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Santa Monica Daily Press

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09.09.20
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Crime Watch
Balcony Burglar.
Page 7

Politics are really heating up
Curious City.
Page 6

California makes progress in fight against COVID and fires

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Governor Gavin Newsom addressed the challenges Californians overcame this weekend while he reiterated his belief in the state's ability to address the immediate and long-term effects of the local fires, heatwave and COVID-19.

Newsom and Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services, held a news conference Tuesday to share the work that is happening around the state and speak on the need for residents to continue doing what they can to prevent the spread of the flu and coronavirus.

Santa Monica had 816 cases of COVID and 43 deaths resulting

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11

Miramar discussion continues

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Discussion on the Fairmont Miramar hotel project is set to resume Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. when the Santa Monica Planning Commission continues its meeting from last week.

The Planning Commission's special meeting is a continuation of a meeting last week that featured hours of discussion relating to the

SEE **MIRAMAR** PAGE 11



Courtesy image

HOTEL: The proposal has a second planning hearing tonight.

Nueva serves fresh takes on Mexican classics













Courtesy photo

FOOD: An existing patio has helped Nueva open during an incredibly difficult time for restaurants.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Opening a restaurant in the midst of a pandemic is no simple task, but the team behind Nueva has met the moment with mucho gusto, launching a colorful outdoor patio and garden that can safely seat 100 people. Since opening on the corner of Abbott Kinney and Washington Blvd last month, Nueva's fresh takes on Mexican classics and creative list of cócteles has attracted hordes of hungry Westsiders.

Chefs Vartan Abgaryan and Mesraim Llanez, who both trained at Le Cordon Bleu, have collaborated on a fresh and flavorful Mexican brunch and dinner menu. So far the most popular dishes include a wood-grilled branzino with mole rojo & castelvetrano tapenade, pork belly chicharron tacos with chili lime salt & serrano salsa fresco, and churros with dark chocolate ice cream.

"When I started working on the concept with my partners Dave, Patti and Vartan, we all agreed that the neighborhood could use a fun, relaxed, boozy restaurant with some foodie items, but nothing fussy and could feature some straightforward menu items. Collectively, we had all

SEE **NUEVA** PAGE 5

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Inside/Outside

By Michael Feinstein

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Luxury high-rise condos and the Miramar Hotel

Tonight the Planning Commission will consider the renovation proposed for the famous Miramar Hotel. The proposal has a lot to recommend it — and could lead to a truly great resource for the community.

Among the major issues still under debate - perhaps the most controversial is the proposal to build 60 multi-million dollar luxury condominiums on the top floors of the hotel. This condo proposal needs to be unpacked carefully, because there are a lot of moving parts.

RESIDENTS OR ABSENTEE OWNERS

According to the City's Staff Report, the proposed condominiums are meant to address one of the housing goals identified in Santa Monica's Downtown Community Plan (DCP), which governs development in the area, i.e. to

"Encourage…the addition of ownership housing to enhance the district as a stable residential neighborhood."

But far from stable neighbors, many community members fear these new 'residents' will be absentee owners of the super-rich. If that turns out to be the case, do the condos actually address the DCP 'stable neighborhood' housing goal?

The developers say that 70% of people who have already contacted the hotel to indicate interest in purchasing a condo are Santa Monica residents. Putting aside the extraordinary heights involved (on the top floors where the condos would be built), one could make a valid public policy argument to allow existing Santa Monica homeowners to sell their homes, downsize and stay in the community by buying one of these condos. Because of this, the Planning Commission should ask Staff to explore tools the City has in promoting local ownership, and the latitude to include them in the Development Agreement governing the project.

But what if not all 60 condo owners end up as stable neighbors — especially after resale(s) — but turn out to be absentee owners? In these situations, the hotel has asked for the right to rent out vacant condos as if they were hotel rooms, and pay the same Transit Occupancy Tax (aka 'hotel bed tax') to the City as it would for a hotel room of the same price.

City Staff has correctly stated this would conflict with Santa Monica's Home-Sharing Ordinance, which requires owners to be living on site when renting out part of their unit, and doesn't allow homeowners to rent out their homes like hotels. Making an exception for these residents, therefore, would grant them a special privileged status under the law.

Condo advocates respond that these units would be part of a commercial hotel site, not on a single-family, residentially-zoned parcel, so they aren't the same. Miramar hotel staff are already scheduled to service the condos owners when they are living on-site; and under this additional proposal, would also service 'guests' renting the otherwise vacant condos. This is great for more quality union jobs, but further blurs the line of what these units really are.

And if vacant condos can be rented out, isn't there a financial incentive for the hotel to sell to absentee owners so the hotel (and the City) can make more money renting their vacant units? If we truly want stable neighbors, City Staff needs to also analyze disincentives to absentee ownership - like a vacancy tax - before the plan gets to City Council. It should also explore dedicating such funds received - as well as the real estate transfer taxes from condo sales - to future affordable housing.

WHO GETS HIGH IN AT THE MIRAMAR?

Some say, 'if these rooms are going to be rented like hotel rooms, why not just make the whole project a hotel?' The property owners bristle at this suggestion, because selling high-rise luxury condos is a major financing tool for their project. So what makes these condos so valuable? Part of it are the amenities of being on-site at a beautiful hotel. But a big part of it are also the views.

Prior to the passage of the DCP in 2017, the City's height limit was 84 feet, going back to 1984. The DCP allows for developments on three unique Established Large Sites to go to 130 feet - if they meet specific public policy goals for each site. For the Miramar site, those are affordable housing, public open space, and historic preservation.

The proposal provides land and financing for building up to 42 units of affordable housing across the street from the Miramar. It also retains the historic Palisades building on the Miramar site as part of the hotel - although there remains discussion about how much additional restoration beyond basic preservation of the building should occur.

The proposal also meets the DCP requirement of more than 50 percent open space on the site. The DCP requires a minimum of 25% on ground level and allows for an additional 25% above. The proposal provides for 51% on the ground level - including what will be an incredible new public space around the Landmark giant Moreton Bay Fig Tree. It then has three inviting public spaces above - a Bungalow deck on the second floor at Wilshire and Ocean, an outdoor terrace for the new Fig restaurant location on the second floor at Ocean Avenue and a pool bar and grill on the third floor deck that will also be open to the public - all with ocean views.

BUY THE SKY AND SELL THE SKY

But what the project doesn't propose are public views and spaces at the top. Those newly created spectacular views on the upper floors are privatized for sale to the very wealthy — whether they are full time, absentee or short term occupants. In return we commoners get truly great public spaces

SEE **INSIDE/OUTSIDE** PAGE 11

Census Bureau stops layoffs for door knockers after order

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

Two days after a federal judge ordered the U.S. Census Bureau to stop winding down 2020 census operations for the time being, the statistical agency said Tuesday in court papers that it's refraining from laying off some census takers and it's restoring some quality-control steps.

The Census Bureau said it's refraining from laying off census takers who were in the late phases of the head count of every U.S. resident and those door-knockers still are being assigned homes to visit in an effort to get answers for the 2020 census questionnaire.

However, the bureau will still terminate workers because of performance concerns, according to the court papers outlining a plan for how the Census Bureau and the Commerce Department, which oversees the statistical agency, will comply with the judge's order.

The temporary restraining order issued late Saturday by U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California, stops the Census Bureau from winding down operations until a court hearing for a preliminary injunction is held Sept. 17.

The once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident helps determine how $1.5 trillion in federal funding is distributed and how many congressional seats each state gets in a process known as apportionment.

The temporary restraining order was requested by a coalition of cities, counties and civil rights groups that had sued the Census Bureau, demanding it restore its previous plan for finishing the census at the end of October, instead of using a revised plan to end operations at the end of September. The coalition had argued the earlier deadline would cause the Census Bureau to overlook minority communities in the census, leading to an inaccurate count.

The Census Bureau's plan outlining compliance with the order says some quality-control steps that had been eliminated with the changed schedule will be restored. Those include verifying vacant homes, making extra home visits to households with conflicting information about whether they are vacant and making extra home visits when investigating potential cases of fraud.

Attorneys for the federal government asked the judge to convert the temporary restraining order into a preliminary injunction if she planned to extend the order past the Sept. 17 hearing so the Census Bureau can start the appeals process.

Because of the pandemic, the Census Bureau pushed back ending the count from the end of July to the end of October and asked Congress to extend the deadline for turning in the numbers used for redrawing congressional districts from December, as required by law, into next spring. When the Republican-controlled Senate failed to take up the request, the bureau was forced to create a revised schedule that had the census ending in September, according to the statistical agency.

The lawsuit contends the Census Bureau changed the schedule to accommodate a directive from President Donald Trump to exclude people in the country illegally from the numbers used in redrawing congressional districts. The revised plan would have the Census Bureau handing in the apportionment numbers at the end of December, under the control of the Trump administration, no matter who wins the election in November.

More than a half dozen other lawsuits have been filed in tandem across the country, challenging Trump's memorandum as unconstitutional and an attempt to limit the power of Latinos and immigrants of color during apportionment.

During a virtual court hearing Tuesday, government attorney Alexander Sverdlov said the Census Bureau did not see the judge's temporary restraining order as stopping the agency from ending the count at the end of the month.

Koh appeared frustrated by the inability of government attorneys to say when precisely the decision was made to the change the plan so field operations would finish at the end of September instead of the end of October.

"This was organic. Multiple people spontaneously came to the same conclusion that re-planning was necessary? Is that what the Census Bureau's position is?" asked Koh sarcastically.

Sverdlov said there was not a single point when Census Bureau staff realized they would need to shorten the count by a month because Congress wasn't extending the deadline for turning in the apportionment numbers.

Several times, Sverdlov misspoke about the census operations and later had to correct himself.

Attorneys for the coalition are asking for administrative records that show how and why the revised plan was made, but Sverdlov said they did not exist. The government attorney urged Koh to make a decision without them. Even if they did exist, they could be legally withheld because they involved the bureau's decision-making process, he said at one point.

The judge found the lack of administrative records hard to believe.

"I do not understand the government's refusal to be transparent about what they have decided to do," Koh said.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 306 CALLS ON SEPT. 7

72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 700blk 23rd St 1:01 a.m.
Party Complaint 2300blk Schader Dr 1:27 a.m.
Found Property 1900blk Ocean Ave 1:29 a.m.
Person With A Gun Ocean Ave / Broadway 1:48 a.m.
Party Complaint 400blk Ashland Ave 1:52 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 19th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:45 a.m.
Of Shots Fired 1300blk 4th St 4:36 a.m.
Rape 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:35 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 6:48 a.m.
Strongarm Robbery Main St / Olympic Dr 6:50 a.m.
Burglary 1200blk 5th St 8:10 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2300blk Pico Blvd 8:29 a.m.
Kidnap 300blk Olympic Dr 8:31 a.m.
Found Property 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 8:37 a.m.
Lewd Activity 200blk Bicknell Ave 8:37 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Yale St 8:39 a.m.
Petty Theft 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 8:40 a.m.
Grand Theft 400blk Broadway 8:42 a.m.
Burglary 1000blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:47 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1600blk Ocean Ave 8:49 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 8:50 a.m.
Construction Noise 1000blk 12th St 9:10 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2200blk 20th St 9:10 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1900blk Euclid St 9:10 a.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 9:14 a.m.
Construction Noise 2300blk Idaho Ave 9:18 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200blk 14th St 9:18 a.m.
Petty Theft 2900blk Colorado Ave 9:19 a.m.
Construction Noise 800blk 3rd St 9:20 a.m.
Burglary 1200blk 5th St 9:27 a.m.
Construction Noise 400blk Ocean Ave 9:29 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1500blk Georgina Ave 9:37 a.m.
Battery 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:45 a.m.
Construction Noise 5th St / Marine St 9:55 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:04 a.m.
Petty Theft 1100blk 12th St 10:07 a.m.
Drinking In Public 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:15 a.m.
Burglary 1500blk Broadway 10:19 a.m.
Burglary 1500blk Broadway 10:19 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 10:19 a.m.
Found Property 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 10:27 a.m.
Burglary 2600blk Wilshire Blvd 10:39 a.m.
Construction Noise 800blk 18th St 11:17 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2400blk 18th St 11:19 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Lincoln Blvd / Ashland Ave 11:23 a.m.
Construction Noise 4th St / Bicknell Ave 11:33 a.m.
Burglary 1400blk 25th St 12:01 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1900blk Euclid St 12:07 p.m.
Grand Theft 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:09 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 12:10 p.m.
Battery 2600blk Main St 12:12 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk 11th St 12:27 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1900blk Euclid St 12:28 p.m.
Construction Noise 100blk Marguerita Ave 12:30 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 14th St 12:49 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200blk 2nd St 12:50 p.m.
Drinking In Public 2700blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:09 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:21 p.m.
Assault 1200blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:21 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:25 p.m.
Death Investigation 1900blk Stewart St 1:35 p.m.
Burglary 1100blk 9th St 1:42 p.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Ave 1:57 p.m.
Petty Theft 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 2:01 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1400blk Stanford St 2:02 p.m.
Covid 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 2:14 p.m.
Found Property 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:14 p.m.
Petty Theft 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:19 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd E 2:22 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 4th St / Pico Blvd 2:37 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 4th St / Interstate 10 3:05 p.m.
Construction Noise 1000blk 12th St 3:14 p.m.
Petty Theft 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 3:36 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 1400blk 5th St 5:20 p.m.
Elder Abuse 1800blk 10th St 5:32 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:33 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 5:46 p.m.
Found Person 2200blk Ocean Front Walk 5:50 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 5:58 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1100blk Stanford St 5:58 p.m.
Auto Burglary 100blk Wadsworth Ave 6:14 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 2700blk Barnard Way 6:32 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 2500blk Ocean Front Walk 6:54 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 900blk Wilshire Blvd 6:55 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 2700blk Barnard Way 7:01 p.m.
Fight 1500blk Ocean Ave 7:56 p.m.
Fight 1400blk Ocean Ave 8:50 p.m.
Party Complaint 500blk Ashland Ave 8:52 p.m.
Encampment 1100blk Stanford St 9:03 p.m.
Found Property 1500blk The Beach 9:17 p.m.
Drinking In Public 2000blk Ocean Ave 9:27 p.m.
Identity Theft 1100blk 2nd St 9:42 p.m.
Fight 5th St / Broadway 10:24 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2200blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:45 p.m.
Fight 2100blk Ocean Ave 10:49 p.m.
Petty Theft 300blk Santa Monica Pier 11:12 p.m.
Petty Theft 1600blk The Beach 11:17 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 30 CALLS ON SEPT. 7

Automatic Alarm 2400blk 16th St 12:53 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Maple St 1:44 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 6:18 a.m.
EMS 28th St / Pearl St 6:50 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1000blk 6th St 8:03 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Wilshire Blvd 8:48 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 10:23 a.m.
EMS 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:56 a.m.
EMS 2700blk Colorado Ave 12:07 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Stewart St 1:35 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900blk Broadway 3:04 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 3:19 p.m.
EMS 900blk 21st St 5:18 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 5:39 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 6:17 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Euclid St 6:17 p.m.
EMS 900blk Wilshire Blvd 7:11 p.m.
EMS 3100blk 4th St 7:13 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 7:39 p.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 7:43 p.m.
EMS Main St / Pacific St 7:52 p.m.
EMS 800blk 7th St 9:23 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1200blk 12th St 10:01 p.m.
EMS 2900blk Urban Ave 10:24 p.m.
EMS 800blk 7th St 10:41 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 10:45 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 10:58 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Franklin St 11:01 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 11:28 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 14th St 11:35 p.m.

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SP2563

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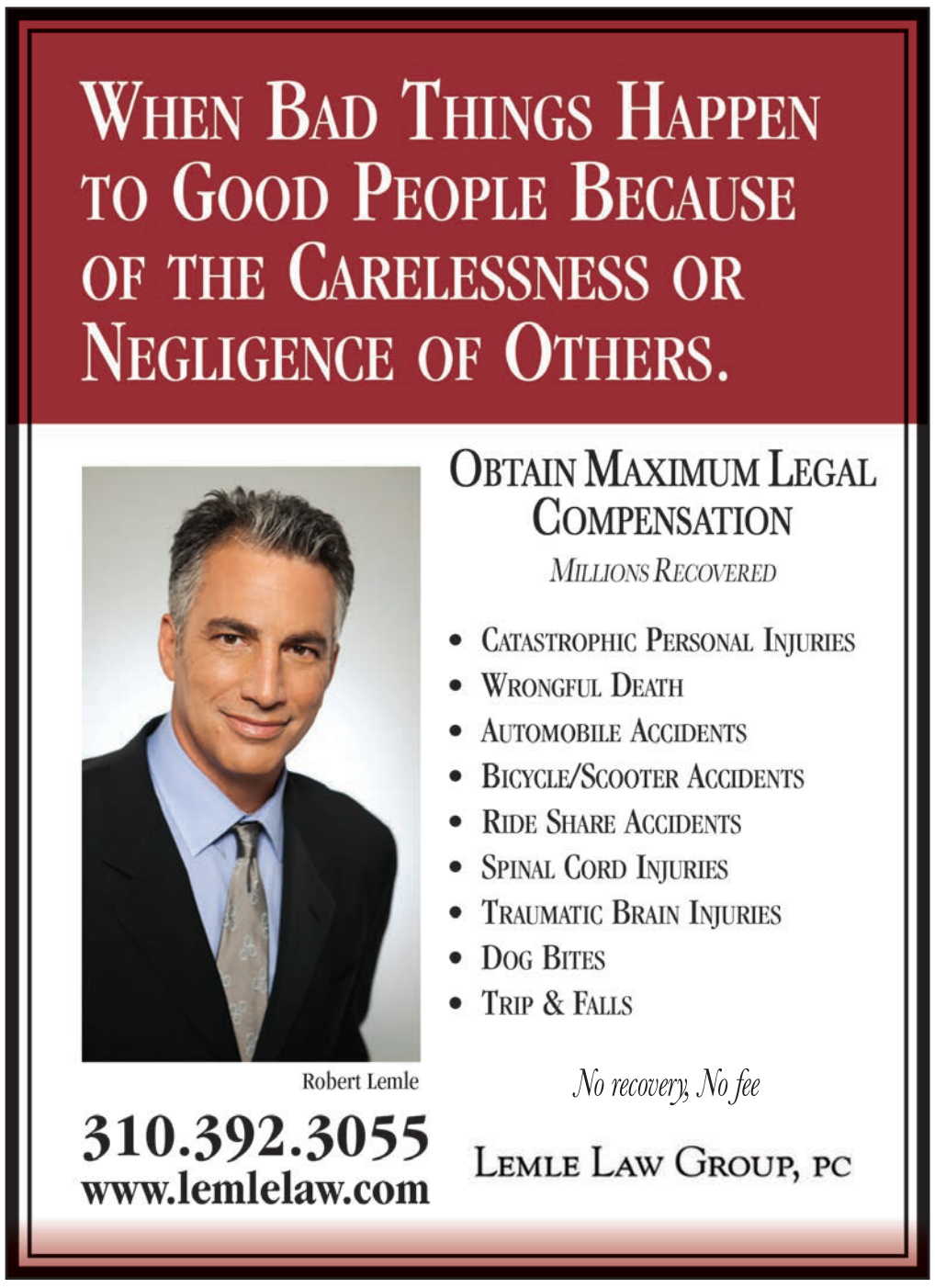
MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: None

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $1,666,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 180 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,000.00 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a Class A license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.





As California burns, the winds arrive and the lights go out

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ AND CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

New wildfires ravaged bone-dry California during a scorching Labor Day weekend that saw a dramatic airlift of more than 200 people trapped by flames and ended with the state's largest utility turning off power to 172,000 customers to try to prevent its power lines and other equipment from sparking more fires.

California is heading into what traditionally is the teeth of the wildfire season, and already it has set a record with 2 million acres burned this year. The previous record was set just two years ago and included the deadliest wildfire in state history — the Camp Fire that swept through the community of Paradise and killed 85 people.

That fire was started by Pacific Gas & Electric power lines. Liability from billions of dollars in claims from that and other fires forced the utility to seek bankruptcy protection. To guard against new wildfires and new liability, PG&E last year began preemptive power shutoffs when conditions are exceptionally dangerous.

That's the situation now in Northern California, where high and dry winds are expected until Wednesday. PG&E received criticism for its handling of planned outages last year. The utility said it has learned from past problems, "and this year will be making events smaller in size, shorter in length and smarter for customers."

Two of the three largest fires in state history are burning in the San Francisco Bay Area. More than 14,000 firefighters are battling those fires and about two dozen others around California.

The fire danger also is high in Southern California, where new fires were burning in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. The U.S. Forest Service on Monday decided to close all eight national forests in the region and to shutter campgrounds statewide.

"The wildfire situation throughout California is dangerous and must be taken seriously." said Randy Moore, regional forester for the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Region that covers California. "Existing fires are displaying extreme fire behavior, new fire starts are likely, weather conditions are worsening, and we simply do not have enough resources to fully fight and contain every fire."

Lynne Tolmachoff, spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, said it's "unnerving" to have reached a record for acreage burned when September and October usually are the worst months for fires because vegetation has dried out and high winds are more common.

While the two mammoth Bay Area fires were largely contained after burning for three weeks, firefighters struggled to corral several other major blazes ahead of the expected winds. Evacuation orders were expanded to more mountain communities Monday as the largest blaze, the Creek Fire, churned through the Sierra National Forest in Central California.

It was one of many recent major fires that has displayed terrifyingly swift movement. The fire moved 15 miles (24 kilometers) in a single day during the weekend and burned 56 square miles (145.04 square kilometers). Since starting Friday from an unknown cause. it has burned 212 square miles (549 square kilometers).

Debra Rios wasn't home Monday when the order came to evacuate her hometown of Auberry, just northeast of Fresno. Sheriff's deputies went to her ranch property to pick up her 92-year-old mother, Shirley MacLean. They reunited at an evacuation center.

"I hope like heck the fire doesn't reach my little ranch," Rios said. "It's not looking good right now. It's an awfully big fire."

Mountain roads saw a steady stream of cars and trucks leaving the community of about 2,300 on Monday afternoon.

Firefighters working in steep terrain saved the tiny town of Shaver Lake from flames that roared down hillsides toward a marina. About 30 houses were destroyed in the remote hamlet of Big Creek, resident Toby Wait said.

"About half the private homes in town burned down," he said. "Words cannot even begin to describe the devastation of this community."

A school, church, library, historic general store and a major hydroelectric plant were spared in the community of about 200 residents, Wait told the Fresno Bee.

Sheriff's deputies went door to door to make sure residents were complying with orders to leave. Officials hoped to keep the fire from pushing west toward Yosemite National Park.

On Saturday, National Guard rescuers in two military helicopters airlifted 214 people to safety after flames trapped them in a wooded camping area near Mammoth Pool Reservoir. Two people were seriously injured and were among 12 hospitalized.

On Monday night, a military helicopter landed near Lake Edison to rescue people trapped by the fire, the Fresno Fire Department said on Twitter. There was no immediate number of how many people were airlifted.

Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Rosamond, the pilot of a Chinook helicopter, said visibility was poor and winds increasingly strong during the three flights he made into the fire zone during the operation that started late Saturday and stretched into Sunday. His crew relied on night-vision goggles to search for a landing spot near a boat launch where flames came within 50 feet (15.24 meters) of the aircraft.

The injured, along with women and children, took priority on the first airlift, which filled both helicopters to capacity, he said.

"We started getting information about how many people were out there, how many people to expect, and that number kept growing. So we knew that it was a dire situation," Rosamond said.

In Southern California, crews scrambled to douse several fires that roared to life in searing temperatures, including one that closed mountain roads in Angeles National Forest and

SEE **WILDFIRES** PAGE 11

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AWARD WINNER
AWARD WINNER
WINNER

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.

Rams must be resourceful after offseason personnel losses

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES RAMS (9-7)

New Faces: Defensive coordinator Brandon Staley, offensive coordinator Kevin O'Connell, special teams coordinator John Bonamego, RB Cam Akers, WR Van Jefferson, DT A'Shawn Robinson, LB Leonard Floyd.

Key Losses: RB Todd Gurley, WR Brandin Cooks, defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, special teams coordinator John Fassel, LB Clay Matthews, LB Dante Fowler, LB Cory Littleton, K Greg Zuerlein, CB Nickell Robey-Coleman, S Eric Weddle.

Strengths: DT Aaron Donald remains arguably single most disruptive force in modern game, capable of wrecking offense's effort by himself at any point. CB Jalen Ramsey is among position's elite, dissuading quarterbacks from even throwing his way for most of last season. WRs Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp are among NFL's top duos for consistency, precision and production. QB Jared Goff says he played unacceptably last year, but still racked up good numbers and remained healthy as usual. Coach Sean McVay is still golden boy, with three straight winning seasons and hunger to do more.

Weaknesses: Largely thanks to several ill-advised contracts, Rams lost their superstar running back (Gurley), top deep-threat receiver (Cooks), leading tackler and defensive lynchpin (Littleton), reliable nickel back (Robey-Coleman), longtime kicker (Zuerlein) and two productive pass rushers (Fowler and Matthews). McVay hired three new coordinators and turned over above-average defense to rookie coordinator Brandon Staley. Financial constraints prevented Rams from making any splashy free agent signings other than DT A'Shawn Robinson, who is missing start of regular season with undisclosed injury, and LB Leonard Floyd, who never lived up to expectations in Chicago.

Pandemic Development: New coordinators had no face-to-face time with players until camp began, forcing Staley in particular to install new schemes on Zoom. Rams erected massive tent next to training complex to hold meetings and walk-throughs, but then were met by searing temperatures and smoke from nearby wildfires. They also were featured on HBO's "Hard Knocks," with mask-wearing cameramen following their every move, not always from 6 feet away.

Fantasy Player To Watch: TE Tyler Higbee. That spectacular five-game finish to last season (43 catches, 522 yards, 2 TDs) probably wasn't fluke. Goff is extraordinarily confident in his offseason workout buddy, and McVay finally figured out how to get ball to tight end consistently. Higbee is likely to be major target early while Rams figure out who replaces Cooks.

Vegas Says: Win Super Bowl: 33-1. Over/under wins: 8.

Expectations: Rams have posted three straight winning seasons in NFL's toughest division, but they sustained heavy departures of key veteran talent without replacing much of it. Not many teams could hold steady after losing everyone who walked out door in Thousand Oaks last spring. But McVay has met almost every challenge in his head coaching career, and fiery new defensive guru Staley is already big hit with players. Any defense with Donald and Ramsey has to be taken seriously, and Goff/McVay passing game continues to evolve. Winning 10 games and making seven-team playoffs are reasonable goals, but bringing inaugural postseason game to brand-new SoFi Stadium would be even more desirable.

NUEVA

FROM PAGE 1

spent time in Mexico (mostly Oaxaca, Todos Santos and Baja), and loved it," said Jared Meisler, one of the restaurateurs behind Nueva. "Vartan was very interested in presenting his take on some of these south of the border dishes. Vartan brought in Mesraim, who he had worked with before, and the new cantina was born."

The drink menu was developed by Adam Fournier, the Bar Director of NoMad, and includes a series of funky cócteles in addition to the restaurant's vast tequila and mezcal collection. According to Meisler, diners are loving Nueva's frozen margaritas, tempache mule, and sotol cocktail.

Brunch, which is served on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, gets its own cocktail list featuring classic mimosas in addition to Mexican inspired drinks like a bloody maria and hacienda fizz. This menu also includes shakshuka-style huevos rancheros, cast iron pancakes with mezcal maple syrup, and a vegan tofu scramble with papas bravas.

Diners can spot Nueva by its retro rooftop sign, which glows above Washington Boulevard. Once they venture inside they will find themselves either in the lush garden centered around a large magnolia tree and surrounded by tropical shrubbery or in the colorful patio space which features a peach wall and twinkling string lights.

"Thankfully demand has been great. We think the abundance of outdoor space and how far apart we have the tables spaced is making guests feel comfortable. Plus the food and drinks are great!" said Meisler.

The patio space was partially converted from the original parking lot and was one of several adaptations the restaurateurs made in response to COVID-19 restrictions. The Co-Founders Jared Meisler and Dave and Patti Reiss of Reiss and Co. intended to open Nueva in April, but delayed opening to pandemic-proof the space.

"With social distancing requirements, we are fortunate to have a large outdoor patio to accommodate required spacing, so that was very helpful and then we converted a large section of our parking lot into a really nice intimate space that about doubled available seating," said Meisler. The restaurant also uses an iWave air filtration system to enhance guest safety. In the future the owners hope to open up the indoor bar area and eventually seat over 150 people.

Nueva sits in the former space of the Sunny Spot and is next to the Little Friend Bar, which is also owned by Jared Meisler. David and Patti Reiss are behind several other local eateries including The Brig Bar and Yours Truly on Abbott Kinney and Vito's Pizza in Santa Monica.

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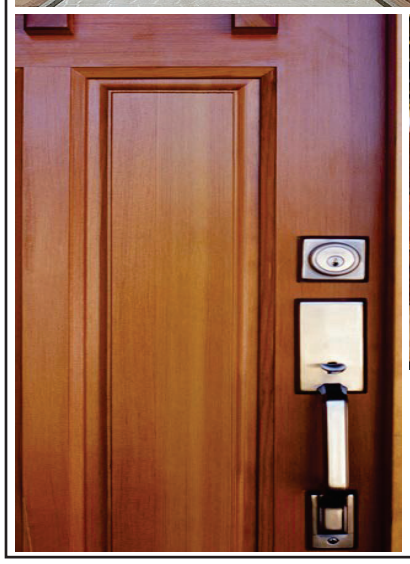
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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Politics Are Really Heating Up

MAN! IT IS GETTING HOT!

And I don't mean just the thermometer temperature.

Woodland Hills topped 120 over the weekend. 120, in LA, in the Valley. I used to live in the Valley. Thank you Lord, for the TORCA project that gifted me Ocean Park's cool ocean breezes. Until a wall of four-story construction covers Main Street. And if climate change raises the ocean levels, even a lot, well, I'm at the top of a hill and would wind up with ocean front property. (Sorry, Joel, Mario, Marty and a few other washed up friends.)

Climate change? Doesn't seem to be talked about much these days, does it? Even with twin hurricanes playing tag across the Caribbean and a record 13 tropical storms before September, now at 17. And 2,000,000 acres of CA wilderness up in flames, so far. (That's a larger area than two Rhode Islands.)

THE SILENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Is startling and disquieting, even as we have the threat of High Temp Trump moving us backward for another four years (or 12). Can we survive that? Will it be too late to reverse all the damage?

I guess we'll have to save the planet come January but right now, save the election. Our revered Post Office has been dismantled, to great damage and distress to all Americans (I just had to pick up meds at Walgreen's because my mailed order, shipped Aug. 10, hasn't arrived yet) — just for one man's election lust. And all manner of voter suppression is being pushed through by Republicans, from DC to county registrars. Murders by police of unarmed Black Americans continue unabated while the moment that millions of demonstrators in the streets are demanding, to reverse 400 years of racism, is being ignored, refuted, delayed, debated and studied into post-election irrelevance. Such as the study of what happened here 5/31.

And, oh yeah — coronavirus. 400,000 agonizing deaths by the end of the year. Just Monday, at a "press conference," Trump twice made fun of the notion of wearing masks. You still see many in SM not wearing them, following the example of their wise and genius leader. But why should they? Our City government has made only laughable token efforts to make that happen, and keep us safe. Had enough winning yet?

I KNOW YOU ALL KNOW THIS

Those of you who consider facts. But this is so important, to us all, that it bears repeating. You know that the one thing you can do to affect our multiple crises is to vote, no matter what your reservations may be. Educate yourself (especially on local issues, and the responsibility of the incumbents), and your friends, and make sure they all vote. To remove Donald Trump, and every Republican who has enabled him. (That would be, all of them.)

You might be getting by OK but more than 40M Americans lost their jobs due to the bungled response to the pandemic. Twice as many low paying jobs as high paying, and many of those will never come back. The unemployment and lost GDP are worse than they were for the Great Depression. This is a nightmare that's only beginning.

Stock market's fine though, fancy that. That's why Trump keeps bragging on his "great economy." And while you may be the delighted beneficiary of a fattened portfolio, please think of 8M children in households that are behind on the rent, about to be evicted. Up to 17,000,000 American children are not getting enough to eat. Good Lord, this is America? And of course, all the dire economic, health and hunger statistics run about twice as high for Blacks as whites.

Vote, at least, for the children.

I DON'T NEED TO GO ON

You're either listening, or have your fingers pushed deep into your ear canals. By the fourth paragraph, I had written enough for the Trump worshipers to write me off.

But just ignoring is not enough for them these days, it seems. No, that's the heat I referred to at the beginning, that has been hiked up higher than a hooker's hemline. (Oh, don't jump on me for that. I like alliteration, OK?)

For more than a year I've been posting these columns on social media sites related to Santa Monica. Sure, it often includes a discussion of national politics (local too) but aren't we all in SM talking and thinking about that? Aren't we all going to vote in November? I get about 80-90 percent positive reaction. But if I mention or even allude to Trump, the haters crawl out from under the rocks, and they are getting nastier, let me tell you.

I get my share of hate mail (my email address is at the bottom of every column). But lately Trumpettes are going public with going ballistic, spewing their personal invective. Then I have to decide: do I let that nonsense stand for all to read, many who won't know about the factual errors, or do I go down the hole and refute and correct? Almost always these days, I choose the former. But I worry that by giving my opinions (this behavior has a chilling effect, intentionally I believe), I spark more disinformation. So we should all just shut up and listen to The Donald, eh?

TERRY O'DAY

This week has been interesting, on the local scene, to see Council member Terry O'Day twist himself in knots trying to get the SMRR endorsement for the election, when he didn't follow the rules. I understand his efforts, because as I have witnessed at past SMRR nominating conventions, the board and even the presiding chairs can ignore the votes taken and find a reason to do whatever

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 11

CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON AUGUST 29 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:10 P.M.

Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the 900 block of 18th Street. The victim was alerted to someone climbing onto their balcony by an observant neighbor. Upon arrival, SMPD observed the suspect, Jared Muse, climbing down from the balcony of one of the units and was apprehended. At the time, he was in possession of a fixed blade knife, multiple screwdrivers, and multiple debit cards and 6 vehicle keys belonging to others. Muse was booked for 459 PC- Burglary, 466 PC - Burglary Tools, 21310 PC - Possession of a Concealed Dirk or Dagger, 484 (e)(d) PC - Petty Theft, 530.5 (e) PC - ID Theft of Mail and 3056 PC - Parole Violation. Muse remains in custody with bail set at $1,220,000.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica City Attorney's Office Secures Settlement for Paid Sick Leave Violations by The Tennis Channel

Following an administrative enforcement action against The Tennis Channel, Inc. ("Tennis Channel"), the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office has secured a settlement that includes fines and back-pay for affected employees. The Tennis Channel is a television-based multimedia company dedicated to the sport of tennis, including the coverage of professional tennis, with its headquarters located in Santa Monica.

The administrative investigation began when an employee of the Tennis Channel came forward to report that in 2018 she had not received the amount of paid sick leave required under the City's Minimum Wage Law. That law, adopted by the City in 2016, requires employers with 25 or fewer employees to provide a minimum of 40 hours paid sick leave, and employers with 26 or more employees to provide 72 hours paid sick leave.

The employee contacted the Department of Consumer Business and Affairs ("DCBA") who opened an investigation. DCBA's investigation revealed that the Tennis Channel violated the City's Paid Sick Leave law for 83 employees in 2018, which resulted in the DCBA issuing an administrative citation to The Tennis Channel for 87 separate violations.

The Tennis Channel opted to enter into settlement negotiations with the City Attorney's Office and in the settlement agreement that has been reached has agreed to do the following:

pay a fine of $500.00 per violation, resulting in a total fine to be paid to the City in the amount of $41,500.00;

pay back-pay to 27 former employees in the combined amount of $26,379.47, which will be distributed among the 27 affected former employees; and

provide additional paid leave benefits for 56 affected current employees, including the original complainant.

This case was handled by Deputy City Attorney Autumn Rindels for the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office. For more information regarding Santa Monica's Minimum Wage Ordinance and its requirements under the Paid Sick Leave provision, or to file a complaint, please visit DCBA's website at https://dcba.lacounty.gov/minimum-wage/ or call DCBA at (800) 593-8222.

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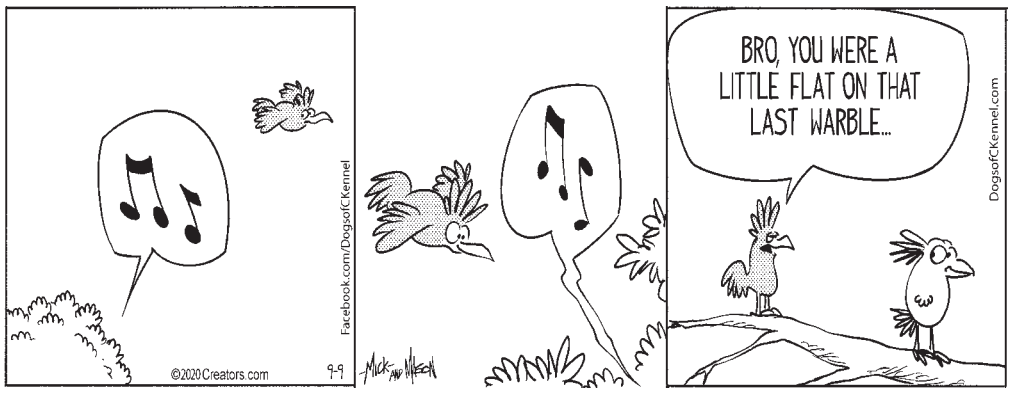
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



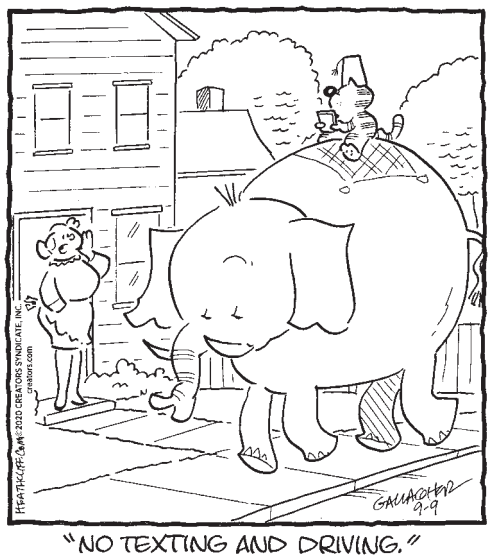
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"NO TEXTING AND DRIVING."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 69.3°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
Fun-zone SSW swell tops out – not pumping but likely worth the paddle. Clean AM with light/variable to light offshore wind - just light onshores expected for PM.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Fun-zone SSW swell lingers through the day, gradually fading – not great but should be worth a look. Minor WNW picks up. Light AM winds with stronger onshore flow and heavier bump in the PM.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 79.
Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 69.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 66.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

2020/09/09	Wed	03:29 AM	2.97	H
2020/09/09	Wed	06:49 AM	2.78	L
2020/09/09	Wed	2:18 PM	4.56	H
2020/09/09	Wed	10:46 PM	1.56	L
2020/09/10	Thu	3:42 PM	4.60	H
2020/09/11	Fri	12:04 AM	1.12	L
2020/09/11	Fri	07:47 AM	3.46	H
2020/09/11	Fri	10:46 AM	3.29	L
2020/09/11	Fri	5:04 PM	4.86	H
2020/09/12	Sat	12:54 AM	0.63	L
2020/09/12	Sat	07:59 AM	3.75	H
2020/09/12	Sat	12:05 PM	3.03	L
2020/09/12	Sat	6:07 PM	5.28	H
2020/09/13	Sun	01:34 AM	0.16	L
2020/09/13	Sun	08:18 AM	4.05	H
2020/09/13	Sun	12:57 PM	2.62	L
2020/09/13	Sun	7:00 PM	5.75	H
2020/09/14	Mon	02:09 AM	-0.22	L
2020/09/14	Mon	08:39 AM	4.38	H
2020/09/14	Mon	1:41 PM	2.12	L
2020/09/14	Mon	7:46 PM	6.16	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:09/05
15 21 22 27 47
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 75 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 08/28
15 25 26 38 47
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 88 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 09/05
1 18 22 26 27
Mega#: 12
Jackpot:7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 09/07
9 21 23 37 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 09/08
Midday: 3 1 5
Draw Date: 09/07
Evening: 5 8 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 09/07
1st: 07 - EUREKA
2nd: 08-GORGEOUS GEORGE
3rd: 02 - LUCKY STAR
RACE TIME: 1:41.82

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 09)

You have mighty powers of focus and stamina and they will support you well in the next ten weeks. By November, you'll have the means to invest in an exciting and lucrative venture. A location change will invigorate you in 2021. Your family will grow and so will your responsibilities. You wouldn't have it any other way. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 1, 27 and 29.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You know what you need to do. Sure, you're scared. It's pretty simple actually, and though it might take 30 words to say this, it all boils down to three — you've got this.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What is the difference between a burden and a crutch? How you use it. The actual item (habit, person) could be the same in either case, but your use of it will make all the difference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The distractions could get expensive and are best avoided entirely. You have a sense of where you're supposed to be, and it's a productive day so long as you stick to your course.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Someone loves you. For this person, it's like you're there even when you're not there because your influence is constantly considered. Does knowing this make you feel like you need to be a little more careful with your input?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The cardinal typically lives three years in the wild and can survive for decades in captivity. Happily? Scientists do not test for that part. As for you, bright bursts of happiness, over in seconds, will be remembered for years.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It is possible to improve almost anything, and it's done through the development of your senses. Senses get keener with experience. Awareness opens up with each new experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a time for pure fun and a time to feel the gravity that keeps us from flying off the face of the planet. Sure, it causes things we don't like — falls, sagging, teardrops and so much work, and yet, no gravity means no life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Bad manners are often just a lack of training or a difference in background. You will not be sorry for displaying tolerance and reserving judgment until you really understand the person and the factors at play.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Be aware of what you make important with your focus and time. You don't have to agree to the same reality other people are experiencing. See it differently and, like magic, it is different.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People who present differently from how the majority of a group is showing up will be met with misunderstanding, fear or skepticism. Not by you though. You're fascinated and will learn more because of it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Aquarius has a talent for not only accepting the differences of others but also seeking out diversity wherever possible — a talent that's made possible by an overflowing well of that rare and much-needed attitude: tolerance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's something about your life that seems to hinge on having a certain conversation. Probably, you've been avoiding this, but you no longer should. Today is the day to try and have it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

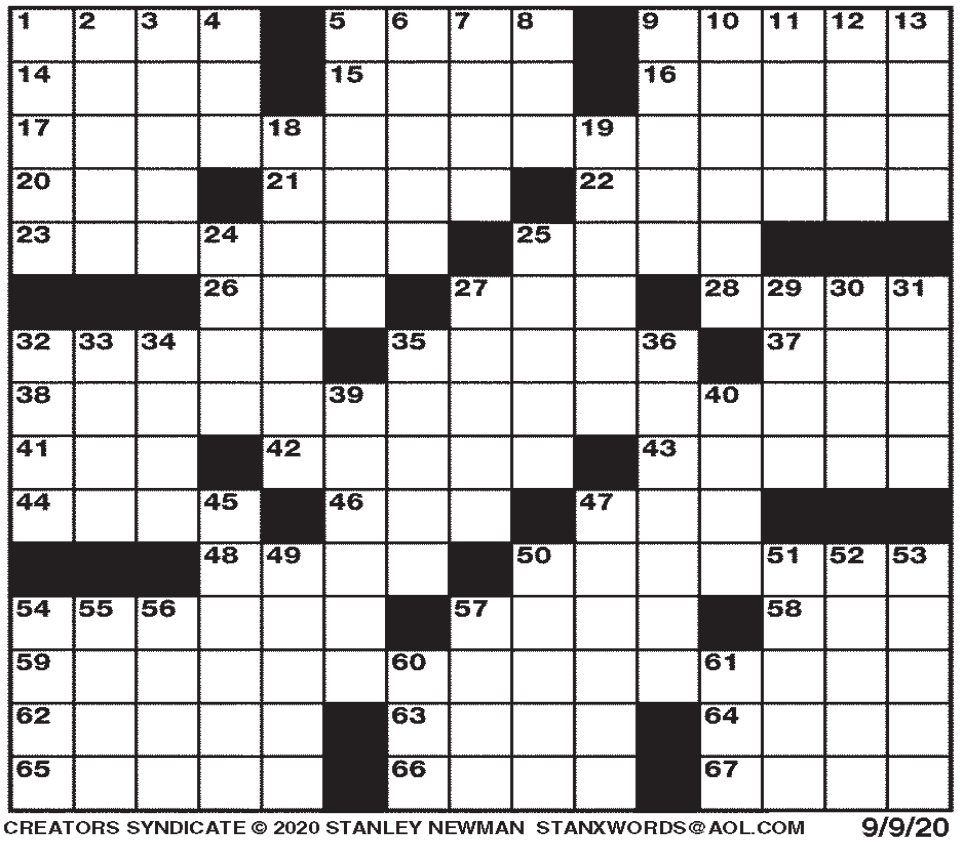
6			5		2	3		
							2	
2	8			4		9		5
9					8			
	6	2				7	4	
			6					1
8		1		7			6	4
	4							
		7	1		4			9

Newsday Crossword

CONNECT THE DOTS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Vegan's taboo
5 Having the know-how
9 To the left or right
14 Alan who played Hawkeye
15 Honest-to-goodness
16 "Buzz off!"
17 Place to begin
20 Dedicated verse
21 Takes one's turn
22 Gets extra mileage from
23 French automaker
25 Packed off
26 Poor-quality
27 Had a meal
28 Lasting mark
32 Martian, for example
35 "Rainbow" fish
37 World Cup cheer
38 About 20 months, for elephants
41 Slippery swimmer
42 Entertainer __ Davis Jr.
43 Takes a lease on
44 Itinerary, for short
46 Grazing area
47 Cute __ button
48 *Roots* author Haley
50 More strict
54 Victimize
57 Spool for old films
58 Mrs. Perón
59 Secluded place
62 Aloe or cactus
63 Long-armed primates
64 Carry off
65 Tennis great Monica
66 Ripped out
67 Asked earnestly

DOWN
1 College student's concentration
2 Dodge artfully
3 Guys who create commercials
4 Keg insert
5 Notorious soldier Benedict
6 Sire, in the Bible
7 Vietnam neighbor
8 North Pole toymaker
9 Colorado ski resort
10 Merit badge earners
11 Part of the eye
12 Copenhagen native
13 CPR experts
18 Pets named Iggy, often
19 Make available, as time
24 Help in wrongdoing
25 Showing no emotion
27 Bakery by-product
29 Invent, as a phrase
30 Zillions
31 Carmine and cerise
32 Eras
33 Scallion cousin
34 England's __ of Man
35 Seiko competitor
36 In very few words
39 Special skill
40 __-view mirror
45 Very beginning
47 Order to relax
49 Attics of barns
50 Urban drainage system
51 Himalayan nation
52 Bring to mind
53 Evaluated
54 Ice cream on sticks
55 Regulation
56 Bibliography abbr.
57 Seized car, for short
60 Court jester wear with bells
61 Fuel additive letters



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Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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



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

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

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Snow country

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

Adaminaby	Drop	Mist	Sneeze
Alpine	Edges	Mt Buller	Sniffle
Appetite	Foggy	Neve	Snow
Apres	Gates	Nippy	Soup
Avalanche	Glare	Numb	Spills
Blue Cow	Grey	Omeo	Sport
Boots	Hats	Peak	Stem
Coat	Heath	Play	Stock
Control	Hire	Rain	Sunny
Cost	Hold	Runs	Trees
Coughs	Huts	Skis	Urge
Dark	Legs	Sleet	
Drinks	Lone	Slope	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Getting in some research

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COVID

FROM PAGE 1

from the disease as of Monday, Sept. 7, but with a number of residents flocking to beaches and coastal cities to avoid the 100-degree heat that engulfed most of Los Angeles County this weekend, Newsom and Ghaly said the state would probably see some movement in the new tiered dashboard system in the next seven days.

The last reporting period was September 7, according to Newsom, who said, "We've seen shy of 3,000 cases in the state — 2,676 to be exact," and the seven-day average is around 4,300 cases. "If those appear to be promising numbers, it's because they are," he added as he detailed how California has averaged just shy of 110,000 tests per day.

Since numbers appear to be on the decline, Newsom said state officials are often asked about the steps they are taking to reopen the economy.

"Three-day holiday weekends have not been advantageous in terms of the mitigation of the spread of this virus. You look back at some of the periods where we experienced larger spreads (and) large surge of transmissions tended to occur two to three weeks after say, Fourth of July (or) other holiday weekends," Newsom said. "And as a consequence, we're very cautious in terms of our approach as we move forward."

Ghaly voiced support for the approach when he later took the podium.

"Again, this concept of slow and stringent is really important for California as we begin to see the reductions in case numbers, the reductions in our hospitals and ICU numbers overall," Ghaly said. "As we enter a new season, as we go into winter where certain activities are harder to do outdoors, we want to make sure — as a state — we go in with the lowest levels of transmission. And our framework really is designed to help us get there."

When the state's tiered system was first released, there were 38 counties in the purple tier, which means COVID is considered to be widespread in the area. This week though, Ghaly said, there are 33 counties in the purple and some counties may advance further in reopening efforts if they can maintain steady progress for another week.

"The last thing you want to do is see a county move one week, only to see the potential for backward movement again very soon," Ghaly added. California witnessed this phenomenon a few months back when it started to see progress prior to the holiday weekends in the summer.

"We must learn from that recent example and that's why it's more important than ever to be vigilant as we work through the next few months and work through this flu season," because if cases were to rise, Ghaly said, "we (could) then see in the hospitals the strain on the healthcare system, our inability to assure that we can take care of as many people who are sick, and a situation we don't want to find California in again."

So, residents are urged to remain cautious and do the things the governor asks.

"Wash our hands, wear our masks, keep physically distanced and if you're experiencing any symptoms," Ghaly said, "stay home, try to stay away from others so we don't spread… COVID, the flu or anything else. And we keep these infectious diseases in check, in California throughout the next months."

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MIRAMAR

FROM PAGE 1

prospective Fairmont Miramar Hotel project, which has been in the works for nearly a decade as developers look to revitalize the century-old building into a new 500,000-square-foot mixed-use project.

Dustin Peterson of The Athens Group, the real estate company in charge of the redevelopment, said during the meeting he hopes the project will include 312 luxury hotel rooms, a publicly accessible open space at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, and land that can be used to build a minimum of 42 affordable housing units, which will be located in a five-story apartment building across 2nd Street and would be developed by Community Corporation, the City's affordable housing provider, according to the commission's staff report.

However, some Santa Monica residents and local stakeholders have adamantly opposed the renovation, citing concerns that the new development will block their ocean view or create additional pollution throughout the area. And dozens brought forth their opinions to the commission last week when hours of public comment forced commissioners to continue the meeting at a later date.

Despite the objections from some locals, Peterson was adamant to describe the affordable apartments as an unprecedented offering for a private development in Santa Monica. He and his peers also said thousands of new construction jobs and more than 100 new permanent jobs could come available if the project were to receive approval from city council.

It's expected commissioners will recommend a number of actions to Santa Monica City Council during Wednesday's meeting so the hotel project could into the next phase of the approval process. And since the Commission completed a portion of the scheduled hearing last week, this week's agenda states commissioners will be allowed to ask the applicant questions and then they will be expected to deliberate and make their recommendations.

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CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 6

they please.

O'Day is firmly entrenched in SM Forward, the real money power broker here for the last five years — he was a founder, along with Judy Abdo, and ran several six-figure election PACs. He of course has their endorsement and was the top vote getter in the last election, but this quiet member of the Council is now getting a little noisy in his unseemly quest to hold on to power. Kudos to Michael Soloff and Patricia Hoffman, co-chairing the SMRR convention, to stick to the rules and not be bullied.

Charles Andrews 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

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

FROM PAGE 2

at the lower levels, and a great hotel that generates a lot of tax income for the City.

Is that tradeoff OK? To justify going to 130 feet, the top floor of the proposed project at 5th/Arizona - also one of the three Established Large Sites in the DCP - provides a restaurant/bar and viewing deck open to the public on its top level. Why not a top level public open space at the Miramar to justify its extraordinary proposed height?

Clearly the Miramar wants to dedicate the top floors to the luxury condo-owners - its the most financially profitable to them and the easiest to design. But from a community standpoint, there are only so many times when we will create new spectacular views of our ocean, mountains and sky - some of the very elements of nature that define us as a community. Are we really that desperate that we must sell off this newly created asset in its entirety, and not retain the right to partake in it? Do we really want to look up from Ocean Ave. and say those new great views are only for the super-rich?

In retrospect, the DCP should have been written to specify that Established Large Sites should include at least some open spaces on the higher levels. But all is not lost. The opportunity to build above 84 feet under the DCP is still a discretionary decision by our public policy makers, and they can insist upon such access and views as a condition of approval for any project that seeks to build so high.

The Planning Commission should ask the developers to find a way to create public access at the top, and the Miramar should do it before it comes to City Council. On such an important project for our community, the Miramar owners should not give the City Council a reason to vote 'no'. By providing public access to share in these newly created views, they would be providing a big reason to vote 'yes'.

Michael Feinstein is a former Santa Monica Mayor (2000-2002) and City Councilmember (1996-2004). He can be reached via Twitter @mikefeinstein. 'Inside/Outside' is a periodic column about civic affairs Feinstein writes for the Daily Press, that takes advantage of his experience inside and outside of government.

WILDFIRES

FROM PAGE 4

forced the evacuation of the historic Mount Wilson Observatory. Late Monday night, the Los Angeles County Fire Department told residents of Duarte, Bradbury and Monrovia near the forest to get ready for a possible evacuation.

Cal Fire said a blaze in San Bernardino County called the El Dorado Fire started Saturday morning and was caused by a smoke-generating pyrotechnic device used by a couple to reveal their baby's gender. In eastern San Diego County, a fire destroyed at least 10 structures after burning 16 square miles (41.44 square kilometers) and prompting evacuations near the remote community of Alpine in the Cleveland National Forest.

California has seen 900 wildfires since Aug. 15, many of them started by an intense series of thousands of lightning strikes in mid-August. There have been eight fire deaths and more than 3,300 structures destroyed.

Weber reported from Los Angeles along with contributing Associated Press journalist Frank Baker.

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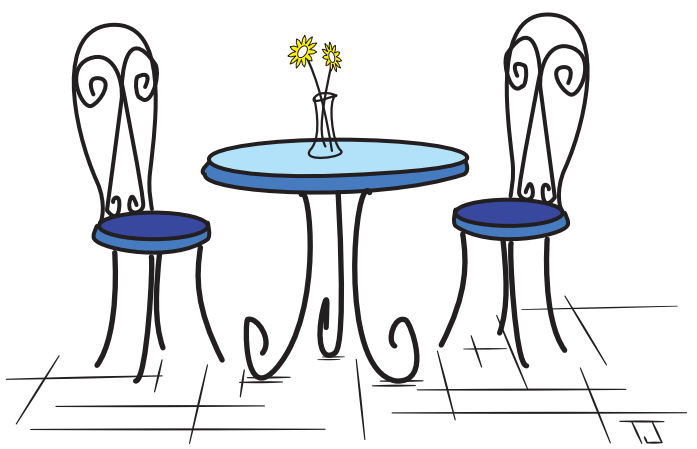
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