smdp
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Laughing Matters
Exercise Can Be Dangerous.
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Comics & Stuff
Pages 8 & 9.

Suicide temporarily closes I-10 freeway

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A section of the westbound I-10 Freeway was closed Thursday while police investigated a suicide.

Officers were called to the scene at about 2 p.m. for what witnesses described as a man jumping onto the freeway. Witnesses saw a man at the overpass hugging the guardrail. The victim then jumped over onto the westbound lanes, striking a vehicle as he landed.

Santa Monica Fire Department personnel arrived on scene and pronounced the male deceased. All I-10 westbound lanes were closed off and traffic was diverted at Lincoln Blvd. for several hours, flooding Downtown Santa Monica with through traffic.

If you or a member of your family are struggling during this time of isolation, please reach out for help from a mental health professional by calling (800) 854-7771 or by texting LA to 741741. Additional resources from the LA County Department of Mental Health are available at dmh.lacounty.gov.

editor@smdp.com

Beach Club renovations approved with conditions to improve public access



Courtesy image

BEACH: The Beach Club was granted unanimous approval to bring their building up to code.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Coastal Commission granted the Santa Monica Beach Club a permit to carry out significant renovations under the condition that the Club remedies practices commissioners feel impede public beach access.

With the Commission's go-ahead the Beach Club is now able to undertake a seismic retrofitting of the entire building and remodeling of two kitchen areas and an employee service area.

As part of the renovation agreement, the Club will construct two view corridors providing visual access to the beach from PCH and remove several unpermitted structures.

These steps aim to ensure that nonmembers understand there is a public beach area below the Club and can access it with ease.

Commission questions around public beach access stem from the status of the Club's land. The Club owns three land parcels adjacent to the PCH and leases two sand areas from the State. Any area below Club land, which ends above the bike trail, is publicly accessible.

According to the Commission, the Club has unpermitted structures on both its privately owned land and its leased land. As part of the renovation agreement, the Club will remove unpermitted structures on its leased land, which include a

SEE **RENOVATIONS** PAGE 7

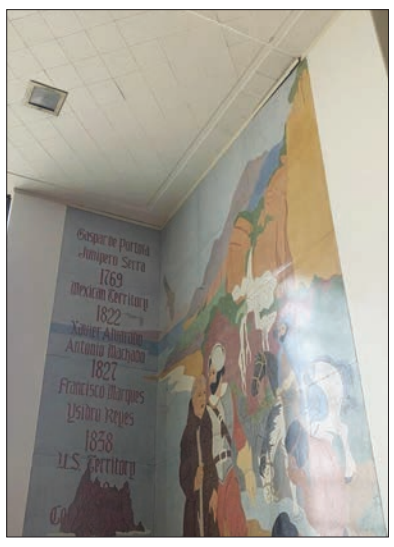
City will cover 1930s Stanton McDonald Wright mural

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica will soon cover a pair of 1930s Stanton McDonald Wright murals located at the entrance of City Hall before beginning a community engagement process that will allow local residents an opportunity to share their opinions on the matter.

The artistic scrim cover will be installed prior to July 13th when the public is expected to return for Council meetings in City Hall but it's not yet known when the city's Arts Commission and Cultural Affairs department will initiate a community engagement process that will decide if the murals should be replaced with something else. And, if so, then what.

The mural discussion was initiated Tuesday by Councilmember Oscar de la Torre, who clarified this week that the murals will still be visible through the light woven cover but there will be other images that will be superimposed over to tell a more complete narrative.



Courtesy image

MURAL: The mural will be the subject of community discussions.

"If you want to see those images in the back you can see them but it'll give us an opportunity to put other images forward as well. And then, and then that will give us some

SEE **MURAL** PAGE 11

LA to study homeless housing at Will Rogers Beach

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A proposal to convert several local beach lots into temporary housing cleared its first hurdle this week when the City of Los Angeles' Committee on Homelessness and Poverty voted to authorize a feasibility study in a 4-1 vote.

Councilmen Mike Bonin and Mark Ridley-Thomas submitted the motion that asks to study temporary tiny homes/safe camping at Will Rogers State Beach, temporary tiny homes/safe camping at Dockweiler Beach, RV parking at Dockweiler and temporary tiny homes/safe camping in Marina del Rey.

In addition, the motion asks to study several other sites including property in Culver City, at 5000 Beethoven Ave in Del Rey, Westchester Park, Mar Vista Park, LAX property, the West LA Municipal Building and funding for more hotel rooms to be converted into homeless shelters.

Councilman Joe Buscaino was the lone opponent of the proposal among committee members saying that while the homelessness crisis is indeed an emergency, the proposal put forward isn't feasible or fair.

"I feel that our beaches and parks provide priceless open space and recreation opportunities for thousands of our residents including low income residents throughout our county," he said. "We need to balance the needs of both our

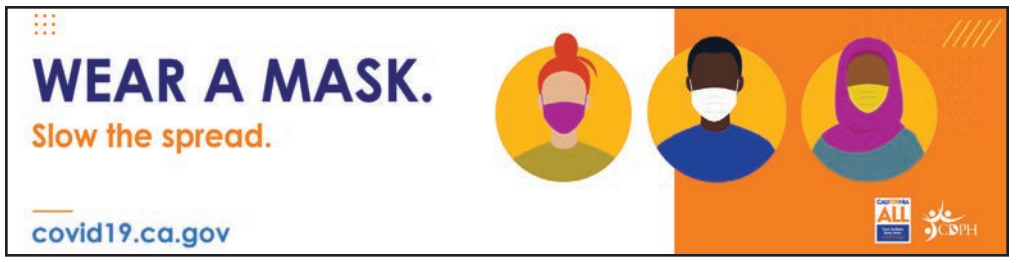
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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4414 Welding and Fabrication Services for Refuse, Recycling, and Organics Containers

Submission Deadline is June 9, 2021 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the City's Online Vendor Portal. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

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.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

DATE/TIME: Monday, May 17, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Architectural Review Board and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The public may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/hykrxqkd dialing in at +1 (415) 466-7000 (US) PIN: 5038362 #.

PROPERTIES:

- 21ARB-0072: 2150 Colorado Avenue: Landscape
- 21ARB-0089: 2450 Colorado Avenue: Landscape

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien). The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give public comment must make that request via email to planningcomment@smgov.net. Written information received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Written information received after 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read aloud at the meeting subject to time constraints. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 280 CALLS ON MAY 12

Battery 500blk Colorado Ave 12:24 a.m.
Petty Theft 2500blk 16th St 12:35 a.m.
Loud Music 1400blk 5th St 1:02 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 1:15 a.m.
Petty Theft 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 1:37 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 3:07 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:01 a.m.
Panic Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:39 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 2000blk Ocean Ave 6:10 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 00blk Pico Blvd 6:37 a.m.
Burglary 1100blk 19th St 7:17 a.m.
Battery 1300blk 2nd St 7:28 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2600blk Arizona Ave 7:49 a.m.
Grand Theft 2400blk 10th St 8:08 a.m.
Auto Burglary Now 3100blk Longfellow St 8:08 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1900blk Broadway 8:14 a.m.
Encampment 1200blk The Beach 8:21 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 600blk Strand St 8:38 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1700blk Cedar St 8:40 a.m.
Burglary 1700blk Ocean Ave 8:40 a.m.
Fitness Permit Violation 800blk Palisades Park 8:59 a.m.
Burglary 900blk 3rd St 9:05 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 9:22 a.m.
Burglary 2900blk Main St 9:49 a.m.
Lewd Activity 800blk California Ave 9:51 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 11th St 9:53 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1100blk 24th St 9:55 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk Wilshire Blvd 9:57 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk 10th St 10:10 a.m.
Burglary 1100blk 4th St 10:24 a.m.
Runaway 900blk 15th St 10:45 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2100blk 20th St 10:50 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1300blk 6th St 10:50 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 800blk Montana Ave 10:55 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk 5th St 11:10 a.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 11:12 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 500blk Lincoln Blvd 11:19 a.m.
Panhandling 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 11:34 a.m.
Battery 1300blk 20th St 11:39 a.m.
Burglary 600blk 17th St 11:45 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2900blk Neilson Way 11:51 a.m.
Petty Theft 1500blk 18th St 12:02 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 200blk Santa Monica Pier 12:34 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk 6th St 12:41 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 00blk Sea Colony Dr 12:55 p.m.
Burglary 2200blk Colorado Ave 1:13 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1100blk Chelsea Ave 1:53 p.m.
Forgery 500blk 17th St 1:57 p.m.
Found Property 400blk Hollister Ave 2:01 p.m.
Fraud 500blk Colorado Ave 2:02 p.m.
Burglary 800blk 6th St 2:03 p.m.
Prowler There Now 300blk 18th St 2:14 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 2:27 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1200blk Michigan Ave 2:27 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2000blk California Ave 2:28 p.m.
Lost Property 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:29 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 2200blk Virginia Ave 2:34 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2300blk 32nd St 2:44 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 400blk 16th St 2:52 p.m.
Loud Music 00blk Bay St 2:54 p.m.
Encampment 17th St / Colorado Ave 2:54 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1000blk Yale St 2:57 p.m.
Petty Theft 2900blk Main St 3:08 p.m.
Panic Alarm 900blk 5th St 3:13 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 300blk 18th St 3:46 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2200blk Ocean Front Walk 3:47 p.m.
Fraud 2500blk Beverley Ave 3:52 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1900blk 19th St 3:58 p.m.
Loud Music 6th St / Montana Ave 4:06 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2500blk Washington Ave 4:31 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100blk Georgina Ave 4:34 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1700blk Ocean Ave 4:42 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 4:44 p.m.
Fight 27th St / Pico Blvd 4:57 p.m.
Battery 2600blk Pico Blvd 5:03 p.m.
Loud Music 1400blk 5th St 5:17 p.m.
Battery 2500blk Ocean Front Walk 6:02 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 6:11 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:14 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 2500blk Wilshire Blvd 6:38 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200blk Arizona Ave 7:01 p.m.
Encampment 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:15 p.m.
Petty Theft 200blk Broadway 7:15 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 7:48 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2200blk Ocean Ave 8:11 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 8:29 p.m.
Construction Noise 800blk Montana Ave 9:58 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 900blk California Ave 10:01 p.m.
Panic Alarm 700blk 22nd St 10:09 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 500blk Colorado Ave 10:10 p.m.
Party Complaint 700blk 20th St 10:21 p.m.
Petty Theft 800blk Ashland Ave 10:56 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1500blk Yale St 11:06 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 1500blk Berkeley St 11:30 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk The Beach 11:35 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2200blk Colorado Ave 11:48 p.m.

HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 1

unhoused residents with the needs of our housed residents."

Public comment on the proposal was mixed both from neighborhood groups and individual residents.

Jessica Rogers, president of the Pacific Palisades Residents Association, said the proposal was a detriment to all Angelenos.

"In particular, all the Los Angelenos who are lower income, and who desperately need access to beaches and parks for their quality of life," she said. "These emergency homeless shelters are a horrific problem in terms of safety for everyone involved. You have no current possibility to monitor and properly provide safety and apply any laws to remove any vagrants that will be attracted towards these emergency homeless shelters."

Tiara Writer said the Westside needed more shelters to address the homelessness crisis and said the proposal should be expanded.

"On the Westside, we have plenty of space to support street safe dwelling, as well as permanent and supportive housing in the area, along with open spaces," she said. "I do believe that Councilman Bonin should also be considering the Santa Monica airport as the airport is incorrectly zoned and the issue of homelessness is a county wide issue. We can't allow cities like Santa Monica to uphold segregation and promote classism, which is what they are and have been doing for the last several years."

Sam Herd said the proposal was unacceptable and that while he was sympathetic to the plight of the homeless, housing people in parks would increase crime and render the spaces unusable for families.

"Like almost everyone, we want to find improvements and solutions for the homeless, but putting them in a park is not a solution," he said. "California is the fifth largest economy in the world, with some of the smartest people in the world, and putting people in parks and beaches is the best idea and solution that is currently being assessed. I think that's embarrassing. Do better, be better, be a world leader in solutions."

Mar Vista resident Marybeth Lacey supported the study.

"I live close to the park and I'm supportive of this motion because the status quo has been failing for a long time," she said. "People living on the street and in the park are dying at twice the rate of people living at home, and it's clear to me that the main reason that people are living outside is because of property economic hardship. The comments made by the opposition about crime, violence and danger are greatly exaggerated. And I know this because I visit the encampment that's currently in the park every Saturday. I also know that my neighbors living in the streets, in the past have experienced loss, trauma, there's no one size fits all solution, we need multiple options on the table. And that's why we need to do that study."

The motion Thursday didn't approve the proposals, it just authorized a study of their cost, feasibility and impact. That report will be prepared by Los Angeles city staff and will return for additional discussion.

editor@smdp.com

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 19 CALLS ON MAY 12

EMS 1300blk Ocean Ave 4:30 a.m.
EMS 1700blk California Ave 5:57 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 6:13 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 7th St 6:28 a.m.
EMS 20th St / Interstate 10 7:13 a.m.
EMS Highland Ave / Ocean Park Blvd 8:05 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 2nd St 8:26 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Pico Blvd 9:15 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600blk 26th St 11:34 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 11:58 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 6th St 2:30 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Oak St 2:58 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:02 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Main St 3:50 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Pico Blvd 4:42 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 2nd St 6:44 p.m.
EMS 2700blk 6th St 9:23 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 11th St 10:48 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 11:06 p.m.







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Desperate for workers, US restaurants and stores raise pay

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economic Writer

U.S. restaurants and stores are rapidly raising pay in an urgent effort to attract more applicants and keep up with a flood of customers as the pandemic eases.

McDonald's, Sheetz and Chipotle are just some of the latest companies to follow Amazon, Walmart and Costco in boosting wages, in some cases to $15 an hour or higher.

The pay gains are, of course, a boon to these employees. Restaurants, bars, hotels and stores remain the lowest-paying industries, and many of their workers ran the risk of contracting COVID-19 on the job over the past year while white-collar employees were able to work from home.

Still, the pay increases could contribute to higher inflation if companies raise prices to cover the additional labor costs. Some businesses, however, could absorb the costs or invest over time in automation to offset higher wages.

States and cities are easing business restrictions as COVID-19 deaths and cases plummet, and in places like Florida, Nevada, and Texas, restaurant traffic is above or near pre-pandemic levels, according to OpenTable, a software provider to the industry.

Many companies say they are struggling to find workers.

"Customers are coming back faster than restaurants can staff up," said Josh Bivens, research director at the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute. "By raising pay, they are able to get more workers in the door."

In April, even as overall hiring slowed, a category that includes restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues hired more new workers than it did the previous month, a sign the extra pay is working.

McDonald's on Thursday said it will raise pay for workers in its 650 company-owned stores to an average of $15 an hour by 2024. Entry-level employees will make $11 an hour. The company is urging its 14,000 franchised restaurants to make the same changes.

Also on Thursday, Amazon said it will pay new hires $17 an hour, as it seeks to add 75,000 new workers. The online giant said it is offering a $100 bonus for new hires who have been vaccinated.

And Sheetz, a mid-Atlantic convenience store chain, said Monday it is giving its 18,000 employees a $2-an-hour raise and an additional $1 an hour for the summer.

Across the restaurant industry, the pay gains have largely returned overall wages to the same growth trend they were on before the pandemic, Bivens said. He expects the increases to climb above that trend in the coming months.

Consumer prices rose 0.3% at restaurants in April, far less than their labor costs that month. That suggests many restaurants are accepting smaller profits rather than passing on the costs to customers, Bivens said. Restaurant prices have risen 3.8% in the past year, which is above pre-pandemic levels.

Worries about higher inflation have dominated financial markets after consumer prices jumped 4.2% in April compared with a year earlier, the biggest gain in 13 years. But the rise was driven largely by soaring used car prices and more expensive airline tickets, not higher labor costs.

In a sign that companies in general are struggling to add workers, the number of available jobs in the U.S. shot to 8.2 million at the end of March. Yet employers added just 266,000 jobs in April, far fewer than the previous month.

Some of the unemployed are reluctant to return to work for fear of contracting COVID-19, while many women have left the workforce to take care of children who are still in online school. Because of an extra $300 in unemployment aid, some of the jobless are receiving more in benefits than they earned at their old jobs.

Gad Levanon, a labor economist at the Conference Board, a business research group, said labor shortages will probably be temporary, which suggests pay won't necessarily keep rising at the same pace.

"The fear of COVID is probably going to decline, schools are probably going to open in September, the extra unemployment benefits will end in September," he said. "So we will see some easing in labor shortages."

Even with the recent wage gains, weekly pay averaged just $477.40 in April in a category includes restaurants, bars, hotels, amusement parks and other entertainment venues.

That partly reflects the many part-time workers in the industry, some of whom prefer shorter schedules. But others would probably work more if they could.

Fight for $15 and a Union, a labor group that is trying to unionize fast food workers, said that the increases aren't enough and that it will continue to demand a starting wage of $15 per hour for all McDonald's workers.

"Clearly, McDonald's understands that in order to hire and retain talented workers, something needs to change," McDonald's employee and union organizer Doneshia Babbitt said in a statement. "Now, they're raising pay for some of us and using fancy math tricks to gloss over the fact that they're selling most of us short."

Fight for $15 is planning strikes in 15 cities next Wednesday ahead of the fast food giant's annual shareholder meeting.

AP Business Writer Dee-Ann Durbin contributed to this story from Detroit.

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

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‘Great day for America’: Vaccinated can largely ditch masks

ZEKE MILLER AND MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

In a major step toward returning to pre-pandemic life, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention eased mask-wearing guidance for fully vaccinated people on Thursday, allowing them to stop wearing masks outdoors in crowds and in most indoor settings.

“Today is a great day for America,” President Joe Biden said during a Rose Garden address heralding the new guidance, an event where he and his staff went without masks. Hours earlier in the Oval Office, where Biden was meeting with vaccinated Republican lawmakers, he led the group in removing their masks when the guidance was announced.

“If you are fully vaccinated, you no longer need to wear a mask,” he said, summarizing the new guidance and encouraging more Americans to roll up their sleeves. “Get vaccinated — or wear a mask until you do.”

The guidance still calls for wearing masks in crowded indoor settings like buses, planes, hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters, but it will help clear the way for reopening workplaces, schools and other venues — even removing the need for social distancing for those who are fully vaccinated.

“We have all longed for this moment — when we can get back to some sense of normalcy,” Rochelle Walensky, director of the CDC, said at an earlier White House briefing.

The CDC and the Biden administration have faced pressure to ease restrictions on fully vaccinated people — those who are two weeks past their last required COVID-19 vaccine dose — in part to highlight the benefits of getting the shot. The country’s aggressive vaccination campaign has paid off: U.S. virus cases are at their lowest rate since September, deaths are at their lowest point since last April and the test positivity rate is at the lowest point since the pandemic began.

Walensky said the long-awaited change is thanks to the millions of people who have gotten vaccinated and is based on the latest science about how well those shots are working.

“Anyone who is fully vaccinated can participate in indoor and outdoor activities — large or small — without wearing a mask or physically distancing,” Walensky said. “If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing the things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.”

The new guidance is likely to open the door to confusion, since there is no surefire way for businesses or others to distinguish between those who are fully vaccinated and those who are not.

“Millions of Americans are doing the right thing and getting vaccinated, but essential workers are still forced to play mask police for shoppers who are unvaccinated and refuse to follow local COVID safety measures,” said Marc Perrone, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union. “Are they now supposed to become the vaccination police?”

Walensky and Biden said people who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks indoors.

“We’ve gotten this far — please protect yourself until you get to the finish line,” Biden said, noting that most Americans under 65 are not yet fully vaccinated. He said the government was not going to enforce the mask wearing guidance on those not yet fully vaccinated.

“We’re not going to go out and arrest people,” added Biden, who said he believes the American people want to take care of their neighbors. “If you haven’t been vaccinated, wear your mask for your own protection and the protection of the people who also have not been vaccinated yet.”

On Capitol Hill, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she is not changing the rules requiring masks on the House floor.

“No,” Pelosi told CNN. “Are they all vaccinated?”

Recent estimates have put the percentage of unvaccinated lawmakers in the House at 25%.

That ambiguity over who is and isn’t vaccinated led Lawrence Gostin, a public health law expert at Georgetown University, to declare the CDC guidance “confusing and contradictory.”

“The public will not feel comfortable in a crowded indoor space if they are unsure if the maskless person standing next to them is or is not vaccinated,” he said.

The announcement came as many states and communities have already been lifting mask mandates amid improving virus numbers and as more Americans have been shedding face coverings after getting shots.

Dan Witte, a 67-year-old musician from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, stopped wearing a mask after receiving the vaccine two months ago and recently rejoined his band playing gigs at crowded bars and weddings. He was encouraged by the CDC’s new guidance, but said it just confirmed his trust that the vaccines offered protection from spreading infections.

“I went right from being hypervigilant for almost a year to being right in the crowd without a mask,” Witte said.

To date about 154 million Americans, more than 46% of the population, have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and more than 117 million are fully vaccinated. The rate of new vaccinations has slowed in recent weeks, but with the authorization Wednesday of the Pfizer shot for children ages 12 to 15, a new burst of doses is expected in the coming days.

“All of us, let’s be patient, be patient with one another,” Biden said, acknowledging some Americans might be hesitant about removing their masks after more than a year of living in a pandemic that has killed more than 580,000 people in the U.S. and more than 3.3 million people worldwide.

The CDC’s announcement that Americans could begin to shed one of the most visible symbols of the pandemic stood in stark contrast to other nations, with much of the world still struggling to contain the virus amid global disparities in vaccinations.

Just two weeks ago, the CDC recommended that fully vaccinated people continue to wear masks indoors in all settings and outdoors in

SEE **MASKS** PAGE 11

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*Offer to non insured patients
OR
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For New Patients
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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Exercise Can Be Dangerous

With such improving Covid news I was recalling the beginning of the pandemic with worldwide fear and panic of the deadly disease. And also of toilet paper shortages. I should talk. I wrote columns entitled, "He With Hand Sanitizer is King," and "Will Work for T.P."

Many of my friends battled the endless anxiety with meditative, albeit face-masked walks on the beach. I began daily 5-mile rides on the bike path from Ocean Park to Chautauqua and back. With the empty freeways the air was so pristine you could see puffy white clouds while the clean ocean smell was like aromatherapy. After biking I'd sit serenely on the beach and watch the waves roll in.

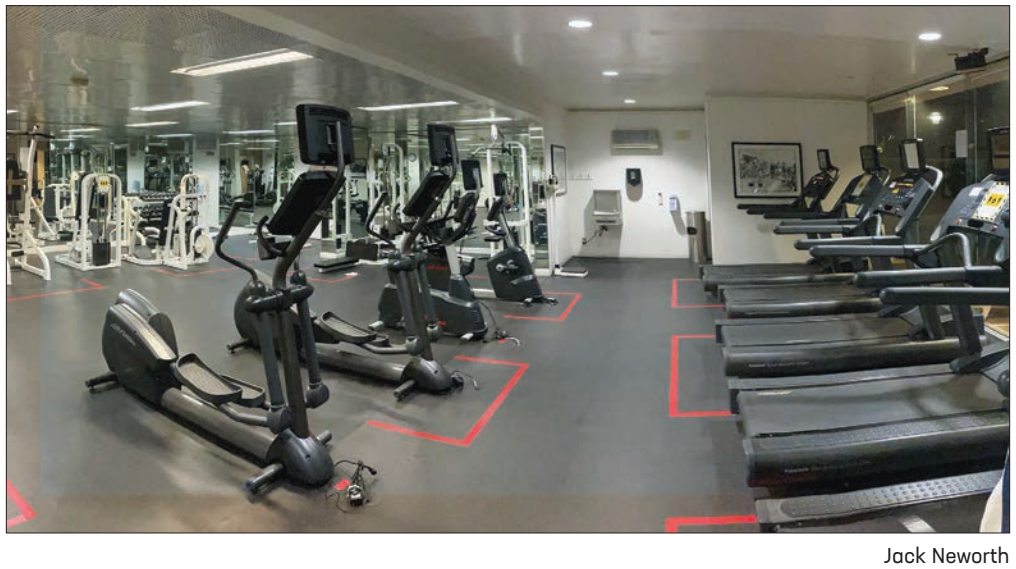
Soon, however, the bike path got so crowded it became a freeway. I even saw a young father with a helmet-wearing toddler in a "front pack" on his chest, actually texting while pedaling. (After all, what could go wrong?) There were also huge $2000 Electric bikes capable of 40 mph. When I'd see a distracted pack coming at me I'd prepare to steer my bike right into the sand.

Worried about these dangers, I talked to cops near the pier who agreed the E-bikes were illegal but with more serious problems plaguing the city they couldn't do a thing. Unsatisfied, I got the contact info of the Assistant Chief of Police whom I emailed. (Surprise, surprise, I never heard back.)

To my delight, recently The Shores re-opened our gym. (With fingers partially covering my eyes, for the first time in a year I weighed myself on the gym scale and I'm five pounds lighter, or the scale is rigged to avoid suicides.) I definitely miss biking, the beach air and seeing people having fun on the boardwalk but the gym is definitely safer than dodging Electric bikes. That is, until one night...

The gym is open from 5 am. to 11 pm but only four people, or one household, is allowed. (What if the Duggar family with 19 kids moved into the Shores?) So I go at 10 pm as the gym is empty at that hour. But after my workout as I was about to leave, to my horror there was a chain and padlock on the fence. Apparently the security guard didn't notice lights on in the gym and I didn't have a cell phone. (Yes, I'm the one adult in America without one.)

Fortunately, there's a phone at the pool connected only to 911. Unfortunately the line



Jack Neworth

GYM: The fancy Shores gym is perfectly safe until one particular night.

was dead! Frantic, I dragged one of the chaise lounges next to the gate and tried boosting myself over the fence. But the lounge wasn't nearly high enough.

Though time consuming, I untied the cushions from fifteen chaise lounges and stacked them on the lounge next to the fence. I was definitely higher up and it seemed like I could jump and pull myself over, but the cushions were so unstable I couldn't get a solid push off.

Suddenly I went from a little panicky to freaking out. It appeared I'd have to sleep by the pool until 5 am. I thought about yelling "Help" but enough of the tenants paying $5k a month and up, already look upon me as one step above homeless. So much for feeling good about myself for getting exercise.

Pacing back and forth, I noticed on the south side of the pool there was a tall, ornate cement trash depository that must weigh 200 pounds. Tipping it on its edge, inch by inch I slowly rolled it over and it was only about 4 inches below the fence. I climbed up the humongous receptacle, carefully spreading my feet so I didn't fall through the open center designed for the trash.

Summoning courage, I remembered my high school basketball test for vertical leap in which I was over 20 inches. Here I only needed 5 but summoning reality this was decades past high school.

SEE **LAUGHING MATTERS** PAGE 11



RENOVATIONS

FROM PAGE 1

fenced volleyball court, storage shed, outdoor tent, and private property signs.

"On the leased land parcels an unpermitted private encroachment can adversely impact public access by leading the public, particularly to those who utilize the Marvin Braude Bike Trail, to believe that the leased land areas are privately owned," said Coastal Program Analyst Amrita Spencer.

The Club holds a lease to these areas until 2050, when it could hypothetically become public land. This is part of the reason the Coastal Commission sought the removal of permanent structures from this area.

The Commission also determined that a small part of the leased land is an ecologically sensitive dune habitat and tasked the Club with implementing a restoration program.

The Commission did not take serious issue with unpermitted developments on the Club's private property and granted after-the-fact approval for these structures which include a bocce ball court, tents, an outdoor dining patio, a privacy fence, playground, and parking lot.

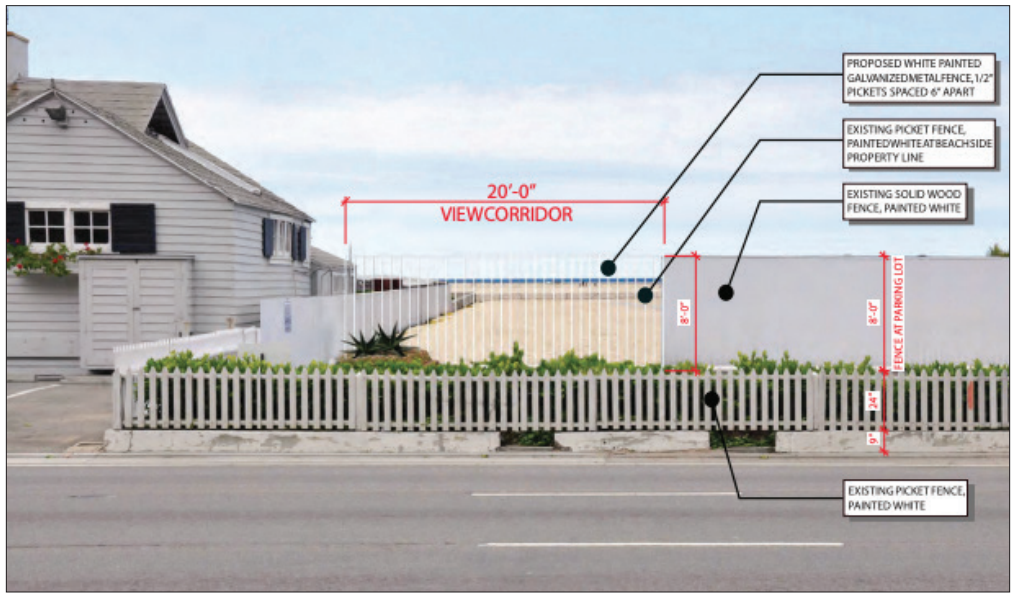
While the removal of private property signs were part of the agreement laid out prior to the meeting, Commissioner Sara Aminzadeh requested the Club add signs marking where the public beach begins.

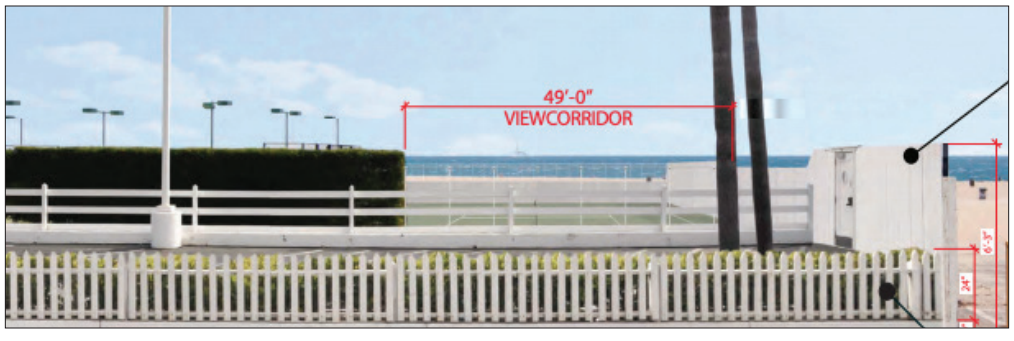
Club representative D.J. Moore agreed to this additional condition and the coastal permit was granted by a unanimous Commission vote.

On Thursday Coastal Commission also heard a permit application by the City of Santa Monica to demolish Downtown Parking Structure 3. Commissioners approved this motion unanimously and the City will now begin working on a proposal to convert this land to a low-income housing project. More details on this development will be provided in the Saturday paper.

Clara@smdp.com

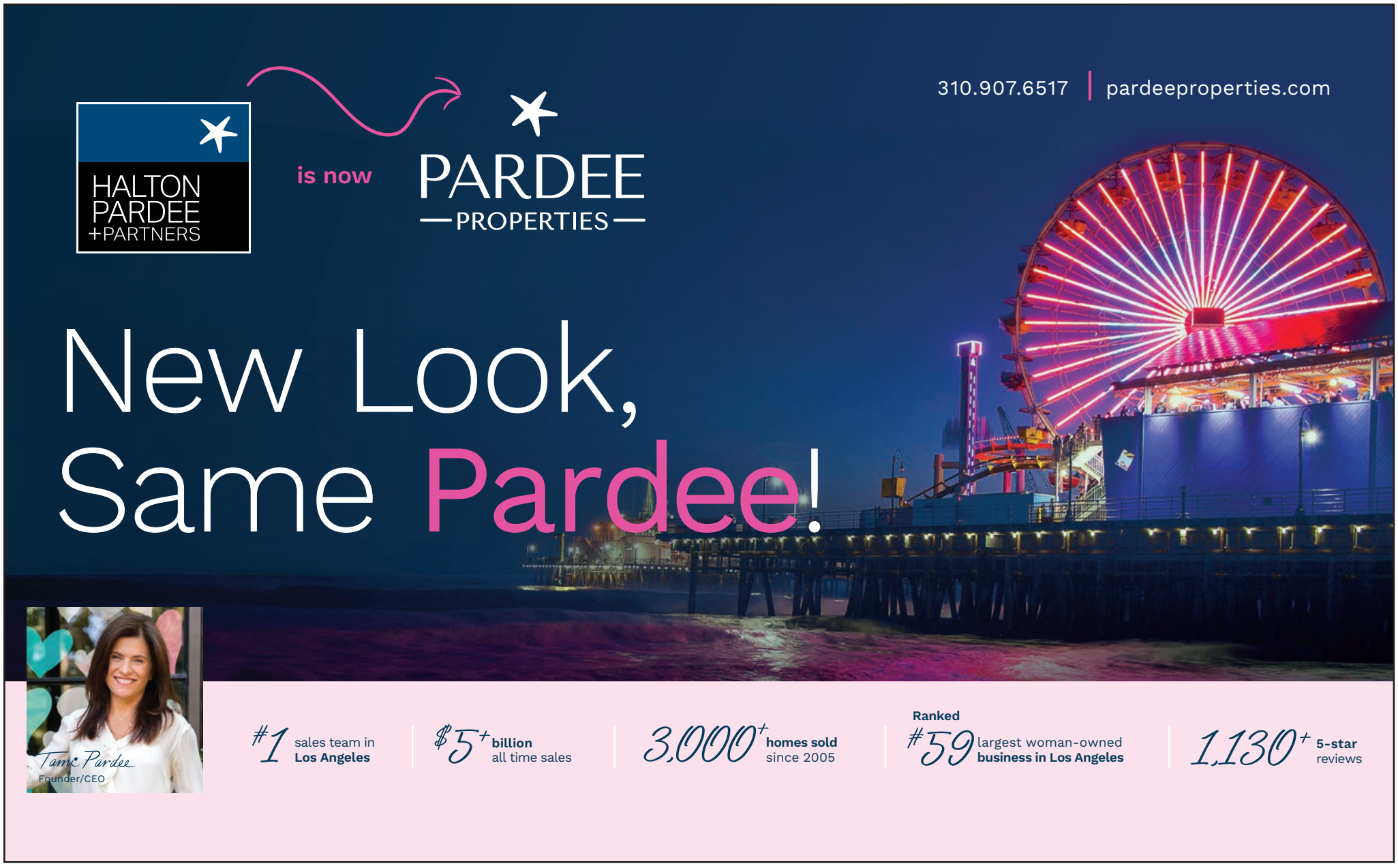






Courtesy images

VIEW: The work at The Beach Club will improve sight lines to the ocean from the Pacific Coast Highway and bring the current building up to modern safety standards.



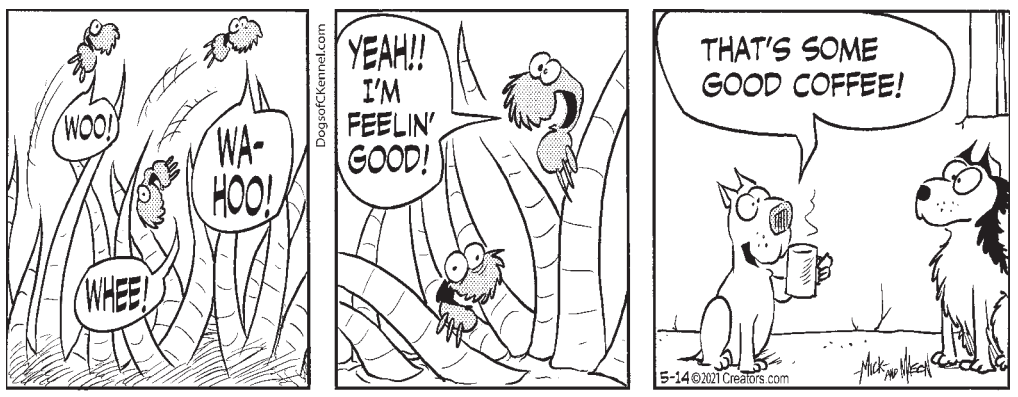
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



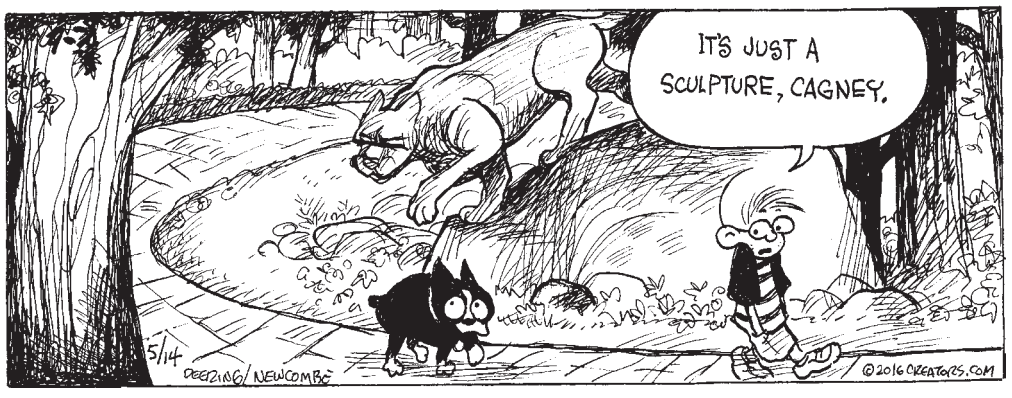
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



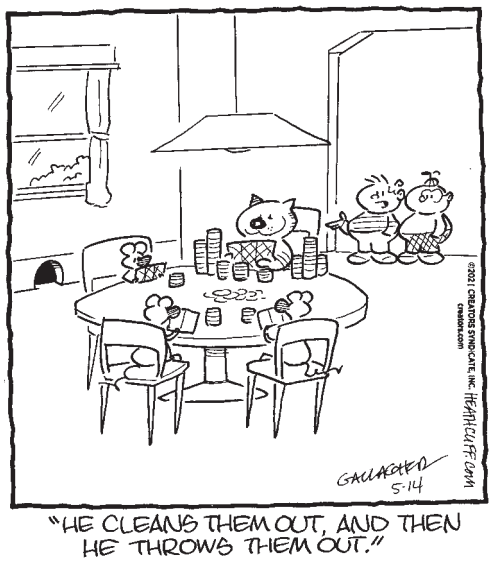
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

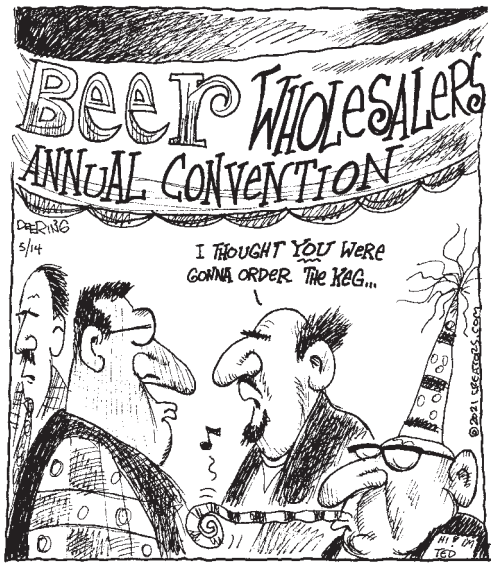
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE CLEANS THEM OUT, AND THEN HE THROWS THEM OUT."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 62.6°

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.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
Watching wind in the morning - could have some texture. New SSW swell builds in, while potential fresh NW swell mix helps out beachbreaks in the shape department.

WEATHER

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64.
Friday Night: Patchy drizzle after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.
Saturday: Patchy drizzle before 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
021/05/14	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
2021/05/19	Wed	02:36 AM	4.18	H
2021/05/19	Wed	10:34 AM	0.21	L
2021/05/19	Wed	6:00 PM	3.78	H
2021/05/19	Wed	11:00 PM	2.77	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/12
1 19 20 38 54
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 183 M

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

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 5/12
1 17 21 30 43
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 46 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 5/12
4 5 6 21 33

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 5/12
EVENING: 0 7 9

Draw Date: 5/12
MIDDAY: 0 7 3

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 5/12
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:42.91

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MAY 14)

The amount of love flowing through your world will grow exponentially. The outcome of a project will earn glowing reviews. It will feel wonderful to know how proud your people are of you, and you'll get to find that out three significant times over the next solar journey. Broken things get fixed in August. Pisces and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 4, 44, 20 and 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll discover that a belief you held was wrong or incomplete -- oh, sweet liberation! This levels the mental ground where you'll be building something sturdier and more beautiful to dwell inside.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're divine, quite literally from heaven, assembled from the glitter of a distant exploded star. When you grant someone more warmth than they deserve today, it's a nod to your heavenly origins.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You keep your heart open and continue to take risks in love. Why? You believe there's something wondrous at stake -- and that love, whatever form it takes, is its own reward.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Do you get the feeling that self-fulfilling prophecies are not the exception but the rule? It's true today, for sure, so dwell on what you want, not on what you fear.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). For you to be happy, no one else needs to change besides you. Your happiness will come with an internal adjustment, nothing too big, no giant leap, just a step into the sunshine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The interaction of opposing forces in your mind creates friction, hot moods and frustrating mental traffic jams. Alignment changes everything. Thoughts flowing in the same direction create momentous forward movement.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The cause of stress is thinking, "This should be something other than what it is." Stress relief is a matter of adjustment. Either you can control the circumstances better, or you can manage your expectations of it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The work worth doing centers around your energy, perception and ability. Focus there, and so much else will naturally come together. Focusing elsewhere will be ineffective.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As you look around, you'll notice how very few people seem to possess the thing you want. Don't let the numbers scare you! They don't attain the thing because they don't seek the thing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll realize that a certain line of reason no longer holds water. Put a line through it and replace it with something new. Don't know what yet? Just try anything then and see how it feels.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The helpless, quite simply, aren't. Don't buy into lies that keep you working on someone else's agenda. What about your plans? Get back to them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Heavy topics and serious matters just don't have appeal to you now, though you're quite excited by novelty and the lighter side of life. This mood is perfect for building rapport with others.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

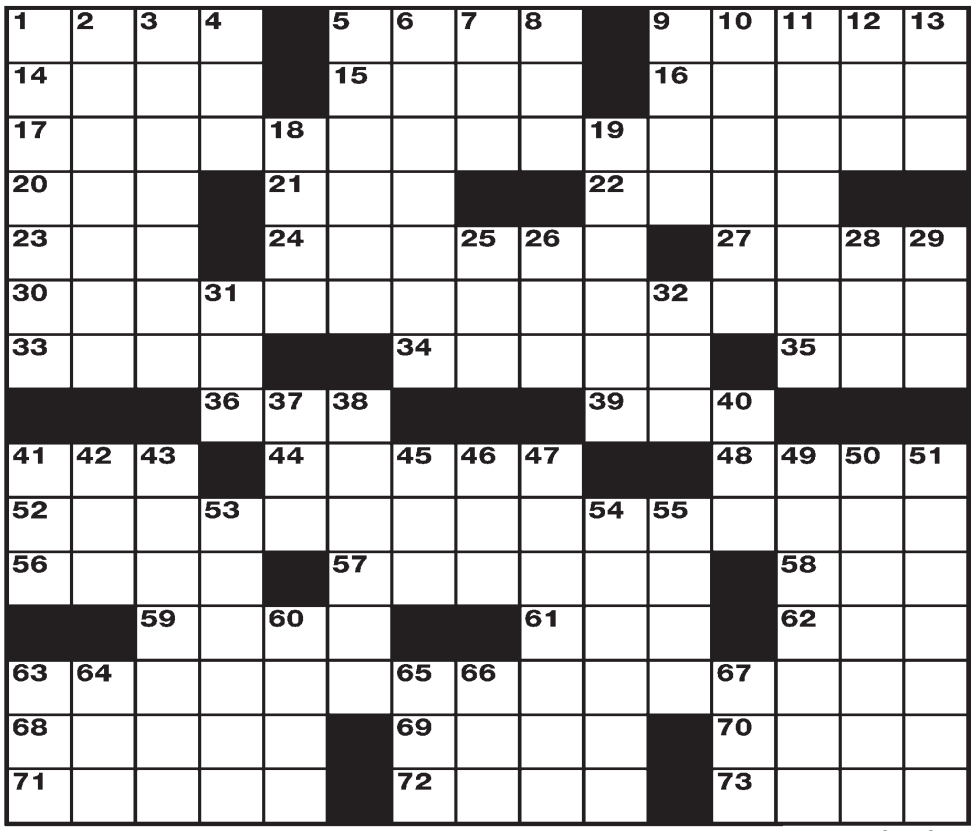
	3	7	5			4		9
								7
2			7		1		6	
4		6				9	3	
7			6		3			8
	1	2				6		5
	7		3		5			1
8								
9		3			6	7	5	

Newsday Crossword

SEE 63 ACROSS by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 "Mercy!"
5 Takes a few drops
9 Workweek, in brief
14 Certain clinicians
15 Do some photo editing
16 Popped up
17 "How's our new industrial-strength fan?"
20 Masters' middle name
21 Deighton of spy fiction
22 Queen's residence
23 4__ (texter's "permanently")
24 Magpie cousin
27 Head start, say
30 "Can you repair my coffee mug?"
33 It means "within"
34 Enter the NFL draft
35 Canada's St. Elias __
36 Sound of hesitation
39 Tree that sounds like a pronoun
41 Bit of caviar
44 __ nova (Brazilian dance)
48 Brewer's selection
52 "Does this abacus work?"
56 Dance recklessly
57 Insistent retort
58 Aspect of analysis
59 *Simpsons* saxophonist
61 Einstein's birth city
62 Slithery symbol of Pharaohs
63 Title of the puzzle
68 Ancient Greek region
69 Dominates in competition
70 Minute amount
71 Bush 41 advisor Scowcroft
72 Nickname like Liz
73 Antonym of "verify"

DOWN
1 Sinister stare
2 Settle a score
3 As a consolation
4 Option from an ISP
5 Cornea neighbor
6 What a certain board is for
7 Sound like "Wham!"
8 Security breacher
9 America's "Valley Isle"
10 Go places
11 Amazed the audience
12 Air Marshal employer
13 *30 Rock* creator
18 Like-minded group
19 "Gift of the Magi" author
25 Caught-in-the-act cry
26 Once around
28 "Vamoose!"
29 UFO crew
31 Debt document
32 Nanny goat
37 Common degree for a CFO
38 Part of 9 Across
40 "What's her name?"
41 School room
42 Symbolic hugs
43 Where cars can't go
45 HS class
46 Grass + dirt
47 Falls
49 It might be a lot
50 Football nickname
51 Pays a visit
53 Help pay
54 ". . . surprisingly"
55 Taj Mahal, e.g.
60 Small scrap
63 Family member
64 ". . . __ iron bars a cage"
65 Center piece at some dinners
66 Carry a balance
67 Sum up



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/14/21

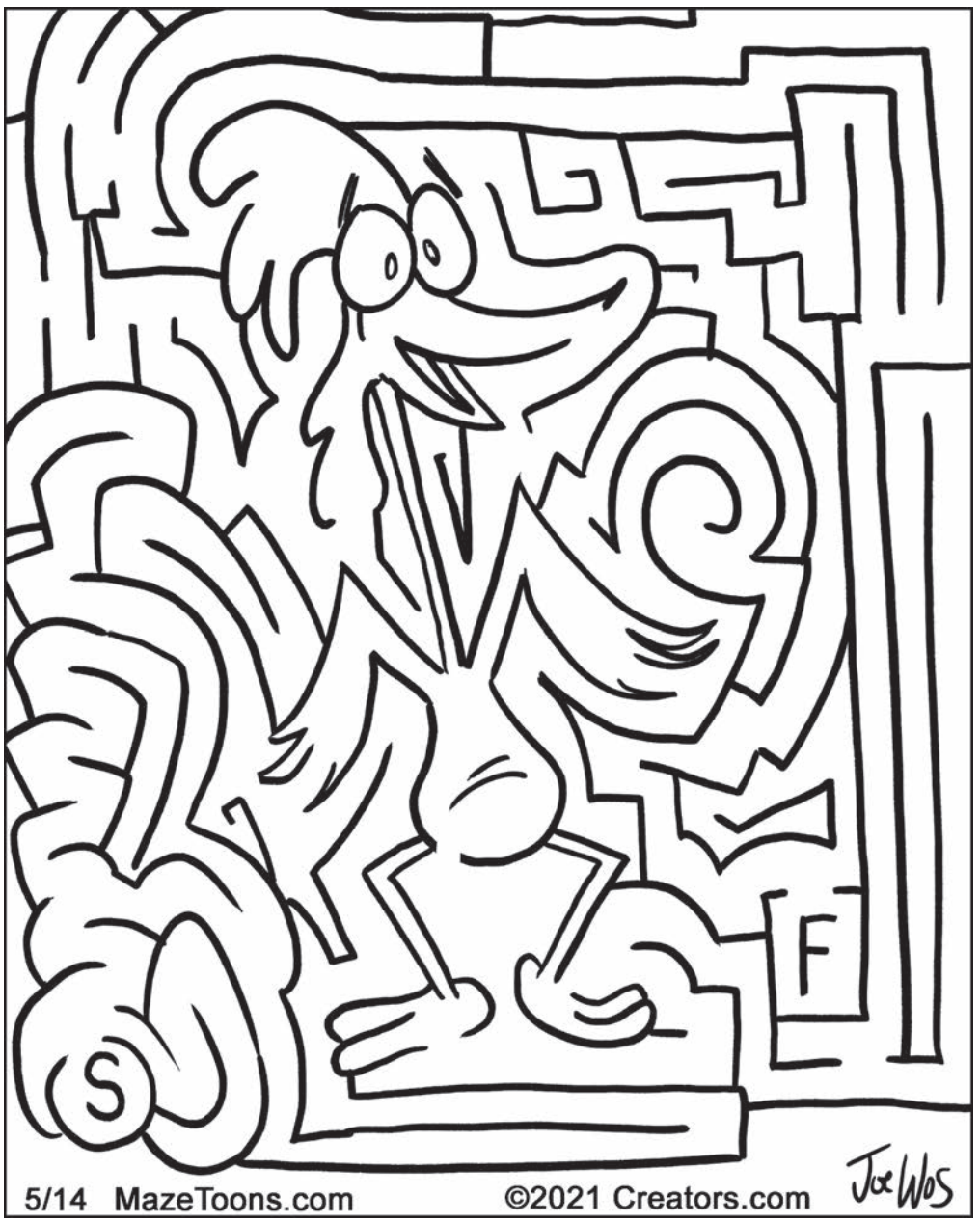
Binary Puzzle

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

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



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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 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5113

Got the travel bug

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

Bali	Events	Monaco	Sunset
Barrier Reef	Fare	Nice	Survey
Beach	Fiji	Paris	Taxi
Belgrade	Flight	Peaks	Ticket
Boat	Flow	Perth	Tour
Book	Food	Plane	Trek
Busy	Funds	Produce	Trip
Cannes	Ideas	Rail	Unit
Demand	Inform	Resort	View
Difficulties	Kimberley	Rome	
Europe	Late	Ships	
		Study	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Riding home a winner

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MURAL

FROM PAGE 1

time to engage in a robust discussion with the community about what we want to see you know in images in our public space, especially at our city hall," he said, stating he understands the McDonald murals have value to the city but he believes they might be better off in a more appropriate venue like a museum. "We understand that the Stanton McDonald Wright mural of the history of Santa Monica was done in the 1930s, and it has value. Some think it's beautiful art; I personally like the art. I just feel that it's very problematic, you know, to have it now as it stands within the halls of our government, a place that should be inclusive."

Councilmember Christine Parra, who requested along with de la Torre and Phil Brock that the item be placed on Council's agenda, noted the mural was created during a period of redlining in Santa Monica as she agreed with the belief that Native American Indian people have not always been depicted in a positive light.

"It looks like a Native American being subservient to the Spaniards," Parra said as she contrasted the mural's depiction of the Native Americans' facial features with others who are portrayed. "So, it kind of adds to that subserviency and then also being a savage; and so I think that we can do better and I really am looking forward to community engagement about how we can address this, whether it's a plaque, an explanation, whatever it may be."

As a former member of the Arts Commission, Brock said during the meeting that he previously met with members of the Tongva tribe and professors from the University of Southern California about the mural and he's quite happy that de la Torre brought the matter forward to Council's attention.

"At the time, we thought we left the meeting and came to our next Arts Commission meeting, and thought that a representative plaque would be added to the murals at the entrance of City Hall," Brock said as he detailed how he doesn't see his ancestors in the mural, which is a sentiment felt by many in the community. "We thought that the art that was going to be commissioned for the adjunct Hall City Hall East would all be representative of the people that we all grew up seeing in Santa Monica; that we would show a more representative view of our Native Americans, a view of our Japanese and Mexican and Polish and German, and African-American immigrants to our city, who did so much.... Instead, the public art was a series of plastic or glass things in a stairwell that only the staff could see and the public weren't going to be invited to. Well, I thought that was wrong, so I think we need to have a robust discussion."

Jeremy Gonzalez, a member of the of the Tongva-Kizh Nation who called in during public comment, said he found it very troublesome that Council would even have a discussion about the offensive mural without thinking about painting over it or installing a mural of Toypurina, who is famous partly for her role in the planned 1785 rebellion against the Mission San Gabriel, where she recruited six of the eight villages that participated in the attack.

"As you know we're the first indigenous people in the Los Angeles basin and we were enslaved by the Spanish to build the Catholic mission in the city of San Gabriel," Gonzalez added. "I respect the City of Santa Monica for which you guys have done to honor us with the park there, you know, but as far as this mural goes, you know you guys really need to do something about it."

Councilmember Kevin McKeown said Gonzalez represented a voice that isn't often heard, the voice of the indigenous tongue.

"And what he asked us to do was to change the narrative, not stop the narrative — change," McKeown said, stating he was fully supportive of the measures taken before the pandemic hit to recontextualize the piece. "Those who forget their history are doomed to repeat it, so let's look at our history with clear eyes and recognize the mistakes that were made, the tragedies that happened, the inequities — all of that — but not hide it. The part of this that I just don't understand is the desire to hang something over those murals. If we really want to have a community conversation, let us stand there in the lobby of City Hall looking at those murals in good light. And let's notice things like what Councilmember de la Torre pointed out; that the white people, the Spaniards and the polo players all have defined eyes, and the native people don't. What does that mean? What does that tell us about how the events of the 1500s were seen in the 1930s? What does that tell us about who we hope to become one day? I think that's the way it is to look at those murals, not covering them over."

"The mural most in question is an artistic representation of a mythic event from the 1500s, done in the 1930s now being seen through 2020 eyes; and I wouldn't be surprised if whatever artwork we put up now in 2020 — in the year 2100 — will be seen as impossibly old fashioned and out of keeping with contemporary views of life in Santa Monica; that's kind of inevitable," added McKeown, who was the only no-vote on the item. "I believe, covering up the mural is the wrong way to start a discussion of how we should look at works of art in landmark buildings in 2021. And what we're doing here is going down the path of obscuring and forgetting our past instead of changing the narrative and recontextualizing what's on those walls. I really regret that we're going to do this."

De la Torre took issue with what he felt was a twisting of Gonzalez's words before he attempted to persuade Council to agree to place a mural of Toypurina or another indigenous warrior in City Hall.

"I think the compromise would be that we would cover the art and engage the community in the process to determine what type of art we want; what type of public art do we want on our walls that's inclusive, that's respectful, that's welcoming to everybody that comes into our city hall, which is owned by everyone, especially the taxpayers and the residents of the city," de la Torre said. "And by the way, I didn't come up with the concept of a mesh... So this is a compromise; We're working with staff; We're being patient. It's three years already in the making. I think it's time for us to move forward."

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

MASKS

FROM PAGE 5

large crowds.

Walensky said that evidence from the U.S. and Israel shows the vaccines are as strongly protective in real world use as they were in earlier studies and that so far they continue to work even though some worrying mutated versions of the virus are spreading.

The more people continue to get vaccinated, the faster infections will drop — and the harder it will be for the virus to mutate enough to escape vaccines, she stressed, urging everyone 12 and older who is not yet vaccinated to sign up.

And while some people still get COVID-19 despite being vaccinated, Walensky said, that's rare. She cited evidence that those infections tend to be milder, shorter and harder to spread to others. If people who are vaccinated do develop COVID-19 symptoms, they should immediately put their mask back on and get tested, she said.

There are some caveats. Walensky encouraged people who have weak immune systems, such as from organ transplants or cancer treatment, to talk with their doctors before shedding their masks. That's because of continued uncertainty about whether the vaccines can rev up a weakened immune system as well as they do normal, healthy ones.

The new guidance had an immediate effect at the White House, which has taken a cautious approach to easing virus restrictions. Staffers were informed that masks are no longer required for people who are fully vaccinated.

First lady Jill Biden, who was traveling in West Virginia, told reporters that "we feel naked" as she and her party removed their face coverings. Then she paused. "I didn't mean it that way!"

AP Medical Writer Lauran Neergaard and AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 6

Desperate, I took a series of deep breaths and leapfrogged the fence, easily. On the other hand, if you want to feel how old you are, jump a fence and land on hard concrete. (Meanwhile, if somehow my toe had caught the lip of the fence, well, they'd still be sweeping me up.)

Adrenaline pumping I rushed to the security office but the guard (not the schlemiel who locked me in) was so empathetic, I couldn't remain angry. In the morning I emailed our new manager, Leon, and he promptly had the phone fixed. In addition all guards were warned to check the gym before locking up the gates. (Duh.)

I suppose all's well that ends well. That said I bet the puzzled maintenance crew at 5 in the morning were scratching their heads discovering 15 cushions stacked on a single lounge while all the others were barren.

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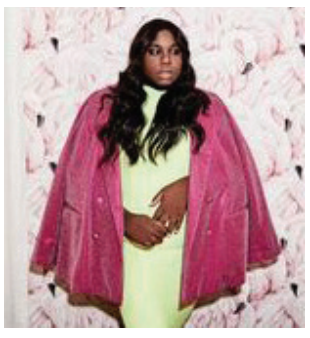


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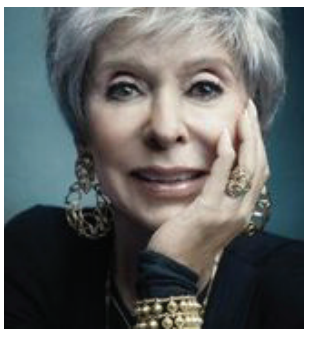
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