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2020 MOST LOVED Santa Monica
MOST LOVED
Businesses Guide Inside!

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY
08.20.20
Volume 19 Issue 233

Union Dues
May not be worth it.
Page 4

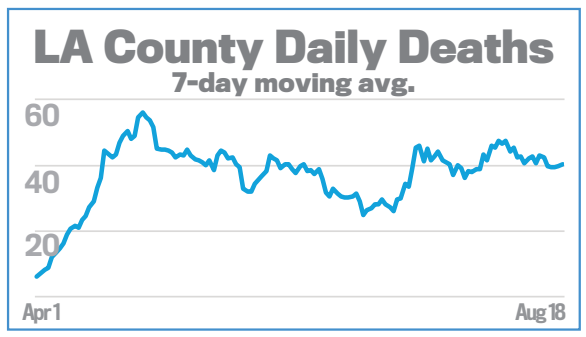
Movie Review
Boys State is online now.
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CORONAVIRUS CASES per 100,000

SANTA MONICA	LA COUNTY	CALIFORNIA	USA	WORLDWIDE
776	2,235	1,621	1,707	286

SMDP Graphic - Data from Johns Hopkins, WHO, LA County Public Health



Samohi orchestra director retires after 17 showstopping years

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Joni Swenson, who has been the orchestra director at Samohi for 17 years, announced she is retiring this fall. Beloved by students, parents, and teachers alike, Swenson helped bring the Santa Monica High School symphony orchestra to concerts across the world.

"Words cannot express my respect for Joni Swenson as an outstanding music educator, director, conductor, friend and inspiration to thousands of students who were lucky enough to call her their teacher," said Tom Whaley, the Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator, in a letter to the Samohi community. "I didn't know it would be possible, but somehow she surpassed my wildest dreams of what the Samohi orchestra program could be when she was hired in 2002."

Swenson was an industrious director and added three orchestras and a second orchestra director to the Samohi music program during her career. She was so dedicated

SEE **JONI SWENSON** PAGE 5



Courtesy photo

RETIRE: Joni Swenson will step away from the Samohi music program.

Most Loved Winners announced

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

Santa Monica's favorite businesses have been revealed with the delayed, but not diminished, publication of the annual Most Loved guide.

The contest began in 2014 as a partnership between Santa Monica's Buy Local Committee, the Daily Press, the City of Santa Monica and several business districts to recognize businesses that build community. During February, businesses competed in 34 categories as part of the seventh iteration of the contest.

Winners are traditionally announced in May with an awards ceremony and public recognition of the winning businesses. However, the broader problems of 2020 put a damper on the event but officials said it's more important than ever to keep the tradition alive.

"We are delighted to be able to, at long last, announce the winners of this year's Most Loved Santa Monica Businesses of 2020 contest," said Santa Monica's Economic

SEE **WINNERS** PAGE 5

CVRA plaintiffs ask for California Supreme Court review

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

The Pico Neighborhood Association has asked the California Supreme Court to review its case against the City of Santa Monica following an appeal court ruling that upheld the city's at-large voting system.

The city was sued by the Pico Neighborhood Association & Maria Loya alleging the at-large system discriminated against Latino residents. The plaintiffs filed a California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) lawsuit and initially won the case. However the city appealed and a three judge panel ruled in the City's favor in July.

Following the mandatory waiting period, the plaintiffs submitted their request for review to the California Supreme Court citing two issues.

In his filing, attorney Kevin Shenkman said the appeal court ruling would fundamentally contradict a provision of the California Voting Rights Act and that the court used an improper process for making its decision.

Shenkman states the CVRA does not require a majority-minority district and that the Court of

SEE **CVRA** PAGE 3

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DINNER NIGHTLY
HAPPY HOUR
WEEKEND BRUNCH

Obama, in scathing Trump rebuke, warns democracy on the line

JULIE PACE
AP Washington Bureau Chief

Barack Obama will issue a blistering rebuke of President Donald Trump in Wednesday's Democratic Party convention, accusing his successor of unleashing America's "worst impulses" and treating the presidency as a reality show "to get the attention he craves."

In excerpts released ahead of his address, the former president also puts the stakes in the November election in stark terms, warning that the future of American democracy is on the line in the race between Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

"I am also asking you to believe in your own ability — to embrace your own responsibility as citizens — to make sure that the basic tenets of our democracy endure," Obama says in the excerpts. He will be speak live Wednesday night from Philadelphia's Museum of the American Revolution, ahead of Kamala Harris, Biden's running mate — the nation's first Black president handing off to the first Black woman on a major party presidential ticket.

Even in the heat of campaigns, former presidents are typically more restrained than other politicians in their criticisms of a sitting president. Yet Obama's remarks — his most personal and direct critique of Trump yet — reveal the 44th president's striking disregard for the nation's current commander in chief. He says that while he hoped Trump might come to take the presidency seriously, he now believes he is simply incapable of doing so.

Obama's headlining role at the convention is aimed in part at galvanizing younger, more liberal voters who may not have a natural affinity for the 77-year-old Biden, a career politician with a more moderate record. Democrats see Obama as a bridge to those voters, someone who can speak both to Biden's character and to the urgency of progressives pushing for more sweeping change to the nation's economic and domestic policies.

"He is an incomparable witness for Biden," David Axelrod, a longtime Obama political adviser. "But he also speaks compellingly to young people restless not just to purge Trump, but to achieve real, meaningful change."

Obama forged a close personal relationship with Biden during their eight years together in the White House and has been a sounding board for him throughout the 2020 campaign. In excerpts of his speech, Obama says that when he set out to pick a vice president, "I didn't know I'd end up finding a brother."

Yet there's an inherent tension in Obama's role as one of the most powerful and important surrogates for Biden. Obama's own political rise was fueled by the power of barrier-breaking, generational change, and he's encouraged "new blood" in politics. More recently, Obama drew attention during the 2020 Democratic primary when he said many of the world's problems have been due to "old people, usually old men, not getting out of the way."

With the general election now in full swing, Obama confidants say that while the former president's support for Biden is unequivocal, he does worry about enthusiasm among younger voters, particularly younger voters of color. He's well aware that one of the reasons Trump currently occupies the Oval Office is that those voters did not show up in the same large numbers in 2016 for Hillary Clinton as they did when he was on the ballot.

Obama's wife, former first lady Michelle Obama, spoke directly to those concerns in her own well-received address on Monday's opening night of the convention, urging Democrats to "vote like we did in 2008 and 2012." The president is expected to make a similarly urgent appeal, as well as take aim at what an aide described as "the cynical moves by the current administration and the Republican Party to discourage Americans from voting."

The fact that the Obamas are headliners on two of the four nights of the Democratic convention speaks to the crucial role they have in helping Biden try to reassemble the coalition that propelled them into the White House — and the challenge the Democratic Party has in building a new bench of other leaders who can do the same.

"When you think about folks who have the capacity to really unify us, there are only a few people," said Yvette Simpson, chief executive of Democracy for America, a progressive political action committee. "Certainly Barack Obama and Michelle Obama are among them."

Indeed, the former president has enviable popularity, both among Democrats and all Americans. A Fox News poll conducted in May found 93% of Democrats had a favorable opinion of Obama, as did 63% of all registered voters.

Despite that strong support, there has been some rethinking of Obama's legacy among some of his party's most liberal activists, who argue he didn't go far enough in overhauling the nation's health care system and gave too much away to Republicans in fiscal negotiations. Obama himself has acknowledged there was more he wanted to do, but argued he was hamstrung by the realities of a Republican-controlled House, and eventually Senate, for much of his tenure.

But some of Obama's more recent comments have energized liberals, who see signs of him embracing some of the tactics of his party's activist wing. Progressives cheered in particular when Obama called for eliminating the Senate filibuster rules requiring 60 votes on major pieces of legislation, calling it a "Jim Crow relic" that is holding up rewriting voting rights laws. His surprise comments came during his eulogy at the funeral of the late civil rights leader and Georgia Rep. John Lewis.

"That's the guy we remember from the election of 2008," Simpson said of Obama's remarks at Lewis' funeral. "It encouraged me that he might be the guy that pulls Joe Biden along a little bit."

California slammed by wildfires, heat, unhealthy smoky air

DAISY NGUYEN AND SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

Northern Californians were confronted with multiple threats as wildfires, unhealthy smoky air, extreme heat, the looming possibility of power outages and an ongoing pandemic forced many to weigh the risks of staying indoors or going outside.

Ash sprinkled the ground and smoke from several wildfires cast an eerie glow over much of the San Francisco Bay Area on Wednesday, creating unhealthy air quality and heightening concerns about people most prone to respiratory illnesses.

As the air quality index rises to hazardous levels in some places, the region's air district and public health officials urged people to stay inside with windows and doors shut until the smoke subsided.

Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a dry scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger wheezing in those who suffer from asthma, emphysema or COPD.

"I'm feeling lightheaded and I'm a healthy 30-year old. Imagine what it's like if you're an older person or have asthma," said Kyle Laurentine of San Mateo. "I worry, especially in the COVID-19 era, that we're in a state of respiratory vulnerability."

But with a statewide call to conserve energy to avert another rolling power outage, people sweltering in a prolonged heat wave and socked in by smoke must choose between cranking their fans and air conditioners or shutting them down to conserve energy.

"These disasters need solutions that are in direct conflict with each other," said Jennifer K. Balch, a fire scientist at the University of Colorado. "COVID-19 is forcing us outside to reduce transmission risk while extreme wildfire smoke is forcing us back inside where the air is better. We're running out of options to cope, under the weight of compound disasters."

If it gets too hot indoors, Erin DeMerritt with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District suggested visiting cooling centers where they are available or any indoor space with filtered air while following mask-wearing and social distancing protocols.

"It's also important to note that bandannas and masks used to protect yourself from the coronavirus do nothing to protect against smoke from wildfires," she added.

The Bay Area has seen unhealthy levels of air pollution the last four consecutive years from smoke blowing from huge wildfires that devastated wine country in 2017 and the town of Paradise in 2018 and caused widespread evacuations in Sonoma County last year.

Wednesday's poor air quality came on quickly as the Bay Area was socked in by exploding wildfires to the north, south and east.

Exposure to wildfire smoke can lead to real health problems, including asthma and heart attacks, said Colorado State University atmospheric scientist Jeff Pierce, who has worked with epidemiologists on the health effects of wildfires.

"Very unhealthy" air quality forecasts usually double hospitalizations for asthma but it may be different this year with people afraid to go to the hospital because of the coronavirus, he said.

Smoke can even penetrate homes, making it hard for vulnerable people, including those sick from coronavirus, to escape, Pierce said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Weather Channel app to change practices after LA lawsuit

The operator of The Weather Channel mobile app has agreed to change how it informs users about its location-tracking practices and sale of personal data as part of a settlement with the Los Angeles city attorney's office, officials said Wednesday.

City Attorney Mike Feuer alleged in a 2019 lawsuit that app users were misled when they agreed to share their location information in exchange for personalized forecasts and alerts. Instead, the lawsuit claimed users were unaware they had surrendered personal privacy when the company sold their data to third parties.

Feuer announced the settlement Wednesday with the app's operator, TWC Product and Technology LLC, and owner IBM Corp. The app's disclosure screens were initially revised after the lawsuit was filed and future changes that will be monitored by the city attorney's office are planned.

"Users will now clearly know that they have the choice to provide access to their locations," Feuer said at a news conference, adding he hopes other companies will follow the app's model for transparency. "It shows that we don't have to sacrifice our privacy for things of value."

IBM bought the app along with the digital assets of The Weather Company in 2015 for $2 billion but did not acquire The Weather Channel seen on TV, which is owned by another company.

"The Weather Company has always been transparent about its use of location data. We fundamentally disagreed with this lawsuit from the start, and during the case we showed that the claims were baseless," spokesperson Melissa Medori said in a statement. "However, in recognition of IBM's long-standing relationship with Los Angeles and our history of providing technology solutions to improve its operations, we are donating technology to help the city and county deal with COVID-19 relief and contact tracing efforts."

The app advertises that it has more than 50 million users. Previously, Feuer said 80% of users agreed to allow access to their location data because disclosures on how the app uses geolocation data were buried within a 10,000-word privacy policy and not revealed when they downloaded the app.

Although the settlement does not require it, IBM has agreed to donate $1 million worth of technology to Los Angeles County and the city to help with contract tracing and data storage during the coronavirus pandemic, Feuer said.

STEFANIE DAZIO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 269 CALLS ON AUGUST 18

Burglary 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:02 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1500blk 2nd St 1:04 a.m.
Petty Theft Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 1:36 a.m.
Loud Music 1900blk Ocean Way 1:50 a.m.
Burglary 500blk Montana Ave 2:24 a.m.
Rape Ocean Ave / Bay St 3:21 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:40 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Palisades Park 5:07 a.m.
Petty Theft 1500blk The Beach 6:36 a.m.
Petty Theft 2300blk Wilshire Blvd 7:05 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 26th St / San Vicente Blvd 7:18 a.m.
Petty Theft 1700blk Sunset Ave 8:00 a.m.
Petty Theft 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:27 a.m.
Burglary 400blk California Ave 8:36 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2500blk Montana Ave 8:41 a.m.
Battery 4th St / Arizona Ave 8:43 a.m.
Burglary 700blk 10th St 8:52 a.m.
Lewd Activity 100blk Broadway 8:57 a.m.
Smoking Violation 1600blk Ocean Ave 9:27 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk The Beach 9:34 a.m.
Petty Theft 100blk Santa Monica Pl 10:02 a.m.
Grand Theft 800blk 14th St 10:06 a.m.
Person With A Gun 500blk Olympic Blvd W 10:09 a.m.
Petty Theft 1500blk 15th St 10:12 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 10:20 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1000blk 10th St 11:07 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 11:14 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk Interstate 10 11:22 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle 300blk Pico Blvd 11:23 a.m.
Petty Theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:48 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 1100blk 3rd St 11:55 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 12th St 12:31 p.m.
Encampment Euclid St / Olympic Blvd 12:39 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 1500blk Ocean Ave 12:41 p.m.
Vehicle Out Of Space 0blk Arcadia Ter 12:45 p.m.
Fight 2200blk The Beach 1:03 p.m.
Grand Theft 2000blk 20th St 1:16 p.m.
Loud Music 800blk San Vicente Blvd 1:24 p.m.
Grand Theft 1600blk Berkeley St 1:27 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1200blk 5th St 1:30 p.m.
Rape 2800blk Pearl St 1:46 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 300blk Santa Monica Pier 1:48 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk Euclid St 2:02 p.m.
Fight 1800blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:14 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle 1800blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:14 p.m.
Petty Theft 500blk Raymond Ave 2:17 p.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 1700blk Appian Way 2:18 p.m.
Grand Theft 1300blk 4th St 2:18 p.m.
Grand Theft 900blk 4th St 2:56 p.m.
Identity Theft 300blk Euclid St 2:58 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1900blk Washington Ave 3:32 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1200blk 14th St 3:41 p.m.
Battery 2000blk Olympic Blvd 4:03 p.m.
Loud Music 4th St / Strand St 4:10 p.m.
Burglary 3000blk Linda Lane 4:53 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 1200blk 15th St 4:55 p.m.
Battery Stewart St / Pico Blvd 5:04 p.m.
Petty Theft 400blk Wilshire Blvd 5:06 p.m.
Drinking In Public 9th St / Pico Blvd 5:08 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery 700blk Broadway 5:11 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk 4th St 5:39 p.m.
Fight 1900blk Pico Blvd 5:57 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2000blk Ocean Ave 6:08 p.m.
Public Intoxication 600blk Strand St 6:12 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 500blk San Vicente Blvd 6:58 p.m.
Public Intoxication 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:02 p.m.
Burglary 900blk 2nd St 7:06 p.m.
Identity Theft 2400blk Chelsea Pl 7:21 p.m.
Battery 1500blk Ocean Ave 8:16 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Nebraska Ave / Centinela 8:17 p.m.
Petty Theft 2000blk 20th St 8:43 p.m.
Battery 1700blk Appian Way 8:45 p.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1000blk 9th St 9:01 p.m.
Fight 2100blk Lincoln Blvd 9:17 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 20th St / Delaware Ave 9:17 p.m.
Burglary 900blk 2nd St 9:24 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 10:05 p.m.
Fight 1600blk Ocean Ave 10:10 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:27 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1100blk 4th St 10:35 p.m.
Loud Music 1500blk Ocean Ave 10:49 p.m.
Person With A Gun 700blk Ozone St 11:35 p.m.



CVRA

FROM PAGE 1

Appeal's ruling effectively does require a district be majority-minority.

"In light of these provisions, did the Court of Appeal misconstrue and improperly limit the CVRA by holding that in order to establish a violation, plaintiffs must prove that in a district election system the protected class would have the ability to elect candidates of its choice by demonstrating that it is possible to create a geographically compact district in which a majority of the voters are members of the protected class?" he wrote in the petition.

Shenkman states the opinion ignores the trial court's findings that the proposed district system would increase Latino voting power.

"The Court of Appeal's Opinion eviscerates the CVRA by reading requirements into the statute that do not exist (e.g., proof of a potential majority-minority district) and ignoring portions of the statute that do exist (e.g., protection accorded to a minority's ability to influence elections), with the effect of sharply limiting its application in our diverse state," he said.

In his second point, Shenkman says it's established law for an appeal court to consider the ruling of the trial court and give deference to the weight of live testimony.

"Well-established precedent directs that findings of fact, including a finding of intentional discrimination by a public entity, must be reviewed under the deferential substantial evidence standard. The Court of Appeal applied de novo review to the trial court's finding that Santa Monica's at-large system was adopted and maintained with discriminatory intent."

A de novo review reevaluates the case based on the available evidence without consideration for the trial itself, an action Shenkman says is improper.

"On that basis, the Opinion ignores the expert historian testimony presented at trial and the trial court's assessment of the evidence based in part on the expert's live testimony – in effect, second guessing the trial court's exercise of its function as the finder of fact."

The City has 20 days to file an answer to the petition.

"The City believes that the Court of Appeal ruling is correct in holding that Santa Monica's at-large election system has not diluted Latino voting power and so complies with the California Voting Rights Act," said a written statement provided by City Hall. "The Court of Appeal also correctly rejected plaintiffs' claim that the City had intentionally discriminated against minority voters in enacting and maintaining its current election system. Santa Monica's election system, which was adopted and has been twice validated by Santa Monica voters, has repeatedly elected candidates preferred by Latino voters."

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Union Has Screwed You



Courtesy photo

BAD DEAL: After decades of loyal support, members are being shut out of healthcare.

AGAIN

Are you an actor? There are a few of them in this town. Are you a member of the Screen Actors Guild (now SAG-AFTRA), maybe for years or decades? Gratefully taking work when it comes but always faithfully paying your dues, even writing letters and marching on a picket line when asked.

Did you recently receive a booklet in the mail? Looks generic and harmless. But actually, it's life changing. Your union has screwed you, again, big time. All 160,000 of you. (Well — not Leonardo or Renee.)

Out of moral conviction, you resolutely turned down tens of thousands of dollars, maybe more, of non-union work over the years, because isn't that the point of being in a union? To support each other to only take jobs that run through the union, so they can protect you and work for you?

But this union has it set up for you to accept that non-union work and continue to be in the union. What? They have a funny little name for it, they call it "financial core," as though that explains anything. You still have to pay dues but gosh, you can't vote in elections for union officers, and you don't get to say you're in the union. But you can get back in with full honors at any time. You're not penalized for being a scab.

Over the decades your union has kept raising the amount of SAG-AFTRA union work dollars you have to pull in, in order to qualify for that all-important health coverage. The figure is not anything Brad Pitt or Scarlett Johansen even think about. But only a tiny percentage of all actors do hit the mark.

Note: The SAG-AFTRA Health Fund is separate from the union. But the union hires them, and certainly could exercise some control if they wanted to. So I'm referring to the whole thing as "the union."

ONLY ABOUT ONE PERCENT

Of actors who manage to get a single union credit are able to actually make a living at it. About 70 percent have a "career" that spans only a year. Only about 15 percent work in the business in an average year and for those who do, the median earnings is about $7,500, for the year.

So you'd think the actors' union would do everything humanly possible to make sure they at least get healthcare coverage for as many as they can. Stretch the rules. Set it up that way. It's a business that pulls in hundreds of billions of dollars. I mean, it's healthcare — a human right, right?

So you did it. Some years, qualified, others no, but over a long career you finally hit the mark, "Age and Service," where you no longer had to sweat your health coverage — you can now finally relax, you are covered for life! Big burden relieved. If you've got a serious pre-existing condition, that's a huge deal.

Awww — sorry. SAG-AFTRA, the union that's supposed to take care of their members, just informed everyone, including all those hard-working, dollar-counting members who played by the rules and against all odds qualified for lifetime coverage — that you don't have that any more. We're breaking our long-standing promise. The one you counted on, made plans around, and worked for all your life.

I know, business is business and the numbers have to add up. But I just chatted with another friend who is in a different show biz union and their union borrowed from the pension fund to make sure no one lost health coverage. Are you telling me there's nothing like that that SAG could have done? And where did you spend all that money, that you're now so broke you have to break promises?

Look, I'm not in that union (I only have the t-shirt), but fair is fair and SAG-AFTRA has rarely stepped up for its members on the all-important issues of health coverage. It's even more important now, when you have a president and political party threatening to do away with Medicare and Social Security.

AND DO YOU KNOW WHO ELSE

Needs to step up? For their fellow actors?

How about if there was a letter, and press conference, from Morgan Freeman, Jennifer Lawrence, Dev Patel, Emmas Stone and

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

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

WINNERS

FROM PAGE 1

Development Manager Jennifer Taylor. "We thank everyone for their patience due to this unprecedented time period. On behalf of the City of Santa Monica and the Buy Local Santa Monica Committee, I would like to congratulate all of our 2020 winners and finalists. This is a highly competitive contest and our voters each have their particular most loved businesses that they cherish, so winning a coveted "Most Loved" title is no easy feat. Also a call to action for everyone - now more so than ever, please support your most loved businesses. Buy local, eat local, shop local. We need to ensure they survive. Thank you to everyone who voted and for buying local year-round. Congrats to our #MostLovedSM2020 winners!"

MOST LOVED WINNERS

Auto-Related Business — Joy Automotive, Startronics, Stokes Tire Service, Kondo Motors.

Bakery — Bezian Bakery (not currently open), Sweet Lady Jane, Huckleberry Bakery & Cafe.

Bar or Lounge — West 4th + Jane, The Craftsman, The Misfit.

Breakfast/Brunch Spot — Huckleberry Bakery & Cafe, Back on the Beach, Rae's Restaurant.

Catering Business — Thyme Café & Market, Broadway Baker, Lunetta All Day.

Clothing Boutique — JANE, Planet Blue, Suji, Brooke Rodd.

Coffee Shop — Dogtown Coffee, Caffe Luxxe, Groundworks.

Doctor/ Dentist/Health Care Professional — John Dravillas, PT OCS (Physical Therapyworks), Dr Donna Cooper (Cooper Optometry), Dr Laurie Binder (SM Acupuncture + Wellness).

Event Space/Party Venue — Annenberg Community Beach House (not currently open), Enterprise Fish Co. (not currently open), Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows.

Farmer — Murray Family Farms, Weiser Family Farms, Tamai Family Farms

Fitness Studio/Gym — Tri-Fit, PilateSmith, Santa Monica Family YMCA

Frozen Desserts Shop — Dolcenero Gelato, TREATS Frozen Yogurt Bar, Sweet Rose Creamery, Rori's Artisan Creamery.

Grocery/Food Shop — Co-Opportunity, Trader Joe's, Bob's Market.

Happy Hour — FIG, Upper West, The Craftsman.

Hair Salon/Barber Shop — Salon Tru, Lash Pilot, Framed Salon.

Hotel — Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, Shutter's on the Beach, The Proper Hotel.

Independent Business — Sewing Arts Center (not currently open), Dagwood's, PilateSmith.

Jewelry/Home Accessories/Gift Shop — Heist Jewelry, Ten Women Gallery, Brentwood General Store.

Kid-Friendly Attraction/Store — Cayton Children's Museum (not currently open), Morgan-Wixson Theatre, Puzzle Zoo.

Legacy Business — Santa Monica Homeopathic Pharmacy, Number One Beauty Center, Gilbert's El Indio.

New Business — Tribe Pilates, Broadway Baker, Socalo.

Non-Profit — Swim With Heart, Assistance League of SM, SM Education Foundation, SM Conservancy.

Outdoor Dining Spot — Back on the Beach, Lunetta, Blue Plate Taco.

Business for Pampering — Burke Williams (not currently open), Radiance Wellness Spa, Nancy's Nails.

Pet Business — Paws + Effect, Green Dog Dental & Wellness Center, Healthy Spot.

Restaurant — Dagwoods, Upper West, R + D Kitchen.

Surf/Skate/Bike Shop — Helen's Cycles, Rip City, The Bike Shop.

Theater/Art/Entertainment Venue — The Braid -Jewish Women's Theatre (not currently open), Aero Theater, Morgan-Wixson Theatre.

Vintage/Thrift/Resale Shop — Assistance League of Santa Monica, Buffalo Exchange, Salvation Army.

Downtown SM Business — Radiance Wellness Spa, Exotics Racing, Salon Tru, Santa Monica Homeopathic.

Main St Business — Pilatesmith, Dolcenero Gelato, Green Dog Dental.

Montana Ave Business — Number One Beauty Center, JANE, Aero Theatre.

Pico Blvd Business — Gilbert's El Indio, Sewing Arts Center, Trader Joe's.

SM Pier Business — The Lobster, The Albright, Pacific Park (not currently open).

JONI SWENSON

FROM PAGE 1

to her position that she commuted to Santa Monica from Mountain View by airplane on a weekly basis for almost two decades.

"Samohi is known as a very strong music school and I remember seeing the Samohi orchestra play at a state conference when I was in college thinking 'wow what a fantastic public high school orchestra they are'," said Swenson. "17 years ago I was offered the job. I was very fortunate and I decided to make the big move, and it has just been so gratifying and enriching for me to be there."

During Swenson's tenure the symphony orchestra has performed at concerts in Argentina, Uruguay, China, Prague, and Vienna, and became the first public high school ensemble to perform at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, which is the home of the LA Philharmonic. The orchestra was slated to perform at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Berlin Philharmonie this spring break as part of the 250th anniversary celebration of Beethoven, but the trip was cancelled due to COVID.

This was a huge disappointment for everyone. However, under Swenson's tenacious tutelage the 90 piece orchestra was able to create a virtual performance where each player recorded their piece separately and the students edited it together.

Because of the uncertainty of the school's learning plan for the upcoming year and the health-risks of traveling frequently by plane, Swenson made the tough decision to leave her beloved position at Samohi.

"The distance learning was not the same. It was not quite as gratifying as being able to actually see and hear the students in person, but leaving was probably the hardest decision I had to make," said Swenson. "I will miss all of the students tremendously and I'll miss just hearing them play."

Swenson described her orchestras as incredibly close-knit communities that form lifelong friendships. Just last week a group of 28 students that graduated several years ago all came together to catch up on Zoom.

"I think that Samohi is very unique in that it does offer a rich arts experience for high school students and there are countless studies that show that students who play music do better on standardized tests," said Swenson. "I think orchestra has many skills that transfer across the curriculum and also I think it creates a real sense of teamwork and cohesion among the students."

Swenson has won many awards during her career including radio station KDFC Classical 102.1's Music Educator of the Year, the CMEA Le Blanc Outstanding Orchestra Music Educator Award, the American String Teachers Association Elizabeth A. H. Green School Educator Award, and the CMEA Richard L. Levin Orchestra Award.

"For the students, she didn't just teach the notes, fingerings and rhythms," said Whalen. "She taught them how to play with a full range of dynamics, expressive passion, the history and stories behind the music and more importantly, she instilled a work ethic in her students that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives."

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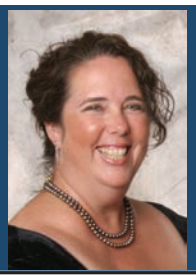
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BULLDOG REALTORS

Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What's in Your Queue?



Courtesy photo

MOVIE: Robert MacDougal and Steven Garza, two of the boys featured in the documentary, Boys State.

Two documentaries to help raise your IQ and a French farce to make you laugh: the three must-see movies this week are "Boys State" on AppleTV+, "Dateline - Saigon" on iTunes and Amazon Prime, and "My Dog Stupid" on Laemmle's Virtual Cinema.

BOYS STATE AND OUR DEMOCRACY

My heart was both broken by and filled with hope watching "Boys State." It follows a thousand teenage boys participating in a weeklong American Legion-sponsored training event, that teaches kids how to build a representative government from the ground up. It won a Grand Jury Prize at Sundance.

The boys must get signatures to be nominated, need to create a party platform, must run a campaign, learn how to give speeches and win over voters, and then choose which candidate will become governor.

Set in Texas, the previous year's group voted to have the state secede from the US. This group wanted to take things more seriously. What we see is a microcosm of politics in the US today: those who play the game only to win and those who take running for office seriously, considering the issues at stake.

Four teenage boys are the focus: Robert, who's really just playing the game—and admits it. Steven, whose earnest and honest involvement gives me hope for the future. Rene, who's up against racism and accusations of running an unfair campaign; and Ben, an amputee who's as conniving a young strategist as Karl Rove must have been in his youth.

I will say that it's incredibly depressing to see how the game players ape their real-life role models. There's mudslinging, name calling, misinformation and propaganda campaigns, and winning takes high-testosterone precedence over substance and issues.

But the one ray of hope – someone I pray will run for office one day – is Steven Garza, the son of Mexican immigrants, who's been an activist since childhood, and who is able, through his authentic, calm, peaceable and reasonable manner to persuade the mostly

SEE **CULTURE WATCH** PAGE 11



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

LA Children's Hospital sued over stem cell freezer failure

A California couple sued Children's Hospital Los Angeles on Wednesday over a freezer malfunction that resulted in the loss of blood stem cells from 56 child patients, including their son.

The hospital apologized for the problem a year ago with its cryogenic freezer and said at the time that the health of no children was put in jeopardy because of the failure.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the boy identified only as "EF," who suffers from neuroblastoma, a rare cancer. Stem-cell treatment is vital for his condition and the loss of his cells cut off a "lifeline and a safety net for EF and his family," according to the lawsuit.

The complaint alleges negligence, medical malpractice and breach of contract on the part of hospital officials. It seeks unspecified monetary damages.

"We are committed to working toward a positive outcome for all involved," the hospital said in a statement Wednesday. "We remain deeply sorry for the loss of blood stem cells resulting from the failure of a freezer used to store unused cells collected in the course of caring for these patients, and we apologize for our mishandling of outreach to the affected families,"

Blood stem cell recollection will be provided at no cost to the families if needed, the statement said.

Linda Wratten, the mother of the boy with the rare cancer, said she "trusted Children's Hospital Los Angeles with our son's precious stem cells because we believed their claims of excellence and high standards."

Wratten added: "Now, we live in terror that CHLA's misconduct could cost us our son's life when he needs the stem cells that they destroyed."

The lawsuit alleges the freezer was old and unstable and hospital officials deliberately turned off alarms that would have warned them that it was starting to fail.

The hospital said at the time that the failure involved freezer temperature sensors and that safeguards in place at the time were "insufficient."

After the freezer failed, it was replaced, the sensor monitoring and alert system were upgraded, power sources were double checked and maintenance was increased, the hospital said in its statement.

The hospital routinely collects blood stem cells early in the course of cancer therapy for children for possible future use.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles is a nonprofit institution founded in 1901 and located in the East Hollywood neighborhood.

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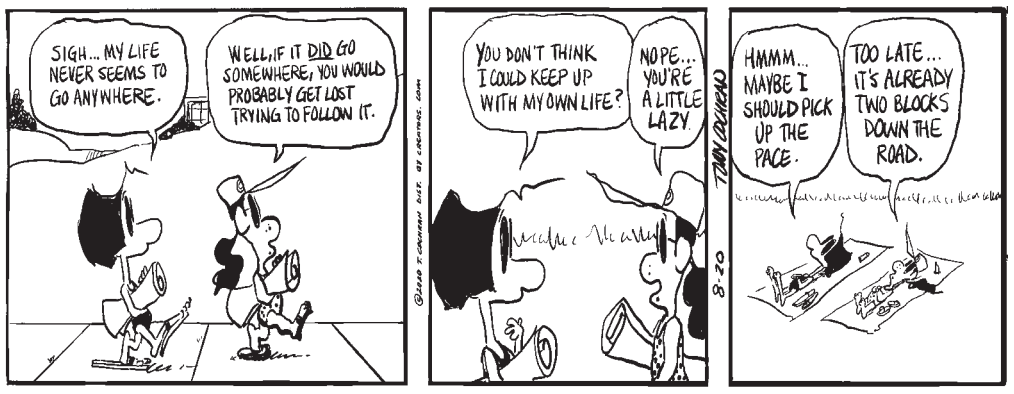
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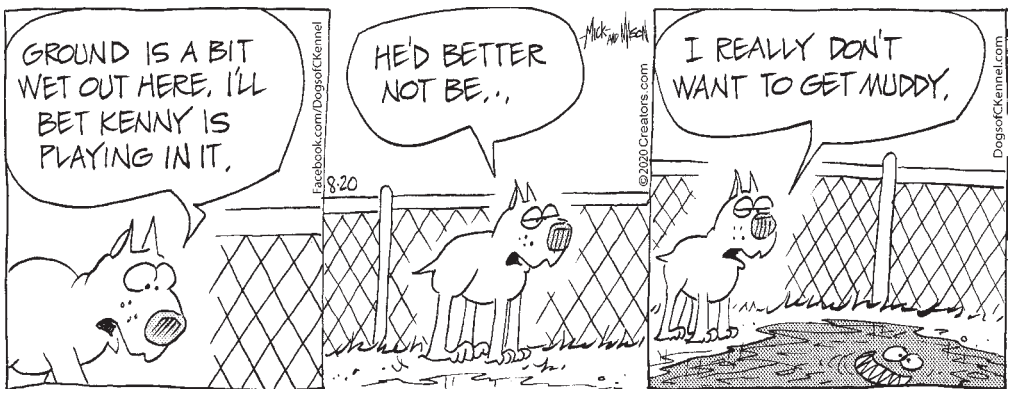
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



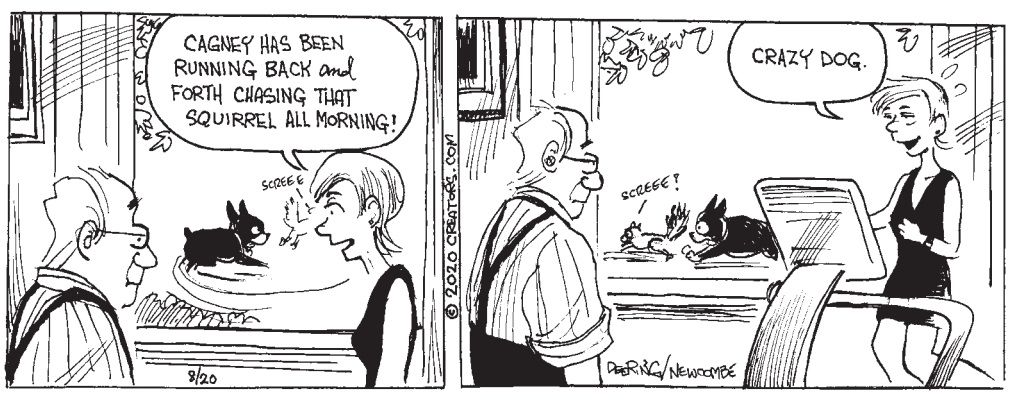
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



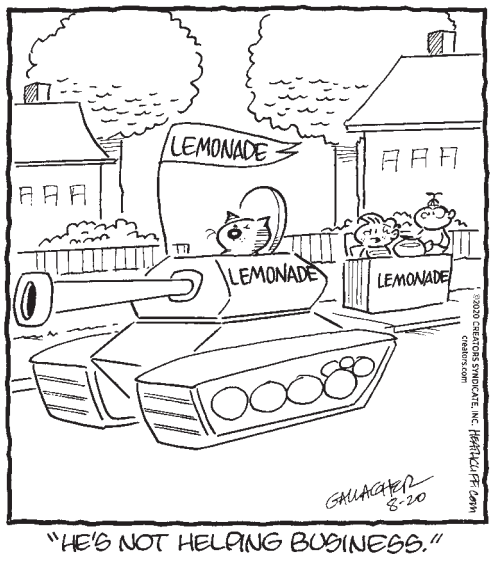
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

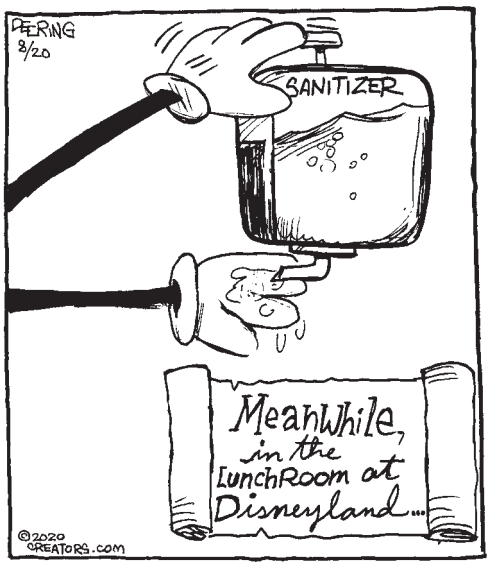
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S NOT HELPING BUSINESS."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 68.9°

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Modest SW swell trends up for exposures west of Pt Dume. Dropping SSE swell. Morning winds looking better, likely best to wait for the tide to push in a bit further.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Modest SW swell, best for exposures west of Pt Dume. Watching for initial SSE swell from Genevieve to mix in after dark.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 82.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 68.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 79.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 78.

2020/08/20	Thu	05:02 AM	-0.68	L
2020/08/20	Thu	11:20 AM	4.92	H
2020/08/20	Thu	4:50 PM	1.36	L
2020/08/20	Thu	10:55 PM	6.29	H
2020/08/21	Fri	05:38 AM	-0.32	L
2020/08/21	Fri	11:58 AM	5.13	H
2020/08/21	Fri	5:43 PM	1.25	L
2020/08/21	Fri	11:44 PM	5.68	H
2020/08/22	Sat	06:14 AM	0.20	L
2020/08/22	Sat	12:39 PM	5.29	H
2020/08/22	Sat	6:43 PM	1.22	L
2020/08/23	Sun	12:40 AM	4.91	H
2020/08/23	Sun	06:52 AM	0.84	L
2020/08/23	Sun	1:25 PM	5.39	H
2020/08/23	Sun	7:53 PM	1.22	L
2020/08/24	Mon	01:50 AM	4.10	H
2020/08/24	Mon	07:33 AM	1.53	L
2020/08/24	Mon	2:18 PM	5.43	H
2020/08/24	Mon	9:24 PM	1.13	L
2020/08/25	Tue	03:27 AM	3.48	H
2020/08/25	Tue	08:24 AM	2.19	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:08/15
5 12 34 45 56
Power#: 3
Jackpot:22 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 08/18
4 18 26 27 58
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 49 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 08/15
14 18 21 42 45
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 08/18
1 5 29 30 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 08/18
Evening: 8 5 3
Draw Date: 08/18
Midday: 2 2 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 08/16
1st: 06 - WHIRL WIN
2nd: 07 - EUREKA
3rd: 10 - SOLID GOLD
RACE TIME: 1:44.24

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 20)

You measure your own happiness and success with new metrics this year, ones that are more personally satisfying and relevant to your soul. Between this and the excellent relationships you nurture, the solar journey takes you from adventure to adventure, revealing along the way your most effective self. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 22, 1, 7 and 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Smart people won't have time to prove they are smart today because they will be too busy chasing their curiosity around. You can relate. Your interests will lead you to like minds.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The novice is proud of and wants full recognition for talents and skills. The wise would rather go unlauded, realizing the strategic advantage in being underestimated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Human memory is flawed. Even the best memories are unreliable and susceptible to corrosion over time. Record things as you go. This is the most dependable way, and you'll be glad you did.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You thought a thing ran its course. You thought you were done and wouldn't return to it, but this business is, apparently, unfinished. Otherwise, it wouldn't keep calling you back.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Today, you'll tidy up a mess in your personal life. Don't have a messy personal life? Consider adding more love to it. Love is, essentially, messy. All the best things in life are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Modern society's overemphasis on identity is as common as it is problematic. It's useful to know what you want and what you like, but that shouldn't be confused with who you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's hard to notice any particular thing in a cluttered environment. But whatever you drop into a blank space will get all the attention. This is why you clear your mind before concentrating on what you love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not sure what you owe those around you. You're not sure where you end and they begin. That you are willing to delve into such maddening questions is evidence of your evolved soul. None of us stand alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You care deeply about an idea and will work to bring it into the real world. Because you cannot give this same treatment to every idea, you'll also be letting go of ideas you don't think are very actionable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's a day to celebrate. Celebrate small and privately, celebrate on-blast, celebrate for obvious reasons and for no reason at all. What's celebrated will grow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). "Tell me something good," sang Rufus, and Chaka Khan followed up with what has got to be top-of-list for most people, which is to say: "Tell me that you love me." Don't hold out with your heart. Express.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll have strong feelings. Don't try and stop them; rather, you'll do well to direct them, for instance into work, sports or creative expression. Even anger can be made into something beautiful, powerful and rousing.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
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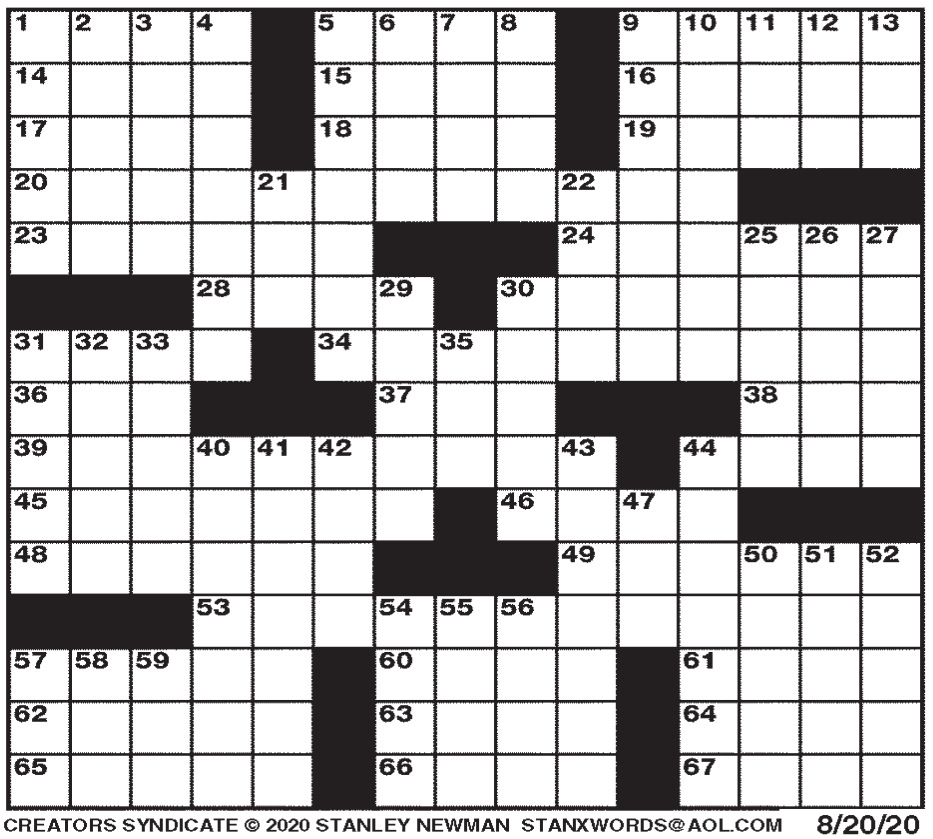
2	9		4					
3		8	6	5		2	9	
						3		6
		1		3		4	8	
4	5			8			2	3
	3	7		2		5		
7		2						
	6	5		4	8	1		7
					5		4	2

Newsday Crossword

CRESCENDO by Steve Mossberg
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Off-the-cuff
5 Party freebies
9 Passed out
14 Lackluster
15 With 16 Across, drive-thru transaction
16 See 15 Across
17 Find better words for
18 Out-loud
19 Super-pleased
20 Precise, tonally [very soft]
23 Doctor's order
24 "Grab a seat"
28 Part of a nest
30 Summer cooler
31 Taproom array
34 Stationery for composers [somewhat soft]
36 Obviously embarrassed
37 What Apple tablets run on
38 Nonstick cooking spray
39 Key instrument in a Mozart opera [somewhat loud]
44 Fresh talk
45 Shot out of bounds, perhaps
46 Shoulder band
48 Shut up again
49 Concert tour aide
53 Barn dance sound [very loud]
57 Teapot part
60 Mars' 687 days
61 Fashion designer Sui
62 Cola wars combatant
63 Prego alternative
64 Saved, with "away"
65 Ancient Mexican
66 Bit of beryllium
67 Mars, by another name

DOWN
1 Paces or phases
2 Gymnast Comaneci
3 Goodwill
4 Some furry friends
5 "He's getting away!"
6 Sported
7 Vegan's gelatin substitute
8 Game with greens
9 Freer alternative to a kennel
10 Rather new Red Sea nation
11 Insert
12 Went first
13 Put to the test
21 Hesitate verbally
22 Imposing story
25 Sorority letter
26 They're thrown out at meetings
27 Agreement details
29 Conscience creation
30 Where to find bullet points
31 Heavy metal outfit
32 Take off
33 Trims, as rims
35 Money mentioned in *Les Miz*
40 Dramatic denial
41 Much more than messy
42 Top off
43 Sensory membrane
44 Donna of the Clinton cabinet
47 Turf in rolls
50 Bahrain money
51 Most common navel
52 Quaint complaint
54 Actress Sedgwick
55 Personal exploit
56 *Otello* evildoer
57 Acupuncturist's employer
58 Candy to dispense with
59 Show a preference (for)



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 8/20/20

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

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

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



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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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The final touches

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

Abut
Angle
Aspect
Beam
Blinds
Coffee table
Cosy
Deck
Door
Dowel
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Glue
Home
Inlay
Lamp
Laundry
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Lock
Mitre
Mortar
Neighbours
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CULTURE WATCH

FROM PAGE 6

conservative teens (it's Texas, remember) into understanding the progressive issues he believes in.

It's a really engaging documentary and more importantly, it's essential viewing to understand how what we do in today's politics will influence the future generation of politicians and the fate of our very troubled democracy. https://boysstate.movie

ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE?

The current occupant of the White House believes that the media are the enemy of the people. "Dateline - Saigon" will remind you that it was the government, not the media, that lied about the Vietnam War. I think the parallels with today's administration are clear enough.

And it was the "enemy of the people," in the shape of five enterprising young investigative reporters, who unearthed the truth and exposed the lies that took place in the name of the American people, as our nation devolved deeper into the Vietnam mire.

Peter Arnett, Malcolm Browne and Horst Faas of Associated Press, David Halberstam of the New York Times, and Neil Sheehan of United Press International—all since Pulitzer Prize winning journalists—set out to see what was really happening in Vietnam. Massive numbers of soldiers, arms and aid were being sent ostensibly to prevent the "domino theory"— that communism was turning Southeast Asian nations one-by-one into puppets—from happening.

Sam Waterston narrates this documentary about the war that established the ground rules for journalists covering war for decades after, and created the antagonism that still exists today between the media and the military.

It doesn't take much to remind me of the "weapons of mass destruction" that led to two wars in Iraq and a mission to destroy Al Qaeda in Afghanistan...and how these lies led to countless deaths in the name of protecting the US.

If you care about history, if you care about journalism and if you care about the truth, "Dateline – Saigon" is essential viewing. http://www.dateline-saigon.com

AND FOR LAUGHS - KINDA

Based on a novel by John Fante, who is better known for darkly serious books like "Ask the Dust," the film "My Dog Stupid" (sounds better in French, "Mon Chien Stupide") starts out as a bit of a farce and morphs into a more existential examination of a man's life and relationship with his family, catalyzed by the appearance of a stray dog who wanders into their home.

Yvan Attal, the director and star (Henri), and his real-life partner, Charlotte Gainsbourg (Cecile), play a couple who have fallen into a dissatisfied marriage, along with their quartet of mostly-grown and entitled children, who display similar dysfunction. Henri once wrote a huge hit of a book that established his name and reputation and supported the lifestyle to which they have become accustomed, but that was 25 years ago, and he hasn't written anything of significance since. And everyone knows.

A big, gray and very horny Neopolitan mastiff walks into their house and Henri finds in him a kindred spirit. Henri names him Stupide, and decides to keep him, but his smelly and continual humping of anyone who comes to the house has completely upended the family, and one by one, they leave Henri behind, with only the dog to keep him company.

Henri's journey toward personal understanding is prompted by this big, stinky beast and in the end turns what might have been a light-hearted comedy into a more thoughtful consideration of what makes us who we are.

"My Dog Stupid" is available on Laemmle's Virtual Cinema through August 27. Check it out here: https://www.laemmle.com/film/my-dog-stupid

Sarah A. Spitz is an award-winning public radio producer, retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

Watson, Kristin Stewart, Will Smith, Ang and Spike Lee, Lady Gaga, Daniel Radcliffe, Margot Robbie, Hanks, Hopkins, Cheadle, Cruise, Close, Clooney, Chastain, Cranston, Crowe, Coen x2, Coppola x2, Dern x2, del Toro x2, Depp, Duvall, Denzel, Driver, Dench, Downey Jr, DeNiro, DiCaprio, Pacino, Penn, Pitt, Streep, Scorsese, Scarlett, Spielberg, Saoirse, Spacek, Streisand, Gyllenhaal, Gosling, Nicholson, Nyong'o, Blanchett, Banderas, Kidman, Joaquin, Quentin, Zellwegger, demanding that their fellow actors get humane treatment? A lot of them do a lot of good work for many causes. How about the guy working next to you who doesn't drive a Ferrari?

Do you think that would get anyone's attention?

It's probably going to take a lawsuit, and I sure hope that happens.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

WATCH "BLACK TO TECHNO" — Don't get it twisted, techno music is Black. Black, and especially queer Black communities, were the pioneers of techno, the birthers of a whole new style of music, and they continue to shape and push its boundaries as a genre and culture.

There are perhaps other books and films that give a more straightforward, comprehensive history of the origins of techno, but if you are looking to watch something concise that is part documentary and part visual art, this is the film for you. "Black To Techno" explores the origins of techno in Detroit, "drawing parallels between the machine-like production lines of the city's manufacturing heritage and the roots of Black music in drum patterns and percussive variation." Nigerian-British artist and filmmaker Jenn Nkiru, who made the powerful short "Rebirth is Necessary" using archival footage of Sun Ra and the Black Panthers, and who has made music videos for Kamasi Washington, Neneh Cherry, Beyoncé and Jay-Z, describes her blending of archival film, music and speech as "cosmic archaeology."

She recalls watching educational films during her time at Howard University, remembering that they were "very educational, but boring to watch... How do we hide this medicine in ice cream? How do we present this in a way that people are interested in and can vibe with, but can also get their knowledge?"

Regardless of whether or not you know anything about techno, "Black To Techno" is an artful, poetically crafted piece that tells an important and oft underrepresented story. The film was premiered last year at the Frieze contemporary art fair, and is available for free on Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/389428918

As a child raised on just about everything but techno, my foray into the genre has been somewhat recent but extremely rewarding, and edifying. I did not understand it for a long time and I am still learning to understand it better, and I find that very exciting.

"When I hear music that parents hate, or older musicians hate, I know that's the new music. When I hear older people saying, 'I hate Rap or Techno,' I rush to it." — George Clinton

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,500 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

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 41 CALLS ON AUGUST 18

EMS 300blk Pico Blvd 12:08 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 12:12 a.m.
Smoke Investigation 17th St / Alta Ave 2:07 a.m.
EMS 600blk Grant St 6:44 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Euclid St 7:08 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Yale St 7:53 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:14 a.m.
EMS 900blk 11th St 9:28 a.m.
EMS 18th St / Arizona Ave 9:30 a.m.
EMS 10th St / Bay St 9:32 a.m.
EMS 18th St / Arizona Ave 9:38 a.m.
EMS 10th St / Pico Blvd 10:07 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk 2nd St 10:09 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:49 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 3rd St 12:27 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 1:33 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 3300blk Barnard Way 1:52 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:23 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:25 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:44 p.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 900blk 26th St 3:17 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Broadway 3:30 p.m.
Arcing Wires 300blk 21st Pl 3:49 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 11th St 3:49 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 4:09 p.m.
EMS 22nd St / Arizona Ave 4:52 p.m.
EMS 700blk Broadway 5:18 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900blk Colorado Ave 5:36 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 200blk 21st St 5:54 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 3000blk Wilshire Blvd 6:50 p.m.
Vehicle Fire 1000blk Lincoln Blvd 6:50 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 7:26 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 7:27 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 7:50 p.m.
EMS 2400blk 16th St 7:57 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 8:00 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Stewart St 9:20 p.m.
EMS 700blk Broadway 9:21 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 20th St 10:13 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:45 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 11:57 p.m.

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