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Santa Monica Police and Fire remember the fallen



Clara Harter

MEMORIAL: On Wednesday morning the Santa Monica Police and Fire Departments held a memorial service honoring fallen officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the community.

Bumpy road ahead for recovery on Montana Ave



Clara Harter

CLOSED: Montana Ave. has lost about 40 stores during the pandemic.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The uphill battle Montana Avenue merchants face towards economic recovery may prove as steep as the street itself.

This ominous prospect would not appear obvious to weekend visitors who find the commercial strip buzzing with shoppers and diners. Between rising vaccination rates, spring break, and Mothers Day, foot traffic trends over the past few weeks have indeed been promising.

But if visitors peer past the crowds, they will discover that over a quarter of the street's storefronts lay empty. Many surviving merchants worry they could be the next to fall

As the threat of Covid-19 recedes, businesses face looming challenges around rent, staffing, and the future of in-person retail.

"There is nothing swift about this recovery whatsoever," said Peggy Sella, owner of Jane clothing boutique. "It is a crawl and I think I'm not alone in experiencing that."

Over the past year Sella has seen her business drop as low as 10 to 20 percent of pre-pandemic levels. She has been surviving by paying half

SEE **RECOVERY** PAGE 4

Council gives Police Department 60 days to respond to riot report

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Council joined local residents and The OIR Group this week to discuss an independent after-action report that evaluates the events leading up to, during, and following the May 31 riots.

The long-awaited report prepared by Michael Gennaco and his team at OIR has been anticipated since last year when it was first announced that Santa Monica Police Department leaders did not have the capacity to review and prepare a report on the day's happenings on top of their traditional responsibilities.

OIR Group employees have been combing through documents, talking with residents and finalizing the 44 recommendations made to City and SMPD leaders.

Officials said after-action reports generally don't contain names because it's not an investigation where people are supposed to be blamed, outed and identified. Instead, the 121-page report outlines a number of different factors that contributed to the day spiraling out of control relatively quickly, OIR Group staff said Tuesday. They noted if the department had been differently situated on Saturday, or even early Sunday, then they potentially could have blunted some of the destructive acts.

"But nobody picked up that ball and ran with it in a coordinated and cohesive way ... Meanwhile, the chief was making her way from Northern California down to Southern California and she would arrive at headquarters at about 11:30 in the morning. And by then, everybody was very much behind the curve," OIR Group's Stephen Connolly said early in Tuesday's meeting when he described the operations plan for the day as extremely limited in scope and detail. "Again, while nobody knew what was going to happen, there were a lot of ways

SEE **RIOTS** PAGE 11



Thinking of making a move?
Let me guide you.

Melanie Tielmann

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COMPASS

California governor says mask mandate to end after June 15

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Tuesday the nation's most populous state would stop requiring people to wear masks in almost all circumstances on June 15, describing a world he said will look "a lot like the world we entered into before the pandemic."

"We're not wearing face coverings. We're not restricted in any way, shape or form from doing the old things that we used to do, save for huge, large-scale indoor convention events like that, where we use our common sense," Newsom said in an interview with Fox 11's Elex Michaelson.

California has required people to wear masks in public places since June 18. The guidance requires people to wear a mask when gathering indoors with people who are not vaccinated. Fully vaccinated people can meet indoors without wearing a mask. They can also not wear a mask outdoors, except when attending large gatherings such as sporting events, festivals and concerts.

The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board is considering changing its workplace mask rules later this month. The proposed rules would not require employees to wear masks indoors if all workers are fully vaccinated and no one has coronavirus symptoms, the Sacramento Bee reported.

Last month, Newsom announced he would lift most of the state's coronavirus restrictions on June 15 if the state's coronavirus case numbers continued to improve. But at the time, Newsom and state public health officials said the state would not lift the mask mandate after June 15.

Tuesday, Newsom appeared to change his mind about that, telling Fox 11 that the state would only require masks "only for those massively large settings where people from around the world, not just around the country, are conversing."

"We'll make guidance recommendations, but no mandates and ... no restrictions on businesses large and small," Newsom said.

Representatives from the California Department of Public Health did not return phone and email messages asking for more details on Newsom's comments.

About half of the states require people to wear masks in public. In early March, Texas became the largest state to get rid of its mask mandate, a move Newsom called "absolutely reckless."

At the time, Newsom told reporters "we're never going to subscribe to the point of view of some other states."

But that was more than two months ago. Since then, the rate of people testing positive for the coronavirus in California is just 1.1%, a fact Newsom cited in his interview with Fox 11, noting it is "the lowest in the nation." More than 14.6 million people are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, and another 5.1 million are partially vaccinated.

Another change since March: Organizers seeking to remove Newsom from office gathered enough verified signatures to make it likely Newsom will face a recall election later this year. That recall effort was fueled mostly by anger over Newsom's handling of the pandemic.



Jenner's claim she didn't vote at odds with LA county record

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

Caitlyn Jenner wants to be governor of California but she took a pass on voting on some of the state's most critical issues last year, from worker rights to taxes and affordable housing to affirmative action. Or did she?

In the latest example of muddled messaging in Jenner's nascent campaign, she told CNN in an interview broadcast Tuesday that she did not vote in 2020 — for president or down ballot measures.

But Los Angeles County election records, first reported by Politico, show she did vote.

"It was voting day and I thought the only thing out here in California that I worry about, which affects people, is the propositions that were out there," Jenner said. "And I didn't see any propositions that I really had one side or the other. And so it was Election Day and I just couldn't get excited about it."

Jenner said she want golfing instead.

A campaign adviser said Wednesday that Jenner voted by mail on "some local issues." The campaign did not respond to follow up questions about whether that meant she voted on any state propositions.

Malibu, where Jenner lives, held elections for city council, school board and a ballot measure to increase hotel taxes. Those questions were on the same ballot as the state propositions and presidential race, and all Californians received a mail ballot.

Jenner's seeming confusion about whether she voted and admission that she had no leanings on any propositions — even those dealing with taxes, one of her signature issues — come as the political neophyte is trying to convince people she's ready to be governor.

Jenner is among candidates seeking to unseat Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom in an expected recall election this fall.

The 71-year-old former Olympian and reality TV star announced her candidacy last month. The first weeks have been rocky, with Jenner appearing to have limited knowledge of state issues in interviews and lacking specific policy plans. She suggested in a late April tweet that the governor appoints district attorneys, who are actually elected by voters, which drew mockery from California Democratic Congressman Ted Lieu.

"She's at the stage in her campaign where she really needs to make some inroads and get folks on board with the idea of her being a legitimate candidate, and showing this kind of ignorance of the process doesn't help with that," said Kim Nalder, a professor of political science and director of the Project for an Informed Electorate at California State University, Sacramento.

Last fall, Californians were asked to vote on a slew of important ballot measures touching on criminal justice reform, jobs and the economy, housing and other critical issues a governor must engage on.

Propositions are often among the most expensive campaigns, and one measure to exempt companies like Uber and Lyft from classifying their workers of employees generated more than $100 million in spending.

"Voters, for the most part, take that very seriously and do their homework," Nalder said.

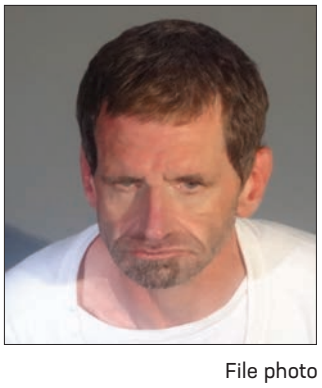
Less consequential may be Jenner's assertion that she did not vote in the presidential contest between former President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden. Jenner previously supported Trump but broke with him over his administration's position on transgender issues. Jenner came out publicly as a woman in 2015. She has hired several former Trump aides as campaign advisers.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON MAY 10, AT APPROXIMATELY 3:15 A.M.



File photo

DOTAN DAVIS

Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Officers were dispatched to a report of an Arson Fire at Stefano's Pizzeria located at 1310 3rd Street Promenade. Per the comments of the call, a male was observed by the reporting party, setting an umbrella on fire while up against the railing of the restaurant. Upon arrival, SMPD officers noticed the umbrella actively burning. They used a fire extinguisher to quickly extinguish the fire. The reporting party pointed to and identified Dotan Davis, a 50-year-old male white, as the person who set the fire. As officers detained Davis, they noticed he had a lighter torch in his hand. Davis was placed under arrest and subsequently booked for 451(d) PC - Arson. Anyone with any information related to this incident or any other similar incidents involving this individual is encouraged to contact Detective David Chabot with the Criminal Investigations Division at (310) 458-2201 ext. 6679 or Police Dispatch at 310-458-8491.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 282 CALLS ON MAY 11

Battery 500blk Colorado Ave 12:13 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 4th St / Colorado Ave 1:02 a.m.
Of Shots Fired 2400blk Washington Ave 3:05 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1700blk 11th St 3:34 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1400blk Ocean Ave 5:23 a.m.
Encampment 700blk Palisades Beach Rd 5:54 a.m.
Burglary 500blk San Vicente Blvd 6:19 a.m.
Stalking 1800blk 17th St 7:06 a.m.
Loud Music 2200blk Virginia Ave 7:44 a.m.
Burglary 2600blk 5th St 7:46 a.m.
Lewd Activity 200blk Washington Ave 8:04 a.m.
Fitness Permit Violation 2200blk Virginia Ave 8:05 a.m.
Burglary 500blk San Vicente Blvd 8:06 a.m.
Loitering 1900blk 19th St 8:17 a.m.
Encampment 20th St / Interstate 10 8:25 a.m.
Found Property Santa Monica Beach 8:38 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 21st St / San Vicente Blvd 9:02 a.m.
Fraud 1200blk 5th St 9:09 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:29 a.m.
Vandalism 2800blk Olympic Blvd 9:38 a.m.
Battery 1900blk Main St 9:55 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 200blk Pacific St 10:23 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk Colorado Ave 10:24 a.m.
Panhandling 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 10:31 a.m.
Fraud 1500blk Princeton St 10:42 a.m.
Missing Person 1100blk 26th St 10:46 a.m.
Vandalism 300blk 11th St 10:49 a.m.
Vandalism Now 2300blk Kansas Ave 10:51 a.m.
Vandalism Now 2400blk Kansas Ave 10:52 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100blk 15th St 10:52 a.m.
Battery Cloverfield Blvd / Kansas Ave 10:53 a.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 400blk Wilshire Blvd 11:00 a.m.
Petty Theft 800blk Broadway 11:09 a.m.
Vandalism 100blk California Ave 11:21 a.m.
Vandalism The Santa Monica Beach 11:26 a.m.
Vandalism 200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:26 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 500blk Lincoln Blvd 11:49 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 4th St 11:50 a.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 800blk Pearl St 11:50 a.m.
Counterfeit Money 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 11:51 a.m.
Burglary 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:04 p.m.
Vandalism 1000blk Harvard St 12:05 p.m.
Illegal Weapon 3200blk Wilshire Blvd 12:06 p.m.
Petty Theft 800blk Broadway 12:21 p.m.
Vandalism 600blk Pico Blvd 12:30 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:34 p.m.
Petty Theft 800blk Broadway 12:36 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 500blk Olympic Blvd W 12:43 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 12:43 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 300blk Civic Center Dr 1:01 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000blk 10th St 1:02 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2500blk 29th St 1:19 p.m.
Stakeout 3700blk S Barrington 1:24 p.m.
Sexual Assault 1500blk Ocean Ave 1:39 p.m.
Vandalism 2600blk 7th St 1:42 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:51 p.m.
Loud Music 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 2:25 p.m.
Battery 1300blk 20th St 2:27 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:34 p.m.
Petty Theft 200blk Broadway 2:39 p.m.
Petty Theft 200blk Broadway 2:40 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1800blk 7th St 2:48 p.m.
Missing Person 300blk Santa Monica Pier 2:57 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery 1100blk Ocean Ave 3:02 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1000blk Palisades Beach Rd 3:07 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 3:32 p.m.
Missing Person 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 3:55 p.m.
Battery 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:03 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 4:12 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk 2nd St 4:29 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1800blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:09 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:16 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2400blk Beverley Ave 5:43 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:50 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 300blk Olympic Dr 5:53 p.m.
Encampment 1900blk 10th St 6:06 p.m.
Fraud 1300blk 14th St 6:39 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 7:55 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1400blk Palisades Park 7:57 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 8:12 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 1400blk 16th St 8:24 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk Pico Blvd 8:42 p.m.
Domestic Violence Now 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 9:17 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold Ocean Ave / Broadway 9:37 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Main St / Bay St 9:49 p.m.
Fight 800blk 4th St 10:01 p.m.
Battery Now 1400blk Ocean Ave 10:06 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:10 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 10:13 p.m.
Construction Noise 1700blk 16th St 10:17 p.m.
Fight 800blk 3rd St 10:24 p.m.
Burglary Now 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 10:24 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1800blk 17th St 10:49 p.m.
Person With A Gun 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:12 p.m.
Loud Music 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:25 p.m.
Loud Music 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 11:36 p.m.
Prowler 1800blk Montana Ave 11:55 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1000blk Ocean Ave 11:55 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 35 CALLS ON MAY 11

EMS 400blk Broadway 12:22 a.m.
EMS 400blk Broadway 12:35 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 1:39 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 16th St 5:16 a.m.
Electrical Fire - No Fire Visible 100blk Montana Ave 6:21 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 6:33 a.m.
EMS 21st St / San Vicente Blvd 8:58 a.m.
EMS 400blk Raymond Ave 9:12 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 9:20 a.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 9:24 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 9:57 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk Wilshire Blvd 10:06 a.m.
EMS 200blk Pacific St 10:23 a.m.
EMS 3200blk Wilshire Blvd 12:04 p.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 12:22 p.m.
EMS 100blk Wadsworth Ave 12:59 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 1:18 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 2:24 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:33 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Stewart St 3:07 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 4:22 p.m.
EMS 500blk Lincoln Blvd 5:13 p.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 5:52 p.m.
Structure Fire 1300blk 9th St 6:00 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 6:06 p.m.
EMS 900blk 19th St 6:07 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 6:49 p.m.
EMS 700blk 17th St 6:50 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:08 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 7:26 p.m.
EMS 2900blk 31st St 7:36 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 2nd St 8:43 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Pl 9:23 p.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Blvd 11:10 p.m.
EMS 300blk Pacific St 11:21 p.m.

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: #288 Community Sustainability Engagement Programs

- **Submission Deadline is June 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

RFP: #289 Operation, maintenance, and compliance sampling and reporting for the City's Landfill Gas (LFG) Control System

- **Submission Deadline is June 18, 2021 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 ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

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WINNER

Documents: Firefighters could be fired for Bryant photos

STEFANIE DAZIO AND BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

Two Los Angeles County firefighters could be fired and a third suspended after some first responders took and shared graphic photos from the site of the helicopter crash that killed Kobe Bryant, his teenage daughter and seven others, court documents say.

The court documents were filed Monday as part of widow Vanessa Bryant's federal lawsuit against Los Angeles County that alleges invasion of privacy. The filings propose that a Nov. 16 trial be postponed five months to April 27, 2022, because of a large amount of material that attorneys need to review.

Kobe Bryant and the others were killed Jan. 26, 2020, when the helicopter they were aboard crashed west of Los Angeles. Federal safety officials blamed pilot error for the wreck that killed the basketball star, whom Michael Jordan will present for induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on Saturday.

An internal investigation by the Los Angeles County Fire Department found that two firefighters — whose names were not disclosed in the court filings — had taken photos of the bodies in the helicopter wreckage that "served no business necessity," Vanessa Bryant's attorneys wrote, and "only served to appeal to baser instincts and desires for what amounted to visual gossip."

They then sent the photos to a third firefighter — a media relations officer who went to the scene and later shared the images with off-duty firefighters and their wives and girlfriends while socializing at an awards ceremony at a Hilton hotel the month after the crash.

The two firefighters — one of whom was at the site solely to monitor safety procedures — were sent "intention to discharge" letters last December. The third firefighter received an "intention to suspend" letter. The employment status of all three was not immediately clear Wednesday.

Los Angeles County attorneys have

SEE **FIREFIGHTERS** PAGE 11

RECOVERY

FROM PAGE 1

rent and bolstering her Instagram and online presence.

While sales are now up to around 40 percent of 2019 levels, it is still not economically viable for the store to be paying full rent. So for Sella, the biggest question is how long her landlord will remain flexible.

Many other Montana mom and pops are in a similar predicament as they have been relying on rent forgiveness or rent decrease policies to stay open.

"People assume that businesses that survived the first year of Covid will continue to make it, but I don't know if that's true," said Owner of Limonaia gift shop Jessica Goldfarb, who has been paying a decreased rent since the beginning of the pandemic. "I think there will be a second closure wave. Rent will go back up and the sales are still not where they need to be."

Maintaining retail sales that can support Montana Avenue's expensive rents was no easy feat before the pandemic. The past year has only accelerated the rise of online shopping and put further pressure on retailers margins.

The pandemic has also made it harder for retailers to source their goods due to supply chain disruptions.

"The hardest thing is the shortage of merchandise," said Jane Walker of Textures sweater shop. "People have gotten Covid all over the world and it has shut down many of the factories in India and Peru that we rely on."

While Montana Avenue's retailers are still gradually attracting back customers, business has been booming at restaurants.

"The restaurants are the only reason the street is doing well" said Heidi Dedrick, merchant outreach chair of the Montana Merchants Association, explaining that people will come meet a friend for a meal and then decide to buy a birthday present or stop and get their nails done.

Several restaurants have taken advantage of recent vacancies to open new locations on Montana. This includes beloved brunch joint Breakfast by Salt's Cure and Japanese eatery Kai Ramen.

Still it is not all smooth sailing for restaurants, as many are having difficulties growing their staff to meet increased demand.

Dedrick said restaurant owners have been struggling to rehire employees as many moved away or found new jobs during the long periods of restaurant closures. Additionally, owners are finding that workers would rather stay on boosted unemployment rates than make similar money working in person.

Some restaurant owners have been struggling for weeks to hire new employees and will book multiple interviews a week to have maybe one person show up.

Leasing activity has been up on the street in recent weeks, with several new businesses looking to move into empty spaces such as Casper mattresses and Lovesac furniture.

In general, greater store occupancy is a positive thing for the street as it boosts foot traffic. The only caveat in this situation is that several of the new openings are chain stores replacing small businesses.

"In the past we've always had little mom and pop places, that's what everyone knew Montana for, but during this time we're starting to get more big box names," said Dedrick.

It's unclear whether this is a short-term trend, or whether the pandemic will have a lasting impact on the number of boutiques and locally owned stores that can make a go of it on Montana.

Clara@smdp.com

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

Malibu

Sign Up Now for the City of Malibu's Excellent Lineup of Summer Recreation Sports and Enrichment Programs

Starting May 17, community members can sign up for the City of Malibu's exciting lineup of summertime afterschool recreation, sports and enrichment programs offered for kids in grades K-5, in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu.

Community Class instructors will offer afterschool programs at Webster Elementary School, Malibu Elementary School and the former Juan Cabrillo Elementary School. The programs will include basketball, theater, soccer, co-ed baseball and more. In accordance with Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District procedures, afterschool enrichment programs at Malibu Elementary School and Webster Elementary School are only available to students who are attending in-person learning on the respective campuses through the end of the academic school year. Programs held at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School are offered to all Malibu students in grades K-5.

For more information about the programs, including descriptions, rules, schedules, fees and to register, visit MalibuCity.org/Register or call 310-317-1364.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

LOS ANGELES

Southern California seeks US help against illegal fireworks

A Southern California official is seeking federal help in stopping an influx of illegal fireworks that has fueled use of skyrockets and firecrackers well beyond July 4 and led to the deadly explosion of a cache in the middle of a neighborhood this year.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger outlined the concerns in letters to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, her office said Tuesday.

The letters emphasized the potential for wildfires in drought-stricken California.

"Because illegal fireworks are smuggled from outside California, our federal partners are in a unique position to help local jurisdictions combat the influx of fireworks contraband," Barger said in a statement.

Use of illegal fireworks has surged beyond the Fourth of July. Celebrations of sports championships unleash barrages of aerial shells, and fireworks are set off for just about any kind of celebration any time of year.

On March 16, an illegal stockpile of fireworks blew up in the city of Ontario, east of Los Angeles, killing two men and forcing evacuation of a wide area so that unexploded items could be gathered and destroyed.

California law allows so-called "Safe & Sane" fireworks, but many local jurisdictions ban them and urge residents to report any they see.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles

Three Gang Members Arrested on Complaint Alleging Armed Robbery and Shooting at Beverly Hills Restaurant

Three members of the Rollin' 30s Crips street gang have been arrested on a federal criminal complaint alleging they committed an armed robbery at a Beverly Hills restaurant's crowded outdoor dining area on March 4 in which one restaurant patron was held at gunpoint and another was shot and wounded.

The complaint, which was unsealed on Tuesday, charges the following three men – all South Los Angeles residents and documented members of the Rollin' 30s Crips – with one count of conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery:

Malik Lamont Powell, 20;

Khai McGhee, a.k.a. "Cameron Smith," 18; and

Marquise Anthony Gardon, 30.

The defendants were arrested on Tuesday and are expected to make their initial appearances this afternoon in United States District Court in downtown Los Angeles.

According to an affidavit filed with the complaint, during the afternoon of March 4, an armed robbery occurred at Il Pastaio restaurant in Beverly Hills. During the robbery, a restaurant patron was held at gunpoint while he was robbed by three men for his Richard Mille wristwatch, worth approximately $500,000. A struggle for the gun ensued, during which approximately two rounds were discharged from the firearm, striking another restaurant patron in the leg. Ultimately, the handgun was dropped to the ground during the struggle with the victim. The robbers fled the scene with the victim's watch.

Based on a review of video surveillance footage and witness statements, a total of five individuals are believed to be involved in the robbery crew that committed this robbery, the affidavit states. Law enforcement has identified Powell and McGhee as two of the three robbers, and Gardon has been identified as a driver of the robbery crew's getaway car, according to the affidavit.

Powell's car – a black BMW – allegedly was used to transport the robbery crew to and from the robbery, and his cell phone allegedly was present near Il Pastaio at the time of the robbery. Powell's social media accounts allegedly contained images of various guns and high-value wristwatches.

McGhee's DNA was found on the robbery victim's clothing following the struggle for the gun, the affidavit states. Surveillance camera footage allegedly shows Gardon getting out of the rear passenger seat and into the driver's seat of the getaway car just before the robbery at Il Pastaio, and his cell phone was present near the restaurant at the time of the robbery.

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 11

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6255



Noteworthy

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Opera Leads The Way Back



Courtesy photo

OPERA: LA Opera's "Oedipus" as you've never seen it. The genre is heading up the return of live music in the Los Angeles area.

I WAS RIGHT LAST WEEK!

About live music coming back. That light at the end of the tunnel is a spotlight, and the band, the dancers and the actors are getting ready to hit the stage.

Not tonight, not quite yet, but sooner than I thought possible.

And who is leading the way to the return of live performances? Opera! Yes, opera.

I love opera. What's not to love, if you are a music lover? It's music by some of the best composers of the classical world, played by outstanding orchestras, accompanied by an on-stage spectacle of fantastic sets and costumes, sung by excellent actors possessed of the greatest human instruments of voice, to timeless stories of...

Well, that's where it sometimes breaks down for me. Some of the stories in operas are not timeless, they are dated, not believable, cliched, over sentimental, even maudlin. And they were written or adapted for audiences that were not weaned on the sophistication of cinema or modern theater. Knowledge of the world, romantic scenarios, politics, even morality were often a lot different for 17th century audiences.

JUST BECAUSE THE MUSIC IS TO DIE FOR

Doesn't mean the composer came up with a libretto to match. Librettos, the script if you will, can come from any source. Sometimes the composer also writes it. Sometimes proving that just because you are talented in one form of the arts doesn't mean you can even tread water in another, like storytelling. Mark Twain probably could have written a killer nursery rhyme, but not the tune for it.

You don't usually hear people shuffling out from an opera dissecting plot lines, how surprised they were about the cousin's secret life as a gay lumberjack. (Of course, they may have seen that opera several times before, or read the entire story in their program.) What you're hearing and seeing on stage usually makes a weak storyline incidental and doesn't detract from the experience.

Often the drama is timeless, though. Take murdering your father and marrying your mother. Even Jim Morrison found that good grist for a long, dark rock and roll tale ("The End," music influenced by Chopin's "Funeral March.") Igor Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" will be the first presentation by LA Opera to a live audience, indoors at their Dorothy Chandler Pavilion home, in more than a year.

JUNE 6TH!

That's right around the corner! You won't be able to get a ticket though, unless you're Mick or Bruce or Gaga or Obama, maybe, because all tickets (free) for that one performance have been "claimed," though local health authorities could authorize more seats if conditions change. LA Opera is doing it right, with a new air filtering system, two seating areas, for the vaxxed (need proof) and the not (need proof of recent COVID test) or those who prefer to socially distance, and they have allocated tickets for local first responders and healthcare workers, and longtime season ticket holders who got screwed out of a season by a pandemic. Which I'm sure will be fodder for a new opera.

Stravinsky went back 2500 years to Sophocles for the grisly tale that still fascinates audiences. "The 1927 opera is a highly stylized, ritualistic work; in fact, the composer specifically requested that it be staged with minimal movement (which works well with COVID restrictions). A narrator describes the action throughout the course of the opera. Stravinsky set his work in Latin but specified that the narration is to be spoken in the language of the audience. The performance will feature incredibly imaginative projected animations created by Manual Cinema, an Emmy Award-winning performance collective, design studio and film/video production company."

Sounds fab. Maybe we can catch a later performance, or get a nursing degree by June 6, but this is a landmark occasion. Pacific Opera Project has already staged one show, outdoors at Heritage Museum Square, and is set for another, "Don Procopie" ("it's time to

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

US advisers endorse Pfizer COVID shot for kids 12 and up

LAURAN NEERGAARD AND MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

U.S. health advisers endorsed use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine in kids as young as 12 on Wednesday — just as planned new guidelines say it's OK for people of any age to get a coronavirus shot at the same time as other needed vaccinations.

The shots will let kids safely attend camps this summer and help assure a more normal return to classrooms next school year, concluded advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"And this is another way to get closer to ending this horrible pandemic," said adviser Dr. Camille Kotton of Harvard Medical School.

The sprint to vaccinate millions of middle and high school students has already started in parts of the country, as a long line of kids rolled up their sleeves in suburban Atlanta for a first dose Wednesday.

"It just felt like a flu shot, honestly," said Meredith Rogers, 14, from Decatur, Georgia, after getting her vaccination.

Michelle Rogers, Meredith's mother, said she hoped the youth vaccinations would help bring some normalcy back.

"A little apprehensive, but you know what? This is a step towards getting life back to normal so, we're all in," Michelle Rogers said with a slight fist pump.

Pfizer's vaccine has been used for months in people 16 and older, and earlier this week the Food and Drug Administration cleared its use for those as young as age 12. But before rolling it out to the younger kids, much of the nation was awaiting recommendations from CDC's advisers — and the panel concluded the same dose adults use is safe and strongly protective in those 12 to 15 years old, too.

The CDC rapidly accepted its advisers' recommendation.

A key question: Is it OK to get vaccinated against COVID-19 at the same doctor's visit as people receive some routine vaccinations? That's an urgent back-to-school concern especially for the 12- to 15-year-olds, who have missed out on regularly scheduled vaccines during the pandemic — but it's an issue for adults, too.

The CDC until now has recommended not getting other vaccinations within two weeks of a COVID-19 shot, mostly as a precaution so that safety monitors could spot if any unexpected side effects cropped up.

But the CDC said Wednesday it is changing that advice because the COVID-19 vaccines have proved very safe — and that health workers can decide to give another needed vaccine at the same time for people of any age.

"The need for catch-up vaccination in coordination with COVID-19 vaccination is urgent as we plan for safe return to school," CDC's Dr. Kate Woodworth told the panel, citing millions of missed doses of vaccines against tetanus, whooping cough and other health threats.

The American Academy of Pediatrics on Wednesday also urged that kids 12 and older get the Pfizer vaccine — and agreed that it's fine to give more than one vaccine at the same time, especially for kids who are behind on their regular vaccinations.

Children are far less likely than adults to get seriously ill from COVID-19 — but they do sometimes die, and thousands have been hospitalized. By last month, those ages 12 to 17 were making up slightly more of the nation's new coronavirus infections than adults over 65, a group that's now largely vaccinated.

The two-dose vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech was studied in more than 2,000 kids ages 12 to 15. There were no cases of COVID-19 among vaccinated kids compared with 16 in the group given dummy shots. Kids also developed higher levels of virus-fighting antibodies than vaccinated adults.

Side effects are the same as adults experience, mostly sore arms and flu-like fever, chills or aches that signal the immune system is revving up.

CDC's advisers did caution that those temporary shot reactions may be even more common if people get a COVID-19 shot at the same time as another vaccination.

President Joe Biden hailed Wednesday's vote, noting that means 17 million more people in the U.S. now qualify to get vaccinated.

"I encourage their parents to make sure they get the shot," he said. "As I promised last week, we're ready. This new population is going to find the vaccine rollout fast and efficient."

In addition to the mass vaccination sites and health department rollouts that were key for adults, many states will be offering kids more familiar options — shipping doses to pediatricians and even to schools.

Pfizer is not the only company seeking to lower the age limit for its vaccine. Moderna recently said preliminary results from its study in 12- to 17-year-olds show strong protection and no serious side effects, data the FDA will need to scrutinize.

As for even younger children, both companies have begun tests in youngsters ages 6 months to 11 years. Those studies explore if different doses are needed at the youngest ages, and FDA plans to hold a public meeting next month to debate exactly what evidence is needed.

AP reporters Ron Harris in Decatur, Georgia, and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.



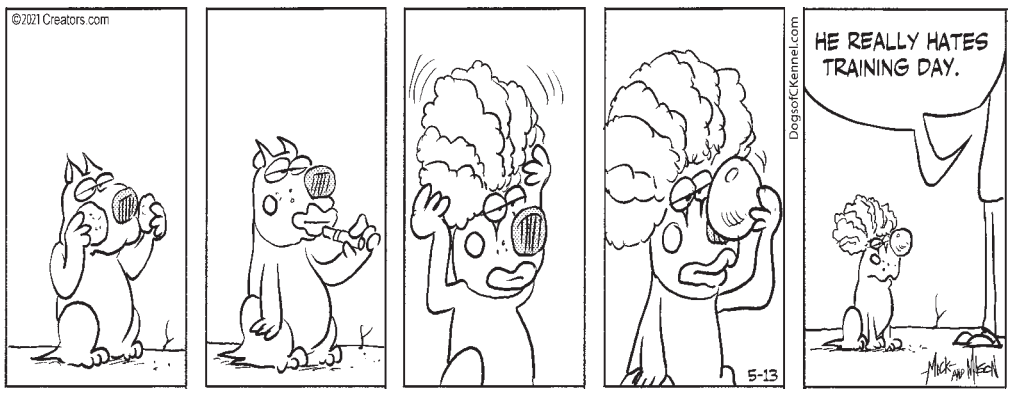
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



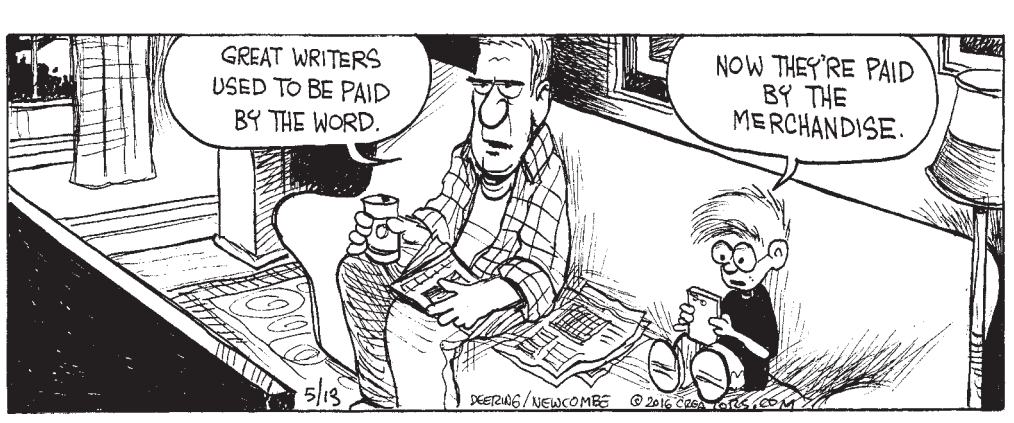
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



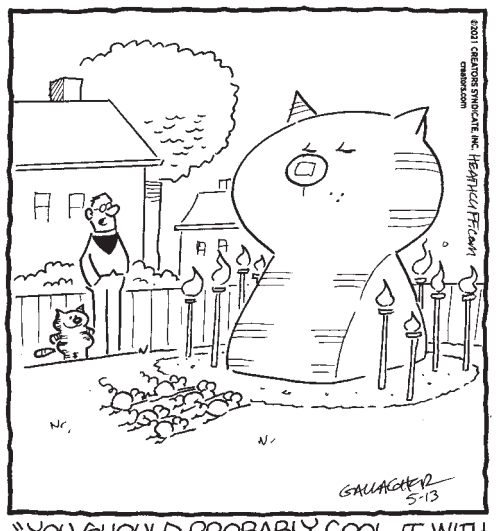
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 63.7°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-5ft Waist to head high
Long period SSW swell tops out as small NW swell blends in. Morning looking nice with clean conditions and a tide push.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
New, long-period SSW swell builds underneath the current SSW pulse. Morning looking nice with clean conditions and a tide push.

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: Partly sunny, with a high near 65. Light south wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/05/13	Thu	05:16 AM	-0.41	L
2021/05/13	Thu	11:45 AM	3.28	H
2021/05/13	Thu	4:08 PM	2.15	L
2021/05/13	Thu	10:27 PM	5.45	H
2021/05/14	Fri	05:55 AM	-0.33	L
2021/05/14	Fri	12:38 PM	3.10	H
2021/05/14	Fri	4:31 PM	2.40	L
2021/05/14	Fri	10:56 PM	5.29	H
2021/05/15	Sat	06:38 AM	-0.20	L
2021/05/15	Sat	1:42 PM	2.96	H
2021/05/15	Sat	4:55 PM	2.64	L
2021/05/15	Sat	11:31 PM	5.06	H
2021/05/16	Sun	07:27 AM	-0.03	L
2021/05/16	Sun	3:15 PM	2.95	H
2021/05/16	Sun	5:23 PM	2.88	L
2021/05/17	Mon	12:14 AM	4.79	H
2021/05/17	Mon	08:26 AM	0.13	L
2021/05/18	Tue	01:12 AM	4.47	H
2021/05/18	Tue	09:33 AM	0.21	L
2021/05/18	Tue	5:36 PM	3.42	H
2021/05/18	Tue	8:57 PM	3.19	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball calottery
Draw Date: 5/8
12 17 20 21 26
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 168 M

calottery MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/11
7 8 20 36 39
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 430 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 5/8
10 12 21 22 28
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 45 M

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 5/11
7 13 19 30 39

calottery Daily3
Draw Date: 5/11
EVENING: 8 4 5
Draw Date: 5/11
MIDDAY: 4 7 2

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 5/11
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:46.23

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MAY 13)

Your cosmic birthday boon is a well-focused supply of fearlessness. It allows you to trade in the change you thought you wanted for a fresh idea just coming into your realm. Breezy connections develop into deep bonds. Lifestyle upgrades will be affordable and in fact you'll be paid to teach others the change you created in yourself. Virgo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 22, 1 and 10.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your creative endeavors are like a net you cast into the world. They will bring you some of the things you chase, as well as what just happened to be drifting by, caught in the middle of that pursuit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Getting positive feedback and encouragement is helpful but not as helpful as the criticism that will shine light on where you can improve. Dare to ask for that, and you'll get both respect and valuable information.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Limits lift with the acceptance of this truth: Our minds, as reliable as they may be, can only witness the smallest slice of any reality. Wisdom is not knowing more but embracing that you don't.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Today, you will read the signs better than the Oracle at Delphi herself. Just remember that criticism isn't a sign that you shouldn't be doing a thing, it's actually just an opportunity to get better. Everyone can get better.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Nobody likes to do what they are not good at. When you're not enjoying the work, the culprit is a knowledge gap that needs filling. Take a breath, stay receptive to learning, and it will get better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Since you can't prove it either way, you may as well believe that this destiny unfolding includes the right people at the right time and the opportunities that lead to your ultimate fulfillment and what's best for all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You made your choice, and now you're baffled as to why. You cannot remember your reasons, if you had them. Did outside forces have a hand in this fate? Perhaps, though it is yours to handle now, and handle it you will.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Everyone has their own private worries. You're braver about this than most. You realize that hiding can be more energy than it's worth. You also know that your story cannot inspire other people if you don't tell it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Taking on too much leads to diminished results in all categories. But how do you tamp down the ambition that swells in you? Maybe you can't, but instead of rushing to tell everyone, air it somewhere safe, like a diary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). One difference between a bouquet of wild roses and a bouquet of weeds is that the wild roses can draw blood. Expensive tastes require sacrifice that may or may not be worth it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Contrast helps us see. The negative space is as much a part of the silhouette as the object itself. You'll understand what matters because it will stand out against a backdrop of so much that doesn't.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's hard to say why people come down hard on one another, but usually, it's about something different than the situation at hand. You've a gift for steering clear of drama and staying in your own business.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

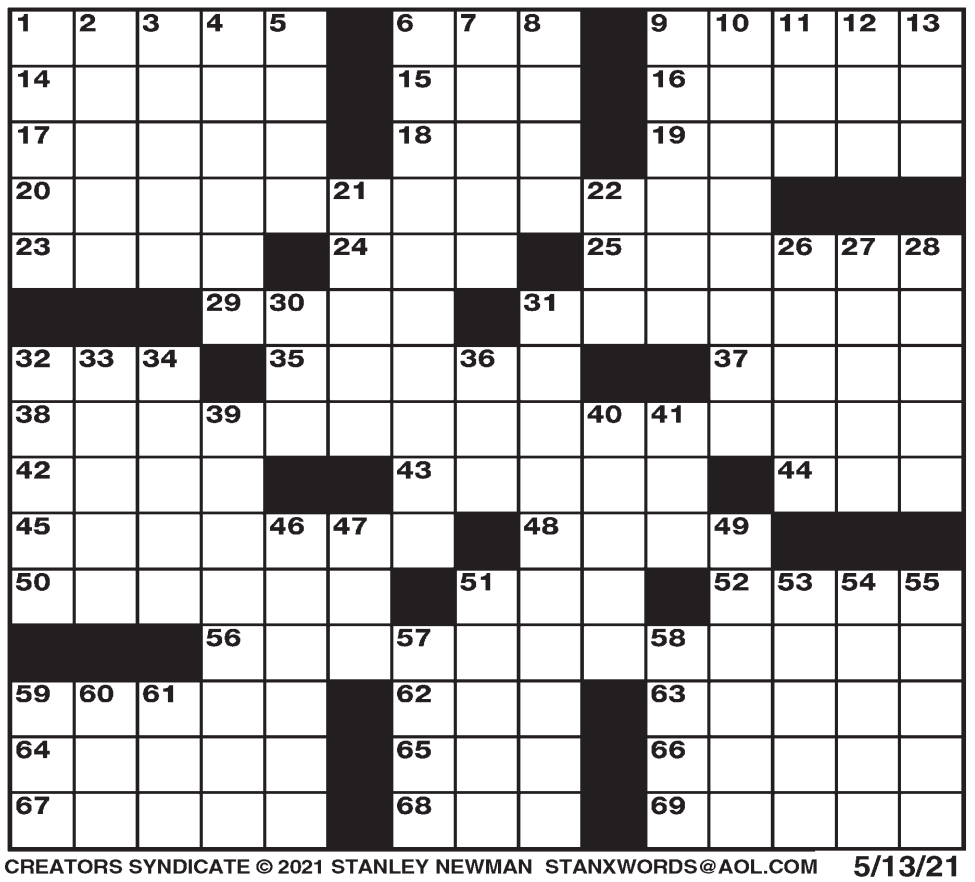
	2	3		6				
		8				9	2	
	6	4	9		7			8
	9	1	8	7		5	6	
2								9
	5	6		1	9	7	4	
7			6		4	2	1	
	1	5				6		
				9		8	3	

Newsday Crossword

GET OUT OF THERE by S.N.
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ACROSS
1 Put up with
6 NBA tiebreakers
9 Betray disbelief
14 Bowling facilities
15 Virtual bookmark
16 Second-deepest American lake
17 Happening shortly
18 Talon site
19 Strong bond
20 Giant of magic history
23 Habitually
24 Habitually, poetically
25 Tribal symbols
29 Valjean's creator
31 Certain exercise surface
32 Serpentine shape
35 Plumber of video games
37 Croft of video games
38 20 Across nickname
42 Angelic aura
43 Otherworldly
44 Shakers founder
45 Top team player
48 Shuts down
50 Trojan War sage
51 Santa __, CA
52 Enterprise alternative
56 Term that 20 Across coined for himself
59 Retail complexes
62 Defence Ministry concern
63 Keep happening
64 Already enlightened
65 Where an RN may work
66 Originate, as a trail
67 Great London Fire diarist
68 Wildlife refuge
69 Corn product

DOWN
1 Kauai greeting
2 Far from scintillating
3 Words that come first
4 Scarcity
5 Notice in the distance
6 Speaking inappropriately
7 Catch of the day, perhaps
8 Tireless racer
9 Hearing aide
10 Part of Kellogg's logo
11 Gloater's cry
12 Bushy-tailed canine
13 . . . *Kimmy Schmidt* creator
21 Wrestler in a Rocky film
22 "How was __ know?
26 Contact info
27 WWI battle locale
28 Bus ancestor
30 Thurman of film
31 Dig at a party pooper
32 Ex of 30 Down
33 Petroleum source
34 Unloads for cash
36 Party supply
39 Inn
40 No longer negotiable
41 Catered to
46 Puts in the trash
47 Plot progression
49 With wisdom
51 With swiftness
53 Parish proxy
54 Japanese diesel engine maker
55 Throat bug
57 Desertlike
58 Spheres, in verse
59 Color page of an almanac
60 Wonder-full emotion
61 Relay portion



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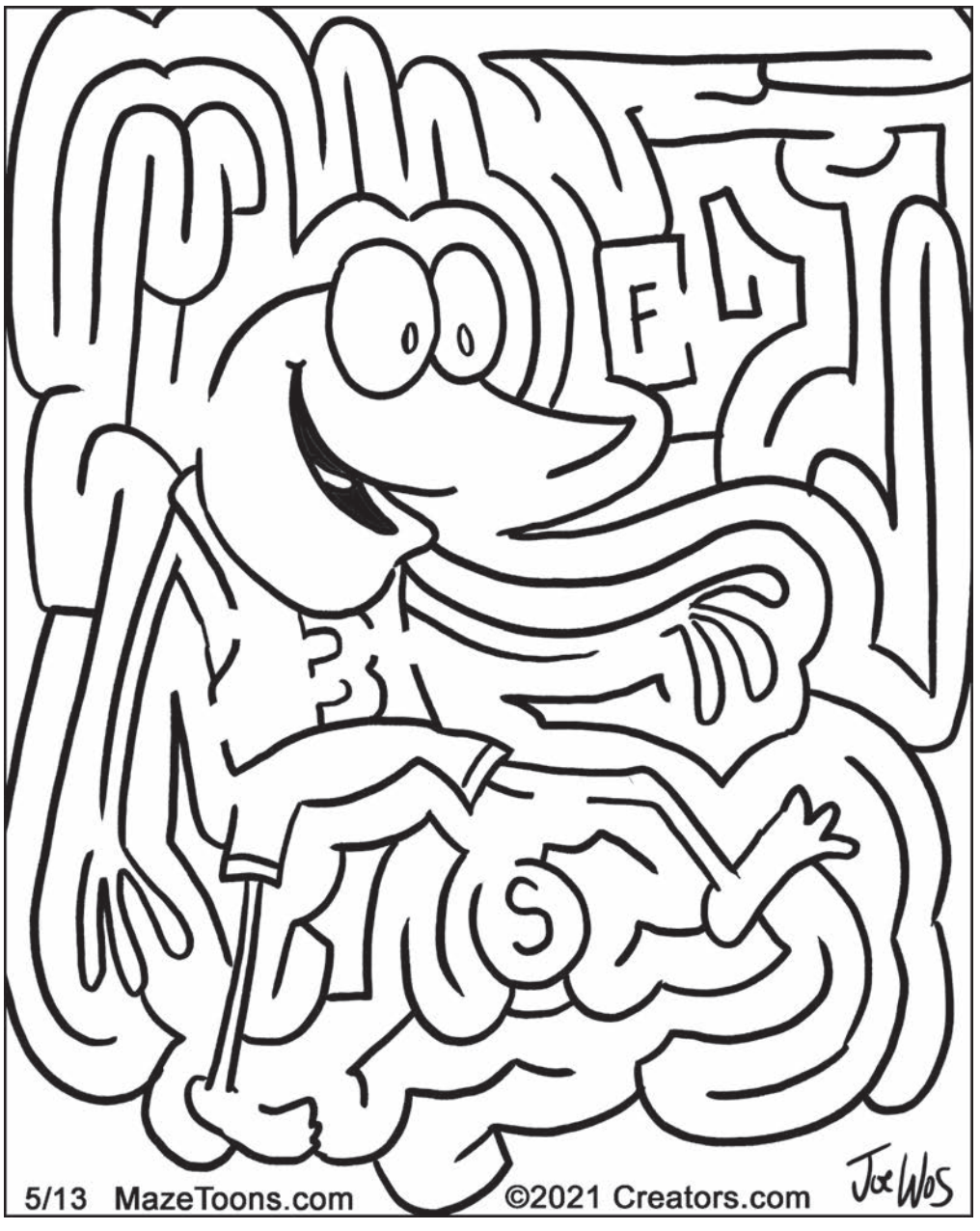
Binary Puzzle

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

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



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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 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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The jockeys lot

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

Acrasia	Equestrian	Hack	Punt	Sore
Action	Evens	Hoof	Races	Start
Arab	Fall	Horse	Reins	Steeplechaser
Arwon	Fancy	Jeune	Roan	Stylish
Ascot	Fast	Lose	Rodeo	Tote
Club	Feed	Malua	Saintly	Trot
Colour	Float	Mane	Sauna	Turf
Concentrate	Gait	Neigh	Scales	Walk
Delta	Gray	Pays	Shoe	Whip
Diet	Grey	Photo	Silks	Yippyio
Draw	Guide	Post	Sire	Zulu

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Getting kids out of the house

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RIOTS

FROM PAGE 1

to make reasonable predictions about what could happen."

Even officers who had been in the field in Beverly Hills arrived back in Santa Monica early Sunday morning and said they were very concerned with what they had seen, Connolly later added.

"In my recollection, speaking to some of them, I think they were very surprised that the department had not ramped up, based on the general information and just the way things were going, overall; but, again, it speaks to that overall disjointed nature of the department's communications and chain of the command structure at that point in time," he said.

SMPD's response to the riots would continue to be dissected in detail until the department's use of force was brought up.

"We saw, for example, a baton strike used against an individual who was seated on the ground. We saw uses of the pepper ball, another less-lethal munitions tool, against non-aggressive subjects who were fleeing the area. We observed a takedown of some passers-by who were not being immediately aggressive and were in fact trying to leave the area," Teresa Magula said, stating the situation appears to be pretty much a wholesale failure since many officers opted to not activate their body-worn cameras at all during most of the day's significant events.

Some Councilmembers said they were shocked to learn that body-cameras weren't used to the fullest extent during the infamous day, while others took issue with the department's lack of review.

"I believe I read the report that nobody reviewed for body cams, or something like that till a month and a half ago. That concerns me," Councilmember Phil Brock said. "My uninformed conclusion would be that for a progressive police department that prides itself on — or we thought prides itself on the use of technology and being very progressive and making sure that we didn't overuse use of force — on May 31, we did not get an A. In fact, I would suppose that we'd give ourselves an F."

OIR Group staff said they were informed that officers are typically very good at turning on their body-worn cameras and activating them prior to contact with the public, which is consistent with department policy.

"It just seems like there was a breakdown this day," Gennaco said.

This was a point that was repeated throughout the night.

Before stating that the looting could have been highly mitigated but not prevented, Gennaco and staff said it's important to remember that the May 31 riots and protests were an unprecedented event in Santa Monica, which is a community that has largely thought that protesters were never going to come to its side of the 405, Gennaco said. "I think the planning piece had a lot to do with it. I think … that the enormity of the individuals who were out to protest and the enormity of the individuals who came into your city to take advantage of that activity to steal, loot and burglarize was overwhelming and unprecedented; and the department underestimated the likelihood that would occur because it has never occurred before."

After some debate on the workload of the newly appointed Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission, Council directed SMPD to prepare a response to the OIR Group's report within 60 days that will set out a plan for implementing each of the 44 recommendations. Council also directed the newly created Public Safety commissioners to begin preparing a response to the department's report that would set out additional recommendations for consideration by Council and instructed department leaders to ensure that usage of body-worn cameras by SMPD personnel is enforced.

Brennon@smdp.com

FIREFIGHTERS

FROM PAGE 4

argued that there is no legal basis for Vanessa Bryant's lawsuit because the photos were not publicly disseminated. She can't sue for a "hypothetical harm" that they may be shared publicly, the county said in filings.

Capt. Ron Haralson, a spokesperson for the county Fire Department, declined to comment, citing the lawsuit.

Several Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies — none of whom were directly involved in the investigation of the crash — are also included in the lawsuit because they are accused of taking or passing around the grisly photos with family, friends and, in one case, a bar patron and a bartender who later complained to the sheriff's department.

Sheriff Alex Villanueva condemned the deputies' behavior and, in a move that has since been heavily criticized, ordered them to delete the photos. The captain of the Malibu-Lost Hills sheriff's station, which oversees the area where the crash occurred, pushed back on the decision but was overruled.

The sheriff's department said Wednesday that it did not have an update on the deputies, including any possible discipline taken against them.

Gov. Gavin Newsom last year signed a law that makes it a crime for first responders to take unauthorized photos of deceased people at the scene of an accident or crime.

The firefighters' punishment was first reported by KNBC-TV. Representatives from the union that represents firefighters did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' request for comment Wednesday.

The firefighter who received the photos and shared them with others was not named in court documents, but the Los Angeles Times has reported that Capt. Tony Imbrenda filed a retaliation lawsuit in November. Imbrenda alleged he was demoted for refusing to hand over his personal cellphone during the investigation into the photos, which he said was a violation of the Firefighter Bill of Rights.

Imbrenda did, however, hand over his department cellphone and laptop, the Times reported. His lawsuit says he received photos from people working at the crash site "as is common practice on all major incidents."

He took his own photos the next day, the Times reported, but denied taking photos of the victims' bodies and said he did not take photos with his personal cellphone.

Imbrenda did not respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 6

get Bizet again"), June 4-6.

Thank you, opera. You've brought us back. And made the world safe for rock and roll.

CHECK YOUR FAVORITE VENUES

Many are announcing schedules for the coming months. Support them, please. If they made it through this, and many did not, that's heroic.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

LISTEN TO THESE ALBUMS — It is my unique privilege to get to come home with a stack of classic records from my folks every time I visit them. This last batch was especially good; standouts include Fela Kuti's "Black-President" — just try multitasking while listening to this; I could not, too electrifying — Mal Waldron's "The Quest" featuring Eric Dolphy and Booker Ervin — grade A hard bop — and George Jones' "My Very Special Guests." This last album is fantastic, with features by Waylon Jennings, James Taylor, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt, Tammy Wynette, Willie Nelson, Johnny Paycheck, Dennis & Ray of Dr. Hook, Pops and Mavis Staples, Pete Drake on steel guitar, and Elvis Costello, who I actually did not hate listening to for once (come at me).

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

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 5

Surveillance camera footage allegedly shows the robbers scouting the area prior to the robbery.

If convicted, the defendants would face a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison.

A complaint contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The FBI and the Beverly Hills Police Department investigated this matter with the Santa Monica Police Department providing assistance.

Assistant United States Attorneys Joseph D. Axelrad and Jeffrey M. Chemerinsky of the Violent and Organized Crime Section are prosecuting this case.

SUBMITTED BY CIARAN MCEVOY

Santa Monica Daily Press
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Notices

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS Notice is given that Statement of Qualifications for Best Value Job Order Contracting (BRC0000254) will be received by the County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works, on May26,2021 by 4:00 p.m. To access RFSQ documents, visit the link at https://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/aspx . For additional information, call (626) 458-2585.5/13/21CNS-3466179#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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