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A 'kindness' cafe centered on hiring foster youths opens on Montana Ave





Clara Harter

CAFE: The new cafe has a strong philosophy of kindness built into its business model.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

'Kindness first, coffee second' is the motto of the bright and dreamy La La Land Kind Cafe that recently opened on Montana Avenue.

Any customer who walks through the door is guaranteed to receive a compliment by at least one of several beaming staff members. The founder, Francois Reihani, hopes that this customer will then go on and compliment someone else, sending a ripple effect of goodwill throughout the community.

The company's ultimate goal is 'normalize kindness' and a key part of the mission is to empower foster youth who have aged out of the system, by providing them with employment and mentorship opportunities.

Many foster youths end up living on the streets after they turn 18, as they often come from traumatic backgrounds and lack support networks. Reihani initially thought he could help these youths by providing a combination of therapy, housing, mentorship, help with schooling, and job placement.

However, the last piece proved more difficult than he anticipated. Youths both struggled to get jobs with nothing on their resume and then when they could receive jobs, the stresses and lack of training proved difficult to handle.

This led Reihani to create an eight week paid internship program at La La Land Cafe, where foster youths are lovingly

SEE **CAFE** PAGE 7

City to send Housing Element to state regulators for review

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

After several months of community engagement and discussions, Santa Monica City Council agreed to send its draft Housing Element to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for review.

Since 1969, California has required that all local governments adequately plan to meet the housing needs of everyone in the community by completing a Housing Element update every eight years. In order to comply with state requirements this cycle, the City must build 8,895 units — 69% of these must be affordable.

Some Planning Commissioners and Councilmembers have said the RHNA allocations are too

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Bonin served recall papers



File Photo

BONIN: A recall has been organized targeting the Los Angeles councilman.

JAIME PAIGE
Venice Current / SMDP Staff Writer

The clock to recall Councilmember Mike Bonin has started. A group looking to recall the councilmember officially launched a bid to remove Bonin ahead of the regular election cycle this morning.

Recall Bonin 2021, the group looking to unseat the councilmember, mailed Bonin an intent to recall letter by certified mail Monday. The group said they tried to serve Bonin the letter on Friday, but felt he was hiding and they could not reach him. On Tuesday morning, a process server was able to locate Bonin and give him the papers in person.

The recall committee said that Bonin has failed to keep promises to the district. It also said he continually ignores his constituents failing to answer phone calls or emails while CD11 is going through a humanitarian, public and safety crisis.

"Since he was first elected to represent the citizens and residents of Los Angeles City Council District 11 in 2013, Councilman

SEE **RECALL** PAGE 7



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COMPASS

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

burdensome, but with an October deadline looming they thought it was best to continue forward with finding ways to incentivize the development of affordable housing production.

The resulting draft Housing Element details a number of ways the City could do so in the next eight years, but Councilmember Gleam Davis noted a large number of programs require changes to the LUCE or Downtown Community Plan.

This would require a supermajority of five votes from council, which could be hard to attain in light of Councilmember Kevin McKeown's retirement. And without the votes, staff said there is a risk of not having a compliant housing element, which is one of the reasons why Davis opposed a motion that sought to send the draft to HCD.

She didn't feel the need to explain all of her reasons since she voiced her perceived problems with the element one-by-one during the meeting Tuesday. But Davis did note this week that she feels the Housing Element doesn't comply with AFFH requirements since any concrete and intentional steps to address exclusionary zoning were removed from the draft element. The longtime Councilmember also took issue with the exclusion of the 100% affordable housing overlay as well as the possible rezoning of certain R1 neighborhoods.

"I know we got a lot of emails; I got a lot of emails from friends about it and I know it's a super-sensitive issue, but I think that we are being asked by the state to take this opportunity to address decades of intentional discrimination, and the only way we're going to address that is with intentional inclusion. And in all honesty, I just think that a statement saying that somewhere down the road we'll explore some options to do something is insufficient," Davis said. "So, I do have a genuine concern about whether or not this meets the AFFH requirements. I also think, quite honestly, it jeopardizes potential federal funding down the road. We now know that the Biden administration is going to tie federal funds for things like affordable housing, which we all say we want, to cities that demonstrate that they are taking affirmative steps to address the legacy of exclusionary zoning. And, again, I don't think this does that."

Davis added the City has put enough restraints on potential housing that she believes the city will not reach its RHNA numbers.

"My last point is that I think this housing element is incredibly dependent on us being able to get to five votes to make significant changes to the LUCE and the Downtown Community Plan. And I'm hopeful that we'll be able to do that, but I have to be honest and say I'm doubtful. And so, I think creating a housing element that's dependent on an unlikely scenario, or that we risk falling out of compliance because we won't be able to get five votes, is a dangerous position to be in."

Mayor Sue Himmelrich disagreed with Davis during the meeting but said in an interview a few hours later that the goal of any elected body is to host a diverse range of opinions.

"And the diversity of our council served us pretty well last night. Look, there was a lot of discussion but in the end, we settled on prioritizing public housing on public land. We tried to disincentivize market rate and commercial development. We tried to set up innovative programs at all kinds of levels. And we tried to create a compliant housing element and I think we did," Himmelrich added, detailing how she has long held the belief that the public land should be used for public purposes, specifically for community housing and parks. "Before, I don't think we treated our city land as the important resource it is. But this is an important step because this housing element removes land cost issues from our discussions."

The mayor recognized there is still much to be done in regards to furthering fair housing in Santa Monica but she thanked staff and city leaders for their efforts in recent months.

"We've been leaders in this. We've been doing it longer than the state required we'd do it," Himmelrich said. "And look, I'm not saying we aren't a racist town or we don't have a racist past. But I am saying that we keep trying to advance these issues to create a more diverse Santa Monica."

The next step in the Housing Element process is for the California Department of Housing and Community Development to review and comment on the draft update. The comments will return to City Council for a final review. Adoption of the mandated document is expected to happen before Oct. 15, 2021.

Brennon@smdp.com



Vaccine effort turns into slog as infectious variant spreads

MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press

As cases tumble and states reopen, the potential final stage in the U.S. campaign to vanquish COVID-19 is turning into a slog, with a worrisome variant gaining a bigger foothold and lotteries and other prizes failing to persuade some Americans to get vaccinated.

"The last half, the last mile, the last quarter-mile always requires more effort," Dr. Nirav Shah, director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said Wednesday.

While two of the states slammed hardest by the disaster, California and New York, celebrated their reopenings this week with fireworks and a multimillion-dollar drawing, hospitalizations in parts of Missouri are surging and cases are rising sharply in Texas, illustrating the challenges the country faces this summer.

One major concern is the highly contagious and potentially more severe delta variant of the coronavirus that originated in India. While health officials say the vaccines are effective against it, the fear is that it will lead to outbreaks in states with lower vaccination rates.

The delta variant has increased from 2.7% of all cases in May to 9.7% this month, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said during a call for governors on Monday, according to details provided by the Washington governor's office.

At the same time, states are convening focus groups to better understand who is declining to get vaccinated, why, and how to convince them that getting the shot is the right thing to do.

"It's a race between the vaccines going into people and the current or future variants," said Kansas Health Secretary Dr. Lee Norman.

Average deaths and cases per day have plummeted 90% or more across the U.S. since the winter. But the picture is uneven.

In Texas, the rolling average of newly confirmed infections has climbed from about 1,000 per day on May 31 to nearly 2,000 this week.

A swath of Missouri is seeing a big rise in cases and hospitalizations as tourists eager to get out after being cooped up for a year make their way to popular destinations like Branson and Lake of the Ozarks. Health officials said more than 200 people were hospitalized with the virus in southwestern Missouri, nearly double the number at the start of May. The number of patients in intensive care units in the region has tripled.

Health experts cite two factors driving the surge there: the faster-spreading delta variant and a reluctance among residents to get vaccinated.

The U.S. is expected to fall short of President Joe Biden's goal of dispensing at least one dose to 70% of American adults by July 4. The figure stands at about 65%.

Among the states that don't expect to hit the goal are Kansas and Idaho. In Idaho, some counties have adult vaccination rates under 30%, said Elke Shaw-Tulloch, public health administrator for the state Department of Health and Welfare.

To increase vaccinations, several states are working to break up large shipments of vaccine into smaller lots, which can then be distributed to doctors' offices. Health officials see primary care physicians as key to easing people's concerns.

"People want to hear it from their doctor, their medical providers, people that they know and trust," Norman said.

Big, splashy giveaways such as lotteries have gotten a lot of headlines and dispensed millions of dollars. In Maine, home of the outdoor wear company L.L. Bean, Bean gift cards were a big hit. But elsewhere, there has been skepticism about such programs.

Shaw-Tulloch said some businesses in Idaho had offered financial incentives for employees to get vaccinated but didn't get many takers. Instead, she said, the key is making it easy to get a vaccine by turning it into part of a person's "daily flow."

Some people's attitude is that "if a vaccine were to fall out of the sky and hit me in the arm, I'll get it. But I'm not going to interrupt my busy daily life to make that effort and go in and get a vaccination," she said.

She added: "That's why we're really focusing on walk-in clinics, pop-up clinics where, wherever they turn, there's a place that's easily available for getting the vaccine."

Elsewhere around the world, there have been glimmers of hope, as India reopened the Taj Mahal amid a decline in new infections. In France, where virus cases are below 4,000 per day — down from 35,000 in the spring — authorities eased the requirements on wearing masks outdoors and said the nightly curfew will end this weekend.

"We have not known such a low level of virus spreading since last August," Prime Minister Jean Castex said.

Meanwhile, South Africa imposed tighter restrictions on public gatherings and liquor sales as hospital admissions due to COVID-19 increased by 59% over the past two weeks, authorities said. New cases there have nearly doubled.

The recorded U.S. death toll from COVID-19 hit 600,000 on Tuesday, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Worldwide, it stands at 3.8 million, though both numbers are thought to be a significant undercount.

Associated Press writer Rachel La Corte contributed to this report.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 326 CALLS ON JUNE 15

Party Complaint 600blk San Vicente Blvd 12:52 a.m.
Vandalism 800blk Ashland Ave 2:28 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1000blk 2nd St 2:31 a.m.
Petty Theft 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:45 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk Yale St 5:53 a.m.
Burglary 1100blk 4th St 6:07 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 300blk Strand St 6:30 a.m.
Battery 500blk Olympic Blvd W 6:35 a.m.
Burglary 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:08 a.m.
Fraud 3300blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:12 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 7:13 a.m.
Found Property 4th St / Olympic Blvd W 7:28 a.m.
Vandalism 2000blk 4th St 7:36 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Main St / Hollister Ave 7:47 a.m.
Drinking In Public Ocean Ave / Alta Ave 7:56 a.m.
Burglary 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:29 a.m.
Strongarm Robbery 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 8:53 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 8:58 a.m.
Grand Theft 3100blk 18th St 9:17 a.m.
Fight 2000blk Ocean Ave 9:32 a.m.
Fight 26th St / Olympic Blvd 9:42 a.m.
Missing Person 2600blk Montana Ave 9:45 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 2nd St 9:49 a.m.
Arson 300blk Santa Monica Pl 9:57 a.m.
Encampment 9th St / Montana Ave 10:17 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1400blk 24th St 10:30 a.m.
Grand Theft 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:35 a.m.
Identity Theft 1300blk Centinela Ave 10:38 a.m.
Burglary 1700blk Berkeley St 10:53 a.m.
Grand Theft 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:12 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Grant St 11:22 a.m.
Vandalism 2000blk 4th St 11:25 a.m.
Juvenile Annoying Investigation 300blk Santa Monica Pier 11:47 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1200blk Euclid St 11:55 a.m.
Death Notification 900blk 17th St 12:07 p.m.
Lost Property 1700blk Main St 12:08 p.m.
Encampment 200blk Bay St 12:16 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 12:18 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1900blk Ocean Ave 12:23 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1900blk Ocean Ave 12:30 p.m.
Loud Music 500blk Palisades Park 12:31 p.m.
Burglary 1700blk Berkeley St 12:40 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 12:47 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400blk Santa Monica Pier 12:54 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk 4th St 1:03 p.m.
Auto Burglary 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 1:10 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 200blk Marine St 1:15 p.m.
Auto Burglary 600blk San Vicente Blvd 1:30 p.m.
Grand Theft 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 1:35 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:42 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 1300blk 14th St 1:46 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 1:49 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 900blk 4th St 2:02 p.m.
Fraud 800blk Broadway 2:05 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 1100blk Centinela Ave 2:27 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 1600blk Ocean Ave 2:30 p.m.
Burglary 2200blk Colorado Ave 2:52 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 300blk Santa Monica Pier 2:55 p.m.
Sexual Assault 1400blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:15 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 300blk Santa Monica Pier 3:21 p.m.
Grand Theft 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:23 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk 19th St 3:38 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 3:40 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:41 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 3:43 p.m.
Petty Theft 500blk Olympic Blvd W 3:45 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 20th St / Broadway 4:18 p.m.
Petty Theft 500blk Wilshire Blvd 4:21 p.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 4:32 p.m.
Petty Theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:47 p.m.
Smoking Violation 400blk Broadway 4:55 p.m.
Vandalism 2600blk Pico Blvd 5:15 p.m.
Battery 1300blk 2nd St 5:18 p.m.
Petty Theft 800blk Yale St 5:32 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 16th St / Pico Blvd 5:43 p.m.
Petty Theft 1000blk 21st St 5:48 p.m.
Panic Alarm 2300blk Georgina Ave 6:07 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 2nd St 6:13 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 17th St 6:16 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 17th St 6:22 p.m.
Medical Emergency Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 6:48 p.m.
Vandalism 700blk Ocean Ave 7:35 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:50 p.m.
Lost Property 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:06 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1200blk Grant St 8:37 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk 2nd St 8:40 p.m.
Grand Theft 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 8:40 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 3000blk Airport Ave 8:57 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1500blk Idaho Ave 9:01 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 9:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Ocean Ave / Broadway 9:05 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2400blk 5th St 9:05 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 2900blk Pennsylvania Ave 9:14 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 100blk Interstate 10 9:29 p.m.
Loud Music 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 9:32 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 9:38 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 700blk Broadway 9:40 p.m.
Vandalism Ocean Ave / Broadway 9:56 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2000blk 14th St 10:05 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 10:06 p.m.
Missing Person 1400blk Ocean Ave 11:19 p.m.
Fight 600blk Wilshire Blvd 11:45 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 40 CALLS ON JUNE 15

EMS 1400blk 19th St 12:04 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 12:07 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 12:58 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:17 a.m.
EMS 600blk 14th St 4:45 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Delaware Ave 4:52 a.m.
EMS 500blk Olympic Blvd W 5:40 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 700blk Wilshire Blvd 6:37 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Main St / Hollister Ave 7:47 a.m.
Lock In/Out 1300blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:06 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:26 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 9:54 a.m.
EMS 400blk Colorado Ave 10:01 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk Ocean Ave 10:06 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 11:05 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Arizona Ave 11:40 a.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 12:11 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 12:48 p.m.
EMS 600blk Ashland Ave 1:25 p.m.
EMS 400blk Pier Ave 1:25 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Colorado Ave 1:41 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk Montana Ave 1:49 p.m.
EMS 900blk 11th St 2:12 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 23rd St 2:14 p.m.
EMS 2400blk 34th St 2:27 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 3:01 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 5:19 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Pl 5:45 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 6:10 p.m.
Wires Down 2300blk Main St 6:33 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:42 p.m.
EMS 900blk 4th St 7:26 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2800blk Colorado Ave 7:28 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900blk Pico Blvd 7:46 p.m.
EMS 2900blk 3rd St 7:52 p.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 9:57 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 24th St 11:01 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 11:23 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 11:34 p.m.
EMS 22nd St / Wilshire Blvd 11:55 p.m.

Your column here

Submitted by the SMPOA Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Official Statement of the Santa Monica Police Officers Association on the OIR report

In the months preceding May 31st, 2020, the Santa Monica Police Officers Association (SMPOA) waited patiently for a thoughtful and thorough review of that day. Knowing that this was not an easy task to complete, our association is both thankful and appreciative of the investigative work completed by the OIR Group.

After a review of the report, the SMPOA does take issue with many of the facts and circumstances as described by the OIR Group. Considering the massive undertaking it was to dissect this critical incident, and the impossibility to fully capture what really happened, we acknowledge their limited ability to provide a comprehensive accounting of the event.

Instead of providing a line-by-line response to the report, the SMPOA humbly accepts the recommendations set forth with the belief that the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) will indeed become better as a whole as it learns from its mistakes.

We would be remiss to not acknowledge the mistakes made by SMPD's executive staff on the days leading up to May 31st and on the day itself. Undoubtedly, Chief Cynthia Renaud's leadership deficiencies became painfully clear. We do however echo the reports finding that in this regard "the rank-and-file personnel bear no fault." Our association is confident the noted organizational deficiencies have and will be addressed.

On May 31st, line officers in the SMPD were left flat-footed and unprepared due to Chief Renaud's decision not to place the department on tactical alert despite numerous indications that such a state of readiness was necessary. Tactical alert would have required overtime compensation and the activation of other resources necessitating additional budgetary commitments that Chief Renaud simply wasn't willing to make based on the direction of the City Manager's Office. This lack of tactical alert status created a situation in which officers were playing catch-up all day, often self-deploying with little or no direction. Despite this, it's important to note that the day ended with no significant physical injuries to officers or civilians, a testament to the actions under immense pressure of the line officers in the field.

Moreover, as the OIR report pointed out, Chief's Renaud's inexplicable decisions to deploy command staff into the field further exacerbated the leadership void and substantially increased confusion in an already chaotic situation.

Despite the organizational failures described in the report, the SMPOA has full confidence in SMPD's current leadership team. The organization has learned and improved over the last year and will continue to do so as we await the forthcoming selection of our new Police Chief.

The members of the Santa Monica Police Association want to reassure our community that we are committed to providing quality public safety. It is our hope that our members will not be defined by the mistakes of that day, but instead by our longstanding commitment to quality public safety in collaboration with our community partners.



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



Robert Lemle

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

Your column here

Leonora Camner — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The need for truthfulness, fairness, and civility towards housing advocates in Santa Monica

I'm a mom in Santa Monica and I care about the future of my community. So many of my friends and neighbors leave every year due to the high costs of housing. I wish there were more homes here to make housing more affordable, so that we could reduce homelessness, make this an inclusive, welcoming community, and stop displacement. As an advocate, I seek to support housing availability to all.

As indicated by City staff in response to my recent questions while serving on the Housing Commission, it is theoretically possible to meet our entire low-income housing target from the State of California, through a broad upzoning and inclusionary program. However, political will is lacking. Providing homes for all who need them is more important than politics, and should not be political at all. Can you imagine the hope our City can offer by plotting a course out of this housing crisis, where families with children didn't have to face homelessness?

Not only do we lack the political will to solve this housing crisis, but also the courage to engage in truthful housing debates. I advocated for housing in my free time outside of work for years, and was routinely subject to harassment on social media communities like NextDoor. People falsely accused me of working for developers and the real estate industry. They also falsely accuse me of being a lobbyist. Some started posting personal information about me and my employers at the time, attempting to suggest a connection to developers that did not exist. The posting of my personal information, I believe, was also intended to be threatening and stop me from advocating for my community.

Years later, I had the privilege of becoming Executive Director of Abundant Housing LA, a nonprofit working to correct the housing challenges in Los Angeles. At last, I could pursue my advocacy full time. In this position, I was excited to successfully advocate for a better RHNA allocation which would increase housing where it's needed, including my home community where so many are struggling with housing scarcity and costs.

When I heard that there was an opening on the housing commission, I realized that because of my new position, I might be considered an "Expert." When I was just a mom, with no employment in housing advocacy, I would not have been considered for the housing commission. When applying, I anticipated that it would be a high time commitment, unpaid, and would take me away from my young children during bedtime, a precious time for me. I considered it a personal sacrifice to serve my community.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, some disagreed with my advocacy. Instead of engaging with me on the merits of my arguments, they again seek to attack me and discredit me. Without any real scandals to point to, they manufacture falsehoods and post them on social media.

For example, in the social media group Santa Monica Now, users have posted strange accusations like that my organization has "ties to Texas." I don't know what this means, or why it's supposed to be a scandal. My organization has no ties to Texas, and I can only assume this refers to the fact that I briefly lived in Texas. But it nonetheless propagated on social media. Santa Monica Now has not allowed me to join, so I am unable to respond to falsehoods posted about me and my organization.

Other common falsehoods include that Abundant Housing LA is funded by developers. I want to state this clearly and hopefully for the last time, that my organization literally has a policy that prohibits us from receiving funds from developers. So no, we are not funded by developers.

Other statements are somewhere on the spectrum of being totally false, being partially false, or just intentionally misleading, such as stating that I advocated to "limit or eliminate input the Commission or the local community might have in regard to assessing the local housing needs." This refers to a letter from Abundant Housing LA objecting to the "local input" factor in the SCAG RHNA process. "Local Input," despite the implication in this harassment campaign against me, refers to something unrelated—the RTP/SCS growth projections, labeled "local input" by SCAG.

As part of this targeted harassment campaign, sometimes individuals make public comments against me in Housing Commission meetings. Often, these comments are made at the end of meetings or are not agendized, so I am not permitted to respond. I am forced to sit silently, the falsehoods going uncorrected.

Some complain that my serving on the commission is inappropriate due to a conflict of interest. My position is not considered a conflict of interest under law or City policy, since advising the City on housing policy doesn't benefit me financially in any way. And I have never needed to recuse myself. Since residents appear to oppose individuals employed in housing policy serving on the commission, it would be better to remove the "Expertise" standard, so that the commission can be more inclusive and accessible for all.

I'm not alone. Many other housing advocates regularly have personal attacks and their personal information posted on social media. If anything, it demonstrates the strength of the pro-housing argument—it stands strong on its merits, so anti-housing individuals resort to manufacturing scandals. How many people in our City want to speak out on housing, but are scared to because of this level of incivility?

I have to wonder what is so threatening

SEE **TRUTHFULNESS** PAGE 11

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

'Oxy Bandits' leader guilty of California pharmacy robberies

The leader of the so-called "Oxy Bandits" crew has been convicted of organizing armed robberies of oxycodone at 15 independently owned pharmacies across Southern California, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

A judge found Tyrome Lewis, 26, guilty of eight felony charges including robbery, conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute oxycodone, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement.

Lewis, who's been in custody since his arrest in July 2019, conspired with others to target "mom and pop" pharmacies in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties, prosecutors said.

"He also assigned the roles from the crew members, and then he served as a lookout while co-conspirators committed the robberies. Following the pharmacy robberies, Lewis and others would sell the stolen prescription medication on the black market," the statement said.

Lewis faces life in prison when he's sentenced September 23.

The case is part of a broader investigation of armed pharmacy robberies begun in 2019 by the FBI and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The U.S. Attorney's Office said it has so far charged 21 individuals, with 19 convictions. Two defendants are awaiting trial.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Protection sought for Southern California fish species

A tiny fish native to Southern California streams will be studied to determine if it qualifies for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act, a conservation group said Wednesday.

The Center for Biological Diversity said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it will begin a status review of the Santa Ana speckled dace in response to a petition filed by the group last year.

The minnow is found in the Santa Ana, San Jacinto, San Gabriel and Los Angeles river systems.

According to the center, dams, water diversions and urbanization have eliminated Santa Ana speckled dace from three-quarters of their former stream habitats and they face continuing threats including drought, fires, invasive species and climate change.

"Endangered Species Act protections would provide a welcome lifeline as Santa Ana speckled dace try to survive climate chaos and other threats," Jeff Miller, a center senior conservation advocate, said in a statement.

Remaining small populations of the species are now mostly in headwater tributaries within national forests where they prefer perennial streams fed by cool springs with overhanging vegetation and shallow gravel beds for spawning.

The center also said Fish and Wildlife will review the status of the southern San Joaquin Valley's Temblor legless lizard.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Grid operator: California's energy sufficient amid heat wave

California was projected to have enough energy to meet electrical demand Wednesday but residents may be asked to voluntarily conserve electricity this week as record-breaking heat blankets the West, the grid operator said.

The California Independent System Operator said the grid was stable and there was no expectation of rotating power outages.

Forecasts also showed enough reserves to cover demand Thursday evening but Californians should be vigilant in case there's need for a Flex Alert as solar energy production drops off, it said.

Summer-like heat arrived with spring still on the calendar as a dome of high pressure covered the West. Oppressive daytime highs have been followed by very warm nights.

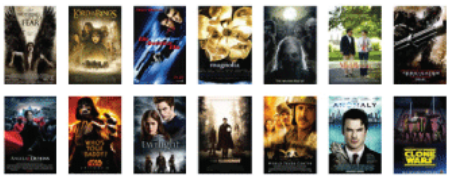
Palm Springs hit a record 120 degrees on Tuesday, four degrees above the old June 15 record set in 1961.

A coastal eddy swirling low clouds over Southern California brought enough cooling Wednesday for forecasters to reduce some excessive-heat warnings to advisories around the Los Angeles region.

A milky haze of smoke from fires in Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico also blew over Southern California, the National Weather Service said.

Excessive-heat warnings were going into effect in the Central Valley, where some locations could see highs up to 113 degrees.

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Noteworthy

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Drums, Violas & Improv

DON'T MISS!

I'm not going to wax poetic about concerts by our own Santa Monica jazz legend, drummer Peter Erskine. I just did, two weeks ago. So here's the simple announcement. He will be playing again at spiffy LAX jazz club Sam First, two nights, two shows per night, next Friday and Saturday June 25 and 26. This trio drops the horn and brings in the inspired Alan Pasqua on piano.

GET OFF THE STAGE!!

The one I've been writing about in the previous two NOTEWORTHY columns, but this should be the last hurrah.

It's the stage where, when you climb up there from your garage or bedroom, with only your naked talent between you and the audience, you will be judged.

If that doesn't appeal to you, stay home and play, sing, paint, dance, write, act, where you won't be judged. Just for your own artistic satisfaction. But, but… the spotlight, the money, the fame, the groupies, the limos, easy reservations at great restaurants — it's tempting, to take that shot. But you have to know, people will shoot back, if they don't dig what you're laying down.



Courtesy image

MUSIC: HARVELLE'S is open, HOORAY!

One little mention, FOUR WEEKS AGO, among dozens of music remembrances over three decades, and here I am still writing about it. But while the daughter of famed Guarneri Quartet violist Michael Tree wrote me about my mild chiding of her father for not sitting in with a country band at a party of mine in NM — 40 years ago! — the fallout has been interesting. Never cry about something that looks bad until you find out, with time, if it really is, I always say.

INTERESTING FACTOID

About the Guarneri Quartet. Despite the group's name, only one instrument made by the celebrated Guarneri family of Cremona was played for any significant time by a member of the quartet: for many years David Soyer used an Andrea Guarneri cello made in 1669. He later switched to a Gagliano cello made in Naples in 1778. (I guess he wanted to get a newer, snazzier model.)

At one point in the mid-'90s the quartet was offered the extended loan of a set of four rare Stradivarius instruments owned by the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. They declined, preferring to play the instruments each had chosen for himself. First violin Arnold Steinhardt compared the task of finding a violin well matched to a performer's style to that of finding a spouse, explaining, "After much trial and error, each of us has found what could aptly be called his musical soul mate."

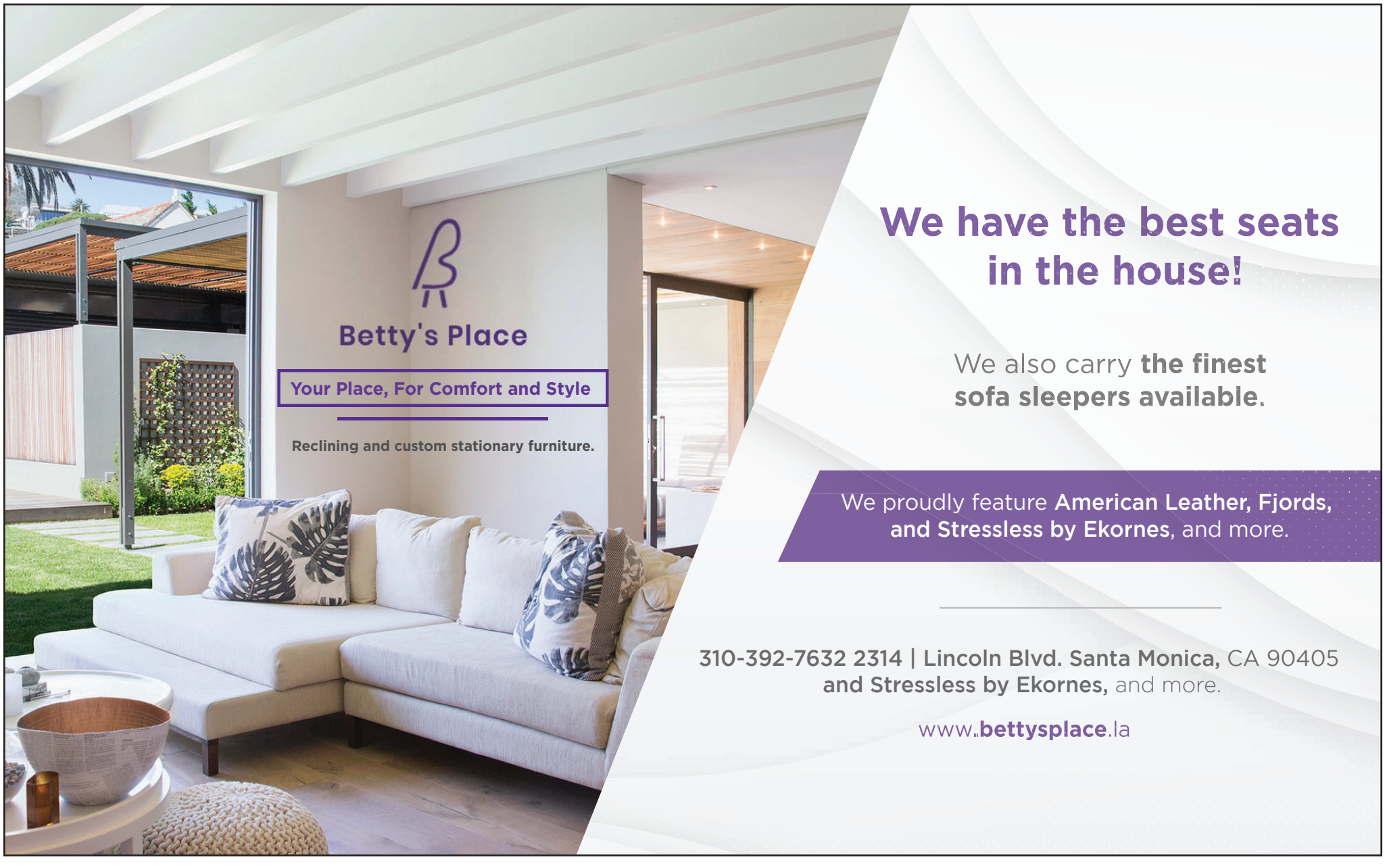
Let me relate to those who might not know — you know, those rockers, and folkies and jazzbos, and those under 40 — that the Guarneri were considered instrumental, shall we say, in the burgeoning popularity in the'70s and '80s of chamber music, in particular string quartets. (As has the Kronos Quartet been so influential in their realm.) The group's extensive touring, recording, teaching and other outreach influenced a generation of young musicians. I was fortunate enough to see them twice, in the cultural backwater that Albuquerque was for many years.

We scored better with classical acts, and the best modern dance troupes. Then along came UNM computer whiz, young dean Tom Hogg, and suddenly both Jimi and Janis were there shortly before their deaths, Led Zeppelin on their first tour, Blue Cheer, Steppenwolf, and directly in Hogg's wheelhouse, at UNM: The Rolling Stones with Stevie Wonder opening, Led Zep in the Pit, Grateful Dead, Cream's farewell tour — one of only 18 U.S. venues, that was a miracle — Joni, Yes, Chicago (when they were still good), John Lee Hooker, Alice Cooper, Roberta Flack, Rod Stewart, EL&P, CCR, Jethro Tull twice, Fleetwood Mac, Cat Stevens, Elton John, Boston, Bette Midler, Labelle, The Pointer Sisters, all in their prime, and more. The Ramones in a tiny basement campus coffeehouse (playing at full stadium volume) — and then Hogg moved to L.A. and the good bookings went with him. He joined Ticketmaster early on and made them what they became, the new way to sell tickets to every concert on earth; he was their computer booking guru, going to city after city to set up systems that revolutionized concert sales. I know, you hated their fees at first, but now you could get your precious tickets for certain without having to stand in a line all day at the Forum, to maybe get them, maybe not.

HIDDEN LOCAL TALENT

But before I leave Tree, one more unexpected little tidbit from all this, that is so typical of this unique, fascinating cast of characters we have here in Santa Monica. You can know someone for years and then find out all sorts of things you never knew about them. (I know a respected local businessman who was offered the chief's daughter while in the

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11



CAFE

FROM PAGE 1

mentored and trained.

"Youth come in and get to really soak in and learn what it means to have a first job, instead of coming in and being panicked by having to learn everything so quickly," said Reihani. "We wanted to not only create a place where we could hire and mentor these kids, but also create a model that other businesses can replicate."

The program has been rolled out at the three La La Land Cafes in Dallas, where the company was founded. So far 15 youths have completed the program and several have decided to stay on as full time staff.

The new Santa Monica location is in the process of onboarding three youths. Reihani grew up in Los Angeles and worked his first job in Santa Monica when he was 18.

"Santa Monica really wants to make the world better. It's a very caring place, and we thought that we would mesh well with that," said Reihani, explaining what drew him to the Montana location.

The Cafe itself is based on an extensive menu of high quality and creative coffees, teas, and toasts.

"We want to make sure that we make everyone happy," said Reihani. "There's something on the menu that you're going to love, whether you order the most serious cappuccino on earth, or you order our butterfly latte that is blue and literally tastes like fruity pebbles."

All of the coffee is seasonal, organic, and sourced from farms with good labor practices.



Clara Harter

KIND: The cafe provides foster youth with work experience.

The matcha comes from a small family farm in Uji, Japan that has been growing organic matcha for over 1,000 years.

Despite the care and precision put into each tea and coffee, Reihani maintains that the mission of spreading kindness is always paramount.

"If you walk in and if you get the best cup of coffee you've ever had in your life and we didn't do anything else for you, for us it's a failure," said Reihani.

La La Land Kind Cafe is open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 1426 Montana Ave #1.

Clara@smdp.com

RECALL

FROM PAGE 1

Mike Bonin's history of broken promises, terrible and counter-productive public policy proposals, and unwillingness to listen or take action to represent the interests of the people and communities of the westside of Los Angeles have had devastating consequences," said the petition.

"The humanitarian crisis of the homeless population is growing exponentially. Tax payer money is squandered. Fires. Struggling local businesses. Crime is rampant and rising. Neighborhoods and schools are unsafe. We feel afraid to visit public beaches and community parks."

"After seven years of this self-serving incumbent career politician, we have had enough, and we can't wait any longer."

In a statement, Bonin said the recall campaign is an extravagant waste of taxpayer money and a thinly disguised attempt to derail his efforts to provide real solutions to the homelessness crisis. He said it's an example of a broader move to recall and silence strong progressive voices.

"A recall election, held right before regularly scheduled city elections, would be a waste of millions of dollars of taxpayer money — dollars that could be better invested in addressing our homelessness crisis and providing essential services to help families and improve neighborhoods," he said.

"This effort is encouraged, backed and fueled by people who have repeatedly fought to stop housing, shelter and services, perpetuating a crisis that is hurting our neighborhoods and leaving people to die on the streets."

Bonin said his recall has been championed and promoted by the same right-wing forces that are trying to erode the democratic process and take down progressive officials around the state. He said he would not be deterred in his efforts and would keep pushing for progressive change.

After the paperwork is verified, Recall Bonin 2021 would need to collect more than 27,000 valid signatures between July and early November. If that goes as expected, a presentation to recall will be made to the full Council mid December.

Councilmember Mike Bonin started putting fundraising mechanisms in place for the 2022 CD11 office last November and has already started fundraising for that race.

Bonin was first elected as the CD 11 councilmember in July 2013 and was reelected on July 1, 2017, with a term to expire on Dec. 11, 2022.

CD4 for CD4, a campaign committee formed last month, served Councilwoman Nithya Raman with a recall notice outside her Silver Lake home last Wednesday. On its website and elsewhere, the committee argued that Raman's office is inexperienced unresponsive and too politically radical for her constituents to endure a full four-year term.

Efforts are also underway to recall Los Angeles D.A. George Gascon as well as Governor Gavin Newsom.

A website for the recall can be found at www.recallbonin2021.com.



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



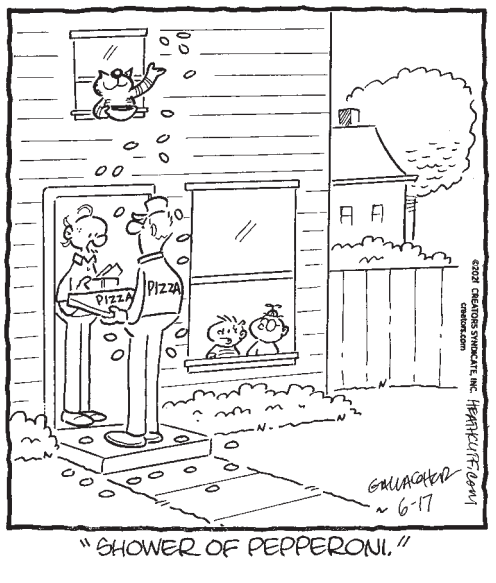
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



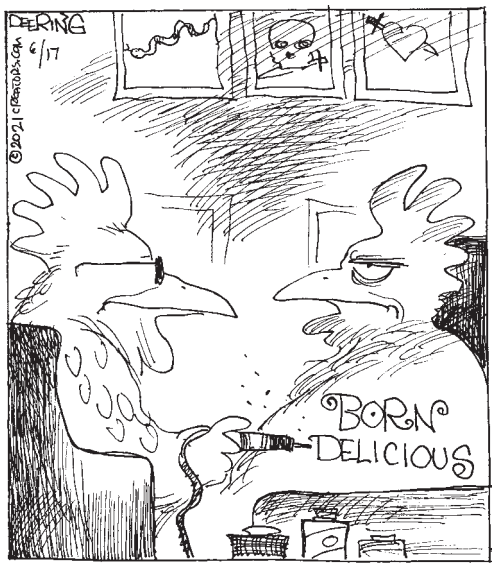
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 67.5°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
A little more SSW/S swell shows, blending with minor/fading NW swell. AM winds look light. Points should be rideable, especially for the big boards.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Modest SSW/S swell eases, minor/fading NW swell. AM winds look light. Points should be rideable, especially for the big boards.

WEATHER

Thursday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 72.
Thursday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 58.
Friday: Patchy dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/06/17	Thu	02:05 AM	4.32	H
2021/06/17	Thu	09:28 AM	0.37	L
2021/06/17	Thu	4:44 PM	4.24	H
2021/06/17	Thu	10:24 PM	2.53	L
2021/06/18	Fri	03:32 AM	3.88	H
2021/06/18	Fri	10:20 AM	0.66	L
2021/06/18	Fri	5:21 PM	4.73	H
2021/06/18	Fri	11:44 PM	1.79	L
2021/06/19	Sat	05:04 AM	3.62	H
2021/06/19	Sat	11:09 AM	0.95	L
2021/06/19	Sat	5:59 PM	5.30	H
2021/06/20	Sun	12:46 AM	0.91	L
2021/06/20	Sun	06:28 AM	3.56	H
2021/06/20	Sun	11:56 AM	1.24	L
2021/06/20	Sun	6:37 PM	5.88	H
2021/06/21	Mon	01:40 AM	0.03	L
2021/06/21	Mon	07:43 AM	3.63	H
2021/06/21	Mon	12:42 PM	1.51	L
2021/06/21	Mon	7:18 PM	6.41	H
2021/06/22	Tue	02:30 AM	-0.74	L
2021/06/22	Tue	08:45 AM	3.75	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/12
8 25 34 38 41
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 40 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/15
18 22 27 38 52
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 30 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 6/12
5 10 21 22 36
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 55 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/15
1 2 4 13 29

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/15
EVENING: 5 6 7
Draw Date: 6/15
MIDDAY: 5 7 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/15
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:47.77

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JUNE 17)

Though you're serious about making progress, you never lose your sense of humor – an essential part of your charismatic leadership. Qualities like loyalty and honor become increasingly relevant. Your commitment to a person or an ideal will define much of your year and in ways you'll always be proud of. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 30, 21, 14 and 2.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Nothing makes or breaks an experience like expectation. And assumption, the close cousin of expectation, outright changes your understanding of reality. This adventure goes better when you leave those kin at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A great accomplishment is earned in small gains. The steps you execute today will set you up for one of the more exceptional weekends you've had in a long while.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The path before you is being cleared. This isn't a lucky happening so much as payback for work you've done, relationships you've cultivated and favors you've so freely given in the past.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll model yourself after an admired person, aligning in superficial ways at first, and then on deeper levels such as communication style, work approach and attitude about life and relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your current circle of friends, loved ones and supporters help you in every way they know, and yet what you really want and need right now is still conspicuously missing. Time to widen the circle, broaden the search.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In full knowledge that an opportunity will not be here forever, you'll soak up every bit of its deliciousness while you have it. You're a smart cookie who realizes a good thing while it's yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are ways of knowing that fall outside the five senses that seem to be giving you lots of information now (arguably more than you're finding in the traditional ways), and the best part is that you can trust it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've had your share of fickle friends who only come out to play in the sun and leave you wanting and alone in the shadows of dreary weather. This is why, no matter what comes, you show up for your own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If what you feel is the downward tug of tethers, you'll also be presented with the option afforded by garden shears. It's so easy to build yourself up when there's nothing holding you down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Once upon a time, the answers were blowing in the wind. They may still be, but since people are not outside as much, check for answers trending on social media, too. Also, call a mom, and, just to be safe, check everywhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When in doubt, diversify. Seek advice, friendship and news from different sources. Make sure you're not getting your inspiration and influence all from one place, as that's a short ride to narrow-minded mistakes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Part of you wants to go back and reopen the old fight, check under the hood of a relationship or rehash a more dramatic bit of history. Yes, there's something juicy there, and it should be left back there, too!

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

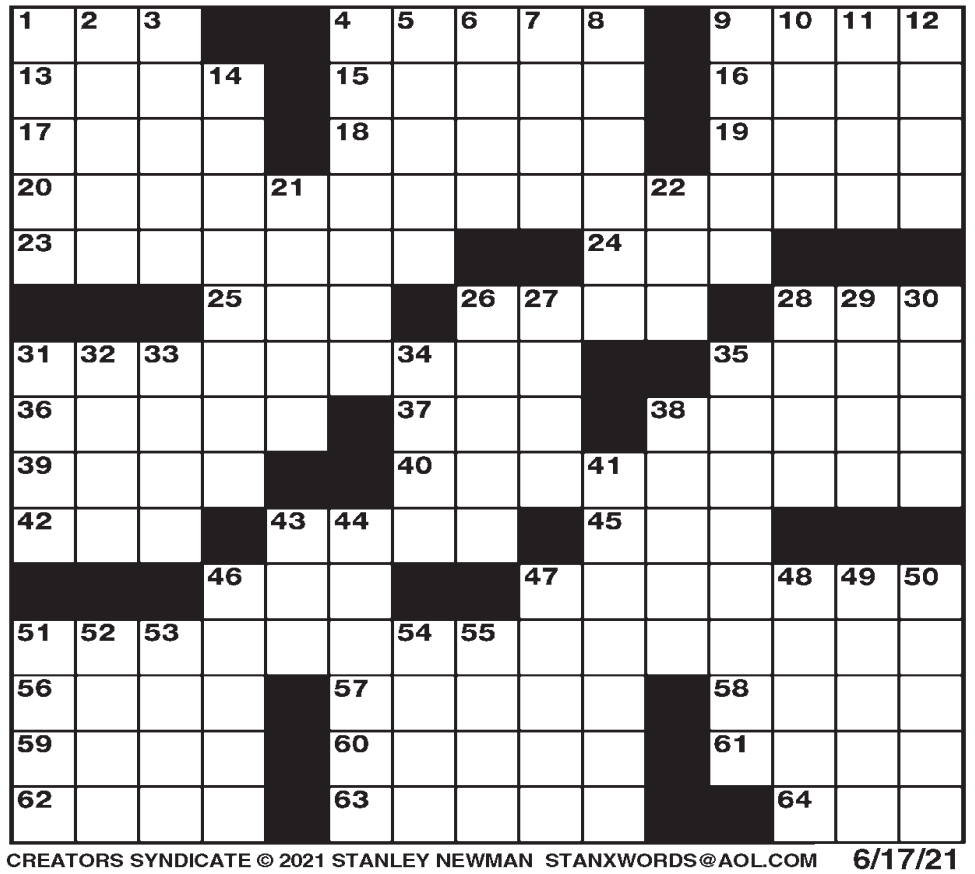
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	2			8			7	
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		4	7		2	1		
1		7		5				2
5			4		9	7		6
	6			3			2	
3		2	8				1	

Newsday Crossword

EGG SALAD by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Early hrs.
4 Have a cow
9 Lost traction
13 College major
15 __ a million (rare)
16 Camera setting
17 Succulent plant
18 Comic tribute
19 Don Juan's mother
20 "Go fry an egg!"
23 Soup extra
24 First responder
25 Noshed on
26 Voicemail sound
28 Wine label word
31 West Egg resident
35 *The Music Man* setting
36 In progress
37 Ripen
38 Bass notation
39 "Phooey!"
40 Color similar to robin's-egg blue
42 Poet's preposition
43 Rock singer Stefani
45 Large vase
46 Actress Thurman
47 Science specialty
51 Desserts with eggs
56 Laundry quantity
57 *Brideshead Revisited* author
58 Quit running
59 Alternative introducer
60 Match
61 Rubik of cubes
62 Does and bucks
63 Sends invitations for
64 Golf scorecard abbr.

DOWN
1 Collect
2 Nation south of Sicily
3 Milker's seat
4 Royal headwear
5 Make __ of (jot down)
6 Sister of Rachel
7 Strong gripper
8 Salad follower
9 Virtuous one
10 Air obtainer
11 Tabloid couple
12 Nap
14 Seven-sided figure
21 Tried to nip
22 Rapscallion
26 Pellet shooter
27 Vigilant one
28 Arias, for instance
29 Farm females
30 Spot for espresso
31 Green stone
32 Way off
33 Way back
34 Overfill
35 "You win"
38 Uproar
41 Brunch selections
43 Truck designation
44 Trumpet effect
46 Reporting to
47 Sire
48 Quite complicated
49 Make corrections to
50 Windows forerunner
51 Ran away
52 Performing gig
53 Alleviate
54 Shakespearean schemer
55 Mutts



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/17/21

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	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	O
I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	I
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I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O
O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	I
O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	O
I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I
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"The City of Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned, diligent news coverage." - Terry Francke, Journalist

Locally owned, and committed to local news reporting since 2001.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Bali day spa

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

Bars
Batik
Break
Clubs
Cuddle
Dance
Denpasar
Drink
Exercise
Frangipani
Hair
Healthy
Hotels
Improve
Island
Java
Kuta
Laugh
Lips
Masseur
Meditate
Muslim
Neck
Nerves
Pamper
Pets
Pura Tanah Lot
Quiet
Rain
Resort
Rice paddies
Space
Street food
Surf
Tai chi
Ubud
Uluwatu Temple
Yoga

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Amazing national parks

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Senators would stop 'micropolitan' label for 144 US cities

Some lawmakers are trying to stop 144 U.S. cities from losing their designations as "metropolitan areas" as the federal government updates its standards, doubling the minimum number of residents required in a city's urban core to 100,000 people.

Sens. John Thune, a Republican from South Dakota, and Mark Kelly, a Democrat from Arizona, introduced legislation on Tuesday that would stop the Office of Budget and Management from making the change.

Under the federal government's proposal, a metro area would need double the 50,000-person threshold that has been in place for the past 70 years in order to count as a metropolitan statistical area. Cities losing this status, with core populations of 50,000 to 99,000 people, would become "micropolitan" statistical areas instead.

More than a third of the current 392 metro areas would become micro areas, including state capitals such as Bismarck, N.D.; Carson City, Nevada; Cheyenne, Wyoming; and Santa Fe, New Mexico; as well as the college towns of Ames, Iowa; Auburn, Alabama; Charlottesville, Va.; Lawrence, Kansas; and State College, Pennsylvania.

The lawmakers said the downgrade would cause real harm, preventing urban areas from getting designated federal funding and making them less attractive for economic development.

"Increasing the population threshold that is needed to be considered a 'metropolitan statistical area' would adversely affect communities in nearly every state, including South Dakota," Thune said.

Federal statisticians recommending the change say it's long overdue, given that the U.S. population has more than doubled since the 50,000-person threshold was introduced in 1950. Back then, about half of U.S. residents lived in metros; now, 86% do.

The Office of Budget and Management hasn't said when it will make a final decision. If approved, it wouldn't take effect until 2023.

An agency spokesman didn't return an email or a phone call on Wednesday. The office has said the designation is purely for statistical purposes and not to be used for funding formulas, though as a practical matter, that is how it's often used.

MIKE SCHNEIDER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRUTHFULNESS

FROM PAGE 4

about my views on housing that people will not debate me, but instead try to spread misinformation and accusations about me in venues where I cannot respond. As this targeted harassment campaign continues, rent burden, housing scarcity, unaffordability, displacement, and homelessness are getting worse. These are the facts we should focus on as a community. If you wish to speak out to support housing in Santa Monica, please know that many support you, and that the NIMBY "Not in my Backyard" harassment doesn't speak for all.

Leonora Camner is Executive Director of Abundant Housing LA and member of the Santa Monica Housing Commission

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 6

wilds of Borneo years ago. Formal wedding with grass skirts all around, bones in noses. Far away, long ago, but he lived it. I saw photos.)

I received a note from a friend, a leader in the neighborhood, a sharp observer and effective activist. A smart cookie. But wait, there's more.

"When I was growing up, my main instrument was piano. But I also took violin lessons and played in orchestras from elementary school through four years in the USC Symphony Orchestra, where we performed symphonies and operas. Beethoven, Dvorak, Wagner.

"Classical training, at least in those days, did not include improvisation. Or playing 'by ear.' And most of us don't have perfect pitch, so we can't just sit down and play perfectly something we've heard only once, as many jazz musicians can, for instance.

"We were also taught to aim for perfection in our public performances. So, if you had asked me to sit in with a country band and play songs I didn't know, I would also have refused — not because I don't like country music or feel superior to musicians who play that style of music, but because I would have played badly.

"...that's my long winded defense of Michael Tree."

OK, I get it. Who knew this old friend had the background to school me in this? Anna Tree, and her late father Michael — I still wish that jam had taken place, but maybe I imputed rashly the reasons behind it. Too late for an apology?

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH — And learn something, too! If you're like me and you love learning about the minutiae of LA history, particularly through the lens of music, then you will want to check this out. Metro Art and Dublab partnered last year to create "Deep Routes," a special series of multimedia deep dives into musical subcultures of Los Angeles, their mission being to explore intersecting histories embedded into the streets, buildings, and neighborhoods of the city. Episode 5, "Silver Lake, Industrial Strength Queer," takes a historic look into 1980s 1990s Silver Lake and its former days as a very queer, adventurous, punk and provocative landscape. The show features music, interviews and firsthand accounts, and is hosted by Chris Cruse, nightlife organizer, DJ, and founder of QueerMaps.org, an interactive website documenting LGBTQIA+ locations throughout Los Angeles.

Listen to Deeper Routes here: https://www.dublab.com/schedule/88446/metro-art-amp-dublab-present-deep-routes-episode-5

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

Your column here

Juliana Espinosa Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Libraries Services for Santa Monica Residents Who Need It Most

Dear Santa Monica City Council,

I just read Ingha Chopra's letter to the editor in the Santa Monica Daily Press and felt compelled to write to the Santa Monica Daily Press. As a former Santa Monica resident, as well as a former library volunteer at the Fairview Branch, I was saddened to learn that the city of Santa Monica announced the defunding of the Santa Monica Public Library system.

As a current academic librarian and long-time supporter of public libraries, I understand how valuable library resources and services are for our community members. From January to October 2010, I served as a Resume Assistance Tutor at the Santa Monica Public Library Fairview Branch helping patrons who were unemployed, reentering the workforce, looking for career changes, or seeking better opportunities to provide for their family. These were individuals who relied on this critical library service and appointment slots were often booked weeks in advance. In affluent cities such as Santa Monica, it is easy to forget those who are not as wealthy as the average Santa Monica resident. During precarious times such as now, where millions of unemployed Americans are looking for jobs and children were out of traditional classroom settings for the past 15 months, I see a greater need to provide this and other library services to Santa Monica residents who need it most. Allocating funds to rehire talented public library employees and to bring back essential library services will allow the Santa Monica Public Library system to fulfill its mission to "provide resources, services, and a place to encourage the community to read, connect, relax, and learn".

Juliana Espinosa, former library volunteer and Santa Monica resident. Email save.sm.library@gmail.com or contact @SaveSMLibrary1 for more information.

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Services

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Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for Design-Build Services for the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Mental Health Outpatient Clinic (BRC0000277), will be received by the County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works, on July 19, 2021 by 4:00 p.m. A mandatory pre-submittal virtual conference will be held on June 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. To access RFP documents, visit the link at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/ or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-5114.6/17/21CNS-3478620#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

Help Wanted

Background Supervisor: Design the environments of scenes or episodes. 24 mos of exp req'd in Toon Boom Harmony, 3D Modeling, & Cintiq. Must be IATSE Local 839 member or willing to join. Resumes to Bento Box Entertainment LLC, Hiring mgr, 5161 Lankershim Blvd #120, North Hollywood, CA 91601. Please reference job code: CJ442M

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96TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP BOARD INSTALLATION

"Back to the Future"

Reconnecting Business and Community

June 23rd, 2021

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Registration Link:
https://members.smchamber.com/events/details/2021-22-board-installation-18533



Meet incoming 2021-22 Chair of the Board Michael Ricks! Currently, Michael serves as the chief executive of Providence Saint John's Health Center. He earned his Master of Health Administration degree at Washington University's School of Medicine and is a California native and an accomplished sportsman.

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