smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

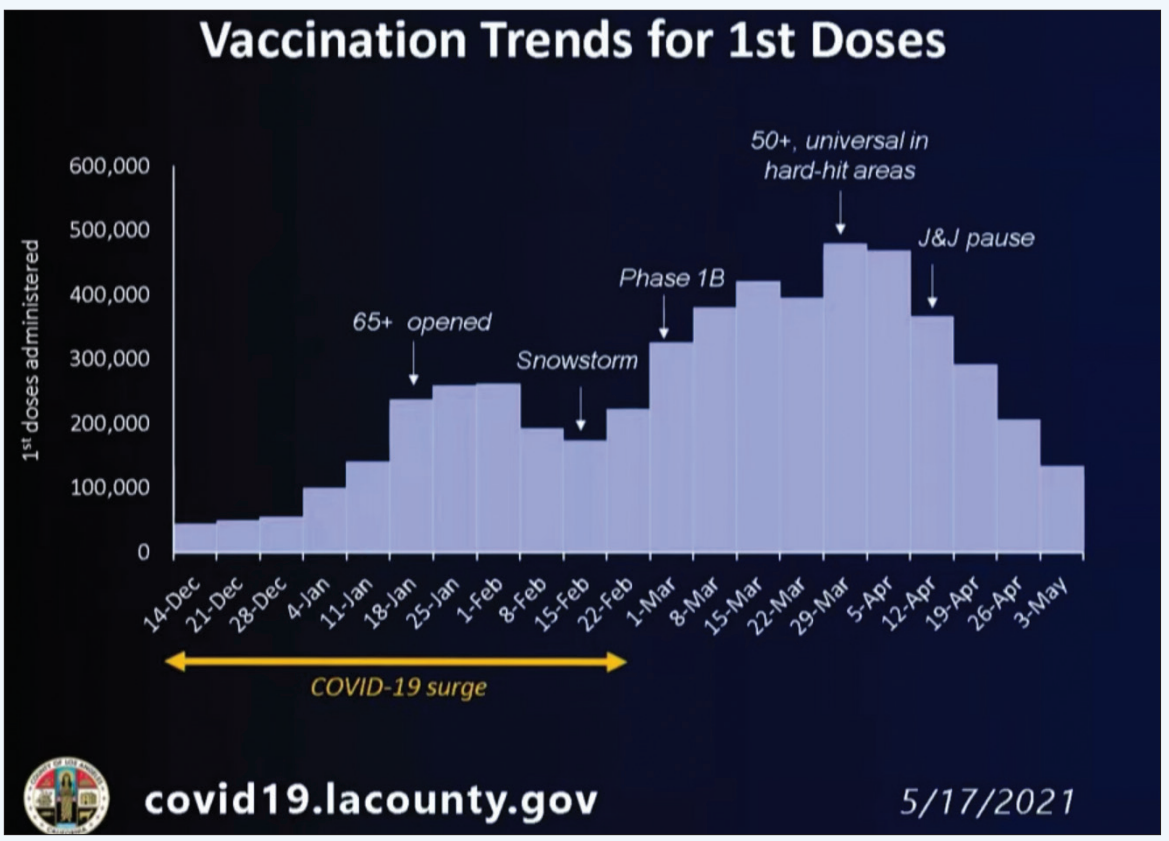
TUESDAY
05.18.21
Volume 20 Issue 158

Crime Watch
Felon with a gun.
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Lawsuit settled
Tenant Harassment resolution.
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L.A. County to wait until June 15 to adopt new CDC mask guidelines



Courtesy photo

VACCINES: Despite the roll out of vaccines, local health rules will keep mask mandates in place.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

While fully vaccinated Angelenos may be eager to tear off their masks following the CDC's updated guidelines, they will have to remain patient for now.

Following the State's recommendation, L.A. County will not update its mask requirements until June 15 in order to give a greater proportion of the population time to get vaccinated.

This means that masks are still required for everyone in indoor workplaces, on public transportation, in retail and business establishments. Fully vaccinated people are allowed to shed their mask outdoors, but must put them back on if they enter a crowded situation.

Once L.A. County aligns with the CDC's new guidelines, fully vaccinated individuals will be allowed to resume almost all indoor and outdoor activities without masking or social distancing.

Currently, there is no system in place for establishments to easily differentiate between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Additionally, while 70 percent of eligible Santa Monicans have received at least one vaccine dose, there are many pockets of LA where this rate is well below 50 percent.

For all both of these reasons mask mandates will remain in place in the immediate future.

"It's important to note that the CDC announcement last week was not meant to eliminate current safety modifications at local and state levels," said County Health Director Barbara Ferrer. "It is important to do everything we know how to do to prevent transmission with almost 56 percent of LA County residents not yet fully vaccinated."

SEE **MASK** PAGE 11

Coalition forms to oppose school board recall

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

A coalition of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District stakeholders are formally opposing the effort to recall SMMUSD school board members Jon Kean, Laurie Lieberman, Maria Leon-Vazquez and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein.

Co-chaired by former Santa Monica Councilmember Ted Winterer, Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association Vice President Claudia Bautista-Nicolas and parent activist Nicole Faries, the Stop the SMMUSD Recall campaign hopes to educate voters on the deeds of the local School Board and why the recall, which they described as cynical Monday, is really occurring.

"Our schools are among the top 2% in the entire nation – largely due to the high-quality student experience, collaborative culture, and forward-thinking fostered by the school board members targeted for recall," said campaign co-chair Nicole Faries. "From Rep Ted Lieu

SEE **RECALL** PAGE 11

Arson arrest made in LA wildfire that forced evacuations

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

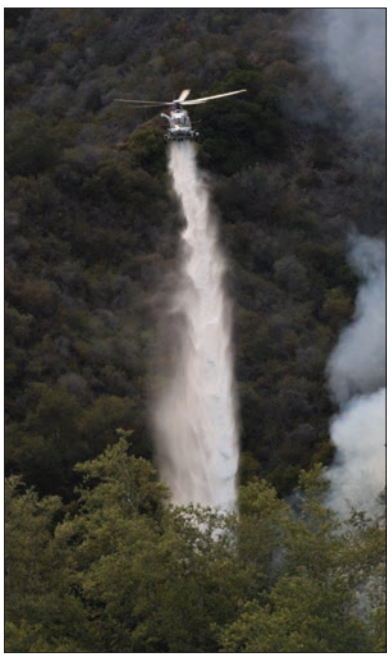
An arson suspect was arrested in connection with a Los Angeles wildfire that forced evacuations in canyons where thick vegetation hasn't burned in more than 60 years, authorities said Monday.

The man detained Sunday near the fire zone was being treated for smoke inhalation, said Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Ralph Terrazas. He did not identify the suspect or offer details about the investigation.

"We feel we have the right person," Terrazas said at a news conference.

There was zero containment of the wildfire near Topanga State Park, but crews slowed its growth aided by cool, moist weather. By Monday, flames had charred just over 2 square miles of trees and heavy brush.

No buildings were damaged and no injuries reported in the blaze that broke out late Friday in the Santa Monica Mountains. It grew rapidly Saturday — forcing about 1,000



LAFD

WATER: Helicopters and planes have done a lot to keep the Palisades fire from getting even worse.

Topanga Canyon area residents to flee their homes. Firefighting

SEE **WILDFIRE** PAGE 5



Thinking of making a move?
Let me guide you.

Melanie Tielmann

310.880.8892
melanie.tielmann@compass.com
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COMPASS

Biden raises cease-fire, civilian toll in call to Netanyahu

ELLEN KNICKMEYER, MATTHEW LEE AND EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

President Joe Biden expressed support for a cease-fire between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers in a call to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, but stopped short of demanding an immediate stop to the eight days of Israeli airstrikes and Hamas rocket barrages that have killed more than 200 people, most of them Palestinian.

Biden's carefully worded statement, in a White House readout of his second known call to Netanyahu in three days as the attacks pounded on, came with the administration under pressure to respond more forcefully despite its determination to wrench the U.S. foreign policy focus away from Middle East conflicts.

Biden's comments on a cease-fire were open-ended, according to the White House. That's in contrast to demands from dozens of Democratic lawmakers and others for an immediate halt by both sides. But the readout of the call showed increased White House concern about the bombing —including Israeli airstrikes aimed at weakening Hamas — while sticking to forceful support for Israel.

The U.S. leader "encouraged Israel to make every effort to ensure the protection of innocent civilians," the White House said. But that was in the statement only after it said he renewed "his firm support for Israel's right to defend itself against indiscriminate rocket attacks."

Netanyahu told Israeli security officials late Monday that Israel would "continue to strike terror targets" in Gaza "as long as necessary in order to return calm and security to all Israeli citizens."

As the worst Israeli-Palestinian fighting since 2014 raged, the Biden administration has limited its public criticisms to Hamas and has declined to send a top-level envoy to the region. It also had declined to press Israel publicly and directly to wind down its latest military operation in the Gaza Strip, a six-mile by 25-mile territory that is home to more than 2 million people. Cease-fire mediation by Egypt and others has shown no sign of progress.

Separately, the United States, Israel's top ally, blocked for a third time Monday what would have been a unanimous statement by the 15-nation U.N. Security Council expressing "grave concern" over the intensifying Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the loss of civilian lives. The final U.S. rejection killed the Security Council statement, at least for now.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki and national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the United States was focusing instead on "quiet, intensive diplomacy."

Biden has been determined to wrench U.S. foreign policy away from Middle East and Central Asia conflicts, including withdrawing U.S. troops from Afghanistan and ending support for a Saudi-led war in Yemen, to focus on other policy priorities. Internationally for the U.S., that means confronting climate change and dealing with the rise of China, among other objectives.

That shift carries risks, including weathering flaring violence as the United States steps back from hotspots.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking in Denmark on the first stop of an unrelated tour of Nordic countries, said Monday the United States was ready to spring in to help

SEE **BIDEN** PAGE 11

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 051321SF
ELEVATOR SERVICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as: Furnish all prevailing wage labor, materials, equipment, transportation necessary to provide full and complete monthly preventative maintenance service, trouble-call service, testing and repairs in accordance with bid scope and documents.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: 06/09/2021 2:00pm
All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

The Contractor is required to have a CSLB C-11 license, CADIR registration, CA DOSH CCCM certification at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the District's Request for Bids.

Substitute Security- In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this contract.

Post Dates 05/18/21 & 05/25/21

Judge to Durst jurors after delay: 'Where did we leave off?'

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

The murder trial of multimillionaire Robert Durst resumed Monday without the defendant present and with arguments about whether the case should continue after a rare 14-month recess.

Judge Mark Windham questioned jurors in Los Angeles County Superior Court to see if they can complete their assignment that was interrupted in March 2020 during the pandemic. If so, it could be a first for the U.S. legal system.

"So, where did we leave off?" Windham said as jurors laughed.

The length of the stoppage is unprecedented and it's the highest-profile U.S. case postponed because of the pandemic, Durst's lawyers say. They have repeatedly — and unsuccessfully — sought a mistrial because they argued the delay harmed his chance of a fair trial.

Durst, 78, an heir to a New York commercial real estate empire, has pleaded not guilty in the killing of his best friend, Susan Berman, at her Los Angeles home in 2000.

Windham, wearing a black mask, approached the 22 jurors — one fewer than before the recess — and addressed the many losses of the pandemic.

"You've likely had losses or like me know people that have lost loved ones," he said.

He asked jurors to write in their notepads if they had seen stories about the case or discussed it with anyone during the break and if they had any health concerns or hardships that would prevent them from serving another four to five months.

Nine members of the panel, which includes 10 alternates, handed notes to court workers and Windham began questioning them individually.

Before the jurors returned to court, Windham denied a defense request to suspend the case further because Durst has bladder cancer and myriad other health problems that require hospitalization.

"The question isn't whether he can endure the rigors of the trial," attorney Dick DeGuerin said. "It's whether he can survive at all."

Deputy District Attorney John Lewin scoffed at claims Durst needed to be released to a hospital for treatment, saying he was getting high-quality care at the jail.

"It's a get out of jail free card," Lewin said. "The goal here is simply to have this trial go away."

Durst was not in court because he refused to leave his Los Angeles County jail cell, Windham said, though DeGuerin disputed that account.

DeGuerin said measures taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus would harm Durst's defense by keeping his lawyers scattered throughout the courtroom and unable to confer. Windham said the measures were required to keep everyone safe, though he and all the lawyers have been vaccinated.

Windham moved the case to a larger courtroom in Inglewood to accommodate the distancing needed to resume.

The lead lawyers were seated alone in the front of the courtroom and their co-counsel were spread throughout jury boxes on both sides of the courtroom. Plexiglas panels were placed between the lawyers and a court stenographer.

Jurors were handed zip-lock bags with note pads, a mask and tissues as they entered the courtroom and took seats in the gallery.

Prosecutors say Durst silenced Berman before she could tell police she helped him cover up the killing of his wife, Kathie, in New York in 1982.

Durst, who is worth more than an estimated $100 million, is being held without bail. He is only charged with Berman's killing but prosecutors are using his wife's disappearance and a neighbor's slaying in Texas to build their case against him.

He was acquitted in the Texas case after he testified he shot the man in self-defense. He has never been charged in his wife's suspected killing and has denied any role in her disappearance.

Prosecutors in Westchester County, New York, said Monday that they were reviewing the killing of Kathie Durst as one of several unsolved homicides.

During opening statements in Los Angeles, defense lawyer Dick DeGuerin, who defended Durst in Texas, said Durst didn't kill Berman and doesn't know who did. But he said his client had found her body, panicked and bolted.

Durst sent police a cryptic note alerting them to a "cadaver" in the house only to ensure she would be found, DeGuerin said. Durst had long denied penning the note.

Durst was arrested in New Orleans in 2015 on the eve of the final episode of "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst," an HBO documentary in which he was confronted with the cadaver note and a letter he once sent Berman with the same block print handwriting and the city of Beverly Hills similarly misspelled "Beverley."

Before being shown the letter he had written to Berman, Durst told the filmmakers that only the killer could have written the cadaver note.

After the "gotcha" moment on camera, he was caught on a hot mic saying to himself in a bathroom, "You're caught! What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course."

Associated Press reporter Karen Matthews contributed to this story from New York.

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

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 243 CALLS ON MAY 16

Party Complaint 900blk 9th St 12:18 a.m.
Loud Music 1800blk Stewart St 12:22 a.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 12:32 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 2000blk Ocean Ave 12:39 a.m.
Party Complaint 800blk 23rd St 1:05 a.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 1700blk 20th St 1:05 a.m.
Loud Music 1500blk Berkeley St 1:07 a.m.
Loud Music 1300blk 2nd St 1:19 a.m.
Battery Now 2000blk Ocean Ave 1:23 a.m.
Loud Music 200blk California Ave 1:30 a.m.
Battery Now 2000blk Ocean Ave 1:30 a.m.
Party Complaint 700blk Ashland Ave 1:36 a.m.
Arson 1600blk Ocean Ave 2:54 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 100blk Interstate 10 3:28 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 5:22 a.m.
Encampment 500blk Palisades Beach Rd 5:27 a.m.
Encampment 500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:49 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 4th St / Colorado Ave 6:15 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 5th St / Colorado Ave 6:18 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 1100blk 5th St 7:09 a.m.
Construction Noise 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 8:29 a.m.
Burglary Report 200blk 15th St 9:14 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 1000blk 9th St 9:51 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Santa Monica Pl 9:57 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2900blk Arizona Ave 9:57 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 800blk Montana Ave 10:29 a.m.
Encampment 7th St / Colorado Ave 10:29 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 500blk San Vicente Blvd 10:40 a.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 10:56 a.m.
Attempt Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 10:58 a.m.
Construction Noise 1500blk 12th St 11:06 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100blk Georgina Ave 11:19 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1200blk 2nd St 11:54 a.m.
Loud Music 2500blk Main St 11:59 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2500blk Ocean Front Walk 12:00 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 300blk Arizona Ave 12:17 p.m.
Loud Music 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 12:39 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 26th St / Pico Blvd 12:43 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Ocean Ave / California Ave 12:44 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100blk Georgina Ave 1:04 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800blk 3rd St 1:25 p.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk 5th St 1:33 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 2nd St 1:58 p.m.
Fraud Report 2000blk Ocean Ave 2:38 p.m.
Found Property Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 2:46 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:58 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2500blk Ocean Front Walk 3:00 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500blk 4th St 3:19 p.m.
Found Property 4th St / Colorado Ave 3:22 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 3:35 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:39 p.m.
Fraud Report 1200blk 12th St 4:21 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 4:22 p.m.
Loud Music 00blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:34 p.m.
Found Property 2500blk Main St 4:36 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 4:44 p.m.
Encampment 2700blk Barnard Way 4:53 p.m.
Found Property Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 4:57 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:08 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2200blk Virginia Ave 5:16 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 5:30 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2300blk Main St 5:35 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 5:45 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 5:58 p.m.
Drinking In Public Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 6:00 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 800blk Yale St 6:01 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 6:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 17th St / Olympic Blvd 6:05 p.m.
Loud Music 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 6:17 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 6:21 p.m.
Fight 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 7:02 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk Yale St 7:44 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1200blk 5th St 8:04 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 400blk 7th St 8:10 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Just Occurred 21st St / Arizona Ave 8:11 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400blk Broadway 8:17 p.m.
Loud Music 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 8:20 p.m.
Encampment 2700blk Barnard Way 8:39 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk Ocean Ave 8:40 p.m.
Overdose 2300blk Kansas Ave 8:42 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 8:51 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 8:52 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 5th St 8:54 p.m.
Public Intoxication 400blk Broadway 8:55 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2200blk Delaware Ave 9:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:11 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Bay St 9:23 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 400blk Wilshire Blvd 9:25 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 500blk Wilshire Blvd 9:26 p.m.
Encampment 1200blk 4th St 9:33 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 17th St / California Ave 9:52 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 900blk Ocean Ave 10:10 p.m.
Attempt Auto Theft Just Occurred 2000blk Main St 10:28 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 1500blk 7th St 10:30 p.m.
Loud Music 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 10:43 p.m.
Panic Alarm 2800blk 6th St 10:47 p.m.
Construction Noise 2800blk Main St 11:07 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:54 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 33 CALLS ON MAY 16

EMS 1500blk Centinela Ave 12:38 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 12:51 a.m.
EMS 1700blk 20th St 1:04 a.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Blvd 2:49 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1600blk Ocean Ave 2:55 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 100blk Interstate 10 3:28 a.m.
EMS 400blk Colorado Ave 3:45 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1200blk 5th St 4:10 a.m.
EMS 400blk 23rd St 4:40 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1000blk 22nd St 6:28 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2700blk Pennsylvania Ave 7:49 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:00 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 21st St 11:09 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 2nd St 11:16 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Harvard St 11:50 a.m.
EMS 2900blk Pico Blvd 12:02 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 12:35 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Ocean Ave / California Ave 12:44 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Navy St 12:45 p.m.
EMS 9th St / California Ave 1:14 p.m.
EMS 500blk Georgina Ave 1:23 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 1:58 p.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Colorado Ave 4:21 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Princeton St 5:55 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 5:59 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 17th St / Olympic Blvd 6:05 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Grant St 6:31 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1000blk 22nd St 7:05 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Ocean Ave 7:24 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900blk Ocean Ave 8:06 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Kansas Ave 8:42 p.m.
Fireworks 20th St / Delaware Ave 10:01 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 10:26 p.m.

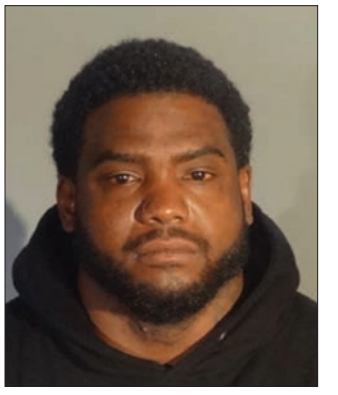
CRIME WATCH

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 17, AT ABOUT 12:52 A.M.

Officers were dispatched to the AM PM Market, located at 332 Pico Blvd. regarding a male who was seen carrying a firearm in his waistband. The male was accompanied by a female. When officers arrived on scene, they witnessed two individuals matching the description of the involved subjects, exit the store. The individuals were safely detained outside of the establishment and officers were able to quickly disarm the male, identified as Skyler Deon Darby, a 31-year-old Black male from San Bernardino. Darby had a .45 caliber handgun holstered inside his waistband. The female with Darby was interviewed and released. A computer check revealed Darby is a convicted felon. Darby was arrested and booked for the following: Carrying a Loaded Firearm, Convicted Felon in Possession of Firearm, and Possession of Ammunition when Prohibited to Possess.



File photo

SKYLER DEON DARBY

BRIEFS

Citywide

Alternative VC Firm Chisos Launches Public Reg CF Crowdfunding Campaign

Chisos Capital, investing firm for early-stage entrepreneurs, has announced the launch of a public Reg. CF crowdfunding campaign on WeFunder. Anyone, including non-accredited investors, can invest in the vision to provide first-check capital to idea and early-stage entrepreneurs.

"The current approach to seed and early-stage venture capital is exclusionary at best resulting in a multi-trillion dollar funding gap," said William Stringer, CEO and Co-Founder of Chisos. "Chisos exists to get capital into the hands of great entrepreneurs that are otherwise ignored by VC and are too early for traditional bank financing."

Founded in 2020, Chisos is led by Stringer and CTO and co-founder Stephen Grinalds, and supported by a lean and talented team. Chisos developed a proprietary investment product, the Convertible Income Share Agreement or CISA that blends an income share agreement with a SAFE (Simple Agreement for Future Equity) agreement. This is a founder-friendly approach that is also good for investors, offering downside protection and uncapped upside potential.

Chisos joins a small group of alternative capital providers that are using crowdfunding to disrupt the startup funding landscape.

Investments in the WeFunder campaign will support Chisos's development of a FinTech platform to connect founders with capital, improve application processing, and develop our partnership ecosystem. To learn more, visit wefunder.com/chisos.

SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM STRINGER, CHISOS CAPITAL



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



Robert Lemle

OBTAIN MAXIMUM LEGAL COMPENSATION

MILLIONS RECOVERED

- CATASTROPHIC PERSONAL INJURIES
- WRONGFUL DEATH
- AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS
- BICYCLE/SCOOTER ACCIDENTS
- RIDE SHARE ACCIDENTS
- SPINAL CORD INJURIES
- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES
- DOG BITES
- TRIP & FALLS

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www.lemlelaw.com

LEMLE LAW GROUP, PC

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Matthew King,
Kimberly Jaffe.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

AWARD WINNER

STAFF WRITERS
Brennon Dixson
brennon@smdp.com
Clara Harter
clara@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND PARTNERSHIPS
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com
Diana Corona
diana@smdp.com
Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

AWARD WINNER

Santa Monica Daily Press

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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WINNER

Your column here

By Jacqueline Seabrooks

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hello Santa Monica,

On May 18, 1896, with the passage of Ordinance 247 by the Santa Monica Town Trustees, the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) was formed thereby beginning what would prove to be this Police Department's tradition of dedicated service to the Santa Monica community. Since its inception, the SMPD has been on an evolutionary trajectory.

Today, we are a diverse organization, made up of individuals, from all walks of life, and having many different experiences. As active community partners, we are dedicated to this City, its residents, businesses, and visitors. We work tirelessly to build and maintain our community's trust through our commitment to accountability and transparency. We are committed to our organization's values of integrity, courage, accountability, innovation, and respect (ICAIR).

As we recognize our 125 years of providing service in our community and in recognition of our "quasquicentennial" anniversary, we will have recreated the Santa Monica Police patch. SMPD uniformed personnel have been authorized to wear our commemorative police patches for the 90-day period inclusive of Tuesday, May 18, 2021 through Saturday, August 21, 2021. During this same period, non-uniformed personnel have been authorized to wear the commemorative lapel pin.

If you happen to come across our personnel during this time, please feel free to wish them a Happy Quasquicentennial (125th) Birthday!

JACQUELINE SEABROOKS, is the Interim Chief of Police for the City of Santa Monica.

Supreme Court to take up major abortion rights challenge

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

The Supreme Court agreed Monday to a showdown over abortion in a case that could dramatically alter nearly 50 years of rulings on abortion rights.

With three justices appointed by President Donald Trump part of a 6-3 conservative majority, the court is taking on a case about whether states can ban abortions before a fetus can survive outside the womb.

Mississippi, which is asking to be allowed to enforce an abortion ban after 15 weeks of pregnancy, is not asking the court to overrule the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision confirming a woman's right to an abortion, or a decision 19 years later that reaffirmed it.

But abortion rights supporters said the case is a clear threat to abortion rights. "The court cannot uphold this law without overturning the principal protections of Roe v. Wade," Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, said in a call with reporters.

Even if the court does not explicitly overrule earlier cases, a decision favorable to the state could lay the groundwork for allowing even more restrictions on abortion, including state bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, as early as six weeks.

The case probably will be argued in the fall, with a decision likely in the spring of 2022 during the campaign for congressional midterm elections.

Mississippi's ban had been blocked by lower courts as inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent that protects a woman's right to obtain an abortion before the fetus can survive outside her womb.

"States may regulate abortion procedures prior to viability so long as they do not impose an undue burden on the woman's right, but they may not ban abortions. The law at issue is a ban," Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals wrote in affirming a lower-court ruling that invalidated the law.

The Supreme Court had previously turned down state appeals over previability abortion bans.

More than 90% of abortions take place in the first 13 weeks of a woman's pregnancy, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

John Bursch, vice president of the anti-abortion Alliance Defending Freedom, said the high court has repeatedly held that states can regulate abortions later in pregnancy.

Viability "has never been a legitimate way to determine a developing infant's dignity or to decide anybody's legal existence," Bursch said.

The justices had put off action on the case for several months. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an abortion rights proponent, died just before the court's new term began in October. Her replacement, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, is the most open opponent of abortion rights to join the court in decades.

Barrett is one of three Trump appointees on the Supreme Court. The other two, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, voted in dissent last year to allow Louisiana to enforce restrictions on doctors that could have closed two of the state's three abortion clinics.

Chief Justice John Roberts, joined by Ginsburg and the other three liberal justices, said the restrictions were virtually identical to a Texas law the court struck down in 2016.

But that majority no longer exists, even if

SEE **ABORTION** PAGE 7

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Landlord Agrees to Resolve Tenant Harassment Claims Related to Displacing Tenants for Discretionary Work

The City of Santa Monica reached a settlement with Marshall Reddick Real Estate and Balthazar Investment Group, landlords of a five-unit apartment building located at 820 Bay Street, to resolve allegations of tenant harassment and wrongful eviction.

The City's lawsuit alleged that the landlords made two tenants move out of their apartment throughout October 2019 so that the landlord could perform discretionary upgrades, even though the tenants did not want to relocate. The discretionary upgrades included replacing the carpet and painting the interior. The City alleged that the landlords abused their right of entry under California Civil Code section 1954; attempted to wrongfully evict the tenants without just cause; failed to provide legally required relocation benefits; and then raised the rent beyond the amount allowed by State law when the tenants moved back in.

Under the settlement agreement, the landlords will provide the tenants with more than $7,500 in rental credits, pay the City $15,000, and attend a tenant-harassment training program approved by the City. The landlords and the tenants previously entered into a separate settlement agreement providing additional compensation to the tenants.

"In Santa Monica, a landlord cannot force tenants to move out of their homes simply because the landlord wants to perform discretionary work," said George Cardona, Interim City Attorney. "In this case, the landlords cooperated in the City's investigation of allegations that they engaged in these types of illegal actions, and we were able to resolve the matter with significant compensation to the tenants."

To file a tenant harassment complaint with the Public Rights Division of the City Attorney's Office, visit smconsumer.org, or call (310) 458-8336.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Citywide

Santa Monica College's Synapse Contemporary Dance Theater to Showcase New Works Online Starting May 24

Santa Monica College's innovative and widely praised Synapse Contemporary Dance Theater, co-directed by Jae Lee and Mark Tomasic, will showcase new works created by award-winning faculty and guest artists and up-and-coming student choreographers in a free video presentation starting May 24.

The program will be available for viewing online starting at 7 p.m. May 24. A link at smc.edu//dance/events takes guests directly to the showcase.

The show features Modern, Contemporary, Postmodern, Jazz Funk, Hip Hop, Fusion, and more. The program showcases works by Synapse Co-Artistic Director Jae Lee and faculty choreographers Seda Aybay, Angela Jordan, and Roberta Wolin-Tupas. Synapse welcomes guest artist choreographers Cari Ann Shim Sham, Associate Arts Professor of Dance and Technology at NYU Tisch, and Sorah Yang, recently named one of "25 to Watch in 2021" by Dance Magazine. Also creating new dance works for the performance are student choreographers Ariana Chavez and Leslie Lashinsky.

• SMC dance professor and Synapse Co-Artistic Director Jae Lee will premiere "Nested Memories," a piece illustrating the layers of memories that reside in our lives.

• SMC dance professor Seda Aybay has created "Hasret," which is an abstract approach to a well-known Turkish poem "Istanbul'u Dinliyorum" ("I listen to Istanbul"), written by Orhan veli Kanik.

• Synapse guest artist choreographer Sorah Yang has created the hip-hop contemporary fusion piece "Undeniable," which explores women coming to terms with their power and individuality, and celebrates the journey.

• SMC student choreographer Leslie Lashinsky has created a fantastical dance film, "Zander's Dream," filled with color, outrageous costumes, special effects, and even a tortoise.

Synapse Contemporary Dance Theater has a longstanding reputation for artistic excellence and innovation. Since it was founded more than 40 years ago, the student company has performed across the nation, including the Electric Lodge in Venice; the Cast Theater in Hollywood; the Getty Center in Los Angeles; and the American College Dance Association Conference in Arizona, California, Georgia, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Utah.

More information is available at smc.edu/dance or by calling 310-434-3467.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

WILDFIRE

FROM PAGE 1

aircraft made water and retardant drops as flames raced along ridges, sending up a huge plume of smoke and raining ash across surrounding neighborhoods.

Evacuation orders remained in place and the fire was still threatening at least 500 homes, officials said.

An explosive wildfire so early in the year, especially in cool conditions with almost no wind, portends a difficult fire season ahead in a state that has seen very little rainfall, officials said.

"We really have to think about brush fires as a year-long challenge," Terrazas said.

The cause of the fire in steep, inaccessible terrain had been deemed "suspicious" after officials noticed two ignition points about an hour apart, the Fire Department said.

Arson investigators detained and released one person on Saturday and a second person was questioned and then arrested on Sunday, the department said.

AP journalist Emily Wilder contributed to this report from Phoenix.

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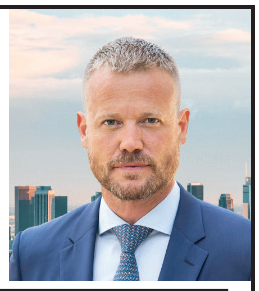
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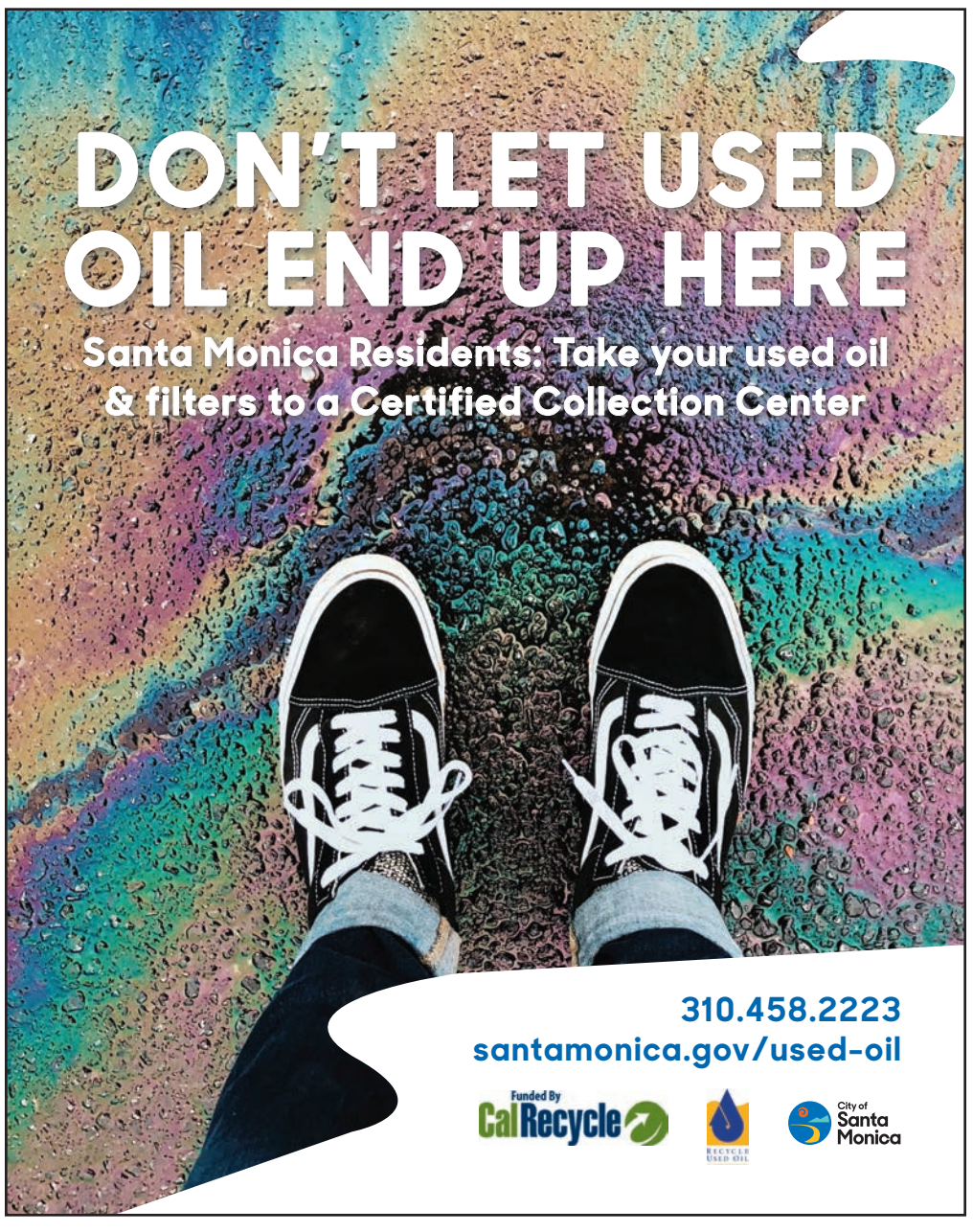




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Strictly Business

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Coffee and Donuts Are Good For The City

Santa Monica lost at least three big coffee locations last year when the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf closed its stores on Main Street, Santa Monica Blvd, and on Wilshire Blvd. As a devoted coffee and tea lover, I was saddened by the loss of what I considered to be an excellent source of life-affirming liquid and the not so occasional pastry. I'm usually saddened by the closure of a business because I know how much it takes to open one.

Getting a new business off the ground and operational is a huge endeavor, even if you're doing it as an outlet of a corporation or franchise model that comes with the "instruction book". Doing so in a bureaucratic heavy city like ours adds challenges that the corporate honchos in some far-off land have no idea of. Then we add in the fact that it is in the 'food industry' and you've just added another layer of complexity with Health Department Regulations, Vendor contracts that can be cutthroat, and an industry failure rate that exceeds 90% over 5 years. It's a daunting task in the best of circumstances. Think of it like putting together an Ikea house with 25% of the parts missing, and the wrong picture on the box, and instructions in Swedish only. While your pants are on fire, and your dog is having a nervous breakdown.

Anyone who has worked in the restaurant/retail world has horror stories opening madness. Twenty-odd years ago I was one of the opening servers at Rusty's Surf Ranch on the Pier. All things considered, it was a relatively smooth opening. We had lots of staff, good training, no supply problems and the business has clearly stood the test of time. But we still had busy days of crazy. Those first days of finding your footing, of getting the rhythm down between the front-of-the-house hosts and waitstaff, with the kitchen crew are always a bit rocky as people are just not familiar with the menu, the plating, the pacing of food delivery. We had people running into each, mistakes made, wrong orders made and delivered.

Oddly though, I kinda miss that madness. As crazy and stressful as it is to open a restaurant it's also a ton of fun. You work really hard and that bonds the crew. At the end of the shift, you all sit for a minute to catch your breath, laugh, make the apologies for stepping on toes, and grabbing the wrong table, and make up over beers or drinks or food.

Which is why I'm excited for the two new businesses that are coming alive in Santa Monica. We have the newly opened Jinky's Coffee that took over the Santa Monica and 2nd Street former Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf location. It's a good move for them. Now they are anchoring both ends of the block with Jinky's Café – the more full-service breakfast and lunch restaurant, and the new Jinky's Coffee for the quick-serve coffee and pastry outlet. I love to see this renovation of the former big corporate spot with a smaller chain growing in its reach.

Up on Wilshire Boulevard, we have an impending opening of Randy's Donuts. The international producer of early morning carbo-loading. (Okay they have a few locations in South Korea – but that is technically international!) I'm expecting them to open in the near future as the sign has gone up, and let's face it, there shouldn't be that much to retrofit the old Coffee Bean into a donut shop. I expect they'll give their closest competition a run for their money as Sidecar donuts is just down the block, but lacks the outdoor seating with firepit that Randy's will have. Plus they have more abundant parking and the side street parking to make them more accessible. I do not know if they'll have the huckleberry donuts that Sidecar carries, but I'm sure they'll have the buttermilk bars that I love.

It's good for the city to have these two new businesses reinvigorating the local scene. It means jobs. It means contractors being paid. It means diversity of options and increasing creativity. All in all, I'm glad to see that from the devastation of the pandemic there are new shoots of business growth happening across our city, state, and country.

If you have a good idea for a story, or know of a company that is innovating in some novel way that should be brought to a wider audience, please drop me an email at DAVID@SMDP.COM and let's see what the future is looking like.



Bonin Protest



Sharon Kilbride

PROTEST: **A group of protesters attended a City of Los Angeles Press conference Monday to protest Councilman Mike Bonin's plans for temporary homeless shelters at local beaches. The protesters could be heard chanting "Recall Bonin" while the Councilman spoke about the nearby Palisades Fire. The event was chosen as a protest location because the fire staging area for the incident is at Will Rogers State Beach, one of the areas identified in Bonin's proposal as a possible location for tiny homes or tents.**

ABORTION

FROM PAGE 4

Roberts, hardly an abortion rights supporter in his more than 15 years on the court, sides with the more liberal justices.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the Biden administration backs legislation that would write the Roe decision into federal law, regardless of the outcome of the Supreme Court case. The legislation would put an end to state efforts to ban abortion, Northup said.

The Mississippi law was enacted in 2018, but was blocked after a federal court challenge. The state's only abortion clinic remains open. About 10% of its abortions are done after the 15th week, said Shannon Brewer, the clinic director at Jackson Women's Health Organization.

The case is separate from a fight over laws enacted by Mississippi and other states that would ban most abortions when a fetal heartbeat is detected. Mississippi also is among 11 states with a total abortion ban waiting to take effect if the Supreme Court overturns its Roe decision, according to NARAL Pro-Choice America.

A central question in the case is about viability — whether a fetus can survive on its own at 15 weeks. The clinic presented evidence that viability is impossible at 15 weeks, and the appeals court said that the state "conceded that it had identified no medical evidence that a fetus would be viable at 15 weeks." Viability occurs roughly at 24 weeks, the point at which babies are more likely to survive.

But the state argues that viability is an arbitrary standard that doesn't take sufficient account of the state's interest in regulating abortion.

The Mississippi law would allow exceptions to the 15-week ban in cases of medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality. Doctors found in violation of the ban would face mandatory suspension or revocation of their medical license.

Also on Monday the Supreme Court:

— Split 6-3 along conservative-liberal lines to rule that prisoners who were convicted by non-unanimous juries before the high court barred the practice a year ago don't need to be retried. The decision affects prisoners who were convicted in Louisiana and Oregon as well as the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, the few places that had allowed criminal convictions based on divided jury votes.

— Sided unanimously with a man who sued after police entered his home without a warrant and seized his guns. Police said that the man was potentially suicidal and that they were performing a "community caretaking" function. The justices said authorities can't use that justification to enter a home without a warrant.

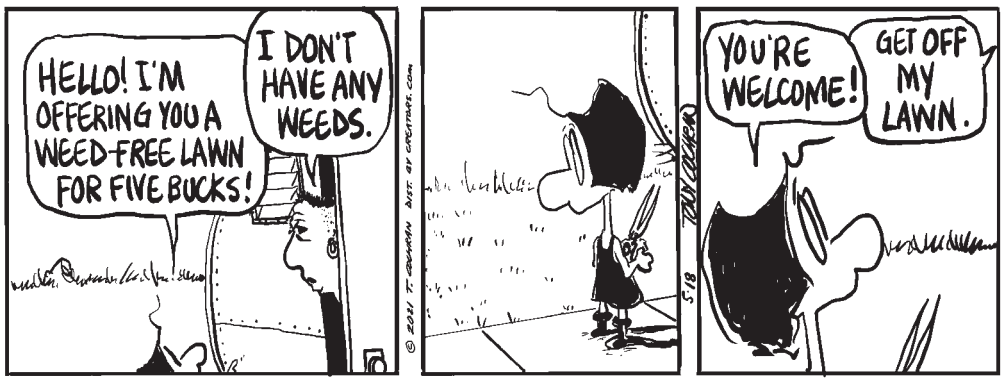
— Ruled 7-1 that an appeals court should take another look at a lawsuit involving global warming that is in its early stages. Lawyers have been arguing over whether the case belongs in state or federal court.

Associated Press writer Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.



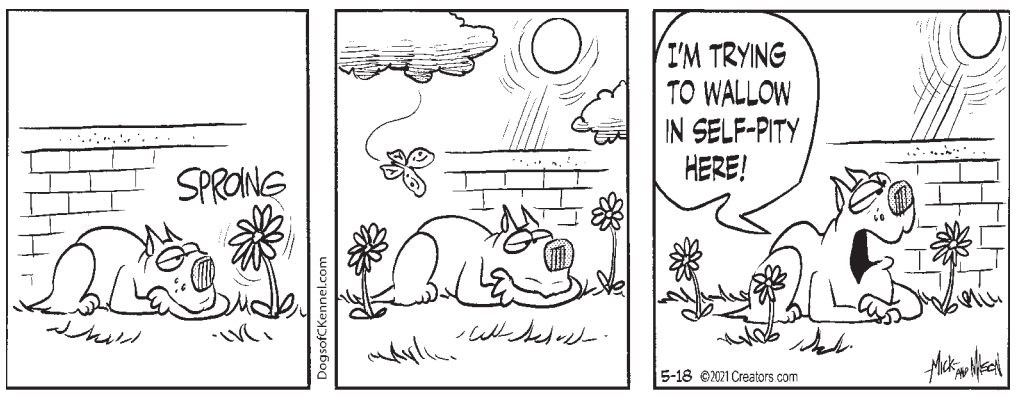
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



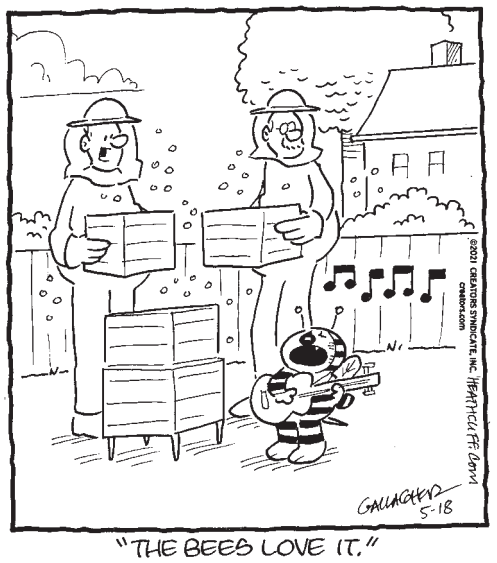
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THE BEES LOVE IT."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 63.7°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
Wind due to cooperate for the morning, old SSW swell dropping as new SSW/S swell gradually creeps in. The new swell energy is highly selective, focusing at select summer focal points.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-5ft Waist to head high
Potential for E trending SE/S eddy wind to return for the morning. Selective, long period SSW/S swell tops out through the day -- best at summer magnets west of Pt Dume. Small NW swell mixes in.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 66.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 56.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/05/20	Thu	04:11 AM	4.03	H
2021/05/20	Thu	11:24 AM	0.22	L
2021/05/20	Thu	6:24 PM	4.24	H
2021/05/21	Fri	12:07 AM	2.06	L
2021/05/21	Fri	05:31 AM	4.04	H
2021/05/21	Fri	12:07 PM	0.27	L
2021/05/21	Fri	6:51 PM	4.78	H
2021/05/22	Sat	01:00 AM	1.22	L
2021/05/22	Sat	06:41 AM	4.11	H
2021/05/22	Sat	12:46 PM	0.41	L
2021/05/22	Sat	7:20 PM	5.37	H
2021/05/23	Sun	01:49 AM	0.34	L
2021/05/23	Sun	07:43 AM	4.17	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/15
4 10 37 39 69
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 201 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/14
3 18 41 44 68
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 468 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/15
6 18 27 35 36
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 47 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/16
15 20 22 29 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/16
EVENING: 4 8 8

Draw Date: 5/16
MIDDAY: 7 8 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/16
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:40.60

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MAY 18)

It's your abracadabra year! Magic doesn't happen just because you believe it will, but your belief creates an orientation and inspires intentional actions. Know your stories and how to tell them; you'll make important social connections through sharing. You'll easily win new connections, allies and opportunities. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 4, 49, 10 and 7.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The immortals can have a very cavalier attitude toward time, since they have all the time in the world. It's said that wisdom is immortal, and this may explain why she arrives on the scene so late today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). All the talk of healing assumes that there is some ideal state of health to be achieved. What if this is it, though? After all, it happens to be exactly what's working right now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's not that everything here belongs here exactly; it's that everything here IS here and it's useless to wonder whether it should be or not, what part is more important than the other parts, etc. Love reality, and work with what you got.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some people have honor but not morality (as in honor among thieves), and others have morality but not honor (as in making a show of doing the right thing or doing it only when there's a reward). Don't confuse the two today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A casual relationship is working into your life patterns. The rhythm of it complements what is already going on for you. This is like adding an instrument that makes the track suddenly groove better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You probably don't have a polygraph test handy, but you'll gauge truth in other ways. If it hurts a little, it might be true. If it causes some form of laugh, it might be true. If it rushes blood to the ears, it might be true.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You come equipped with undesignated emotional dials, faders and controls. Which does what? The intensity of life is turned up now, but not the clarity. It's strange to have such strong feelings and not know what they are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The project will be won in its planning stages. This is good news, since you're stellar at planning. You'll anticipate what could go wrong and solve for it ahead of time. You'll anticipate what could go right and amplify its potential.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Disharmony is erosive. Dust will settle from tones that rub against each other -- proof that something was lost. But when a supportive arrangement is finally struck, the sweet relief of resolution will make it all worthwhile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The best way to start things off is with a clean slate. That means no debts, grudges or assumptions about how things will go. The second-best way to begin is with an expectation of happy endings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's actually a good thing to be denied, as long as it happens quickly. A quick no will be better than a wishy-washy yes, which is essentially worthless. Make 12 pitches and you'll come to yes three times.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be surprised at what puts a smile on your face, and that's pretty much the point. Those who make the effort to catch you off guard earn your delight and much more.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

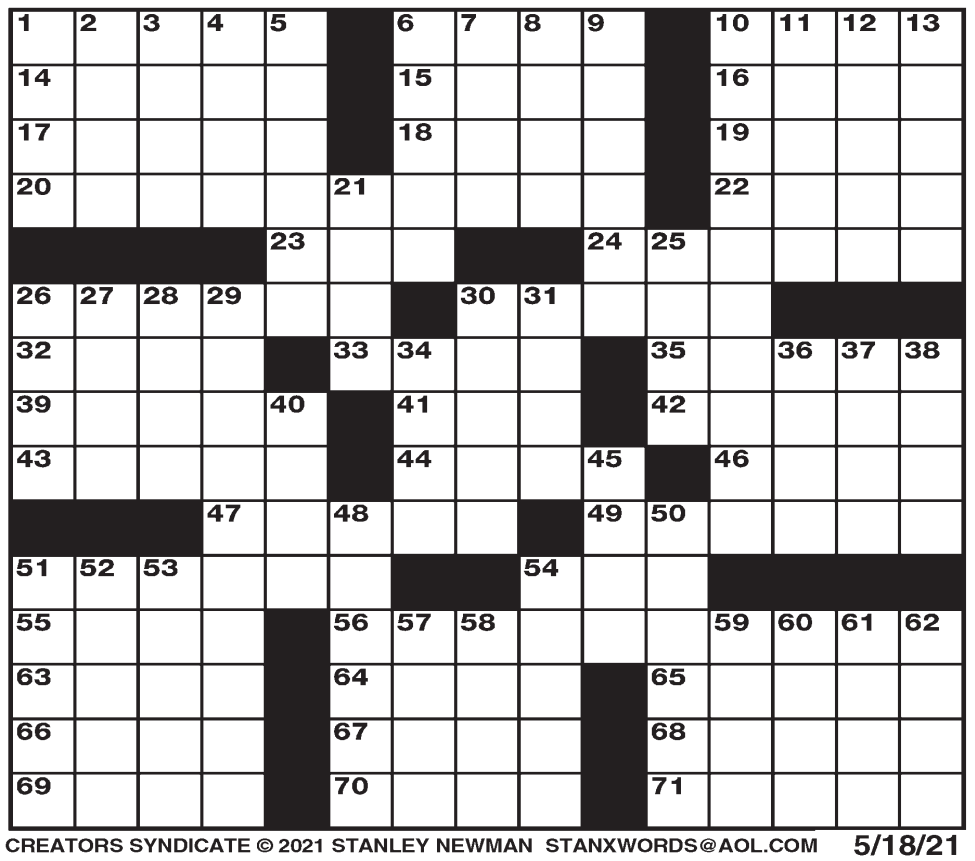
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2		6				5		8
	5		7		8	2		
6	9				3	1		
	4			6			9	
		3	1				2	6
		4	3		5		1	
7		1				4		9
	6		4					

Newsday Crossword

WATERY MENU by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Divide evenly
6 Greek war god
10 Totally attentive
14 Justice Kagan
15 Sulk
16 "__ what you did!"
17 Rude looks
18 Prefix for chute or legal
19 Woodworker's clamp
20 Fish caught in Superior or Huron
22 Make less difficult
23 Lamb's mother
24 Trumpet cousin
26 Baltimore bird
30 "Wonderful!"
32 Shape of a hockey puck
33 "Scat!"
35 Go fishing with a net
39 Parcels (out)
41 Nile serpent
42 Big fuss
43 Commit theft
44 Have to have
46 __ of measure (pound or mile)
47 Gentle push
49 Playful aquatic mammals
51 Instructor on the slopes
54 Cubes that cool drinks
55 "Wish you __ here"
56 Shellfish caught south of New Orleans
63 "Are you __ out?"
64 Move like a top
65 Wild West show
66 Lip-__ (mouth the words)
67 Prefix meaning "air"
68 Bothered greatly
69 __-browned potatoes
70 Tugboat sound
71 Sparrows' homes

DOWN
1 Auction off
2 Defendant's answer to a charge
3 Onionlike soup veggie
4 Concerning, in a memo
5 Graduation cap dangler
6 Cider fruit
7 Wander
8 Coin in France and Spain
9 Batter's position
10 Fish caught in the Mississippi
11 From China or India
12 Out of style
13 Twitter message
21 Impresses very much
25 Solemn pledge
26 Gambling probabilities
27 Very humorous person
28 Ireland or Maui
29 Fish caught in the Pacific
30 Pay a visit to
31 Tug-of-war cord
34 Get the __ of (learn)
36 First class
37 Electric fan sound
38 Back muscles, for short
40 Speak unclearly
45 Physicians, familiarly
48 Watched a neighbor's Fido
50 Iran's capital
51 Fabric-rustling sound
52 Nairobi's nation
53 Skirt-smoothing appliances
54 "Otherwise . . ."
57 Not more than
58 Chauffeur-driven car
59 Repetitive learning method
60 "Beware the __ of March"
61 Butcher's inventory
62 Stew-cooking appliances



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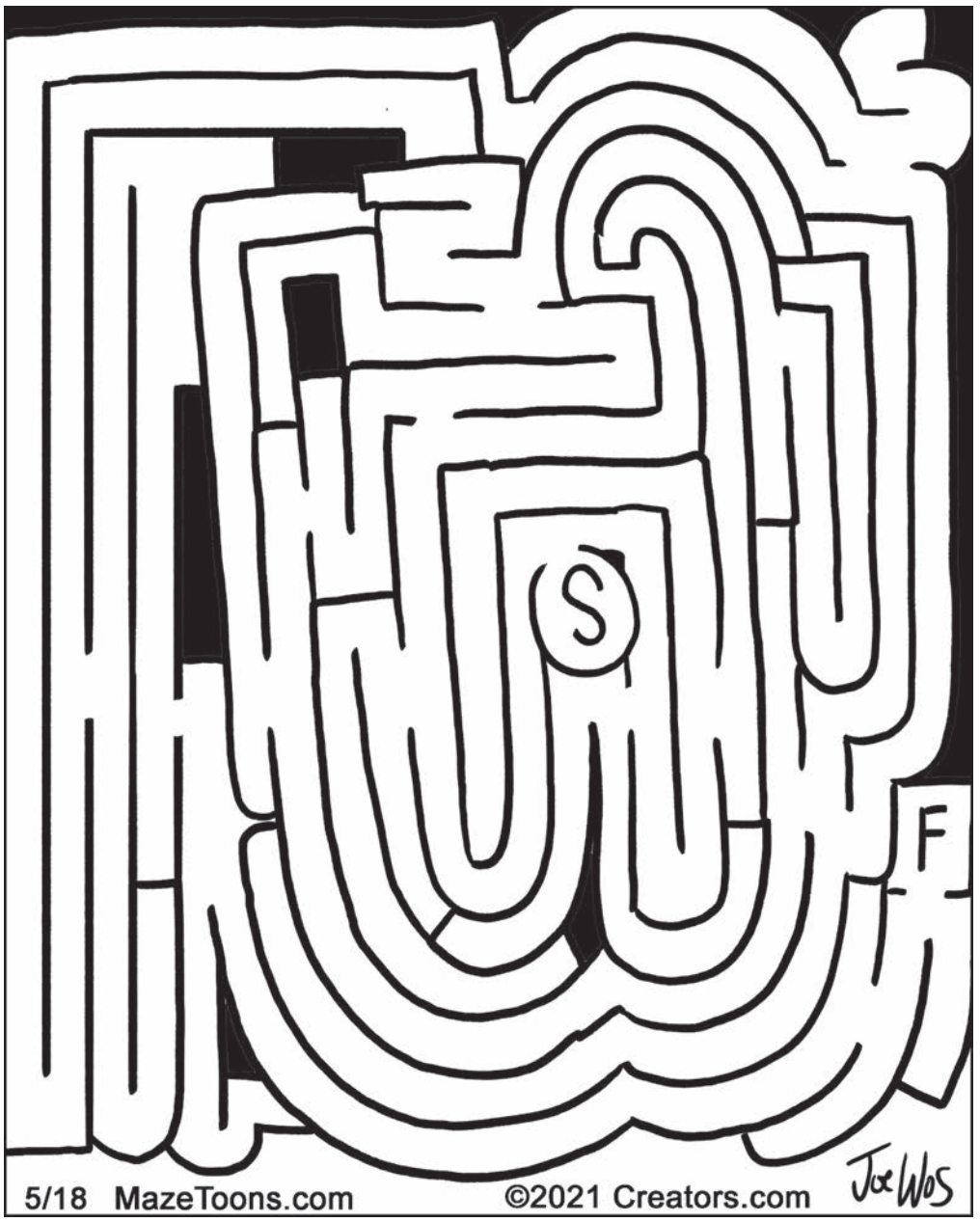
Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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



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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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5117

Mother's Day

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

Adore
Asleep
Book
Bouquet
Cake
Card
Chat
Chocolates
Coped
Daughters
Day
Dinner
Doting
Fete
Gift
Happy
Heart
Hugs
Kids
Kisses
Meals
Messy
Movie
Noisy
Perfect
Phone
Picnic
Prepare
Remedy
Restaurant
River cruise
Robe
Sons
Special
Spouse
Sweet
Tea and toast
Treat
Visits

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Black tie or smart casual?

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MASK

FROM PAGE 1

The four week wait is designed to boost community immunity in the hopes that relaxed mask regulations will not cause a rise in cases. However, the biggest hurdle the County faces in safely phasing out masks may not be more time to increase immunity, but a dwindling demand for the vaccine.

Vaccine rates are decreasing even as access increases and County officials are urgently trying to reverse this trend. County vaccination sites only administered 370,000 doses last week, compared to over 530,000 doses a week at the end of April.

"Those who have either held off on getting vaccinated or have not had the opportunity, now is your opportunity and I strongly recommend you do so before June 15," said County Supervisor Hilda Solis. "Luckily it's never been easier to get vaccinated. We have well over 700 sites across the County."

One hopeful sign is the recent vaccination of youth age 12 to 15, who became eligible for the Pfizer vaccine last Thursday.

"We're delighted to see a great turnout among teens 12 to 15 years old late last week and over the weekend," said Ferrer. "As of the end of the day on Friday night almost 16,000 12 to 15 year olds had been vaccinated."

All teens under 18 years old are required to either be accompanied by their parents or bring a signed consent form to their appointment. Ferrer said parents seeking information about vaccinating their teen should visit VaccinateLACounty.com for more guidance.

Clara@smdp.com

RECALL

FROM PAGE 1

and Santa Monica Mayor Sue Himmelrich, to the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association and Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, our coalition has come together to protect excellence and equity in our schools."

Faries and her peers added a recall could cost taxpayers nearly $750,000 if it qualifies for the ballot, which she feels is quite costly for a district in the midst of a pandemic.

Recall SMMUSD leaders did not respond to a request for comment Monday and their website hasn't posted a new notice since April 25, a week after the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Committee on School District Organization held a public hearing on unification.

The group originally filed four Notices of Intention to Circulate Recall Petitions in late March, but their efforts were derailed shortly after Attorney Joseph Pertel sent letters to the County on behalf of Lieberman, Vazquez, Kean and Tahvildaran-Jesswein saying the Notices lacked the required number of signatures.

In a response, the Registrar's office said it had sent proponents a recall guide document (available online at https://lavote.net/publications) and that according to election code the minimum number of signatures required is 10 or equal to the number of signatures required to have been filed on the nomination paper of the officer sought to be recalled, whichever is higher. That threshold for Lieberman and Tahvildaran-Jesswein is 100 as that was the number required for nomination when they were elected in 2018. However, the nomination requirements were reduced in the 2020 race due to pandemic and only 30 signatures are required for the recall petition targeting Kean or Vazquez.

At that time, the recall campaign said if their petitions were in error, then they would gather the additional signatures and resubmit.

Faries said the ball is on the other side's court until then, but she and her peers will not stop fighting until they know their SMMUSD board members are safe.

"We are determined to stop this malicious, intentionally deceptive and outrageously false recall campaign mounted by a small group with personal grievances and agendas who are attempting to delegitimize our democratic electoral process," Faries said, describing the recall attempt as a delegitimation of the election process.

Faries also took issue with the alleged deceptions put forward by recall proponents, which she said is depicted in the misrepresentation of a quote by Dr. Pedro Noguera, Dean of the USC Rossier School of Education, who has worked with the Board.

The recallSMMUSD.org site prominently displays on the quote on its front page But Noguera, an opponent of the recall, said this week in a news release that SMMUSD School Board continues to implement his recommendations and make steady progress toward the goal of achieving excellence through equity for all students.

"The attempt to recall four hard working public officials must be seen for what it is: a frivolous diversion from the very real challenges facing the district: recovery from the pandemic and maintaining focus on providing all students with an equitable and quality education," he said.

Brennon@smdp.com

BIDEN

FROM PAGE 2

if Israel and Hamas signal interest in ending hostilities — but that the U.S. wasn't demanding that they do so.

"Ultimately it is up to the parties to make clear that they want to pursue a cease-fire," Blinken said. He described U.S. contacts to support an end to the fighting, including the calls he was making midair between his Nordic stops.

Blinken defended the U.S. handling of the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict as America works to push for climate-accord deals, withdraw troops from Afghanistan, and turn U.S. attention to what Biden sees as the nation's most pressing foreign policy priorities.

"We have to be able to do everything at once; that's the challenge," Blinken said.

It's "a big world and we do have responsibilities," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on Monday joined dozens of Democratic lawmakers — and one Republican, and independent Sen. Bernie Sanders — in calling for the cease-fire by both sides. A prominent Democrat, Rep. Adam Schiff, the House intelligence committee chairman, pressed the U.S. over the weekend to get more involved.

Progressive Democrats have been more outspoken in demanding pressure on Israel — and Republicans and conservative Democrats comparatively quiet, for a politically fraught U.S. issue like support for Israel — as the death toll has mounted.

Rep. Cori Bush, a Missouri Democrat, linked Palestinian issues to those of Black Americans.

"We oppose our money going to fund militarized policing, occupation, and systems of violent oppression and trauma," Bush tweeted.

But Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, took the Senate floor on Monday to assail lawmakers for including Israel in their demands for a cease-fire.

"To say that both sides, both sides need to de-escalate downplays the responsibility terrorists have for initiating the conflict in the first place and suggests Israelis are not entitled to defend themselves against ongoing rocket barrages," McConnell said.

In a shot at Democrats, McConnell said, "The United States needs to stand foursquare behind our ally, and President Biden must remain strong against the growing voices within his own party that create false equivalence between terrorist aggressors and a responsible state defending itself."

Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., led 19 Republican senators releasing a resolution supporting Israel's side of the fighting. They plan to try to introduce the legislation next week.

Blinken also said Monday he had asked Israel for any evidence for its claim that Hamas was operating in a Gaza office building housing The Associated Press and Al Jazeera news bureaus that was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike over the weekend. But he said that he personally had "not seen any information provided."

Knickmeyer reported from Oklahoma City, Lee from Copenhagen, Denmark, and Lederer from New York. Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro, Alan Fram, Aamer Madhani, Padmananda Rama and Joshua Boak in Washington contributed.



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