smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

WEDNESDAY
05.05.21
Volume 20 Issue 147

Yellow Tier
Los Angeles County has advanced another tier.
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Words Matter.
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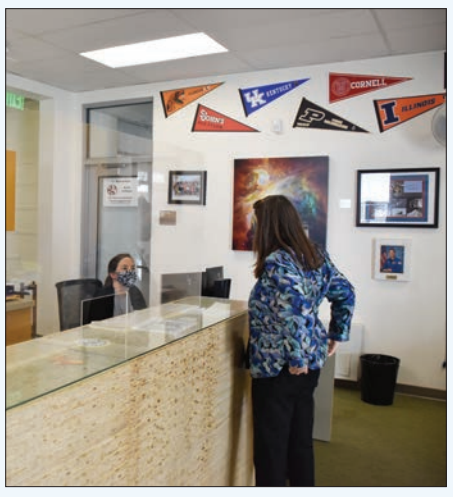
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In-class learning continues at SMMUSD









Brennon Dixson

RETURN: Students across Santa Monica have returned to in-class activities in recent weeks.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Local students are back on campus for the second week of full-time, in-class learning, and educators said Tuesday they are ecstatic to continue welcoming Santa Monica scholars back to school in the coming weeks.

After months of distance learning via Zoom, the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District welcomed preschoolers, high-schoolers and everybody in between back to campus, where district officials have been hard at work for months ensuring students can return safely.

An option to remain in distance learning-only is still available for families, but schools like John Adams Middle School have seen a significant portion of students return this week.

It was only a short time ago that district leaders thought it would be impossible for a full return this year, but decreased social-distancing requirements and a few changes to campuses have things

SEE **IN-CLASS** PAGE 11

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at these three new Mexican restaurants



Photos courtesy of Chicas Tacos

FOOD: The area has welcomed a trio of new tacos recently.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Cinco de Mayo is upon us and this year it need not be a lackluster affair of limited to eating to-go guac on the sofa. With vaccination rates soaring and the Los Angeles springing back to life, several new taco joints have popped up that are perfect for celebrating the holiday.

LA PUREPECHA: AN FAMILY RUN JOINT WITH KILLER HANDMADE TORTILLAS

Located at 725 Broadway Ave, La Purepecha is one of the newest Mexican restaurants in Santa Monica and is about as authentic as they come. The business is run entirely by family members who

SEE **RESTAURANTS** PAGE 6

Malibu buys out City Manager's contract

GENEVIEVE FINN
Malibu Times / SMDP Staff Writer

Malibu City Manager Reva Feldman officially resigned from her post on Saturday, May 1 in a deal that will avoid the threat of a lawsuit.

Malibu City Attorney John Cotti said the city would launch a national search for Feldman's replacement "very soon" and that Steve McClary, a former city manager in Ojai, has been named as Interim City Manager.

The terms of Feldman's resignation were unanimously approved, 5-0, by Malibu city council. She received a payment of $150,000 on May 1, with the possibility of another on August 1, 2021, if she has not found a

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 11


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America's new normal: A degree hotter than two decades ago

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

America's new normal temperature is a degree hotter than it was just two decades ago.

Scientists have long talked about climate change — hotter temperatures, changes in rain and snowfall and more extreme weather — being the "new normal." Data released Tuesday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration put hard figures on the cliche.

The new United States normal is not just hotter, but wetter in the eastern and central parts of the nation and considerably drier in the West than just a decade earlier.

Meteorologists calculate climate normals based on 30 years of data to limit the random swings of daily weather. It's a standard set by the World Meteorological Organization. Every 10 years, NOAA updates normal for the country as a whole, states and cities — by year, month and season.

For the entire nation, the yearly normal temperature is now 53.3 degrees (11.8 degrees Celsius) based on weather station data from 1991 to 2020, nearly half a degree warmer than a decade ago. Twenty years ago, normal was 52.3 degrees (11.3 degrees Celsius) based on data from 1971 to 2000. The average U.S. temperature for the 20th century was 52 degrees (11.1 degrees Celsius).

The new normal annual U.S. temperature is 1.7 degrees (0.9 Celsius) hotter than the first normal calculated for 1901 to 1930.

"Almost every place in the U.S. has warmed from the 1981 to 2010 normal to the 1991 to 2020 normal," said Michael Palecki, NOAA's normals project manager.

Fargo, North Dakota, where the new normal is a tenth of a degree cooler than the old one, is an exception, but more than 90% of the U.S. has warmer normal temperatures now than 10 years ago, Palecki said.

In Chicago and Asheville, North Carolina, the new yearly normal temperature jumped 1.5 degrees in a decade. Seattle, Atlanta, Boston and Phoenix had their normal annual temperature rise by at least half a degree in the last decade.

Charlottesville, Virginia, saw the biggest jump in normal temperatures among 739 major weather stations. Other large changes were in California, Texas, Virginia, Indiana, Arizona, Oregon, Arkansas, Maryland, Florida, North Carolina and Alaska.

New normals are warmer because the burning of fossil fuels is making the last decade "a much hotter time period for much of the globe than the decades" before, said Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald.

For Phoenix, the biggest change in normal came in precipitation. The normal annual rainfall for Phoenix dropped 10% down to 7.2 inches (18.2 centimeters). Rainfall in Los Angeles dropped 4.6%.

At the same time, Asheville saw a nearly 9% increase in rainfall, while New York City's rainfall rose 6%. Seattle's normal is 5% wetter than it used to be.

Climate scientists are split about how useful or misleading newly calculated normals are.

Mahowald and University of Oklahoma meteorology professor Jason Furtado said updating normal calculations helps city and regional planners to prepare for flooding and drought, farmers to decide what and when to plant, energy companies to meet changing demands and doctors to tackle public health issues arising from climate change.

But Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann said he prefers a constant baseline such as 1951 to 1980, which is what NASA uses. Adjusting normal every 10 years "perverts the meaning of 'normal' and 'normalizes' away climate change," he said in an email.

North Carolina's state climatologist Kathie Dello said, "It seems odd to still call them normals because 1991-2020 was anything but normal climate-wise."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Community Social Justice Book Discussion: The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

Santa Monica Public Library, in partnership with the City Manager's Office, is hosting a series of Social Justice Book Discussions. The second title in the series is The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander. This groundbreaking book challenges the civil rights community, and all of us, to place mass incarceration at the forefront for racial justice in America. The program takes place on Thursday, May 27, 2021 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. and is an opportunity to connect and discuss social justice topics that are important to our community. Read the book and join the conversation.

Register here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpdeqqrzMjGNG_BGY6XDSUU-HEbcF-Jy_U

Electronic copies of the title are available for check out using the Library's Libby app or Overdrive. The book can also be picked up from curbside service at the Main, Pico, or Montana Ave. Branch Libraries. To reserve the title through your Library account or obtain a Library card visit smpl.org or call the Library staff at (310) 458-8600.

While the Library buildings remain closed to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 we are here to assist you. Contactless curbside pickup service is available at Santa Monica Public Library. We encourage you to visit our Online Library and access the Library's many digital services that are available 24/7. Questions? Call us at (310) 458-8600 or email reference@smgov.net. Staff are available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and look forward to connecting with you.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN REITZ, LIBRARY MANAGER

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 281 CALLS ON MAY 3

Lost Property 2400blk Main St 12:24 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 1:08 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk 16th St 1:10 a.m.
Critical Missing Person 1300blk 15th St 1:21 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Stewart St / Nebraska Ave 1:24 a.m.
Prowler Just Left 2000blk Delaware Ave 1:48 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk The Beach 5:40 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 800blk Yale St 6:01 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 26th St / San Vicente Blvd 6:44 a.m.
Battery 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:08 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 00blk Bay St 7:30 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2000blk Ocean Ave 7:36 a.m.
Burglary Report 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 7:38 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk Hill St 7:47 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2000blk The Beach 8:17 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 8:32 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 8:37 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Centinela Ave / Wilshire Blvd 8:40 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1200blk Idaho Ave 8:45 a.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 8:48 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk Olympic Dr 9:03 a.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600blk Barnard Way 9:09 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2400blk Kansas Ave 9:22 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 7th St / Palisades Ave 9:23 a.m.
Battery 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 9:24 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 2300blk Idaho Ave 9:52 a.m.
Prowler There Now 1100blk 6th St 10:37 a.m.
Burglary Report 700blk Broadway 10:52 a.m.
Panic Alarm 900blk Palisades Beach Rd 10:56 a.m.
Loitering 1300blk Pacific St 11:23 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1300blk Palisades Beach Rd 11:27 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1400blk 17th St 11:29 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2700blk Highland Ave 11:41 a.m.
Runaway 300blk Olympic Dr 11:58 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk Yale St 11:58 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2400blk 7th St 11:59 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1000blk 3rd St 12:04 p.m.
Burglary Report 2700blk 6th St 12:04 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk Ashland Ave 12:16 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1000blk 3rd St 12:31 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:49 p.m.
Loud Music 700blk Ashland Ave 12:54 p.m.
Battery 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 1:03 p.m.
Injured Person 400blk Palisades Park 1:28 p.m.
Fight 2200blk Pico Blvd 1:32 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1300blk 4th St 1:37 p.m.
Auto Burglary 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 1:41 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 500blk Broadway 1:46 p.m.
Overdose 3100blk Lincoln Blvd 1:58 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:59 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 900blk 12th St 2:07 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500blk 15th St 2:25 p.m.
Battery 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:34 p.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk 11th St 2:50 p.m.
Fitness Permit Violation 1600blk Ashland Ave 2:55 p.m.
Burglary Report 2200blk Colorado Ave 2:59 p.m.
Loud Music 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 3:06 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:13 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1100blk 2nd St 3:32 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:36 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1900blk Ocean Way 3:36 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 3:45 p.m.
Domestic Violence Report 1400blk 2nd St 4:00 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:01 p.m.
Found Property 1500blk 4th St 4:11 p.m.
General Parking Problem 3100blk 7th St 4:23 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:25 p.m.
Fight 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:34 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk 16th St 4:37 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk 4th St 4:40 p.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 10th St 4:43 p.m.
Grand Theft 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 4:51 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1500blk Palisades Park 4:54 p.m.
Found Property 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 5:02 p.m.
Encampment 800blk 6th St 5:25 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 5:43 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 5:49 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 3rd St 5:51 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:17 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1200blk 25th St 6:21 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 6th St / Montana Ave 6:26 p.m.
Battery 1900blk The Beach 6:35 p.m.
Found Property 1900blk 4th St 7:12 p.m.
Loud Music 1300blk 2nd St 7:25 p.m.
Found Property 400blk Pico Blvd 7:35 p.m.
Fraud Report 2100blk Ocean Ave 8:03 p.m.
Burglary Report 2700blk 6th St 8:12 p.m.
Encampment 1000blk 10th St 8:12 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 8:13 p.m.
Fraud Report 1100blk 7th St 8:21 p.m.
Battery Report 1500blk The Beach 8:27 p.m.
Battery 2400blk 16th St 9:10 p.m.
Battery 1500blk 4th St 9:20 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 9:22 p.m.
Battery 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 9:22 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 2400blk Barnard Way 9:28 p.m.
Petty Theft 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 9:28 p.m.
Battery 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 9:40 p.m.
Malicious Mischief 1800blk 16th St 9:55 p.m.
Found Person 1500blk 4th St 10:07 p.m.
Lost Property 2400blk Main St 10:39 p.m.
Loud Music 1300blk 2nd St 10:39 p.m.
Runaway 2600blk Virginia Ave 10:44 p.m.
Encampment 30th St / Ocean Park Blvd 11:23 p.m.
Party Complaint 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:25 p.m.

Campaign stunt, ads bring California recall into new phase

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

California's recall election now features "the beast" and a "compassionate disruptor."

That's how John Cox and Caitlyn Jenner, Republicans running for California governor, pitched themselves to voters Tuesday in new campaign ads, taking different tones in their bids to oust Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom. It marked a new phase in the contest, with Newsom appearing later that day at his first campaign-style event to accept the endorsement of two firefighter unions.

Cox, a 65-year-old businessman who lost in a landslide to Newsom in 2018, released a video calling himself "the beast" to the photogenic Newsom's "beauty." He resorted to name-calling reminiscent of former President Donald Trump, repeatedly labeling Newsom a "pretty boy" who lacks governing chops.

Launching a bus tour with a live Kodiak bear named Tag ambling behind him in the hot sun, Cox promised to bring "beastly" changes to state government. He spent $5 million to air a 30-second version on television statewide, his campaign said, a major amount this early in the campaign and indicative of the need to raise his profile.

The stunt was aimed at drawing eyes to his campaign, but he promised to discuss "serious issues" — like bringing down the cost of housing, boosting the state's water resources and preventing special interests from influencing government.

"You have to get this message out and that's what we're going to do here," he said.

Animal rights group PETA and state Sen. Ben Hueso, who authored a state law banning use of most animals in circuses, condemned his use of a bear as a campaign prop. The bear, which Cox said was born in captivity, is trained and has appeared in movies and commercials.

Jenner, meanwhile, released a video with a more inspirational and patriotic tone. She calls herself a "compassionate disruptor" in the ad that features clips from her Summer Olympics appearance in 1976, when she won the gold medal in the men's decathlon.

Jenner, now a 71-year-old transgender woman, has held no campaign events since announcing her candidacy nearly two weeks ago. A televised town hall in her hometown of Malibu is planned for Wednesday. The ad offers her most expansive commentary as a candidate.

"I'm running to be governor for all Californians, to reclaim our true identity, to bring back the gold to the Golden State," Jenner says in the ad.

The ad shows one photo of Newsom and never says his name, though she is clearly blasting his pandemic policies by highlighting closed businesses and kids out of school. Jenner's campaign didn't comment on whether it was running corresponding TV ads.

Kim Nalder, a professor of political science at California State University-Sacramento, noted both candidates left out their Republican political affiliations, which could be smart given just a quarter of voters identify with the party.

In addition, Cox's ad could confuse voters because "beast" often brings a negative connotation.

"We don't think of bears as fixing things, we think of bears as destructive," she said.

Later Tuesday, Newsom was flanked by more than a dozen firefighters as he accepted union endorsements.

"This is a big day as we really kick off our efforts to defeat this recall," the governor said.

He declined to comment on Jenner's or Cox's ads. Instead, he pivoted to the state's efforts on vaccinations, wildfire prevention and job creation. Wearing a zip up with the California bear logo on it, Newsom turned to his own bear-related metaphor to say the state is "roaring back" from the pandemic.

He then turned to well-worn talking points painting the recall as a partisan power grab led by extremists. But when pushed by a reporter, he acknowledged some Democrats and independents are frustrated, too.

"This was a challenging year for the world, not just this country and our state. And in that process, I understand why people express themselves the way they did. So my job is to earn that trust back," he said.

Newsom wasn't expected to face an election until 2022 but critics of his coronavirus response and liberal policies succeeded in collecting more than the 1.5 million signatures needed for a recall election. There are still several steps remaining before the election is officially certified, but the signatures collection and verification were the biggest hurdles. The election will likely be scheduled for the fall.

Other Republicans in the race include former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and former Congressman Doug Ose.

Cox won less than 40% of the vote against Newsom in 2018 and has never won elected office despite many attempts. He said that run gives him a statewide base to grow this time around. Faulconer has not run a statewide campaign and Ose briefly ran for governor in 2018 before dropping out.

Cox pitched himself Tuesday as a man who knows struggle. He grew up with a single mom, paid his way through college, and launched a succesful business career, mostly in real estate. He's already spent $10 million of his own money on the race and said he is willing to spend more.

"Millions of people voted for something named John Cox but he was never a very, I don't think, a very clearly defined John Cox, and so we're going to define him a lot better," said Fred Davis, an ad-maker now working for Cox who is known for creating quirky, attention-grabbing political spots.

Cox twice declined to answer whether he'd welcome former President Donald Trump to campaign for him. Trump endorsed Cox in 2018 but is unpopular in the state.

"The pretty boy politician is going to make it all about the former president and the partisan battles of the past. This is about the California of the here and now," Cox said.

Jenner is working with several former aides to Trump.

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-0236 (Text Amendment)
20ENT-0237 (Conditional Use Permit to amend existing 96CUP-009)
21ENT-0090 (Conditional Use Permit to open existing hotel restaurant to the general public)
849 Ocean Avenue
APPLICANT: OCBSM Owner LLC
PROPERTY OWNER: OCBSM Owner LLC

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

The applicant is requesting approvals of two Conditional Use Permits to provide alcohol and meal services to the general public offered by the Oceana Hotel's existing onsite restaurant. These services are currently limited only to hotel guests and their visitors. Conditional Use Permit 21ENT-0090 seeks to open the Oceana Hotel's existing restaurant to the general public within established indoor and outdoor dining facilities on the hotel property. Conditional Use Permit 20ENT-0237 seeks to amend the hotel's existing Conditional Use Permit 96CUP-009 associated with the hotel's existing ABC Type 70 alcohol license (On-Sale General-Restrictive Service) to provide alcohol service to the general public in conjunction with the hotel's full-service restaurant meal service.

The proposed project requires modifications to land use regulations contained in Article 9 of the Municipal Code. Therefore, an application to amend the Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) will also be considered by the Commission for formulation of a recommendation to the City Council. Text Amendment 20ENT-0236 seeks to amend SMMC Section 9.08 (Multi-Unit Residential Districts), specifically SMMC Section 9.08.020 – Land Use Regulations to establish a Conditional Use Permit requirement for an existing legal, non-conforming hotel restaurant located within the R2 and R3 zoning districts to request approval to provide meal service to the general public provided that certain criteria are met. The Oceana Hotel is located in the R3 (Medium Density Residential) Zoning District.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 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/xxbjfbzq or by dialing in at 1(415) 466-7000 (PIN: 4904791 #).

HOW TO COMMENT
The 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: Rathar Duong, Associate Planner
Re: 20ENT-0236, 20ENT-0237, and 21ENT-0090

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Rathar Duong at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at rathar.duong@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.



WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS.



Robert Lemle

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER



Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Words Matter

THE LETTER OF THE LAW

The Spirit of the Law.

Often, especially in politics, two very different things. In fact, the letter of the law is often what's thrown up to mask that the spirit of the law is being ignored and violated.

What is the spirit of the law? It's that which the law was intended to accomplish.

If a group can claim to be within the letter of the law, they can hope you never find out what they have really done, which is likely against the spirit of the law. If outed, they can throw up their hands in innocence and argue with a straight face that their letter compliance is actually the correct path.

We hear the word transparency so often, but actually bump right into it so rarely. There is a tendency among politicians and bureaucrats, from the president down to the hall monitor, to believe that their having been elected or even appointed into a position of power is a recognition of their superior faculties of wisdom and knowledge, a mandate, if you will, that should not be thwarted by the citizenry or even the encumbrances of rules or the law. You might call that

PATERNALISM –

"The interference of a state or individual with another person, against their will or knowledge, and defended or motivated by a claim that the person interfered with will be better off or protected from harm."

I believe it is rampant in all levels of the governance of Santa Monica, and that it explains a lot that otherwise seems mysterious, nefarious or just plain wrong. Father knows best, therefore the input and certainly the disagreement of mere mortals is not needed or wanted. Keeping things as hidden as possible to the public becomes a good thing.

Sometimes these issues are weighty, sometimes trivial or just a matter of opinion. Transparency is not easy or preferred for any officials, I know that. Just let me do my job for which I have been trained or elected, and we'll all be better off in the long run, the big picture. Trust me.

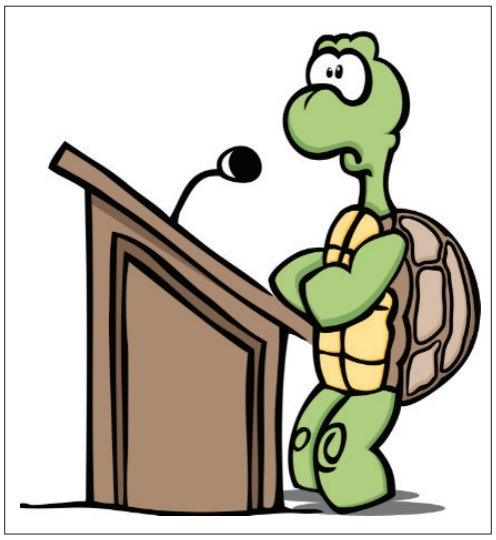
But imagine a world, or just our city, where transparency was the overriding principle. Where every staff report and Council discussion, School Board edict and police practice, was predicated first on transparency. That means not only honesty but disclosure of all relevant facts, and the consideration of options.

Yeah, I know, dream on. But why not? If it were known that that's how things work here we might get a different type of person looking to fill those positions of public trust.

PICKY, PICKY

These matters are, of course, quite subjective. And not every lack of transparency is a cover-up. But I would rather see us err on the side of openness. Let's look at a couple of recent examples.

An anonymous email was sent a week ago to City Council members (but not Kevin McKeown, he claims) and Acting City



Courtesy image

COMMENTS: Transparency in politics has been slow to show up.

Manager Lane Dilg, noting that a portion of a spending authorization approved by Council included a "grandfathered" benefit, which was in fact payment for Internet access for Council member McKeown, and only McKeown. But the authorization did not name him, nor even what the item referred to. It amounts to $206/month and has been paid since at least 2018, wrote "SM Anonymous," and documentation was attached.

CABLEGATE

I wrote to McKeown about this and he responded promptly, as he always has (that's a sliver of transparency, isn't it? — kind of depending on the response), and with a note of humor, putting CABLEGATE in his email subject line. Kudos always for a sense of humor, something often lacking in politicians.

"I believe the City Manager has already made a statement on this. I'm copying her in case she wishes to provide it to you," he wrote. She hasn't, yet.

McKeown continued, "The most recent resolution authorizing that ongoing support was passed by the new, current, City Council just three months ago, as part of the midyear budget review, with a full public hearing, and the vote was, I believe, unanimous."

THE LANGUAGE

Now see, there we go. All true, I believe, but…"a full public hearing"? That gives the impression of the authorization dissected and subject to public comment, a public well notified of the hearing and aware of the details. And that almost never happens. (I give you our School Board.)

He noted that the City reimburses him only for the Internet portion of his cable bill, and that he just renegotiated for a different package that will lower that bill, effective next month. A small pat on the back, Kevin.

But he did not answer these questions: Do you feel it is justified that this benefit goes to only one Council member, and if so,

SEE **WORDS** PAGE 5

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

L.A. County Meets Yellow Tier Threshold,

Los Angeles County has met the threshold for the least restrictive yellow tier in the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Today, the State released updated blueprint tier numbers; L.A. County's adjusted case rate dropped from 1.9 new cases per 100,000 people to 1.6 new cases per 100,000. The overall test positivity rate dropped from 0.9% to 0.7%, and in areas with the fewest health affirming resources, L.A. County's test positivity rate dropped from 1.0% to 0.8%.

A revised Los Angeles County Health Officer Order will go into effect on Thursday, May 6, to reflect newly permitted activities. Moving into the yellow tier allows, on Thursday, for increases in capacity in many sectors and allows bars to begin providing indoor service at 25% capacity. All of these changes will still require safety modifications, including masking, distancing and infection control to reduce the risk of transmission. The sectors with increases in capacity limits include amusement parks and fairs, gyms and fitness centers, yoga studios, private events, bars, hotels and short-term lodging rentals, private gatherings, breweries, indoor playgrounds, restaurants, cardrooms and racetracks, indoor and outdoor live events and performances, wineries and tasting rooms, family entertainment centers, and museums, zoos, and aquariums.

The modified Health Officer Order was posted online on Wednesday, May 5 with an effective date of May 6.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed 18 new deaths and 273 new cases of COVID-19. Of the 18 new deaths reported today, six people that passed away were over the age of 80, seven people who died were between the ages of 65 and 79, four people who died were between the ages of 50 and 64, and one person who died was between the ages of 30 and 49.

To date, Public Health identified 1,234,202 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 23,930 deaths.

There are 386 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 25% of these people are in the ICU. COVID-19 testing results are available for nearly 6,525,000 individuals with 18% of people testing positive.

Public Health urges everyone to celebrate Cinco de Mayo safely. Please avoid large crowds, celebrate outdoors, and wear your mask at all times except when eating and drinking. Alcohol lowers inhibitions, please drink responsibly and safely to protect yourself and others and never drink and drive. Let's continue to work together during our recovery journey.

"To the many people grieving a loved one lost to COVID-19, we extend our deepest condolences," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "It is a big deal for L.A. County, a county of more than 10 million people, to move into the least restrictive tier in the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. We are successful only because together we took a stand to lower COVID-19 transmission by following the guidance and safety measures. While transmission is low here, we are still in the middle of a pandemic, variants of concern are circulating, and there is still widespread transmission occurring in other parts of the world. We know how to get our rates low, now we must keep them low by getting vaccinated and continuing to follow the guidance. Our gains are fortified as more people are vaccinated."

COVID-19 vaccinations are available at County-run sites and many community sites without an appointment. Everyone 16 and older living or working in L.A. County can get vaccinated. You should bring a photo ID with you and teens 16 and 17 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Visit: www.VaccinateLACounty.com (English) and www.VacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish) to find a vaccination site near you, to make an appointment at vaccination sites, and much more. If you don't have internet access, can't use a computer, or you're over 65, you can call 1-833-540-0473 for help finding an appointment. There may be an extended wait time to speak with an operator for help making an appointment during high demand times. Vaccinations are always free and open to eligible residents and workers regardless of immigration status.

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

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH

WORDS

FROM PAGE 4

why? Do you know who on staff drew up that document that you all voted on? Did you contact one or more people on staff to advocate for or otherwise comment on it? Did you request language that did not reveal your name as the sole beneficiary? Or even what that grandfathered benefit was?

I'm clear this is not a big deal at all. Kind of amusing, actually, as McKeown acknowledged. But lack of transparency in government is not, and I would like to see a shift to openness not obfuscation. A new mindset, from council to staff to School Board. I addressed this in a recent CURIOUS CITY.

MIRAMAR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I also wrote to Councilmember Gleam Davis concerning her discussions and votes over the last eight years on the massive Miramar project, because of the involvement of her husband; and to her husband John Prindle, about his involvement in the Main Street remake as a member of the Ocean Park Association Board, which the Council voted on last session.

Being a lawyer, Davis' response was the length of a legal "brief" and I will have to let you know more about that next column. She did clear up a few misconceptions which you should know about, but there is also that ubiquitous matter of "political" language. Prindle did not respond, probably because Davis addressed those questions in her email to me. And she did write back nearly as quickly as McKeown. Hey, it's a start.

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

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RESTAURANTS

FROM PAGE 1

use traditional recipes passed down from generations to craft every dish and prepare their signature 'La Purepecha sauce'.

"From the carnitas, to the al-pastor, to the rice, to the sauces, all of the food comes straight from my great grandmother and grandmother's recipes," said Co-owner and SMC graduate, Pedro Palomo.

When Palomo was studying at Santa Monica College he was always on the lookout for fresh homemade Mexican tortillas. Finding nothing in the neighborhood up to par he decided to fill the niche himself.

"The handmade tortilla gives the taco a very authentic flavor. It tastes totally different than anything you can buy in store," said Palomo. "Every time someone places an order the tortilla is made fresh in the restaurant right there and then."

To celebrate Cinco de Mayo and welcome neighbors to the restaurant, La Purepecha is running specials all week. This Wednesday tacos are $1.99 each, on Thursday there is a $10 deal for a traditional bowl and agua fresca, and on Friday there is a $10 deal on a fajita bowl and an agua fresca.

LAS CHICAS TACOS: A BETTER-FOR-YOU MEXICAN FEAST

Las Chicas Tacos is celebrating Cinco de Mayo with the grand opening of its Venice store. Located inside the Wholefoods at 225 Lincoln Boulevard, this is the fourth location of the health and plant forward Mexican eatery.

"Chicas Tacos first pioneered the movement of organic, non-GMO ingredients sourced locally. Our style is bold and balanced with all dishes made fresh in-house daily," said Founder Chris Blanchard. "Whole Foods feels like such a natural fit for us, as both of our brands align on quality and freshness."

The menu includes all of Chicas award-winning staples such as their beer battered fish tacos, crispy plant-based taco, and Habanero salsa. There are also several menu items unique to the Venice location, including a grilled fish taco and leche de tigre ceviche.

The brand is excited to expand its Westside presence and is partnering with local vendor Abbot's Butcher for its plant-based proteins.

"Chicas Tacos has aspired to make its way to the coast since our inception in 2016. We love the vibes and beach energy and look forward to sharing Chicas fresh approach with our Venice and Santa Monica neighbors," said Blanchard.

Chicas is celebrating Cinco de Mayo with DJ entertainment and giveaways at all four of its locations. A percentage of proceeds from the day's sales will be donated to non-profit food donation organization No Us Without You.

TREJO'S TACOS: A CELEBRITY SENSATION

Founded by actor Danny Trejo, the iconic LA taco chain has opened a new Santa Monica storefront. Taking over the Le Pain Quotidien's former location at 316 Santa Monica Blvd., the restaurant is now serving tacos, burritos, bowls and more Wednesday through Sunday.

"We have found most of our customers are interested in seeing Danny, exchanging some platitudes, and getting a picture with him, so Danny will be visiting most of the restaurants on Cinco de Mayo," said founding partner Jeff Giorgino.

The menu is based on traditional Mexican recipes but has options for all kinds of dietary restrictions including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free dishes. Some of Trejo's favorite dishes include the pollo frito quesadilla, the carnitas tacos, and the steak asada burrito.

Clara@smdp.com



Photos courtesy of Chicas Tacos

VENICE: Chicas Tacos has a plant forward Mexican menu in the Venice Whole Foods.



LA, San Francisco improve for broader business reopening

BRIAN MELLEY AND JANIE HAR
Associated Press

When Angeleno Wine Co. reopened its tasting room, co-owner Amy Luftig Viste teared up seeing old friends reunited for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic had shuttered so many businesses that it left major cities looking like ghost towns.

Even with limited capacity, animated conversations flowed from the tables set among barrels of aging wine and echoed off the brick walls of the winery hidden in an industrial section on the outskirts of downtown Los Angeles.

"It felt like the winery had come alive again," Luftig Viste said Sunday, the day after it reopened after being closed all but two weeks over the past 13 months.

The din in the small space is destined to get louder when capacity is allowed to double to 50% as Los Angeles and San Francisco lead the way toward a broader reopening of California businesses.

On Tuesday, they became the first major urban areas in California to meet infection thresholds to move into the least-restrictive tier for reopening, allowing indoor bars to welcome people again, larger crowds to cheer on Major League Baseball's Dodgers and Giants, and expanded capacity at restaurants, movie theaters, amusement parks, gyms and other establishments.

A total of seven of the state's 58 counties are now in the so-called yellow tier, which is the final stage of a phased reopening plan before a projected return to business as usual June 15. The five other counties are all remote areas of Northern California.

It's a remarkable turnaround for LA considering it was ground zero for infections and deaths when California was the nation's epicenter of the virus outbreak just a few months ago.

The two cities have weathered the pandemic differently but are emerging at the same time after a statewide shutdown in March 2020 emptied streets, shuttered shops and restaurants, and darkened office buildings.

While San Francisco largely beat the coronavirus by avoiding it, Los Angeles was nearly beaten by it during the winter surge. At its worst point, more than 500 people a day were dying in California and hospitals in the LA area could barely treat the overwhelming influx of patients.

San Francisco reached the least-restrictive tier for a brief period in October, the only urban area to do so, before an alarming surge in cases forced a retreat. LA never emerged from the most restrictive tier until March.

Now, California has the lowest infection rate in the country. Los Angeles County, which is home to a quarter of the state's nearly 40 million people and has endured a disproportionate number of the state's 60,000 deaths, didn't record a single COVID-19 death Sunday or Monday.

As spring warms up, freeways are becoming congested, workers are returning to offices, and people are heading to restaurants and breweries.

On Sunday in downtown LA's Arts District, drivers circled the block looking for parking spaces. Diners filled the sidewalk tables of Wurstküche, eating sausages and drinking Belgian and German beer. A line of people waiting for a table at Angel City Brewery extended down the street.

Chris Sammons said he felt a civic obligation to get out and support businesses.

"It feels like almost a duty to be engaged with the city," Sammons said. "We have to bring LA back to life."

It was the first time out for his friend, Stephen Tyler, who said he was excited after hunkering down for so long and getting vaccinated.

"It's just good to be out in the city again, be around people," Tyler said. "Even this, I don't care about standing in line. It's all kind of new again."

In San Francisco, business has picked up at Mixt, a popular lunch spot for salad lovers in the Financial District. But it's not at pre-pandemic levels when lines spilled outdoors, said Leslie Silverglide, co-founder and CEO of the chain. She plans to open two more stores downtown in coming weeks.

"It seems as if people are coming back," she said. "They're excited to be having lunch with colleagues again."

Fear of catching the virus prompted a huge drop in mass transit ridership. Jason Alderman said he felt like a kid on his first day of school when he took a commuter train into San Francisco. He works for online payment start-up Fast, which reopened its headquarters as soon as San Francisco allowed in late March.

"Instead of feeling like a hollowed-out ghost town that people had quickly abandoned, it felt like there were green shoots of life," he said. "I felt a twinge of the energy that used to be there."

When the lockdown order came in March 2020, an estimated 137,500 workers for San Francisco companies that include Google, Facebook and Uber, seemingly vanished overnight.

Moving vans carted off households for roomier suburban homes and younger people simply packed up their cars and left since they could work from anywhere. Residential rents plummeted, but now are climbing.

The office vacancy rate in San Francisco is 18% compared with 10% a year earlier, said John Chang, senior vice president at Marcus & Millichap, a commercial real estate financing and advisory company. In Los Angeles, vacancies are at 17.5%, up from 13.5% a year earlier.

More telling, perhaps, is that only 14% of key cards are being used to enter offices in San Francisco, compared with 24% in LA. At the other end of the spectrum is Dallas, where data showed 41% of cards being used,

SEE **REOPENING** PAGE 11



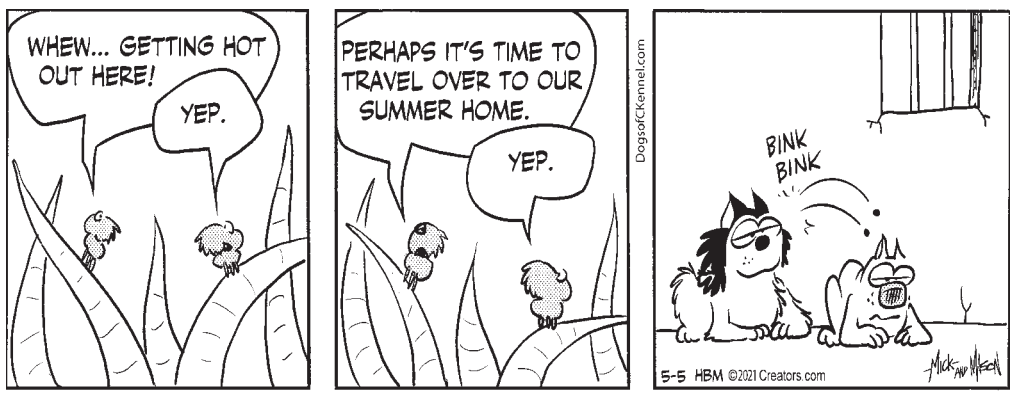
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I KNOW YOU LIKE TO MESS WITH THE FISH MARKET GUY."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.2°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Smaller mix of swells on tap, but still rideable as the early morning high tide drops. Should be peaks at the beachbreaks/combo spots west of Pt Dume off the leftover blend of NW and S swells.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Modest blend of swells on tap - rideable as the early morning high tide drops. Should be peaks at the beach-breaks/combo spots and morning wind looks light.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 67.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/05/05	Wed	12:18 AM	2.20	L
2021/05/05	Wed	05:44 AM	4.21	H
2021/05/05	Wed	12:35 PM	-0.07	L
2021/05/05	Wed	7:20 PM	4.46	H
2021/05/06	Thu	01:14 AM	1.62	L
2021/05/06	Thu	06:49 AM	4.19	H
2021/05/06	Thu	1:15 PM	0.14	L
2021/05/06	Thu	7:48 PM	4.75	H
2021/05/07	Fri	01:57 AM	1.08	L
2021/05/07	Fri	07:43 AM	4.16	H
2021/05/07	Fri	1:48 PM	0.40	L
2021/05/07	Fri	8:12 PM	5.00	H
2021/05/08	Sat	02:34 AM	0.62	L
2021/05/08	Sat	08:27 AM	4.08	H
2021/05/08	Sat	2:15 PM	0.70	L
2021/05/08	Sat	8:34 PM	5.21	H
2021/05/09	Sun	03:06 AM	0.24	L
2021/05/09	Sun	09:07 AM	3.96	H
2021/05/09	Sun	2:39 PM	1.01	L
2021/05/09	Sun	8:54 PM	5.38	H
2021/05/10	Mon	03:37 AM	-0.06	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/1
35 36 47 61 63
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 142 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/30
8 19 26 48 49
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 345 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 5/1
1 6 13 22 31
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 43 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/3
3 17 18 30 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/3
EVENING: 6 5 6

Draw Date: 5/3
MIDDAY: 9 1 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/3
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:47.44

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MAY 5)

Your style radiates and people give you lovely feedback that lets you know they are experiencing you on multiple levels – from their five senses to their intellect to more intangible modes of appreciation. The wondrous impression you make will help you open new relationships, resources and avenues for adventure. Aries and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 2, 30, 12 and 26.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'd love not to think of yourself at all — to be entirely unselfconsciously immersed in a state of flow as you execute the various activities of your day. Isn't that what true confidence is? You'll attain it for brief moments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even though it's easier to think things through than it is to carry them out in practice, you're in a mood to skip the plan and get right into action. It's an instinct that won't let you down.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are thoughtful and will focus on what fits a situation instead of on all the things you could possibly bring to the table. This shift of focus is what sets you apart as a mature and effective leader.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It is good to feel the yearning. Otherwise, how would you know what you deeply want? But once you realize just what that is, you'd do well to shift to a more active method of making things happen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In critical moments, your private self and public self will be equal. You will make the same choice alone that you would make if millions of people were watching.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've done things for other people that you wouldn't allow them to do for you. There's an adjustment to make in this regard because relationships will thrive best on a two-way street.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Worry is a product of time travel. Jumping to the future prematurely causes worry and dwelling on the past does, too. In the operative moment — this one here — there is no room for worry, only action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're getting so used to finding something to like in those less-than-ideal situations that your thoughts automatically gravitate to the positive things, the advantages and your points of leverage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The answers don't always have to come from you. Try a proven strategy from a friend/mentor/book/program. You'll find that you have a knack for duplicating success formulas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Different brains come with different styles of thought. Some have an audible running narrative in their head and others just feel the impulse and move. You'll enjoy working with those whose style is diverse from yours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The laws of leaning suggest that laying your weight into things that you have no control of puts you at risk for a fall. How can you emotionally, physically or financially prop yourself up better?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you do what you enjoy, highlight the parts you love and revel in what you find exciting, you won't have to wonder if the others are digging it, too. They will follow your lead.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

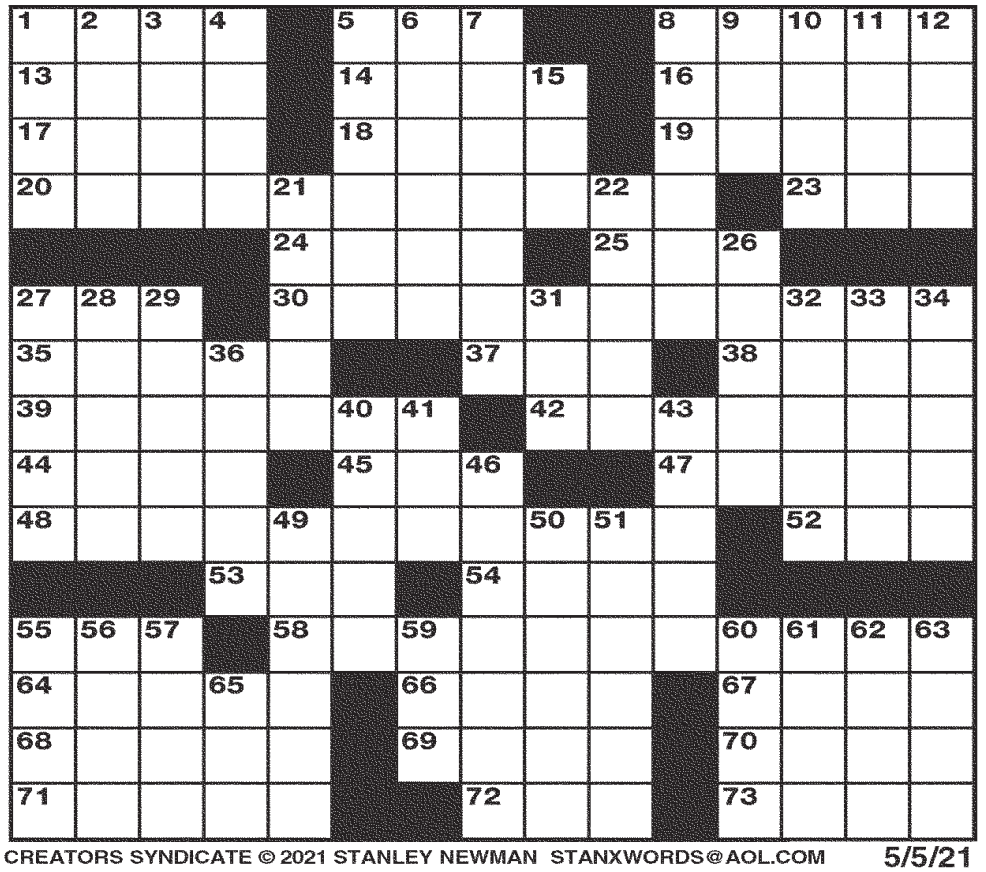
			8				2	
	2			1				7
1		6	5		7		8	
		3		4				2
		4		9		5		
5				7		6		
	9		6		4	7		1
6				3			4	
	4				2			

Newsday Crossword

STREET SOUNDS by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Char on a grill
5 Income tax agcy.
8 Imperfections
13 Casual eatery
14 First blank on many forms
16 Spooky
17 Real estate measure
18 Couturier Christian
19 Bird on a quarter
20 Smallest state
23 Antiquated
24 Allowed to improve with time
25 NFL tiebreaker periods
27 Dustcloth
30 Sat next to the driver
35 Love, in Italy
37 Troy, NY tech school
38 Rubik of cubes
39 Patronized, as a 13 Across
42 Entice
44 Fictional Karenina
45 NBA's Lakers, on scoreboards
47 Happen next
48 Highway debris, potholes, etc.
52 Halves of quarts: Abbr.
53 Total amount
54 Ernie's *Sesame Street* pal
55 "So that's it!"
58 Brought a kayak back
64 Obligated (to)
66 Like a bump on ___
67 Do as asked
68 Reef material
69 City near Tahoe
70 Flower on valentines
71 Theater platform
72 Family room
73 Volleyball dividers

DOWN
1 Lasting mark
2 Per item
3 Puffy hairdo
4 61 Down insert
5 Shade of blue or purple
6 Uplifted
7 Burn slowly
8 Give for a meal
9 Grazing area
10 Golden Fleece ship
11 Is sure to
12 Acorn, for instance
15 Historical period
21 Dog-___ (bent at the corner)
22 Superbly pitched
26 Back of a boat
27 Plane-tracking device
28 ___ acid (bit of protein)
29 "Ain't never ___ happen"
31 Resort with saunas
32 Hold firmly
33 Not abridged
34 Brief memos
36 Peruses
40 Texas shrine to "remember"
41 Bugs Bunny's whirling foe
43 Tries out
46 Stuck a tag on
49 Runner's obstacle
50 Overhauled
51 Fire-breathing monster
55 The basics, initially
56 Owl's outcry
57 Mysterious glow
59 All-out conflict
60 Sound from a sedan
61 Slender instrument
62 Remainder
63 Holes in needles
65 Pester with complaints



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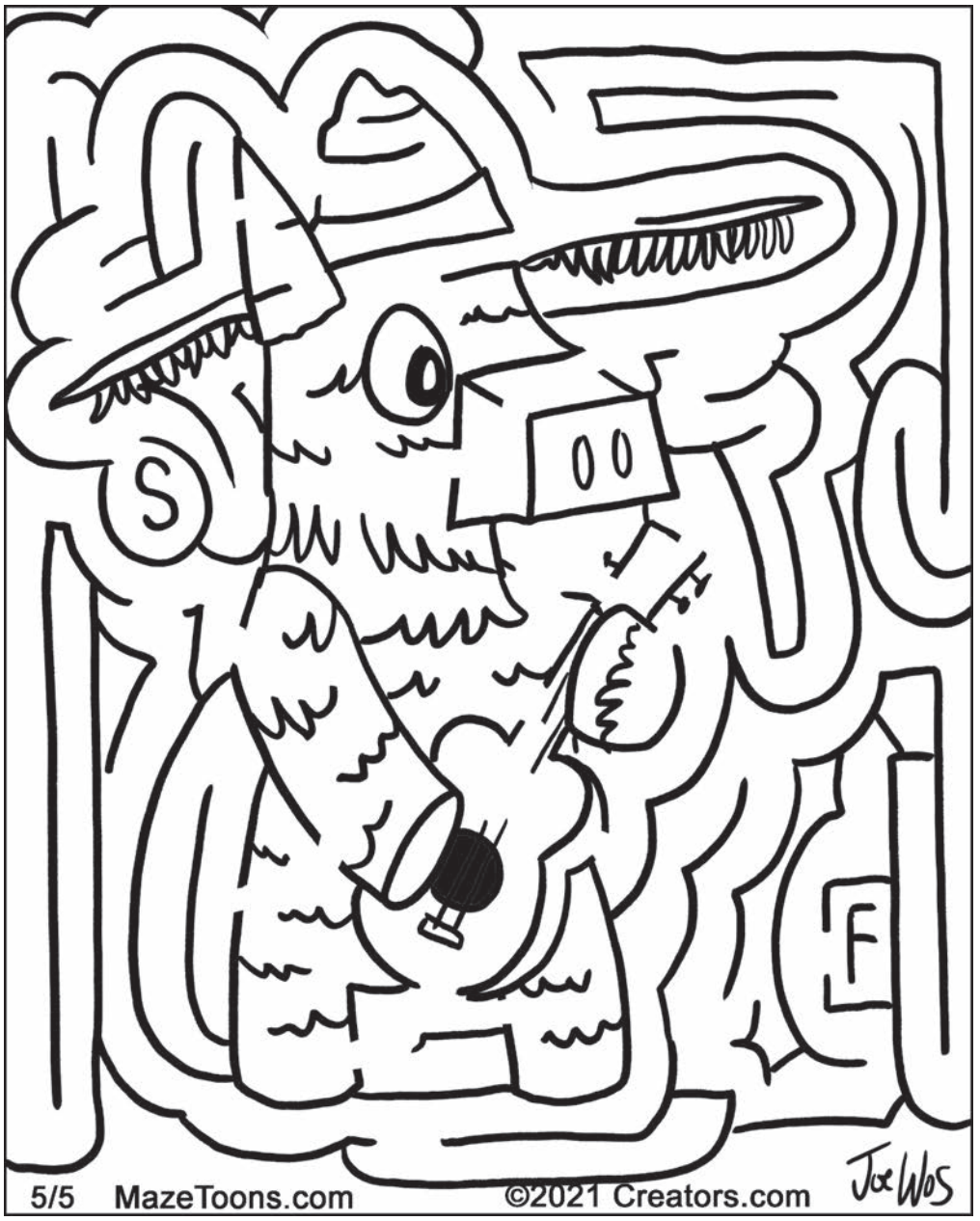
Binary Puzzle

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

I	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O
O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I
O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I
I	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O
I	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	O
O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	I
O	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	I
I	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
O	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I
O	I	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O
I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I

			I								
O											
	O		O		I	I			O	O	
					O	O			I		O
						O					O
		O		I				O		I	
				I							
		I			O			I	I		I
						I					
		O						O		O	O
		O	O					O		O	O



"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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5104

Make-believe

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

Aladdin
Amazing
Ariel
Author
Ball
Banshees
Beast
Damsel
Dwarf
Elves
Folktale
Foxes
Frog
Giant
Goblin
Goldilocks
Grimm
Hare
Hero
Hobbit
Humour
Imps
Lost
Man
Nose
Nursery rhymes
Peri
Pixy
Puck
Puss in Boots
Read
Sadness
Spell
Story
Swan
Text
Trick
Weird
Witch
Wonderful

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Rising humidity levels

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MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

new job by then. Cotti said that the city's insurer would contribute $150,000 of the total settlement amount.

The agreement also stipulated that Feldman will not sue Malibu. Both Feldman and the city council also agreed to a non-disparagement clause, which means neither party will speak negatively about the other in public.

Cotti said that the resignation agreement was not to be construed as any admission of wrongdoing by the city.

Feldman's resignation was announced after a long saga that came to a head during the most recent Malibu election cycle, when then-candidate Bruce Silverstein pledged to work to remove Feldman if elected; Silverstein was subsequently elected in November 2020, winning the highest number of votes out of all eight candidates. On social media, Silverstein often lambasted Feldman, calling her "an unelected fascist" and "a tyrannical leader" and describing her leadership style as "opaque, unaccountable and unethical." Feldman told the council that Silverstein bombarded her with records requests, making it difficult for her to complete her other duties as city manager.

Feldman was also implicated in allegations made by former Malibu City Council Member Jefferson "Zuma Jay" Wagner, who, with the help of Silverstein, shared a sworn affidavit last winter detailing a City Hall culture where "favors" were often done for "friends and/or supporters of [Feldman]." Feldman's lawyer Therese Cannata rejected Wagner's allegations via email to The Malibu Times.

Following the announcement of Feldman's departure, Wagner said he is interested in the City Manager's job himself.

Feldman, whose work has been defended by other council members both present and past, initially came under fire following the Woolsey Fire, the response to which many residents feel she botched.

Feldman, via Cannata, sent the council a letter in January 2021 saying that she would agree to a payout. "Because Ms. Feldman is under a constant attack by Mr. Silverstein, she lives in fear of retaliation for doing her job and exercising her professional judgment in the performance of her duties," Cannata wrote. "[Feldman] is extremely distressed and frightened by recent events, causing her sleepless nights and stressful days. Mr. Silverstein presents as someone who is unstable and unpredictable."

Feldman worked for the City of Malibu since 2005; she was appointed city manager in 2016, according to the city's website.

During her tenure, she grew the city's general fund reserves from $7 million to $30 million, helped the city acquire a large parcel of vacant land, coordinated millions of dollars of debt issuance and helped establish the city's AA+/AAA bond rating — a measurement which signifies a city's high level of creditworthiness and is instrumental in the city's ability to win funding for projects. She oversaw city staff in managing environmental programs, coordinated projects such as the $60 million Civic Center Water Treatment Facility and the remodeling of Malibu City Hall and led the city through the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, Feldman was recognized by her peers as the CCMF City Manager of the Year and represented Malibu on multiple regional and statewide agencies, according to information shared by Cannata.

"Reva's ties to Malibu run deep," the statement said. "She raised her family in Malibu with her daughter attending Webster Elementary and Malibu Middle and High School."

Outgoing Malibu Mayor Mikke Pierson said he was grateful to Feldman during his remarks and there was a "goodbye" event for her held over Zoom Wednesday, April 28, at 5 p.m.

Feldman's original contract was set to expire in May 2022, according to that letter. Cannata asked that Feldman's contract be bought out for $375,000, approximately one year of her salary, meaning that Feldman's final buyout, which totals $300,000 if all is paid, was less than her original ask.

As Cotti read out the terms of Feldman's resignation, both Feldman and Silverstein conveyed little emotion, remaining impassive against their blue Zoom backgrounds. Neither Feldman nor any council member commented following the announcement.

"It has been an honor to serve the residents of Malibu and to help the community that I have been a part of for almost two decades," Feldman later said in a statement from Cannata. "I am so proud of how much the City has accomplished, and I am grateful for the support of the City staff, residents and councilmembers that I have had the pleasure to work with."

This story is published as part of a partnership between the Malibu Times and SMDP.

REOPENING

FROM PAGE 7

reflecting the different approaches to the virus in the two states.

Chang said workers suddenly abandoned San Francisco when the original shutdown order took effect. He expects the return will be more gradual.

Lisa Elder, a paralegal who has worked in her office since July, said that even with some restaurants and cafes recently reopening the area is a shadow of its former self.

"Before COVID, this place was packed, there would be tons of people here in the alleyway eating and now it's like, quiet. It's crazy," she said.

At Angeleno Wine, Luftig Viste said most of her customers were vaccinated and all were excited to be out again.

"It's just such an honor to be the place that people come to break the seal as we start to come out again," she said.

Har reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writer Olga R. Rodriguez contributed from San Francisco.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMC Applied Music Program Presents Free Concert May 7

Santa Monica College Applied Music Program (AMP) students and faculty will live-host a virtual concert on Friday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature live introductions to video performances showcasing some of SMC's most gifted music students in a program that includes solo and group performances in both classical and jazz styles.

The event is free and open to the public, and will be presented online on the Facebook social media platform (Facebook membership is not required to enjoy the concert). A link to the event is available at the listing on the SMC Events calendar at smc.edu/calendar.

"Despite the challenges of technology and remote learning, students are still learning and making music at SMC!" said SMC Music Department chair Brian Driscoll, who co-directs the Applied Music Program with SMC music instructors Jimmy Cheesman and Gina Saputo Bagg. "This concert provides the missing link: the students' opportunity to share the fruits of their labor with an audience. We hope folks will tune in from the comfort of their homes to see and hear how music is being made in the homes of so many students."

The Applied Music Program, a part of SMC's continuing effort to blend top-tier arts education with high-quality performances for the public, is dedicated to fostering the development of outstanding instrumentalists, vocalists, and composers, with the goal of preparing each student for successful transfer as a music major to a four-year university or conservatory.

The academically rigorous program – founded in 2001 by Dr. James Smith – requires students to audition for the program and, if accepted, to take courses in ensemble, music theory, and performance, as well as private lessons.

More information is available by calling 310-434-3005 or 310-434-4323.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

IN-CLASS

FROM PAGE 1

going smoothly, Principal Steve Richardson said Tuesday.

"We're in week two and we have about 750 kids coming every day, which is over 80% of our population. It seems to be growing as we go and it's been really positive," Richardson said, thanking all of the school's staff for their hard work in making a return possible. "The parents have been great too in engaging in that social contract of, 'Okay… if my kids aren't themselves or aren't feeling well, then I'm not sending them in and I'm going to inform the school.' Parents have been fantastic about that, which is key because if that's not happening then the whole thing doesn't work. We're going to have a case; it's going to spread, and we could possibly get shut down. But everyone's doing their part and our process is going quite well."

Similar to schools like Samohi, students at JAMS must complete a screening before they enter campus. Every grade level has also been assigned a specific gate and time to enter through.

"Most of them pre-screen with an app we have, and if they show a green screen then we take their temperature and we send them to their first class. If they don't (pre-screen), we ask them the screening questions and we take their temp. They typically have about a half-hour to come in so they're staggered and it's actually worked out really well. We thought entering was going to be one of the hardest parts, but it went smoothly."

Another challenging task, according to Richardson, is preventing the school's social butterflies from mingling.

"They're middle schoolers, they want to be near each other, and they don't know what six feet is all the time, but they do know what mask-wearing is," he said. "They've also been hand washing like crazy, and it's been really positive in that sense, so we feel really good. It couldn't have gone any better than it's gone for us."

Board President Jon Kean, who was on-hand Tuesday for a tour of the middle-school campus, said this is the beginning of the road back to normalcy.

"This is that first step in us coming back and making these kids students again," Kean said, stating one of the great things about bringing the kids back now is it's a reintroduction to being students. "They're learning, they're remembering what it's like to be in a classroom, they're remembering what it's like to work with teachers and their fellow students."

"It's really interesting to watch and you're really seeing a blend. It's unique and it's different from anything you've ever seen in a classroom before, but, again, it's to get us back to the books and in school regularly. It's like a reintroduction because there are only a couple weeks of school left, so I view this as a bridge to the fall when things are normal," Kean added. "It's just so heartwarming to see kids coming back into school because this is where they belong and this is what they need. It's just great seeing them here, so thank you to our staff, thank you to our teachers, thank you to everybody."

Brennon@smdp.com



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