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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY
03.18.21
Volume 20 Issue 106

Women of the Year
For State Senate and Assembly.
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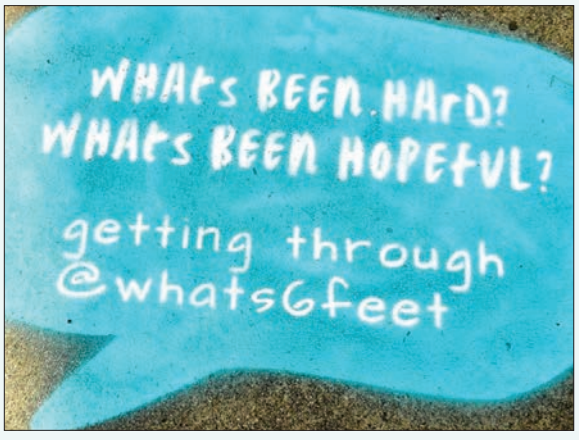
Noteworthy
Grammys Get Real.
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Artist connects the City through community reflection on the meaning of distance









Courtesy photos

ART: Local artists are working to create community connections through a public art project.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

'Six feet apart' is a simple phrase now known by all — but what exactly are the implications of those three short words that dramatically transformed how people navigate life?

That is the question local artist Marni Gittleman is engaging with in her "What's 6 Feet?" community wide art program. Through a series of thought-provoking question prompts stenciled throughout the City, Gittleman is striving to create heartfelt conversation exploring how the last year of distance has impacted residents.

Once the responses have been collected they will be published both online and on signs and stickers across the City to showcase how the community has grappled with, suffered from, learned from, and embraced everything that comes with living apart.

The project is funded through the City's Art of Recovery Program, a grant program inspired by the WPA-era's Federal Art Project which employs artists to create initiatives that will strengthen and connect Santa Monica. To accomplish her goal Gittleman has partnered with local signage and graphics provider Image360

SEE **ARTIST** PAGE 7

SMMUSD classified staff call for Hero Pay

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

In-person instruction in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has ramped up this week, and so has a campaign to recognize the contributions of custodians and other essential SMMUSD staff with Hero Pay.

It's been nearly a year to the day since Maintenance Worker Henry Plasencia first discovered he had contracted COVID-19.

"One day, I just didn't taste my food anymore. I was taking cold showers to take down the fevers. Then, I started to give up the fight and started to get really sleepy," Plasencia said in an interview Tuesday.

At the time, his wife was also in the hospital fighting COVID-19.

"I remember she gave me a call to come pick her up and I got so happy," he said. "I picked her up and she said she was still fighting pneumonia but they sent her home with no medicine. I was worried but I thought I'd take a nap before we headed back to the emergency room. That was how it went back then; you were always

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 11

Community invited to take survey to inform City Manager recruitment

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

The search to find Santa Monica's next City Manager is now underway, and the community is invited to get involved in the process by completing a survey and participating in an upcoming listening session.

Now through April 12, Santa Monica residents are invited share their perspective on the key attributes they would like to see the next City Manager possess by visiting the website www.surveymonkey.com/r/SantaMonicaCM.

After the conclusion of the survey, Ralph Andersen & Associates, which was unanimously selected by City Council back in February to conduct the search for Santa Monica's first permanent manager since Rick Cole resigned in April 2020, will host a community listening session.

There will be more information released on the listening session later this month, but city staff said residents can find the soon-to-be-released registration information along with recruitment details online at santamonica.gov/city-manager-recruitment.

Mayor Sue Himmelrich also encouraged the community to get involved in the process this week because everybody should have a voice in the matter.

"We value community input as a critical component to identifying the qualities Santa Monica needs

SEE **COMMUNITY** PAGE 2

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SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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.

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SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press
editor@smdp.com

Dodgers eager to defend World Series title in full season

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

The Los Angeles Dodgers finally have something besides eight straight NL West titles to brag about. They head into this season's full 162-game schedule as defending World Series champions, having ended a 32-year drought during the pandemic.

With the addition of right-hander Trevor Bauer, they've also got baseball's best rotation that boasts three Cy Young Award winners. It's also the biggest intrigue involving the team. Bauer, Walker Buehler and veteran Clayton Kershaw are locks to start.

David Price will make his Dodgers debut after opting out last season because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it could come out of the bullpen. The former AL Cy Young Award winner has told the team he's open to whatever role they need him in, and he could provide valuable left-handed relief.

If Price comes out of the 'pen, Tony Gonsolin could be a starter, as well as Julio Urías, who has made a strong case to become a full-time starter with his spring performance.

Once again, the Dodgers boast tremendous depth and figure to platoon at various positions.

NEW LOOK

Bauer's 1.73 ERA led the NL last season and he won the NL Cy Young with Cincinnati. After signing a $102 million, three-year deal in February, he's already turned heads by pitching with one of his eyes closed in spring training. The Dodgers lost Joc Pederson and Kiké Hernández in free agency. Pederson's time in the outfield will go to Mookie Betts, Cody Bellinger and AJ Pollock, and there are others who can fill in whenever needed. Hernández's presence on offense and defense, as well as his high spirits in the clubhouse, will be missed. But Zach McKinstry has had a strong spring and the utilityman can play second base, shortstop and center field. Former top prospect Gavin Lux figures to be a regular at second base and he gives the team a left-handed option in the lineup. Once again, Chris Taylor's versatility will have him all over the field, but he'll also get time at second base.

OL' RELIABLE

The Dodgers could give any number of aces on their staff the ball on opening day. But manager Dave Roberts chose three-time NL Cy Young Award winner Kershaw, who is set to start his franchise-record ninth opening day on April 1 at Colorado. Buehler and Bauer were under consideration, too. Kershaw is heading into the final year of his current contract. The left-hander is 11-5 with a 4.44 ERA when pitching at Coors Field.

ROOKIES TO WATCH

C Keibert Ruiz and RHP Josiah Gray are considered the top two prospects in the organization, but neither made the major-league roster out of spring training. Ruiz is behind Will Smith and Austin Barnes on the depth chart. He missed most of camp because of a visa issue, but will be a reliable option in the minors. Gray will start the season at the alternate training site and figures to be part of the Dodgers' Triple-A rotation. He's likely to be called upon to provide depth to the team's powerhouse rotation during the season. Roberts is impressed with both players. 2B Michael Busch and 3B Kody Hoese were both first-round picks in 2019 and could contribute this season.

BELLI ON WAY BACK

Bellinger had arthroscopic surgery on his right shoulder during the offseason and he spent spring training working his way back. He'll have had just two weeks of games to get ready for the season, but the team expects the 2019 NL MVP to be starting in center field on opening day. If for some reason he can't go, DJ Peters has had a solid spring at the plate and in the field.

HOME OPENER

After a weeklong road trip to start the season, the Dodgers open at home on April 9 against Washington. They'll receive their World Series rings that night and celebrate winning the franchise's first championship since 1988. They won the World Series in Texas last fall with limited fans on hand. They expect to have their own fans back in the stands for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic took hold a year ago. Los Angeles County has eased restrictions on outdoor attendance, which means 25% capacity — about 11,000 fans — could be allowed.

COMMUNITY

FROM PAGE 1

in a leader who, with the Council, will see the City through the next stage of its recovery as the pandemic subsides and the economy lifts," said Himmelrich, who is on Council's subcommittee for the City Manager recruitment along with Councilmembers Gleam Davis and Oscar de la Torre.

Himmelrich previously highlighted Ralph Andersen & Associates' rigorous background checking capacities and the firm's broad network within the state when sharing why she felt the firm was the best fit. During the same conversation, Interim City Manager Lane Dilg added the firm is also responsible for the search for Santa Monica's new police chief, so the City is currently hoping it will be able to negotiate a more cost-effective price.

"When looking for a city manager, I think that we want a city manager for the long-term and we want that person to provide excellence for the community and continuity," Dilg said in an interview with the Daily Press shortly after she announced her coming departure from the City.

In early February, Councilmember Kevin McKeown said he agreed with the sentiment.

"We want someone who can understand Santa Monica's unique characteristics and needs," he said. "Clearly, our new city manager will be tasked with bringing us back from COVID and its economic struggles as a reinvented community, but at the same time, we want a refreshed and recognizable Santa Monica, not losing our historic identity."

Brennon@smdp.com

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 258 CALLS ON MARCH 16

Open Door 300blk 15th St 1:10 a.m.
Vandalism Now 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:52 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 20th St / Pico Blvd 3:37 a.m.
Domestic Violence Now 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:28 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Palisades Park 6:26 a.m.
Lewd Activity 400blk Wilshire Blvd 6:33 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:34 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2300blk Ashland Ave 6:59 a.m.
Scar Investigation 2600blk Virginia Ave 7:00 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 7th St 7:16 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 400blk Broadway 8:21 a.m.
Smoking Violation 2800blk Neilson Way 8:22 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2000blk Euclid St 8:24 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1000blk Pico Blvd 9:05 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1100blk Arizona Ave 9:12 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 23rd St 9:13 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2600blk Centinela Ave 9:18 a.m.
Vandalism Report 2600blk Barnard Way 9:20 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 9:27 a.m.
Lewd Activity 200blk Palisades Beach Rd 9:48 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk Franklin St 9:50 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 700blk 14th St 10:02 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1300blk 10th St 10:18 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 10:20 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 6th St 10:22 a.m.
Fraud Report 200blk Beach St 10:26 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / California Ave 10:37 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1200blk 18th St 10:45 a.m.
Battery Report 300blk Santa Monica Pier 10:52 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 200blk Santa Monica Pier 10:55 a.m.
Panic Alarm 1300blk Colorado Ave 11:16 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 11:17 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 700blk Adelaide Pl 11:20 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200blk 17th St 11:29 a.m.
Forgery Report 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:33 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1200blk Alta Ave 11:37 a.m.
Overdose 3100blk Pico Blvd 11:42 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 11:43 a.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:01 p.m.
Loud Music 2900blk Delaware Ave 12:04 p.m.
Fraud Report 1800blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:05 p.m.
Fraud Report 1100blk 26th St 12:11 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:43 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 700blk 16th St 12:48 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2700blk 6th St 1:14 p.m.
Forgery Report 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:16 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 100blk Fraser Ave 1:19 p.m.
Encampment 2200blk The Beach 1:27 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 1:32 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 200blk Bicknell Ave 1:49 p.m.
Burglary Just Occurred 1400blk Palisades Beach Rd 1:49 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600blk Strand St 2:05 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600blk Strand St 2:06 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2200blk 25th St 2:07 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 3100blk Highland Ave 2:09 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1200blk 10th St 2:14 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 200blk Bicknell Ave 2:32 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk 2nd St 2:39 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 500blk Wilshire Blvd 2:41 p.m.
Fraud Report 900blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:47 p.m.
Person With A Gun 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 2:54 p.m.
Loud Music 900blk 12th St 3:12 p.m.
General Parking Problem 3300blk Barnard Way 3:19 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:31 p.m.
Fraud Report 4700blk Admiralty Way 3:38 p.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk 12th St 3:39 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk 7th St 3:42 p.m.
Fraud Report 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 4:09 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 4:10 p.m.
Fraud Report 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 4:36 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 100blk San Vicente Blvd 4:44 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:48 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2200blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:49 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2900blk 4th St 4:52 p.m.
Domestic Violence Now 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 4:56 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Barnard Way / Ocean Park Blvd 5:21 p.m.
Attempt Strongarm Robbery Report 4th St / Broadway 5:25 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1100blk 21st St 5:29 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 11th St / Colorado Ave 5:42 p.m.
Battery Now 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 6:20 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:36 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 6th St 7:02 p.m.
Found Person 600blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:17 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2100blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:39 p.m.
Fight 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 8:14 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:29 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1900blk Main St 8:54 p.m.

SEE **DAILY POLICE LOG** PAGE 5

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 26 CALLS ON MARCH 16

EMS 400blk Expo Line 12:21 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:56 a.m.
EMS 3000blk Main St 3:24 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 8:26 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 21st St 9:15 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2900blk 28th St 10:17 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 10:42 a.m.
EMS 3100blk Pico Blvd 11:42 a.m.
EMS Main St / Colorado Ave 1:44 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:20 p.m.
EMS Barnard Way / Ocean Park Blvd 5:19 p.m.
EMS 11th St / Colorado Ave 5:42 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Main St 5:43 p.m.
EMS 200blk Ocean Ave 6:10 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 16th St 6:11 p.m.
EMS 200blk Ocean Ave 6:13 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 6:27 p.m.
Electrical Fire - No Fire Visible 300blk Olympic Dr 6:37 p.m.
EMS 700blk Broadway 6:38 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Pl 7:11 p.m.
Flooded Condition 1400blk 7th St 9:15 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:22 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 9:37 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 10:20 p.m.
EMS 200blk 19th St 11:09 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Broadway 11:18 p.m.

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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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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Assemblymember Bloom Announces Betty White as Assembly District 50 Woman of the Year

Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) has selected television legend and animal rights advocate Betty White as the 50th Assembly District's 2021 "Woman of the Year."

White will receive the award in recognition of Women's History Month. She will be honored at a virtual ceremony on March 15, 2021 along with other women from across California also being recognized by their state senators and assemblymembers for their accomplishments and contributions to the State.

"Betty White is often called a national treasure. She is known not only for her prolific career in television, but also for trailblazing a path for women pursuing careers in television, and her staunch animal welfare advocacy," said Assemblymember Bloom.

A seven-time Emmy Award winner, Ms. White is recognized as the first woman to produce a sitcom, and was one of the first women to hold positions both in front of and behind the camera. A dedicated supporter of animal health and wellness, White is a trustee of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association and serves as President Emeritus of Morris Animal Foundation, where she has been a trustee since 1971. In 2006, she was honored by the City of Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Zoo as "Ambassador to the Animals" for her lifelong work for animal welfare. She was proclaimed an honorary forest ranger by the U.S. Forest Service in 2010 and made an honorary zookeeper by the keepers of the Los Angeles Zoo, two occupations she considered as a child and before becoming an actress.

"I am surprised and honored to be recognized for Woman of the Year... It is good to be 99," said Ms. White.

"Betty White represents the best of Hollywood and the business of entertainment. A staple on the television screen, she has brought laughter into the homes of generations of families. She is adamant on using her considerable platform to bring awareness to improving the lives of animals, and always with kindness, warmth, and humor," said Bloom.

White has earned numerous awards during her entertainment career spanning over eighty years which include: an Emmy Lifetime Achievement Award in Daytime, a Career Achievement Award from the Television Critics Association, a Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award in Acting from the American Women in Radio and Television, AP Entertainer of the Year, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame, a People's Choice Award for "Favorite TV Icon," the TV Land Legend Award, and the Icon Award for Women in Television from the Paley Center for Media. She has also been added to the Guinness World Records under the title, "Longest TV Career for an Entertainer (Female)" and was named the world's "Most Trusted Celebrity" by Reuters.

The Woman of the Year event was founded in 1987 by Assemblymember Bev Hansen (R) and Assemblymember Sally Turner (D) in response to the California Legislature's lack of events for Women's History Month. The now-annual event, sponsored by the Women's Caucus, allows each state senator and assemblymember to select one woman from their district to be honored for their accomplishments.

Richard Bloom Chairs the Assembly Budget Sub-Committee on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation and represents California's 50th Assembly District, which is comprised of the communities of Agoura Hills, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Hollywood, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Topanga, West Hollywood, and West Los Angeles.

SUBMITTED BY GUY W. STRAHL, OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER RICHARD BLOOM CHIEF OF STAFF

Citywide

Senator Ben Allen Selects L.A. Hope Dealer Corie Mattie as District 26 Woman of the Year

Hollywood Hills street artist Corie Mattie, whose striking murals can be seen throughout Los Angeles County, today was recognized by State Senator Ben Allen as the 26th Senate District Woman of the Year. Also known as the L.A. Hope Dealer, Corie has spread inspiration and positivity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am honored to receive the recognition of Woman of the Year 2021. I appreciate Senator Allen's respect for the arts and how it positively contributes to the community," said Corie Mattie. "I will continue to spread my message of hope even through the darkest of times. Art expression is vital to the world we live in, and will continue to make our community grow and heal."

"Corie has taken one of the most challenging periods of our lifetime and channeled it into something moving and meaningful," said Senator Allen (D – Santa Monica). "Her work is testament to the power of art and its ability to deliver something that has felt scarce over the last year: hope. Corie's designs and messages elevate every community they touch, helping remind us that brighter days are ahead."

After several years in the sports industry, Corie Mattie left her secure job to pursue dreams of connecting the world through art – bringing humility and personal experiences to her creative imagery and wordplay, often in large public spaces.

Mattie uses her skills not only to highlight societal challenges but to play a role in their solutions. She has contributed her captivating artwork to raise significant amounts of money to fight homelessness, help people experiencing food insecurity, and support the Black Lives Matter movement. She is a fierce advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community and a model trailblazer pushing the boundaries of what society expects women to say and do.

The Woman of the Year event was founded in 1987 in celebration of the remarkable women

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 5

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Brennon Dixson
brennon@smdp.com

Clara Harter
clara@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Steve Nakutin
steve@smdp.com

AWARD WINNER

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND PARTNERSHIPS
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

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

AWARD WINNER

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

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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.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

instrumental in making California an unmatched place to live, work, and play. Every year one woman from each Senate and Assembly district is honored for her accomplishments. Mattie and 39 other women were briefly celebrated by the California Senate during today's floor session; she will be presented with her official Senate Resolution in a district-specific event later this spring.

Mattie stands in front of her mural depicting the joining of hands and stating, "Together, we can end homelessness."

As the L.A. Hope Dealer, Corie has been a shining light during some of the darkest moments of 2020. Knowing that her artwork has inspired millions of people in California and beyond, Corie says, "It reminds me of why I took this leap in the first place."

Former District 26 Women of the Year include philanthropist Lisa Zola Greer (2020), educator Catherine Baxter (2019), actress/activist Rashida Jones (2018), philanthropist Jacqueline Caster (2017), filmmaker Amy Ziering (2016), and attorney/advocate Stacey Armato (2015).

SUBMITTED BY SHANNON FLAHERTY, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Fed expects to keep its key rate near zero through 2023

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

The Federal Reserve foresees the economy accelerating quickly this year but still expects to keep its benchmark interest rate pinned near zero through 2023, despite concerns in financial markets about potential higher inflation.

The Fed also said Wednesday that it foresees the economy growing at a 6.5% pace this year, up from a previous projection in December of 4.2%. It also expects inflation to reach 2.4% in 2021, above its target of 2%, but expects inflation to fall back to around 2% in 2022.

The central bank also said it would continue to buy $120 billion in bonds each month to keep longer-term borrowing costs down.

The decision comes as Chair Jerome Powell faces a delicate balancing act: The economy is clearly improving. But if Powell sounds too optimistic, investors might assume the Fed will reverse its low-rate policies prematurely. That could send bond yields rising and potentially weaken the economy as borrowing becomes costlier for companies and households.

Yet if Powell sounds worried that the job market is recovering only slowly, it might spark concerns that the Fed won't be watchful enough about inflation pressures. That perception, too, could send bond yields rising as investors anticipate rising inflation.

Complicating the picture, the Fed last year announced a policy change in how it manages interest rates by saying it plans to keep rates near zero "for some time" even after inflation has exceeded its 2% target level. The change meant the Fed is prepared to tolerate a higher inflation rate than it generally had in the past.

Previously, the Fed has often raised rates on just the prospect that inflation would rise, a policy that carried the risk of choking off a recovery.

This week's Fed policy meeting comes as the economy's outlook has improved significantly since it last met in late January. Job gains accelerated in February, sales at retail stores jumped after $600 relief checks were distributed at the start of the year and President Joe Biden signed his economic relief package into law last week. Average daily COVID infections have also dropped precipitously, and vaccinations have accelerated, raising hopes that Americans will increasingly travel, shop, eat out and spend freely after a year of virus-induced restraint.

As a consequence, economists have been upgrading their outlooks, with many predicting that the economy will expand as much as 7% for all of 2021. That would be the fastest annual growth since 1984.

The brighter outlook has sent the yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbing as investors have dumped bonds, which are typically safe-haven investments during downturns. The yield on the 10-year topped 1.62% in trading Tuesday; it had been below 1% at the end of last year.

Still, the job market has a long way to go to a full recovery. With unemployment at 6.2%, the economy still has 9.5 million fewer jobs than it did before the pandemic struck a year ago.

DAILY POLICE LOG

FROM PAGE 3

Traffic Collision With Injuries Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 8:59 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 100blk Santa Monica Pl 9:10 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Franklin St / Wilshire Blvd 9:39 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2100blk Pearl St 10:04 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000blk 6th St 10:12 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Santa Monica Pl 10:17 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2000blk Ocean Ave 10:51 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400blk Santa Monica Pier 11:01 p.m.
Public Intoxication Ocean Ave / Broadway 11:22 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900blk Ocean Way 11:23 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 400blk Euclid St 11:29 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 20th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:55 p.m.

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City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of March 11, 2021, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board amended regulations:

3301(a), 3301(g)(2)(iii), 13002(d)(4)

to clarify that the initial rental rate for new tenancies must be specified as a dollar amount at the commencement of the tenancy.

These changes will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

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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: P150OK; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).
6255

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Grammys Get Real

I DON'T USUALLY WATCH THEM

The last few years. Too discouraging, for too many decades, to see the artists I think deserve recognition snubbed for some social media sensation, autotuned automatons, cavorting Koreans. Remember PSY? Huge, HUGE, worldwide, a decade ago. Of course you don't.

No Grammy for him, but also overlooked, over the decades were Diana Ross, the Doors, Tupac, the Beach Boys, Chuck Berry, Queen, Snoop Dogg, Janis, Jimi, Talking Heads, Public Enemy, the Kinks, even Katy Perry and Journey. Bob Marley? Zero nominations.

Two persistent slams against the Recording Academy: their voters are out of touch, because they do not reflect the listening audience. They are trying to change that, adding a lot more women and members of color. Interim President Harvey Mason gave a good speech recognizing past shortcomings and promising even more reform.

I'm no expert on Grammy politics or even the latest music. But here's my armchair authority's take on this year's show.



Farah Sosa

RECOMMENDATION: Nailah Hunter

IT WAS PRETTY GOOD

Better than I expected, navigating severe COVID restrictions. Trevor Noah, the funniest man on late night at-home TV, was a nimble and entertaining host. Beyonce finally became the winningest female ever with 28 trophies, and might have set the record for biggest hair. If you were wondering why an entire sentence of Harry Styles' acceptance speech was censored, it was for one word. Yeah, that one.

What was more striking was the way some addressed BLM issues. Lil Baby hit it out of the park with his hit "The Bigger Picture," depicting the police killing of Rayshard Brooks, bringing in guest stars like Killer Mike, and activist Tamika Mallory who preached, "President Biden, we demand justice ... We don't need allies, we need accomplices."

"I CAN'T BREATHE"

By H.E.R. won Song of the Year, and Mickey Guyton became the first Black female country artist to perform on music's highest-profile awards show when she sang her "Black Like Me."

"It's a hard life on Easy Street / Just white-painted picket fences far as you can see / If you think we live in the land of the free / You should try to be Black like me." THAT is not going to be played on country radio, I immediately thought, and it isn't, but it is streaming like crazy.

The annual tribute to artists we lost was particularly long and devastating this year. I'm very glad John Prine, one of the greatest songwriters ever, got proper notice, as so many lists unbelievably left him off or relegated him to a mere mention. The Bruno Mars-Paak tribute to Little Richard was good, but made great by the amazing drummer and piano pounder. Good Golly! Locals Haim rocked hard.

Although web bios for the Black Pumas' Eric Burton tell it differently, on the Grammys he said he "moved from NM to CA in 2014. It took me two trains and two buses but I immediately headed for the SM Pier and started busking..." and that's good enough for me. NM to SM and the Pier -- I can relate. Their performance was outstanding.

THOSE PERFORMANCES ON ELABORATE SETS

The format of multiple stages, starting outdoors and utilizing the cavernous Convention Center across from Staples Center (including some pre-recorded performances they tried to pretend were happening live), allowed for some big numbers.

Speaking of venues, so glad these Grammys recognized the dire situation for that vital link in the music chain: the venues where artists can perform before real people, and fans can get so much more than they can from a recording or video. All the clubs, theaters and bars are hurting badly, and some have shuttered for good.

LA has so many that are known worldwide or have a historic place in music history, and the Grammys honored two locally, of the four they chose to profile: the Troubadour, with its amazing 64-year history of historic performances and collaborations, and The Hotel Cafe, a coffeehouse off an alley in Hollywood that catered to singer-songwriters in 2000, but has expanded space and reputation to draw big names to an intimate, homey atmosphere.

LOCALLY IN SANTA MONICA

I got a note from the Ruskin Group Theatre folks at the airport, asking for help.

"On March 23rd, City Council will consider assistance for arts tenants on city-owned property. The Ruskin needs the Council's support to survive. Emails should be no longer than a page, and the framework

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 7

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 6

can look like this:

"Dear Mayor Himmelrich & Honorable City Council Members,

"I am writing you today to ask that you help the Ruskin Group Theatre by providing rental abatement for the time that the theatre was forced to close its doors, and provide rent reductions going forward until they are able to open again to capacity.

"Second paragraph: Tell your story, what we have meant to you and why you want us to come back.

"Emails should be sent to council@smgov.net."

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

LISTEN TO "WAITING IN THE LIGHT" BY NAILAH HUNTER — In collaboration with Metro Art and Leaving Records, LA native and classically trained harpist, composer and producer Nailah Hunter recently released an original composition inspired by the morning light in Union Station's historic Ticketing Hall. Written, composed and produced by Hunter, she combines harp, synth, found sounds, voice, and flute performance by Cadmar Fitzhugh to create a sonic landscape full of warmth and serenity.

Pre-COVID, Union Station was part of my daily commute: in the early morning, and right at the golden hour. Coming home I would occasionally pause to admire the shafts of warm light coming through the great, 40-foot ironwork-ornamented windows and hitting the polished tile and marble floors like in a great Mission Moderne cathedral.

For such a busy thoroughfare, I have always been struck by how relatively quiet the main building is at most times. Perhaps it is its great height and expansiveness that allows sharp noises to reverberate and fade until they are part of the greater sonic ambiance. I feel this fluidity translated in Hunter's interpretation, and it takes me back to being in Union Station as a child, when it seemed that much larger and more impressive. It takes me back to my commute, where I would see people waiting for their train in those great leather chairs, most sitting in silence or asleep, all waiting to go somewhere.

I recommend looking at a few photos of the Ticketing Hall (such as the beautiful ones taken by Farah Sosa for this release) to refresh your memory before listening, then taking a dedicated, mindful moment to sit and journey with this piece.

"Waiting in the Light" is one of four unique soundscapes that will be presented on digital channels in collaboration with Leaving Records over the course of 2021, and is available for free download or streaming from now until April 26.

https://soundcloud.com/metroartla/waitinginthelight?ref=clipboard&p=i&c=0

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

ARTIST

FROM PAGE 1

South Bay, which produced the stencils used to distribute prompts throughout the City under the direction of owner Adam Wonka.

"The responses so far have really blown me away," said Gittleman. "They range from humorous, to really deep reflective sharing, to things anyone can relate to. It's an invitation to be heard, and seen, and honored in what we are all going through."

The project is still soliciting submissions and all residents are invited to respond to one of the many prompts stenciled around town and featured on the @whats6feet Instagram account. Prompts include 'I'm thankful for…' 'love is…' 'I can't wait to…' 'who or what lifts you up?' and more.

Gittleman said all responses should be submitted via Instagram and those received by March 21 could be featured on stickers and signs that will be displayed in businesses and iconic locations throughout the City courtesy of Image 360. Residents are encouraged to continue submitting past the deadline as the online account will keep sharing reflections.

"It's been refreshing to have a positive conversation. It's nice that we can laugh and find the positives in our situation. To me that's the beauty of this project," said Adam Wonka, owner of Image 360. "I think that for the most part we are all conditioned to see the bad side of things and certainly people getting sick and passing is not a good thing, but this project helps us get another perspective on life and find things that aren't all bad about this time."

The submissions so far have spanned a breadth of subjects, moods, and artistic mediums, showcasing the diverse ways residents have experienced separation and choose to express themselves.

For example, dancers Abdiel Jacobsen and Robine Mock choreographed a routine where they maintained a taut six foot long string between them the entire time, reflecting the elimination of touch and partner work in their art form.

Another submission featured a photo of a couple holding hands at the pier on Valentine's Day, reflecting gratitude for their continued 'togetherness'. One community member spent many meditative moments in quarantine enjoying popsicles on her patio and shared a photo of a giant heart sculpture made from all her collected popsicle sticks.

Though many responses have focused on positivity and gratitude, people have also taken the project as an opportunity to reflect on loss.

"People have written in with really heartfelt remembrance. We are inviting people to remember everyone you love and that while some people have passed and we might be separated here in the earthly plane, they live on through art and spirit," said Gittleman.

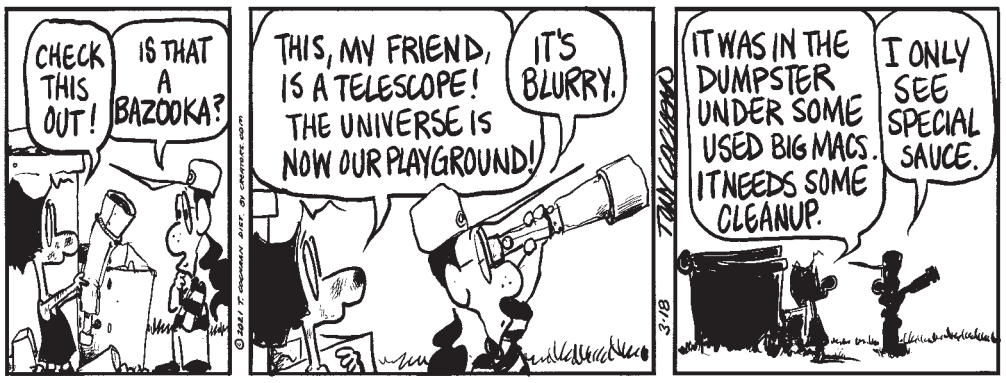
All community members are encouraged to participate in the project by visiting the @whats6feet Instagram page and exploring the stencils, stickers, and decals distributed throughout the City.

Clara@smdp.com



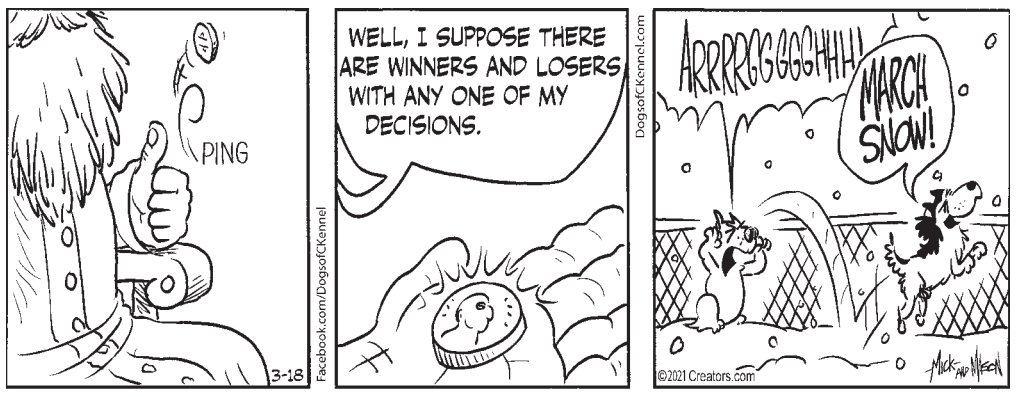
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 55.2°

THURSDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Small, likely clean mix of swells for the small wave gear. NW swell mix bottoms out, S swell lingers.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
Watching for a fun new round of NW swell mix to build in - most size west of Pt Dume. Benign tide swings with the lightest wind in the morning -- W wind blockage for the PM

WEATHER

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/03/18	Thu	12:17 AM	4.54	H
2021/03/18	Thu	07:12 AM	0.86	L
2021/03/18	Thu	1:18 PM	2.83	H
2021/03/18	Thu	6:03 PM	1.92	L
2021/03/19	Fri	12:46 AM	4.38	H
2021/03/19	Fri	08:18 AM	1.03	L
2021/03/19	Fri	3:05 PM	2.41	H
2021/03/19	Fri	5:51 PM	2.30	L
2021/03/20	Sat	01:26 AM	4.18	H
2021/03/20	Sat	10:10 AM	1.03	L
2021/03/21	Sun	02:40 AM	4.01	H
2021/03/21	Sun	11:50 AM	0.71	L
2021/03/22	Mon	04:30 AM	4.08	H
2021/03/22	Mon	12:46 PM	0.28	L
2021/03/22	Mon	8:19 PM	3.28	H
2021/03/23	Tue	12:02 AM	2.84	L
2021/03/23	Tue	05:49 AM	4.40	H
2021/03/23	Tue	1:26 PM	-0.13	L
2021/03/23	Tue	8:23 PM	3.54	H
2021/03/24	Wed	12:55 AM	2.39	L
2021/03/24	Wed	06:46 AM	4.83	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 3/13
5 11 51 56 61
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 184 M

calottery MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/16
10 41 46 52 69
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 105 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 3/13
3 7 8 13 21
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 29 M

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 3/16
3 11 13 22 23

calottery Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/16
EVENING: 2 5 4
Draw Date: 3/16
MIDDAY: 3 1 5

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 3/16
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:49.21

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 18)

There's the option of sticking with what's expected of you, but you get better results when you forget about the "mature" move and fall into carefree moments, finding and making fun, letting go. You'll take something you're good at and raise it to such an exceptional level that an elite world will open to you. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 5, 20, 14 and 28.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Not only will you see what others overlook but you'll also turn these details and aspects around in your mind until you start to see how they might fit together in a more useful, interesting or lucrative way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You use your time well and your energy efficiently. As others observe how you focus yourself, they will decide straight away that you are not someone to trifle with. They'll approach in a way that won't waste your time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). By using your time, energy and vitality very well, you let others know that you're in control of your life. They will not try to derail you or distract you, because they see the futility in that.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Emotional and physical bruises work in the same way: They're tender until healed. You avoid touching them until one day, you realize that there are no painful sensations associated with the area. Today brings such a realization.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your heart is open for business, and you're in for lively exchanges until closing time brings the welcome lull. In solitude, you can rest, process and ready your heart for another round.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There is a thing you want because you'd like to see their faces when you get it. But if no one else could know, would you still want it? That's the litmus test that will reveal your true heart's desire.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You need humor. It's not an option; it's a requirement. Laughter releases the tension, elevates your point of view, lifts your mood and aligns you with the people who get you on a soul level.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Remember how noisy places allowed for a raucous time without the pressure of conversation? With your longing for such environments peaking, you'll still seize the opportunity to work on developing communication skills.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If all the options that used to be readily available were on offer now, you wouldn't see the golden opportunity of this day: to seize what is within your control. Don't wait for the change. The change is you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A new relationship will have you seeing an old relationship differently. Certain history will take on altered significance, meaning and scale as though you're looking at it through someone else's prescription glasses.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The excitement comes with a realization that you don't have to stay stuck -- you can let go of something and, suddenly, there's wiggle room. Let go of something else and you can practically walk right out of that jam.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Most of the opportunities blend into the background with the stylish camouflage of people wearing suits made out of the wallpaper they are standing in front of. If you scan the scene, you'll miss it. You have to really look.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

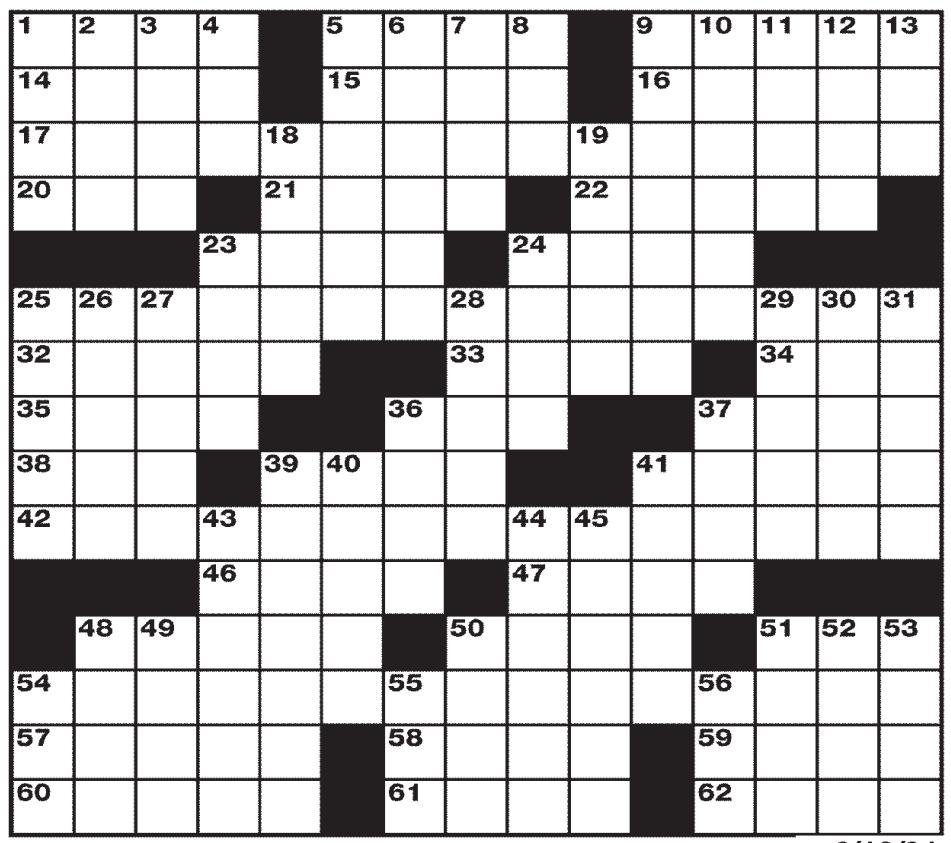
	3				9	8		6
6	9			5			7	
	1		4		8			5
		6		4		3		1
	4			3			6	
3		2		8		5		
8			6		3		4	
	6			7			8	9
7		1	8				5	

Newsday Crossword

THE POWER OF ZERO by Pam Klawitter
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Call from a crib
5 Concert souvenir
9 Photographer Diane
14 Suitable for cacti
15 Lad of La Mancha
16 Stuff in a compact
17 Two-wheeler with gears
20 Take a side, say
21 Sleekly designed, for short
22 Color close to camel
23 Timber-shaping tool
24 Vague impression
25 14th-15th century conflict
32 Chip away at
33 Really small
34 Valuable metal in Mexico
35 Lends a hand
36 Exclamation of amazement
37 Austen heroine
38 False friend
39 Skater's jump
41 Miser's motivation
42 New York/ Canadian chain
46 Guilty pleasure
47 Some PX customers
48 Scare off
50 Prefix reflecting piety
51 Bit of trail mix
54 Large African-American rally in DC (1995)
57 DC-based broadcaster
58 Out of shape, literally
59 Airport entryway
60 Land by the sea
61 Extra stipulations
62 Besides that

DOWN
1 Melbourne buddy
2 It's often found in math class
3 Tangy flavor
4 On-screen pop-ups
5 Scoff (at)
6 In layers
7 Negate
8 Jerky movement
9 Robin's skill
10 The Windsors, for instance
11 Rebel against
12 Wrinkly citrus
13 Find out
18 Priest in uniform
19 Sellers of flat-pack furniture
23 Folds in
24 Big bash
25 Romantic emoji
26 *David Copperfield* clerk
27 Acknowledge silently
28 Give up the floor
29 One-third of SCOTUS
30 Ready to battle
31 Where forks may be found
36 Hereditary bit
37 Major spans
39 Ridiculous
40 Crafter's cutter
41 Low spirits
43 Of a back-of-throat thing
44 Under control
45 Unseen air travelers
48 Spread gossip
49 Purina sister brand
50 IRS guys, for instance
51 For crying out loud
52 Talent show lineup
53 ". . . shed his grace on __"
54 Banquet VIPs
55 Hoopsters group
56 Major span



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/18/21

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

0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

						0		1			
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				1		0				1	1
			1	1				0		1	
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0	1					0	0				0
			1	1				1		0	



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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5080

Flying critters

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

Airport
Ants
Aphids
Automobile
Bats
Bees
Bird of prey
Cocky
Crow
Currawong
Dragonfly
Duck
Eagle
Finches
Gull
Hawk
Hens
Heron
Ibis
Insects
Magpie
Moths
Owls
Parrot
Pigeon
Pilot
Potoo
Quail
Raven
Rook
Rosella
Shag
Stork
Swallow
Tern
Thrush
Turkey
Wasp
Windscreen

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Grab the skis and toboggan

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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

going back and forth. But my wife said, 'No, you're going to the hospital. You don't look so good.'"

When he arrived at a local emergency room last March, Plasencia said it was like staff had only been waiting for him.

"It was all set up for me. I told them I'd been fighting for two weeks and they took my temperature, a chest x-ray — it all moved so fast," he said. "And then, I was moved to a room upstairs with a really nice view, a TV, phone, a bed; I felt like I was in the presidential suite. And I said to myself, 'This doesn't feel right.'"

He wasn't wrong. Doctors soon came into the room and asked for his last words.

"I said, 'Tell everyone that I love them and give me the phone so I can tell my wife what's going on.' But the phone wasn't working and my cell phone was at 1% so I had zero contact with her. I left her at home fighting COVID-19 and she had no idea if I was coming home or not," he said. "You couldn't imagine how I felt."

With depleting oxygen levels and doctors rushing in and out of the room, Plasencia found it hard to talk and doesn't remember many of the conversations he had later that night. He did recall attempting to write his thoughts down with a pen, but the writing on the paper looked more like the results of a lie-detector test than English.

"I just remember getting real sleepy and trying to fight off the sleep. I'll never forget the look that the staff gives you; the eyes that you see — you've never seen that before in your life… They're seeing someone suffer and not knowing if they're gonna close their eyes for the rest of their life. That look just stuck with me and I knew something wasn't right, so I refused to fall asleep," Plasencia said.

He couldn't fight it forever though.

When he awoke, a doctor was over him hand-pumping oxygen into his system while another asked him to inhale gas that would put him in the dark for six weeks.

"My wife dealt with six weeks of constant phone calls to the emergency room and reports of: 'He's not gonna make it. He's going to have kidney failure... his organs are coming back, but his lungs are full of liquid and not working,'" Plasencia said. "I remember being like a giant worm, because I couldn't move my body. It would take four people to turn me on my side, hose me down, scrub me with soap and water, feed me through a tiny straw through my nose, and when I finally woke up, all I could do was think to run for the door. I thought, 'Let's get out of here. Let's go see my wife. Let's go see if I still have a job to support my family,' and I couldn't move. I tried and I tried and I tried and I couldn't."

It would be another six weeks in a congregate care facility before Plasencia regained his motor skills and speech ability.

"It felt a lot longer than six weeks in an induced coma and month in the center. Me and my wife are crying with joy every day because we never thought we were going to share dinner together," he added. "And that's why I'm fighting so hard for this Hero Pay for me and my co-workers, because we deserve it."

In a statement Tuesday, SMMUSD Superintendent Ben Drati said the district is in negotiations with both of its bargaining units at the moment so he is unable to discuss the matter more until a tentative agreement is reached.

But like all school districts in California, SMMUSD is underfunded in many crucial areas and its still working to reduce a structural deficit as part of a fiscal stabilization plan required by the Los Angeles County Office of Education, he said. "At the same time, we still provided raises to all employees prior to this school year, we have enhanced access and affordability to health care, and our campus improvement projects are creating vastly improved working conditions."

Custodial staff has also been trained through West Los Angeles Urgent Care and been custom-fitted for N-95 masks, according to Drati, who said the health and safety of all staff is a top priority for SMMUSD as he detailed his belief that the district's comprehensive safety plan provides needed protections for all staff, both classified and certificated.

Locksmith Cesar Herrera recognized the district has addressed some of the problems but he is still scared for the wellbeing of his family after witnessing six of the 14 people who work in the same facility as him catch COVID-19.

"That was just a big scare factor, because you know you are taking care of yourself; you know what you're doing to take care and to be out there safe, but not everybody thinks the same thing. Everybody has their own plan and thinks nothing is going to happen. Then, before you know it, you caught it," Herrera said.

Plasencia feels he and his peers are even more at risk now with more students returning to campus.

"We're in an enclosed environment even if the doors are open and even if they have the air purifier going on — that's still not going to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. It'll give the schools a sense of, 'Hey, we're doing something,'" Plasencia said. "But at the end of the day, that doesn't kill the virus and I have a bad feeling there could be a spread when school starts to really reopen."

And he's not the only one with those thoughts.

"If I catch the thing, I have a very low chance of pulling through," Herrera said, stating some staff members are refusing to get vaccinated. That's their right, he added, but that's all the more reason to have additional protections and Hero Pay in place at SMMUSD.

"The number one thing I want the district to do is help keep myself safe and keep my family safe and make me feel that you guys are actually thinking about us as a person and we're just another number," Herrera said, detailing how he and his wife have spent their own money to make sure he has been properly prepared in the fight against COVID. "She went ahead and bought this crazy expensive surgeon soap that they use before surgery. We got masks, a face shield… I was like, 'Babe, aren't we going overboard,' but she asked if I wanted to be safe. I was like, 'You're right — buy it, because that's how you're going to keep me around.' And honestly, I was the only one leaving my house. My kids were home, my wife was able to work remotely, so if anything came back to the house, it was going to fall on my shoulders."

Max Arias, Executive Director of SEIU Local 99, a union representing hundreds of SMMUSD custodians, food service workers, teaching assistants and other classified school employees, said Herrera and Plasencia's stories are one of many that can be told by the essential workers in Southern California.

That's why SEIU officials have been asking to institute hero pay since last year, he said. However, the school district has repeatedly stated that it does not have the resources to recognize workers with additional pay even though other school districts like Los Angeles Unified and Hacienda La Puente Unified have secured additional pay of $5 an hour for essential workers.

"The people that do the cleaning are the ones that make the least, but it shouldn't be so, especially now because they're the only ones that are being asked to risk the health of their families and themselves to ensure students have a clean work environment," Arias said. "As you've heard, the district's safety record hasn't been sterling, per se, but these essential workers have continued to show up to work, despite the hazards, and complete their jobs. So, we will keep continuing to push and campaign to get them to the table and reward these workers with Hero Pay. That is only right."

As somebody with kids of his own, Herrera said he understands the need to see children return to the classroom.

"I do want them to come back as well, but we still have to be on our toes and recognize the pandemic is not over, and we are risking our lives," he added.

"My life was almost cut short and now God has given me a second chance at living again. That's why I'm dedicated to fighting for even a dollar more an hour. So, if I go my family has an extra dollar to go a little bit further," Plasencia said. "When you're gone and they ask, 'How much was in his last paycheck or pension?' — that's when the hero pay is going to help because there will be something extra there to help cover the rent, to help cover the light bill or put food on the table. That's when that $5 an hour is going to count because, at any minute while we're working, one of us could get sick, go into the hospital, and whatever we have in the bank is all our families are going to have. And that's why I say this fight for an extra $5 an hour is worth it."

Brennon@smdp.com

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