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THURSDAY
04.29.21
Volume 20 Issue 142

Crime Watch
The LSD made him do it.
Page 3

Noteworthy
Sour Notes.
Page 4

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Natalia Lazarus honored for 25 years of opening doors in Hollywood for immigrants





Courtesy image

AWARD: A local actress was recognized for her work with immigrants who want to work in entertainment.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Natalia Lazarus, multi-talented actress, director and teacher, has received a commendation from City Council honoring 25 years of helping international students break into the entertainment industry through her conservatory program.

Lazarus, who originally hails from Honduras, was able to find success in Hollywood through a combination of talent, tenacity, and educational opportunity. Knowing there were many immigrants striving and struggling to do the same, she co-founded the Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory in 1996 to train aspiring international artists.

Over the last 25 years, LAPAC and its accompanying performance venue the Promenade Playhouse have successfully launched the careers of scores of talented immigrants.

Notable alumni include Ken Jeong, stand-up comedian and star in the Hangover film series; Sharif Atkins, known for his roles in ER and Guardians of the Galaxy; and Tiffany Elle, who starred in Better Things and The High Note.

"Many of these students leave everything in their home country to come train with us," said Lazarus. "To see them graduate and then be able to stay and live in this country following their dreams is the most fulfilling thing."

The road to Hollywood success is incredibly complex and competitive for all artists. It is even more challenging for immigrants who lack industry connections, often speak English as a second language, and must navigate difficult visa processes to simply remain in the US.

LAPAC is set up to help students overcome all of these barriers while also providing top notch training in acting, screenwriting, and filmmaking.

Even through the manifold challenges of the pandemic, Lazarus and the LAPAC team have continued to pursue their mission and support their students.

In the spring of 2020, they rapidly transitioned to online learning when immigration announced that students with F1 Visas could only remain if their institution offered distance learning. When this rule changed in the fall to only allow students to remain if their school offered in-person learning, the conservatory pivoted again.

With assistance and approval from the City, LAPAC was able to create a Covid-19 safe outdoor classroom program that provided a vital lifeline to young artists who otherwise would have had to leave the country.

"We were out in the courtyard with masks with six foot distancing every day," said Lazarus. "When students would perform they would have face shields on so that the instructors could see their face and then we had giant pieces of plexiglass that divided the actors from each other."

While far from ideal, these creative adaptations and the dedication of students and staff allowed the conservatory's work to go on while almost everything else ground to a halt. By utilizing LAPAC's courtyard space and a stage on the Promenade, students from Japan, Algeria, Austria, Germany, Mexico, Denmark, the Philippines, Thailand and India were able to train together.

For students who were not able to attend in-person, LAPAC continued to offer its virtual classes, which vastly expanded the reach of its programming.

"It was kind of a blessing in disguise because now we have

SEE **LAZARUS** PAGE 6

Richard Bloom gives deep dive into campaign for County Supervisor

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer



RICHARD BLOOM

Assemblymember Richard Bloom has tossed his hat in the ring for County Supervisor and is building his platform on a slate of progressive policies: from tackling homelessness and housing affordability, to expanding mental health services, to addressing the climate crisis.

This week on the Inside the Daily Press Podcast, the former Santa Monica Mayor discussed his upcoming run for the coveted Supervisor position and the approach he would take to several of the County's most salient challenges.

While the election is not until 2022, Bloom chose to announce his candidacy in January as current Supervisor Sheila Kuehl said she would not run for a third term. If elected to represent the County's 3rd District, Bloom would oversee a population of roughly 2 million residents.

As his term limit in the state assembly will expire in 2024, Bloom has decided to seize the opportunity provided by Kuehl's departure to

SEE **BLOOM** PAGE 11

City to explore off-leash dog park at Reed Park

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Reed Park may one day be the site of a neighborhood off-leash dog park after Council directed staff Tuesday to begin exploring the feasibility of such a project.

Councilmember Phil Brock said this week the idea initially came up in 2007 or 2008 in the Recreation and Parks Commission.

"We tried other things there, but every day when I'm on a walk anywhere in north Santa Monica, I see dogs and their owners out, and I get constant discussions about Rosie's Dog Beach and the fact that there's not one dog park in north Santa Monica whatsoever," Brock said, listing the few places around Santa Monica that allow dogs to run freely. "We have no prospects of finding park space in North Santa Monica at all, yet we have a huge number of dog owners so it's worth exploring."

Mayor Sue Himmelrich agreed after she noted that the closest dog park to her is on 14th street near Colorado Avenue.

"So, people have been talking to me for years about the possibility of having a dog park in Reed Park. I don't know if it's practical; I don't know if there's space; I don't know

SEE **DOG PARK** PAGE 11

California mulls letting adults add parents to health plans

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California could become the only state to let adult children add their parents as dependents to their health insurance plans, a policy proposal aimed at increasing insurance coverage among low-income people living in the country illegally who aren't eligible for government-funded coverage.

Former President Barack Obama's health law let parents keep their adult children on their health plans until at least age 26, a change that helped millions of young people transition to adulthood as jobs were scarce after the Great Recession. That change was so popular that many states have gone further and let adults keep their children on until age 30.

Now, California could do the same for older people who are transitioning into retirement after the pandemic. A proposal in the state Legislature authored by Assemblyman Miguel Santiago passed its first committee hearing on Tuesday. If it becomes law, California would be the only state that allows this, according to the state Department of Insurance.

Supporters, including Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, say it will save families money by, among other things, limiting their expenses to one shared out-of-pocket maximum limit.

"When we were young, our parents were there for us and took care of us," Lara said. "Now we can take care of them when they need it the most."

But business groups say adding lots of older people to their large group insurance plans will just drive up their already skyrocketing premium costs. Employer premiums would increase between $200 million and $800 million per year, depending on how many people sign up. The result, they say, would be higher health care costs for everyone.

"(This bill) will exacerbate the health care affordability issue and strain struggling small employers' budgets at a time when they are finally beginning to recover," said Preston Young, a policy advocate for the California Chamber of Commerce.

The bill would not be an open invitation for parents to ditch their health insurance plans to join their children. To be eligible, parents would have to meet the Internal Revenue Service's definition of a dependent, meaning they rely on their children for at least 50% of their support.

But some Democrats are concerned its increased costs for employers and their employees could ultimately prevent it from passing. Assemblyman Jim Wood, a Democrat from Santa Rosa and chairman of the Assembly Health Committee, voted for the bill on Tuesday but said he was "torn."

"I think the bill is likely to increase health care access and may offer affordable coverage options," he said. "But I feel like there may be more work that needs to be done here to figure out what the cost increase means to employers and ultimately employees."

Supporters have framed the bill as a way to increase health care coverage among the state's uninsured population, which is made up mostly of people who are living in the country illegally and are not eligible for government-funded insurance programs like Medicaid and Medicare. Those people also aren't eligible for federal assistance to purchase private coverage through Covered California, the state's health insurance exchange.

But it's not clear how many parents would join their kids' insurance plans if they had the option. An analysis by the California Health Benefits Review Program estimates between 20,000 and 80,000 parents would do it.

It's hard to predict because, later this year, state lawmakers could expand state Medicaid benefits to include adults 65 and older who are living in the country illegally. If that happened, many families might prefer their parents take that option instead of joining their health insurance plans because it wouldn't cost them anything.

Another risk for employers would be parents who live outside the United States moving to the country to live with their children to get coverage.

"The opportunity to receive care in the US would be very attractive, especially for those with high-risk conditions," the analysis said.

Lara's office dismissed that concern, saying "this is always an argument that is raised whenever we expand health care options." Since 2016, California's Medicaid program has covered children living in the United States illegally. The state has not seen a corresponding increase in immigrants coming to the state.

"The reality is that expanding health care choices helps Californians, pure and simple," Lara's office wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "The existing requirement in state law that someone 'live, work and reside' in California would apply."

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SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 245 CALLS ON APRIL 27

Loud Music 800blk Arizona Ave 3:37 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk Colorado Ave 6:01 a.m.
Encampment 2100blk Dorchester Ave 6:50 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 300blk Santa Monica Pl 6:51 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2100blk 21st St 6:54 a.m.
Encampment 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:44 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2700blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:45 a.m.
Burglary Report 2700blk Neilson Way 7:45 a.m.
Citizen Flag 2900blk 28th St 8:13 a.m.
Burglary Report 3200blk Olympic Blvd 8:14 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk 9th St 8:32 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400blk 5th St 8:53 a.m.
Loitering 3000blk Glenn Ave 8:55 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk 4th St 8:55 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2300blk Pico Blvd 9:00 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2600blk Pico Blvd 9:09 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk 15th St 9:10 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:20 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 600blk Broadway 9:29 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 500blk Pacific St 9:35 a.m.
Found Property 1400blk 4th St 9:40 a.m.
Loud Music 2200blk Virginia Ave 9:41 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2800blk Neilson Way 9:44 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 9:47 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2800blk Neilson Way 9:58 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 700blk Broadway 10:15 a.m.
Scar Investigation 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:34 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Hollister Ave 10:53 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2000blk Euclid St 10:59 a.m.
Burglary Report 2800blk Colorado Ave 11:08 a.m.
Burglary Report 900blk 7th St 11:34 a.m.
Burglary Report 2800blk Neilson Way 11:40 a.m.
Identity Theft 300blk Montana Ave 11:45 a.m.
General Parking Problem 100blk Idaho Ave 11:51 a.m.
Burglary Report 2800blk Neilson Way 11:59 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk 14th St 12:03 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 6th St 12:11 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 5th St 12:12 p.m.
Fight 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 12:18 p.m.
Public Intoxication 200blk Bay St 12:19 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Neilson Way / Ocean Park Blvd 12:25 p.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk 23rd St 12:25 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 900blk 9th St 12:28 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Neilson Way / Ocean Park Blvd 12:33 p.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 4th St 12:39 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 200blk 21st St 1:05 p.m.
Death Investigation 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 1:06 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1200blk 16th St 1:20 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk 10th St 1:28 p.m.
Sexual Assault 300blk Olympic Dr 1:51 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 1:54 p.m.
Elder Abuse 1300blk 15th St 2:06 p.m.
Found Property 1700blk Montana Ave 2:14 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk 18th St 2:27 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1100blk 7th St 2:43 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk 18th St 2:53 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 200blk Pacific St 3:12 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 400blk San Vicente Blvd 3:14 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk 14th St 3:16 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk 14th St 3:17 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk 14th St 3:18 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:40 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 12th St / Olympic Blvd 4:11 p.m.
Encampment 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 4:25 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 4:28 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1600blk Wilshire Blvd 4:34 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1600blk 9th St 4:48 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2400blk 3rd St 4:50 p.m.
Found Senile Person 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 4:51 p.m.
Battery Report 2400blk Kansas Ave 4:52 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1600blk 12th St 5:10 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:19 p.m.
Burglary Report 2000blk Main St 5:29 p.m.
Arson 800blk Palisades Park 5:37 p.m.
Encampment 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 5:42 p.m.
Burglary Report 1700blk 12th St 5:43 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 5:45 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1600blk 12th St 5:55 p.m.
Identity Theft 500blk Olympic Blvd W 6:04 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1700blk 12th St 6:20 p.m.
Burglary Report 900blk 3rd St 6:24 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk Oak St 6:47 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 200blk Broadway 6:55 p.m.
Animal Related Incident Yorkshire Ave / Pico Blvd 6:59 p.m.
Citizen Flag 3200blk Airport Ave 7:16 p.m.
Found Property 400blk Raymond Ave 8:02 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500blk 2nd St 8:06 p.m.
Loud Music Ocean Ave / Bicknell Ave 8:11 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2200blk Colorado Ave 8:44 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk Oak St 8:51 p.m.
Battery Report 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:05 p.m.
Found Property 1500blk Montana Ave 10:09 p.m.
Public Intoxication 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:09 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2400blk Olympic Blvd 10:29 p.m.
Person Down Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 10:33 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 10:49 p.m.
Loud Music 1300blk 7th St 11:43 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1500blk Wilshire Blvd 11:44 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

California Turkish restaurant attack charged as hate crime

A federal grand jury in Los Angeles indicted two Armenian American men on charges of conspiracy and hate crimes for allegedly attacking five people at a family-owned Turkish restaurant last year, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

The men allegedly stormed into the restaurant on Nov. 20 and attacked five people, including four who are of Turkish descent, prosecutors said in a press release.

The attackers shouted derogatory slurs about Turkish people, yelled, "We came to kill you," and caused $20,000 in damage, it said.

The indictment was unsealed Tuesday after the arrest of Harutyun Harry Chalikyan, 23, of Tujunga. The other defendant, William Stepanyan, 23, of Glendale, was already in state custody.

Chalikyan pleaded not guilty at his arraignment and his attorney did not immediately respond to a request for comment, the Los Angeles Times reported. Stepanyan's arraignment is expected in the coming weeks. It was not immediately known if he has an attorney.

The restaurant incident occurred amid local protests condemning Azerbaijan and Turkey's role in hostilities against Armenia that flared in the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region in September.

On Saturday, President Joe Biden declared the early 20th century killing of Armenians by forces of the Ottoman Empire – predecessor to Turkey – was genocide.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA CLARITA

Los Angeles County motorcycle deputy injured in crash

A Los Angeles County motorcycle deputy was severely injured in a collision with a big rig early Wednesday morning.

The truck apparently made a left turn in front of Deputy Chad Perrigo in Santa Clarita and there was a head-on collision, Sheriff Alex Villanueva said in an online briefing.

The collision left the motorcycle embedded in the front of the truck.

The deputy was hospitalized in critical but stable condition, he said.

"It's going to be a long road to recovery," the sheriff said.

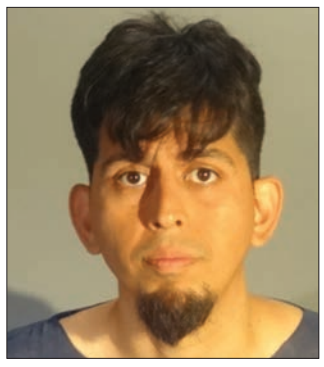
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CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 13 9:21 P.M.

Officers responded to the area of Appian Way and Arcadia Terrace regarding a naked male walking and screaming near the bike path. Upon arrival, Officers spotted a fully nude male running toward the water line. The male suspect was detained without incident and made statements about taking LSD. Due to the suspect's behavior and statements, Officers determined the suspect was under the effects of a controlled substance. Eduardo Aguiniga was booked for being in violation of the Santa Monica Municipal Code 4.08.760(a)- public nudity and 647(f) P.C.- public intoxication (Drugs). Aguiniga was later issued a citation to appear in court.



Courtesy photo

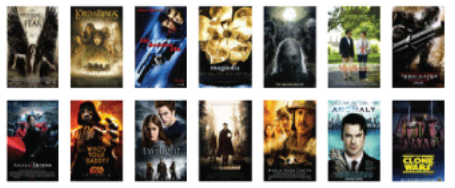
EDUARDO AGUINIGA

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 32 CALLS ON APRIL 27

EMS 1200blk Ocean Ave 12:05 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 3:07 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 3000blk Main St 5:54 a.m.
EMS 2300blk Pearl St 6:56 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk 21st St 7:39 a.m.
EMS 2000blk 20th St 8:52 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 9:54 a.m.
Smoke Investigation 2300blk Michigan Ave 9:59 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:21 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 10:22 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 11:02 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 11:11 a.m.
EMS 9th St / Montana Ave 11:50 a.m.
Hydrant Leak 25th St / Washington Ave 12:15 p.m.
EMS Neilson Way / Ocean Park Blvd 12:24 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 12:50 p.m.
EMS 600blk Idaho Ave 1:02 p.m.
EMS 800blk Ocean Ave 1:17 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 2:19 p.m.
EMS 700blk Raymond Ave 3:03 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 3:44 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 4:17 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 4:28 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 4:46 p.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 6:16 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 5th St 6:17 p.m.
Hydrant Leak 25th St / Washington Ave 6:22 p.m.
EMS 300blk Wilshire Blvd 6:29 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 8:31 p.m.
EMS 800blk 21st St 8:42 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk Ocean Ave 10:51 p.m.
EMS 2100blk La Mesa Dr 11:32 p.m.

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER



Noteworthy

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sour Notes At The Oscars



Courtesy image

OSCAR: TRENT REZNOR, ATTICUS ROSS - Walk on the Mild Side.

OSCARS MADE ME A GROUCH

They were noteworthy for some of the groundbreaking nominees and winners, but kinda stunk for production decisions.

We do have to cut them some slack. It was an impossible task, during a pandemic, in a much smaller venue, Union Station (gorgeous and historic but not large enough to present "spectacle"), with some guests seated across town at the (formerly) Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, the traditional site of the awards recently and the largest stage in the U.S.

Song and dance numbers, vital to the entertainment value of the show? Missing. I heard they did some songs on the red carpet, but I never tune in to the fashion and fabulousness flaunting so I missed that. Whatever there was.

But I am pretty certain none of it matched full staging and orchestration for Michael Jackson, Dolly, Isaac Hayes, Lady Gaga, Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes, Björk and her swan song, Springsteen's heart-breaking "Philadelphia," Donna Summer inside a mirror ball, Judy Garland "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," who can forget Kermit the Frog picking romantic banjo, and more recently, 2015, a memorable performance by John Legend and Common.

We never even got to see videos of the nominated songs. Come on, Oscars.

BATISTE NAILS IT, BUT...

It's possible there was an agreement beforehand between "Soul" score winners Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross (Nine Inch Nails), and co-winner Jon Batiste, leader of the Stephen Colbert Show band — a versatile and excellent one, the best on TV, and Batiste is the Energizer bunny who drives it all in any form of music you can name, but…

Unless there was that agreement, I can't forgive Batiste for hogging the whole speech time, almost three minutes, but much worse — not only never mentioning his collaborators and co-winners standing there silently, but never even acknowledging their presence. Right behind him on stage, but invisible, apparently. After two years of working together on this project?

Batiste's speech was a memorable one, thanking God for giving us "12 notes, it's the same 12 notes that Duke Ellington had, Bach had, Nina Simone…" And maybe the Nine Inch boys knew that in advance and just let him rip.

But seriously, he never even looked over his shoulder at them his whole time on stage. He thanked several of his other collaborators, but not them. Let's put it in perspective: this was the second Oscar for Ross and Reznor, AND — they were also in the running for their work scoring "Mank." TWO scores not only completed in the same year but both Oscar-worthy. Jon. Tsk. Bad form. On what should have been your best music night ever.

GLENN CLOSE BUTT...

Some are calling it the highlight of the show — a prime example of no accounting for taste — when venerated actress Glenn Close stood up from her table and shook her be-gowned booty at her tablemates, taking little convincing to twerk her version of "Da Butt" for the world. She also appeared expertly knowledgeable about the song from the Spike Lee movie, "School Daze." Right.

My first thought was, oh, Glenn, honey… But now I think maybe she agreed to it thinking, if they're going to reject me again, for the eighth time, for an Oscar, I'll just show the whole Academy what I think of that.

But the whole bit was indicative of a bigger problem, the creative failure and misfires of producers Jesse Collins, Stacey Sher and Steven Soderbergh. The bit, toward the show's end, was "a game" for "randomly picked" guests to guess whether a song played by DJ Questlove was an Oscar winner, nominated, or not nominated. Huh? I'd love to know

SEE **OSCARS** 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.

Feds raid Giuliani's home, office, escalating criminal probe

MICHAEL R. SISAK, MICHAEL BALSAMO AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

Federal agents raided Rudy Giuliani's Manhattan home and office Wednesday, seizing computers and cellphones in a major escalation of the Justice Department's investigation into the business dealings of former President Donald Trump's personal lawyer.

Giuliani, the 76-year-old former New York City mayor once celebrated for his leadership after 9/11, has been under federal scrutiny for several years over his ties to Ukraine. The dual searches sent the strongest signal yet that he could eventually face federal charges.

Agents searched Giuliani's Madison Avenue apartment and Park Avenue office, people familiar with the investigation told The Associated Press. The warrants, which required approval from the top levels of the Justice Department, signify that prosecutors believe they have probable cause that Giuliani committed a federal crime — though they do not guarantee that charges will materialize.

A third search warrant was served on a phone belonging to Washington lawyer Victoria Toensing, a former federal prosecutor and close ally of Giuliani and Trump. Her law firm issued a statement saying she was informed that she is not a target of the investigation.

The full scope of the investigation is unclear, but it at least partly involves Giuliani's dealings in Ukraine, law enforcement officials have told the AP.

The people discussing the searches and Wednesday's developments could not do so publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. News of the search was first reported by The New York Times.

In a statement issued through his lawyer, Giuliani accused federal authorities of a "corrupt double standard," invoking allegations he's pushed against prominent Democrats, and said that the Justice Department was "running rough shod over the constitutional rights of anyone involved in, or legally defending, former President Donald J. Trump."

"Mr. Giuliani respects the law, and he can demonstrate that his conduct as a lawyer and a citizen was absolutely legal and ethical," the statement said.

Giuliani's son, Andrew Giuliani, told reporters the raids were "disgusting" and "absolutely absurd."

A Justice Department spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan and the FBI's New York office declined to comment.

The federal probe into Giuliani's Ukraine dealings stalled last year because of a dispute over investigative tactics as Trump unsuccessfully sought a second term. Giuliani subsequently took on a leading role in disputing the election results on the Republican's behalf.

Wednesday's raids came months after Trump left office and lost his ability to pardon allies for federal crimes. The former president himself no longer enjoys the legal protections the Oval Office once provided him — though there is no indication Trump is eyed in this probe.

Trump's spokesman did not immediate respond to questions about Wednesday's events.

Many people in Trump's orbit have been ensnared in previous federal investigations, namely special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian election interference. But most of those criminal cases either fizzled or fell apart. Giuliani's is different.

Giuliani was central to the then-president's efforts to dig up dirt against Democratic rival Joe Biden and to press Ukraine for an investigation into Biden and his son, Hunter — who himself now faces a criminal tax probe by the Justice Department.

Giuliani also sought to undermine former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, who was pushed out on Trump's orders, and met several times with a Ukrainian lawmaker who released edited recordings of Biden in an effort to smear him before the election.

Giuliani's lawyer, Robert Costello, said the warrants involved an allegation that Giuliani failed to register as a foreign agent and that investigative documents mentioned John Solomon, a former columnist and frequent Fox News commentator with close ties to Giuliani, who pushed baseless or unsubstantiated allegations involving Ukraine and Biden during the 2020 election.

Phone records published by House Democrats in 2019 in the wake of Trump's first impeachment trial showed frequent contacts involving Giuliani, Solomon and Lev Parnas, a Giuliani associate who is under indictment on charges of using foreign money to make illegal campaign contributions.

Contacted Wednesday, Solomon said it was news to him that the Justice Department was interested in any communications he had with Giuliani, though he said it was not entirely surprising given the issues raised in the impeachment trial.

"He was someone that tried to pass information to me. I didn't use most of it," Solomon said of Giuliani. "If they want to look at that, there's not going to be anything surprising in it."

Everything was sitting "in plain view," Solomon said. He said he believed his reporting had "stood the test of time" and maintained that he was "unaware of a single factual error" in any of his stories.

Solomon's former employer, The Hill newspaper, published a review last year of some of his columns and determined they were lacking in context and missing key disclosures. Solomon previously worked for The Associated Press, departing the news organization in 2006.

The federal Foreign Agents Registration Act requires people who lobby on behalf of a foreign government or entity to register with the Justice Department. The once-obscure law, aimed at improving transparency, has received a burst of attention in recent

SEE **GIULIANI** PAGE 11

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*Offer to non insured patients
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LAZARUS

FROM PAGE 1

permanent permission from the accrediting body and from the state of California that our programs can be online," said Lazarus. "It gives the opportunity for students in other states and other countries to begin their studies with us if they can't immediately come to Los Angeles."

LAPAC has continuously morphed and grown over the past 25 years and Lazarus is excited to see where the next chapter takes the organization.

The Conservatory's existing campus is slated for demolition as the aging building is over 100 years old. While finding a new location is a significant challenge, it also provides a unique opportunity to expand the scale and range of LAPAC's programming.

In the meantime, Lazarus and the LAPAC staff will be soaking in the accomplishment of their 25th anniversary.

"All of us at the LAPAC and our Playhouse are greatly appreciative of the honor and continuing support Mayor Himmelrich and the Santa Monica City Council have bestowed upon our organization throughout our history" stated Lazarus. "Being acknowledged by the City is very special to us."

Clara@smdp.com



Courtesy image

ACTORS: The LAPAC playhouse is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

OSCARS

FROM PAGE 4

who came up with this dim bulb idea of entertainment on a world stage, but no matter, you had three producers who said, yeah, that sounds good to me.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS REMARKABLY WELL

No NICOLE RECOMMENDS feature at the bottom of the column this week. Sometimes I give her a pass, for good behavior.

And sometimes her good behavior/good writing/good music sleuthing gets outside recognition, and that's always gratifying. On Tuesday of this week the Calendar section of the L.A. Times ran about two-thirds of their front page on a story about a country music podcast, by one Tyler Mahan Coe, named "Cocaine & Rhinestones.". They continued it to the back page, where it took up everything but the right column. Obviously, the Times felt, major stuff, that their readers should know about.

Nicole thought so too, and recommended Coe's podcast in her NR section of my NOTEWORTHY column the previous Thursday. Not the first time that's happened. (My opinion of Coe's work: killer. Absolutely fascinating even if you don't care for the subject matter. His reading is dramatic and gripping.)

A month ago she sang the praises in NR of Ellen Reid's SOUNDWALK, through UCLA, a sonically-guided walk around Griffith Park to a pre-recorded but interactive soundtrack linked to the nature you're walking through. The following Sunday the Times Calendar section gave it a big feature, as did Spectrum TV.

I've had quite a few people send me notes of praise for what she digs up, but it's always nice when a professional organization chimes in by acknowledging the same subject matter.

Nice going, kid.

GERALD CLAYTON!

I never do this! During this whole long pandemic live music drought, I've been resisting recommending the many virtual performances that have come about. It's certainly not that I don't feel for the musicians and the venues they play in and would like to help out, but I just don't care much for streaming performances. For me, I might as well be watching a video, and so I can't in good conscience make a recommendation. But here's my first exception.

I so dig every single note I've ever heard jazz pianist Gerald Clayton play I'm recommending his streamed performance, as a duo, tonight and Friday night at 7 p.m., coming from a hip local jazz joint that is his local home base, with the odd name of Sam First. Drop me a line and tell me how you liked it.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

Vaccines aplenty but some Californians struggle to get one

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

Hearing of excess vaccine and unfilled appointments frustrates Dr. Aaron Roland, a family physician who has been lobbying for doses to inoculate his patients, many of whom are low-income, immigrants or elderly.

The San Francisco Bay Area doctor has more than 200 patients who have inquired when he will offer inoculations against the coronavirus. One patient, who is 67, said he walked into a Safeway supermarket because signs said doses were available.

"But they said, 'Oh no, they're not really available. You just have to go online, just sign up online.' It's not something he does very easily," said Dr. Roland, whose practice is in Burlingame, south of San Francisco.

California, swimming in vaccine, is in far better shape than just weeks ago when scoring an appointment was cause for celebration. Today, Los Angeles, San Diego and other populous counties are advertising that anyone can walk in for a shot, and the state is texting reminders that plenty of appointments are available. Rural Humboldt County even declined 1,000 extra doses last week due to lackluster demand.

More than 18 million of an estimated 32 million people eligible for vaccine in California are fully or partially vaccinated, including nearly half of people in economically vulnerable ZIP codes hardest hit by the pandemic and 73% of residents 65 and older. The country's most populous state, like much of the U.S., appears to have hit a vaccine plateau.

The dwindling demand for vaccines illustrates the challenge that the U.S. faces in trying to conquer the pandemic, even as other countries are in the midst of full-blown medical emergencies and short on vaccine.

But that doesn't mean everyone in California who wants a vaccine can get one — as some of Dr. Roland's patients can attest.

Marlies Mokhtarzadeh was turned away from a downtown Millbrae pharmacy offering the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine by a clerk who told her to make an appointment online.

But Mokhtarzadeh, 80, isn't able to do that and her granddaughters have also failed to book her an appointment. She's worn down by repeated attempts to get a slot through a toll-free number, so she'll wait for Dr. Roland, her physician of three decades, to get the vaccine instead.

"I'm not a young girl," she said. "I'm trying to find somebody that will give me the shot and they have it at the Walgreens in Millbrae and I don't know why they won't give me the shot."

Going forward, it's going to take more effort to reach the unvaccinated, say health experts. The group includes people unable to leave their homes or who can't miss work; for some, a vaccination may not be a priority, or they may have questions that can't be answered when making a vaccination appointment online.

"We want to reach all people, and what happens at this point in the process is each person we try to reach becomes a little harder to reach," said Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, epidemiology and biostatistics chair at the University of California, San Francisco. "It's not as easy as putting up a mass vaccination site and saying if you build it, they will come."

Counties, cities and providers nationwide are turning to paramedics to deliver in-home shots or arrange transportation to vaccination sites, even offering incentives to try to reach as many people as possible. Like California, many states also have more doses than arms to put them in.

Families Together of Orange County, a community health center where more than half the patients are Latino, is hitting shopping centers, supermarkets, restaurants and schools, said CEO Alexander Rossel.

Marin is among the counties phasing out mass vaccination sites in favor of smaller mobile clinics. Santa Cruz County has restarted a medical "strike team" to reach people who need in-home inoculations.

But finding who needs help and where they live isn't easy. "There's no great list of them," said Jason Hoppin, a county spokesman.

State officials are expected to soon release more guidance on at-home inoculations to get more people vaccinated as it works to add providers to its list. Insurer Blue Shield took over state administration of the vaccine March 31.

Dr. Roland's practice was authorized to inoculate patients against COVID-19 in late February, but has been unable to get vaccine from San Mateo County or Blue Shield. County spokesman Preston Merchant said with constrained supplies, providers need to get it from Blue Shield.

People who are caring for their 96-year-old mother, who got inoculated elsewhere, and the grandmother of a severely disabled adult are among those seeking vaccination from Roland. They're not computer literate and he can hardly tell them to continue checking the numerous pharmacy, hospital, county and state websites offering appointments.

"It's good to have many different channels," he said. "But one of the places where it would be good to get a vaccine is from their doctor,"

As the state moves from a lack of vaccine supply to waning demand, family doctors are important in helping people overcome reluctance. Doctors who have relationships with their patients are more trusted than an anonymous person providing a shot, said Anthony York, a spokesman for the California Medical Association.

Dr. Kim Rhoads, a UCSF cancer researcher and director of Umoja Health, a pop-up testing and vaccination group targeting African Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area, said it's critical government keep funding the smaller community organizations that know where to go, such as corner stores, neighborhood hangouts and other places people gather.

"If it doesn't go there," she said, "we're going to miss the opportunity to put a cap on this pandemic."

Associated Press writer Brian Melley in Los Angeles contributed to this report.



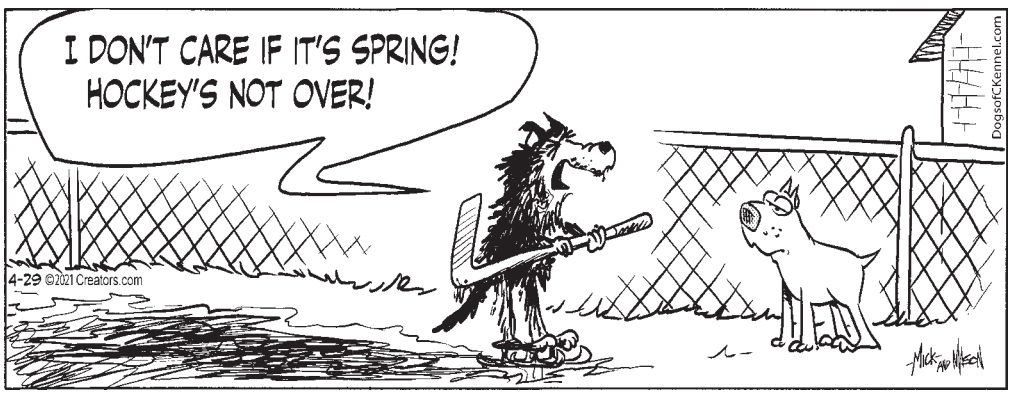
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



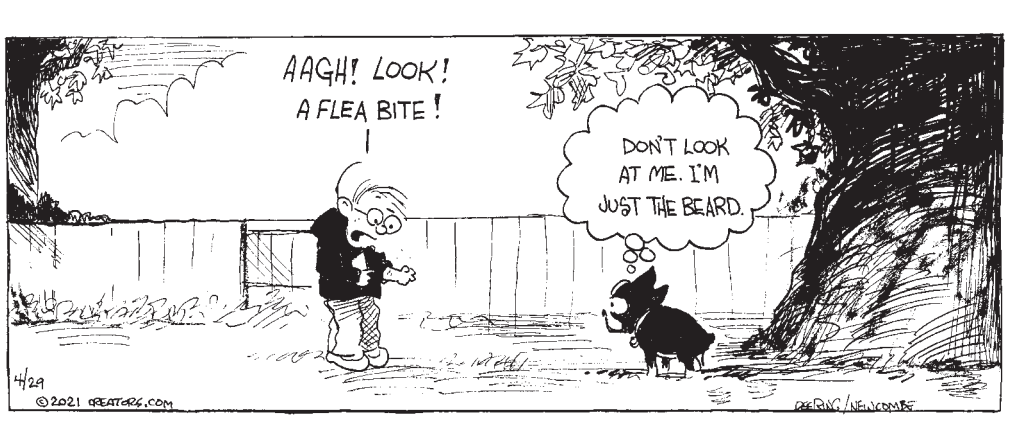
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"WHERE DO CATS GET TICKER TAPE?"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.9°

THURSDAY - **FAIR TO GOOD** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
Clean through the AM with a fun blend of SSW swell and small NW swell mix for spots west of Pt. Dume.

FRIDAY - **FAIR TO GOOD** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to shoulder high
Holding blend of SSW and NW swells for fun-zone, peaky surf west of Pt. Dume. Light wind in the morning expected to remain fairly light for the afternoon at this point.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 75.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 60.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 78.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/04/29	Thu	05:59 AM	-1.35	L
2021/04/29	Thu	12:25 PM	3.68	H
2021/04/29	Thu	5:09 PM	1.74	L
2021/04/29	Thu	11:31 PM	6.14	H
2021/04/30	Fri	06:57 AM	-1.14	L
2021/04/30	Fri	1:39 PM	3.35	H
2021/04/30	Fri	5:54 PM	2.23	L
2021/05/01	Sat	12:21 AM	5.70	H
2021/05/01	Sat	08:04 AM	-0.81	L
2021/05/01	Sat	3:14 PM	3.23	H
2021/05/01	Sat	6:54 PM	2.67	L
2021/05/02	Sun	01:24 AM	5.15	H
2021/05/02	Sun	09:21 AM	-0.51	L
2021/05/02	Sun	4:54 PM	3.42	H
2021/05/02	Sun	8:39 PM	2.96	L
2021/05/03	Mon	02:46 AM	4.63	H
2021/05/03	Mon	10:40 AM	-0.32	L
2021/05/03	Mon	6:01 PM	3.77	H
2021/05/03	Mon	10:57 PM	2.74	L
2021/05/04	Tue	04:22 AM	4.31	H
2021/05/04	Tue	11:44 AM	-0.20	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 4/24
22 36 48 59 61
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 116 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/27
15 22 30 41 42
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 319 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/24
12 14 17 22 24
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 41 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/27
2 13 20 23 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/27
EVENING: 6 2 9
Draw Date: 4/27
MIDDAY: 8 3 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/27
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:46.10

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (APRIL 29)

What is the secret to your good fortune? The same thing that's at the heart of all good manners and best practices: paying attention. You do it thoroughly and with style. As for the professional boon in July; it's not all about the money but it sure will feel good when this allows you to do something special for your people. Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 3, 33, 28 and 12.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Because you want to make your work the best it can be, you're willing to entertain new ideas. You'll banter, twist and play around with your resources. Changes and add-ons will take it to the next level.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The essence of your attractiveness today is made tangible in the way you approach common activities with uncommon grace. Yes, you're being observed. In fact, you have someone's rapt attention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Casual relationships continue to have a profound influence on the path your life takes. Friendships lead to the career opportunities, romantic ties and lifestyle choices that color your world.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). No one likes to feel like the person they are talking to is looking over their soldier for more interesting engagements. You are careful to devote quality attention to the one you're with and should accept no less from others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've known your nearest and dearest long enough for the relationship to exist within a large margin of predictability, and yet... today will still bring you a surprise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Complex problems may not require complex solutions. However, finding the solution that works may be a long and winding journey that seems complicated indeed! Regardless, stay in it for the long haul and the satisfying end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are invigorated by the creativity that flows through you when you're designing answers. Your aim is to make something that contributes to an easier, more harmonious and lovelier experience of life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are no ideal groups, though it's fun to imagine things being better. Organizational change tends to happen very slowly; changing yourself is relatively quick and doing so will affect the entire group.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You want something from someone, and this gives a nervy and uncomfortable tension to the relationship. It's hard to subvert such a thing. You'd be better off breaking the tension by calling out your want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'd rather make things than own things. You scratch an itch by making something and giving it away. You'll repeat this several times until one day you'll decide to charge for it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Enthusiasm is Miracle-Gro for projects, people and bonds. Still, there's such a thing as too much. The wrong dose of excitement makes people uncomfortable. Learn what's appropriate by incrementally testing the waters.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Nobody is perfect and those who try and accept everyone's faults are saving themselves from a lot of wasted energy and drama. Busy people living their purpose (read: you) don't have time to mix into pettiness.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

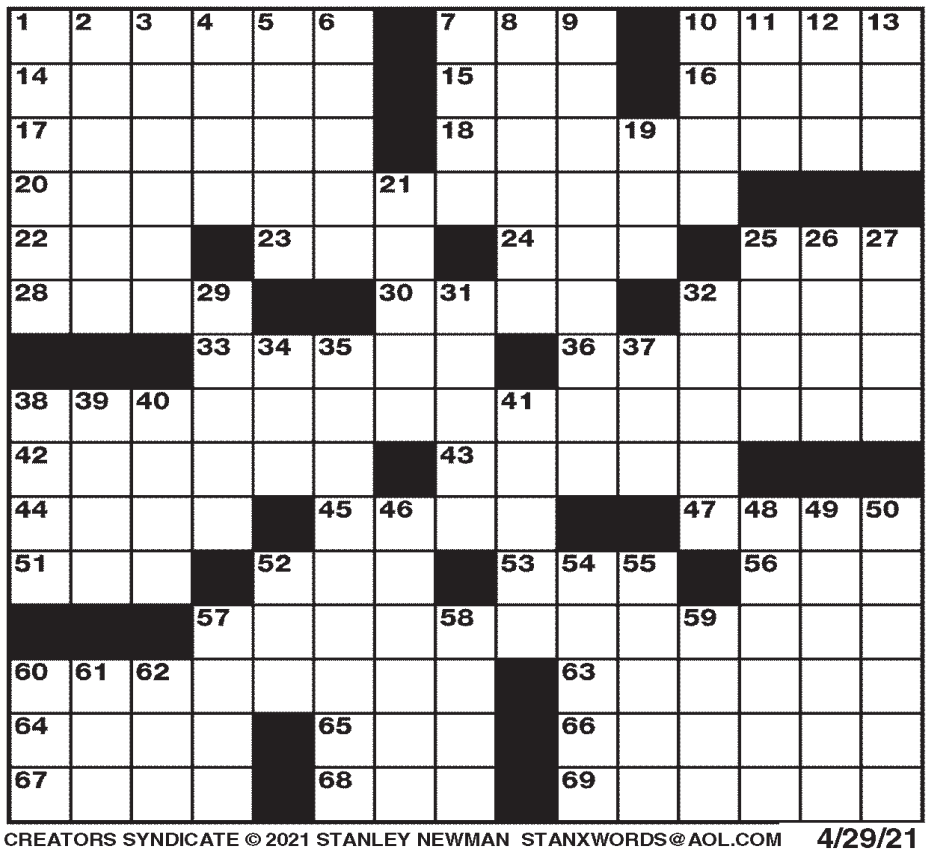
4		5		3		8		
	8				1		9	
3				8		7		4
	7			9			2	
5		4	3		6	9		8
	2			1			4	
8		2		6				7
	3		4				8	
		9		7		2		6

Newsday Crossword

BOAT ROCKERS by Gary M. Larson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Cuts of tuna
7 Simple bunk
10 Desktop art
14 Protest, perhaps
15 "__ missing something?"
16 Kauai cookout
17 What you wear
18 Crisis situation
20 Road-smoothing machines
22 Simple shirt
23 Venerable rag doll
24 Fleece source
25 Go on to say
28 Troop group
30 Abbr. like *mlle.*
32 Almighty, in Arles
33 Cost of a commercial
36 Did bartering
38 Current-control devices
42 Old Testament queen
43 It comes from the heart
44 What you eat
45 Light brown shade
47 Ill-mannered
51 Winding curve
52 Vietnamese noodle soup
53 Actress Vardalos
56 Veto
57 Surges of enthusiasm
60 007 film villain
63 Mag page design
64 Garden pest
65 South African golf great
66 Typos
67 Bed size
68 Consult with
69 Sowing machine

DOWN
1 California peak
2 Nervous laugh
3 Hold dear
4 Tiger's natural habitat
5 Cosmic fate
6 Rear with rudders
7 Dustin, in a Watergate film
8 Brunch serving
9 Coastal region
10 Hardships
11 Signal to proceed
12 Tool with a blade
13 Edible kernel
19 Live and breathe
21 Get-go
25 Right-hand person
26 Bucks, e.g.
27 What you wear, so to speak
29 Seagoing symbol of success
31 Concrete rod
32 Senegal's capital
34 Expected
35 Blaze-battling gear
37 Disloyal one
38 Give up via treaty
39 Egyptian goddess
40 Nos. on maps
41 Drinks for everyone
46 Link together
48 Dispose of in quantity
49 Water down
50 Old-Timers' Day player
52 Be too interested
54 Archipelago, essentially
55 On top of things
57 FBI guys
58 Where IBM trades
59 Literary governess
60 Caregiver's designation
61 At once
62 Collegian posting to the Bullblog



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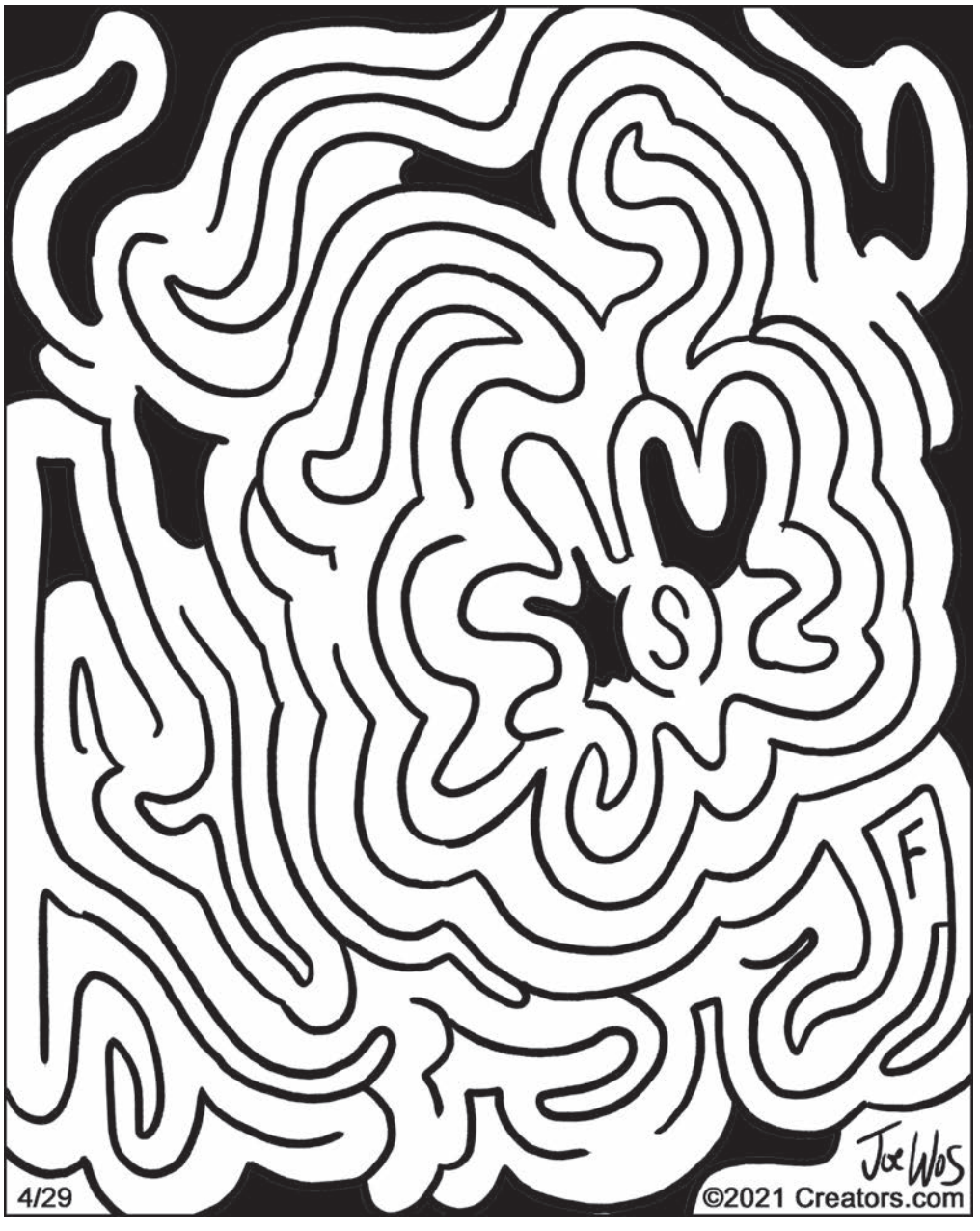
Binary Puzzle

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

1			1		1			1			
			0						1	1	
	1	1				0		1		0	0
										0	
		0	0				0		1		
											0
				1	1					1	
1								1			
					0						1
		1		1		1		0			
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"The City of Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned, diligent news coverage." - Terry Francke, Journalist

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Western Australia

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

Arid	Drives	Heritage	Shells
Beaches	Dugong	Inlets	Store
Blue	Dukin	Jarrah	Surf
Boya	Eats	Ketch	Swim
Bush	Fish	Koorda	Tern
Cafes	Friendly	Morning	Tours
Calm	Gorge	Muja	Towns
Coral	Guide	Museum	Trips
Cowaramup	Gull	Newman	Trucks
Daily	Hamelin	Port	Wild
Delta	Bay	Scenic	Wine
Derby	Harvey	Sealed	Wreck

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BLOOM

FROM PAGE 1

try and continue his career in public service. Bloom believes his years of experience in local and state government have equipped him with a strong skill set to address the many pressing issues facing the County.

"I think for residents and for voters, there's no question in my mind that homelessness is at the top of their list of concerns," said Bloom. "This is something that I've worked on since I was first elected in 1999, and I think I understand the issue."

Bloom believes the County's ongoing uptick in homelessness is closely linked to the affordability crisis and that rising homeownership and rental prices are driving many individuals to the street.

He is not a huge fan of more experimental homelessness solutions such as using tiny homes or shipping containers to create a rapid and cost-effective supply of shelter.

Instead, Bloom believes that existing services — such as interim housing shelters, permanent supportive housing, and street intervention teams — are effective approaches to addressing homeless that need to be expanded.

"We really need to scale up everything that we're doing. We know how to do it; it's a question of scale," said Bloom. "We need more temporary and permanent housing. We need to provide more both on the mental health and substance abuse side."

Mental health is a topic that Bloom is keenly focused on as he fears the County is teetering on the edge of a mental health crisis that it is unprepared to address.

"Coming out of COVID, we are going to see dramatically increased levels of post traumatic stress syndrome, related to the stressful conditions that people have been living under for what will be a minimum of 18 months," said Bloom.

As a Supervisor, Bloom said he would seek a more community based approach to mental health, where supportive services are offered at a local level and people are not reliant on 911 calls and hospitalization as their primary mental health crisis response.

At the same time, Bloom recognizes the need to have a robust mental health infrastructure built into the healthcare system and said there is a shortage of psychiatric hospital beds in the County.

"When it comes to mental health, I see that as a great need. It's something that is dramatically underfunded in the state," said Bloom. "We have thousands of dedicated people who work on mental health issues, but they're beleaguered and need more help. We need to expand services and do a much better job of delivering mental health services."

Other topics of concern Bloom highlighted include post-Covid economic recovery and responding to the climate crisis. He expressed strong interest in having a seat on the Metro Board as a Supervisor, because this would give him greater influence over the expansion of the County's public transportation systems.

To hear more of Bloom's thoughts on tackling key issues in L.A. County, listen to this week's episode of 'Inside the Daily Press' wherever you get your podcasts.

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DOG PARK

FROM PAGE 1

if it is financially feasible," Himmelrich said. "But I'm interested in looking at whether it is so that is why I personally am supporting this item."

Himmelrich shared she wasn't expecting the project to come to fruition this year. "I understand our financial circumstances, and people are certainly more important than dogs to all of us," she added.

"I don't see this as an existential emergency either," Brock said, informing staff he believes the process would be simple enough to approximate costs without a park planner, a position the City is currently without.

But Santa Monica Democratic Club President Jon Katz called in during public comment to pick a bone with the proposal because he and a few peers in the city don't think the process will be so simple when you consider what could happen to the unhoused residents who sleep in Reed Park because they have nowhere else to go.

"In light of what happened in Echo Park in Los Angeles last month, I'm asking you to direct staff to plan ahead with outreach to the homeless individuals who are living in the park, and this does not need to involve the police department," Katz said. "Ideally, this can be an opportunity to find permanent housing for these people, but what we can't do is clear out encampments with reckless abandon.... If we can make space for our canine residents to travel freely, surely we can do the same for our human ones."

Councilmember Kevin McKeown thanked Katz for how he addressed the matter and shared his hope that Council direction will include a little more exploration than just the feasibility and cost of this proposal.

"I hope we'll also study what the effect will be on the people who are in the park now... and where those other users of the park might be displaced to in the neighborhood," McKeown said. "And I'd also like to hear from the neighborhood about having a dog park because I know when the Joslyn Park was put in... that dog park was very controversial because a lot of the neighbors didn't like all the noise."

Councilmember Gleam Davis asked shortly after if staff would be able to explore other localities, such as Franklin Park, that could house a recreation area for canines.

The item then passed unanimously.

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Facebook reports soaring ad revenue, stock jumps

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

Facebook's stock jumped Wednesday after the social media giant reported stronger-than-expected results for the first quarter thanks to soaring ad revenue.

The company said it earned $9.5 billion, or $3.30 per share, in the January-March period. That's up 94% from $4.9 billion, or $1.71 per share, a year earlier.

Revenue grew 48% to $26.17 billion from $17.44 billion.

Analysts, on average, were expecting earnings of $2.35 per share and revenue of $23.73 billion, according to a poll by FactSet.

The average price of ads on Facebook grew 30% from a year earlier, while the number of ads increased by 12%.

Facebook had 2.85 billion monthly users, on average, in March. That's up 10% from a year earlier. Its family of apps — Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp — had monthly users of 3.45 billion in March. That's the number of people who logged in to at least one of the apps during the month.

In January, the company predicted uncertainty for 2021, saying its revenue in the latter half of the year could face significant pressure. Because revenue grew so quickly in the second half of 2020, Facebook could have trouble keeping up that pace. This uncertainty is now baked into the company's forecast, so it didn't come as a surprise to investors.

Shares of the Menlo Park, California-based company rose nearly 6% in after-hours trading.

On Monday, Apple rolled out a new privacy feature, dubbed "App Tracking Transparency," as part of an update to the operating system powering the iPhone and iPad. It came after a seven-month delay during which the iPhone maker and Facebook attacked each other's business models and motives for decisions that affect billions of people around the world.

Until the new feature, Facebook and other apps have been able to automatically conduct their surveillance on iPhones unless users took the time and trouble to go into their settings to prevent it — something not many people did.

While Facebook spent months fighting the change, CEO Mark Zuckerberg recently suggested that the new privacy controls could actually help his company in the long run. His rationale: The inability to automatically track iPhone users may prod more companies to sell their products directly on Facebook and Instagram if they can't collect enough personal information to effectively target ads within their own apps. This would help Facebook's bottom line, of course.

Facebook said Wednesday it expects its second-quarter 2021 revenue growth to stay stable or "modestly accelerate" compared with the growth rate in the first quarter. The Apple update is already factored into this guidance.

GIULIANI

FROM PAGE 5

years — particularly during Mueller's probe, which revealed an array of foreign influence operations in the U.S.

Federal prosecutors in the Manhattan office Giuliani himself once led — springing to prominence in the 1980s with high-profile prosecutions of Mafia figures — had pushed last year for a search warrant for records. Those included some of Giuliani's communications, but officials in the Trump-era Justice Department would not sign off on the request, according to multiple people who insisted on anonymity to speak about the ongoing investigation with which they were familiar.

Officials in the then-deputy attorney general's office raised concerns about both the scope of the request, which they thought would contain communications that could be covered by legal privilege between Giuliani and Trump, and the method of obtaining the records, three of the people said.

The issue was widely expected to be revisited by the Justice Department once Attorney General Merrick Garland assumed office, given the need for the department's upper echelons to sign off on warrants served on lawyers. Garland was confirmed last month, and Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco was confirmed to her position and sworn in last week.

Tucker reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Larry Neumeister and Tom Hays in New York and Colleen Long in Washington contributed reporting.



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