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On June 21.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 151 TUESDAY 6/18/24 smdp.com

School board has 'opportunity' to lead in cell phone debate

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Stakeholders within Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) are already looking towards next school year with a particular eye on districtwide cell phone use.

At the June 6 regular meeting of the SMMUSD Board of Education, several officials responded to the slew of emails sent in by parents concerned about student device use in the classroom, including SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton who brought up the email correspondence during his Superintendent's report. The emails were sent in by the group Santa Monica Parents for Slow Tech, who seek some form of cell phone prohibition policy from the board.

Parents for Slow Tech recently met at one parent's home to draft emails detailing what they would like to see of the board, as they feel cell phone use is impacting academic performance and social aptitude for a majority of grade levels. Typically thought of as a secondary school issue, Grant Elementary School parent Laura Gallant said that device use is beginning to creep onto Grant's school grounds as well.

"I am simply here to underscore the urgency regarding action around the adoption of a cell-phone free policy ... although phones are not typically prevalent until middle school, we are seeing the effects of device exposure in elementary schools, and it's clear that this issue requires a far more comprehensive resolution than what we are currently applying," Gallant said.

Another parent embracing the slow tech movement is Laura

SEE **PHONES** PAGE 6

Council votes not to proceed with an investigation into closed session leaks



Photo by Sienna Bevin

LEAKS: Santa Monica City Council has faced controversy with recent leaks of closed session information.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Last week's City Council meeting saved the most intense for last with discussion item 16c, a request made by Councilmembers Gleam Davis, Caroline Torosis and Jesse Zwick to direct the City Attorney to return with a proposal for both an investigation into recent leaks of confidential information disclosed during Closed Sessions and subsequent penalty for anyone caught doing it.

While Council ultimately made a unanimous decision, it only came after a fiery debate with dueling motions and some confusion over exactly what was being authorized.

The Brown Act allows municipalities to hold discussion outside the view of the public, typically including real estate negotiations, employee matters and conversation with attorneys regarding legal matters. These are known as Closed Session items on the agenda. The Act also allows council to disclose information above and beyond stipulated legal requirements, but doing so requires specific direction and vote of council. Any open discussion of the items talked about in closed sessions without prior authorization is a violation.

This is not the first time Council has faced this controversy and a leak investigation was discussed several years ago following the release of Rene Bobadilla's as the top choice for the then vacant City Manager position.

In response to more recent unidentified leaks, Councilmembers Gleam Davis, Caroline Torosis and Jesse Zwick had asked for the City Attorney to return with a proposal to ensure the City's ethics rules apply to Councilmembers, return with a proposal to initiate an

SEE **LEAK** PAGE 11

Undisclosed payments to Rent Control chair force revote on Justice for Renters act endorsement

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A previously unreported conflict of interest with Rent Control Chair Ericka Lesley has forced the Rent Control Board to revote on its endorsement of the Justice for Renters Act.

The redo occurred at the RCB's June 13 meeting and was described as correcting a procedural error by rescinding its February 8 approval and then re-approving its endorsement with a statement of disclosure and recusal from Chair Lesley.

"Due to my paid consultancy work with the Justice for Renters Act, I'll recuse myself from this item," said Lesley before leaving the dais.

California law prohibits individuals from voting on matters that involve their personal finances.

"A public official at any level of state or local government shall not make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use the public official's official position to influence a governmental decision in which the official knows or has reason to know the official has a financial interest," reads the Government Code.

Lesley not only voted for the endorsement in February but also co-presented the arguments for endorsement.

"We know homelessness is on the rise ... that's one of the things that's on a lot of people's minds," Lesley said at the time. "As rents increase across the United States, you see more and more people out on the

SEE **RCB** PAGE 8

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'Wouldn't be where I am today:' California's small business owners fight to save state aid



Photo by Juliana Yamada for CalMatters

BUSINESS: Owner Lina Mills speaks with customers outside of Creative Ideas Catering in San Francisco on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The governor's new proposed budget would cut more than half of the funding of California's Small Business Technical Assistance Program, which benefits small businesses like Creative Ideas Catering.

LEVI SUMAGAYSAY
Special to the Daily Press

Lina Mills recalls how she came to this country from Colombia at age 16 having never worked a day in her life.

Once she arrived, she found work in restaurants. "I had to provide for myself," Mills told CalMatters recently. "I basically ran from home."

She knew some English, learned more, and worked her way up to catering manager. Now, 36 years later, she owns two businesses in San Francisco.

She employed a dozen workers at Creative Ideas Catering and Creative Ideas Cafe but "had to send everybody home" during COVID lockdowns and the subsequent slowdown. She has since been able to rehire some — she is now back up to 10 workers and hopes to hire more. "I want to not just offer jobs to people who used to work for me — I'm trying to create more jobs."

Mills has relied on programs that help small business owners with financing, marketing, accounting and social media skills, which enabled her to participate in pop-ups for food takeout during the pandemic's height. Acknowledging the free aid she received from a Small Business Development Center and the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, she said "I have no idea what I'd do without them."

But such aid to small businesses is now in jeopardy across California. The Renaissance center, which receives some state funds through the Small Business Technical Assistance Program, could see a drop in funding because of the state's massive budget deficit. Since 2018, the program has supported centers that help under-resourced small businesses in low-wealth, rural and disaster-affected communities, and those owned by women, people of color and veterans. Now Gov. Gavin Newsom is proposing to slash the program's budget by 56%, or $13 million.

Mills recently testified urging state lawmakers not to cut funding for the program. Small business leaders and advocates traveled to the Capitol last week and among other things lobbied against the cuts. Last weekend, state legislators released their proposed budget, which rejects the governor's cuts to the program and restores its full annual $23 million funding.

The Legislature passed a placeholder budget Thursday. The governor and legislators are likely to wrestle over their budget priorities until the end of the month.

Alex Stack, spokesperson for the governor, told CalMatters that budget negotiations are ongoing and noted: "Gov. Newsom has invested billions of dollars in small business grants, tax relief, and other incentives over the past few years."

When Newsom presented his revised budget proposal in early May, the governor said "these are programs that I've long advanced, many of them. None of this is work you enjoy doing, but you have to do it. We have to balance the budget."

The staff of Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, the Encino Democrat who's chair of that chamber's budget committee, did not reply to questions about this specific program. The California Office of the Small

SEE **BUSINESS** PAGE 8

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Supreme Court could weaken environmental law used in California housing conflicts

DAN WALTERS

A plot of land where Interstate 5 crosses the American River in Sacramento was once occupied by the Rusty Duck and Hungry Hunter restaurants, but they've closed and their buildings have long been vacant.

Recently a developer acquired the property, proposed putting four new high-rise buildings with 826 apartments on it and won city staff approval.

Given its location next to a very busy freeway and the ramshackle condition of the existing structures, a new cluster of apartment high-rises close to downtown Sacramento would seem to be a perfect fit, which is what city staff concluded as they exempted the project from a detailed review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

However, the American River Association wants to block, or at last delay, approval. The group has appealed the city staff's findings and filed a lawsuit alleging the project would adversely affect wildlife habitat and create light and noise pollution.

It's a classic example how CEQA, which then-Gov. Ronald Reagan signed five decades ago, is often employed to hold up projects that would appear to have little or no real impact on the environment.

For years housing advocates have complained about CEQA's misuse, and the state's political leaders have only paid lip service to reforming it. Former Gov. Jerry Brown once termed an overhaul of CEQA as "the Lord's work" but declined to take on environmental and union groups that invoke it.

By happenstance, however, a new state Supreme Court ruling on a highly controversial housing project in Berkeley may move the needle on CEQA reform. That decision ended a three-year battle over a 1,200-unit student housing complex that the University of California wants to build on People's Park, the legendary site of civil rights and antiwar demonstrations in the 1960s.

Opponents of the project won an appellate court ruling that noise from student occupants was an environmental impact that had to be mitigated. There was an immediate media and political uproar because the ruling seemingly created a new weapon for the not-in-my-back-yard folks, or NIMBYs, who oppose almost any project.

Last year the Legislature intervened by passing legislation that "would specify that the effects of noise generated by project occupants and their guests on human beings is not a significant effect on the environment for residential projects for purposes of CEQA."

The legislation in effect overturned the appellate court ruling, thus making it easy for the Supreme Court to greenlight the project.

The Supreme Court's decision could have a much broader impact on the perennial debate over CEQA, according to Chris Elmendorf, a UC Davis law professor and expert on housing law.

Elmendorf posted a lengthy analysis on X, formerly known as Twitter, contending that it undercuts the long-standing notion that CEQA trumps other regulatory laws.

"Future generations may look back on today's decision in the UC Berkeley 'social noise is pollution?!' case as the turning point between Old CEQA and New CEQA," Elmendorf wrote. "Old CEQA emerged from CA Supreme Court cases in 1970s holding that CEQA must be broadly construed to give the 'fullest possible protection' to environment.

"The Court of Appeal relied on this maxim in holding that the 'social noise' of students is an environmental impact that must be studied and mitigated in context of a university housing project or long-range development plan.

"New CEQA is just an everyday statute, to be construed like other statutes. Be faithful to text, be reasonable, and heed the Legislature's signals.

"When it comes to housing, the era of CEQA as 'super-statute' is, I think, over," Elmendorf concluded.

It's not the comprehensive overhaul of CEQA that's been debated for years, but if Elmendorf's legal analysis is correct, the misuse of CEQA has suffered a major blow.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

TUESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 3-4ft
Waist to chest

Surf holds off mix of NW swell and SW/SSW swell. Morning winds look mainly light and there's a favorable tide push early AM.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 3-4ft
Waist to chest

Leftover SW swell and NW windswell mix on tap - it's slower than the start of the week but should be rideable on the early tide push. Will just want to keep an eye on the potential for lingering AM southerly wind.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 71.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 60.
Wednesday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72. East wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/06/18	Tue	02:20 AM	0.27		L
2024/06/18	Tue	08:39 AM	3.18		H
2024/06/18	Tue	12:50 PM	2.25		L
2024/06/18	Tue	7:30 PM	5.68		H
2024/06/19	Wed	02:56 AM	-0.23		L
2024/06/19	Wed	09:24 AM	3.30		H
2024/06/19	Wed	1:28 PM	2.37		L
2024/06/19	Wed	8:03 PM	5.99		H
2024/06/20	Thu	03:32 AM	-0.63		L
2024/06/20	Thu	10:05 AM	3.40		H
2024/06/20	Thu	2:07 PM	2.45		L
2024/06/20	Thu	8:38 PM	6.25		H
2024/06/21	Fri	04:10 AM	-0.93		L
2024/06/21	Fri	10:46 AM	3.47		H
2024/06/21	Fri	2:47 PM	2.48		L
2024/06/21	Fri	9:15 PM	6.44		H
2024/06/22	Sat	04:50 AM	-1.13		L
2024/06/22	Sat	11:28 AM	3.53		H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/15
4 36 48 54 56
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 44 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/14
1 25 26 31 65
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 61 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 6/15
6 8 12 24 31
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 45 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/16
10 12 14 16 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/16
EVENING: 2 0 5
Draw Date: 6/16
MIDDAY: 7 8 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/16
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:48.91

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Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

SMC Emeritus Art Gallery to Host Free Opening Reception for Ray McCray Art Exhibition June 27

The Santa Monica College (SMC) Emeritus Art Gallery presents a free exhibition of works by Los Angeles–based artist Ray McCray. The exhibition opens on June 27 and runs through Sept. 6 in the Emeritus Art Gallery at 1227 Second St.

The opening reception for the exhibit will be held on Thursday, June 27, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the gallery, located on the first floor of the SMC Emeritus Campus, 1227 Second St., in downtown Santa Monica. Parking is available next door in Santa Monica Public Parking Structure No. 2. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The exhibition and opening reception are free.

The opening reception — the first in-gallery reception since spring 2020 — will be hosted by Emeritus Associate Dean (interim) Guadalupe Salgado, and will feature Emeritus Gallery Curator Jesse Benson in conversation with the artist.

The powerful collection of works on display spans decades of production. Though punctuated by fascinating painting-based constructions, the exhibition is driven largely by McCray's incredible photo-collage investigations. Equal parts intricate and exuberant, the often 3-D or mixed media collages mine pop-cultural iconography, lifestyle and aesthetics mostly specific to Black American public identity.

SMC's widely praised Emeritus program — founded by Santa Monica College in 1975 as a noncredit program to serve the lifelong learning interests of older adults — offers more than 120 noncredit adult education classes and special programs that serve more than 3,000 students each year.

More information is available by visiting smc.edu/emeritusgallery or calling 310-434-4306. Exhibition and reception subject to change or cancellation without notice.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: 24ENT-0072 (Fence Wall Hedge Height Modification)
1125 Harvard Street
APPLICANT / PROPERTY OWNER: The Magallanes-Ghermezian Trust

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

The applicant requests approval of a height modification to allow a proposed 6' high hedge in front of an existing 3'-5" high wood fence along the front and side parcel lines around the front yard setback. The proposed hedge up to 6' in height exceeds the maximum allowable height of 42 inches in the front yard 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.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 AT 10:30 AM**

LOCATION: **City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa** Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 5:30 P.M. the day before the meeting will be distributed to the Zoning Administrator prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Zoning Administrator hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Liku Abera, Associate Planner**
Re: 24ENT-0072

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Liku Abera by e-mail at Liku.Abera@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided that the request is made with 72 hours of the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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) 458-2275.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

Last month, the U.S. House Agriculture Committee passed a Farm Bill that puts billions of vulnerable animals at further risk of cruelty and abuse. In the coming months, I hope Congress will course-correct and pass a final Farm Bill that better considers the welfare of our country's animals.

Per the Humane Society of the United States:

The Farm Bill, a legislative package the U.S. Congress approves every five years or so to govern agricultural and food programs, has the potential to instill animal welfare and sustainability into food practices for years to come. Instead, the 2024 Farm Bill just approved in the House Agriculture Committee would undo so much progress made for animal welfare, threaten public health and create a nightmare for countless animals.

Drafted under the leadership of House Agriculture Chair Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., the bill grants special favors to low-welfare pork producers, puppy millers and mink factory farmers. In a moment of great need for the country, Thompson has given a handout to some of the least reputable special-interest groups in American life.

We begin with Thompson's language to nullify Proposition 12, considered the nation's strongest law on farm animal welfare, and similar measures in other states. Proposition 12 is the groundbreaking ballot initiative that was voted into law by a wide margin and was later upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court after the pork industry lobby filed legal challenges. Producers who built their profitable businesses on cruel gestation crates—metal cages so small the pigs can't even turn around—don't feel like following consumer and marketplace demand for more humane approaches. So, they went to Thompson for a hall pass dictated by the National Pork Producers Council. Rather than ensuring a healthier and more humane food supply, this version of the Farm Bill works against the will of voters and state legislatures.

In the months leading up to this moment, it has been stunning to observe Thompson's utter disregard for the voices of family farmers, citizens and pork producers from around the nation. Those voices have included many from Pennsylvania, his home state, where the entire Democratic and Republican congressional delegations have either opposed or been silent on the need for a "fix" to Proposition 12 and laws like it. Whoever he's representing, it's not the people and responsible farmers of the Keystone State.

Of its several missteps, I am most concerned by the House bill's inclusion of language that could wipe out existing laws that ban the extreme confinement of farmed animals, many of which were passed by ballot initiative and approved directly by voters. This is a dangerous overreach of federal authority that further disadvantages America's independent farmers, consigns millions of animals to lifetimes of unfathomable suffering, and ignores the will of millions of voters who chose to enact these commonsense measures. The House bill also missed vital opportunities to permanently ban horse slaughter and fortify protections for the roughly quarter of a million dogs languishing in puppy mills.

Our country's animals deserve better. I implore my representative, Rep. Lieu as well as all the other California State Representatives, to vote against any version of the Farm Bill that contains language overturning state or federal animal welfare laws, and to fight for a bill that includes the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act and Goldie's Act. These pieces of legislation are critical to defending equines, dogs, and other animals against cruelty. As it stands, animals have so few protections in the world that we have created. Research has shown that animals are in fact, sentient beings. As such, they deserve dignity and a right to life. For the love of all that is holy – we treat murderers and rapists better than we treat the only truly innocent beings in this world! I beg of the readers to please take action and speak up for those who can't speak for themselves.

Kat Bylska, Los Angeles

Editor

In a city that has outlawed rodeos, banned the use of exotic animals for entertainment and shut down the pony rides at Griffith Park, it is time to end the abuse and exploitation of turtles at Brennan's bar in Marina del Rey.

For nearly half a century, the bar has been making money off racing turtles, parading them high in the air beneath bright lights and subjecting them to the earsplitting shouts and screams of boisterous, inebriated patrons. This "inhumane" treatment, notes Nicholas Geist, a turtle biologist at Sonoma State University, evokes a stress response with well documented deleterious effects on turtles' immune systems, growth and reproductive function.

Not everyone may perceive turtles as cuddly as kittens. But would you allow your kitten to be repeatedly subjected to this kind of frightening chaos?

Thanks to a campaign by In Defense of Animals (IDA), 11,700 concerned citizens have sent letters to Brennan's, urging an end to the racing. Local residents have staged several protests at the bar. But management refuses to meet with IDA to discuss alternative entertainment and sidesteps any discussion of turtle abuse when queried by media.

So it's up to us: Stay away from Brennan's turtle racing and tell the bar it's got to stop. Animals aren't toys for human amusement.

Alexandra Paul, Pacific Palisades

LIONS ROAR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions Club was happy to announce their community support grant recipients this past month. Each year we are proud to be to join with nonprofit partners that develop creative ideas to meet the ever-changing needs of the people they serve. Here are the projects we are happy to support this year.

Following the pandemic it has been hard to re-engage some seniors within the community, which is important for their mental and physical health. The Santa Monica YMCA has taken on this challenge by creating a welcoming place and providing a variety of activities to appeal to everyone, from board games, puzzles and books, to a Movie Club and health workshops. Keep checking their website for additional activities.

Step Up On Second continues to build on their food and nutrition program, meeting increased need at their four food pantry services are strategically located in Santa Monica, Hollywood, West LA Veteran Affairs Campus, and their dedicated drop-in center for young adults in Los Angeles. They have created many programs targeted to help unhoused individuals and families.

Education continues to be a priority for Lions. We supported two Santa Monica High School scholarships and one for Santa Monica College. After hours of reviewing 12 remarkable applicants, the two SAMO students we selected were Kara Best and Julian Bao, both with visions of how they can help create a brighter future. Kara's passion for political change and Julian's dedication to medical research will have considerable impact in their chosen fields. The Dot Gelvin SM college recipient we recognized was Maxwell Bull, whose strength and determination to attended college was inspiring and clear indication of his ability to be successful in medicine.

The Lion's project we chose to support is Lion's Camp Teresita Pines in Idyllwild, with a mission of providing "a beautiful mountain facility for group camping, emphasizing the needs of the disabled." Originally founded in 1929 as a Catholic girls camp, the Lions Clubs purchased it in 1995 and began updating and renovating the cabins, dining halls and pathways making our camp ADA accessible and allowing camp to be accessible to all regardless of disabilities.

It is because of the support we received from the Westside community we can provide funding for these projects. Thank you to everyone who supported our 100th Gala and is looking forward to our Pancake Breakfast returning this fall.

If you are looking for new ways to become a part of the Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades communities, come join us for a meeting as we plan our future fundraiser, social and volunteer events. Our next dinner meeting is Wednesday, July 10th, when we will be installing new officers and inducting new members. The meeting will be at 6:00 pm at the SM Elks Lodge. If you want to become a part of the exciting year ahead, please contact Kingsley at 310-454-2960 or smpplionsclub@gmail.com. You can also learn more about us from our Facebook, Instagram and website.

Thanks, Susan

Susan DeRemer



Courtesy photo

LIONS: (L-R) Kara Best, Co-President Kathy Boole, Mayor Phil Brock and Julian Bao recently celebrated scholarships earned by Best and Bao.

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PHONES

FROM PAGE 1

Kachergus, who told the Daily Press that the two "must-haves" of the group's emails were a school board policy banning the usage of cell phones during the school day, and to have said policy enacted before the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. Kachergus laid out three potential options for a policy: Students putting phones into shoe pouches or similar cubbies for the day, stashing the phone in a "phone locker" and using the magnetically lockable pouches like the Yondr brand.

"Those are three options right there, I'd love to see one of those," Kachergus added. "I'd love to see the school district just start even with an actual policy … at the middle and high school level (each) teacher just has to create their own policy. And so at the high school (level), different teachers have different things. Some have cubbies, some have a shoe pouch, some have nothing, some institute the policy every class (and) every time, some are only (enforcing) when we have tests and exams. Some (say), you know, I'm leaving this up to the students to regulate themselves."

While some school sites try their own methods, there is not a true-blue districtwide policy fit for modern devices, something Shelton said the board will work diligently to achieve over the coming months. The Superintendent announced that a "working group" will begin to formulate ideas for a policy in the fall, with the aim to have a recommendation for the school board by January 2025.

Though not on the timetable Parents for Slow Tech wished for, Shelton added that it is a "precarious situation" putting together a

> "I think it's important that we are all on the same page … we can't do anything in a silo"
> - Dr. Antonio Shelton, SMMUSD Superintendent

consultant group during the transition into the summer, and that said group should take its time collecting opinions from a wide range of stakeholders.

"I think it's important that we are all on the same page … we can't do anything in a silo," Shelton said. "Nothing can happen with just one group focused on something, but when you bring a community together, we can get something done. I want you to know that I, along with the members of our school board, understand the concerns regarding the impact of cell phone use at home, in our classrooms and on our campuses. The prevalence of cell phones in classrooms has become a prescient issue across the country."

Shelton went on to say that while cell phones can be "valuable" in some instances, a rise in student attention deficit and social anxiety tied to the devices is hard to ignore.

"These issues are contributing to increased stress, anxiety, depression in our students," Shelton stated. "Recognizing these challenges, district leaders and board members are committed to exploring effective strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of cell phones in our schools. This will require a collaboration of parents, teachers and school administrators in this important conversation."

Several school board members hopped into the conversation immediately, including suggestions by Laurie Lieberman and Maria Leon-Vasquez to ensure a wide range of communications on the issue and to bring students into the policy discussion.

Fellow board member Alicia Mignano, who attended the recent Parents for Slow Tech meeting alongside Board President Jennifer Smith, touched on the state politics piece of the issue as Assembly Bill 3216 works its way through the California State Senate. The bill would mandate that all school districts in the state adopt policies to "limit or prohibit use (of smartphones) by its pupils."

"There is a movement within the state to implement a policy, so we have the opportunity to be leaders, and to take this conversation before everyone else," Mignano said. "I think it's a great opportunity for our district … to get ahead of this and lead like we did when it comes to Ethnic Studies (graduation requirements)."

thomas@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Outdoor neighborhood concerts celebrating music set for June 21

Santa Monica will celebrate music-making on the summer solstice, June 21, with three free outdoor concerts, joining Make Music Los Angeles in encouraging the community to pick up an instrument and play.

Make Music Day is a global celebration of music observed in 800 cities across 110 countries on the summer solstice inspired by France's Fête de la Musique. The city of Santa Monica has participated in Make Music Los Angeles since its inception in 2012 and provides support to neighborhood associations to present outdoor concerts.

June 21 events in Santa Monica include:

Concert in Palisades Park presented by North of Montana Association, 5 - 8 p.m.

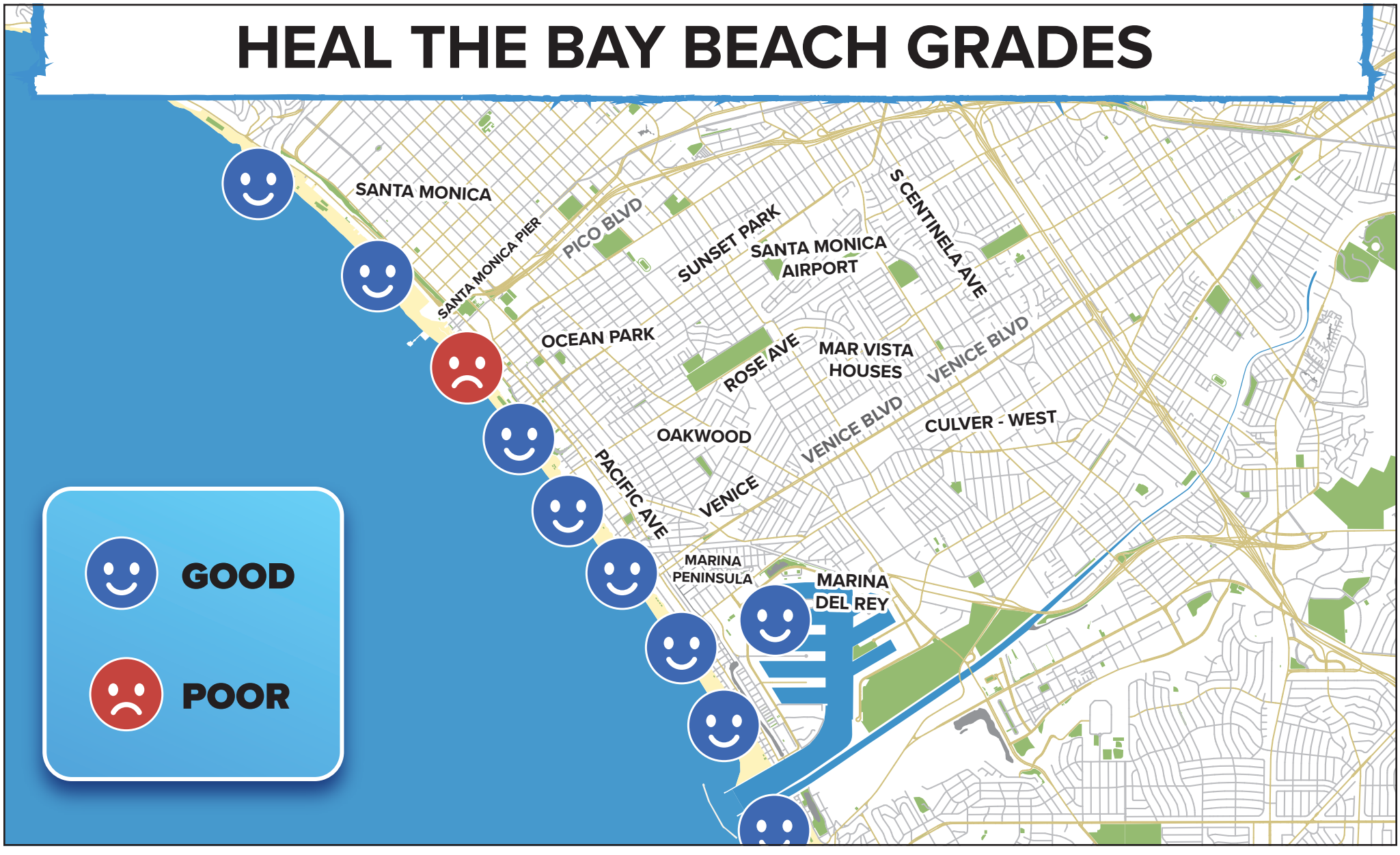
Concert in Colorado Center Park presented by Santa Monica Mid City Neighbors, 4 - 8 p.m.

Concert in Beach Park 1 presented by Ocean Park Association, 2 - 6 p.m.

In addition, Make Music Los Angeles invites everyone to pick up an instrument on June 21 and share in the joy of making music through online music lessons, national projects and a global livestream of events worldwide.

Learn ways to participate by visiting makemusicday.org.

SUBMITTED BY TATI SIMONIAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER



Bird flu is highly lethal to some animals, but not to others. Scientists wants to know why

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

In the last two years, bird flu has been blamed for the deaths of millions of wild and domestic birds worldwide. It's killed legions of seals and sea lions, wiped out mink farms, and dispatched cats, dogs, skunks, foxes and even a polar bear.

But it seems to have hardly touched people.

That's "a little bit of a head scratcher," although there are some likely explanations, said Richard Webby, a flu researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. It could have to do with how infection occurs or because species have differences in the microscopic docking points that flu viruses need to take root and multiply in cells, experts say.

But what keeps scientists awake at night is whether that situation will change.

"There's a lot we don't understand," said Dr. Tom Frieden, a former CDC director who currently heads Resolve to Save Lives, a not-for-profit that works to prevent epidemics. "I think we have to get over the 'hope for the best and bury our head in the sand' approach. Because it could be really bad."

Some researchers theorize that flu viruses that originated in birds were the precursors to terrible scourges in humans, including pandemics in 1918 and 1957. Those viruses became deadly human contagions and spread in animals and people.

A number of experts think it's unlikely this virus will become a deadly global contagion, based on current evidence. But that's not a sure bet.

Just in case, U.S. health officials are readying vaccines and making other preparations. But they are holding off on bolder steps because the virus isn't causing severe disease in people and they have no strong evidence it's spreading from person to person.

The flu that's currently spreading — known as H5N1 — was first identified in birds in 1959. It didn't really began to worry health officials until a Hong Kong outbreak in 1997 that involved severe human illnesses and deaths.

It has caused hundreds of deaths around the world, the vast majority of them involving direct contact between people and infected birds. When there was apparent spread between people, it involved very close and extended contact within households.

Like other viruses, however, the H5N1 virus has mutated over time. In the last few years, one particular strain has spread alarmingly quickly and widely.

In the United States, animal outbreaks have been reported at dozens of dairy cow farms and more than 1,000 poultry flocks, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Four human infections have been reported among the hundreds of thousands of people who work at U.S. poultry and dairy farms, though that may be an undercount.

Worldwide, doctors have detected 15 human infections caused by the widely circulating bird flu strain. The count includes one death — a 38-year-old woman in southern China in 2022 — but most people had either no symptoms or only mild ones, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There's no way to know how many animals have been infected, but certain creatures seem to be getting more severe illnesses.

Take cats, for example. Flu is commonly thought of as a disease of the lungs, but the virus can attack and multiply in other parts of the body too. In cats, scientists have found the virus attacking the brain, damaging and clotting blood vessels and causing seizures and death.

Similarly gruesome deaths have been reported in other animals, including foxes that ate dead, infected birds.

The flu strain's ability to lodge in the brain and nervous system is one possible reason for "higher mortality rate in some species," said Amy Baker, an Iowa-based U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist who studies bird flu in animals. But scientists "just don't know what the properties of the virus or the properties of the host are that are leading to these differences," Baker said.

Unlike cats, cows have been largely spared. Illnesses have been reported in less than 10% of the cows in affected dairy herds, according to the USDA. Those that did develop symptoms experienced fever, lethargy, decreased appetite and increased respiratory secretions.

Cow infections largely have been concentrated in the udders of lactating animals. Researchers investigating cat deaths at dairy farms with infected cows concluded the felines caught the virus from drinking raw milk.

Researchers are still sorting out how the virus has been spreading from cow to cow, but studies suggest the main route of exposure is not the kind of airborne droplets associated with coughing and sneezing. Instead it's thought to be direct contact, perhaps through shared milking equipment or spread by the workers who milk them.

Then there's the issue of susceptibility. Flu virus need to be able to latch onto cells before they can invade them.

"If it doesn't get into a cell, nothing happens. ... The virus just swims around," explained Juergen Richt, a researcher at Kansas State University.

But those docking spots — sialic acid receptors — aren't found uniformly throughout the body, and differ among species. One recent study documented the presence of bird flu-friendly receptors in dairy cattle mammary glands.

Eye redness has been a common symptom among people infected by the current bird flu strain. People who milk cows are eye level with the udders, and splashes are common. Some scientists also note that the human eye has receptors that the virus can bind to.

A study published this month found ferrets infected in the eyes ended up dying, as the researchers demonstrated that the virus could be as deadly entering through the eyes as through the respiratory tract.

Why didn't the same happen in the U.S. farmworkers?

SEE **BIRD FLU** PAGE 8

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: # 411 GIS Managed Services

- **Submission Deadline is July 19, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.



RCB

FROM PAGE 1

streets. [To] decrease this is something that I think we all need to endorse and get behind."

The Justice for Renters Act serves as California voters' third chance to expand rent control rules statewide, appealing the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995 which puts limitations on local regulations. Current rules prevent cities from limiting rents between tenants (allowing the units to hit market rate when a new tenant moves in), and prevents establishing rent control on any unit first occupied after Feb. 1, 1995, in single family homes or condominiums.

The measure would prohibit the state from limiting the rights of cities and counties across California from maintaining, enacting or expanding residential rent control ordinances. Though similar propositions, Prop. 10 in 2018 and Prop. 21 in 2020, have failed public votes, proponents said they feel like they're "in a better climate now" for Justice for Renters to gain support.

During the repeat endorsement, the Commissioners reiterated their support for the measure citing many of the same reasons identified in February.

"I strongly support the Justice Act," said Boardmember Danny Ivanov. "This would bring rent control back under local control where it belongs. As I mentioned the last time we voted on this item, our city council … has also voted in favor of a resolution to support the just for renters act. But they were not unanimous in their decision."

Council backed the provision last year. Councilmembers Gleam Davis, Lana Negrete, Caroline Torosis and Jesse Zwick all voted in favor. Both Councilmembers Phil Brock and Oscar de la Torre abstained and Councilmember Christine Parra was the only vote against.

editor@smdp.com

BIRD FLU

FROM PAGE 7

That's a hard one to answer, experts said. Perhaps people have some level of immunity, due to past exposure to other forms of flu or to vaccinations, Richt suggested.

A more menacing question: What happens if the virus mutates in a way that makes it more lethal to people or allows it to spread more easily?

Pigs are a concern because they are considered ideal mixing vessels for bird flu to potentially combine with other flu viruses to create something more dangerous. Baker has been studying the current strain in pigs and found it can replicate in the lungs, but the disease is very mild.

But that could all change, which is why there's a push in the scientific community to ramp up animal testing.

Frieden, of Resolve to Save Lives, noted public health experts have been worried about a deadly new flu pandemic for a long time.

"The only thing predictable about influenza is it's unpredictable," he said.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

BUSINESS

FROM PAGE 2

Business Advocate, which administers it, said it had no comment.

If the program's funding is cut by more than half, it could "affect 75,000 small businesses per year that contribute to the state's tax base," said Catalina Martinez, chief executive of CAMEO Network, a small business advocacy group.

More than 90% of California businesses employ fewer than 10 employees, and 7% of the state's businesses have 20 to 100 employees, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

"Capital alone is not enough," Martinez said, adding that small business owners need "clear business plans and a clear idea of their value proposition — things that are going to allow them to succeed and grow." Small business development centers and other organizations can help owners with that, which Martinez said is important for first-generation entrepreneurs and immigrants "who may not have the networks and expertise" they need.

Ernesto Delgado is among the entrepreneurs singing the praises of the state's technical assistance program and other small business programs.

"I was able to speak directly to accountants, legal, HR," Delgado said. "I didn't have to pay for them. I couldn't afford them." Those professionals helped him see the importance of creating an "evolving business plan," he said.

He started off with one restaurant and now owns six in the Sacramento area, which during peak times employ about 150 workers, he said. Delgado said attending a Small Business Administration course for emerging leaders set him on a path to management and entrepreneurship classes, then culinary school.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without some of these programs and connections through my relationship-building," said Delgado, whose restaurants include Mayahuel, his first, and Octopus Peru, one of his newest. "I don't think I would've made it through COVID."

Farther down the state is a different type of example of the impact of that technical assistance. A San Diego restaurant owner, Rodnia Attiq, is counting on the help she received from APEX Accelerators, a small business accelerator that focuses on government contracts, to land a big client: the U.S. Coast Guard, which is seeking a small business to serve food seven days a week at its station in San Diego.

For El Borrego, which specializes in lamb tacos and is a family-owned business with nine people on the payroll, applying for a government contract was no joke, Attiq said.

"You have no idea how hard it was," she said, adding that even with the help of APEX, which gets some funding from the state technical assistance program, completing the 140-page proposal took "10 days, nonstop, till 11 p.m. or midnight."

But she felt all the hard work was necessary. "Everything is changing for the restaurant business," she said. "It's not easy. You have to look for all ways to keep in business."

Now, Attiq is waiting to hear whether she won the contract. She's optimistic: "I already have my route worked out, and what time I'm going to wake up."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



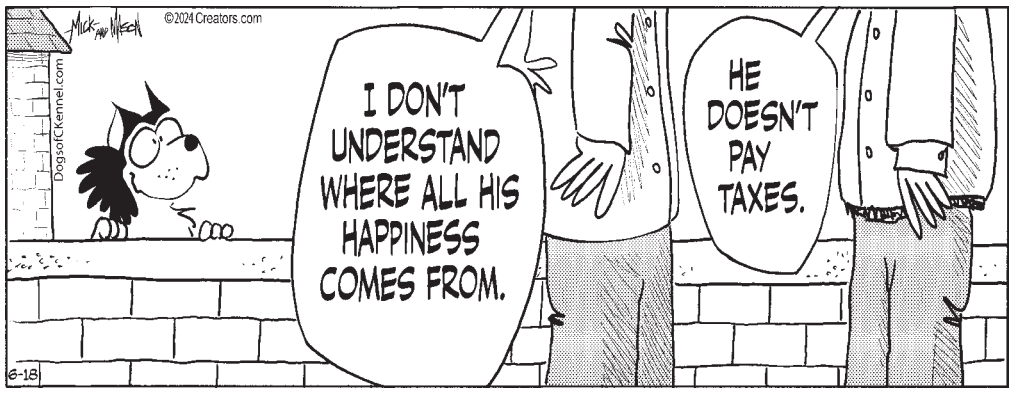
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



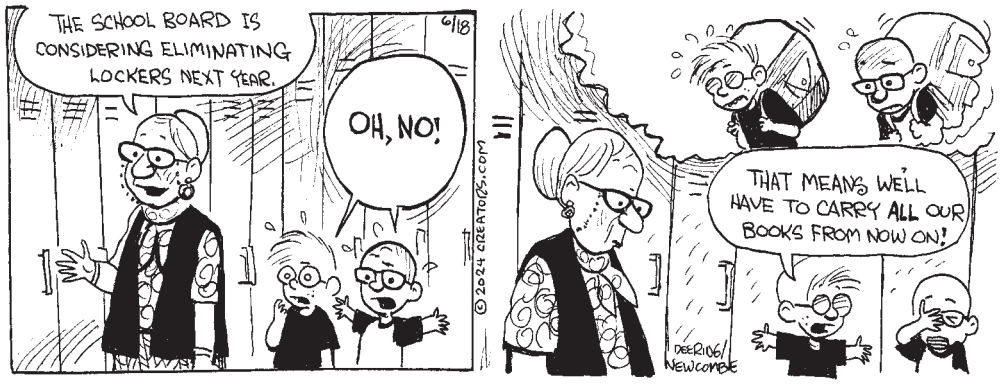
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



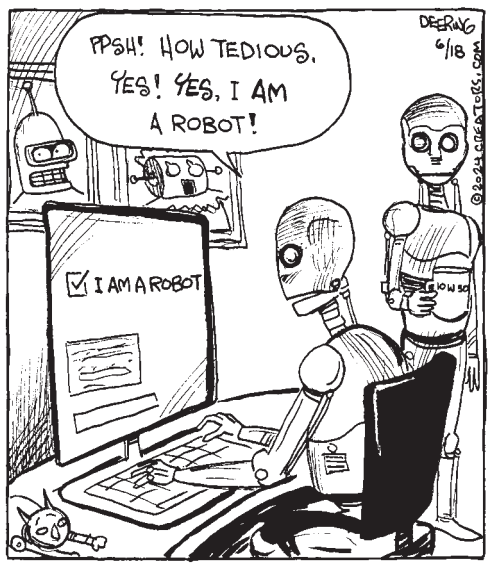
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6245

Beautiful one day...

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

Alba
Alpha
Alva
Atoll
Balmy
Bays
Beach
Beef
Boat
Bowen
Brampton
Cardwell
Coal
Cove
Dawn
Drink
Dysart
Ecosystem
Eulo
Fine
Fish
Free
Get wet
Giru
Hayman
Hazy
Heat
Hook
Ideal
Lagoon
Lawes
Laze
Long
Motel
Nambour
Natural
Nebo
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 18)

It's your most prolific and productive year to date; tight plans become beautiful experiences. More highlights: You'll discover the power of your voice, get clear on your message and sharpen your ideas. Everything aligns to communicate and inspire. You'll be appreciated, adored and publicized. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 18, 32, 12 and 8.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Those who are unwilling to tolerate what they don't like will miss out on the main growth opportunity of the day, which has to do with accepting how things are until the time when they can be changed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Without a goal, how will you know if you score? You won't, and that's the point. Rather, the point is that it's good to do pointless things sometimes, if only to remind yourself that living is its own prize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be praised. You may think the props are unwarranted, as you're not doing anything you would consider grand, rather you're just showing up to do what you said you'd do. Nonetheless, you'll help many by merely promising small and delivering on it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Social stars are on the rise. Being well matched is about sharing a range of comfortable topics and intensities, values and vibes. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the way humor presents and plays.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When things didn't go your way, you came at the problem from a different side, reconfigured the scene and ultimately created such vast improvement that you were grateful for the instigating incident. History is about to repeat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Reconnecting with loved ones can strengthen your support network and enrich your life. It can also irritate you to no end and remind you why you lost touch. So you're judicious, and you often opt to meet new people instead of scrolling through contacts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When your fine taste gives you expensive appetites, you feel it's a burden. But today, your taste will be a boon, as it shows you an affordable path to the kind of style and experiences that money can't buy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're more concerned with being warm than cool, but somehow today you'll manage to achieve both at once. People want to be like you, they want to be around you, and they want to belong to whatever you ascribe to.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll get specific about what you want and need because the typical answers are so ubiquitous that they no longer mean anything to you. What would be good for you is different from what would be good for someone else.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It is possible for your body and mind to experience fear-like symptoms and your spirit to, nonetheless, be fearless. This is the warrior dynamic that kicks in when you know you're fighting for the right thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You like to feel you've earned everything that comes to you. Don't be too literal about it today. Be open to receiving. If you haven't technically earned it yet, don't worry, you will. You wouldn't be tapped in unless someone thought you were ready.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Tighten the plan. Leave little to chance. Openings invite chaotic elements to drop in. Keep the inside information on the inside. If you're not sure about a move, wait. Do nothing and there will be nothing to undo.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

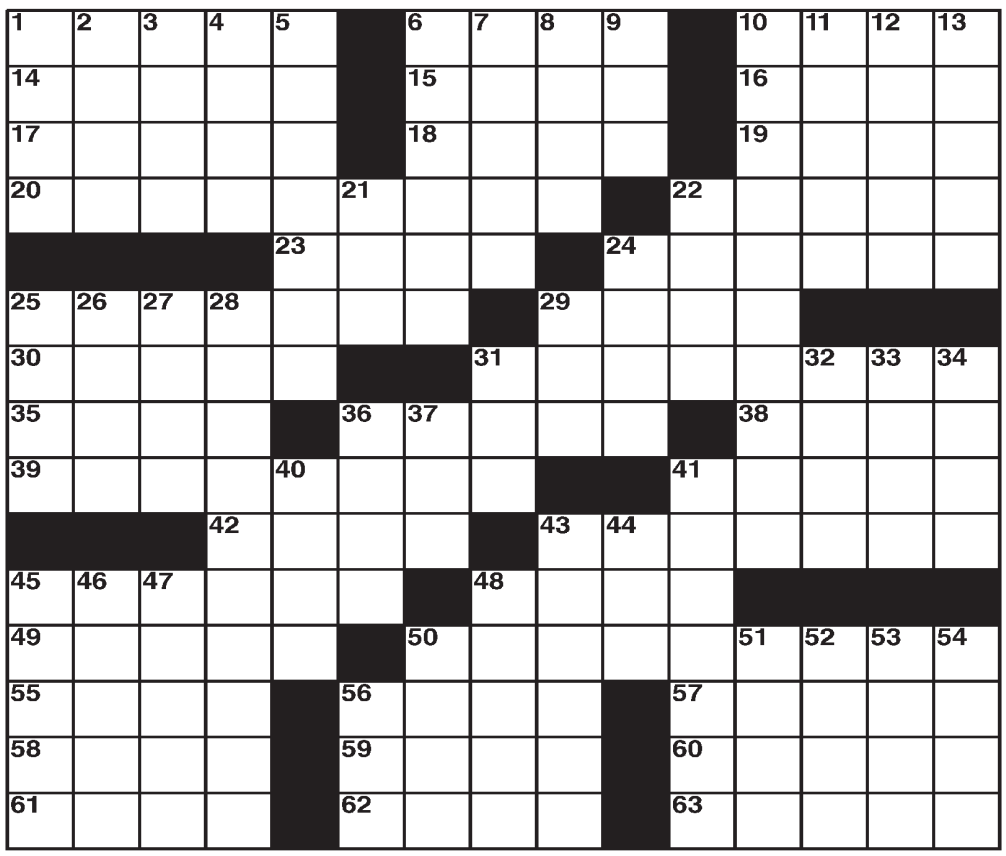
LET'S PLAY CARDS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Comes down in a blizzard
6 Spherical hairdo
10 Arrest, slangily
14 Ocean reef material
15 Hoofbeat sound
16 Castaway's spot
17 Stand up
18 Remove from power
19 Twosomes
20 Generous people's natures
22 Adjust to something new
23 Climbing plant
24 ":-)" as a happy-face symbol
25 Makes a swap
29 Feline that roars
30 Sandwich cookies
31 Shade that slate is
35 Lunch or dinner
36 Greatly impressed
38 Champagne or Cabernet
39 Place for a formal dance
41 Spaghetti or ravioli
42 __ over backwards (try hard)
43 Person avoiding work
45 Helpings after seconds
48 Perfume bottle
49 AM/FM device
50 Eli Whitney's crop-gathering invention
55 Pre-owned
56 Grain storage tower
57 Make fun of
58 Male deer
59 Caesar's rebuke
60 Bother greatly
61 The "T" in TV
62 Toward the setting sun
63 Wedding gown, for example

DOWN

1 Natural bandage
2 "Me neither"
3 Not a photocopy: Abbr.
4 Launder
5 Arms of jackets
6 Seeds of oak trees
7 High-pitched woodwind
8 Betsy of flag fame
9 __ for (choose)
10 Intense auction competition
11 Customary
12 Sledding spot
13 In a crabby mood
21 What fills a basketball
22 Run __ (go wild)
24 Kingly title
25 Flop of a film
26 Carpet measure
27 Genuine
28 River crossing with a fee
29 Attorney's field
31 River barrier
32 Take a chance with
33 Pay to play poker
34 Twelve months
36 Atoms with a charge
37 Head-moving approval
40 Start over with
41 Steered, as a plane
43 Don't take part in
44 Derby or beret
45 Have faith in
46 Undue speed
47 Best imaginable
48 Battery measures
50 Give as an example
51 Get closer to
52 Fence's entryway
53 "A miss __ good..."
54 Tennis court dividers
56 Stitch together



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06/18/24

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LEAK

FROM PAGE 1

investigation into recent leaks of confidential information disclosed in Closed Session and return with one or more proposals to impose penalties on Councilmembers and staff who inappropriately leak confidential information out of Closed Session.

"In discussing this matter with the City Attorney, I was informed that although the City has ethics rules that apply to each of its employees, those six rules do not apply to councilmembers. And I believe that the city attorney has actually drafted a proposal he can bring back to have the city's ethical rules apply not only to employees, but to council members," Davis said.

Councilmember Christine Parra, who very much led the charge for not conducting an investigation from the outset, inquired as to how much such an investigation might cost. "I think last time we went through this exercise, the estimates were approximately $150,000 to $200,000, which coincidentally is the same amount of money to fully fund a police officer salary for a year," she said.

"Integrity at some level has some cost to it," Davis responded, adding, "If we're having people violate the Brown Act, we need to at least contemplate the idea of doing an investigation to find out who is doing that." She postulated that the cost would probably come from the general fund, but that would be clarified once the City had returned with a proposal.

Doug Sloan, City Attorney stated that there are state law consequences for such a violation that could potentially lead to criminal action, an injunction and having to pay attorneys fees, but the city has to initiate an investigation before anything else applies.

Parra reiterated that while it's "paramount" that any confidential information discussed in closed session not be discussed openly, however, she also reminded everyone in chambers that it is an election year.

"You know, as this is an election year, there's no surprise to this agenda item, [it's] a waste of taxpayers dollars and resources," she said. "It's also paramount that established council rules are followed to ensure good governance and transparency. However some on Council feel those rules don't apply to them as evidenced by habitual violations.

"Without a doubt leaking closed session confidential information is unacceptable. Without a doubt. However, weaponizing the city attorney's office for political gain is absolutely disgusting," she said.

She cited an incident where recently, there was a city council candidate debate by the Democratic Club and this very topic was one of the questions to the candidates but this particular 16 item had not been released on the agenda yet.

"While I may be making assumptions, this is not the first time that we've seen the liberal minority use this body for political gain," she said. "Why don't we direct the city attorney's office to bypass the investigation and come back with a proposal on how to handle future violations and what the remedy would be if we're truly committed to truth and justice. But let's just fix the process."

The heated discussion continued, largely between Parra and Davis. Zwick interjected that penalties did in fact exist, so all that was remaining was to pinpoint exactly who was committing the violation, but again Parra insisted that this was akin to a witch hunt.

Parra made a motion directing the City to prepare a proposal on how to revise council rules to include penalties for habitual offenses and a proposal on how to handle repeat offenses. However, her motion did not include any investigation of leaks that have already occurred.

Sloan said that he had in fact drafted something along these lines approximately 18 months ago, so he offered to include that in the proposal. Tempers began to fray as confusion erupted over what exactly was being voted on. Parra's idea was rejected without a vote and a substitute motion was made with adjustments that included researching the cost and feasibility of an actual investigation. However, this too was rejected with a tied vote of 3-3 along political lines. (Councilmember Oscar de la Torre was absent.)

Ultimately, the motion that was carried by a unanimous 6-0 vote was made by Davis and seconded by Zwick and breaks down as follows:

- Direct the City Attorney to return with a proposal to ensure the City's ethics rules apply to Councilmembers.
- Direct the City Attorney to return with a proposal on how to handle future confirmed leaks of information from closed sessions and what the remedy would be.
- Direct the city attorney to return with a proposal on how to revise council rules to include discipline or penalties for habitual offenses.
- Direct the City Attorney to return with a proposal on how to handle repeat Brown Act offenses to include discipline or penalties.

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TUESDAY JUNE 18

TUESDAY TALES: A TRAVELING STORYTIME
Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 10:30 a.m. This engaging & fun weekly series of stories, songs and rhymes travels to different library locations. Limited space; free tickets available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2-5.

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal and Medicare. For questions, you can make an appointment by calling 310.458.8688. Drop-ins are also welcome.

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
7 p.m. This community-led, monthly book discussion group currently meets online/virtually via Zoom. To register, email library@santamonica.gov.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC
Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with housing issues. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp.

PLANNING COMMISSION
City Hall, 1685 Main Street, 6 p.m. Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning.

RAFAEL PONDE & THE BRAZILIAN REGGAE EXPERIENCE
The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, 8 p.m. $15. This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund.

THURSDAY JUNE 20

AUTHOR TALK WITH TIFFANY JEWELL
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join organizers as #1 New York Times bestselling author Tiffany Jewell highlights the inequities Black and Brown students face from preschool through college as she presents lessons and knowledge from her new book Everything I Learned About Racism I Learned in School. From preschool to higher education and everything in between, Everything I Learned About Racism I Learned in School focuses on the experiences Black and Brown students face as a direct result of the racism built into schools across the United States. Vree Virtual event. Register at https://libraryc.org/smclibrary/49316/register.

TECH & TASKS
2 - 4 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes, and more.

SUMMER SOLSTICE AT THE 19TH STREET COMMUNITY FARM
5 - 7 p.m. Join organizers as they celebrate the longest day of the year by creating rock art on the site of the soon to be constructed 19th Street Community Farm and Wellness Center. The rocks so beautifully designed will be included in the site once construction has commenced. Maybe a note of peace, a sign of love or paying heed to the communities that have preceded our presence. This event is Free and Open to the Public.

DRAG BINGO! WITH THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE - SOCIAL & FUNDRAISER
5:30 - 9 p.m. Solidarity, 1414 Lincoln Boulevard
Get ready for a fabulous night of Drag Bingo with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence - it's gonna be a blast! All proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the Trans Equity Scholarship Fund which has helped dozens of trans and gender non-conforming people cover the high cost of completing their name and gender marker change with the State. $20 gets you a bingo card and the chance to play 10 games of bingo and win one of our fabulous gift card prizes. $50 gets you 3 cards and 3 chances to win. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drag-bingo-with-the-sisters-of-perpetual-indulgence-social-fundraiser-tickets-910995200167.

SANTA MONICA SUMMER SOLSTICE POTLUCK
6 - 8 p.m. The Ambrose Hotel Santa Monica, 1255 20th Street. Join organizers for a magical evening with an intimate communal dinner celebrating the start of summer to benefit Heal the Bay! Start the summer off with a magical evening of food and wine at The Ambrose Hotel, benefiting the Santa Monica Community. Discover Santa Monica's culinary bounty with delicious dishes from neighborhood staples, and of course, California wines to pair. $20. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/santa-monica-summer-solstice-potluck-tickets-917468271297.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and Director of Community Services in all matters pertaining to public recreation including playgrounds, music and entertainment. The Commission will consider the budget of the Community and Cultural Services Department and make recommendations to the City Manager and the City Council. The Commission will also assist in the planning and promotion of a recreation program for residents and solicit the cooperation of school authorities and other public and private agencies.


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