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TUESDAY
03.30.21
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# Council looks to expand remote-controlled delivery

**BRENNON DIXSON**
SMDP Staff Writer

A possible amendment to municipal code could soon allow remote-controlled delivery devices in the Zero Emission Delivery Zone program to serve businesses in all parts of Santa Monica.

Last August, a company called CyanRobotics deployed autonomous, electrified delivery vehicles on city sidewalks and pedestrian paths of travel as it sought to offer contactless delivery options that would help residents receive everything from sunscreen to ice cream. Several members of the public complained that the devices obstructed sidewalks and created difficulties for people who had to navigate around the devices; and since the company did not apply for a business license prior to deploying its devices, staff sent the company a cease and desist letter, which forced the company to immediately stop all deployments in the city.

Citing safety and a need to be proactive rather than reactive, City Council took up discussion on imposing a year-long moratorium on all autonomous delivery vehicles so the city could study regulations when the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic weren't so prevalent. But Council could not deter a business that was willing to provide jobs to Santa Monicans, especially after hearing

SEE **DELIVERY** PAGE 11

# Passenger vehicle travel rebounding to pre-pandemic levels

**DAVID A. LIEB**
Associated Press

Americans may be rounding a corner — literally — in their response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The number of daily passenger vehicle trips has hit a major milestone, reaching pre-pandemic levels for the first time in a year, according to data provided to The Associated Press by the transportation analytics firm Inrix, with Americans driving more often and farther than at any time since pandemic lockdowns were invoked.

The rise in vehicle travel comes amid other encouraging health and economic indicators. Consumer spending and manufacturing have been picking up. Employers have been adding workers. Governors have been easing restrictions on indoor dining and social gatherings. More auto fuel is being purchased. The winter peak in COVID-19 cases has receded. And more than one-fourth of Americans have received at least one dose of a vaccine.

Some of the largest travel increases have occurred in rural, suburban and smaller metropolitan areas, Inrix transportation analyst Bob Pishue said.

In Pensacola, Florida, passenger vehicle miles traveled last April dipped to around 50% of the average levels of January and February 2020, before pandemic restrictions were imposed. The situation is significantly different this spring. On the weekend of March 20-21, passenger vehicle miles topped 150% of the pre-pandemic level, according to Inrix data.

"If you drove through downtown Pensacola a year ago, it was a ghost town — everything was closed," said Kaycee Lagarde, the city's public information officer. "Now if you go downtown, it basically looks normal as far as the number of people being out."

Lagarde said the traffic surge appears to have been aided by tourists, who have returned to

SEE **TRAVEL** PAGE 11

# Fighting hate




Courtesy photo

**VENICE: Staff from Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin's 11th District held a rally at the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards against recent anti-Asian assaults and vandalism last weekend.**

# Local company GoodRx offers largest vaccine appointment tracker in the nation

**CLARA HARTER**
SMDP Staff Writer

In the midst of nationwide vaccine scramble, Santa Monica based healthcare company GoodRx has a solution — an online appointment finder consolidating up-to-date availability at over 50,000 vaccination sites.

The system shows searchers where the closest available appointments are by scraping data from thousands of sources and tracking changes as fast as every five minutes. So far over 2 million people have signed up for alerts from the GoodRx vaccine guide, which provides the latest information on eligibility, inventory, appointments, and emergency authorizations.

This system has reached millions of people, but was inspired by a single simple problem: one father's struggle to buy his son's dream Christmas gift.

When GoodRx Co-founder and Co-CEO Doug Hirsch was scouring the internet for an available Xbox last holiday season, he came across an online tool that tracked when stores such as Walmart would release new inventory. This was around the time that vaccines were being approved and Hirsch realized the nation would soon be facing a very similar problem on a much larger and more important scale.

"So in December I brought together a team of folks here for no profit motive, but because this is what GoodRx does — we help people — and said we're gonna have to help people figure out where to get vaccines, because it's going to be just a disaster for the next few months," said Hirsch.

Hirsch's prediction proved correct and vaccines were exceedingly difficult to secure through the state's online scheduling system, which required near constant monitoring of appointment availability. Unfortunately, many people don't have the capacity to do this and especially not essential workers who live in the

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 7

City of Santa Monica

## NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL VIA TELECONFERENCE

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

**SUBJECT: Proposed Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance to Extend Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance 2663 (CCS) Establishing Temporary Land-Use Restrictions Prohibiting Non-Residential Development Citywide with Some Exceptions and Prohibiting Single-Unit Dwellings in Commercial Zones in order to Retain Potential Housing Sites Pending the Completion of the Housing Element Update.**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to introduce and adopt an Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance extending Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance 2663 (CCS) that established temporary land-use restrictions prohibiting non-residential development citywide with some exceptions and prohibiting single-unit dwellings in commercial zones, in order to retain potential housing sites pending the completion of the Housing Element update. The City Council adopted Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance 2663 (CCS) at the March 9, 2021 City Council meeting.

**DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M.**

**LOCATION:** In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the City Council and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal but participants may also join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/fjkaykar or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 8445054 #)

**HOW TO COMMENT**
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Written public comment can be submitted via email to councilmtgitems@smgov.net. Written public comment submitted before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You can pre-register to speak no later than one hour before the start of the meeting at santamonica.gov/public-comment. You will need to provide: (1) your name as it will appear on the BlueJeans system (2) the agenda item(s) on which you wish to comment, and (3) how many minutes you want to speak on an item. Sign-in to the meeting as an Attendee, before the item on which you wish to speak is called. When the time comes for public comment on the agenda item(s) for which you have pre-registered, you will be called on and temporarily promoted to be a Presenter to provide oral public comment via video and/or audio.

If you have not pre-registered but decide you want to speak on a particular agenda item, please call (310) 458-8423 once the caller queue for the agenda item opens. Please note that the caller queue for each agenda item will not open until just before the item is called and will close after the first five public comments (from pre-registrants and/or other callers) are heard.

Please see the April 13, 2021 City Council Agenda for more detailed instructions.

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: Emergency IZO Extension - Temporary Land Use Restrictions

**MORE INFORMATION**
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Jing Yeo by e-mail at jing.yeo@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

**ESPAÑOL**
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Citywide**

## Public Health Highlights Importance of Protecting Workers

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed seven new deaths and 378 new cases of COVID-19. The lower number of deaths and cases may reflect reporting delays over the weekend and holiday. To date, Public Health identified 1,218,583 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 23,084 deaths.

There are 655 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 27% of these people are in the ICU. Testing results are available for nearly 6,076,000 individuals with 19% of people testing positive. Today's daily test positivity rate is 1.4%.

Of the seven new deaths reported today, four people that passed away were over the age of 80, one person who died was between the ages of 50 and 64, one person who died was between the ages of 30 and 49, and one person who died was between the ages of 18 and 29.

"For everyone grieving a loved one who passed away from COVID-19, we wish you healing and peace," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "As we celebrate today the legacy of César Chavez and his commitment to social justice and the labor movement, let us honor all of the County's workforce, particularly our essential workers, by protecting them from COVID-19. Every time the virus is passed from one person to another, community transmission increases along with the possibility of proliferation of variants. Poor health outcomes and death from COVID-19 are disproportionally experienced by Black and Brown workers and residents. All requirements and protocols in the Health Officer Order must be followed to interrupt potential transmission. Let today serve as reminder how critical it is for employers to support their workers by following all safety measures, providing maximum protections, and allowing for eligible workers to get vaccinated."

With significant potential for transmission of COVID-19 at worksites, businesses are required to adhere to workplace protocols that require infection control, occupancy limits, distancing, masking, and appropriate PPE that protect employees, customers and residents from COVID-19 as much as possible. Businesses must ensure there are no crowded spaces or places, report outbreaks of three or more cases, and allow employees to work from home as much as possible, and to stay home if they're feeling sick. Businesses must complete and post their safety protocols and maximize opportunities for customers or visitors to make use of services that minimize contact, such as contactless payment systems, curbside pick-up, and online purchases.

Businesses that are not adhering to safety protocols to protect workers and customers increase the risk for COVID-19 spread. Non-compliance and dangerous conditions at businesses and worksites can be reported to Public Health by phone at 888-700-9995 or online at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov. These tips can be submitted anonymously. Public Health investigates complaints and may issue citations for violations, and repeat violations may result in business closure.

For information about who is eligible for COVID-19 vaccine in L.A. County, how to make an appointment if it is your turn, what verifications you will need to show at your vaccination appointment, and much more, visit: www.VaccinateLACounty.com (English) and www.VacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish). Vaccinations are always free and open to eligible residents and workers regardless of immigration status.

County Reopening Protocols, COVID-19 Surveillance Interactive Dashboard, Roadmap to Recovery, Recovery Dashboard, and additional actions you can take to protect yourself, your family and your community are on the Public Health website, www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH

**Malibu**

## City of Malibu Observes the 51st Anniversary of Earth Day

April is Earth Month, and the City of Malibu is observing this important environmental movement by encouraging residents to participate in local Earth Month activities including programs for seniors as well as the City's electronic and household hazardous waste collection and document shredding day. All the events are free of charge and open to the public with COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

"Malibu has always been a champion of addressing climate change and protecting the environment," said Mayor Mikke Pierson. "I invite all residents to join me this Earth Month and be part of the environmental education and community participation opportunities and recycling events so that together we can preserve Malibu's natural beauty for generations to come."

April 22 marks the 51st Earth Day, the world's largest event focused on protecting our planet. All month long during Earth Month in April, the City will post regular tips on social media about how to conserve energy and water, reduce waste and shrink your carbon footprint so we can fight climate change.

During the ongoing pandemic, canceled indoor events presented an opportunity for many to reconnect with nature. It became increasingly important for us to stay connected with one another, while staying physically apart. Part of the City's response to COVID-19 was bringing programs and resources to residents to prioritize health well-being and environmental awareness. The Virtual Environmental Center features programs, activities and classes designed to help people at home stay engaged. In addition to online activities such as the Earth Day 2021 Virtual Fair information about in-person events is available at MalibuCity.org/VirtualEnviro.

**INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK**

During the week of April 5-12, residents are invited to join the Dark Skies movement to reduce light pollution which impacts nocturnal animals. The International Dark-Sky Association promotes solutions that allow people to appreciate dark, star-filled skies while enjoying the benefits of responsible outdoor lighting. In 2020, the City implemented Dark Sky requirements for commercial and recreation zones to preserve Malibu's nighttime sky and to protect local wildlife. Learn more about light pollution at idsw.darksky.org

SEE **COMMUNITY BRIEFS** PAGE 4

## DAILY POLICE LOG

### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 279 CALLS ON MARCH 28

Fight Ocean Ave / Bay St 12:21 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 1300blk Grant St 1:06 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 1700blk Maple St 1:06 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 1:06 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 2500blk Kansas Ave 1:32 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 2500blk Kansas Ave 1:33 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 1:45 a.m.
Grand Theft 800blk 5th St 3:25 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 500blk Pacific St 3:45 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 5:26 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 21st St / Dewey St 6:20 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 21st St / Washington Ave 6:26 a.m.
Construction Noise 300blk Bay St 8:03 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pl 8:46 a.m.
9-1-1 Open Line 1400blk 16th St 8:54 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 9:00 a.m.
General Parking Problem 0blk Bay St 9:01 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1400blk Arizona Ave 9:29 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Palisades Beach Rd 9:33 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:36 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 9:39 a.m.
Encampment 2100blk 20th St 9:44 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 9:47 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:56 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk 17th St 10:02 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 34th St / Ocean Park Blvd 10:51 a.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 1500blk 10th St 10:51 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 100blk Hollister Ave 11:09 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 500blk Wilshire Blvd 11:14 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 11:39 a.m.
Family Disturbance Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 11:53 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 11:55 a.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 10th St 12:08 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600blk Barnard Way 12:21 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 12:24 p.m.
Construction Noise 900blk 17th St 1:00 p.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:26 p.m.
Fight 300blk Pico Blvd 1:28 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Seaside Ter 1:39 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600blk Barnard Way 1:42 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Ozone Ave 1:52 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Ozone Ave 1:54 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 7th St / Pico Blvd 2:13 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 2:22 p.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 600blk Broadway 2:23 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:33 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2700blk 3rd St 2:36 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 0blk Vicente Ter 3:03 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk 2nd St 3:08 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 3:08 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1200blk 10th St 3:13 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 300blk Civic Center Dr 3:14 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Centinela Ave / Pearl St 3:15 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 3:15 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 10th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:33 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:43 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:47 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1700blk Appian Way 3:48 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:09 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 800blk 2nd St 4:21 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 800blk Palisades Beach Rd 4:26 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Ocean Ave / Broadway 4:29 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:32 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 4:42 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 4:46 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk 9th St 4:53 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1400blk 26th St 5:00 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1000blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:16 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 300blk 22nd St 5:27 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 5:32 p.m.
Found Property 2600blk The Beach 5:43 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pier 5:57 p.m.
Domestic Violence 2300blk Neilson Way 6:06 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 100blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:20 p.m.
Public Intoxication 2200blk Colorado Ave 6:32 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 23rd St / San Vicente Blvd 6:42 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:45 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1100blk 3rd St 6:49 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 800blk 10th St 7:05 p.m.
Found Property Ocean Ave / Montana Ave 7:23 p.m.
Elder Abuse 2900blk Pico Blvd 7:29 p.m.
Battery 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:33 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk Harvard St 7:42 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 7:54 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:55 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 8:06 p.m.
Public Intoxication 100blk Wilshire Blvd 8:08 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report Euclid St / Michigan Ave 8:09 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 600blk Pier Ave 8:36 p.m.

SEE **POLICE LOG** PAGE 4

## DAILY FIRE LOG

### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 34 CALLS ON MARCH 28

EMS 1500blk Ocean Ave 12:09 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 3:56 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 5:53 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 6:37 a.m.
EMS 900blk 4th St 7:12 a.m.
Flooded Condition 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:24 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 9:20 a.m.
EMS 300blk Pico Blvd 10:24 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 800blk Olympic Blvd W 12:24 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 12:49 p.m.
EMS 700blk Broadway 12:56 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk Wilshire Blvd 1:43 p.m.
EMS 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:46 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:43 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900blk Ocean Ave 2:48 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 3:24 p.m.
EMS 7th St / Broadway 3:28 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 10th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:33 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:42 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 3:50 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:12 p.m.
EMS 300blk Broadway 4:51 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk Ocean Ave 5:21 p.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 5:23 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 3000blk Virginia Ave 6:03 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 6:20 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 6:44 p.m.
EMS 2100blk 4th St 7:18 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 7:54 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:00 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Euclid St 8:20 p.m.
Flooded Condition 1000blk Pearl St 8:31 p.m.
EMS 6th St / Montana Ave 10:08 p.m.
Vehicle Fire 9th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:39 p.m.

# CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

### ON SATURDAY, MARCH 20 AT 10:29 A.M.

SMPD Officers assigned to the Downtown Services Unit responded to a call about a possible theft in progress at REI on the 400 block of Santa Monica Blvd. Upon arrival, store employees pointed at an individual who had been seen concealing items in a backpack from the store and was refusing to leave. Officers made contact with the individual and asked if they could search him. The search revealed a replica firearm, an REI backpack, a checkbook and a credit card that did not belong to him. Alex William Hollander was arrested and later cited out for a 485 PC- Appropriation of Lost Property.

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# Letter to the Editor

By Craig Foster

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I write this letter in sadness and deep upset. Good people and vital, revered institutions are being lied to and manipulated by people they trust, people who know their lies are lies. Race and racism is not a subject to be trifled with, nor to be used falsely for petty political gain. Lying to such historic frontline fighters for justice as the ACLU and the NAACP betrays these organizations of sacred place and vital mission and diverts energy and reputation from this moment of deadly threat and historic opportunity.

It should be clear to anyone with a map that Malibu is not a Santa Monica neighborhood breaking faith with its community. Malibu is a completely separate and far distant city. It has neither a shared border nor even a single point of contact with Santa Monica. Quite the contrary, Malibu's public schools are further from Santa Monica's District headquarters than 16 other entire public school districts.

In any sensible world, Malibu would be part of Las Virgenes Unified School District. Resting together on the western border of LA County, Malibu and LVUSD fit together like puzzle pieces along a 20 mile shared border. While we'd still be a tiny super minority, outnumbered 6 to 1 as we are in Santa Monica, at least we would share ball fields, athletic leagues, transportation arteries, the same emergency services, and the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments, the Joint Powers Authority through which our neighboring cities address their many common challenges and opportunities.

In spite of these obvious facts, the elite view of too many in Santa Monica remains stuck on this narrative of Malibu's moral bankruptcy. Yet, of the two cities, Santa Monica is the one with the history of actual redlining, deed restrictions, deliberate voter suppression, and willing participation in the destruction of an entire community of color to build a freeway.

I suppose this false moral superiority is a comforting excuse while Santa Monica hoards resources and focus. It must have been comforting as the board ignored deadly PCBs in Malibu schools until a Federal judge demanded action. It must have been comforting as a huge wildfire burned 500 Malibu homes and the district failed to take action before, during, or after the fire. It must have been comforting as Malibu's public schools remained closed during COVID while every school surrounding Malibu remained open and students hemorrhaged from the community. I suppose that's how they justify sitting idle through a 41% disenrollment in Malibu public schools since 2013. I suppose it's easy too because, while this disenrollment is devastating to Malibu's schools and indeed to the Malibu community itself, it represented just a 1% annual drop in enrollment each year for "The District as a Whole."

And that is the understanding that's all too absent. There is no "District as a Whole." There is only a Santa Monica district that dictates to a separate and complete K-12 district in an entirely different and distant part of Los Angeles. But, no, instead of acknowledging the truth that they know and that exists for all to see, they accuse us of being racists.

They should be ashamed.

Craig Foster is a Malibu resident and member of the SMMUSD Board.

## POLICE LOG

FROM PAGE 3

Battery Report Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 8:42 p.m.
Petty Theft 500blk Wilshire Blvd 8:46 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 8:48 p.m.
Petty Theft 1200blk Ocean Ave 8:51 p.m.
Public Intoxication 100blk Wilshire Blvd 8:56 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2600blk Barnard Way 9:24 p.m.
Lost Property 1500blk The Beach 9:30 p.m.
Public Intoxication 500blk Santa Monica Pier 9:37 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk 18th St 9:55 p.m.
Armed Robbery Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 10:53 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 4th St / Civic Center Dr 11:41 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 11:55 p.m.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 2

### RECYCLE DAY

On Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., residents can wrap up their spring cleaning at the City's free household hazardous waste and electronic waste collection and secure document shred day. Drop off latex paint, motor oil, batteries and electronics, and bring confidential papers to shred onsite (limit five standard-size boxes per household). Located in the upper parking lot of Malibu City Hall. All attendees are asked to wear a face covering and remain in their vehicles with windows closed. For more information visit MalibuCity.org/EnviroCalendar

### SENIOR CENTER SPRING GO-GO GIFTS PROGRAM

On Tuesday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Senior Center members can pick up a free garden-themed kit and fun spring gift bag at Malibu Bluffs Park. Participants must stay in their vehicle, wear a face covering, and exit the parking lot upon receipt of a gift bag. RSVP by calling 310-456-2489, ext. 357 or emailing LCrespo@malibucity.org.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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WINNER

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# Book Review

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Kobe and a Boy Named Roy

Roy Firestone, seven-time Emmy and cable ACE Award-winning host, interviewer, narrator, writer and producer has had a legendary career and I expect there's considerably more to come. (He'd almost have to have a separate room to keep all his awards.) Besides his rich sense of humor, what makes Roy so unique as an interviewer is that he's a terrific listener, an under appreciated art and he's genuinely interested in the guest as a person more that his or her accomplishments.

One interview statistic that jumps out at me is that Firestone has hosted more than 5,000 athletes, musicians, actors, political figures, writers and filmmakers. 5,000? It's remarkable he doesn't have chronic laryngitis. But, as they say on infomercials, "Wait, there's more."

Firestone is a stunningly talented impressionist, singer, hilarious story-teller and over-all entertainer who has performed in Las Vegas and all over the country. (If only he wasn't so lazy.) Not so secretly, I sense Roy would love to be a Vegas-like cabaret performer full time.

Roy also has written three highly successful books, primarily sports oriented. But now he's just released his first children's book about a boy and his dog, that I'm sure kids from 2-7 would love having read to them as a bed time story.

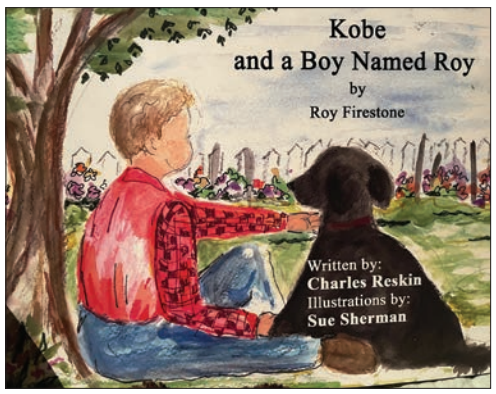
Actually as I read it, I found myself remembering, at age 4. the unmitigated joy on the day my dad drove us to his friend's house and came out holding our new puppy, part Samoyed, part toy collie, who sat in the backseat between my sister as we petted and kissed him. Thankfully, we were able to love him for 15 wonderful years.

But first let me share the back story of Roy's book. It might have began with the overwhelmingly tragic death of Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gigi and seven others. Roy was the first host in L.A. to have interviewed Kobe who had just turned 18 and the two remained close until that horrible helicopter crash on January 26, 2020. As so many were all over the world, Roy was devastated. And shortly thereafter came Covid and sheltering alone at his Encino home as his two sons were already living on their own.

As so many people did during the pandemic which left them isolated Roy thought about possibly getting a dog, though having gone through the pain of his previous dog's death, he swore he couldn't go through that again. Or so he thought.

Roy was feeling so low he gave more thought to adopting a rescue Labrador and discovered a terrific non-profit organization the West Coast Labrador Retriever Rescue that services Southern California. He paid them a visit and the rest is eight months now of pure joy.

Actually the dog Roy gravitated to was 20 pounds overweight and had been twice abandoned. Roy wasn't entirely sure he could deal with that but it was too late, he had fallen in love. So it came to pass Roy had a new 4-legged best friend he named Kobe after his legendary late friend. (It turns out Roy didn't rescue canine Kobe as much as Kobe rescued Roy.)




Courtesy image

**BOOK:** A boy and his dog.

Though Roy is a gifted and prolific writer, he had never thought about writing a children's book but Kobe, in his own way, inspired him. While the Roy in the book obviously isn't Roy Firestone, there's definitely some of Roy's heart in the story. My guess is if you've ever had a dog you loved dearly, as you read this to your children or grandchildren, there might be a little of your heart in this book too.

As the story goes, the boy Roy and Kobe do everything together and have unbridled fun, including walking into the woods. But somehow Kobe disappears and all Roy's calling and searching is to no avail. But the despair is short-lived as other forest animals help reunite Roy with his beloved dog.

I must make mention that the illustrations in the book are outstanding. The images seem to perfectly reflect the imagination of young children. As it happens, the talented illustrator, Sue Sherman is Roy's sister. (Begging the obviously rhetorical question, did she have to interview for the job.)

Roy is delighted with the success of the book and the feedback from readers. Mensch that he is, the proceeds from the book are being donated to the West Coast Labrador Retriever Rescue. Admittedly, it's not often you see the word "mensch" in a book review but in this case it's deserved.

I have a feeling in the future there might be more adventures of Kobe and a boy named Roy. I also have a feeling if you read this book to your child or grandchild, if the family doesn't already have a dog, they just might wind up getting one.

To order a copy of "Kobe and a Boy Named Roy" go to Amazon.com or, for a signed copy, go to royfirestone.com. Also please Google "Emmy winning Firestone on how Kobe inspired him to write a children's book" as revealed in a recent and uplifting KTLA TV interview. Lastly, go to YouTube for a hilarious video by typing "Kobe and a Boy named Roy" and see Kobe the lab jump in the swimming pool to fetch three tennis balls in his mouth at one time.

---

Jack Neworth also writes the Laughing Matters twice a month.

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## BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

### US departments urged to become year-round wildfire agencies

California's U.S. senators and nearly two-dozen representatives asked the Agriculture and Interior departments on Monday to transition their agencies to a year-round wildland workforce because blazes are no longer limited to traditional fire seasons.

The move would require reclassifying more seasonal federal firefighter positions as permanent, said a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

"As California and the West continue to contend with historic and destructive wildfire seasons, it has become clear that we are entering a 'new normal' in which increasingly intense wildfires wreak havoc during a nearly year-round fire season," it said.

The letter signed by Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla and 21 members of Congress notes that 57% of forest land in California is owned by the U.S. government.

The request came after a disastrous 2020 in which more than 9,900 fires burned 4.25 million acres, killed 33 people and destroyed nearly 10,500 homes and other buildings.

"And this year, we are already well above average for both the number of fires and acres burned," the letter said.

Although it is still early spring, a wildfire erupted during the weekend in Siskiyou County and grew to more than 870 acres. It was 80% contained Monday, Cal Fire said.

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The **2nd phase** of our annual MOST LOVED contest begins on April 1 and goes until April 30.

The Top 5 businesses in each of the 63 categories will be voted on by **YOU** to see who ends up on top.

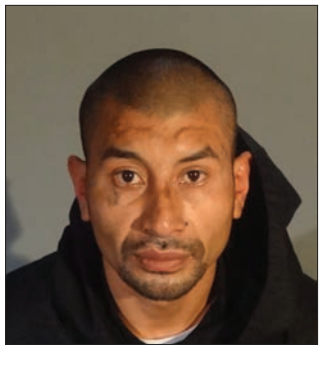
vote online at smdp.com/ML21

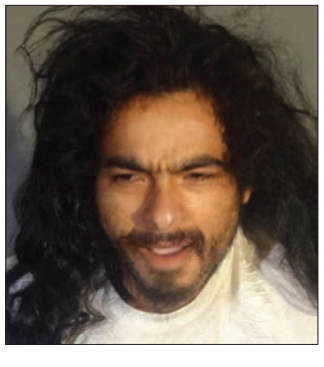
## CRIME BRIEF

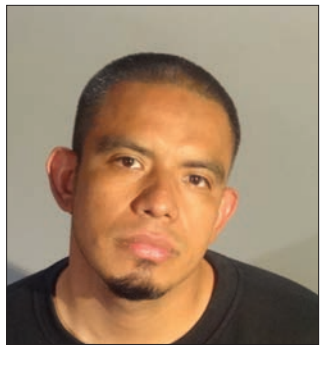
**Citywide**

### Burglary Suspects Arrest

On March 26, 2021 at about 11:30 p.m., Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) officers were dispatched to a trespassing call in the 500 block of Wilshire Blvd. As officers were investigating, they observed three subjects emerge from the building in question. Upon seeing the officers, the suspects immediately fled on foot, while trying to discard stolen property. After a short foot pursuit, officers detained all three without incident, in the 1200 block of 5th Street. The suspects were in possession of various burglary tools which included a hand saw, bolt cutters, channel lock pliers, screwdrivers, and master keys. Two of the suspects were also in possession of handheld two-way radios. Officers believe these individuals were responsible for other burglaries in the area. All three suspects had prior theft-related arrests and convictions.







Suspect #1: Rudy Leonel Barrios, 30 years old, from Los Angeles was charged with 459 PC - Burglary; 466 PC - Possession of Burglary Tools; 11377(A)HS - Possession of Methamphetamine; 182(A)(1) PC - Conspiracy; and 148(A)(1) PC - Resist/Delay/ Obstruct Arrest

Suspect #2: Eduardo Manzo Rangel, 23 years old, from Los Angeles was charged with 459 PC - Burglary; 466 PC - Possession of Burglary Tools; 182(A)(1) PC - Conspiracy; and 148(A)(1) PC - Resist/Delay/ Obstruct Arrest

Suspect #3: Miguel Eduardo Barrientos, 32 years old, from Inglewood was charged with 459 PC - Burglary; 466 PC - Possession of Burglary Tools; 182(A)(1) PC - Conspiracy; 11364.1(A) H&S - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and 148(A)(1) PC - Resist/Delay/ Obstruct Arrest Anyone with information pertaining to this incident is strongly encouraged to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491.

LIEUTENANT RUDY FLORES

## VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1

hardest hit areas and have limited access to wifi or computers.

When GoodRx's appointment finder launched in February, it eliminated the need to manually and constantly check in with scores of different vaccine sites by helping people search their local area for open slots in a single click.

After a conversation with a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force a few weeks later, Hirsch realized that the company could be doing more to reach underserved populations, which were being vaccinated at disproportionately low rates across the country.

L.A. in particular did a poor job of providing vaccine equity in the early stages of its rollout. In mid February, for example, eligible white residents were receiving vaccines at roughly six times the rate of eligible Black residents.

While GoodRx's appointment finder system was built with nothing but good intentions, it did still privilege those with consistent wifi, smartphone and computer access. To help remedy this, the company established a call line to walk people through the process of getting a vaccine, answer any questions they might have, and connect them to local resources.

"Today hundreds if not thousands of people are calling us every day, and we're running ads and putting up billboards in places where underserved communities will see the number," said Hirsch. "It really is about access and I'm proud of that."

While GoodRx's vaccine finder system does not drive company profit, it aligns closely with the company's mission to connect all Americans to affordable healthcare. Since the GoodRx app launched in 2011 it has helped Americans save over $25 billion by connecting customers to reasonably priced prescriptions, lab tests, doctors visits and telehealth services.

The company went public last September and raised over $1.1 billion. As part of its IPO process GoodRx set aside over $40 million to fund health clinics in underserved communities.

In the future, Hirsch foresees several different applications for the company's vaccine guide such as helping consumers secure vaccine passports and creating a monitoring and appointment dashboard that alerts people when they are due for any type of vaccination.

"GoodRx started because I went to a pharmacy in Santa Monica and was asked to pay too much for a prescription and thought this is not good, and not just for me, but for the whole country," said Hirsch. "Everyone who works here really ultimately cares about helping Americans. That's kind of our DNA."

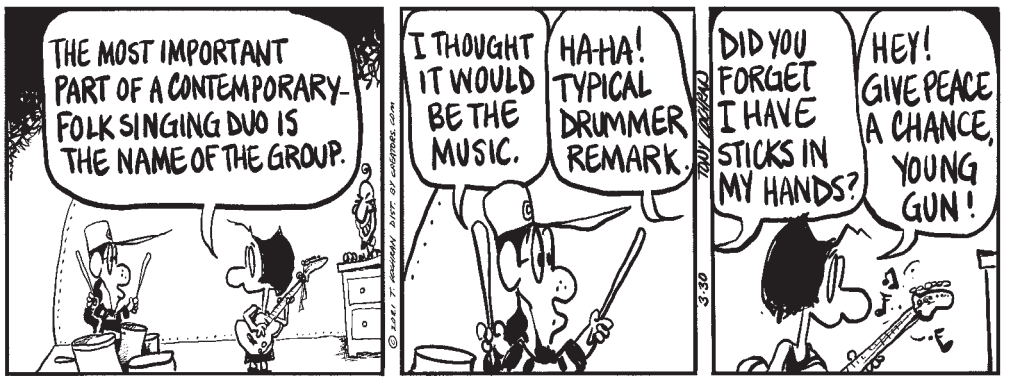
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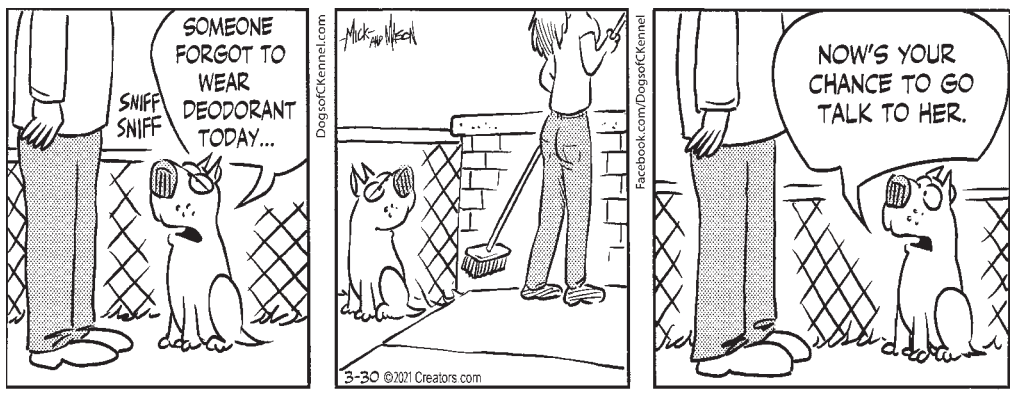
## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN




## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



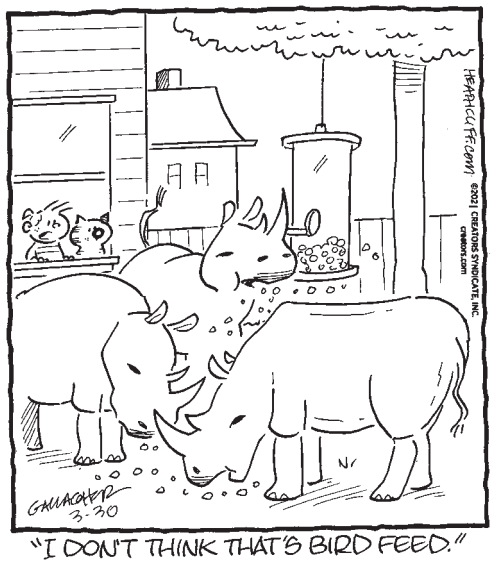

## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



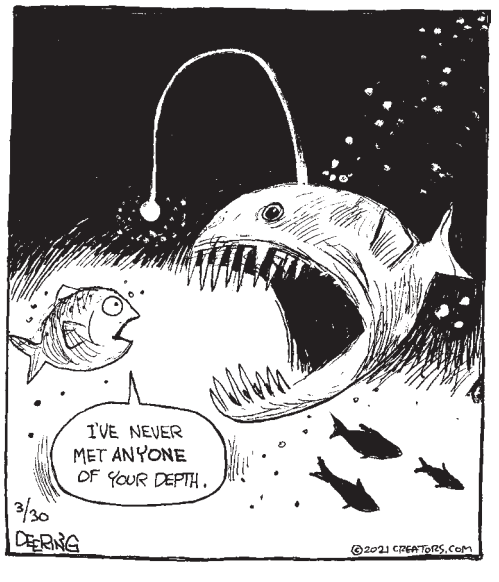

## Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER




## Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING







## SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 55.8°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Summer and combo focal points west of Pt Dume have the most size and the breaks relying on NW energy should be up a notch from Monday. Wind looks relatively light for the AM.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Looking like a clean, fun morning as NW swell mix eases and SSW swell nudges up from the start of the week. Wind looks offshore for the morning.

## WEATHER

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 70.
**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55.
**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 78.

| Date | Day | Time (LST/LDT) | Predicted (ft) | High/Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2021/03/30 | Tue | 05:11 AM | -0.54 | L |
| 2021/03/30 | Tue | 11:17 AM | 4.65 | H |
| 2021/03/30 | Tue | 5:04 PM | 0.45 | L |
| 2021/03/30 | Tue | 11:19 PM | 5.77 | H |
| 2021/03/31 | Wed | 06:04 AM | -0.61 | L |
| 2021/03/31 | Wed | 12:14 PM | 4.00 | H |
| 2021/03/31 | Wed | 5:37 PM | 1.06 | L |
| 2021/03/31 | Wed | 11:59 PM | 5.71 | H |
| 2021/04/01 | Thu | 07:04 AM | -0.51 | L |
| 2021/04/01 | Thu | 1:23 PM | 3.36 | H |
| 2021/04/01 | Thu | 6:13 PM | 1.69 | L |
| 2021/04/02 | Fri | 12:46 AM | 5.46 | H |
| 2021/04/02 | Fri | 08:16 AM | -0.30 | L |
| 2021/04/02 | Fri | 3:01 PM | 2.93 | H |
| 2021/04/02 | Fri | 6:55 PM | 2.28 | L |
| 2021/04/03 | Sat | 01:45 AM | 5.09 | H |
| 2021/04/03 | Sat | 09:48 AM | -0.18 | L |
| 2021/04/03 | Sat | 5:19 PM | 2.98 | H |
| 2021/04/03 | Sat | 8:14 PM | 2.79 | L |
| 2021/04/04 | Sun | 03:10 AM | 4.73 | H |
| 2021/04/04 | Sun | 11:19 AM | -0.28 | L |

## DAILY LOTTERY

**POWERball**
Draw Date: 3/27
6 14 38 39 65
Power#: 6
Jackpot: 20 M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 3/26
4 25 37 46 67
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 152 M

**SuperLotto Plus**
Draw Date: 3/27
11 12 20 27 45
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 33 M

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 3/28
2 24 29 34 37

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 3/28
EVENING: 7 6 9

Draw Date: 3/28
MIDDAY: 2 3 2

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 3/28
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:41.82

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 30)

You'll be carried by your strong conviction to a momentous purpose. Having wandered in your day, the value of this ultrafocused stretch isn't lost on you. The productivity from this creative thrust will ultimately have you inspiring and teaching others. Family members will lift one another up, showing up for both need and celebration. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 33, 1, 27 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Making an entrance isn't like it used to be when people were entering and exiting rooms a lot more often, but you'll find a way to create impact upon arrival even when said arrival isn't physical.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You won't have to make room for more love in your life. This happens naturally when you love. Everything adjusts to allow for the flow, and strangely, all seems more spacious than it did before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Put health and well-being first. Anything you do to promote physical vitality makes life better on all the other levels. It does take time, money and effort, but you'll get all of that zestfully back and then some.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be putting a kind of puzzle together, looking at how different pieces can be combined to create one big picture. With many puzzles, there is only one right way, but with today's puzzle, there will be at least a dozen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Television is a form of people-watching, though the scripts elevate; the lighting beautifies; and the situations are beyond the bounds of realism (especially in reality shows). People-watching the old-fashioned way will teach you more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You love when life forces you to discover things about yourself. It's not happening often enough lately, but it will when you take yourself out of the normal setting so there's no choice but to deal with elements unknown.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Social success is just like all the other kinds -- learned and earned through failure. When you make yourself vulnerable, no matter what happens, you win. You either connect or figure out what doesn't work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may feel yourself getting very granular with your demands or expectations, and this is a signal that it's time to deal in a bigger game. Take on more; expand your reach.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are some relationships you've had so long that you can't even remember the last time you had any kind of objectivity on the matter, but today, you'll get that with the input of a third party.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll need mental relief from the day's pressure. Allow more breaks. Take yourself out of the starring role and let your imaginary stunt double step in. Return later to shine in the spotlight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll love being around people who challenge you, especially playfully. It doesn't happen every day, which is why it's so magical today when you dance with your dexterous equal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The reason you can answer the call of the wild is because it's in your first language. Hearing it today reminds you where you came from in the unbridled times.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

## Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

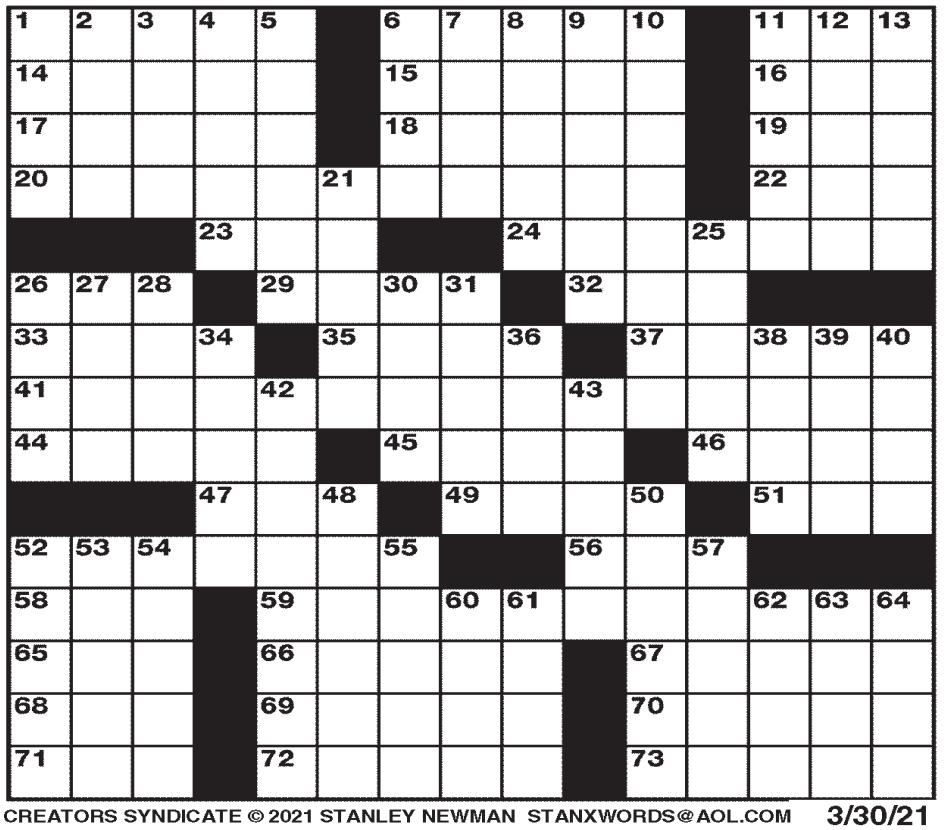
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | | 6 | | | | 7 | | 9 |
| 8 | | | | 2 | | | | 6 |
| | 3 | | | | 7 | | 2 | |
| | 2 | | | 5 | | | 6 | |
| 4 | | | 2 | | 3 | | | 7 |
| | 1 | | | 7 | | | 5 | |
| | 8 | | 7 | | | | 9 | |
| 7 | | | | 3 | | | | 8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

## Newsday Crossword

**WAIST-HIGH** by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**
1 List of candidates
6 Very slightly
11 *60 Minutes* network
14 Potato or yam
15 "Mass" news sources
16 "__ we there yet?"
17 Venue for boxing
18 Small bay
19 "Coconut custard" dessert
20 Carpenter's motorized smoothing tools
22 Light to stop for
23 __ Majesty (title for a queen)
24 Make right, as a mistake
26 Winter malady
29 Building for crop storage
32 Rap star Dr. __
33 Simplify
35 Couch in a den
37 Chorus of eight
41 Very remote place
44 Old maxim
45 Eatery's list
46 Leave port
47 "Easy as" letters
49 Long-tailed rodents
51 Director Brooks
52 Italian sports car
56 Easter egg coloring
58 Wood-chopping tool
59 Seedless citrus fruit
65 IRS regulation expert
66 Musical about Mrs. Perón
67 Illegally high interest rate
68 CNN founder Turner
69 Handle efficiently
70 Variety of tea
71 Clever like a fox
72 Trio in "tosses"
73 Large quantities

**DOWN**
1 Wild guess
2 Entice
3 Eve's second son
4 50, to 500
5 Removes pencil marks
6 "I __ no mood to argue"
7 Repair, as a garment
8 Lazy person
9 Having multiple levels, as a theater
10 Admits one's mistake
11 Italian resort island
12 Terse in one's words
13 Disreputable, as a bar
21 Get out of bed
25 Computer repairers, for short
26 Hurricane relief org.
27 Installed, as a carpet
28 Beef-inspecting agcy.
30 Weaving machine
31 Negotiator's proposal
34 Poe's first name
36 Fictional Karenina
38 Any sports squad
39 A Great Lake
40 Reveal a secret
42 Beirut native
43 Perform better than
48 Has a longing for
50 Gooey pancake toppings
52 True statements
53 Toss out of school
54 All set
55 Wall-climbing plants
57 Art studio's stand
60 "Small" suffix for kitchen
61 Vietnam neighbor
62 Reheat in a microwave
63 Get taller
64 A sight for sore __



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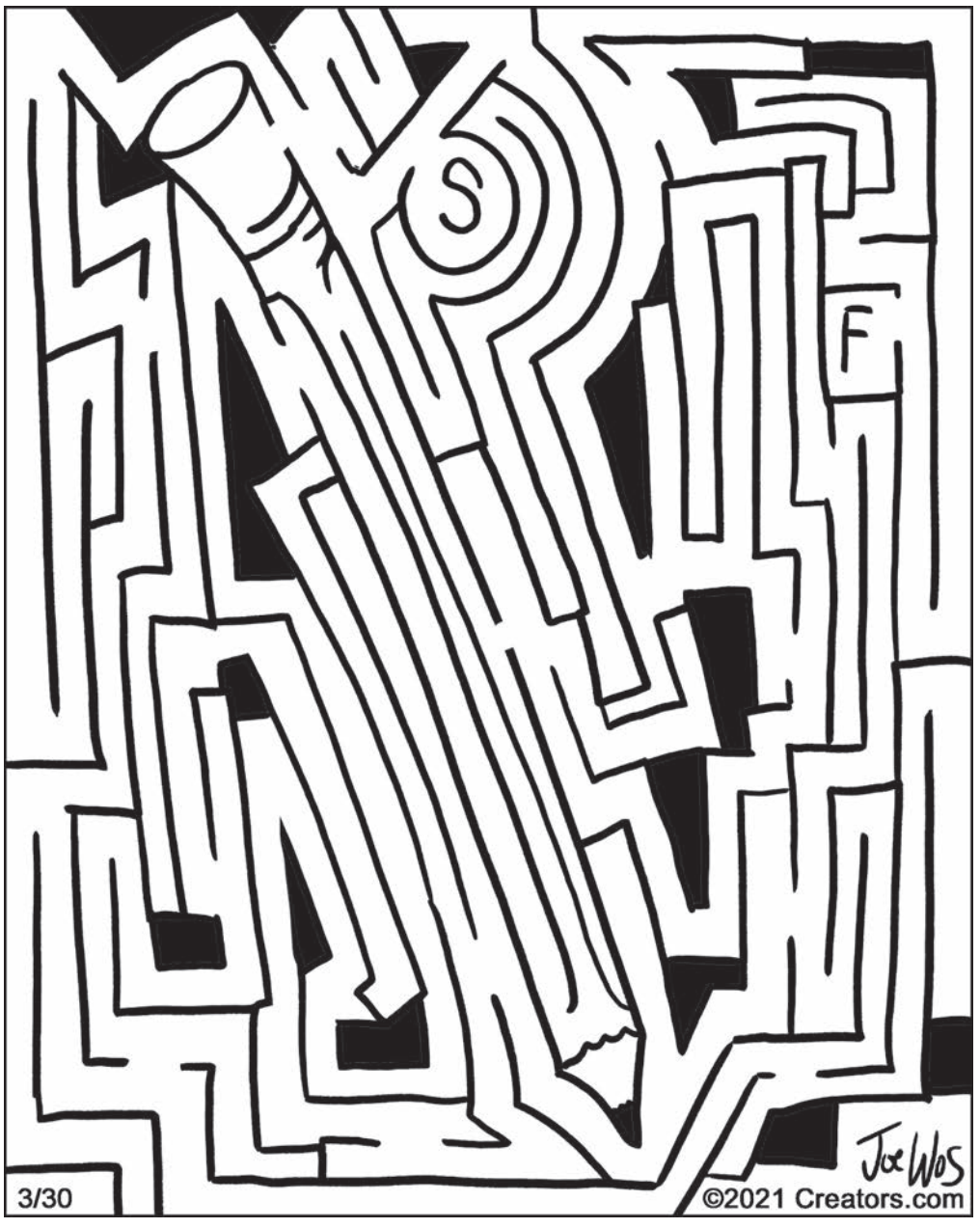
## Binary Puzzle

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

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| I | O | I | I | O | I | O | O | I | I | O | O |
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| O | I | O | O | I | O | O | I | I | O | I | I |
| I | O | I | I | O | I | I | O | O | I | O | O |
| O | I | I | O | O | I | O | I | I | O | I | O |
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| O | O | I | I | O | I | I | O | O | I | I | O |
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| O | I | O | I | O | I | O | O | I | O | I | I |

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| I | O | | | | | | | | | O | O |
| | | | O | | I | I | | | | | |
| | O | | | | | I | | I | I | | |




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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 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.** © australianwordgames.com.au 5068

## My island home

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

Adrift
Aspen
Atolls
Baler
Bird
Coast
Cottage
Doze
Dunk
Egret
Elcho
Emita
Eyre
Ferry
Fraser
Gabo
Goold
Hats
Heard
Heron
Hook
Horn
Idle
King
Leeka
Lion
Long
Moon
Mount Chappell
Night
Ocean
Osprey
Outdoors
Percy
Picnic Bay
Potoroo
Rainforest
Ranga
Reef
Ridges
Rodd
Rugged
Shark
Suites
Sunny
Tracks
Yorke

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
**So many classics from that time**

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## DELIVERY

FROM PAGE 1

Councilmember Gleam Davis first-hand account.

"I was gonna start out saying I may be the only person who's actually seen them in operation and I saw them twice," Davis said as she detailed how the bots pulled over when they came across a skateboard, scooter wheelchair and heeded the right-of-way to pedestrians.

Davis added back in October that nobody knows when the pandemic will end and since remote-controlled delivery seems like a good way to minimize contact, she and Council later agreed to establish Santa Monica's first Zero-Emissions Delivery Zone and included remote-controlled bots in the pilot.

The program, which participants hope serves as a successful test run so similar initiatives throughout the Westside can be kickstarted in the near future, has been underway for a few months now thanks to a partnership between the City, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator and a number of private companies, so residents in the area may have already spotted robots delivering sandwiches or electric bicycles carting small packages from restaurants like Alfalfa on Main Street.

But with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic still enduring, Davis and Mayor Pro Tempore Kristin McCowan have requested that staff return on April 13 or as soon thereafter as possible with an amendment to the remotely controlled delivery device ordinance to allow remotely controlled devices participating in the Zero Emission Delivery Zone program to serve businesses in all parts of Santa Monica.

The item, which was added Monday, was requested to promote the community's economic recovery and to help local restaurants and businesses safely reach their customers, the agenda reads. "Speed limits, weight limits and other operational requirements that apply within the zone should apply throughout Santa Monica."

Brennon@smdp.com

## TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 1

beaches that were temporarily closed last year.

In general, "higher travel is reflective of a good economy," said Tim Lomax, a research fellow at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. "They are traveling for a purpose, whether that's a job, retail or school."

Last spring, many vehicles got parked for an extended stay as governors and mayors issued stay-at-home orders, schools went virtual and work sites shifted from offices to homes as a precaution intended to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Passenger vehicle miles traveled plunged to almost half their pre-pandemic levels nationally, and declined even more in some of the largest cities with the greatest restrictions.

Less driving meant less money for state transportation departments, which rely heavily on motor fuel taxes. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials had estimated agencies could face a $28 billion revenue loss over a five-year period.

But "we're starting to see a rebound here from a travel standpoint, and that's been very helpful," said association executive director Jim Tymon.

Passenger vehicle miles traveled have been climbing upward this month, reaching 112% of their pre-pandemic levels during the week ending March 19, according to Inrix, which compiles passenger vehicle traffic data from anonymous GPS signals, such as from cellphone apps.

Midsize cities, particularly in the South, have seen a resurgence. Passenger vehicle miles traveled topped 160% of their pre-pandemic levels for two straight weekends in Mobile, Alabama, and exceeded 125% of pre-pandemic levels on recent weekends in Fort Myers, Florida; Greenville, South Carolina; and Knoxville, Tennessee.

Traffic also is rebounding in some of the nation's largest cities, though more so on weekends than weekdays and not yet back to pre-pandemic levels.

Passenger vehicle miles traveled fell last April to around 40% of pre-pandemic levels in Washington, D.C. That rebounded to around 90% or greater the first three weekends of March, though it was still lower during weekdays.

Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Philadelphia show similar patterns, where the weekend traffic has rebounded higher than the weekday traffic. Passenger vehicle miles hit 99% of their pre-pandemic levels in Los Angeles on March 21 after falling to well below half their norm in late March 2020.

In New York City, they exceeded 90% of their previous levels on March 20-21; they were around one-third the normal a year ago.

In San Francisco, Inrix data shows that passenger vehicle miles traveled reached 88% of their pre-pandemic levels over the weekend of March 20-21, their highest mark since March 11, 2020.

While higher traffic volumes show "there is more economic activity happening," they also reflect a shift away from mass transit, said Jeff Bellisario, executive director of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute. In February, ridership on the Bay Area Rapid Transit rail system remained at just 12.5% of pre-pandemic levels, he said.

Bellisario can personally attest to the change in traveling behavior. Prior to the pandemic, he didn't own a car — instead riding public transit to get to work and biking or walking to go other places. But he hasn't taken the rails in a year. He now works from home, and bought a car to get around town.

"My vehicle miles traveled is definitely higher than it was pre-COVID-19," he said.

David A. Lieb reported from Jefferson City, Missouri. Associated Press Business writer Christopher Rugaber in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

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## Notices

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONNOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGPursuant to Education Code §35721(c), the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization will be conducting a virtual public hearing to consider a proposal from the City of Malibu to form a Malibu Unified School District (USD) out of territory in the Santa Monica-Malibu USD.This hearing shall be held virtually, due to the current COVID-19 public health crisis. T o access the meeting electronically, and to provide public comment, please go to the County Committee website for connection information: https://www.lacoe.edu/Business-Services/Business-Advisory-Services/County-CommitteeDATE: Saturday, April 17, 2021TIME: 9:30 a.m.The teleconference number to listen to the proceedings and to provide public comment shall be posted on the County Committee's website 72 hours prior to the meeting at the website listed above. NOTE: Public comment may be emailed to the County Committee up until 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the hearing. Any comments received shall be acknowledged at the meeting and shall become part of the administrative record. Comments may be emailed to the County Committee Secretary, Mr. Octavio Castelo at castelo_octavio@lacoe.ed u.Language translation services of the virtual hearing may be provided with a minimum notice of three business days prior to the public hearing.Posting or distribution of banners, leaflets, handouts, or other media or communications, which serve to promote or discourage specific points of view, are prohibitedfrom the County Committee's website.For additional information or to request translation service, call(562) 922-6110.3/30/21CNS-3454870#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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