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As COVID cases increase, County Health resists 'sixth wave' label

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

COVID-19 cases continue to increase across LA County, but Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer is not yet calling the upward momentum a sixth wave.

The primary reason LA County Department of Public Health (DPH) leaders are resisting labeling the uptick a "wave" is also a promising sign: There is so far no accompanying spike in hospitalizations and deaths associated with the increased case positivity.

"Because deaths are a lagging indicator, we are a little concerned that we might see an uptick in the upcoming weeks," Ferrer described in response to a question during a DPH COVID-19 media briefing on Wednesday afternoon, May 4. But, later in the briefing, Ferrer said previous waves saw hospitalizations and deaths begin to spike within three weeks of case numbers increasing.

"All of our waves in the past, I ... want to note, have been characterized not just by an increase in cases but also by an increase in hospitalizations a couple of weeks — two to three weeks — later, and then an increase sadly, in deaths," Ferrer said. "So, we haven't seen either of those and we're way past the three-week mark."

Unless those lagging indicators begin to catch up, the current trend does not fit into what Ferrer considers a wave.

SEE **COVID-19** PAGE 8

Foreign ballet dancers who fled Russia take to the Broad Stage this weekend



Clara Harter

DANCE: A group of dancers will perform at the Broad Stage after leaving Russia in the wake of the war in Ukraine.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Westside School of Ballet welcomed three professional dancers after they left their homes, friends and career behind in Russia.

American dancers Joy Womack and Adrian Mitchell are both former Westside students and are joined in Santa Monica by Mitchell's wife Andrea Laššáková, who is from Slovakia and was also a professional dancer in Russia. This weekend they will take to Santa Monica's Broad stage for a special performance with other guest dancers and current Westside students.

The three of them are part of a mass exodus of foreign dancers leaving Russia and are a living representation of the artistic and cultural casualties of war.

Mitchell and Laššáková walked across the border to Estonia on foot carrying their dog and belongings with them after driving from Saint Petersburg. Womack, who was filming in Poland at the time of the Russian invasion, flew back to her home state of California leaving behind her Russian apartment with all her possessions.

All of the dancers had achieved dazzling careers in Russia, a country that lives and breathes ballet. Womack, who is now 28, moved

SEE **BALLET** PAGE 7

State of Our Schools program drives home theme of 'emerging stronger'

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

With classrooms back in session and mask mandates a thing of the past, the 2021-22 school year has been a glimpse at a post-COVID reality for local schools.

Virus cases have remained low since the winter spike (60 cases were reported last week across all school campuses) and spread has been relatively nonexistent at school sites. In light of this, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) took the time to celebrate making it through what administrators hope will have been the worst of the pandemic and look ahead to the future of education in Santa Monica.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have an amazing staff. Our teachers, support staff and administration have been pushed to extremes [the] past few years, between distance learning and implementation of health and safety protocols," Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said during his remarks at the Monday, May 2, State of Our Schools event. "They have risen to the occasion ... to not only educate our students, but support social-emotional well being."

Drati was joined by several notable members of the school community including SMMUSD Board of Education members Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein and Maria Leon-Vazquez; Assistant Superintendent Jacqueline Mora;

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 7

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Abortion battles in states fire up after Supreme Court leak

LINDSAY WHITEHURST, HOLLY RAMER AND KIMBERLEE KRUESI
Associated Press



Clara Harter

PROTEST: Santa Monicans were among those across the country protesting the draft decision to overturn Roe. V Wade.

The Supreme Court's apparent intention to abolish a nationwide right to abortion, spelled out in a draft opinion leaked this week, will expand the battlefield of the nation's most highly charged culture war, taking it to states where abortion access has long been assured.

Democrats in blue states are bracing for a wave of legal attacks and other maneuvers seeking to undermine access, and some are even taking steps to enshrine the right to abortion in their constitutions, making it much more difficult to impose a ban in the future.

Republican states are expected to ban or restrict abortion, but tactics also could include an aggressive effort to go beyond their borders to sue abortion providers and find other ways to punish those who assist a woman in securing an abortion.

The potential to roll back established abortion rights already has emerged in states with divided political control, including Pennsylvania and Virginia. California and Colorado are pushing to protect abortion access in their constitutions, a stronger step than passing a law. Connecticut and Washington state have already taken steps to shield providers from possible lawsuits as they anticipate women seeking abortions would cross state lines.

"We will not allow the tentacles of Texas to get into Washington state," said Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee, who vowed to make Washington a sanctuary for those seeking abortion.

Oregon lawmakers included $15 million in their state budget to help pay for people to travel to the state to get abortions and California has a similar bill.

The rhetoric on both sides points to a growing fight over access, with anti-abortion advocates hoping to shrink the number of states where the procedure remains legal if Roe is overturned. Roughly half of U.S. states are expected to move quickly to ban or greatly restrict abortion if that happens.

A new law in Idaho, currently blocked by the state Supreme Court, would allow family members of all involved to sue abortion providers, an example of the tactics to come.

"The next chapter of the conflict is really going to be about essentially what happens with interstate conflicts," said Mary Ziegler, a legal historian at Florida State University's law school.

Many states with one-party control of government already have chosen their side. The handful of states with divided politics are up for grabs.

In Pennsylvania, abortion is legal under state law for the first 24 weeks of pregnancy. The law's survival is on the line in this year's race for governor.

Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat who has vetoed recent legislation restricting abortion, is not running because of term limits. The race to replace him is between a similarly minded Democrat, state Attorney General Josh Shapiro, and a primary field of nine Republicans who all say they would sign restrictions passed by the Legislature, which is likely to remain under GOP control.

One Republican candidate, state Sen. Doug Mastriano, supports a ban at six weeks of pregnancy without exceptions for rape, incest or saving the life of the mother.

"There is one way and one way only for us to ensure that women have the legal right to continue to make decisions over their own bodies in Pennsylvania and that is winning this governor's race," Shapiro said during a conference call with reporters this week.

In North Carolina, Gov. Roy Cooper and other state Democrats have framed the November election as one in which they must prevent the GOP from winning back veto-proof majorities in the Legislature. With every seat up for election in November, Republicans need to gain five seats to restore that control.

"Republicans in our state are on the verge of gaining veto-proof supermajorities in Raleigh. If they succeed, you can add North Carolina to the list of states that will ban abortions," Cooper, who has vetoed efforts to limit abortion since 2019, said in a recent fundraising letter.

Campaigns for two state Supreme Court seats are expected to be even more intense because the court could hear challenges to any new abortion restrictions. Democrats currently hold four of the seven seats, including two on the ballot this year.

Republican Party Chairman Michael Whatley said in a release that the balance of the General Assembly and the Supreme Court "has never been more important" to ensure that "pro-life majorities" are in charge in a post-Roe future.

The potential to undermine abortion access also is surfacing in Virginia, where Democrats lost their total hold on state government last November when Republicans flipped the House of Delegates and won the governor's office. Democrats control the state Senate by only one vote and have one caucus member who opposes abortion and has indicated an openness to new restrictions.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin describes himself as "pro-life," though he has said he supports

SEE **ABORTION** PAGE 8

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DAILY POLICE LOGS

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Burglary Now 1500Blk Ocean Ave 12:11 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 800Blk Idaho Ave 3:00 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 200Blk Santa Monica Pier 3:47 a.m.
Prowler 1900Blk 6th St 5:46 a.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2400Blk 6th St 6:04 a.m.
Burglary 1000Blk 9th St 6:39 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 6:46 a.m.
Encampment 1700Blk The Beach 6:59 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:01 a.m.
Petty Theft 1700Blk 4th St 7:01 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:02 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2400Blk Ocean Front Walk 7:05 a.m.
Battery 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:07 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk 11th St 7:18 a.m.
Encampment 2700Blk The Beach 7:30 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100Blk Georgina Ave 7:38 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1900Blk 3rd St 7:45 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2400Blk Ocean Front Walk 7:48 a.m.
Speeding 3100Blk Pearl St 7:53 a.m.
General Parking Problem 700Blk Strand St 7:53 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 8:01 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:09 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1000Blk Euclid St 8:10 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100Blk Georgina Ave 8:11 a.m.
Encampment 200Blk The Beach 8:24 a.m.
Encampment 600Blk Raymond Ave 8:59 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 1900Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:28 a.m.
Encampment 2700Blk Highland Ave 9:36 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1800Blk 7th St 9:39 a.m.
Battery 500Blk Colorado Blvd 9:44 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 300Blk Euclid St 9:45 a.m.
Loud Music 1000Blk Centinela Ave 9:55 a.m.
Person With A Gun 500Blk Broadway 10:01 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 6th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:05 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 10:18 a.m.
Fire Request Police 1300Blk The Beach 10:20 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300Blk Franklin St 10:50 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 3100Blk 3rd St 11:00 a.m.
Encampment 1300Blk 14th St 11:26 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2600Blk 2nd St 11:26 a.m.
Petty Theft 800Blk Montana Ave 11:30 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1100Blk 22nd St 11:50 a.m.
Encampment 2700Blk Highland Ave 11:58 a.m.
Person With A Gun 2500Blk Main St 12:00 p.m.
Burglary 1000Blk 7th St 12:00 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1200Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:12 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 700Blk Broadway 12:16 p.m.
Burglary 800Blk Ocean Ave 12:21 p.m.
Encampment 2600Blk Main St 12:22 p.m.
Encampment 1300Blk 4th St 12:29 p.m.
Found Property 2600Blk 6th St 12:29 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 5th St 12:29 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700Blk The Beach 12:54 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1400Blk 15th St 12:56 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600Blk Barnard Way 1:39 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1500Blk 2nd St 1:42 p.m.
Burglary 1300Blk Grant St 1:49 p.m.
Identity Theft 800Blk Ozone St 2:09 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2000Blk Ocean Ave 2:36 p.m.
Lost Property Yale St / Broadway 2:39 p.m.
Battery 2300Blk 6th St 2:49 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 1100Blk Yale St 3:13 p.m.
Speeding Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 3:26 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1400Blk 4th St 3:30 p.m.
Grand Theft 2300Blk 31st St 3:38 p.m.
Petty Theft 2900Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:46 p.m.
Fraud 2000Blk 20th St 3:55 p.m.
Petty Theft 1000Blk Pico Blvd 4:10 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 3200Blk Nebraska Ave 4:12 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Marine St 4:14 p.m.
Fraud 2800Blk Neilson Way 4:14 p.m.
Burglary 1000Blk 7th St 4:30 p.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 4:32 p.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 4:32 p.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 4:32 p.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 4:33 p.m.
Stalking 1100Blk 12th St 4:34 p.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 4:35 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 100Blk Hill St 5:04 p.m.
Burglary 1000Blk 7th St 5:06 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1200Blk 4th St 5:16 p.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:35 p.m.
Found Property 100Blk California Ave 5:36 p.m.
Speeding Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 5:45 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100Blk Broadway 6:07 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk 11th St 6:34 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Ashland Ave 6:34 p.m.
Speeding 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:43 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1000Blk 6th St 6:48 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1300Blk Montana Ave 6:56 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2600Blk Main St 7:09 p.m.
Loitering 1400Blk 26th St 7:13 p.m.
Found Property Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 7:19 p.m.
Petty Theft 1600Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:22 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle Stanford St / Nebraska Ave 7:28 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 28th St / Pico Blvd 7:34 p.m.
Loud Music 2500Blk The Beach 7:41 p.m.
Found Property 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:07 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 1700Blk Ocean Ave 8:17 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000Blk 10th St 9:07 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation Stanford St / Nebraska Ave 9:16 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1400Blk 4th St 9:22 p.m.
Speeding 4th St / Interstate 10 9:36 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1400Blk 4th St 9:36 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:54 p.m.
Sexual Assault 2700Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:56 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 900Blk Palisades Beach rd 9:59 p.m.
Construction Noise 2600Blk 31st St 10:12 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1400Blk 4th St 10:18 p.m.
Construction Noise 31st St / Ocean Park Blvd 10:19 p.m.
Public Intoxication 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:25 p.m.
Loud Music 1300Blk 2nd St 10:29 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1200Blk 2nd St 11:04 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1300Blk 2nd St 11:05 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:06 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 32 CALLS ON MAY 3

EMS 2600Blk 32nd St 12:17 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Expo Line 12:26 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 17th St 1:46 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2700Blk Pennsylvania Ave 3:56 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 17th St 5:38 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:08 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 7:38 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1800Blk 7th St 9:39 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 500Blk 12th St 9:45 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Colorado Ave 9:48 a.m.
EMS 1000Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:51 a.m.
EMS 6th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:05 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 20th St 10:16 a.m.
EMS 00Blk Village Pkwy 10:17 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 10:58 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 11:47 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1200Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:12 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 3rd St 12:16 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 1:01 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Olympic Dr 1:39 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:44 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:30 p.m.
EMS 2300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:42 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 4th St 3:48 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Pico Blvd 4:38 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:00 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 21st St 6:13 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Centinela Ave 8:09 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Arizona Ave 8:21 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2800Blk Pico Blvd 8:22 p.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 2200Blk Virginia Ave 8:45 p.m.
EMS 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:51 p.m.

CRIME WATCH

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

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 21 AT 7:33 P.M.

Officers arrived at the Ken Edwards Center on the 1500 block of 4th St. regarding a battery. The victim relayed that she was on a walk and sat on a bench in Palisades Park along the 1400 block of Ocean Ave. Suddenly, a subject walked up to her and pulled her down to the ground and proceeded to kick her. The victim tried to use her pepper spray to protect herself, but it was ineffective. The subject walked away and the victim contacted SMPD. Officers located Jesus Young and he was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Disturbed by Brock

Councilmember Brock is lucky his letter to John Alle and other community leaders was leaked the same week as the draft Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade. I'm sure he'd like for it to quickly fade from progressives' memories in the avalanche of news, op-eds, and tweets flooding our newsfeeds about the pending assault on womens' rights. While I'm as enraged as anyone over the draft Court opinion, I could not allow this local issue to subside unnoticed. I am very disturbed at the direction Brock is pushing for Downtown, which will leave our unhoused neighbors' discriminated against and possibly put in severe danger at the behest of the City.

In his letter, Brock scapegoats Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM), an organization that was never chartered to solve homelessness in our city, and states his support for "a dissolution of the current board of DTSM" due to their inability "to sufficiently tackle these urgent issues." Yet, it is the City's responsibility to tackle homelessness, not DTSM's, and while the situation is indeed urgent and tragic, it certainly isn't apocalyptic like our neighbors in Venice face or at Skid Row in Downtown Los Angeles. For that, we are lucky, and I am grateful to our community leaders for policies and programs that have prevented such an extreme situation here.

Disturbingly, however, Brock proposes extreme solutions for Santa Monica's unhoused. He calls for the privatization of Third Street and for a private, armed security force to patrol the downtown area. "We can remove [Third Street] from the public streets index," he states. "I fully support the removal of the [DTSM] safety ambassador team as currently constituted and that they be immediately replaced by a high quality, armed, private security force..." As one of the residents he ostensibly is fighting for, I do not want one of our community's most valuable public assets privatized, nor do I want untrained, unaccountable, and armed private security interacting with our unhoused population, many of whom have mental health issues.

Parallels were immediately drawn by some to the Task Force that is currently providing amplified security at the Santa Monica Pier. As a Pier Commissioner and U.S. Army veteran who understands security operations intimately, I voted to support that Task Force at our Pier Corporation Board meeting and publicly stated my support to Council before their authorization vote. Security at the Pier has a clear mission; it is small-scale and relatively unobtrusive while protecting a historic landmark and community treasure from the very real threat of fire and combustibles. Securing Downtown is a wholly different operation that cannot be solved by posting a handful of guards at entry points, as at the Pier. "Securing" the Promenade 24/7 in a similar fashion would require multiple shifts of dozens of guards and significant fencing. Is THAT what we want at the Promenade? Is THAT the image we want to present to our community members and to the tourists who are the lifeblood of our downtown economic strategy? Is THAT a good use of our resources? Instead, we should be using those resources to provide mental health care, addiction treatment, and build affordable housing to prevent homelessness in the first place!

I cannot help but see similarities to 1972 when the City attempted to privatize our bay by developing an offshore luxury resort island and replacing our iconic Pier, the heart of our tourism industry, with a private causeway. Local activists fought back and the Pier and our bay were preserved. Council members who voted for the project were sent packing in the next election. Privatization of public assets is not what this community has ever stood for, not then and not now!

Finally though, I am weary of politicians who campaign on security and safety issues - without any background in either - spouting dangerous ideas. The themes of scapegoating, privatization, and fear mongering that are present throughout Brock's missive feel more at home with today's Republican Party than here in Santa Monica. Brock campaigned on "change" but what he's promoting is more in line with Trumpist conservatism. THAT is not the Santa Monica I chose to make my home. I strongly urge the community to stand against these proposals.

Dan Hall, Santa Monica

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How higher Fed rates stand to affect Americans' finances

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

Record-low mortgages below 3% are long gone. Credit card rates will likely rise. So will the cost of an auto loan. Savers may finally receive a yield high enough to top inflation.

The substantial half-point hike in its benchmark short-term rate that the Federal Reserve announced Wednesday won't, by itself, have much immediate effect on most Americans' finances. But additional large hikes are expected to be announced at the Fed's next two meetings, in June and July, and economists and investors foresee the fastest pace of rate increases since 1989.

The result could be much higher borrowing costs for households well into the future as the Fed fights the most painfully high inflation in four decades and ends a decades-long era of historically low rates.

Chair Jerome Powell hopes that by making borrowing more expensive, the Fed will succeed in cooling demand for homes, cars and other goods and services and thereby slow inflation.

Yet the risks are high. With inflation likely to stay elevated, the Fed may have to drive borrowing costs even higher than it now expects. Doing so could tip the U.S. economy into recession.

Here are some questions and answers about what the rate hikes could mean for consumers and businesses:

I'M CONSIDERING BUYING A HOUSE. WILL MORTGAGE RATES KEEP GOING UP?

Rates on home loans have soared in the past few months, mostly in anticipation of the Fed's moves, and will probably keep rising.

Mortgage rates don't necessarily move up in tandem with the Fed's rate increases. Sometimes, they even move in the opposite direction. Long-term mortgages tend to track the yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which, in turn, is influenced by a variety of factors. These include investors' expectations for future inflation and global demand for U.S. Treasurys.

For now, though, faster inflation and strong U.S. economic growth are sending the 10-year Treasury rate up sharply. As a consequence, mortgage rates have jumped 2 full percentage points just since the year began, to 5.1% on average for a 30-year fixed mortgage, according to Freddie Mac.

In part, the jump in mortgage rates reflects expectations that the Fed will keep raising its key rate. But its forthcoming hikes aren't likely fully priced in yet. If the Fed jacks up its key rate to as high as 3.5% by mid-2023, as many economists expect, the 10-year Treasury yield will go much higher, too, and mortgages will become more expensive.

HOW WILL THAT AFFECT THE HOUSING MARKET?

If you're looking to buy a home and are frustrated by the lack of available houses, which has triggered bidding wars and eye-watering prices, that's unlikely to change anytime soon.

Economists say that higher mortgage rates will discourage some would-be purchasers. And average home prices, which have been soaring at about a 20% annual rate, could at least rise at a slower pace.

The surge in mortgage rates "will temper the pace of home price appreciation as more would-be homebuyers are priced out," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst for Bankrate.

Still, the number of available homes remains historically low, a trend that will likely frustrate buyers and keep prices high.

WHAT ABOUT AUTO LOANS?

Fed rate hikes can make auto loans more expensive. But other factors also affect these rates, including competition among car makers that can sometimes lower borrowing costs.

Rates for buyers with lower credit ratings are most likely to rise as a result of the Fed's hikes, said Alex Yurchenko, chief data officer for Black Book, which monitors U.S. vehicle prices. Because used vehicle prices, on average, are rising, monthly payments will rise too.

For now, new-vehicle loans average about 4.5%. Used-vehicle rates are about 5%.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER RATES?

For users of credit cards, home equity lines of credit and other variable-interest debt, rates would rise by roughly the same amount as the Fed hike, usually within one or two billing cycles. That's because those rates are based in part on banks' prime rate, which moves in tandem with the Fed.

Those who don't qualify for low-rate credit cards might be stuck paying higher interest on their balances. The rates on their cards would rise as the prime rate does.

Should the Fed decide to raise rates by 2 percentage points or more over the next two years — a distinct possibility — that would significantly enlarge interest payments.

WILL I BE ABLE TO EARN MORE ON MY SAVINGS?

Probably, though not likely by very much. And it depends on where your savings, if you have any, are parked.

Savings, certificates of deposit and money market accounts don't typically track the Fed's changes. Instead, banks tend to capitalize on a higher-rate environment to try to increase their profits. They do so by imposing higher rates on borrowers, without necessarily offering any juicer rates to savers.

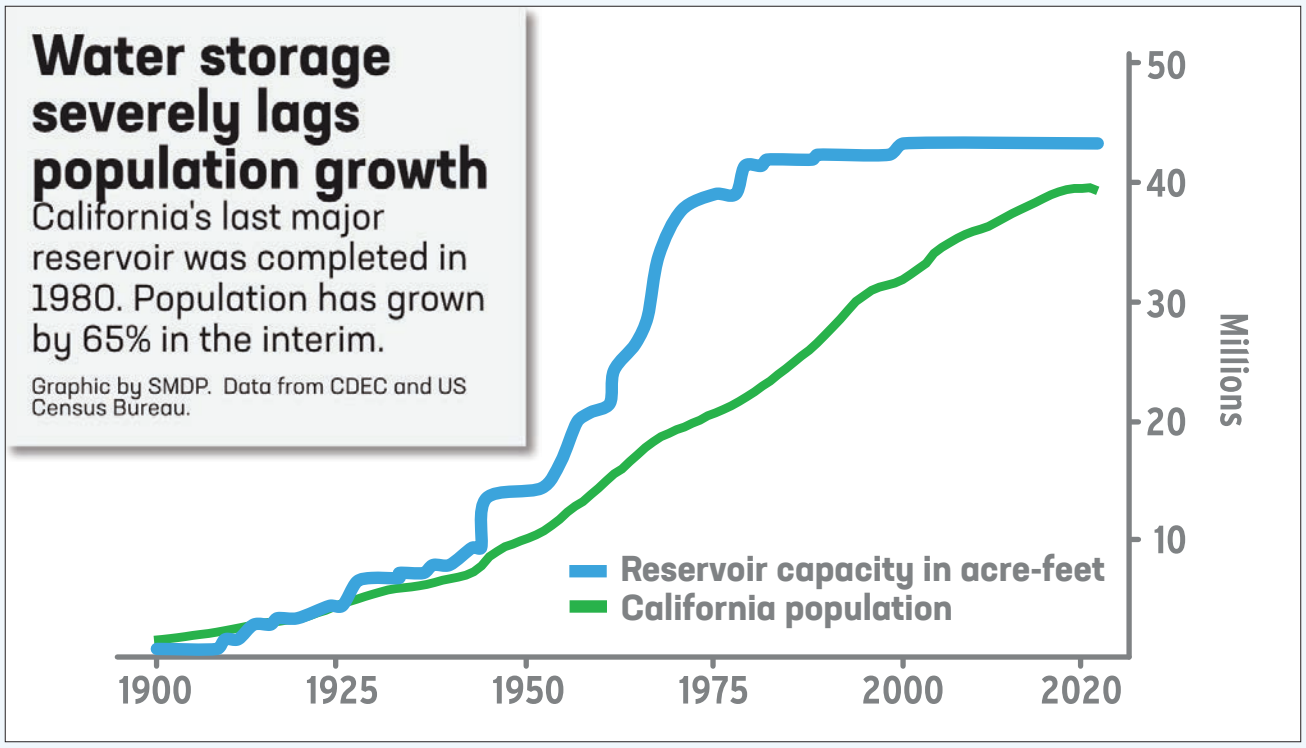
This is particularly true for large banks now. They've been flooded with savings as a result of government financial aid and reduced spending by many wealthier Americans during the pandemic. They won't need to raise savings rates to attract more deposits or CD buyers.

But online banks and others with high-yield savings accounts could be an exception. These accounts are known for aggressively competing for depositors. The only catch is that they typically require significant deposits.

Still, savers are starting to see some better potential returns from Treasurys. On Tuesday, the yield on the 10-year note was 2.96%, after having briefly topped 3% for the first time since 2018.

Financial markets expect inflation to average 2.83% over 10 years. That level

SEE **INFLATION** PAGE 8



SMDP image

DROUGHT: The first three months of the year were the driest in recorded state history and agencies across the region are struggling to prepare for ongoing drought. While many are implementing water conservation measures, water storage projects have lagged behind population growth. Locally Santa Monica has installed several water storage projects in recent years including underground facilities near the beach and the Civic Center.

State moves to embrace cryptocurrency

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California, which would have the world's fifth-largest economy if it was a country, on Wednesday became the first U.S. state to formally begin examining how to broadly adapt to cryptocurrency and related innovations, following a path laid out by President Joe Biden in March.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order for state agencies to move in tandem with the federal government to craft regulations for digital currencies. It also calls for officials to explore incorporating broader blockchain computer coding into the government operations of the state where much of the world's technological innovation is born.

Evolving blockchain and cryptocurrency technology "is potentially an explosive creator of new companies and new jobs and new opportunities," said Dee Dee Myers, a senior advisor to Newsom and director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.

"So there are a lot of opportunities," she said. "There's also a lot of unknowns in the industry and so that's another reason we want to engage early."

Newsom's order says the state — home to Silicon Valley and financial innovators like PayPal and Square — should be out front in figuring out how to adapt to new technologies.

"Too often government lags behind technological advancements, so we're getting ahead of the curve on this, laying the foundation to allow for consumers and business to thrive," Newsom, a Democrat, said in a statement.

California has about 39 million residents and its economy is more than $3.1 trillion, larger on its own as a U.S. state than the United Kingdom and India. Newsom said his order is a step toward making it the nation's first state "to establish a comprehensive, thoughtful, and harmonized regulatory and business environment for crypto assets."

Cryptocurrencies, which are built on blockchain database technology, have exploded in popularity. About 16% of U.S. adults have invested in, traded, or used cryptocurrencies and the percentage is much higher among younger men. Biden's executive order in part asks the Federal Reserve to consider whether it should create its own digital currency.

Blockchain creates the underlying transparency of a decentralized but publicly viewable ledger. The technology can also be used to record other types of information, such as property records. The records are held on many computers that together form a global network so that no one and no institution can control them.

There is heavy disagreement about the legitimacy of cryptocurrency, even among some of the world's richest people. Elon Musk is an avid supporter of dogecoin while Warren Buffet recently said he wouldn't pay $25 for all of the world's bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency. Each bitcoin is currently valued at about $38,000.

While California may be first to try to develop a comprehensive approach, Ohio was the first to attempt to accept virtual currency for government services in 2018, though the program was soon discontinued because few people used it.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, also a Democrat, said in February that his state would begin accepting cryptocurrency for government services later this year.

California lawmakers are among many around the U.S. who have offered related legislation. But a bill by Democratic Sen. Sydney Kamlager to allow California to accept crypto assets for state services failed in its first committee this year and a similar bill by Republican Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham is stalled.

Similar measures have been introduced in Arizona, Wyoming and other states.

Despite the potential pitfalls of cryptocurrency, Newsom's order says California should take the lead in figuring out how to adapt to the technological evolution.

His order builds on a July 2020 report by the California Blockchain Working Group, which examined the use of blockchain along with its risks and benefits.

California that same year created a new Department of Financial Protection and Innovation from what had been the Department of Business Oversight, with a goal of evaluating emerging risks and opportunities while protecting consumers.

Newsom's order calls for the department to develop guidelines for disclosures by companies when they offer financial products and services related to cryptocurrencies. It will also provide guidelines for state-chartered banks and credit unions regarding crypto-related products.

The department will respond to consumer complaints, work with crypto companies to resolve consumer complaints and take enforcement action when needed. It will also publish consumer education materials, including advice on avoiding

SEE **CRYPTO** PAGE 8

LA hospital sued for racism in Black mother's death

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

The husband of a Black woman who died hours after childbirth in 2016 sued Cedars-Sinai Medical hospital on Wednesday, saying she bled to death because of a culture of racism at the renowned Los Angeles medical center.

Charles Johnson IV said he discovered the disparity in care women of color receive at Cedars compared to white women during depositions in his wrongful death lawsuit that is scheduled to go to trial next week in Los Angeles Superior Court.

"There's no doubt in my mind that my wife would be here today and be here Sunday celebrating Mother's Day with her boys if she was a Caucasian woman," Johnson said at a news conference outside the hospital. "The reality is that on April 12, 2016, when we walked into Cedars-Sinai hospital for what we expected to be the happiest day of our lives, the greatest risk factor that Kira Dixon Johnson faced was racism."

Johnson died about 12 hours after having a scheduled cesarean section that was performed in 17 minutes to deliver the couple's second son, Langston.

Despite signs she was bleeding internally, she languished for hours without being readmitted to the operating room until it was too late, the lawsuit said.

"This is sloppy. It was butchery," attorney Nick Rowley said. "It shocked everybody that we deposed, all the health care providers, even the head of (obstetrics) here, the head of labor and delivery, looked at it and said 'No, I've never seen one done that fast.'"

The surgeon who performed the C-section had cut into Kira Johnson's bladder and she hadn't been sutured properly, Rowley said. When she was brought back into the operating room, nearly 90% of her blood was found in her stomach.

The hospital, which has fought the malpractice lawsuit, said in a statement that it was founded on principles of diversity and health care for all and it rejected "any mischaracterization of our culture and values."

"We are actively working to eradicate unconscious bias in health care and advance equity in health care more broadly," the statement said. "We commend Mr. Johnson for the attention he has brought to the important issue of racial disparities in maternal outcomes."

Kira Johnson's death led her husband on a crusade to advocate for reducing maternal mortality, which is especially high for Black women.

Before the pandemic, which increased deaths of women of color during childbirth, Black women died at 2.5 times the rate of white women, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Charles Johnson has testified before Congress and at the state Capitol in Sacramento in support of a variety of bills, including a 2019 state law that requires doctors and nurses to identify implicit bias at work, and a recent bill that would lift the cap on medical malpractice awards.

Johnson would not benefit from a change in the malpractice law that currently caps awards at $250,000. The case is scheduled to go to trial May 11, though recent court filings indicated the two sides were close to reaching a settlement.

The civil rights case would give Johnson another avenue to collect damages and hold Cedars-Sinai accountable. He's also seeking an injunction that would require the hospital to make changes to protect mothers and women of color.

Johnson said his malpractice lawsuit had revealed "rampant racism," with witnesses saying his wife was improperly treated because of her race.

Dr. Kimberly Gregory, an obstetrician and gynecologist at the hospital, testified that she lives with "structural racism" every day and it prevents Black patients from receiving the same care as whites, according to court papers. She said Kira Johnson should have gone back to the operating room sooner.

Dr. Sarah Kilpatrick, chair of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, testified that she told Charles Johnson: "I'm sorry. We failed your family. ... This shouldn't have happened."

Angelique Washington, a Black surgical technologist working in the operating room, said "patient safety was out the door" when Kira Johnson came in.

Washington, who has more than 30 years of experience, said she routinely witnessed different treatment of Black women but was afraid to speak up.

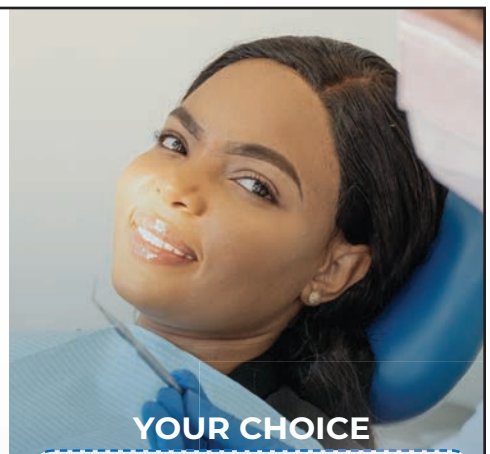
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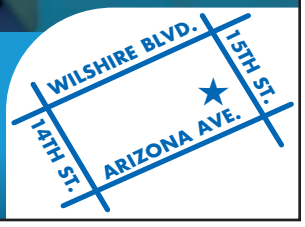
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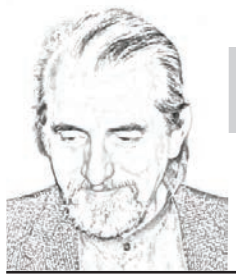
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OPINION | NOTEWORTHY

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

KING OF DOWNEY?... HMMM

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

SOUTHSIDE SLIM –Thank you again, Harvelle's, for bringing back one of the very best bluesmen I've heard in years. Decades, maybe. Rare talent and energy (and he is no kid!). Slim tears it up with his jaw-dropping guitar work, vocals, and killer band serving up a mix of soulful blues both slow and frantic, jazz, funk, Latin, soul, and R&B. Go see Southside and you too will likely add him to your list of the best, and how often does that happen? Fri 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $10.

RICK HOLMSTROM BAND with "Special Guest 'THE KING OF DOWNEY" – I'll be straight up with you: I've never seen the Rick Holmstrom Band, never heard anything by them. So how can I award the vaunted HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to this show?

Well, 15 years with the incomparable Mavis Staples as her guitarist and bandleader (she calls him "Pops Jr." – holy smoke!) pretty much does it for me. His band for this show includes Mavis' favorite drummer, local legend Steve Mugalian (his late wife taught at SMASH).

But wait, there's more, as they say in the TV sales pitches. Last month Holmstrom was joined on the McCabe's stage by the great David Hidalgo of Los Lobos. This time: "Special Guest 'The King of Downey'." McCabe's majordomo of concerts, Wayne Griffith, said he was not at liberty to say any more than that. Lucky for you, I can put two and two together.

I'll bet my dark chocolate Cayman Island crocodile cowboy boots that it's Dave Alvin, of Blasters and solo fame, and if it is, you don't want to miss it. Dave is an absolute treasure,hasn't performed live in more than two years and wasn't scheduled to until the summer. Part of the reason was a near-fatal health failing – "I should have died," he told Rolling Stone, but now has a clean bill of health.

Although he and his Blaster bandmates are famously from Downey, he should be called the King of California. He has a passion for the diverse treasures of California, and embodies it in his words and music. A rockabilly rocker, poet, country crooner, folkie, GRAMMY winner, sometimes member of X and The Knitters, a true troubadour of the Golden State.. Oh, wait... he has a song titled "King of California." (Not about him.)

So if my 2 + 2 is wrong, just thank me for getting you there and enjoy the show. hank you, Rick Holmstrom, thank you McCabe's, for this special treat. Makes me feel like the King of CA. Sun 8 p.m., McCabes, Santa Monica, $34.

EM the MASTER – Every Tues 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $10.



Courtesy photo

MUSIC: Who is king of CA?

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - LA PHIL with DUDAMEL performs STRAVINSKY'S "THE RITE OF SPRING," Ginastera's "Estancia" – Be on time and on point for these two classic ballet compositions. Stravinsky's debut in Russia was fraught with controversy, from content to dancers, but many mark his composition as being the first step of 20th Century music, signaling that rhythm was now king. Ginastera uses the backdrop of the disappearing gaucho culture in Argentina and while the entire ballet music is rarely performed, this suite has become an international hit. Thurs, Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, $20-266.

PEARL JAM – I have a good friend in Long Beach, Kevin Poore. Met him when I was looking for music reviewers, as the newly hired music editor for a high end audio/video online magazine, Audio Video Revolution. But I didn't want "music reviewers," I wanted, of course, people who knew everything about music, because they love it so. But more importantly I was looking for really smart, creative, incredibly gifted writers who would use assignments as a jumping off point to create their own written work of art. I flooded Craig's List in major cities and was a little surprised to get more than 100 responses from all over the world. (Nearly hired a guy in Budapest.) People who had written for LA Times/NY Times, Melody Maker, Downbeat, Rolling Stone. I was also surprised that, despite my meticulously constructed ad, few got it, got what I was looking for. A few folks (highly unqualified), got angry at me over the mere notion. But Kevin got it, and submitted a perfect review of the new Michael Nesmith (Monkees, First National Band) album that was more than halfway in before it even mentioned music at all. He told a great tale of a spoiled rich kid he knew in high school, and then deftly tied it all together to give a perfect review

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 8

BALLET

FROM PAGE 1

to Russia to train when she was 15 and made national headlines when she became the first American female to be invited to dance under contract with the Bolshoi Ballet in 2012. Mitchell and Laššáková were both dancers at the prestigious Mikhailovsky Ballet Company.

When the invasion began, all three dancers agreed that they could not remain in a country perpetuating egregious human rights abuses and especially not in the industry of ballet, which is so closely intertwined with the Russian government.

"Ballet in Russia is so beloved and so connected to the government. We had major politicians coming to our performances. I know Joy danced in the Kremlin for Bolshoi, which is pretty much Russia's ballet company. It is like the mascot for Russia," said Mitchell, adding that even the Russian ballets themselves are a form of government propaganda as, for example, Laurencia and Spartacus are ballets of rebellion made to celebrate overthrowing the czars in the Russian Revolution.

The three dancers are horrified by the war in Ukraine and recognize that the disruptions to their lives are not comparable to the destruction of life faced by the Ukrainian people.

"While the three of us have gone through a tough time, the people of Ukraine are going through something all of us can't imagine," said Mitchell. "This is one of the most terrible heart wrenching things I've ever seen."

At the same time, their hearts also go out to the people living in Russia who are suffering and unable to speak freely about the war or access factual reporting on the conflict.

"I would caution against an anti-Russian sentiment, because certainly the Russian people are not behind this and it's very easy to want to throw the baby out with the bathwater—that's a natural emotional reaction—but sadly knowledge and access to information is a privilege that is not readily available to the common Russian person," said Womack.

Through the turbulence of leaving their lives behind and hearing heartbreaking stories from many of their Eastern Europeans friends, the Westside School of Ballet has been a place of solace for the dancers. For Womack and Mitchell it has also given them the feeling of returning to an old home.

Womack began her training under Yvonne Mounsey at Westside in 1999, while Mitchell began studying there in 2004. In the upcoming Broad Stage showcase, Womack and Mitchell will be performing the "Spring Waters" pas de deux and Mitchell and Laššáková will be performing Russian choreographer Oleg Vinogradov's "Barber's Adagio." Womack will also be performing a solo from "La Esmeralda."

"Ballet class is almost like a form of meditation, you can let go and just work and then of course once you get on the stage you can let go and just dance," said Laššáková. "Sometimes when I dance I feel like I wasn't even there, it was like magic happening."

For Laššáková ballet has always meant sacrifice and separation from home as she left her family in Slovakia at the age of ten to go train in Poland. She said that in every hard time her love for ballet was able to help her overcome the pains of separation.

During this time of tragedy and uncertainty, all of the dancers are grateful to be able to come into the studios at the Westside and continue practicing the art that they love and have dedicated their lives to.

"I don't really know what's coming next, but at least I have this moment and I have that grand allegro combination or this plie or this heel to focus on turning out… I'm grateful for that moment because once you perform it's gone and so every moment leading up to that moment on stage, whether it happens or doesn't happen as you want, is bliss, even if it's difficult," said Womack.

On May 7, "A Petite Soirée" reception and awards will take place at 6 p.m., followed by the 7:30 pm "New Horizons" with special performances; and on May 8 "New Horizons" Spring Performance will take place at 2 p.m. Both events will be at the Broad Stage at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St and tickets may be purchased online at www.westsideballet.com.

Clara@smdp.com





Clara Harter

PERFORMANCE: The dancers will take the stage this weekend.

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator Tom Whaley; Samohi Principal Antonio Shelton; and COO Carey Upton. Malibu High School Principal Patrick Miller delivered pre-taped remarks, as did several other administrators.

The State of Our Schools program also included performances from talented Santa Monica kids including the Samohi choir, chamber orchestra and middle school mariachi band.

Interspersed throughout the nearly two-hour program were videos of students, staff and administrators proclaiming they were "emerging stronger!" — the theme of the evening.

"I think that our teachers have emerged stronger because they have a new toolbox that they're using to make sure that every kid has a chance at success," one educator said.

Another talked about adapting to get through the pandemic: "We've always been strong, but in the end, all the new tools and things that we got made us stronger."

Still, effects of the virus remained visible. While adult attendees at the event had bare faces, student orchestra performers remained masked during their string performance. Whaley acknowledged a grand opening for the $30 million John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center was delayed due to COVID, with an opening expected "maybe in September."

High points of the event included acknowledging McKinley Elementary earning a prestigious California Pivotal Practice Award from the California Department of Education, as well as both Samohi and Malibu High School being ranked among the top high schools in the state of California.

emily@smdp.com



Emily Sawicki

SMMUSD: The district outlined stories of success in local schools.



COVID-19

FROM PAGE 1

"When I think about waves — similar to the waves we experienced in the past — we've had increases in all three of those metrics [cases, hospitalizations and deaths], and we only have an increase, right now, in our case numbers," Ferrer continued. "I'm comfortable with whatever terminology you'd like to use to characterize the fact that we are seeing a sustained increase over time in the number of people that are infected."

Ferrer, who was masked during the virtual presentation, said there was still time to get out ahead of the current uptick in cases, which increased 25 percent over the past week. On Wednesday, LA County reported an additional 2,484 cases of COVID-19.

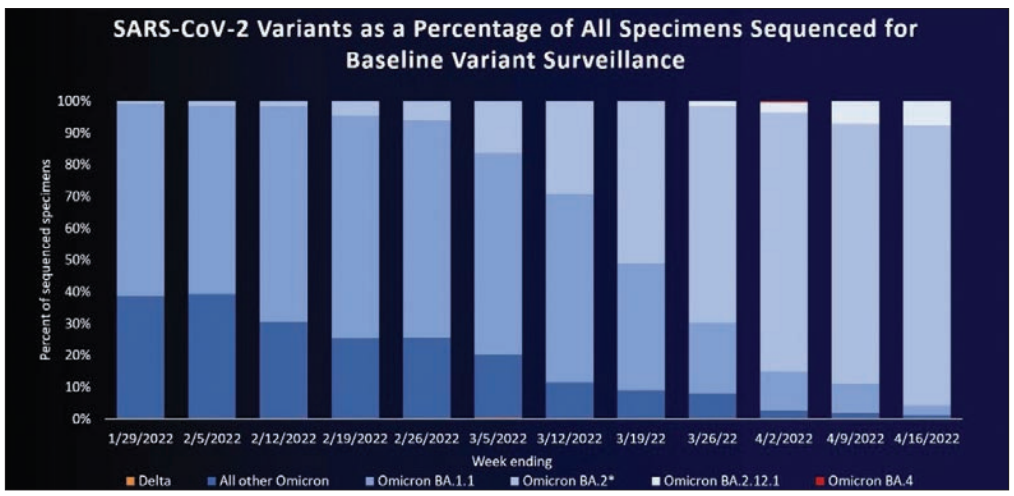
"What we've been seeing now is this gradual increase, which is more tolerable and allows us to, particularly in high-risk settings, get in front of some of the transmission and introduce some measures that actually can help, we hope, slow down the spread," Ferrer said. "It also allows individual people to make different decisions as they see this trajectory of increased cases."

Some of those decisions could include opting to return to indoor masking in certain scenarios, moving gatherings outdoors or skipping social gatherings if you or someone you live with is at higher risk. Ferrer also said in periods of "medium concern," workplaces could encourage physical distancing and "strongly recommend" indoor masking.

One factor that may affect the current trajectory of the pandemic is the emergence of additional Omicron sub-variants that, according to Ferrer, combine the transmissibility of omicron with some of the health risks of delta.

"Although they're not common in the United States, we're also monitoring two other emerging Omicron lineages: BA.4 and BA.5. In LA County to date, only one positive sequenced specimen has been identified as BA.4, and none have been identified as BA.5. However, these lineages may have a growth advantage over [the current most common variant] BA.2, and they're believed to be contributing to a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases in South Africa," Ferrer said. "BA.4 and BA.5 also have a mutation that was present in the delta variant, which may have been related to the increased severity of disease caused by delta. Thus, while we closely monitor research on these variants and sub lineages, residents and workers should take prudent precautions to avoid getting infected and transmitting COVID-19 to others, and those who are higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness should ask about therapeutics ahead of time, so they have a plan for what they're going to do should they become ill."

emily@smdp.com



Courtesy image

VARIANTS: One case of a new omicron variant has been sequenced in LA County.

CRYPTO

FROM PAGE 5

crypto-related scams and frauds.

Newsom's order directs a separate agency to solicit proposals for how best to use blockchain to help the state and the public.

"It is critical that we engage early with industry and start learning the pros and cons of innovative technology early," said Amy Tong, secretary of California's Government Operations Agency. "We can take the next steps towards getting ahead of the curve and harnessing potential of these tools to make government better."

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: # 316 HYPERCONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE (HCI) SOLUTION & CLOUD-HOSTED DISASTER RECOVERY (DR)

- **Submission Deadline is June 17, 2022 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

ABORTION

FROM PAGE 2

exceptions in cases of rape, incest or to save a woman's life. He said this week that it was premature to speculate on what the Supreme Court's final decision would be or how he and lawmakers might proceed.

In Minnesota, where control of the legislative chambers is divided between the parties, two anti-abortion amendments to a health and human services bill narrowly failed on procedural votes in the Democrat-controlled House. Democratic Gov. Tim Walz vowed in an email to supporters this week that "no abortion ban will ever become law" as long as he's governor; the Republican candidates vying to challenge his re-election bid all support a ban.

Michigan and Wisconsin, states with Democratic governors and legislatures controlled by Republicans, have pre-Roe abortion bans in state law. Michigan's governor already has filed a legal challenge to the law, while Wisconsin's attorney general, Democrat Josh Kaul, said he expects litigation as well.

"(The) ban wasn't just dormant," he said. "It was unconstitutional for 50 years."

Some deeply Democratic states are moving quickly to try to shore up abortion rights. California Gov. Gavin Newsom and top Democratic leaders in the Legislature committed to asking voters to "enshrine the right to choose" in the state constitution, steps also in the works in Vermont and Colorado.

California already has some of the most expansive abortion protections in the country. But legislative leaders say the amendment would make it much harder to repeal those protections should the political winds change and future lawmakers seek to impose restrictions.

Democrats also believe it would shield the state from any adverse state court decisions or federal abortion bans if Republicans were to win control of Congress.

"The unimaginable can happen," said state Sen. Nancy Skinner, a Democrat from Berkeley. "Unless we are explicit about what we are protecting … some day some court could interpret privacy as not including my right to an abortion. And that's what we're trying to protect against."

Colorado Democrats and advocates say they will seek a ballot measure in 2024 to enshrine abortion access in the constitution and repeal a 1980s constitutional amendment that bans public funding for abortion.

Democratic House Majority Leader Daneya Esgar said an amendment is needed "because state legislatures can change, and depending on who has the majority, they can write into law their ideologies. This is fundamental for Colorado women, no matter who's in charge."

INFLATION

FROM PAGE 4

would give investors a positive, if very small, return of about 0.13%.

"All of a sudden, we end up in this position where fixed income is way more competitive than it was before," said Jason Pride, chief investment officer for Private Wealth at Glendmede.

AP Auto Writer Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed to this report.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 6

of that album. Kevin and I don't always agree about music but his opinions are well considered and his taste impeccable. Once he bought a plane ticket to London because Kate Bush was performing for the first time in many years (Kevin is not a rich man, financially). I will bet you my black cherry full pin ostrich boots that he will be going to Pearl Jam both nights, and I think that means, unless you have something personal against Eddie Vedder, that means you probably should too. Yeah, both nights. Life is short, and uncertain. Fri, Sat 7:30 p.m., Kia Forum, Inglewood, $108-572.

JIM KWESKIN & Fiona Kweskin – jug band music, dating from the 19th Century American South, mostly African-American musicians but spreading to white rural river and mountain country, was distinctive for instruments homemade from common household utensils – washboards, stovepipes, combs, gourds, wash tubs, spoons and of course jugs, holding down the bass lines. It waned during the Depression but experienced a resurgence in the '50s-early '60s, sandwiched between the folk revival and the rock revolution. In San Francisco, Jerry Garcia was a jugger before helping form the Grateful Dead, The Lovin' Spoonful (first album is a gem, start to finish) came out of New York and LA spawned The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. But The Jim Kweskin Jug Band, featuring Geoff and Maria Muldaur, was the top dog. And now here he is, Kwekin himself, in Santa Monica, still stompin' that crazy beat. The stories he must have. Sat 8 p.m., McCabe's, Santa Monica, $25.

DAVID SEDARIS – You may not know of him. Not a straight up comedian like Chris Rock or Sarah Silverman, more a monologist – whose every sentence is a crack up. It's dry, "intellectual" humor, but if you can't stop laughing, why put a label on it? If you don't get enough that night go buy one of his best-selling books. Sun 7 p.m., Royce Hall, UCLA, $39-109.

TOLEDO DIAMOND -- Every Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: LA PHIL with DUDAMEL performs REVUELTAS, STRAVINSKY'S "PETRUSHKA," Walt Disney Concert Hall, 5/12, 13; LA PHIL with DUDAMEL performs VILLA-LOBOS, STRAVINSKY'S "FIREBIRD." Walt Disney Concert Hall, 5/14, 15; SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE with RICK SHEA, Petty/Chavez & Jeff Turmes, McCabe's, 5/16; LA OPERA performs VERDI'S "AIDA," The Music Center, 5/21, 29, 6/2, 4, 9, 12; LAURENCE JUBER, McCabe's, 5/28.

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 36 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 5)

When you commit to love, the decision doesn't feel heavy or confining. Instead, playful levity, imagination and possibility rule your interactions. Work gets easier because you learn who you can trust. You're also excellent at coming up with systems. The trick is in re-investing well. A mentor will help! Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 1, 11 and 28.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The longer a story is, the more entertaining it should be. Humor helps, but the most important thing of all is to read the room. A good match of message to audience can be a game changer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Choose and then let go of the other options. This is the way of power and grace. Regret, rumination, comparison and the like are habits of weakness. Rule out these disempowering options.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Gentle forces will outlast volatile ones because intensity is hard to sustain. Fires die. Volcanoes expire. Tornadoes disperse. For millions of years the placid lake remains.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The interaction you've been worried about will come together beautifully and you'll have a sense of satisfaction akin to flipping an omelet at the exact right moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Solar circles and social circles both run on principles of attraction. Usually, you follow your instincts on such matters, but today your conscious awareness of what some people like will also play into the decision-making.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To lay your heart on the line would normally require courage, though today it just requires math; the potential gain from expressing your feelings is worth the risk.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just when you think your hard work is going unappreciated, praise and appreciation will come from unexpected directions. This is the start of a trend!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Any work you do to wrangle and order your scattered thoughts will contribute to your success. Tell yourself what you're going to think about, write it down, and then keep reminding yourself to stay on track with that line of thought.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). More than anyone else in the entire world, you know what it's like to be you. Use this to guide key decisions. As for the others, it will be fine to let them figure out what's right for themselves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The point of putting some of life on autopilot is to conserve energy for what you'd love to give your attention to. You'll be transferring more habits to the no-think zone as you ready yourself for something big and juicy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Whenever you put yourself or your work on the line, you risk rejection. Ultimately, this is the risk that will make you see yourself better. And seeing yourself allows you to align with the needs of those around you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Many limitations are illusions, and you must alter your perception to see your way past, through or around them. Keep trying to see it different ways. Get close, back off, go cockeyed... you'll find it eventually.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

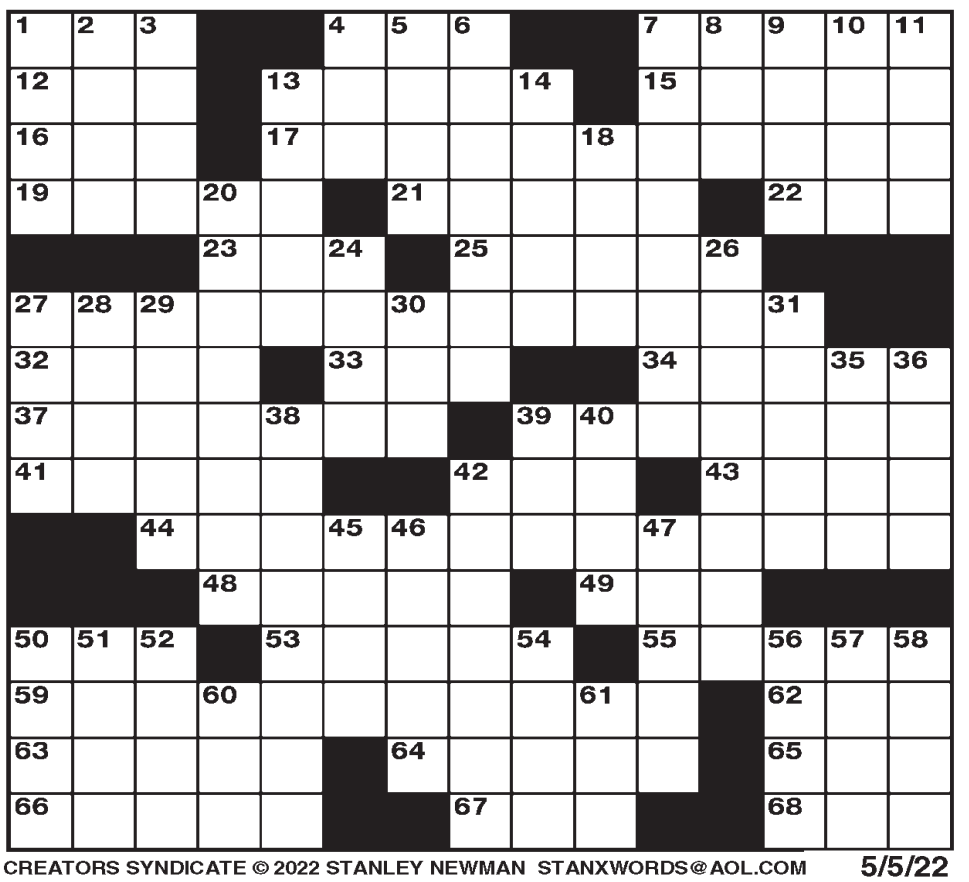
	3	2	5				9	1
6				3		2		
		5	9		4			3
3					2		7	
	9		3		7		6	
	7		1					4
9			6		8	4		
		8		7				6
5	6				9	8	3	

Newsday Crossword

HYDE AND SIKH by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Tidal retreat
4 Spherical edible
7 Approach maturity
12 Spherical edibles
13 Romanced
15 Central Florida city
16 NPR host Glass
17 Edward Hyde's literary counterpart
19 Emotion of indifference
21 Stylist's workplace
22 Coral habitat
23 M.Sgt., for one
25 Flavorful
27 A principle belief of the Sikh religion
32 R&B vocalist India __
33 Major ATM manufacturer
34 Parisian pocket change
37 Preps for the trip home
39 Napa vintner Robert
41 Childbirth assistant
42 Seek enlightenment
43 4.0 GPA spoiler
44 Hyde Park baby carriages
48 Some titled Brits
49 Blood-typing letters
50 Volume enhancer
53 Parisian thanks
55 Big vessel
59 Accessories worn under Sikh turbans
62 "That hurt!"
63 Set aside legally
64 Tarzan weapon
65 Is, for you
66 Stringy spinners
67 Lab macromolecule
68 Cutting-edge

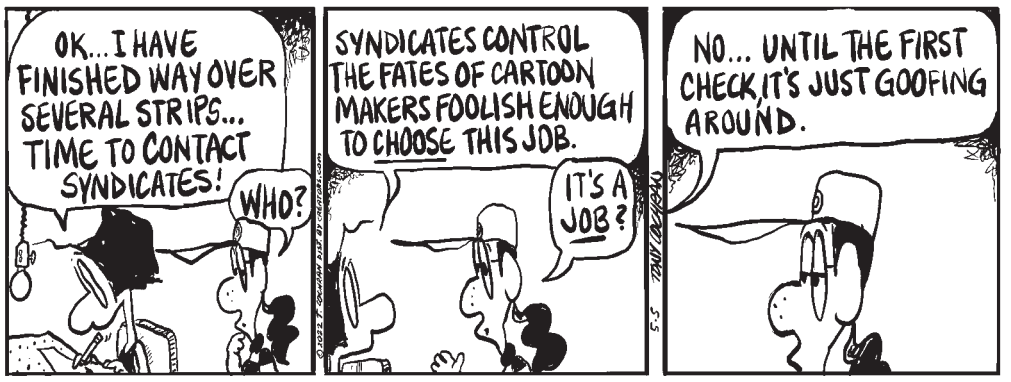
DOWN
1 Pennsylvania port
2 By nature
3 Bit of a burrito
4 "The Bells" writer
5 Really long time
6 Lawn crew tool
7 Discoverer of x-rays
8 "That's awful!"
9 Is worth it
10 Fashion magazine
11 *The Lion King* queen
13 A question of choice
14 Songwriter with a Nobel Prize
18 San __, CA
20 Steamed open, perhaps
24 Sty cry
26 "I'm not the only one!"
27 Urban district
28 Tri-layer snack
29 Shred
30 Many laptops
31 Liquid-Plumr alternative
35 All done
36 Close kin
38 Chewy candies
39 E. Lansing school
40 St. claiming Will Rogers as its "Favorite Son"
42 Leave on the sly
45 Cry of support
46 Big pharma firm
47 Belittle
50 "Outta here!"
51 Starter like uni-
52 Polo participant
54 "You can count on me!"
56 Speckled steed
57 Split (apart)
58 Three or four
60 Small ensemble
61 Deg. for a theater major



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/5/22

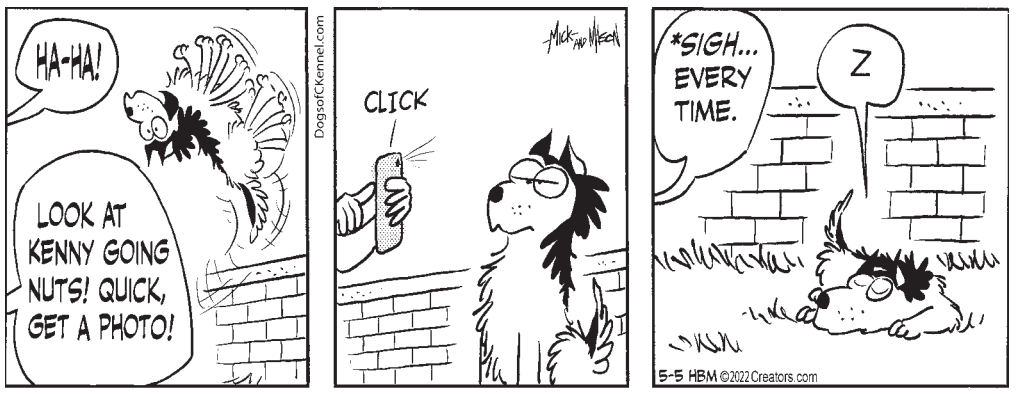
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



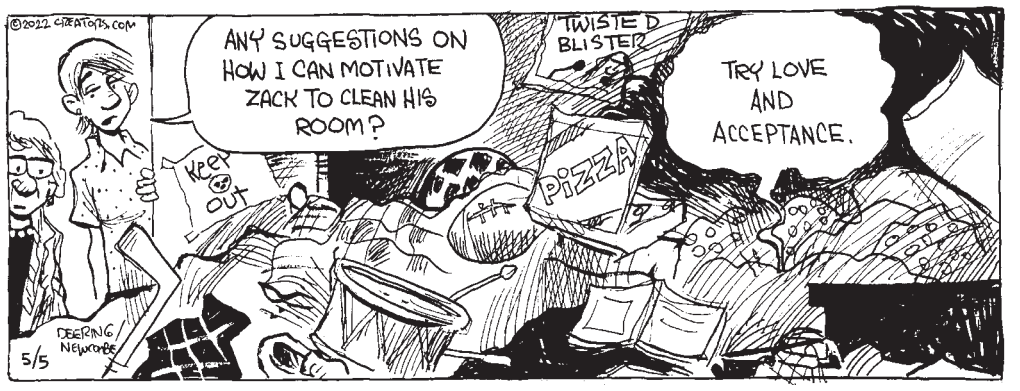
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



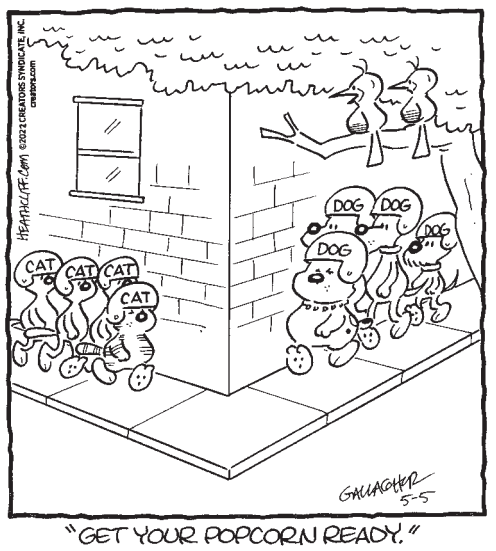
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

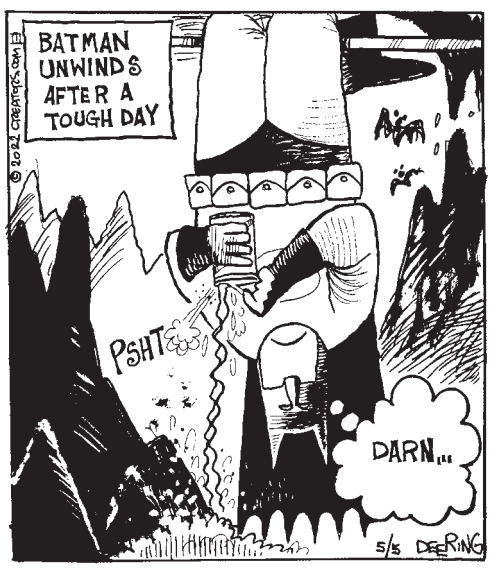
By PETER GALLAGHER



"GET YOUR POPCORN READY."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5470

Monday morning

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

Alley	Eggs	Office	Taxis
Angry	Fares	Peak hour	Tears
Bike	Haste	Petrol	Tedious
Boss	Horns	Race	Teeth
Buses	Ills	Recycle bin	Tram
Chair	In bed	Run	Turn
Computer	Joggers	Rush	Type
Conference	Lunch	Schoolbag	Update
Crisis	Mobile	Secretary	Wake
Dark	Money	Sleep	Walk
Desk	Motor	Soap	
Dinner	News	Suit	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
No office for me

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Adult Day Service Center
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Somos Amigos
"Somos Amigos" (we are friends) is our Spanish Language Program offering mental stimulation, exercise-strength training and recreation.

Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds

A Veterans Benefit!

What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | MAY 5

CINCO DE MAYO AT HILTON SANTA MONICA
Let the fiesta begin! Celebrate Cinco De Mayo with a live mariachi band, authentic tacos, cocktails, and more at the new Hilton Santa Monica Welcome to the new Hilton Santa Monica Hotel & Suites! Join on the outdoor terrace for live music, on May 5th, 2022. Event is free to enter and reservations are encouraged. Valet Parking will be complimentary. Seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Hilton Santa Monica Hotel & Suites 1707 4th St.

NOMA MEETING
the continuing drought and plans for reduced water use will be addressed by Sunny Wang from the SM Dept. of Public Works at the North of Montana Association's virtual meeting at Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m. All are invited; Zoom instructions at smnoma.org.

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
The mission of the Santa Monica Public Library Board is to support and have charge of the administration of the Santa Monica Public Library. Due to COVID-19 precautions the Board continues to meet virtually. Agenda: https://smpl.org/Library_Board.aspx. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ARTOPIA 3
Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with shuffleboard, soju and more! Join KTG and GoldnBrown at Weary Livers as they host their third Artopia event this Cinco de Mayo. Fiesta with Special Guest Host Shanita Blunt and enjoy live painting and art from featured artists. Food, drink and music round out the fun. Participate in the raffle to earn some exciting prizes! This event is free and open to anyone 21 and older. No RSVP required. Come early and stay late for all of the festivities! 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Weary Livers, 2819 Pico Blvd.

FRIDAY | MAY 6

CREATE TO DESTRESS WORKSHOP
Artist Carmela Morales will provide a workshop on Fridays during the month of May focused on personalizing a canvas bag using simplified embroidery. Each class will have a lesson for the first hour and an open workshop with casual conversation for the second hour. Mental health professionals will join some of the sessions and speak on mental well-being. This program is presented by 18th Street Arts Center in partnership with WE RISE 2022. Register at: 18thstreet.org/event/create-to-destress/2022-05-06/ 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

BROADWAY TO FREEWAY EXHIBIT
Visit Santa Monica's History Museum to discover how residents built Broadway into a flourishing community of color – and how the Interstate 10 freeway destroyed it in the 1960s. Featuring period photographs, advertisements, oral histories, and songs, the exhibition draws on the wealth of archival material collected by the Quinn Research Center, which is dedicated to preserving the history of African American life in Santa Monica. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Santa Monica History Museum, 1350 7th St.

ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE TOUR
Santa Monica Conservancy docents will be on hand to share the rich history of the Annenberg Community Beach House site from the 1920s into present day. Our free 20-minute docent tours are available on a walk-up basis for individuals and groups of up to six people. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. Please wear a mask as it is required indoors at City of Santa Monica facilities. No reservations required. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. 415 Pacific Coast Highway.

SATURDAY | MAY 7

FITNESS FEST AND CONSCIOUS MARKET
Free all level fitness classes all day on the Third Street Promenade. 10 a.m. Ritual Gym, 11 a.m. AKT Dance, 12 p.m. Exhale Santa Monica, 1 p.m. Training Mate, 2 p.m. Mayweather Boxing, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Comedy with Clarissa. Conscious Market is a collection of elevated brands that are for people who want more fitness, wellness and health in their lives through sustainable products, experiences and services. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1351 3rd Street Promenade.

OCEAN PARK BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MINDFULNESS STORYTIME WITH JULZ
Health and Wellness Coach Julz Kerr introduces mindfulness and the importance of being present through interactive stories, breathing exercises and activities for the whole family. For ages 3 & up. Space is limited. Register at bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps. 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

SUNDAY | MAY 8

BROADWAY TO FREEWAY: LIFE AND TIMES OF A VIBRANT COMMUNITY
Visit Santa Monica's History Museum to discover how residents built Broadway into a flourishing community of color – and how the Interstate 10 freeway destroyed it in the 1960s. Santa Monica History Museum, 1350 7th Street, 5 p.m. https://santamonicahistory.org/

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com



SURF REPORT
WATER TEMP: **60.6**

THURSDAY *FAIR TO GOOD*	**SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest	Long period SW/SSW swell builds further for exposures. Also expecting a rise in late season NW swell with enough energy by the afternoon for nice peaks at combo exposures. Morning wind looks light.
FRIDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest	Respectable combo on tap across the region. Long period SW/SSW swell topping out at exposures as late season NW swell builds to a peak. Wind/conditions best in the morning.

WEATHER

Thursday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 69.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 58.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 70.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/05/05	Thu	07:22 AM	0.08	L
2022/05/06	Fri	12:05 AM	4.63	H
2022/05/06	Fri	08:24 AM	0.32	L
2022/05/07	Sat	12:56 AM	4.28	H
2022/05/07	Sat	09:41 AM	0.45	L
2022/05/08	Sun	02:18 AM	3.96	H
2022/05/08	Sun	10:50 AM	0.44	L
2022/05/08	Sun	6:42 PM	3.53	H
2022/05/08	Sun	11:06 PM	3.03	L
2022/05/09	Mon	04:02 AM	3.82	H
2022/05/09	Mon	11:39 AM	0.38	L
2022/05/09	Mon	6:53 PM	3.83	H
2022/05/10	Tue	12:09 AM	2.49	L
2022/05/10	Tue	05:21 AM	3.87	H
2022/05/10	Tue	12:18 PM	0.35	L
2022/05/10	Tue	7:09 PM	4.21	H
2022/05/11	Wed	12:54 AM	1.84	L
2022/05/11	Wed	06:24 AM	3.98	H

DAILY LOTTERY

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/2
18 27 33 39 44
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 37 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/3
15 19 27 35 57
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 70 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/30
3 15 21 35 46
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/3
1 12 27 29 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/3
EVENING: 3 2 6
Draw Date: 5/3
MIDDAY: 2 4 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/3
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:48.14

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