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Santa Monica Daily Press

WEEKEND EDITION
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Volume 20 Issue 126

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SMC Journalism program wins 14.
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Homegrown athlete looks to bring change to the game





Courtesy photos

ESPORTS: NXT UP Esports is bringing the Little League Baseball model to esports.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Video games were once looked at as little more than a hobby but, today, they are a multimillion dollar industry, and a homegrown athlete is looking to change the game for local youth.

While attending Roosevelt Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School and Samohi, Luke Zelon, founder of NXT UP Esports, would often spend time playing titles like Diablo and World of Warcraft when he wasn't on the football field.

"It was just a fun and cool way to connect," Zelon said, recalling the simplicity of games when online play was first starting to emerge.

Zelon took a break from playing games in high school to focus on his athletic endeavors. The decision paid off when the linebacker accepted a scholarship offer to play at Harvard University. The former Viking moved around and wound up mostly playing defensive end by the time he graduated from the Ivy League university in 2014.

And like most college graduates, he had no idea what he wanted to do after school.

"I quickly realized that sports is the only thing I'm really interested in and want to think about for a long period of time, so I got into the traditional sports world, working for a sports agency," Zelon said. "We represented basketball, baseball, football players and they were big names. We had DeMarcus Cousins, Dwight Howard, John Wall… big time players; so I was doing that for a bit and I loved it."

Soon after, Zelon found himself

SEE **GAME** PAGE 4

19-year-old Crossroads graduate launches app to fight food insecurity and waste

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Fed up by the high rates of food insecurity and food waste in L.A. County, 19-year-old Theo Goldstine came up with a truly GenZ solution — an app that connects individuals with surplus food with those around them who could use that food.

Goldstine took a gap year after graduating from Crossroads High School in May and certainly hasn't wasted any time since. Armed with three years of computer science classes, a deep love for food and a team of socially conscious friends, he launched the OpenPantry mere months after first coming up with the idea.

"It makes no sense that one third of our food supply goes to waste and 40 percent of household food goes to waste, while in L.A. County right now one out of five people are experiencing some form of food insecurity," said Goldstine.

OpenPantry tackles both issues at once, by allowing users to post



Courtesy image

APP: A local student has an app to reduce food waste.

food they have a desire to share and allowing nearby residents to request those items. The app is currently operating in 25 ZIP codes covering an area from the Palisades to Playa

SEE **APP** PAGE 6

Business leaders criticize City's stimulus plan as late and misguided

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica is set to receive $29.3 million when funding from the American Rescue Plan Act is allocated, and city leaders have proposed using the money to continue a Rent Relief Program, fund community projects and reopen City facilities and in-person services. However, local businesses say the assistance may not be enough to keep them around.

No decision will be made until City Council meets Tuesday to direct staff on how to proceed forward with the funding, but because ARPA

SEE **MONEY** PAGE 5



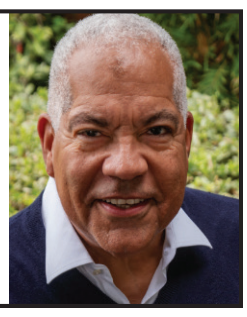
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The Re-View

By Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fia

FIARESTAURANT.COM | 2454 WILSHIRE BLVD.

For many years the patio at Michael's in Santa Monica was considered by many to be the most beautiful patio in town. And the top chefs in town for really high-end food by French trained chefs were at Michael's and Melisse (including their owners).

Now there is serious competition for those top reputations at FIA on Wilshire. For me the patio at FIA is far and away the most beautiful in town, and there is no question that the chef there, Brendan Collins is among the finest French-trained chefs in town. Chef Collins trained in French technique in England, ran the kitchen at Melisse when it was considered one of the highest rated restaurants in Los Angeles by Michelin, and worked with Chef Alain Giraud at Anisette (when I was on the restaurant management team).

Now we get to the food. Remember the old joke, "always eat dessert first, you never know what might happen." That's not bad advice here because the desserts are spectacular. I'm so tired of seeing tiramisu and chocolate cake on the dessert menus. Where is a Tarte Tatin? What ever happened to cherry pie? But the level at FIA is way beyond that.

The chocolate bomb, set on fire at the table, is spectacular. And then a lemon creation, also created at the table, was wonderful. But we didn't have dessert first.

Two of us shared a lobster risotto which was excellent and as so often the case with this chef, a bit different than usual, with some breadcrumbs on top, but lots of savory chunks of lobster. One of us ordered the rib eye steak, the best dish we had, but no one told us that it was meant for two people (we should have noticed that from the $140 price) so we had plenty of leftovers. A table-side Caesar salad prepared at the table next to us looked wonderful. I had a beef Wellington, mainly because it's so rare to see it on a menu. This dish was "de-constructed" with the spinach on the side instead of inside the crust, and an onion confit on the side instead of mushroom deuxelle.

We also got, by error, several dishes intended for the table next to us, which did not appear on our bill (I hope not on theirs either). The fact is that we were confused by some of the dishes and didn't know if they were ordered by us or not, so we ate them.

The raw yellowtail, Japanese style, was delicious but we didn't order it. I assume all of the roasted corn and potatoes came with our meal but we were never sure.

All in all this was a great meal with every course above average. We understand why the service was so confused, since it was one of the first days the interior was open after the long COVID delay.

We hope the staff gets the training necessary to, at a minimum, get the right dishes to the right table. The only thing that was not above average was the wine list. With a $45 corkage fee I didn't bring my own wine, which was a mistake. I ended up paying $120 for two bottles of Crozes-Hermitage which were below average and worth about half that. Whoever is in charge of the wine list needs to get to work.

All in all, this was a top-quality meal in a wonderful setting. We'll be back soon.

Merv Hecht, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book is "The Instant Wine Connoisseur" and it is available on Amazon. Or you might like his attempt at humor in "Great Cases I Lost." He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and beverages, including wines, internationally. Please send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

Letter to the Editor

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's Untapped Offshore Wind

Did you know that a single rotation of an offshore wind turbine can power your house for an entire day? Yet, California--the state with the strongest coastal winds--has no offshore wind turbines at all. That seems like an enormous missed opportunity doesn't it?

The US' reliance on fossil fuels has detrimental effects on our planet and we need to decrease carbon emissions by transitioning to using clean energy. President Biden recently laid out a goal of achieving 30 GW of offshore wind energy by 2030 in his infrastructure plan. Offshore wind could be an extremely powerful source of clean energy in California, but remains untapped thus far despite its tremendous capabilities. Unlike solar energy, offshore wind is strongest at night, powering California's power grid when it is needed most.

With a planning target set by California, other coastal states will likely follow California in its planning target, helping to reach Biden's 30 GW goal by 2030. California, being such an influential leader in combating climate change, needs to set a planning target for offshore wind. AB 525, a bill from Assemblymember Chiu, would do just that.

Dani Fenster, Pacific Palisades

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

City Launches Pilot Right to Counsel Program to Help Tenants Facing Evictions

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Office this week launched its pilot Right to Counsel project, an initiative to provide legal assistance and support for tenants facing eviction amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Santa Monica's Right to Counsel program is available to Santa Monica tenant households whose income is at or below 80% of the County's Area Medium Income ("AMI") (Los Angeles County's 2021 AMI is $80,000), and facing eviction attempts by their landlord. The program is available to qualifying Santa Monica tenants regardless of their immigration status and is accessible at www.stayhousedla.org.

The launch includes a contract with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA), the non-profit law firm for low-income residents, to provide full-scope eviction defense services in which LAFLA attorneys will represent tenants in court. The contract builds on Stay Housed L.A. County, a partnership between the County of Los Angeles, legal aid groups and community-based organizations to provide emergency support to low-income tenants in need.

"The City's Right to Counsel program will help level the playing field for Santa Monica tenants facing evictions in proceedings where their landlords are represented by experienced attorneys," said George Cardona, Interim City Attorney. "We look forward to collaborating with LAFLA and Stay Housed L.A. County on this pilot project, which is particularly important due to the pandemic's impacts."

The program will help address what is expected to be a wave of evictions in the wake of the public health and economic crises created by the COVID-19 emergency. City and state eviction moratoriums have delayed and blunted the impact of potential early evictions, but there is little doubt that among Santa Monica's 32,000-plus renter households, the COVID-19 emergency will result in a significant number of tenants who will continue to be unable to pay rent and face eviction efforts.

Those eviction efforts will occur, studies have shown, in a system stacked against unrepresented tenants. According to the 2019 STOUT report, Cost-Benefit Analysis of Providing A Right to Counsel to Tenants In Eviction Proceedings, Los Angeles County's most vulnerable tenants are frequently unrepresented and evicted by landlords who are represented by experienced counsel. Providing tenants with counsel is critical to leveling the playing field and would significantly improve the likelihood that eviction cases are decided fairly and on their merits. According to STOUT, 97% of Los Angeles County tenants are unrepresented in eviction cases while landlords are unrepresented in just 12% of their cases. Unrepresented tenants in LA County get displaced 99% of the time, but if they get representation, they avoid displacement 95% of the time.

Barbara J. Schultz, Director of Housing Justice with LAFLA stated: "LAFLA and all our partners in Stay Housed L.A. County are thrilled to work with the Santa Monica City's Attorney's Office on this exciting new project, and hope that this is the first step towards a full Renter's Right to Counsel in Santa Monica and other Los Angeles jurisdictions."

Tenants can visit www.stayhousedla.org for general information or call 1-888-694-0040 (LAFLA) for legal services.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 32 CALLS ON APRIL 8

EMS 1400blk 17th St 2:33 a.m.
EMS 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:51 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 4:51 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 5:10 a.m.
EMS 2600blk 32nd St 5:15 a.m.
EMS 700blk Pico Blvd 6:18 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 10:17 a.m.
EMS 2900blk Pico Blvd 10:26 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 10:36 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk Broadway 11:52 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk 16th St 11:55 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 14th St 1:25 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 26th St / Montana Ave 1:56 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 2:03 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Harvard St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:10 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Physical Rescue Harvard St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:10 p.m.
EMS 2400blk 4th St 2:42 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 2:43 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 100blk Wilshire Blvd 2:46 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:50 p.m.
EMS 900blk 21st St 3:08 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 100blk Hollister Ave 4:22 p.m.
EMS 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:35 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Pier Ave 4:44 p.m.
EMS 11th St / Broadway 5:34 p.m.
EMS 1800blk 16th St 5:51 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk Ocean Ave 8:28 p.m.
EMS 2100blk 7th St 9:13 p.m.
Transformer Fire 2600blk 32nd St 9:53 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 5th St 10:11 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk 16th St 10:19 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 11:38 p.m.

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

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 236 CALLS ON APRIL 8

Encampment 1600blk Ocean Ave 12:20 a.m.
Armed Robbery 300blk Pico Blvd 12:31 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:11 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Jefferson/Obama 4:38 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 17th St / Olympic Blvd 6:20 a.m.
Encampment 1900blk Pico Blvd 7:26 a.m.
Information Only Broadcast 2200blk Virginia Ave 7:47 a.m.
Fraud Report 1300blk Olympic Blvd 7:55 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 200blk San Vicente Blvd 8:33 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200blk 2nd St 8:40 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2800blk Ocean Front Walk 8:41 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2100blk Pearl St 9:03 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk Olympic Dr 9:19 a.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 900blk 18th St 9:27 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1800blk 18th St 9:33 a.m.
Found Property 3000blk 21st St 10:10 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2900blk Exposition Blvd 10:17 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 600blk 21st St 10:37 a.m.
Fraud Report 3200blk Wilshire Blvd 10:42 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 600blk 21st Pl 10:42 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk 2nd St 10:46 a.m.
General Parking Problem 3100blk Pennsylvania Ave 10:51 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2600blk Montana Ave 10:55 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 11:22 a.m.
Fight 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 11:26 a.m.
Loitering 1000blk 10th St 11:31 a.m.
Malicious Mischief 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 11:56 a.m.
Burglary Report 800blk California Ave 12:04 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2000blk Idaho Ave 12:07 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk Alta Ave 12:26 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:30 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2100blk Oak St 12:34 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 700blk Ozone St 12:47 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk 12th St 12:51 p.m.
Battery 1900blk Pico Blvd 12:56 p.m.
Family Disturbance 2200blk Colorado Ave 1:03 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 500blk Marine St 1:05 p.m.
General Parking Problem 6th St / Broadway 1:06 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 1:11 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk 4th St 1:11 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2500blk 3rd St 1:19 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 800blk 16th St 1:37 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 10th St / Cedar St 1:41 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 26th St / Montana Ave 1:56 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 26th St / Montana Ave 1:58 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 400blk The Beach 2:03 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Harvard St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:10 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Harvard St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:12 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Yale St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:13 p.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Centinela Ave 2:24 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:25 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 26th St / Pico Blvd 2:33 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 1500blk Ocean Ave 2:39 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 2:50 p.m.
Death Investigation 900blk 21st St 3:08 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk Euclid St 3:08 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 4th St / Washington Ave 3:10 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200blk Hill St 3:17 p.m.
Illegal Weapon 500blk Colorado Ave 3:17 p.m.
Fraud Report 2000blk 20th St 3:31 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100blk 11th St 3:35 p.m.
Burglary 1200blk Franklin St 3:36 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 00blk Vicente Ter 3:38 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 300blk 24th St 3:49 p.m.
Petty Theft 700blk Broadway 3:56 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 3:59 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:05 p.m.
Public Intoxication 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:16 p.m.
Encampment 2200blk Virginia Ave 4:48 p.m.
General Parking Problem 500blk San Vicente Blvd 4:50 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 4th St / Colorado Ave 5:06 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 5:06 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1800blk Euclid St 5:29 p.m.
Battery 300blk Santa Monica Pier 5:31 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:34 p.m.
Identity Theft 1200blk 12th St 5:39 p.m.
Battery Now 1800blk 16th St 5:44 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 700blk Cedar St 5:44 p.m.
Person With A Gun 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 5:48 p.m.
Burglary Report 200blk San Vicente Blvd 5:55 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 600blk Kensington Rd 5:57 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1500blk Yale St 6:19 p.m.
Elder Abuse 1100blk Arizona Ave 6:38 p.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 6:57 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Neilson Way / Strand St 7:02 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 9th St 7:03 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 7:11 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1400blk 2nd St 7:34 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 7:38 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

The Corsair Wins 14 JACC Statewide Awards

The Corsair, Santa Monica College's student-run news outlet, has won 14 awards from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) during its Spring 2021 JACC State Publication Contest. The virtual awards ceremony was held Saturday, March 30; The Corsair's wins included three first-place awards.

The full listing of awards are below:
First Place, Informational Graphic: Sonia Hiew
First Place, Student Designed Ad: Glenn Zucman
First Place, Online Photo Story/Essay ("The Year in Photos"): The Corsair Staff
Second Place, Feature Photo: Marco Pallotti
Second Place, Illustration: Sonia Hiew
Second Place, Online Photo Story/Essay: The Corsair Staff
Third Place, Photo Story-Essay: The Corsair Staff
Third Place, Sports Action Photo: Glenn Zucman
Third Place, Photo Illustration: Johaira Dilauro
Fourth Place, Sports Action Photo: Alex Ramirez Canales
Fourth Place, Front Page Layout: Sonia Hiew
Honorable Mention, Illustration: Octavia Anderson
Honorable Mention, News Story: Jackie Sedley
General Excellence, Print Edition: The Corsair staff

"The shift to a completely online environment for The Corsair staff was challenging, but time and time again these student journalists have decided to use this new environment as an opportunity to exceed expectations, rather than a barrier to their success as a news media outlet," said SMC Journalism Professor Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins, Corsair faculty adviser. Each day they find new and creative ways to create content and tell the stories SMC students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community need to hear, especially now. These awards prove just how much our journalism students can accomplish, even in the face of adversity."

Gerard Burkhart, photojournalism professor and Corsair photo adviser added: "It is a continuing honor to be a part of a staff that is this dedicated and talented. They never cease to amaze, delight and inform on the full spectrum of news coverage in a truly professional manner."

Founded in 1955, JACC is a nonprofit which bridges the gap between students, educators and publications by providing networking and educational events aimed at inspiring members at each stage of their journalism career; JACC also holds contests that are a benchmark for community college journalism excellence, offers scholarships and professional development for educators, among other things. Visit jacconline.org to learn more.

The Corsair staff produces a bi-weekly newspaper in the spring and fall semesters and also maintains an online news site: thecorsaironline.com. SMC Journalism Professor Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins advises the Corsair; Photojournalism Professor Gerard Burkhart is photo adviser. For more information on The Corsair, email Blaize_Ashanti@smc.edu.

Santa Monica College is a California Community College accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

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GAME

FROM PAGE 1

working at another agency, but this time the focus was on esports.

"We were trying to figure out what we wanted to do and quickly became this kind of consulting marketing agency for different kinds of companies that wanted to make the change from traditional sports to esports," Zelon said, rattling off companies like Dr. Pepper who sponsored events like the College Football Playoffs but didn't know how to get off the ground in esports. "This was back in early 2016… and at that point, esports was still in its infancy, so we had this really unique value proposition because we understood both sides. We also helped the Golden State Warriors start an esports team and ultimately got them a spot in League of Legends, which is the biggest esport in the world. We got them one of 10 teams in North America. It was a really sought after position."

A year later, the Santa Monica resident found himself doing sponsorship sales for LAFC before the soccer club had played its first game in Major League Soccer.

"My first day on the job, I went to the stadium to see the construction and got a hardhat tour. I was also at the first game up in Seattle at the first game at Banc of California stadium and the first game they played the Galaxy," Zelon said, adding, "It was really an awesome experience but it was wonderful for my career too because I learned so much about how teams work and how sponsorships work, the process of opening a stadium; it was really awesome, and I don't know if I'll ever be able to be a part of a project like that again. But it's been invaluable and changed how I think about business."

When Zelon landed a job with Team SoloMid, which is known as TSM and is one of the biggest professional esports organizations, his views only continued to evolve.

"So, one of the like trends that I noticed in eSports is that a lot of people are looking at the traditional sports model and trying to implement that in eSports and video game; from how you develop a team, to how you sell a sponsorship for a team, to developing a league's broadcast and all of that. They look at traditional sports because it's been done and it's successful, so why recreate the wheel?" he said. "But there's a major talent problem in eSports in regards to talent development because what happens in my own experience and in talking to a lot of friends and parents, is parents will buy their kids a system and then buy them a game, and then they just say, 'Okay, go play and figure it out on your own.'"

Some kids have success with this method, Zelon recognizes, but this isn't how families teach children to play traditional sports like Tee-ball.

"You have a coach who's teaching you the rules, who's teaching you how to hit the ball, how to throw the ball, how to catch — all of those things — and that just doesn't exist in video games," Zelon said. "And then I thought about, well what are some of the other pain points in gaming and online-play came right to mind. Look, if you play enough video games and you don't have to play that much to have had an experience where you enter a lobby and you hear people cursing at you. It's not a great world and it's not appropriate for kids at that age. If you're 13, is that the best way for you to learn the game and is that the social experience you want to have? It's certainly not the experience your parents want you to have."

Zelon also contrasted the online world of esports with traditional sports where children are put in a league with athletes of their age group and there's a coach to supervise.

"So, that's exactly what we created," he said, detailing how he and his peers at NXT UP have partnered with Lincoln Middle School, various Boys and Girls Clubs and other organizations to create a Little League baseball model for video games and young children wishing to explore the world of esports. "We create an enclosed ecosystem so their kids aren't exposed to strangers online, and they're getting an intro to learning the game and life skills all while they're having fun."

And since video games are a phenomenal way for people to connect socially, especially in the times of COVID-19, Zelon is confident youth esports programs will only see more demand in the future.

"Santa Monica Boys and Girls Clubs and several other boys and girls clubs in Southern California were the first kids in the program and it was a great way to test small, but it was also a way to kind of give back to the community as well. And it's been really successful," he said, stating all of the programs are all virtual so kids can connect from home with a headset to their teammates and coach in the game. "It's not necessarily an in-person activity, but it can be when things resume regularly."

And Zelon is certainly looking forward to getting a group together because he and coaches regularly witness kids become more social during their time in the program.

"They play with the same group and are on the same team every week so they really get to know each other and a lot of the kids will end up playing with kids that they met in the program later on. The parents love that because they know it's you know it's someone that is a stranger and it's safe," Zelon said. "And I have to say I thought this was gonna be a highly competitive thing but that is not the case at all. This is about having fun and playing with other kids and improving your play along the way. But the most important thing is the kids have fun."

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AWARD WINNER

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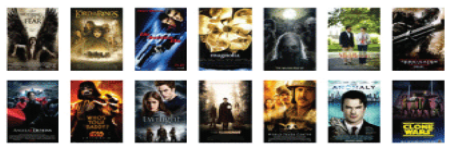
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MONEY

FROM PAGE 1

funds can be used until December 2024, the City has a lot of flexibility in how it can use the money, according to a staff report, which suggested that Council dedicate 20 percent of ARPA direct aid funds to responding to the needs related to the Equitable and Inclusive Economic Recovery of the community.

Earlier this year in March, Council authorized an extension of a previously set rent repayment deadline, a 12-month rent freeze to prevent any rent increases for City tenants and an extension of emergency order protections that allowed tenants to continue to defer 50% of their rent through June 30, 2021 with additional time to repay deferred rents beginning October 1, 2021.

So far, a total of $5.3 million in rents have been deferred under the Rent Deferment Program and more than a third of total rents deferred are associated with the 19 Pier and Beach tenants enrolled in the program, the staff report states as it details how more money could soon be headed to assist these businesses.

If Council were to approve staff's recommendations, $1.14 million in one-time funds would be used to provide rent relief for small business tenants of the City and for clean and safe activities supporting Beach and Pier tenants, whereas $3 million in ongoing funds — $11.1 million total over four years — is recommended to be allocated towards the reopening of City facilities and in-person services, which is a suggestion that Michael Myers, Managing Director of the Ruskin Group Theatre, took issue with in an interview Friday.

"I have to say it's a little bit shocking to see that they're going to spend $3 million, which turns into $11 million, to hire three new full-time staff members rather than give us the money to pay themselves," Myers said, "because what happens if all of these businesses have to walk away. Staff hasn't talked about what the vacancy costs will cost the city, so it's a really interesting conundrum we find ourselves in."

Myers added he doesn't think the stimulus funds, as they are expected to be allocated now, will be much assistance to the locals who need it. "I don't think it's going to keep the pier restaurants on the Pier and the Bergamot galleries and others around. I think that we need a lot more help," he said.

Rose Shoshana, owner of the Rose Gallery at Bergamot Station, agreed in a separate interview Friday when she said there has been little communication with city leaders in regards to how the money can better assist businesses and nonprofits.

"Most of us here depend on the galleries for our livelihood and we've created this wonderful arts center on the Westside that shows works from international artists and local artists and we just want to keep on doing our work," Shoshana said.

But she and other Bergamot tenants are in a peculiar situation, she said. "Because we are on city property but when we go to the City, they say we have to work through our landlord, but our landlord has not been very communicative. So, we're playing a tennis game, going one direction and then the other, and it's like okay, which way are we supposed to go here?"

Shoshana noted the current staff report calls for three months of rent abatement for some tenants and she, like Myers, feels this won't do enough to remedy the struggling local economy.

"There have already been three galleries that have left because we've been closed for so long. And, now, as we're opening up, it's like starting the engine again and it's a big job getting people back here," Shoshana said. "It's not going to happen overnight, so we're asking the city to let us pay half of our rent until things get back to some kind of normal."

The gallerist added she heard the stimulus funds weren't supposed to be discussed until June, but she isn't surprised to be left out of the loop.

"If it weren't for Mike Myers, we would know nothing. We would not even have known about this meeting," Shoshana said. "It's really unfair to us to keep us out of the loop, but Mike has been a great champion, and, truly, if it weren't for him, we'd have nobody to reach out to."

Myers concluded the interview Friday, stating, "Look, I don't want to leave Santa Monica, but I don't know how we'll survive. It's not really significant help."

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City of Santa Monica

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED 2021-22 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) & HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT PROGRAM (HOME) FUNDS**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides annual CDBG and HOME entitlement funds to the City of Santa Monica. As a recipient of these federal funds, HUD requires the City to develop a five-year Consolidated Plan along with Annual Action Plans for housing and community development which identify high priority needs and the associated goals, strategies, and resources anticipated over a five-year period.

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed 2021-22 Annual Action Plan, which identifies the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of CDBG and HOME funds to address the high-priority needs specified in the 2020-24 Consolidated Plan. The 2020-24 Consolidated Plan can be viewed at www.smgov.net/ccsgrants.

The Proposed 2021-22 Annual Action Plan is now available to the public for a 30-day review period beginning March 27, 2021. The proposed plan can be viewed at www.smgov.net/hsd. Hard copies are available upon request through the Housing and Human Services Division at telephone (310) 458-8701. Written comments may be submitted by April 26, 2021 by email to humanservices@smgov.net or by mail to: Housing and Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, MS22, Santa Monica, CA 90401. All comments received will be incorporated into the final draft of the 2021-22 Annual Action Plan, due to HUD by May 15, 2021. The City Council is scheduled to consider approval of the proposed plan on April 27, 2021

ESPAÑOL
Esto es un aviso público para invitar a cualquier parte interesada a participar en el repaso del Plan Preliminar de Acción Anual del Año Fiscal 2021-22. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Ivy Chang en la División de Vivienda y Servicios Humanos al número (310) 458-8701.

APP

FROM PAGE 1

Del Rey and inland to La Cienega, with plans to expand further soon.

Once a match is made users can coordinate a food exchange suitable to their schedules. There are options to pick up at a donor's home, drop off at a requester's home, or meet in a neutral territory such as a park.

Due to Covid-19 OpenPantry currently requires contactless drop off, but in the future Goldstine hopes that in-person exchanges will bring neighbors together and spread goodwill throughout the local community.

"I think that food sharing is one of the most powerful acts of love, frankly, that people can do," said Goldstine. "When we share food and we create a special space through a connection over something that's so key to being human."

This person-to-person connection is one of the benefits that OpenPantry has over the traditional food bank model, which is highly impersonal and doesn't allow donors and recipients to form any sort of relationship. OpenPantry is also better suited for household food surpluses, which food banks are not well equipped to process.

For example, food banks rarely accept fresh produce due to how quickly it expires and people who have one or two extra items often won't bother traveling to a bank to drop them off. OpenPantry allows users to list precisely what items they have available at that moment and they can easily leave the food on their doorstep for a match to pick up.

People are required to list the expiration date of items and posts are automatically taken down once that date is reached. To further protect community members, the OpenPantry user agreement requires people only post food they would eat themselves and to disclose any allergies they may have.

The app is run by a group of around 20 university age young adults who have big dreams for its future. Once the West L.A. program has been piloted and adapted, they predict the app could be rolled out across the country.

Goldstine believes OpenPantry can integrate well into existing food donation systems and be used by food banks and restaurants to request and donate larger quantities of food. Currently, the app works by donors listing items, but Goldstine also would like to add a feature where residents can list a need and the local community can rally to support them.

"What inspired this is when I was in second grade my mom had cancer, and what really helped get us through it is that people in our life put together a schedule and made us meals for a whole month," said Goldstine. "So if someone is going through something they can post it and the community can come together to make sure that they have the love and support that food brings."

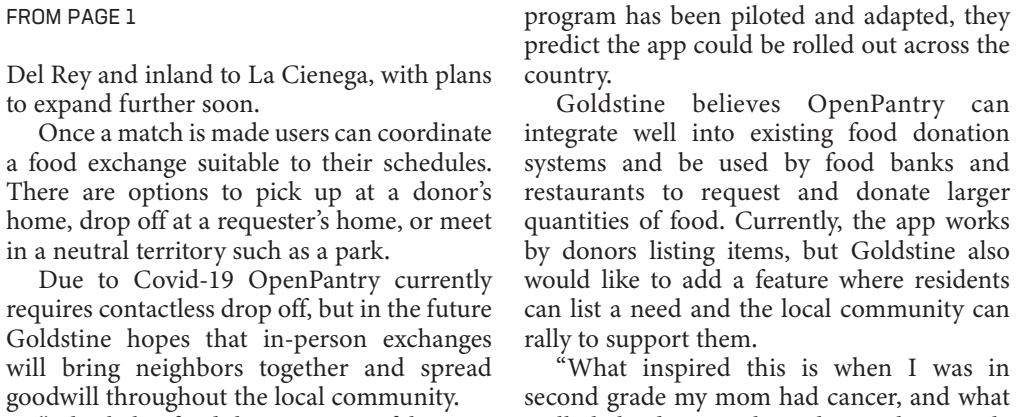
Although he is excited to journey to New York City to study computer science at NYU this fall, Goldstine said he will always think of Santa Monica as the place where his love for both coding and food began.

"The sense of community I experienced walking around and talking to people at the farmers market made me imagine a world where you can have a virtual community based off of food," said Goldstine. "The Santa Monica Farmers Market and my time at Crossroads, both those things really helped inspire the app."

The Open Pantry app is free and is available now in the iOS App Store and Android App Store for users in the following ZIP codes: 90024, 90025, 90034, 90035, 90048, 90049, 90064, 90066, 90067, 90073, 90077, 90095, 90210, 90211, 90212, 90230, 90232, 90272, 90291, 90292, 90401, 90402, 90403, 90404, 90405.

Clara@smdp.com









COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMC Emeritus Annual Student Art Exhibition 2021 Online – Part 1

The Santa Monica College (SMC) Emeritus Art Gallery will unveil its SMC Emeritus Annual Student Art Exhibition 2021 Online – Part 1 starting April 22. This year, the group exhibition attracted so many participants that it will be presented in two parts at smc.edu/emeritusgallery. Part 1 will feature 80 works created by 41 student artists in SMC's noncredit Emeritus program for older adults. (Details about Part 2, which opens May 27, will be released in early May.)

A free, live Zoom Virtual Launch Event for Part 1 of the exhibition will be held online from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 22. A link at smc.edu/emeritusgallery goes live at event time and takes guests directly to the exhibition's opening reception.

To see the artworks online at any time after 5 p.m. on April 22, viewers may go to smc.edu/emeritusgallery and click the Emeritus Student Art Exhibition 2021 Online link, available 24 hours a day. The link takes viewers directly to the exhibition album on a Facebook page that is open to public viewing (Facebook account not necessary).

The opening reception will be hosted by Emeritus Associate Dean Dr. Scott Silverman and Emeritus Art Gallery Curator Jesse Benson, who will highlight and discuss a selection of individual artworks. Several of the exhibiting artists will also hold brief discussions about their work.

"While we were scrambling at this time last year to catch up to the minimums of virtual programming, this year's Emeritus Student Art Exhibition is a thriving 2-part show featuring aspects that are only possible online," said Benson. "Our newfound fluency with the format has allowed for the exhibiting of amazing past works, large-scale objects, offsite installations, videos, and other types of gestures too difficult to physically accommodate in the live gallery. The 2021 Student Art Exhibition is another testament to the achievement, energy, and malleability of our incredible student body."

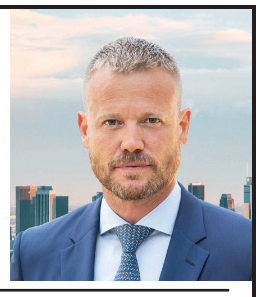
"We can't yet gather in person to appreciate the wonderful art produced by our Emeritus students during trying times," said Silverman, "but this exhibition gives Emeritus and our students a chance to share their art to a broader audience, using the online platform to expand beyond the confines of the Gallery."

SMC's widely praised Emeritus program – founded by Santa Monica College in 1975 as a noncredit program to serve the lifelong learning interests of older adults – offers more than 120 noncredit adult education classes and special programs that serve more than 3,000 students each year.

More information is available by visiting smc.edu/emeritusgallery or calling 310-434-4306.

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Ted Winterer
SMMUSD parent
Former Santa Monica Mayor

SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Join Us:
http://bit.ly/OpposePetition

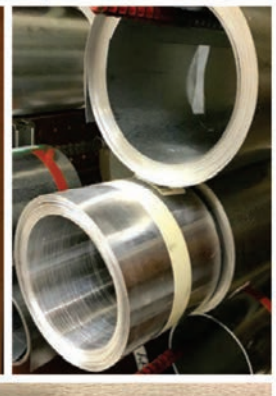
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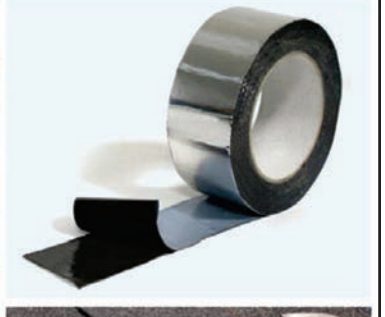


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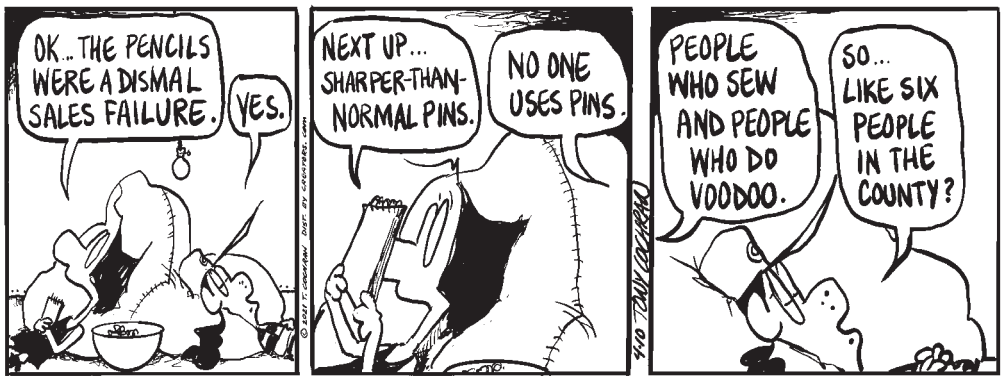




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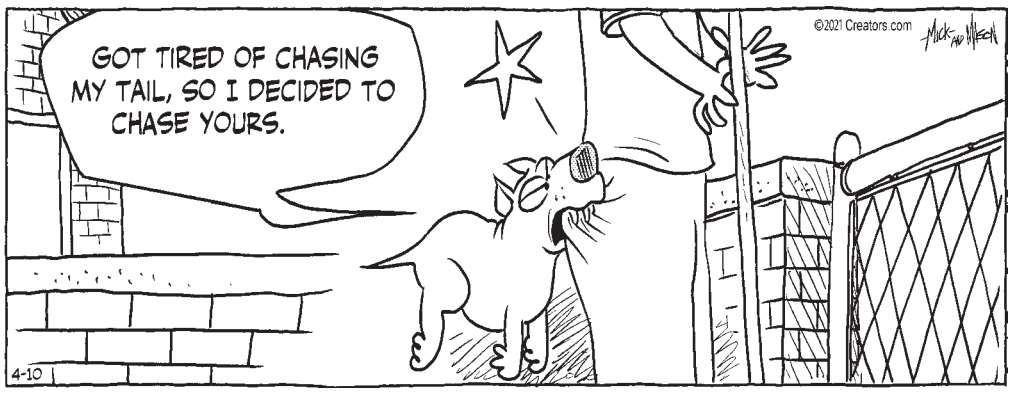
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



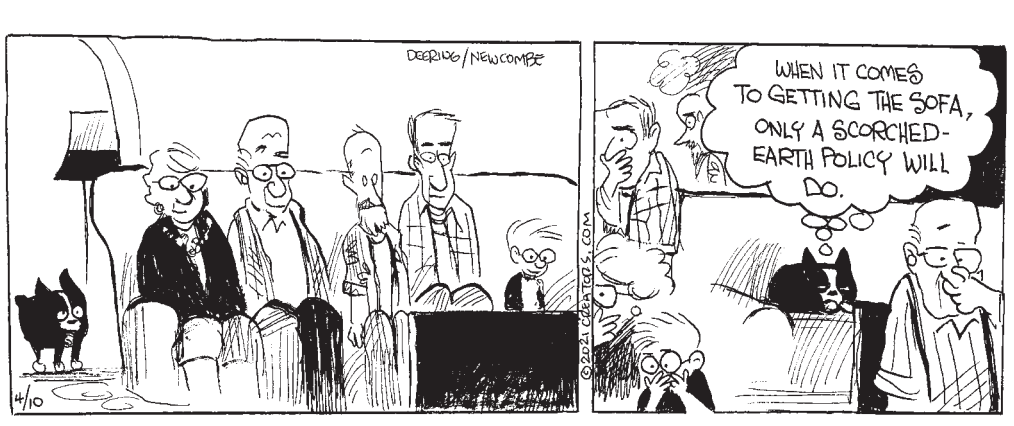
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"POWER NAP."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.4°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Few peaks. SSW swell lingers and NW windswell tops out. Shape is peaky and spots with SE wind blockage cleanest in the AM.

SUNDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Little combo of SSW swell and short-period NW swell are paired with a mid-morning high tide.

WEATHER

Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 68.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 55.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/04/10	Sat	03:17 AM	0.56	L
2021/04/10	Sat	09:15 AM	4.74	H
2021/04/10	Sat	3:24 PM	0.12	L
2021/04/10	Sat	9:36 PM	4.99	H
2021/04/11	Sun	03:48 AM	0.29	L
2021/04/11	Sun	09:49 AM	4.50	H
2021/04/11	Sun	3:46 PM	0.47	L
2021/04/11	Sun	9:56 PM	5.11	H
2021/04/12	Mon	04:20 AM	0.10	L
2021/04/12	Mon	10:24 AM	4.21	H
2021/04/12	Mon	4:07 PM	0.83	L
2021/04/12	Mon	10:16 PM	5.16	H
2021/04/13	Tue	04:53 AM	-0.01	L
2021/04/13	Tue	11:00 AM	3.87	H
2021/04/13	Tue	4:27 PM	1.22	L
2021/04/13	Tue	10:38 PM	5.15	H
2021/04/14	Wed	05:27 AM	-0.02	L
2021/04/14	Wed	11:39 AM	3.50	H
2021/04/14	Wed	4:46 PM	1.60	L
2021/04/14	Wed	11:00 PM	5.07	H
2021/04/15	Thu	06:06 AM	0.07	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 4/7
27 35 39 51 66
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 55 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/6
1 19 20 32 42
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 201 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/7
2 7 16 40 42
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 36 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/8
5 10 25 27 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/8
EVENING: 7 4 7
Draw Date: 4/8
MIDDAY: 9 1 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/8
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:43.84

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 (APRIL 10)

You don't feel courageous, but you are. At first you get things done regardless of whether you believe you can or not. Then you start a streak. The more wins you rack up, the more confidence you gain. You'll go public with your idea and glow in the spotlight. Summer brings magical connections and a financial lift, too. Sagittarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 3, 33, 8 and 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll help someone and it helps you twice as much. Giving your love brings a similar outcome. If your aim is selfless service, then you're out of luck. Every generous act will enrich and benefit you!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are no perfect pairings, but there are more or less compatible people. You're in luck. Life will show you who fits into which category. You're in the mood for a smooth ride and that's what you'll get.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Some things are worth doing even though they might be difficult, and some things are worth doing because they're sure to be difficult. No one ever got strong lifting feathers.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). An ambitious mood strikes. Ambition requires you to take risks, and risks come with fear, and fear feeds into thrills, which can be addictive. This is only the start of the excitement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When your gift doesn't make the impression you wanted it to, this is nothing to take personally. People receive when they are ready to receive. Let time do its part. Anyway, you're richer for giving.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your smile creates community wherever it goes. Your smile says, "this is a good place to be" and it also says, "I'm glad to be here with you." Your smile makes others share that gladness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A tangent will turn into a main focus, mainly because you keep getting attention, money and props for it. This is actually starting to feel like a calling, if not an obsession.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Good questions get direct answers. Write and rewrite your question until it rings with truth and then ask your heart for answers and write down what it says. Move your hand across the page unthinkingly; the words will come.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You say "thank you" in many ways that do not involve those actual words. Your enjoyment, the time you spend lingering with a person or an idea and your willingness to help are all expressions of gratitude heard loud and clear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll dance with a deal -- not because the deal asked you to dance but because you were already on the dance floor together. Keep dancing and see what else comes. There's soon to be a crowd.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't let the ideal in your head block the reality in front of your nose. There is something very useful close at hand. You can do amazing thing with this scene exactly the way it is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Do you have the feeling there's someone out there waiting for someone like you to show up? Well, that's certainly the case, and the more outreach you do, the faster the match can get made.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

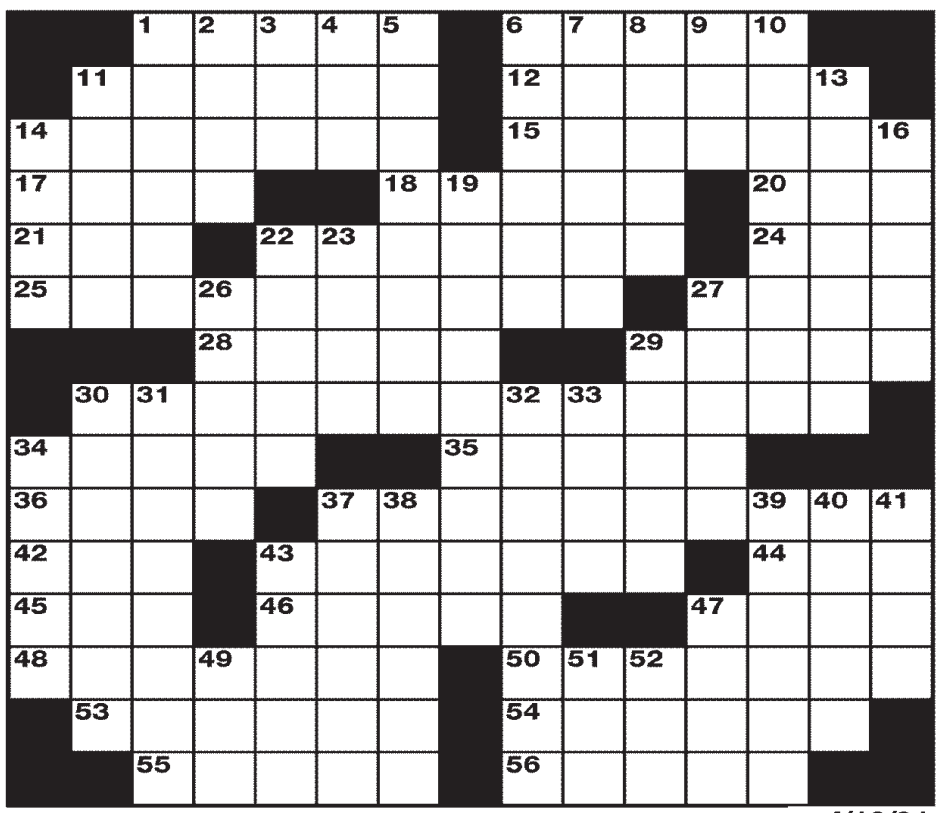
		3	4		8	9		
	1		5		3			
	6							5
6		7				3		2
			2		4			
8		9				1		4
7							6	
			1		2		7	
		5	9		6	2		

Newsday Crossword

THEMELESS SATURDAY by Anna Stiga
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Polish relative
6 Big name in guitar making
11 Overdone
12 Cylindrical sweet
14 One drifting
15 Persona in many a '50s film
17 Where oranges were first eaten
18 Dark-meat delicacy
20 Kentucky Dam operator
21 Fulfilled
22 What banquet halls dispense with
24 Dirt collector
25 They're paid to strike
27 *"O Rei do Futebol"*
28 Became a thing
29 Jefferson's predecessor as Virginia governor
30 Expedient but imperfect
34 Fraction of a quarter
35 Ties up or down
36 Jazzes (up)
37 Zeus in *Wrath of the Titans*
42 Where Bolt got three golds
43 What Orwell and Woolf kept
44 Needle point
45 More than seem
46 She delivers for you
47 Credit Union Administration cousin
48 One giving things away
50 Seuss' sticky stuff
53 Cruise companion, once
54 Intact
55 Evil invoked
56 Jazzes (up)

DOWN
1 Cartesian quote starter
2 Big name in the Harlem Renaissance
3 Inflight enlightenment
4 Take for a ride
5 Pepper Palace product
6 Smooth out some rough spots
7 *13* preceder
8 Gives things away
9 One giving things away
10 Topical application
11 Dart propeller
13 Extended competition
14 Play it by ear
16 Nickname like Rin
19 Elizabeth's grandmum
22 Illumination improvisation
23 Jedi ally
26 Tries to antagonize
27 Independently
29 What a staff is made of
30 Muslim holy city
31 Irreversible?
32 Box-set pastime
33 Ready to serve
34 Statue at the *Musée de la Révolution française*
37 Smears with ink
38 Oral concurrence
39 Early spring commemorative meals
40 Pretty well decided
41 Thinnest part of a violin
43 Antonym of "elation"
47 Go to another party
49 Object of a Baylor 13 Down
51 Grammy Album of the Year sharer (1982)
52 It's about 250 calories



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/10/21

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

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



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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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5079

Grocery shopping

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

Aisle
Asked
Bagels
Bananas
Basil
Beans
Bread
Carrot
Cauliflower
Chat
Cheese
Chicken
Choko
Clutter
Cocoa
Copha
Coriander
Costly
Drinks
Eggs
Entree
Fish
Fruit
Garlic
Grapes
Lemonade
Mousse
Oranges
Pasta
Plums
Reductions
Refunds
Rissole
Sale
Spaghetti
Steak
Tomato

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MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT *It's Time!*

You Should Know...

the facts supporting why Malibu should have its own school district

Fact #1 **The district board of education is Santa Monica centric.** Malibu voters are outnumbered. There is currently only one board member from Malibu on the school board.

Fact #2 **Santa Monica and Malibu already operate separately.** The District has separate educational tracks for each community along with separate service clubs, youth sports leagues, city government, emergency responders, etc.

Fact #3 **Reorganization will not change the racial and ethnic distribution in schools.** Attendance boundaries will not change. A 2% shift in the racial balance in Santa Monica schools will not substantially change the demographics of the district.

Fact #4 The percentage of low socio-economic, English language learners, foster, and homeless students in each community **would not change under separation**.

Fact #5 **Per pupil funding is expected to increase for Santa Monica and Malibu if they separate**. There is very little adverse financial impact by separating Malibu from SM-MUSD.

Fact #6 **SM-MUSD receives about $50 million in Other Local Funding** each year beyond state education funding and property tax sources. That makes up almost 35% of the General Fund Budget. Santa Monica will be able to retain most of these funds in separation.

Fact #7 **Malibu pays in 1/3 of the $90 million property tax revenue** into the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District budget, but only has 14% of the students. That's not fair or equitable.

Fact #8 SM-MUSD currently ranks 3rd in LA County for per pupil funding behind only Beverly Hills and Acton-Agua Dulce. After reorganization, **Malibu USD would still rank 3rd and Santa Monica USD would rank 4th**.

Fact #9 **As a safety net, Malibu has offered a ten-year tax sharing plan to protect Santa Monica** if there is any chance it will slip below its current per pupil funding level.

Fact #10 **Consistently, Malibu students are shortchanged and disadvantaged**. Santa Monica has more foreign language and elementary music teachers, and the AVID, Dual Immersion, Young Collegians Programs are not offered in Malibu, for example.

Fact #11 **In emergencies like fires, mudslides, road closures, power outages and earthquakes SM-MUSD cannot respond quickly enough** to coordinate local support and direction for Malibu schools. When PCBs were discovered in Malibu facilities, it took a lawsuit to get the SM-MUSD board to act.

Fact #12 **It is very inconvenient** for Malibu students, parents, and staff to do business with the district office. It is a 45-minute, 20-mile drive down crowded PCH to get from Malibu High to the SM-MUSD headquarters.

Fact #13 **The SM-MUSD could never be formed under current laws**. The state requires school districts to represent contiguous areas. Malibu and Santa Monica aren't geographically connected. You have to leapfrog parts of LA Unified to get from one city to the other.

To find out more facts go to: **Malibucity.org/MUSD**

Supported by Advocates for Malibu Public Schools (AMPS) and the City of Malibu