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Santa Monica Daily Press

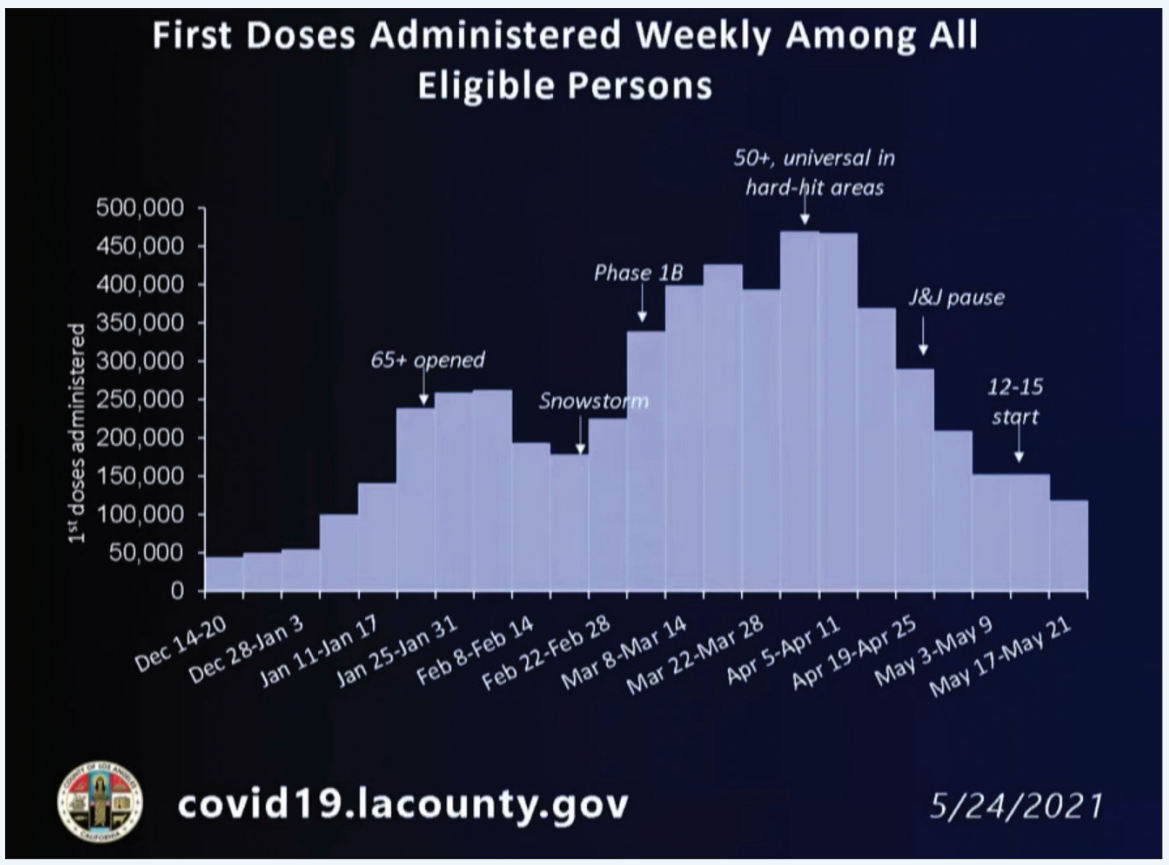
TUESDAY
05.25.21
Volume 20 Issue 164

Crime Watch
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David Pisarra's thoughts.
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County scrambles to reverse lagging vaccine rates before June 15 reopening



Courtesy image

VACCINE: County officials want more residents to sign up for vaccines as the state prepares to reopen.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

With businesses preparing to ditch the mask and open at full capacity on June 15, public health officials are hustling to get as many shots into arms as possible before then.

Covid-19 rates have dramatically dropped over the past few months, but in the past few weeks unfortunately so have vaccination rates. While the County was administering over 450,000 doses a week at the beginning of April, weekly doses have now dropped to around 100,000.

Current case counts, which are around a seven day average of 200 daily cases, represent the rate at which Covid is continuing to circulate in the County's unvaccinated population.

"Almost 98 percent of fully vaccinated people are not getting infected at all," said Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer. "When you see our case numbers, I can tell you that almost every single one of the cases that I report are people who are not fully vaccinated."

For the first time in the pandemic adults ages 30 to 49 make up the largest proportion of Covid hospitalizations. This is due to the fact that 84 percent of adults over 65 have received at least one dose.

Collectively in L.A. County 60 percent of residents age 16 and older have received at least one vaccine dose. In Santa Monica, that number is 72.5 percent, but in several low-income communities that number remains below 50 percent.

With just three weeks left until the County's full reopening, the Department of Public Health is ramping up its efforts to turn around falling vaccine rates.

"It's clear that we need more folks coming in for the first dose appointments in order to create the conditions that can sustain our full reopening in a few weeks," said Ferrer.

Health officials are offering

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 11

City continues planning for parking garage demolition

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica Housing Commissioners first declared their support for the demolition of Parking Structure 3 to make way for affordable housing back in 2018, but the project has been on the back burner in the wake of resident backlash and the COVID-19 pandemic. However, two important developments in recent weeks have city leaders once again expressing their excitement for the proposed affordable housing project.

Housing Commission Chair Michael Soloff said recently that the project has moved at a snail's pace since the City agreed to conduct a Request For Proposals. The delay has frustrated many of his peers on the local Commission, according to Soloff, but a recent Coastal Commission ruling and proposed City budget have restored a belief that the project will one day come to fruition.

After hearing from dozens of local residents and stakeholders during a meeting held earlier this month, the Coastal Commission unanimously confirmed the City's right to demolish the structure. Soloff said the ruling also made it possible for the city to obtain tax

SEE **PARKING** PAGE 11

Los Angeles Planning Holding Reese Davidson Project Zoom Hearing Thursday



Courtesy image

CANAL: The project has a multi-phase approval process in Los Angeles.

VENICE CURRENT / SMDP STAFF

The Los Angeles City Planning Commission is holding a Zoom hearing—with public comment — regarding the Reese Davidson Project this Thursday, May 27 at 8:30 am.

The Reese-Davidson project is a proposed project slated to be built on a 2.8-acre parcel in a residential area straddling the Grand Canal at the Venice Boulevard entrance to Venice Beach, a block from the southern edge of the Venice Boardwalk.

The building site is the largest remaining tract of open space in Venice and overlaps the Venice Canals Historic District.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

The project comprises two three-story complexes – the West Complex

SEE **PROJECT** PAGE 11


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City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom**

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021, AT 10:30 AM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Zoning Administrator and City Staff will participate via teleconference. Participants may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/vyywxfgk or by dialing in at 1 (415) 466-7000 (PIN: 4189031#)

A public hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator to consider the following requests:

710 MARGUERITA AVENUE, 21ENT-0074 (FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION). The applicant requests approval of a height modification to increase the height of existing 3'6"-high block walls by 2'6" in height for a combined height of 6'0" located along the south, west, and north parcel lines and to relocate an existing registered nonconforming height hedge that is approximately 7.33' (88") high, currently located about 9'11" from the front parcel line along 7th Street, to the front parcel line. New 7.33' (88') high hedges are proposed along the south and north side parcel lines to connect the existing hedges with the relocated hedge along the front parcel line. The walls and hedges are located within the required 30-foot front yard setback. The proposed wall and hedge heights exceed the maximum allowable height of 42 inches in the front setback in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Sections 9.21.050 and 9.04.050(D), fences, walls, or hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.050(D), in the cases of fences, walls, or hedges that are parallel to and within 5 feet of a public sidewalk, grade shall be the elevation of the closest point on the sidewalk. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front yard setback. [Planner: Rathar Duong] **APPLICANT & PROPERTY OWNER:** Jack Kobe Oved and Janina Malicka-Oved.

878 WOODACRES, 21ENT-0077 (FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION). The applicant requests approval of a height modification for a 7.5' high block wall along the east (Woodacres Road) side parcel line and a block wall measuring between 6.5' to 7.5' high along the south (San Vicente Boulevard) front parcel line all within the front yard setback. The proposed block wall height exceeds the maximum allowable height of 42 inches in the front setback in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Sections 9.21.050 and 9.04.050(D), fences, walls, or hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.050(D), in the cases of fences, walls, or hedges that are parallel to and within 5 feet of a public sidewalk, grade shall be the elevation of the closest point on the sidewalk. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front yard setback. [Planner: Michael Rocque] **APPLICANT:** Brii Herzog. **PROPERTY OWNER:** Elia Akhavan.

200 SANTA MONICA PIER, 21ENT-0102 (MINOR USE PERMIT). The applicant requests approval of a Minor Use Permit (MUP) to allow for the installation of ten (10) new small wireless facility sites to be located and integrated within existing light poles along the north side of the Santa Monica Pier within the Oceanfront-Beach-Overlay (OF-BCH) zoning district. The project consists of installing 4G/5G antenna units on each pole, new fiber and power cables to each antenna unit and new conduit/junction boxes underneath the pier to the proposed sites. The proposed antennas and associated support equipment will be integrated at the top of each light pole and not accessible to the general public. As proposed, the project does not comply with the requirements for non-parabolic commercial antennas contained in Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.32.060(A). Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.32.060(B), the Zoning Administrator may approve modifications to the requirements for non-parabolic commercial antennas through the approval of an MUP. [Planner: Michael Rocque] **APPLICANT:** City of Santa Monica-Information Systems Department (ISD). **PROPERTY OWNER:** City of Santa Monica

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@smgov.net. Comments received later than 5:30 P.M. the day before the meeting will be read aloud at the meeting (with time limitations) and must be received prior to the Zoning Administrator's consideration of the item. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact planning@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 254 CALLS ON MAY 23

Critical Missing Person 1600blk 11th St 12:01 a.m.
Valet Zone Violation 1900blk Ocean Way 12:04 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1300blk 10th St 12:34 a.m.
Lost Property 100blk Wilshire Blvd 3:24 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2300blk 22nd St 3:39 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Santa Monica Pl 4:28 a.m.
Burglary 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 5:34 a.m.
Loud Music Ocean Way / Bay St 7:01 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1700blk Appian Way 8:22 a.m.
Lewd Activity 2100blk Delaware Ave 8:54 a.m.
Speeding 11th St / Montana Ave 9:13 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 9:16 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Olympic Blvd / Expo Bike Path 9:28 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 14th St 9:30 a.m.
Battery 4th St / Colorado Ave 9:33 a.m.
Battery Main St / Strand St 9:58 a.m.
Petty Theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:01 a.m.
Expired Registration 2200blk Ocean Ave 10:10 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1500blk 9th St 10:29 a.m.
Arson 18th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:45 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 100blk Hart Ave 10:49 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 12th St 11:00 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1800blk Euclid St 11:12 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 100blk Bicknell Ave 11:18 a.m.
Person With A Gun Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 11:26 a.m.
Loud Music 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 11:35 a.m.
Vandalism 4th St / Broadway 11:38 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1700blk 9th St 11:53 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:03 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:09 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 2100blk Washington Ave 12:17 p.m.
Found Property 1300blk 12th St 12:21 p.m.
Vandalism Report 2200blk Colorado Ave 12:26 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:34 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1600blk The Beach 12:48 p.m.
Vandalism 1900blk 14th St 12:49 p.m.
Construction Noise 1400blk 24th St 12:50 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 1400blk 24th St 12:50 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1900blk 12th St 1:11 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1300blk 19th St 1:14 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk Broadway 1:15 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk Broadway 1:15 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk Broadway 1:16 p.m.
Vandalism Report 1400blk Ocean Ave 1:25 p.m.
Battery 3100blk Main St 1:27 p.m.
Burglary Report 200blk Ocean Ave 1:37 p.m.
Burglary Report 1100blk 18th St 1:42 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 1:44 p.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk 4th St 1:47 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Wilshire Blvd 1:59 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 2:29 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 600blk Grant St 2:35 p.m.
Encampment 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:42 p.m.
Fight 1100blk Palisades Park 3:03 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Appian Way / Seaside Ter 3:11 p.m.
Lost Property 100blk Wilshire Blvd 3:34 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 0blk Vicente Ter 3:35 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 7th St 3:36 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Now 1600blk The Beach 3:44 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 3:49 p.m.
Prowler 1100blk Franklin St 3:52 p.m.
Person With A Gun Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 3:56 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 3:56 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:18 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1100blk 16th St 4:29 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2500blk San Vicente Blvd 4:36 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1500blk California Ave 4:43 p.m.
Lost Property 2800blk Pico Blvd 4:58 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 900blk 4th St 5:19 p.m.
Arson 1100blk 9th St 5:52 p.m.
Public Intoxication 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 5:58 p.m.
Battery 1400blk 4th St 5:59 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 6:23 p.m.
Lost Property 2800blk Pico Blvd 6:33 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2000blk Ocean Ave 7:00 p.m.
Lost Property 2800blk Pico Blvd 7:08 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 7:09 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Neilson Way / Hill St 7:15 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 200blk Ashland Ave 7:15 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800blk Ocean Ave 7:59 p.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 1200blk 12th St 8:07 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2900blk Main St 8:33 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1300blk 4th St 8:34 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pier 9:07 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Ocean Ave 9:13 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk 2nd St 9:48 p.m.
Fight 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:10 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 10:23 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1600blk Ocean Ave 10:31 p.m.
Person With A Gun 21st St / Pico Blvd 10:40 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 300blk Wilshire Blvd 10:42 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Ave 11:03 p.m.
Loud Music 1300blk 23rd St 11:14 p.m.
Speeding Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 11:39 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 40 CALLS ON MAY 23

EMS 2900blk Pennsylvania Ave 12:13 a.m.
EMS 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:02 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 1:42 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Pico Blvd 2:18 a.m.
EMS 2900blk Urban Ave 4:27 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 6th St 4:55 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 2nd St 7:04 a.m.
Flooded Condition 1200blk Euclid St 7:21 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 9:03 a.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 9:20 a.m.
EMS 3100blk Lincoln Blvd 9:44 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 18th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:45 a.m.
EMS 800blk 11th St 11:08 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 14th St 11:20 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 12:04 p.m.
EMS 22nd St / San Vicente Blvd 12:50 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 12:55 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 12:58 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 1:04 p.m.
EMS 800blk Broadway 1:13 p.m.
EMS 500blk Wilshire Blvd 1:47 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 2:11 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 2:58 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 3:03 p.m.
EMS 17th St / Broadway 3:30 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 3:49 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:11 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 4:23 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk 20th St 4:29 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 4th St 4:55 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 5:31 p.m.
Structure Fire 1100blk 10th St 5:52 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Euclid St 5:57 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 4th St 6:00 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 20th St 6:25 p.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 7:14 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Neilson Way / Hill St 7:15 p.m.
EMS Neilson Way / Hill St 7:16 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Ocean Ave 8:10 p.m.
Fire Out Investigation 2800blk Exposition Blvd 8:18 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Wilshire Blvd 9:28 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 10:40 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Ocean Ave 10:51 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 THURSDAY, MAY 13 3:30 P.M.

Officers responded to a call regarding an Indecent Exposure at a school on the 1700 block of 21st St. Upon arrival, Officers spoke to the school's security guard who relayed that a male who appeared to be transient, had exposed his penis and buttocks to him and to two teenage boys that were crossing the street. The Officers spotted the individual and began to pursue him. The suspect ran toward Bergamot station and Officers began to chase the suspect on foot. The Suspect resisted and eventually was detained with the help of two other officers. Raymond Paul Hayes was arrested for 314(1) PC- Indecent Exposure and 148(a) (1) PC- Resisting Arrest.

Letter to the Editor

By Stephen Krashen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Save the Library

To the editor:

Ingha Chopra (Letters, May 23) points out that The Santa Monica Public Library cut 45% of their library staff last spring and the proposed budget for the next two years "will not bring back our library." This is a mistake. We are all concerned about learning loss these days: Now is not the time to severely weaken a powerful way of preventing it, especially in light of new research suggesting that simply adding more time in school doesn't help. Supporting the library and librarians definitely can help.

Here is what the research says about reading, libraries and librarians:

Self-selected pleasure reading is our major source of literacy development: More self-selected pleasure reading results in better reading, and writing, as well as more knowledge of subjects taught in school (history and science).

In agreement with these findings, researchers have reported "a strong positive link" between circulation of children's materials by public libraries on a major national reading test (NAEP), and a significant relationship between reading test performance and attendance at children's programs in public libraries.

We also know that children get a great deal of their voluntary reading material from libraries.

Public librarians are directly responsible for maintaining and developing book collections, library programs, and helping children find the right books for then.

Ms. Chopra is right: restoring funding for school librarians to normal is imperative.

Stephen Krashen, Santa Monica

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 #4416 Multi-Modal Signal Detection Project

Submission Deadline is June 16, 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.

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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

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



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Citywide

City of Santa Monica Mayor Calls on Newsom to Shut Down Playa Del Rey Gas Facility, Create Transition Plan for Workers

In response to growing health, safety, and environmental concerns, Santa Monica Mayor Sue Himmelrich has sent a letter to Governor Newsom calling for the Playa del Rey gas facility to be closed. The letter, sent on behalf of the City Council, urges the governor to commit to a timeline for closure and initiate a fair and just transition process for the site's decommissioning.

The gas facility's wells and infrastructure at Playa del Rey extend underneath the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and have been the site of numerous leaks and blowouts, including a vent stack explosion in 2013 that caused a 100-foot flame to shoot into the air. The site was forced to shut down for over a year in 2011 after State regulators discovered a series of leaks. Community pressure to close the site has steadily grown in the wake of 2015's Aliso Canyon Gas blowout. Nearly half a million people live within five miles of the Playa gas field – twice the number of residents living near Aliso.

"Santa Monica's announcement shows just how united the local community is in its demand that the health of its members is non-negotiable," said Food & Water Watch Southern California Organizer Ethan Senser. "We have an opportunity to create a real plan for ensuring residents and workers are prioritized as leaders in the clean energy economy. Governor Newsom must support our community in that effort."

"Santa Monica has stood by protection of the Ballona Wetlands for many years, and so we are grateful that the City, once again, is standing up for this fragile ecosystem on the Los Angeles coast. We also applaud them for calling for the swift shutdown of this dangerous methane gas storage operation as we move toward clean, renewable energy," stated Marcia Hanscom, Executive Committee member of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

"More than 28 neighborhood groups said we don't want this hazard in our backyards, and we want to get off polluting methane, which is terrible for climate," said Laurene von Klan, Co-Chair of Climate Action Santa Monica. "Our Council's letter reflects the strategies we have in place for public safety, protecting nature, and smart economic growth and sends a clear message that we want climate action now."

SUBMITTED BY JESSICA GABLE

Citywide

Pico Neighborhood lecture

The Santa Monica Conservancy is thrilled to announce our upcoming lecture focused on the Mexican American community in Santa Monica, Santa Monica Mosaic: The Pico Neighborhood on Wed., June 9 at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

Join Santa Monica College professor and Pico native Jaime Cruz as he takes us through the various chapters of the district's evolution, from the early 20th century to present day. Learn about the history of the area's Mexican business districts and vibrant residential neighborhoods, as well as the challenges this community has faced, including policing and gentrification, urban redevelopment and disruption from the Santa Monica Freeway, which forced out thousands of families.

This event is free for members and $10 for the general public. Donations of $45 or more include a one-year membership and free admission to this and future Mosaic lectures.

Register online: https://smc.givecloud.co/2021mosaic3
Website: https://www.smconservancy.org/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/smconservancy/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/136887708434485

SUBMITTED BY ROBIN TUNG

LOS ANGELES

Postal workers plead guilty to California unemployment fraud

Two U.S. Postal Service employees pleaded guilty Monday to charges they purchased postal money orders with thousands of dollars in California unemployment benefits obtained through false claims of pandemic-related job losses, prosecutors said.

Christian Jeremyah James, 31 , and Armand Caleb Legardy, 32, each pleaded guilty in separate hearings to one count of use of unauthorized access devices, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement.

Prosecutors said the two, who worked at different LA-area post offices, obtained debit cards that had been issued by the California Employment Development Department based on applications submitted under 10 stolen identities.

As part of a plea deal, James and Legardy admitted they used the EDD-issued debit cards in other people's names to purchase or cash money orders from the Postal Service and to withdraw thousands of dollars in cash from bank ATMs, the statement said. The defendants also admitted that they deposited fraudulently purchased postal money orders directly into their own bank accounts, according to prosecutors.

When sentenced later this year, each defendant could face a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison.

The criminal complaint did not accuse James or Legardy of submitting the fraudulent applications to the EDD.

Officials have discovered billions of dollars in fraud in California's unemployment system in the past year.

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AWARD WINNER

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WINNER

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Grim western fire season starts much drier than record 2020

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

As bad as last year's record-shattering fire season was, the western U.S. starts this year's in even worse shape.

The soil in the West is record dry for this time of year. In much of the region, plants that fuel fires are also the driest scientists have seen. The vegetation is primed to ignite, especially in the Southwest where dead juniper trees are full of flammable needles.

"It's like having gasoline out there," said Brian Steinhardt, forest fire zone manager for Prescott and Coconino national forests in Arizona.

A climate change-fueled megadrought of more than 20 years is making conditions that lead to fire even more dangerous, scientists said. Rainfall in the Rockies and farther west was the second lowest on record in April, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"It means that the dice are loaded toward a lot of forest fire this year," said Park Williams, a UCLA climate and fire scientist, who calculated that soil in the western half of the nation is the driest it has been since 1895. "This summer we're going into fire season with drier fuels than we were at this time last year."

In addition, the western drought is deepening week by week.

In late March, less than one-third of California was suffering extreme or exceptional drought. Now more than 73% is, according to the National Drought Monitor, which is based on precipitation, temperature, soil moisture and streamflow measurements. A year ago, heading into the record-smashing 2020 fire year when more than 4% of California burned, just 3% of the state was in extreme or exceptional drought.

But the outlook is worse elsewhere.

"I think the Southwest is really primed for a bad fire season," University of Utah fire scientist Phil Dennison said. That's because last year's normal monsoon season, which brings much of the year's rainfall, never showed up.

A year ago, none of Arizona, Nevada and Utah was in extreme or exceptional drought, but now more than 90% of Utah, 86% of Arizona and 75% of Nevada is in those highest drought categories, according to the drought monitor. New Mexico jumped from 4% extreme or exceptional drought a year ago to more than 77% now.

UCLA meteorologist Daniel Swain, who also works for the National Center for Atmospheric Research and The Nature Conservancy, said key factors going into fire season are soil and plant wetness.

"So is soil moisture very low? Is vegetation extremely dry? Absolutely, yes. Unequivocally, yes. Pretty much everywhere in California and the Southwest," Swain said. "So that box is checked big time in a way that is going to massively increase the potential background flammability ... given a spark, given extreme weather conditions."

This doesn't necessarily ensure the 2021 fire season will be worse than 2020. Last year more than 15,800 square miles of the United States burned, an area about the size of Maryland and Delaware combined. Several scientists said last year's fires were stoked not just by hot, dry conditions, but by unusual situations that made a bad year horrific:

Two intense heat waves — one that nearly set a record for hottest temperature on Earth in Death Valley — set the stage, and a freak California lightning barrage provided lots of spark.

The lightning outbreak was the type that has happened only a few times in history and is unlikely to occur two years in a row, Swain said.

"Maybe it won't be the hottest summer," he said, adding. "I'm really grasping at straws here. All we have going for us is dumb luck."

When the scientists see extremely dry or dying trees, they get even more worried.

In Arizona, junipers are succumbing to the 20-year drought and its two-year intensification, said Joel McMillin, a forest health zone leader for the U.S. Forest Service there. Officials haven't done a precise count but anecdotally the die-off is 5% to 30% with some patches up to 60%.

Until the dead needles drop to the ground, which takes a year or so, the fire hazard increases, fire manager Steinhardt said. "So you have something that's highly flammable and it's ... 20-, 30-, 40-foot tall and every single one of those needles on there now becomes an ember that can be launched."

"This is probably one of the driest and potentially most challenging situations I've been in," said the veteran of 32 fire seasons.

In California, normally drought-tolerant blue oaks are dying around the San Francisco Bay Area, said Scott Stephens, a fire science professor at the University of California, Berkeley. "They don't have access to water. Soil moisture is so low. When you start to see blue oak dying, that gets your attention."

Human-caused climate change and decades of fire suppression that increases fuel loads are aggravating fire conditions across the West, scientists said.

Global warming has contributed to the megadrought and is making plants more prone to burning.

Normally a good part of the sun's energy removes water from plants and soil, but when they are already dry, that energy instead makes the air hotter, which creates a feedback loop, Swain said.

And drier conditions lead to beetle infestations that further weaken and kill trees, said University of Utah's Dennison.

For decades, U.S. firefighting agencies have tried to put out fires as quickly as possible, and that's usually worked, UCLA's Williams said. But the practice resulted in the buildup of dense trees, brush and other potential fire fuels.

"Fire is escaping our control increasingly frequently," he said. "And some of the reason for that might be because of increasing density of fuels. But we also see that these fires are escaping our control during record-breaking heat waves — and it's the warmest, driest years when we have the hardest time controlling fires."



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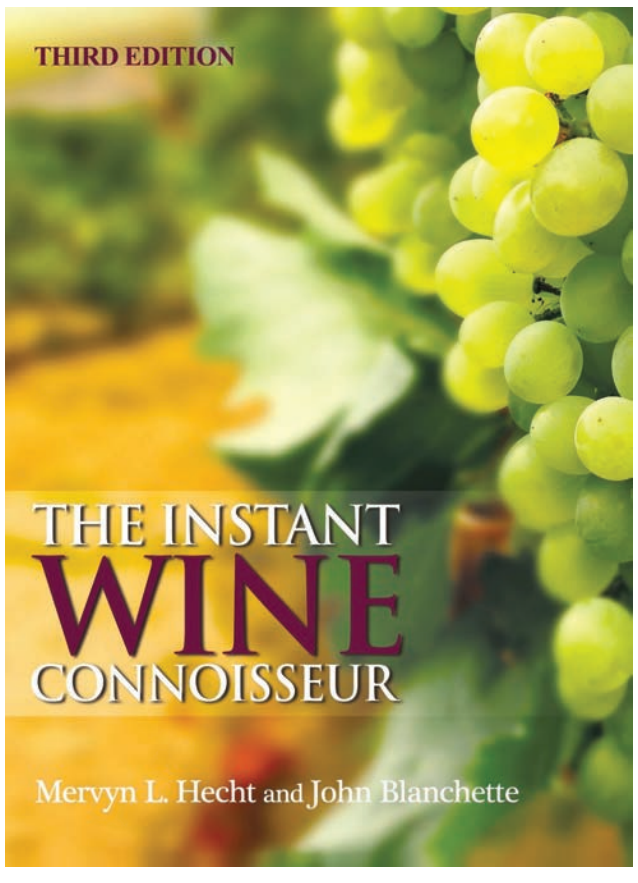
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Daily Press Food & Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.



What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

There Was a Murder In The Cemetery

A murder happened in Woodlawn Cemetery last week. I know because I witnessed it, and I have the pictures to prove it.

There were dozens of participants, all black, and they were causing quite a cacophony as it happened.

Luckily I had my new Canon D90 camera and a long lens to capture them in the act. It was a bloodless affair, impressive really its efficiency.

The crows moved throughout the cemetery, from the far back area by the Masons, through to the side where the many an old gravestone is crumbling and then into the center area where they could perch on the trees and were prime targets for my shooting.

Yes, it was in fact a murder of crows that happened in the cemetery, they come through about 6:00 p.m. every day it seems. I noticed this because I've been walking and photographing in the cemetery a great deal. I find it a quiet and peaceful place to relax and gather my thoughts.

This week of course my thoughts are turning to the coming Memorial Day, which is this coming Monday. As a day of remembrance we use it to take a moment and think back on the sacrifices that so many made to allow us to continue living the life that we do.

Born out of the tragedy that was the Civil War, Memorial Day is supposed to be a time that we stop to honor the fallen. Nationally we have a National Moment of Remembrance which according to usmemorialday.org was created by a "resolution [that] was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps."

Sadly I feel that many will not know of this, and even fewer will take part. It's so much more enjoyable to focus on the bbq, the kids in the pool and the 50% off sales at our local big box retailer.

I'm of two minds on this, on the one hand, the frustrated pacifist side of me is appalled that people still die in combat. I long for a world where people don't have to kill each other over philosophical or economic differences. It seems enormously unenlightened to me that we as a planet have not evolved to the point where we can resolve these issues without resorting to killing each other – but I know that is pie-eyed optimism and will seem hopelessly naïve on some level.

On the other hand, I feel that we should take time to honor the fallen – but why do we do that? Is it for their benefit? No, not directly, after all they're not around to see the flags, the tears and hear the muffled sobs of the surviving spouses, family and friends. We do it really for the still living to know that if they should be killed in the line of duty that they will be remembered. We do it to give meaning to the efforts of our service-members as they slog through jungles and fry in deserts. We do it let them know that we appreciate them, and that should they die, they will not be forgotten.

We normally remember the fallen with parades and flags and ceremonies each year. But not this year. There are no parades, or big events planned at Woodlawn Cemetery at 14th and Pico.

As a publicly owned and operated cemetery, Woodlawn has a duty to the community to provide both a final resting place, but also a social benefit in honoring and remembering those who have passed on. There are many notable people in the cemetery, from Paul Henried the actor director, to Leo Carillo the Conservationist, Abbot Kinney who was "real estate baron", Evelyn Hooker the Psychologist, and Sally Ride the astronaut. There are those interred at Woodlawn of less fame but probably greater notoriety, men like Jimmy Phipps, who died 47 years ago on May 27, 1969. He was only 19 when he was killed in action during the Vietnam War, and was posthumously given the Medal of Honor.

For those who wish to do something more than just bbq to remember the fallen this Saturday at the Los Angeles National Cemetery in Westwood there is a Flag Placement opportunity from 8-11:00 a.m., there is parking in Lot 29 and it's a chance to be of service to those who served.

I have mixed feelings about cemeteries in general, they seem like a waste of good land in some ways, they could be public parks or used for public buildings. Alternatively, I have seen the benefit they bring to our city as a central place to honor those who have contributed to the development of our civic life. Monuments to the fallen stand as remembrances of the cost of war, and maybe they help temper the drumbeats for war. Perhaps the fields of headstones and grave markers will keep us from the next great conflict.

So this weekend, put down the burgers for a moment, and as you're on your way to the Home Depot Memorial Day Extravaganza Sale, drop by the Woodlawn Cemetery with your family and see what the cost of war was and is, and consider that the fallen are guardians not just of our past, but are light bearers on what to avoid in the future.

David Pisarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @ davidpisarra

As deadlines slip, Biden agenda faces crucial assessment

LISA MASCARO AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

President Joe Biden's infrastructure plan is hitting roadblocks. A policing overhaul after the killing of George Floyd is up in the air. Even a seemingly bipartisan effort to investigate the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol faces the blockade of Republican opposition in Congress.

It's a pivotal time for many aspects of Biden's ambitious agenda. Rounding the first quarter of his presidency, the White House and Congress have been unable to meet key Memorial Day deadlines set by the administration on crucial priorities.

While lawmakers quickly approved Biden's $1.9 trillion COVID-19 rescue package and senators confirmed the top ranks of the administration with Biden's nominees, the next legislative priorities on the White House's agenda will be a longer slog.

The sweeping infrastructure investment, in particular, faces a crucial moment: The White House is assessing whether the president can strike a bipartisan deal with Republicans on his American Jobs Plan, a top domestic priority, or try to go it alone with Democrats if no progress is made over the next week. Biden's allies in the House and Senate are preparing for all scenarios.

"This is going to feel like a tightrope walk all the way until it gets to Biden's desk," said Jim Kessler, executive vice president of Third Way, a centrist think tank.

Presidents are often judged not only by the goals they achieved, but whether their proposals were popular with the public and the leadership in trying to muscle the bills into law. The White House appears to be taking those factors to heart as Biden makes his case to the public and conducts extensive outreach for his agenda on Capitol Hill.

The administration is signaling that it's important not just whether Biden can push his infrastructure and other proposals into law, but how he does it. By this reasoning, voters — and some moderate Democratic lawmakers — are more likely to be on board if Biden at least tries for bipartisanship.

The White House said Monday that Biden is awaiting an infrastructure counteroffer from Senate Republicans after a core group of GOP negotiators rejected his latest $1.7 trillion proposal, leaving the fragile talks on a compromise at a standstill.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the president is "eager to engage" and would welcome more talks with the senators. But she said the Republicans have "a ways more to go" to find common ground. Biden dropped $500 billion from his initial $2.3 trillion offer, and Psaki said the Republicans raised their $568 billion offer by about $50 billion. Republicans have rejected Biden's plan to pay for the road and broadband spending with a corporate tax increase.

"The ball is in the Republicans' court," Psaki said at the White House briefing.

At the same time, key congressional negotiators are working behind the scenes on a bipartisan police overhaul in response to a nationwide reassessment of law enforcement practices sparked by Floyd's death a year ago Tuesday in Minneapolis. Biden had hoped to have the legislation ready by the anniversary.

In a rare joint statement Monday, negotiators Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Rep. Karen Bass, D-Ca., said, "This anniversary serves as a painful reminder of why we must make meaningful change. While we are still working through our differences on key issues, we continue to make progress toward a compromise and remain optimistic about the prospects of achieving that goal."

But other priorities on gun violence, voting rights and immigration law face long odds with the narrowly split Congress and robust opposition from Republicans. Democrats hold only a slim majorities in the House and evenly divided Senate, and much of Biden's agenda would require broader support to reach the 60 votes under the rules to advance past a Senate filibuster.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has said repeatedly that "100% of my focus" is on stopping Biden's agenda.

The West Wing believes its bargaining position is strong. Aides point to Biden's high poll numbers and the popularity of his proposals, all while believing that they have the option of muscling the infrastructure plan to passage under special budget reconciliation rules that require only a party-line vote.

But there is a growing sense of urgency within the White House and among Democrats. After a burst of legislative accomplishment, including the sweeping COVID relief bill, the pace has slowed dramatically. And the future may hinge on a few select senators.

After Biden was elected on the heels of a campaign promise to work with Republicans, the White House has been quick to defend his bipartisan record of accomplishment.

Aides have pointed to how quickly the president's Cabinet was confirmed — one choice, Neera Tanden, withdrew after it was clear she would not get support.

Along with Biden's chocolate-chip cookie diplomacy — inviting lawmakers to the White House, treating them with sweets on the way out — the administration has been conducting vigorous outreach to Capitol Hill, through nearly 1,000 phone calls or meetings with lawmakers or their staffs, including more than 200 with Republicans.

Still, the partisan tensions are stark, showing the limits of Biden's ability to bridge the divide.

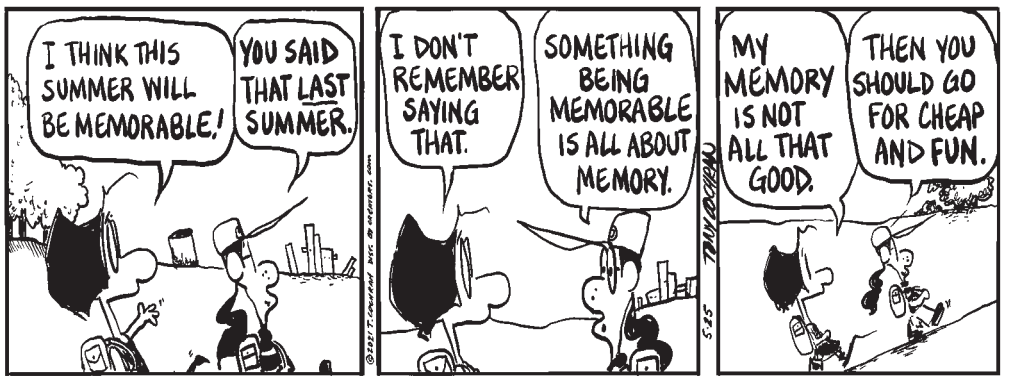
This week, legislation passed by the House to establish a bipartisan commission to investigate the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol is likely to face a filibuster by

SEE **BIDEN** PAGE 11



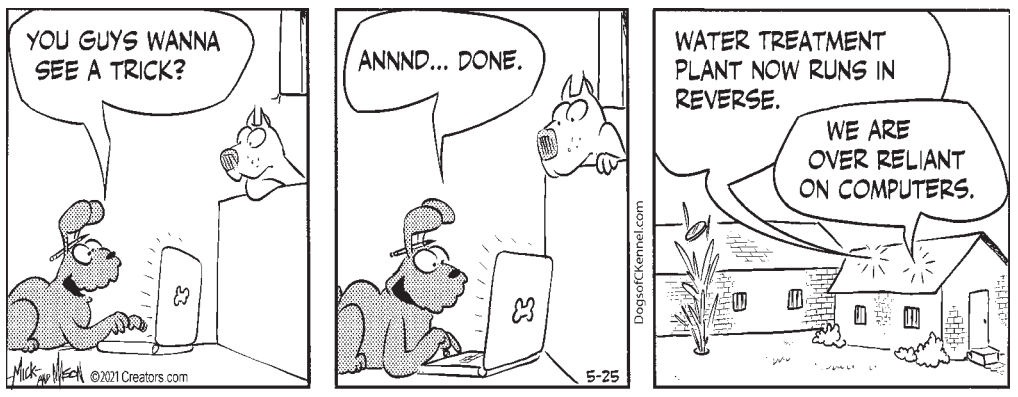
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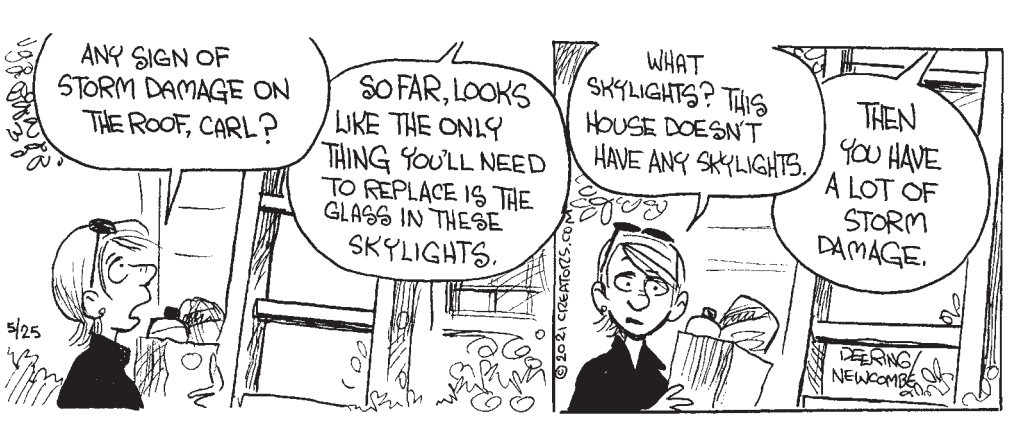
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



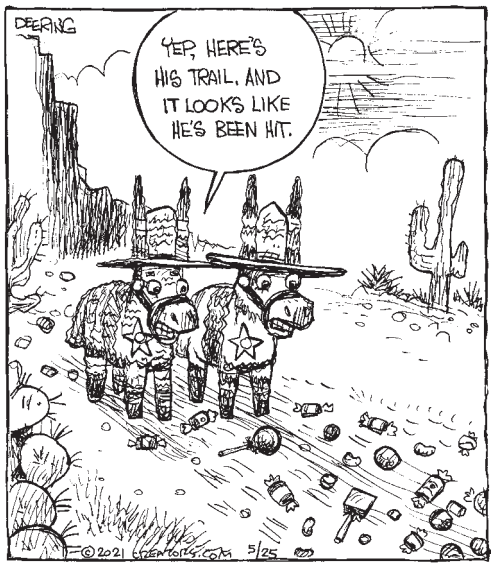
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.9°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
AM winds look light. SSW/S swell continues to fade. High tide makes some spots sluggish through mid-morning.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Morning wind could be an issue but the early tide push helps the cause. Modest new SSW swell shows, minor NW swell mix blending in.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a high near 66.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/05/25	Tue	03:22 AM	-1.14	L
2021/05/25	Tue	09:35 AM	4.14	H
2021/05/25	Tue	2:42 PM	1.20	L
2021/05/25	Tue	9:04 PM	6.78	H
2021/05/26	Wed	04:10 AM	-1.57	L
2021/05/26	Wed	10:30 AM	4.01	H
2021/05/26	Wed	3:23 PM	1.53	L
2021/05/26	Wed	9:44 PM	6.89	H
2021/05/27	Thu	05:00 AM	-1.74	L
2021/05/27	Thu	11:28 AM	3.85	H
2021/05/27	Thu	4:06 PM	1.87	L
2021/05/27	Thu	10:27 PM	6.77	H
2021/05/28	Fri	05:53 AM	-1.67	L
2021/05/28	Fri	12:31 PM	3.70	H
2021/05/28	Fri	4:54 PM	2.20	L
2021/05/28	Fri	11:14 PM	6.41	H
2021/05/29	Sat	06:47 AM	-1.39	L
2021/05/29	Sat	1:38 PM	3.62	H
2021/05/29	Sat	5:49 PM	2.51	L
2021/05/30	Sun	12:07 AM	5.89	H
2021/05/30	Sun	07:45 AM	-0.98	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/22
3 19 27 37 40
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 236 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/21
6 9 17 18 48
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/22
26 38 39 41 44
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 49 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/23
9 13 17 18 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/23
EVENING: 6 7 7

Draw Date: 5/23
MIDDAY: 8 8 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/23
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:40.78

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MAY 25)

The question "Who will you be when you grow up?" is a persistent one and as relevant now as it was when you were 5 years old, because you are ever young and developing new interests. You'll be asked to fill big shoes, and you'll do so in your own memorable style. A purchase will be symbolic that you have arrived. Virgo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 33, 38, 7 and 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Inspiration comes in many forms, the current one being among your favorites. It's inside of a person, telling a story, the details of which you will eat up -- fuel for your next adventure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). While it's only human to care what your friends, colleagues and the community at large think of you, it is time to go beyond -- to act honorably and correctly without a worry as to the popularity of your choices.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Guilt is a tactic employed to keep people under control. It requires the buy-in from a guilty party, the agreement that one person's failing gives the other person the upper hand. You'll learn as you observe the dynamic today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Those who don't know any better will get the sense that these good things are dropping into your life by way of fortune's favor. Maybe, but you've certainly put in an extraordinary amount of effort to endear yourself to the fates.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Decisions are far easier to make than you think. The bottom line is not a promise of profit or the knowledge that you're improving a thing but something much simpler. What if the bottom line is just "Do you feel like it or not?"

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The person who gives you the most winning advice will also give you a few duds. You listen up, try things out and bring enough scientific judgment to the thing to decide which advice is actionable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your confidence shows up in how you care for yourself and prepare yourself to face the day. You don't have to psych yourself up with pep talks, because your natural inclination of self-directed kindness is all the lift you need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The internet meme says a friend helps you move and a good friend helps you move the body. You'll find that the truest tests of friendship are not in dire circumstances; rather, they are in times of success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Thinking there are better days ahead may relieve the stress you're going through now, though this is only one way of doing it. You could also welcome and love the stress, because these really are the good old days.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Meeting the demands of the day with grace will require you to pace yourself. All you have to do is flex a bit to notice that you're the one who's really in control of things.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your protective instinct kicks in before you realize why. Take that as a sign that your instincts are keen. You are aware of what you have and ready to do what is necessary to keep it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Stay on the lookout for those who represent the qualities you want to absorb. Your circle of influence will soon welcome new faces, some you choose and others who choose you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

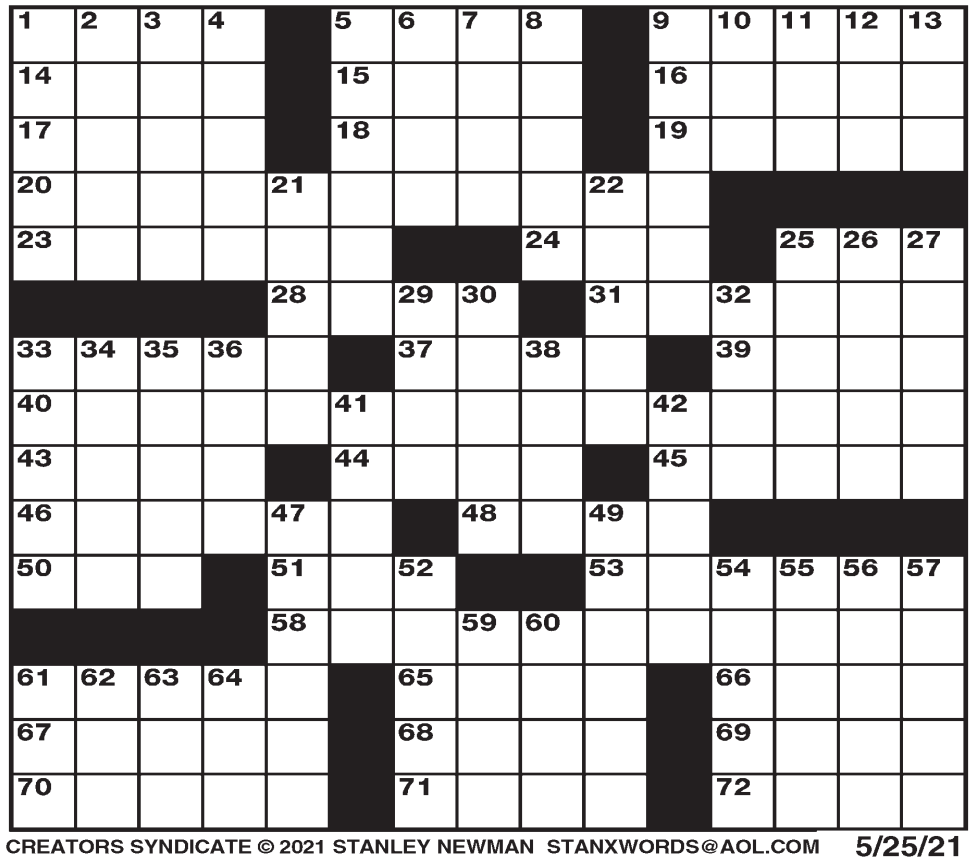
					1			3
1		6		3				8
	4		2		8	9		
		1		9				2
	9		7	5	2		4	
3				8		6		
		7	5		6		3	
8				1		5		9
2			8					

Newsday Crossword

NOT SO SINISTER by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 "Hey you!" hiss
5 Fundamentals
9 Chinese percussion instruments
14 Ready to harvest
15 Castle's watery ring
16 Fully informed
17 "Sure, sign me up!"
18 Former abbr. for Russia
19 Striped African equine
20 Decorator's palette
23 Main dish
24 Spider's creation
25 Small amt. of sugar
28 Totals up
31 Part of a BLT
33 Pertaining to sound
37 Diarist __ Frank
39 Woodwind instrument
40 Small land parcel
43 "Do __ others . . ."
44 "Huge" prefix for bucks
45 Hangs on to
46 "Yeah? Just watch me!"
48 Dress of India
50 Costa __ Sol (resort region of Spain)
51 Part of TGIF
53 Make possible
58 Arrangement of guests at a banquet
61 Take home from a pet shelter
65 Misplace
66 Fat used for frying
67 Thick, as fog
68 Lullaby or ballad
69 Strongly suggest
70 Vow under oath
71 Initial poker stake
72 Sesame-__ bun

DOWN
1 What something costs
2 __ Says (children's game)
3 Overflowed from a glass
4 Man in a choir
5 Brought a smile to
6 Variety of pear
7 Bills and coins
8 Scatter around
9 Town square structure
10 Have debts
11 Arrest, informally
12 Guard dog's warning
13 Body of salt water
21 Give feedback
22 Taxi fare calculator
25 Dining surface
26 Small front porch
27 Authors of verses
29 Take a bold chance
30 Minor obstacles
32 Act moody
33 Octopus cousin
34 Fraction of a pound
35 Birth-related
36 Smooth out creases
38 March Madness org.
41 Overact
42 __ out a living (barely managing)
47 Female family member
49 Go back on a promise
52 Taco topping
54 Outsanding school grade
55 Trumpet blast
56 Big
57 Brought to a close
59 Bugs Bunny or Bart Simpson
60 "Small world, __ it?"
61 Commercials and billboards
62 Morning droplets on grass
63 Dollar bill
64 Charitable TV spot



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/25/21

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



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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 25 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5124

Autumn

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

April	Crocus	Leaves	Season
Beech	Dogwood	May	Shorter
Blue	Elms	Mild	days
Broom	Equinox	Mist	Shrubs
Cherry	Fire	Nuts	Silver birch
Cloudy	Fresh	Pear	Skies
Cobweb	Gingko	Pink	Sleet
Cold	Gourd	Plum	Spectacular
Cooler	Hayride	Rain	Squash
Corn	Hues	Rake	Sweep
Crisp	Jumper	Reap	Yellow

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Away from the hustle

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VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1

incentives such as free Lakers tickets to encourage more people to get vaccinated. They are also utilizing FOMO or the "fear of missing out" as a motivator, by emphasizing that only fully vaccinated people will be able to enjoy the full extent of the June 15 reopening.

For events of more than 5,000 people indoors people will be required to verify either full vaccination status or a negative Covid test within 72 hours of entry. While everyone will be able to enjoy the end of physical distancing and capacity requirements in most business sectors, per County requirements only vaccinated individuals can unmask.

"If you're a person who would love to take that mask off pretty much everywhere, you need to come in now before we get to June 15 to get yourself fully vaccinated in time for that," said Ferrer.

Ferrer also clarified that even if vaccination rates continue to lag, L.A. County will proceed with the planned reopening in alignment with the State.

"Unless the Governor delays the reopening, we'll be going right along with that reopening," she said. "It would be great to have more people vaccinated so that we don't have any possibility of getting back to any increases in cases."

Clara@smdp.com

PROJECT

FROM PAGE 1

and the East Complex . Both complexes total 104,140 square feet of developed space, including 64,280 square feet of residential space, 2,255 square feet of retail space and 5,365 square feet of common area. It also includes a 3,155-square-foot art studio and an 810-square-foot restaurant

According to Venice Vision, the Planning Commission will address two issues on Thursday

First, an appeal of the Planning Department's January recommendation to exempt the project from environmental review; approve consolidation of 40 open space lots into two commercial building sites; and waive the developers' obligation to expand surrounding streets and sidewalks to legal minimum widths.

Second, whether to recommend the Project as a whole (including design, zone changes, height increases and such) to the City Council for approval.

In May The Venice Neighborhood Council and the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) voted against the project.

During the LUPC meeting, VCH's Executive Director, Becky Dennison, stated that, in accordance with State Assembly Bill 1197, the project doesn't require a full CEQA review, despite LUPC's previous decision to require one and the fact that the project is located within a site on the National Register of Historic Places, in a Tsunami/Flood Zone and in the dual Coastal Zone.

The project is also requesting numerous waivers, including plans to use Linnie Canal Park for the residents of the space, in lieu of including adequate recreational space into the project and a change in zoning from Open Space to Commercial Space. VCHC is also requesting that the city create a new sub-area of Venice for the site that would require its use for affordable housing. Dennison described the project as desperately needed in Venice in order to achieve "economic and racial equity" because most affordable housing in Los Angeles is built "in the inner city."

Former VNC Board Member Christian Wrede delivered a rebuttal to the project proposal. Wrede spoke about the site's high water table, tsunami and sea level rise risks. Wrede also quoted from a study of the project by a group of volunteer architects calling it "aggressive, bunker-like, and rejecting the surrounding community ... like a large barge come ashore."

This hearing is the second of four steps in the City approval process for the Project. After Thursday's hearing, the Project still has to go before the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) and then the full City Council later this year.

The agenda for the hearing is available at https://planning.lacity.org/dcpapi/meetings/document/69623.

This story was published in partnership with the Venice Current.

BIDEN

FROM PAGE 7

Republicans in the Senate. GOP leaders argue the panel is unneeded as they try to move past the deadly riot by supporters of Donald Trump who laid siege to the Capitol in a failed effort to overturn Biden's election.

As the administration assesses next steps on Biden's infrastructure proposal, White House aides have not thrown in the towel on landing a bipartisan agreement with the GOP senators, but their optimism cooled, according to Biden advisers. The group led by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., rejected Biden's counteroffer in a sharply-worded statement late last week.

Psaki insisted no decisions had been made on whether the administration will go it alone as it awaits a counteroffer from Republicans. "We're not quite there yet," she said. "We're eager to see their proposal and see what they have to offer."

The GOP senators have not said if they were preparing another proposal, but kept the door open late Monday.

"I'm not ready to call it quits," Capito told reporters on Capitol Hill.

Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

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PARKING

FROM PAGE 1

credits in the future that will allow it to deliver a clean site to whatever nonprofit housing provider is selected to create the project.

"So that was a very important step forward in making this a reality," Soloff said, noting at least four different members of the Coastal Commission expressed their appreciation for Santa Monica being willing to build affordable housing in the coastal zone.

City staff said the next step in the process is dependent on restoring Covid-related cuts to the Planning Department that could finalize the evaluation of the various proposals and bring a recommendation to City Council. After receiving word that the City's proposed budget includes funds to restore one of the two positions that were cut during the pandemic, Soloff highlighted how Commissioners had already passed a motion asking for the parking structure to be a top priority for whoever is selected for the position.

A resident who phoned in to the meeting commented on the need for parking in the area, but Commissioner Todd Flora described the criticism as a thinly veiled attack on Parking Structure 3.

"The people that are pushing this petition to stave off affordable housing for formerly homeless people in Parking Structure 3 are the same cranks that are trying to recall the school board and they're never happy with anything," Flora said. "And I got to tell you it's so frustrating because their petition literally says language like, 'We support low-income housing and housing for the homeless — just not in downtown,' meaning they don't want Black, Brown and mentally-challenged people Downtown. Let's just come out and say it."

Flora added it's incredibly frustrating to listen to people fight a project that he thinks will be demonstrably helpful to a number of residents in the city because people want to hang on to a parking structure.

"Remember, we used to have to wholeheartedly hang on to parking structure because we were going to put a theater in there," Flora said. "Well, the theater became The ArcLight at the end of Santa Monica Place and that's not even going to stay open."

Soloff reminded commissioners that people are entitled to have a certain view before Commissioners Leonora Camner and Rene Jean Buchanan took time to share their thoughts.

"This is an issue where I feel like Santa Monica is providing a model to be proud of," Camner said. "I think that it's just really exciting and it's something that I talk about a lot."

Buchanon agreed.

"My initial excitement when (City Council) decided to use this location for affordable, primarily formerly homeless housing, which was then quashed during the pandemic, is back," Buchanan said. "But I think the thing that is most exciting to me.... is there has been so much talk about doing something about the homeless situation, about housing people who were homeless; and we've been talking for years, and the problem has only gotten worse. To me, I think it is a huge step that the city, in this case, is going to put its money where its mouth is and actually build the housing for the one group in this community that we have not built housing for — people who are living on the streets."

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