next president should get the pick, not outgoing President Barack Obama. Trump was then down in the polls, but McConnell's bet paid off when the Republican won the presidency. Garland's nomination floundered for nine months, and he never got a hearing.

"We can never erase the sad memory of what happened to Judge Merrick Garland five years ago in the United States Senate, but we can give this remarkable man an opportunity to write a new chapter of public service in his life," said Senate Judiciary Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., just before the vote.

As he finally sat before the Judiciary panel in February, Garland sought to assure lawmakers that the Justice Department would remain politically independent on his watch. He said his first priority would be to combat extremist violence with an initial focus on the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, promising lawmakers that he would provide prosecutors with whatever resources they need to bring charges over the attack.

Garland will also inherit immediate political challenges, including an ongoing criminal tax investigation into Biden's son, Hunter, and a federal probe into the overseas and business dealings of the former New York City mayor and Trump ally Rudy Giuliani, which stalled last year over a dispute about investigative tactics as Trump unsuccessfully sought reelection.

His confirmation also comes amid calls from many Democrats to pursue inquiries into Trump.

Separately, Garland will also be responsible for overseeing a special counsel investigation into the origins of the Russia probe, which shadowed Trump's presidency for more than two years. Garland will have to decide how to handle it and what to make public.

An experienced judge, Garland held senior positions at the Justice Department decades ago, including as a supervisor in the prosecution of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, which led to the execution of Timothy McVeigh. His experience prosecuting domestic terrorism cases could prove exceptionally valuable as investigations into the Capitol insurrection progress.

The department's priorities and messaging are expected to shift drastically in the Biden administration, with a focus more on civil rights issues, criminal justice overhauls and policing policies in the wake of nationwide protests over the death of Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement.

That expected shift prompted some Republicans to oppose Garland's nomination, including Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, who said he believed the judge would be too soft on criminals and immigrants and "empower left wing radicals embedded inside the department."

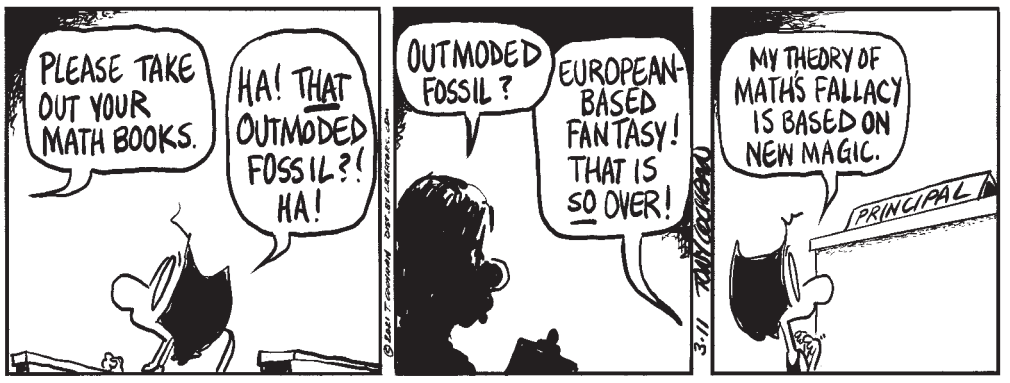
At his confirmation hearing, Garland emphasized his commitment to combating

SEE **ATTORNEY** PAGE 11



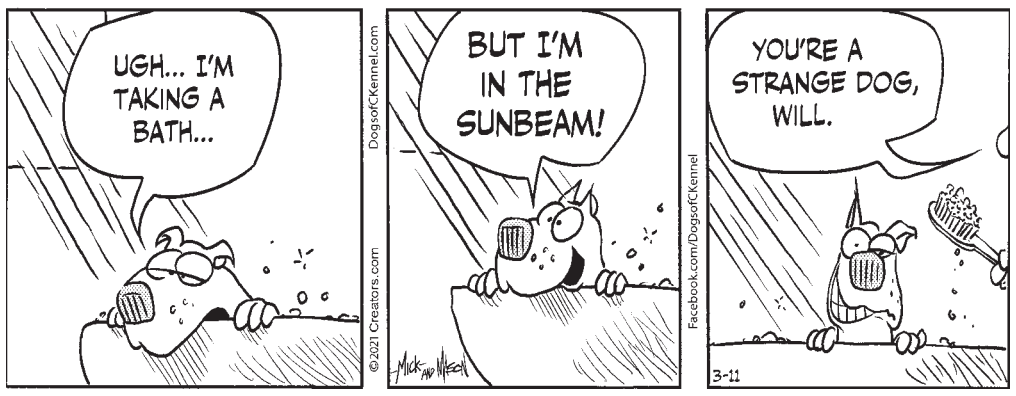
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



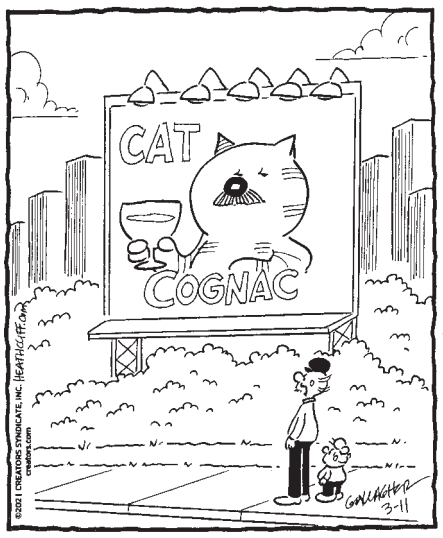
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S INVOLVED IN SOME DUBIOUS VENTURES."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.7°

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
AM wind starting to look more favorable. Deep high tide really slows down most points in the AM - look for a late AM window there.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Light winds/clean conditions likely for most of the AM. Deep AM high tide really slows many spots down, esp the points.

WEATHER

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 56.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.
Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers after 10am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/03/11	Thu	01:48 AM	1.35	L
2021/03/11	Thu	07:50 AM	5.68	H
2021/03/11	Thu	2:36 PM	-0.91	L
2021/03/11	Thu	8:53 PM	4.44	H
2021/03/12	Fri	02:24 AM	1.04	L
2021/03/12	Fri	08:26 AM	5.56	H
2021/03/12	Fri	3:04 PM	-0.67	L
2021/03/12	Fri	9:17 PM	4.57	H
2021/03/13	Sat	02:59 AM	0.82	L
2021/03/13	Sat	09:01 AM	5.30	H
2021/03/13	Sat	3:30 PM	-0.34	L
2021/03/13	Sat	9:41 PM	4.66	H
2021/03/14	Sun	04:33 AM	0.68	L
2021/03/14	Sun	10:34 AM	4.92	H
2021/03/14	Sun	4:53 PM	0.07	L
2021/03/14	Sun	11:04 PM	4.71	H
2021/03/15	Mon	05:08 AM	0.61	L
2021/03/15	Mon	11:08 AM	4.46	H
2021/03/15	Mon	5:15 PM	0.52	L
2021/03/15	Mon	11:28 PM	4.71	H
2021/03/16	Tue	05:45 AM	0.63	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL — Draw Date: 3/6
11 31 50 52 58
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 155 M

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 3/9
4 33 46 58 65
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 79 M

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 3/6
12 18 27 28 34
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 27 M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 3/9
5 10 15 28 33

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 3/9
EVENING: 5 6 5
Draw Date: 3/9
MIDDAY: 6 6 6

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 3/9
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:41.93

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 11)

Perhaps improving sleep, fitness and nutrition is not included on your list of ambitious and glamorous goals. And yet, self-discipline in this regard will be cosmically the birthday gift you'll most cherish, as all you desire will be served on the shiny platter of good habits. An excellent rating gets you promoted in June. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 33, 36 and 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Ever since the Big Bang, this plane of existence has been made up of contrasts, curves and cycles. You wouldn't want it all one way. Embrace how it is now. It's about to change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll fill this day with as much affection, warmth and laughter as you can muster, in full-knowledge that people are attractive people. You're in the mood to be improvisational and turn things into a game whenever possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It really doesn't matter how good a person is at formulating answers if all of the questions are pointless. This is why you examine your questions with the aim of up-leveling before you ask them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your water-sign instincts lend an innate understanding of the significance of paddling in the same direction as the others in the boat. Today's rowers will be all over the place until you take charge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have an extremely generous attitude with your friends and only need to point that inward to get fantastic results today. What is it that would make you smile? Get it, do it, be it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You will travel through the magic of media and dreams. Your own fantasies provide the sweetest escapes but much more is possible. Learning to guide your imagination is a skill that will bring good fortune to hand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be working your mind like it's your job — because it is. While feeding your brain the facts and figures that will be necessary, also throw in the unnecessary stuff that makes it all go down a little sweeter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Though you're not a spy or a member of a secret society, and you're not doing much today that you shouldn't be doing, you still want privacy and appreciate most those who respect yours the best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have that caring vibe now, which is why someone in need of comfort, protection and nurturing will be drawn to you. You don't have to know the right way to help — willingness is enough.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Managing relationships is the most important business of the day. Is it on the task list? It belongs there, as caring for relationships takes time and specificity beyond what many other "to-do" items require.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Communicating well will require careful articulation, patience and a level of attention emotional attunement that is, quite frankly, work. Nonetheless, everything good comes through good communication.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Love will feel like a kind of completion. Matters of the heart have great potential to resolve well, allowing you to trust and give more freely and with greater integration of different parts of yourself.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

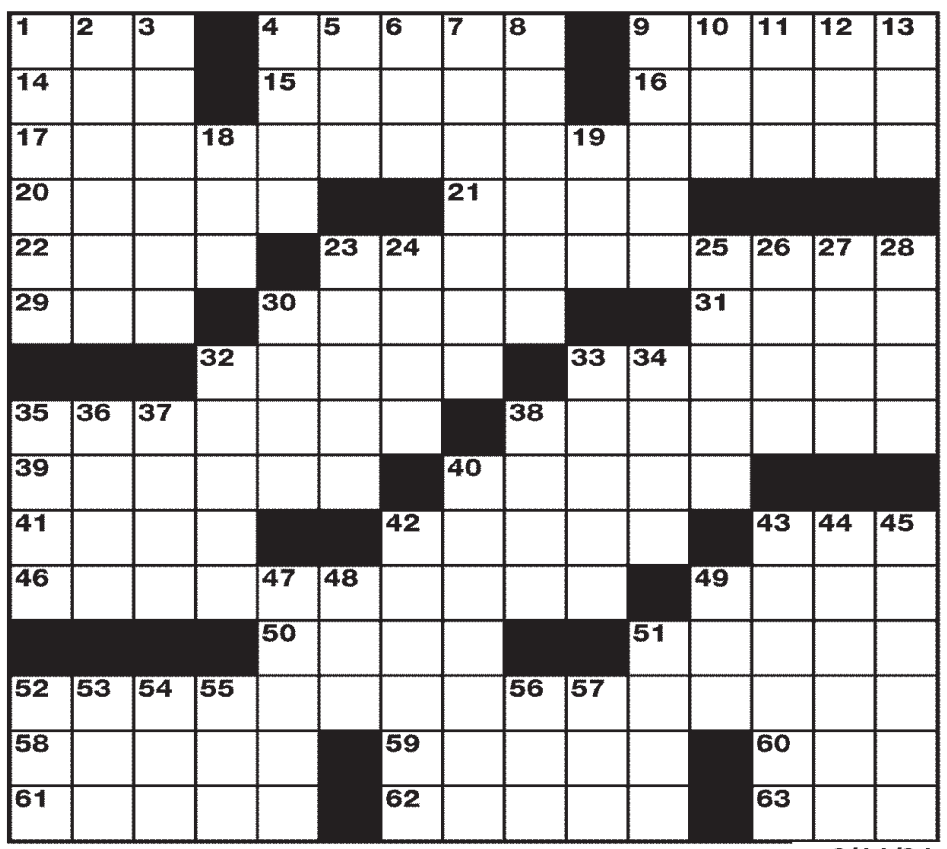
		8	9				4	
	2			3			5	9
9		5	8		2		1	
	8	2				9		5
	1			9			7	
7		9				6	8	
	5		2		3	4		7
8	4			1			2	
	9				5	1		

Newsday Crossword

NOT FOR YOUR TOAST by Gary M. Larson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Tour conveyance
4 Role models
9 Unable to sit still
14 Roughneck
15 Solitaire measure
16 Noncom's superior
17 Minnesota medicine men
20 Subatomic particle
21 Dynamic starter
22 __ Republic of Egypt
23 Improvisational playing
29 Just released
30 Smears on
31 Connection point
32 Highly assertive
33 Gentleman caller
35 With 38 Across, Clue suspect
38 See 35 Across
39 Comes up
40 Has feelings (for)
41 Slurpee alternative
42 Performs perfectly
43 Cartography sample
46 Rust remover
49 Call from the cradle
50 One for the road
51 Distortions
52 Protected habitats
58 Brownish green
59 Made public
60 Homophone of 59 Across' present tense
61 Landscaping tool
62 Irish poet
63 Fronted a band

DOWN
1 Cowled crimefighter
2 "Psst!" follower, perhaps
3 Keep changing one's mind
4 Optimist's assertion
5 Downtime for Dracula
6 Gold: Sp.
7 Ritchie Valens tune
8 Play up
9 Chorus contingent
10 Japanese drama genre
11 Low digit
12 Corporal's address to a 16 Across
13 "That's what I'm talkin' about!"
18 Wild bunch
19 Vein contents
23 Wisecracks
24 *The Clan of the Cave Bear* author
25 Stormy states
26 Slightest amount
27 Neon's lack
28 Obsessive fan
30 Measure of force
32 Where mariners go
33 Ill-tempered
34 Finds a place for
35 Principal in a sibling rivalry story
36 Black-and-white swimmer
37 Actor Schreiber
38 Send off
40 Dietary measure
42 Salary check figure
43 "Universe" of superhero films
44 French current researcher
45 Overtook
47 Cutter with light
48 Stick (out)
49 Scuff up, say
51 Combines
52 No pal of yours
53 Out-of-date
54 Make unfair
55 Festive night
56 Prominent period
57 No longer changeable

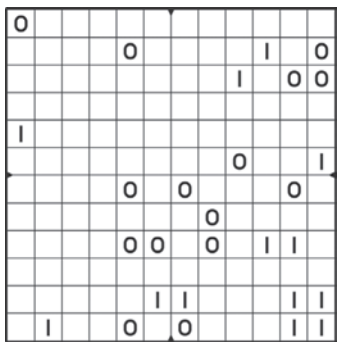


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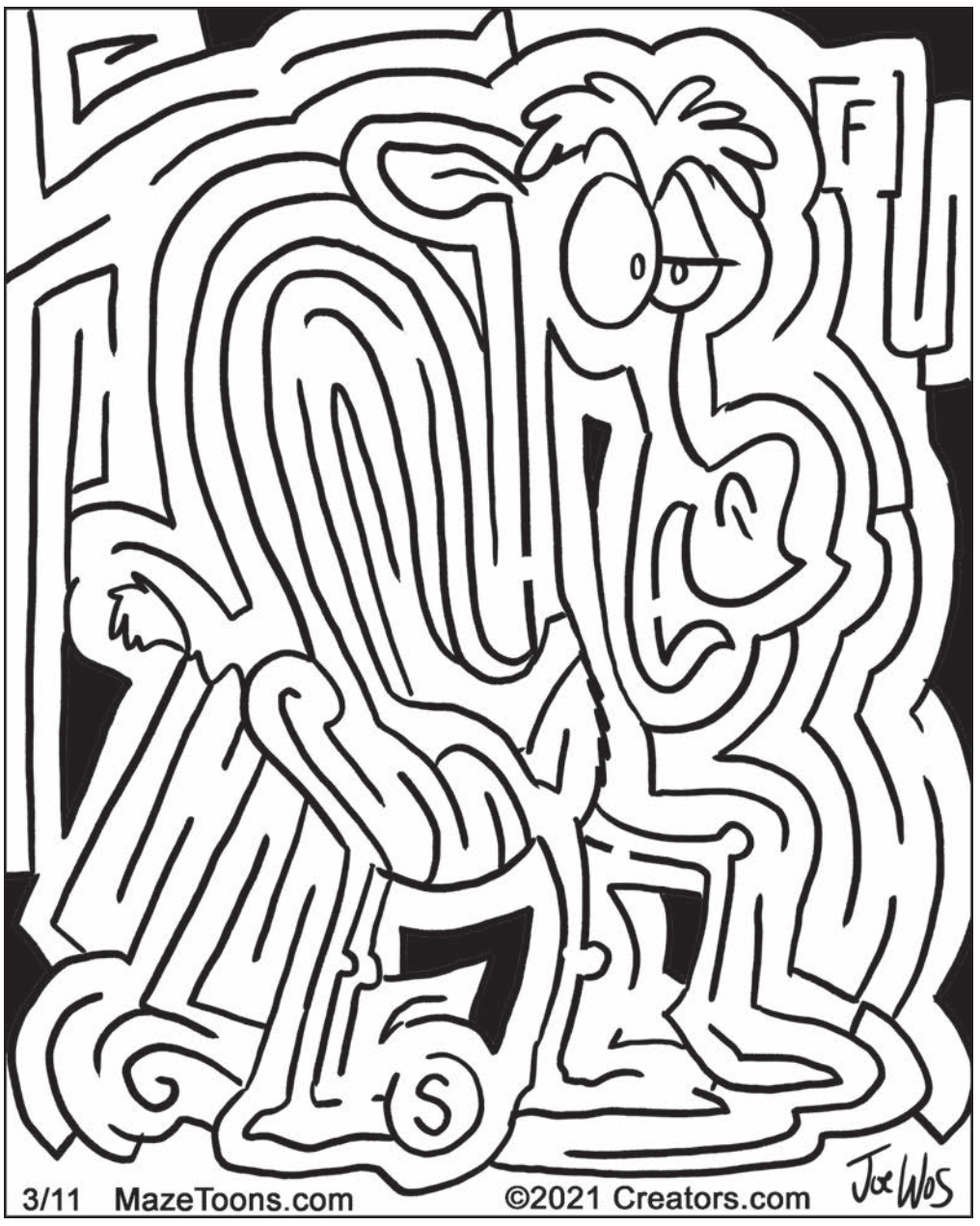
Binary Puzzle

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



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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Western Australia

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

Airport
Albany
Arid
Blue
Boya
Budgerigars
Bush
Calm
Cattle
Charm
Daily
Delta
Dukin
Fish
Guide
Gull
Hamelin Bay
Hotel
Income
Inlets
Jarrah
Jetty
Market
Mines
Moora
Muja
Nacre
Newman
Onslow
Osprey
Pardoo
Perth
Pool
Shinju Matsuri
Speed
Swan Bell Tower
Swim
Tern
Tour
Trips
Waroona
West
Wild
Yanchep

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Important to keep moving

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HARASSMENT

FROM PAGE 1

we're at risk and we're going to need to have to deal with how we're being at risk," Pierson responded. "I don't know, maybe the voters will want to recall that person, how do I know—"

"Ah, so now we're coming up with a program that says, 'Let's figure out how we're going to recall'—" interrupted Uhring.

"I'm not saying—you're pushing me in that direction," Pierson said.

Pierson argued that any "normal" company would investigate and that it was the city's fiduciary duty; ultimately, after increasingly heated back and forth, he warned Uhring that his questioning was veering "dangerously close" to violating California's open meeting law, known as the Brown Act.

Farrer spoke next, saying she was worried about Malibu's ability to attract another city manager after Feldman departs with the "cloud" of Feldman's claims still hanging over the city. When Uhring interrupted Farrer, she repeatedly asked Cotti if she had the floor and ultimately asked that all city council members not speaking be muted. She got her wish, and that mute on Uhring carried all the way through to the vote, where the 3-1 majority decided that the city would move forward on investigating Feldman's claims.

Council also voted unanimously, 5-0, for Silverstein and Farrer, assisted by Cotti, to select a law firm to investigate a former city council member's claims of corruption.

The city will take the next steps in its search for a lawyer to investigate an affidavit delivered by former Council Member Jefferson "Zuma Jay" Wagner in late 2020. That affidavit detailed experiences of former Council Member Jefferson "Zuma Jay" Wagner that alleged a culture of corruption and backroom deals at Malibu City Hall; the most serious allegation within it is that one company bidding for a construction contract attempted to bribe Wagner with trips to Las Vegas and Costa Rica in exchange for his vote.

In the affidavit, Wagner states that he brought this instance of bribery, which happened several years ago, to then-Malibu City Attorney Christi Hogin. Hogin retired from her law firm Best Best & Krieger late last year, but Cotti also works for Best Best & Krieger. For this reason, Silverstein argued at the council meeting, Cotti was conflicted on the matter and not the right person to lead an investigation into Wagner's allegations.

Other city council members argued that Silverstein himself was conflicted in the matter, given that he helped Wagner transcribe his recollections into a legal document and presented the affidavit to the council.

Cotti shared that the city staff reached out to multiple potential law firms to gauge interest and five had responded.

After much deliberation, the council decided that Silverstein and Farrer, assisted by Cotti, would interview and choose an investigator out of the prospective five.

HERO PAY

FROM PAGE 1

pay increase.

"It does not give a credit for past payments, it's only for current pay that is ongoing," City Attorney George Cardona said this week while he described how the new law is very similar to the ones passed by the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, who were among the first to discuss an ordinance requiring a $5 increase in per hour pay for essential workers in early January.

Enforcement of the new ordinance will fall to businesses and unions, according to city staff, who said they will look to employee unions to serve as the primary source of information for grocery and drug store workers. But there will also be a complaint process and opportunity to expand enforcement through the minimum wage process if necessary.

Mayor Sue Himmelrich joked during Tuesday's meeting the motion to approve the new law was seconded by the entire Council. On Wednesday, she said she was glad to support Hero Pay, which is all about boosting wages in light of the elevated health risks that essential employees experience every time they report to work indoors and interact with large swaths of people.

"This is a much-deserved recognition of the sacrifices these vital essential personnel have endured for the last year," Himmelrich added.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown recognized he got a little ahead of himself Tuesday evening when he celebrated the law's passage and stated it would take effect Wednesday since it was passed by his peers before midnight.

Instead, the law will take effect a day later than McKeown anticipated. Even so, the councilmember, who initially asked for the item to be considered by Council nearly eight weeks ago, said he is hopeful the four months of additional pay will be enough to see the end of the pandemic.

"Our local grocery and drugstore workers have been pandemic heroes for a year now, and starting Thursday that will be acknowledged with a pay bump," McKeown said, adding, "Better late than never."

Oscar de la Torre thanked Councilmember McKeown for bringing the ordinance forward.

"I think it's a very, very important policy," de la Torre said as he acknowledged companies like Trader Joe's and others that have already provided employees with hazard pay in the wake of the pandemic. "I'm proud to vote yes on this policy."

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ATTORNEY

FROM PAGE 7

racial discrimination in policing, telling senators that said America doesn't "yet have equal justice." He also said he'd prioritize confronting the rise in extremist violence and domestic terror threats.

At one point in the hearing, he held back tears when speaking about his grandparents, who fled Russia for the U.S. amid antisemitism and persecution.

"The country took us in, and protected us, and I feel an obligation to the country to pay back, and this is the highest, best use of my own set of skills to pay back," Garland said. "So I very much want to be the kind of attorney general that you're saying I could become, and I'll do my best to become that kind of attorney general."

Associated Press writer Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

HYNKEL

FROM PAGE 4

wife are loving the presentation and even finding a few new things (and remarking about what's left out, like what about early Springfield roommate and lifelong best friend Joshua Speed that he shared a bed with for four years, hmm? — but it was not an unusual practice at that time, and I am not trying to gossip about that towering but flawed great leader). All the episodes should be there, on demand, if you hurry. Binge.

Besides having spot commentary from real Lincoln scholars, they also slip in political commentator Van Jones and comedian Conan O'Brien. I can imagine them being serious Lincoln buffs getting wind of the project early, and begging, oh please, I must be a part of it! They're both good in their brief appearances to move the story along. Grabs your attention, more than the gray scholars.

For me it brings back my junior high (voluntary) immersion in Civil War history, reminding me I used to know every battle, general and politician. I was launched into that phase by the serialized history fantasy in Look magazine by noted historian MacKinlay Kantor, "If the South Had Won the Civil War." Kantor proposed that a different outcome for one battle could have left Cuba and parts of Mexico absorbed into a slaveholding South that endured into the 20th century. It was an enormously popular magazine series that led Look to run, a year later, "If Hitler Had Won World War II" by William Shirer, who had just released his comprehensive, 1250-page tome "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich." That one was a little unnerving for many, coming only 16 years after the end of World War II. (Shirer predicted Hitler would have launched WWIII, and IV and V, until the entire world was his.)

"THE GREAT DICTATOR"

Which brings me around — wow!! music, television, radio, books and film, all in one NOTEWORTHY — to the remarkable Charlie Chaplin film released in 1940, a year prior to America's involvement in WWII through the attack on Pearl Harbor, the following December. "The Great Dictator" was Chaplin's first true talkie (and his most popular film), as he continued to make silent films more than a dozen years after "The Jazz Singer" broke that sound barrier.

It would seem Chaplin finally found something he had to talk about. It is a remarkable satire comedy, certainly hilarious in parts, with Chaplin writing, directing, producing, scoring and starring, playing both a Jewish barber and dictator Adenoid Hynkel, but he turns dead serious at film's end when he gives a speech that has become universally lauded. I recommend watching it, or watching it again. Like the Lincoln series, it is perfect for our times.

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

Classifieds
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Daily journal public notice

REQUEST FORPROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for the On-Call Construction Inspection and Related Services for Federally funded and Non-Federally funded projects(BRC0000217) will be received by the County of Los Angeles Public Work son March 25, 2021, by4:00 p.m. DBE subconsultant participation is encouraged to meetcontract DBE goal of 5%.To access RFP documents, visit link at https://dpw.lacounty.gov/contracts/opportunities.aspx. For additional information, call (626) 458-2180.3/11/21CNS-3445070#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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