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Minneapolis prepares
City fortified after Chauvin guilty verdict.
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Court Verdict
Chauvin guilty in George Floyd's death.
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Proposed bill could convert Penmar Golf Course to low income housing



Courtesy Photo

HOUSING: If passed, Assembly Bill 672 could pave the way to convert the local Penmar golf course to an affordable housing development complex.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

A newly proposed bill in the state assembly would strip municipal golf courses of their park status protections and encourage their conversion to low income housing developments.

AB 672 was introduced on Feb. 21 by AD58 Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, who represents a portion of South East L.A. County including Bell Gardens. Under the bill municipal golf courses could be rezoned into housing developments that offer 25 percent affordable units and 15 percent open-space.

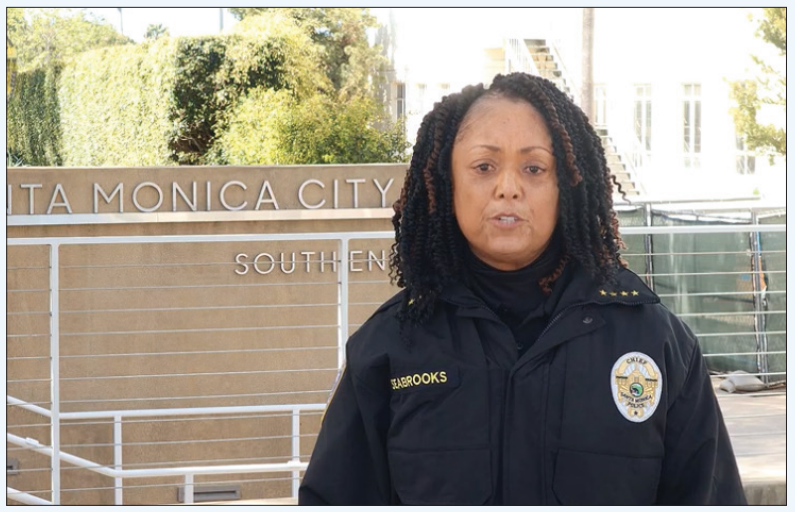
The bill targets municipal golf courses in high-density and park-poor areas, and would exempt them from the Public Park Preservation Act and the California Environmental Quality Act.

Larry Cloud, President of the Penmar Golf Course, fears Penmar

SEE **GOLF** PAGE 11

SMPD cites safety as priority

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer



File Photo

UNREST: Santa Monica Police Department officials said there is no threat.

Local residents are worried Santa Monica could soon see incidents similar to the riots of last May now that a verdict in the Derek Chauvin case has been reached. But police officials took time this week to ensure residents that everything is under control.

It has been many months since Floyd was killed while handcuffed by Minneapolis Police but the tension from the events of last May haven't waned much, Interim Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks noted this week in a video where she said, "Our general sensitivities continue to be affected by the senseless deaths of Mr. George Floyd, and more recently, Mr. Daunte Wright."

"Because these deliberations and, very likely, the verdict will occur just as the initial stages of the case against the officer-involved in the death of Mr. Wright takes place, we here at the Santa Monica Police Department certainly understand that you may be concerned about the safety of our community," Seabrooks added, stating the women and men of your police department are steadfastly committed to the safety of residents throughout the city.

In recent weeks, Seabrooks said, she and fellow SMPD staff have regularly met with the City's Neighborhood Associations and Business Improvement Districts via video conferences to further explain, answer questions, and hopefully put any concerns at ease.

"Accordingly, we have been closely monitoring the events in Minneapolis and within our region," she said, noting how local residents might have noticed a gradual increase in the deployment of field-based personnel that began last weekend.

But that's only part of SMPD's efforts to ensure first amendment rights and safety is upheld in the community.

"We remain in contact with our regional partners and have activated our pre-planned tiered response," SMPD officials said Tuesday, just prior to the reading of the verdict. "You will continue to see a strong presence of uniformed police personnel throughout the city... It is

SEE **SMPD** PAGE 6

Planning Commission to consider Shore Hotel amendments

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

The Shore Hotel could soon be expanded to include additional amenities like a 14-room micro-hotel, an ancillary 80-seat restaurant with a bar and patio that will be operated as a restaurant with entertainment, among others, if officials were to receive approval from city leaders during this week's Planning Commission meeting.

Jon Farzam, Vice President of the Shore Hotel, said this week the proposal is pretty straightforward.

"We want to open our current food and beverage services to everyone instead of just hotel guests, offer massage services to guests in-room or in a portable tent (we're not building a spa), and we are asking for a variance to convert our existing space on 2nd Street – that has been vacant and underutilized since we opened in 2011 – to 14 affordable micro-hotel rooms and a small café that would also be open to the public. This would all happen within the hotel's existing footprint; our existing buildings would in no way be expanded," Farzam said. "The primary reason we are proposing the CUP amendment is because we want to better serve the community. We've paid attention to the needs expressed by Santa Monica residents during recent public hearings for other local hotel proposals and the most common complaint was that hotels serve tourists and not Santa Monicans. That really reinforced to us that we should make our services more accessible to our neighbors. We want locals to enjoy our food and beverage services instead of what we currently do, which is only serve hotel guests."

In addition to opening the Shore Hotel's doors to Santa Monica residents, hotel leaders believe the proposal before the Planning Commission this week would also create jobs that would prioritize Santa Monica residents and help fill a void in city sales tax revenue.

"At a macro level, the project will serve an equally important purpose of providing equitable and affordable lodging to the region's most underserved population. We want to welcome everyone to our hotel..." Farzam said.

But, according to a staff report, because the design and functionality of the proposed micro-hotel is contingent on the

SEE **COMMISSION** PAGE 11



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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

SUBJECT: 20ENT-0196 (Development Review Permit)
1546 9th Street
APPLICANT: Luis de Moraes, Envirotechno Architecture, Inc.
PROPERTY OWNER: AVE I Group

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

Development Review Permit to allow for a new (Tier 2) 3-story, 9-unit residential housing project totaling 9,236 square feet with one subterranean level of parking and private rooftop deck area. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.40.040, the Planning Commission is the responsible authority to approve, conditionally approve, or deny Development Review Permit applications.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021 AT 5:30 PM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Planning Commission 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/yxthkrde or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 3803092 #).

HOW TO COMMENT: he City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@smgov.net. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Additionally, public comment can be made by telephone by pre-registering on the link provided on the posted online agenda no later than 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item.

Address your comments to: Michael Rocque, Associate Planner
Re: 20ENT-0196

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Michael Rocque at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at michael.rocque@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. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. 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 applicaciónes 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.

In Minneapolis, city fortified after Chauvin guilty verdict

TIM SULLIVAN
Associated Press

Just outside the entrance to Smile Orthodontics, in a Minneapolis neighborhood of craft breweries and trendy shops, two soldiers in jungle camouflage and body armor were on watch, assault rifles slung over their backs. Snow flurries blew around them. A few steps away at the Iron Door Pub, three more National Guard soldiers and a Minneapolis police officer stood out front, watching the street. A handful of other soldiers were scattered nearby, along with four camouflaged Humvees and a couple police cars.

Across the street was a boarded-up building spray-painted with big yellow letters: "BLACK LIVES MATTER ALL YEAR ROUND."

Adam Martinez was walking down the street when he briefly stopped to stare at the scene.

"This city feels like it's occupied by the military," said Martinez, a commercial painter who lives in nearby St. Paul. "This is so weird."

The jury of six white people and six Black or multiracial ones came back with its verdict Tuesday after about 10 hours of deliberations over two days. Chauvin was found guilty on all charges: second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

More than 3,000 National Guard soldiers, along with police officers, state police, sheriffs deputies and other law enforcement personnel have flooded the city in recent days, with a verdict looming in the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former police officer charged with murder in the death last year of George Floyd.

But in the city that has come to epitomize America's debate over police killings, there are places today in Minneapolis that can feel almost like a police state.

It leaves many wondering: How much is too much?

Concrete barriers, chain-link fences and barbed wire now ring parts of downtown Minneapolis so that authorities can quickly close off the courthouse where the trial is being held. It's become normal in recent days to pass convoys of desert-tan military vehicles on nearby highways, and stumble across armed men and women standing guard.

One day they'll park their armored vehicles in front of the high-end kitchen store with its $160 bread knives and $400 cooking pots. The next they'll be outside the Depression-era movie theater, or the popular Mexican grocery store or the liquor store ransacked by rioters during the protests that followed Floyd's death.

Meanwhile hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of stores and other buildings have been boarded up across the city, from Absolute Bail Bonds to glass-walled downtown office towers to Floyd's 99 Barbershop.

Behind all the security are the days of violence that began with protests over Floyd's death. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz faced withering criticism for not stepping in quicker to deploy the National Guard. City officials estimate the city suffered roughly $350 million in damage, mostly to commercial properties.

"They're between a rock and hard place," said Eli Silverman, professor emeritus at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a longtime scholar of policing. "You don't want to overmilitarize and make it appear that you've converted a sovereign state into a police state. But on the other hand, you have to be prepared, too," in case protests flare again.

More important than the size of the force, he said, is the expertise and planning behind it. Law enforcement leaders, for example, need to ensure proper crowd control training, and that officers from other jurisdictions are under a single command.

"It's not just numbers, it's the strategic decisions that are incorporated in these things," he said.

Minneapolis has a coordinated law-enforcement plan, called Operation Safety Net, that oversees planning and law-enforcement responses.

Speaking on Monday to reporters, top law-enforcement officials stood alongside local community leaders and vowed to protect property, allow peaceful protests, and try to de-escalate tensions before demonstrations turn violent.

Recent history, though, hasn't been so peaceful. A little over a week ago, 20-year-old Daunte Wright, a Black man, was killed by police during a traffic stop in the Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Center.

Protests outside the city's police headquarters regularly spilled into violence, with protesters lobbing water bottles and the occasional rock at an array of law enforcement officers, and law enforcement responding by going after protesters - and sometimes journalists - with pepper spray, tear gas and rubber bullets.

"We know we need to do better. What happened the last few days wasn't something we wanted," Hennepin County Sheriff David Hutchinson said at the press conference. "But we had to act to keep the community safe. And I will never back down from anybody when it comes to keeping this county safe."

Many here doubt the promises of law enforcement, which has long had a troubled relationship with the city's Black community.

Burhan Israfael, a community organizer who lives in Cedar-Riverside, a Minneapolis neighborhood with one of the largest East African communities in the country, said

SEE **MINNEAPOLIS** PAGE 7

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 297 CALLS ON APRIL 19

Assault Now 2300blk Main St 1:12 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Just Occurred 2200blk Oak St 12:06 a.m.
Auto Burglary Now 1300blk Princeton St 12:33 a.m.
Death Investigation 200blk Ocean Ave 1:07 a.m.
Trespassing 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:09 a.m.
Lewd Activity 1000blk 9th St 5:22 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 6:19 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:26 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 700blk Lincoln Blvd 7:32 a.m.
Trespassing 1600blk Colorado Ave 7:35 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 7:40 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2600blk 11th St 8:31 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 600blk San Vicente Blvd 8:36 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Now 1400blk Palisades Park 9:08 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 900blk 15th St 9:14 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:32 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1200blk 4th St 9:50 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 900blk 3rd St 10:03 a.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 4th St / San Vicente Blvd 10:03 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1700blk California Ave 10:31 a.m.
Trespassing 100blk Hart Ave 10:50 a.m.
Trespassing 1200blk 9th St 11:02 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 11:39 a.m.
Identity Theft 1200blk 6th St 12:20 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk 14th St 12:27 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1200blk Ocean Ave 12:32 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1400blk 2nd St 12:59 p.m.
Fraud Report 200blk Montana Ave 1:32 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:43 p.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 2400blk Main St 2:02 p.m.
Encampment 1300blk 14th St 2:42 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 300blk Olympic Dr 2:45 p.m.
Fraud Report 200blk Montana Ave 2:54 p.m.
Panic Alarm 900blk Montana Ave 3:20 p.m.
Covid 2900blk Exposition Blvd 3:38 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2200blk Virginia Ave 4:07 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 4:11 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 400blk Pico Blvd 5:03 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 200blk 26th St 5:12 p.m.
Battery Report 4600blk Lincoln Blvd, Mdr Hospital 5:15 p.m.
Trespassing 900blk Montana Ave 5:25 p.m.
Battery Report Main St / Bicknell Ave 5:39 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 5:56 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2800blk Main St 6:01 p.m.
Fight 800blk Palisades Beach Rd 6:03 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2800blk Main St 6:09 p.m.
Bomb Threat 1500blk Ocean Ave 6:11 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 400blk Pico Blvd 6:22 p.m.
Auto Burglary Now 2000blk Ocean Ave 6:23 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 900blk 2nd St 6:34 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk Grant St 6:56 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 7:01 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 100blk Strand St 7:27 p.m.
Person Down 700blk Ozone St 7:42 p.m.
Overdose 900blk The Beach 8:03 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1400blk Olympic Blvd 8:10 p.m.
Battery Report 1300blk 2nd St 8:20 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk Grant St 9:22 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk Euclid St 9:55 p.m.
Injured Person 2600blk 28th St 10:01 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Main St / Pico Blvd 10:47 p.m.
Trespassing 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 11:03 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 11:24 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 39 CALLS ON APRIL 19

EMS 800blk 2nd St 12:26 a.m.
EMS 200blk Ocean Ave 1:02 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Main St 2:05 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 3:17 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 9th St 6:05 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk 23rd St 8:01 a.m.
EMS 900blk 26th St 8:20 a.m.
EMS 900blk Pico Blvd 8:32 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:19 a.m.
Wires Down 900blk Stanford St 9:37 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 4th St / San Vicente Blvd 10:03 a.m.
EMS 300blk San Vicente Blvd 10:08 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 5th St 10:39 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 11:48 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 700blk 14th St 12:00 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:03 p.m.
EMS 9th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:27 p.m.
Broken Gas Main 2300blk 29th St 1:28 p.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 1:42 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Arizona Ave 1:49 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 2:33 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 26th St 2:40 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 2:50 p.m.
EMS 700blk 16th St 2:57 p.m.
EMS 600blk Lincoln Blvd 3:13 p.m.
EMS Main St / Bicknell Ave 5:13 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 18th St 5:29 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Arizona Ave 6:24 p.m.
EMS 100blk Marguerita Ave 6:24 p.m.
EMS 6th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:49 p.m.
EMS 26th St / Olympic Blvd 8:24 p.m.
EMS 300blk Pico Blvd 11:49 p.m.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

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City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom**

SUBJECT: 21ENT-0048 (Conditional Use Permit)
420 Broadway
APPLICANT: Target Corporation
PROPERTY OWNER: 420 Broadway, LLC

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

The applicant (Target) requests approval of a Conditional Use Permit (21ENT-0048) to allow for the general sale of alcohol for off-site consumption (Type 21 ABC license) in conjunction with the operation of an existing 23,811 square foot general retail store within the Transit Adjacent (TA) District of the Downtown Community Plan area. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.31.040(B), a Conditional Use Permit is required for the dispensation of alcoholic beverages for on-site or off-site consumption.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021 AT 5:30 PM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Planning Commission 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/yxthkrde or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (US) (PIN: 3803092 #)

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Additionally, public comment can be made by telephone by pre-registering on the link provided on the posted online agenda no later than 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item.

Address your letters to: Ivan Lai, Assistant Planner
Re: 21ENT-0048

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Ivan Lai by e-mail at ivan.lai@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. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. 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.

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

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Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

DID YOU KNOW...?



File Photo

NOTEWORTHY: It's hard to figure out our City government...

SOME SLIDES ARE MORE FUN THAN OTHERS

Around 2008 I finally got fed up with the increasing deterioration I saw unfolding in my beloved low-rise beach town with its long, rich history, and I did not like it. There was construction popping up everywhere, so much new building, tall buildings, wide buildings crowding the sidewalks, new traffic jams, street patterns changed to accommodate them, downtown Santa Monica became a place I no longer wanted to grapple with, more and more tourists, literally millions, crime was increasing and safety became a question, homelessness was intensifying and more people were living in their cars.

All the funky charm, history, tradition, arts feel and sense of place I came here for was vanishing, plowed under, built over, run out of town. Such a unique, vital, world-famous resource being destroyed. LA's beachside break, breath of fresh air, slipping away. Sad. Angry. Who's responsible? I finally decided I had to find out.

IT'S A TOUGH CHOICE

Do you just resign yourself to it all and feel helpless? Or try to find out how the sausage is made? I completely understand inertia; most of us don't have the time or patience for this nonsense, impactful though it may be.

It would mostly have to wait, years, because unravelling the politics of Santa Monica is a job for a Phillip Marlowe with the patience of Job. Money is definitely a big factor. You didn't have a chance for City Council without a campaign war chest of at least six figures. What will you do to get that kind of money?

Do you remember? That our new Mayor Sue Himmelrich put up $160,000 of her own money for her successful first campaign for City Council in 2014. Additionally, her husband Michael Soloff donated $10,000 each to Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) and the local Democratic Party, both of whom endorsed her. Soloff was soon appointed to the Housing Commission, and became its chair.

Is self-funding a campaign a bad thing, or good? It means the candidate is beholden to no one. On the other hand, it also puts a City Council seat out of reach for all but the wealthy, or those willing to be influenced by big donors. (Until -- 2020.)

There are a lot of things most voters in Santa Monica are unaware of, or forgot, that could affect how they vote next time around. It's no wonder: or politics seem to be intentionally opaque. The City Manager, the alliances, the staff reports, the School Board, the budget, the commissions. The power brokers don't want you to know much. But being informed is a really good idea.

CITY COUNCIL

The incumbents are Gleam Davis, Kevin McKeown and Sue Himmelrich. You can't blame Kristin McCowan for anything that happened before July 14, when she was appointed to the vacant seat of resigning Greg Moreno.

But if the sitting members of City Council are the ones deciding for a vacant seat, isn't it natural (but not right) they would pick someone who would have the same political leanings, and probably vote the way they vote? Thus consolidating power. Without our votes.

In January 2019 Ana Maria Jara was appointed to fill the seat of Tony Vasquez, who resigned to run, successfully, for the state Board of Equalization. Even though there was supposed to be consideration that night of more than one candidate, before a decision, Jara showed up with a passel of family and friends, who celebrated her appointment. But... it hadn't been decided yet, right?

Did you know, that's how it's done? I think we should have a special election for something as important as a Council seat. Even if it's being filled for only a short time, that makes the appointee an incumbent in the next election and it's very, very hard to unseat an incumbent. One month after a vacancy, or whenever the laws allow, we should hold that special election. Maybe not that many people would turn out to vote, but it would be better than only six, very biased people deciding.

Did you know the position of mayor is a lot more than just ceremonial or ego gratification? The mayor has a big part in setting the meeting agendas, and that is important in what can or cannot be done, or even discussed.

Those agendas and staff reports can be massive, and usually arrive only a few days before a Council meeting. What's up with that? They can be dense, wonky, and filled

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 6

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

Chauvin guilty of murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death

AMY FORLITI, STEPHEN GROVES, TAMMY WEBBER AND STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

Former Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin was convicted Tuesday of murder and manslaughter for pinning George Floyd to the pavement with his knee on the Black man's neck in a case that touched off worldwide protests, violence and a furious reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

Chauvin, 45, could be sent to prison for decades.

The verdict set off jubilation around the city. People instantly flooded the surrounding streets downtown, running through traffic with banners, and cars blared their horns. Floyd family members gathered at a Minneapolis conference room could be heard cheering and even laughing.

The jury of six white people and six Black or multiracial people came back with its verdict after about 10 hours of deliberations over two days. Chauvin was found guilty on all charges: second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

His face was obscured by a COVID-19 mask, and little reaction could be seen beyond his eyes darting around the courtroom. His bail was immediately revoked and he was led away with his hands cuffed behind his back. Sentencing will be in two months.

As the judge asked jurors if they reached a verdict, a hush fell on the crowd 300 strong in a park adjacent to the courthouse, with people listening to the proceedings on their cellphones. When the final guilty verdict was announced, the crowd roared, many people hugging, some shedding tears.

At the intersection where Floyd was pinned down, a crowd chanted, "One down, three to go!" — a reference to the three other fired Minneapolis police officers facing trial in August on charges of aiding and abetting murder in Floyd's death.

Janay Henry, who lives nearby, said she felt grateful and relieved.

"I feel grounded. I can feel my feet on the concrete," she said, adding that she was looking forward to the "next case with joy and optimism and strength."

An ecstatic Whitney Lewis leaned halfway out a car window in a growing traffic jam of revelers waving a Black Lives Matter flag. "Justice was served," the 32-year-old from Minneapolis said. "It means George Floyd can now rest."

Prosecutor Jerry Blackwell, who pounded away at Chauvin's witnesses during the trial, said the verdict sends a message to Floyd's family "that he was somebody, that his life matters."

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison commended the bystanders at Floyd's slow-motion death who "raised their voices because they knew that what they were seeing was wrong," and then "told the whole world" what they saw.

Ellison read off the names of others killed in encounters with police and said: "This has to end. We need true justice. That's not one case. That's social transformation that says no one is beneath the law and no one is above it."

The verdict was read in a courthouse ringed with concrete barriers and razor wire and patrolled by National Guard troops, in a city on edge against another round of unrest — not just because of the Chauvin case but because of the deadly police shooting of a young Black man, Daunte Wright, in a Minneapolis suburb April 11.

The jurors' identities were kept secret and will not be released until the judge decides it is safe to do so.

Floyd, 46, died May 25 after being arrested on suspicion of passing a counterfeit $20 bill for a pack of cigarettes at a corner market. He panicked, pleaded that he was claustrophobic and struggled with police when they tried to put him in a squad car. They put him on the ground instead.

The centerpiece of the case was the excruciating bystander video of Floyd gasping repeatedly, "I can't breathe" and onlookers yelling at Chauvin to stop as the officer pressed his knee on or close to Floyd's neck for what authorities say was 9 1/2 minutes. Floyd slowly went silent and limp.

Prosecutors played the footage at the earliest opportunity, during opening statements, with Jerry Blackwell telling the jury: "Believe your eyes." And it was shown over and over, analyzed one frame at a time by witnesses on both sides.

In the wake of Floyd's death, demonstrations and scattered violence broke out in Minneapolis, around the country and beyond. The furor also led to the removal of Confederate statues and other offensive symbols such as Aunt Jemima.

In the months that followed, numerous states and cities restricted the use of force by police, revamped disciplinary systems or subjected police departments to closer oversight.

The "Blue Wall of Silence" that often protects police accused of wrongdoing crumbled after Floyd's death: The Minneapolis police chief quickly called it "murder" and fired all four officers, and the city reached a staggering $27 million settlement with Floyd's family as jury selection was underway.

Police-procedure experts and law enforcement veterans inside and outside the Minneapolis department, including the chief, testified for the prosecution that Chauvin used excessive force and went against his training.

Medical experts for the prosecution said Floyd died of asphyxia, or lack of oxygen, because his breathing was constricted by the way he was held down on his stomach, his hands cuffed behind him, a knee on his neck and his face jammed against the ground.

Chauvin attorney Eric Nelson called a police use-of-force expert and a forensic

SEE **MURDER** PAGE 6



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City of Santa Monica
SustainableWorks
Environmental Education and Action



The Film I am Greta, the story of teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg, is told through compelling, never-before-seen footage in this intimate documentary from Swedish director Nathan Grossman. Starting with her one-person school strike for climate action outside the Swedish Parliament, Grossman follows Greta - a shy schoolgirl with Asperger's – in her rise to prominence, and her galvanizing global impact as she sparks school strikes around the world. The film culminates with her astonishing wind powered voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to speak at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York City.

You can watch the trailer here. **www.iamgreta.film/videos/**

Tuesday, May 4th 6:00 pm PST

Online event A link to the event will be sent on the day of the event. Please check your email.

Register at **www.cityofsantamonica_iamgreta.eventbrite.com**

Panel A Panel discussion with Santa Monica College Associated Students Director of Sustainability, Tatiana Claure, Climate Action Santa Monica (CASM) Steering Committee member & Climate Corps Lead Intern, Mica Williams, and CASM Member and Southern California Governor, Junior State of America, Lilly Chertock will follow the film.

Ngozi Chukwueke, AmeriCorps CivicSpark Fellow 2020-21, City of Santa Monica will moderate the panel.

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 4

with extraneous material to wade through. The first one presented to the newly elected three on Council was more than 1,000 pages! I think each Council member needs a full time assistant, instead of all sharing one. It would make for better governance.

SCHOOL BOARD

Did you know... we the voters have given our school district about one and a third BILLION dollars, with the last four bond measures? And bond money can only go for physical improvements and construction, not hiring teachers or offering new classes. Some think this huge bank account accounts for the master construction plan that will eliminate open space at schools that has been available to the community, and result in legacy buildings being demolished at Samohi (including the History Building), even though many individuals and organizations have asked the district to call a pause for discussion of alternatives, since knowledge of the longstanding plans became much more widely known in the last six months. The district has refused, but has put things off a few weeks.

ORGANIZED CRIME?!

In Santa Monica? On the Pier? Even I find it shocking this is allowed to continue, but there they are, the Murcia Gang, Mexican mafia, with their un-permitted cart vendors illegally on the Pier, firing up their propane tanks with tens of thousands jamming the wooden pier, threatening non-Murcia vendors away (death threats), with nary a cop in sight. A fight broke out about a week ago in the parking lot, actually two fights, and at least two of the four adults arrested were named Murcia.

Much, much more information and transparency, please, all around this town. What you don't know can definitely hurt you.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

MURDER

FROM PAGE 5

pathologist to help make the case that Chauvin acted reasonably against a struggling suspect and that Floyd died because of an underlying heart condition and his illegal drug use.

Floyd had high blood pressure, an enlarged heart and narrowed arteries, and fentanyl and methamphetamine were found in his system.

Under the law, police have certain leeway to use force and are judged according to whether their actions were "reasonable" under the circumstances.

The defense also tried to make the case that Chauvin and the other officers were hindered in their duties by what they perceived as a growing, hostile crowd.

Chauvin did not testify, and all that the jury or the public ever heard by way of an explanation from him came from a police body-camera video after an ambulance had taken the 6-foot-4, 223-pound Floyd away. Chauvin told a bystander: "We gotta control this guy 'cause he's a sizable guy ... and it looks like he's probably on something."

The prosecution's case also included tearful testimony from onlookers who said the police kept them back when they protested what was happening. Eighteen-year-old Darnella Frazier, who shot the crucial video, said Chauvin just gave the bystanders a "cold" and "heartless" stare.

She and others said they felt a sense of helplessness and lingering guilt from witnessing Floyd's death.

"It's been nights I stayed up, apologizing and apologizing to George Floyd for not doing more, and not physically interacting and not saving his life," Frazier testified, while the 19-year-old cashier at the neighborhood market, Christopher Martin, lamented that "this could have been avoided" if only he had rejected the suspect $20 bill.

To make Floyd more than a crime statistic in the eyes of the jury, the prosecution called to the stand his girlfriend, who told the story of how they met and how they struggled with addiction to opioids, and his younger brother Philonise. He recalled how Floyd helped teach him to catch a football and made "the best banana mayonnaise sandwiches."

SMPD

FROM PAGE 1

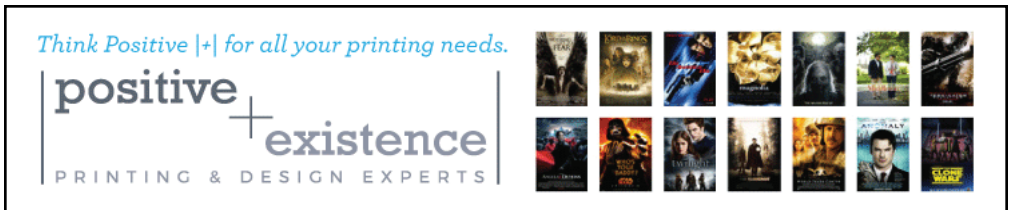
imperative that our community remain vigilant at all times."

Seabrooks concluded this week's message by encouraging business owners to check out a comprehensive checklist of recommended actions that will keep their property safe in the coming days. The list is available online at bit.ly/2QktEnL.

"Many of these recommendations also apply to our residents. So take a peek and implement as you see fit," Seabrooks said, mentioning there has been no indication of any threats or any activities specifically targeting our community. "Now, should that change, of course, you will receive updated information by way of community notifications or by our social media platforms."

Brennon@smdp.com





Letter to the Editor

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

In today's article, you make the wildly incorrect statement that Malibu provides 30 percent of the District's revenue. Not even Malibu folks would make that claim.

The District's total revenue is about $147 million and property tax revenue is about $94 million. In order for Malibu to supply 30% of the total, they would have to be contributing about $44 million. The only measurable Malibu sources are property tax and parcel tax. Thirty percent of the parcel tax is about $3.8 million, which means that the Malibu property tax revenue would have to be over $40 million or about 42.5% of the total property tax revenue, which is absurd. You entirely ignore the $22 million projected to come from the City of Santa Monica and $2 million from the Santa Monica Education Foundation, among funds from other sources.

Malibu sometimes claims it contributes 30% of the property tax revenue which is also likely incorrect. Under ever-shifting State laws relating to the allocation of countywide property tax since Prop. 13 passed in 1978, the more likely reality is that there's no way to determine how much of the property taxes paid by Malibu property owners finds its way to the District.

As stated by the State Legislative Analyst's Office: "To implement Proposition 13, the Legislature enacted the AB 8 property tax allocation system. A single countywide rate of 1 percent replaced the numerous individual government tax rates. Although taxpayers gained the assurance that their rate could not increase from year-to-year, they lost the ability to see which entities receive revenues from their payments."

Tom Larmore, Santa Monica

MINNEAPOLIS

FROM PAGE 2

the presence of military vehicles and armed soldiers was terrifying. He said the terror strikes particularly sharply at the city's many immigrants who fled violence for the safety of the United States.

"I don't know anybody that experienced and lived through something like that, that feels comfortable coming outside," he said. "To be faced with the violent image of somebody dressed in all that camouflage, sort of parading around those massive weapons — is unsettling for sure."

But plenty of others believe the city needs to be ready for trouble.

The Rev. Ian Bethel, a leader in the city's Black church community, sounded almost angry Monday as he spoke alongside the law enforcement officials.

"We're at a difficult time here, all of us having emotions, anxieties and stress that most of us have not been able yet to express in a proper way," he said. "But let me make this clear: One way you do not express whatever you got tied up in you is through violence."

On Monday afternoon, soon after lawyers' closing arguments and the Chauvin case going to the jury, about 300 protesters marched outside the courthouse.

There was no sign of violence.

Associated Press writers Kathleen Hennessey and Mohamed Ibrahim contributed to this report.

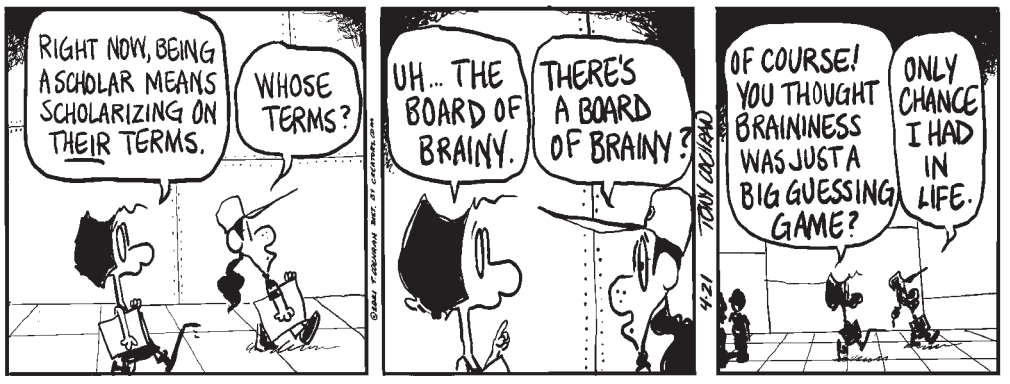






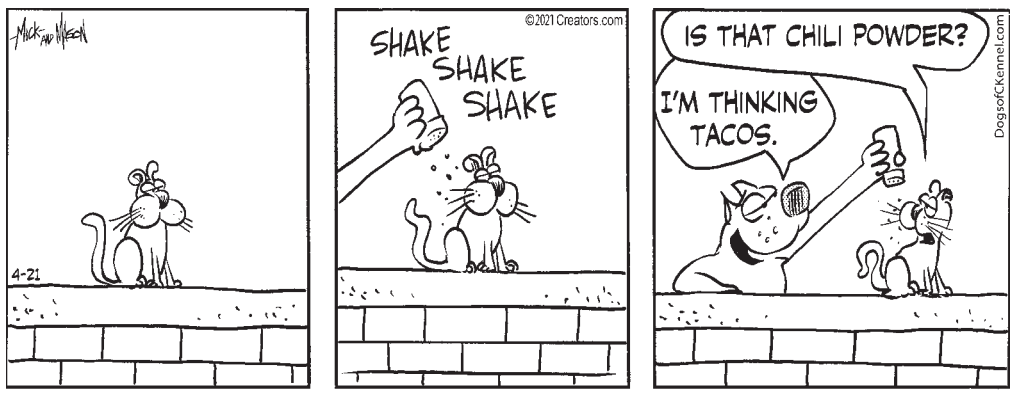
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



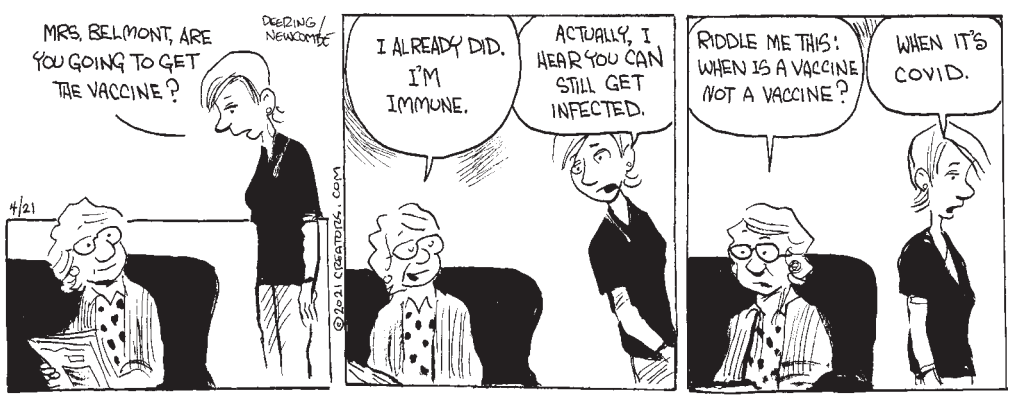
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



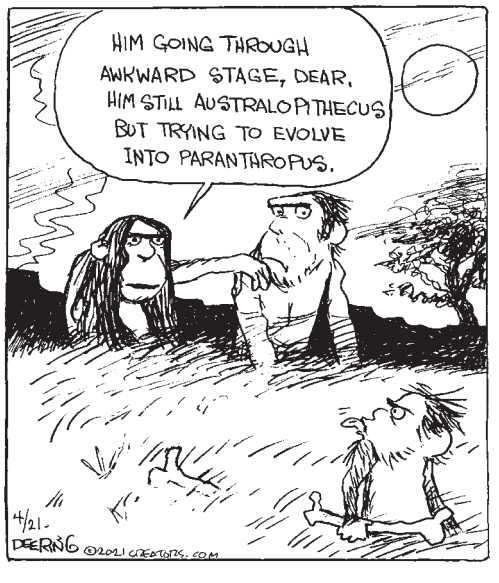
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.8°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
Decent little round of WNW/NW swell blends with building SSW/S swell mix - best as early high tide drops.

THURSDAY - **FAIR TO GOOD** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
Playful blend of easing WNW/NW swell and fun S swell - best as early high tide drops.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 63.
Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain after 11pm. Cloudy, with a low around 54.
Thursday: A 20 percent chance of rain before 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 63.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/04/21	Wed	05:00 AM	4.17	H
2021/04/21	Wed	12:29 PM	-0.02	L
2021/04/21	Wed	7:28 PM	3.82	H
2021/04/22	Thu	12:33 AM	2.24	L
2021/04/22	Thu	06:09 AM	4.45	H
2021/04/22	Thu	1:06 PM	-0.20	L
2021/04/22	Thu	7:45 PM	4.25	H
2021/04/23	Fri	01:18 AM	1.53	L
2021/04/23	Fri	07:05 AM	4.72	H
2021/04/23	Fri	1:40 PM	-0.28	L
2021/04/23	Fri	8:07 PM	4.75	H
2021/04/24	Sat	02:01 AM	0.77	L
2021/04/24	Sat	07:57 AM	4.89	H
2021/04/24	Sat	2:13 PM	-0.21	L
2021/04/24	Sat	8:33 PM	5.29	H
2021/04/25	Sun	02:44 AM	0.01	L
2021/04/25	Sun	08:46 AM	4.93	H
2021/04/25	Sun	2:46 PM	-0.01	L
2021/04/25	Sun	9:02 PM	5.79	H
2021/04/26	Mon	03:29 AM	-0.64	L
2021/04/26	Mon	09:35 AM	4.79	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 4/17
10 21 26 41 49
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 90 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/16
17 27 28 50 55
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 257 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/17
2 7 12 29 44
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 39 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/19
10 12 16 21 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/19
EVENING: 4 2 2

Draw Date: 4/19
MIDDAY: 1 9 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/19
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:46.30

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 21)

You may not think of last year as strength training, but you'll notice you're stronger, solid in your footing and moving with confidence. This year is a dance. Parts go off as though intricately choreographed, and other parts are passionately unbridled. You'll be brilliantly partnered in both love and business. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 18, 14 and 32.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Courage doesn't have to be a substance in limited supply. Grow your own. Cultivate it through the magic of habit. Whatever you feel like shrinking from, move toward it instead. Do that over and over and suddenly, you're brave.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The purity of your intention will be felt by all; the loveliness of it reads loud and clear. Because of this, you don't have to say the perfect words or overthink your approach.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be moved to do something unusual, outside the routine, maybe even against the social norms. This is a new day and a new chance for self-reinvention and discovery.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's coming easily to you today -- this charismatic communication that just flows. The more you use it, the stronger that flow becomes. You can share it by speaking on someone's behalf or putting your thoughts in writing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll get two kinds of compliments today: compliments born of neediness (you pity the giver) and compliments that come from genuine appreciation (you love them back).

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Talking to a stranger is always a risk, one worth taking when you feel the friendly vibes flowing today. Regardless of what you learn, good or bad, it will be well worth the effort to get to know new people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When there is no one telling you what you must do to improve, you'll take matters into your own hands. You'll explore novel territory to stay ahead of the game.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your process is more important than the end product. The product will be handed over in the end, but the process is yours. You can use your process over and over, reshaping to fit the problem at hand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As soon as you say what you want, the spirit of resistance perks up its ears and readies itself to take form -- laziness, fear, fatigue... it has many shapes. You're well-equipped to fight them all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As you repeat similar types of projects, you become more proficient in identifying which actions lead to a desirable result. But it's when you're pushed outside your comfort zone that you really shine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're taking care of the things that matter to you. Some of these things you don't recognize as crucial elements of your life, but the fact that you tend to them as you do tells the truer story.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're figuring out what's working for you. All you have to do now is more of it! Each time increases your confidence and competence further and eases your trepidation about scaling up.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

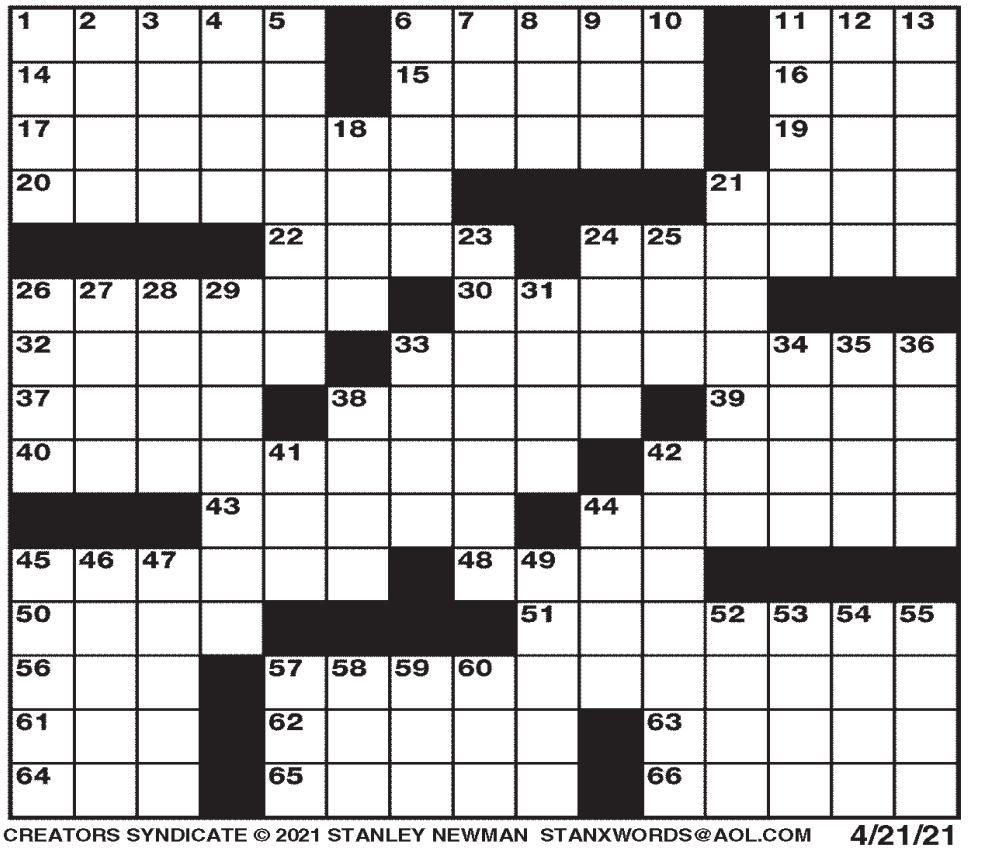
		5		9			4	6
					2			
3		6		4		2		
	4				5	8		3
			9		1			
8		2	3				7	
		7		3		4		8
			1					
5	9			7		1		

Newsday Crossword

OUT OF SHAPE by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Nachos, for instance
6 As a joke
11 Shout from Scrooge
14 Charged toward
15 Icelanders' ancestors
16 Leave amazed
17 Dickensian lad
19 Jazzy horn
20 Circle of friends
21 Become weary
22 Hardships
24 Stamped and sent
26 Talk nonsense
30 Spectrum-showing glass
32 Banishment
33 Where Buttigieg was mayor
37 French fashion mag
38 Duct for laundry
39 Slangy suffix for switch
40 High schooler's infatuation
42 Hunter in the sky
43 Actress Keaton
44 Not in school today
45 Holler
48 "Expertise" power-tool brand
50 Son of Odin
51 "Whew! What a day!"
56 Piece of barbecue
57 Thanksgiving side dish
61 __ Baba
62 Make late
63 Loosen, as laces
64 ATM ID
65 Manage to avoid
66 Opinion piece

DOWN
1 Gator cousin
2 Angelic ring
3 "What's __ for me?"
4 Cover with cobblestones, say
5 Germ-free
6 Spy's acquisition, for short
7 Even as we speak
8 Two days from Wed.
9 Battleship letters
10 After-tax amount
11 Herb in pesto sauce
12 Well-informed
13 Cast a spell on
18 Enrage
21 Wooden beams
23 Husbands and wives
24 Tiny amount
25 Fireplace residue
26 Red veggie
27 Wheel shaft
28 Bad temper
29 Shake-making appliance
31 Babe of baseball
33 Keep away from
34 Buffalo's lake
35 Halfway to tomorrow
36 "__ be too sure!"
38 Overstuff
41 Undercover org.
42 On a slant
44 Objectives
45 Wristwatch holder
46 Spicy hot-dog topping
47 Singer associated with spring
49 Rap star West
52 Hamburger holders
53 Feasts on
54 Where Siberia is
55 Unnamed ones
57 Go on to say
58 Big boss, briefly
59 Time-honored
60 Doll stuffing



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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

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

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



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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5090

Northern Australia

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

Alpha
Arid
Balmy
Beauty
Camp
Cobia
Derby
Dirty
Dust
Fire
Flat
Flood
Giru
Gorges
Gove
Grit
Guide
Heat
Huge
Ingham
Lakes
Marlin
Morven
Motels
Mt Isa
Nebo
Nets
Newman
Olio
Open
Queenfish
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Roma
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Skycity Casino
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Trip
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GOLF

FROM PAGE 1

could be on the chopping block if the bill is passed.

"I would be very concerned about any City of LA course," said Cloud. "If you look at where the courses are: Penmar, Rancho Park, Woodley Lakes, these are places where land values are high and developers would love to get their hands on that."

Penmar Golf Course, which was founded in 1962, provides an affordable golf outlet that is currently utilized by around 600 community members. The course just experienced its busiest summer season as many residents took advantage of the socially distanced outdoor sport.

Cloud disagrees with the underlying logic of the bill — that municipal golf courses are an underutilized public space — and believes they are an important community resource.

"It's an activity that allows people from all different ages and ethnic backgrounds to come together," said Cloud. "You come to some of our club meetings and you see a little bit of everybody. And that's wonderful; that's the kind of open game that it is supposed to be."

Assemblymember Garcia believes that municipal golf courses are an ineffective use of government funds. Referencing the Regional Housing Needs Assessment's call for 1.5 million new housing units in Southern California, Garcia said the state needs to get "creative" if it hopes to address the affordable housing crisis.

"In my district, the City of Bell Gardens, one of the most densely populated and park poor cities in LA County, is expected to build hundreds of new housing units in the near future," said Garcia. "AB 672 is a sensible and creative public policy answer to the housing and open space crisis and puts our tax dollars to better use in communities like mine."

The Southern California Golf Association objects to the logic that municipal golf courses are a poor use of tax dollars and points to the fact that their revenues provide an important funding source for Parks and Recreation.

"The fees and charges routinely cover all the costs of operation, all the costs of replenishing the infrastructure," said Craig Kessler, SCGA governmental affairs director. "$12 million every year goes into the coffers of County Parks and Recreation, which subsidizes those swimming pools, trails, picnic areas, and soccer fields that don't pay for themselves."

A Housing and Community Development Committee hearing has yet to be scheduled for AB 672. If the bill does not pass the committee by April 30 it is unlikely to advance further during the 2021 legislative session.

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COMMISSION

FROM PAGE 1

successful granting of modifications to the Hotel's existing operational Conditional Use Permit, and a variance application that would allow the physical expansion of the Hotel, staff recommends Commissioners adopt a Statement of Official Action Denying the proposed Variance.

Although staff is generally supportive of the additional hotel amenities described, the report states, approval of the proposed Variance requires that the Planning Commission make all ten of the required Variance findings pursuant to SMMC Section 9.42.020. The way it's currently presented though prevents staff from supporting the Variance request that would allow the physical expansion of the Hotel with the introduction of a new micro-hotel component.

As a result, it's been recommended that their inclusion on the listing of Hotel amenities be continued until the hotel's existing Conditional Use Permit can return for consideration to be modified since staff believes that the review and consideration of Hotel operation and amenities is better accomplished holistically.

Jonah Breslau, a former bellhop at the Shore Hotel, said in an interview Tuesday that he feels the project should be wholeheartedly rejected by local leaders.

"The coast is for everybody and we need to protect that access and the ability of people to visit the coast because it's not something that developers can privatize or take away access to," Breslau said, detailing how he's been inspired to fight for coastal access and environmental justice because he's seen firsthand how hard it can be to speak out about the issue as an employee in the area.

"This is why it's a little bit disheartening to see that, after so many years of providing affordable access, they're now asking for permission to become an extremely high-end, luxury hotel, which goes against the purpose of the Coastal Commission's actions and their original conditions of approval years ago. So, I think it's important to send a message of: 'We need to keep finding ways to provide affordable rooms.' And we don't necessarily need to add more amenities to the hotel to do that because that will only increase the price."



File Photo

PLANNING: The Shore Hotel in Santa Monica.

Breslau said he hasn't had any contact with Commissioners so he isn't sure what Wednesday's meeting will entail but he believes it's important for the Commission to reaffirm the Shore Hotel as a limited amenity hotel.

Farzam said he is confident the Planning Commission will agree the variance is needed to build the rooms in the available space since it's not feasible to build the 14 micro-hotel rooms anywhere else on the property.

"I appreciate that city staff are generally supportive of what we are proposing and understand their point of view related to the variance," Farzam said, later adding, "There is a lot of misinformation circulating and I want to emphasize that the hotel's affordability will not be impacted by amending the amenities. 72 of our rooms – almost half – will be offered at an affordable rate in perpetuity per our agreement with the Coastal Commission."

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