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Volume 19 Issue 156

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Covid update
Smoke is impacting testing.
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Fitness lawsuit
Gyms want to reopen.
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Kindergarten enrollment plummets by 20 percent this fall

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

There has been a 20 percent decrease in kindergarten enrollment at SMMUSD this fall compared to enrollment numbers in Oct. 2019, indicating that many parents may be unable or unwilling to support their young child's distance learning amidst the other challenges of COVID-19.

Prior to the pandemic, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District predicted a 9 percent drop in kindergarten and transitional kindergarten enrollment, due to regional demographic shifts. The actual 20 percent decrease seen this fall is assumed to be in response to distance learning as parents are not legally required to enroll children in TK and K.

There are currently 532 students enrolled in kindergarten compared to 665 in Oct. 2019. 100 students are enrolled in transitional kindergarten, a program for four-year-olds who turn five between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, compared to 121 last Oct.

The 20 percent decrease in TK and K enrollment, is greater than the 14 percent decrease in LAUSD

SEE **KINDERGARTEN** PAGE 11

School Board to discuss potential in-person learning model and legislation endorsements

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will hold a school board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom this Thursday and will discuss potential plans for in-person learning as well as its support for Measure SM and HR 763.

The board will present the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for the 2020-2021 school year, outlining the District's steps for resuming modified in-person instruction and supporting pupils with unique needs.

Based off of a July survey of staff and parents, the Board identified a hybrid model as the first stage of resuming in-person instruction. An updated survey of parent's preferences was sent Sept. 10, but was canceled due to misleading wording and will be edited and recirculated soon.

The Learning and Continuity Plan outlines a hybrid model where families can choose between continuing distance learning or opting for a combination of in-person and remote learning. SMMUSD will only be able to implement this plan when L.A. County has less than seven COVID-19 cases per day per 100,000 people and a test positivity rate of less than 8 percent for 14 consecutive days.

Students whose families select in-person instruction will receive live instruction in the classroom and will work asynchronously at home to complete tasks assigned by their teacher.

Elementary students whose families do not select the hybrid model will remain in distance learning but may be assigned a new teacher. Secondary students who continue to work remotely will be enrolled in a virtual learning academy, which will only feature

SEE **BOARD MEETING** PAGE 7

Man charged for sexually assaulting seniors

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A man has been arrested in connection with a string of sexual assaults at local nursing homes.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department, charges have been filed against 55-year-old Juan Victor Mendoza for assaults that occurred between 2012 and 2018.

In a statement, SMPD said Mendoza was first arrested in 2019 for one accusation of assault on an elderly victim in Santa Monica. After Mendoza made bail, detectives were told of three other victims who said Mendoza also assaulted them.

Mendoza was rearrested last week and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has filed four felony charges against him.

"Mendoza is currently in custody with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with a bail of $250,000," said the statement. "The Santa Monica Police Department believes Mendoza may be responsible for additional crimes in the Los Angeles area."

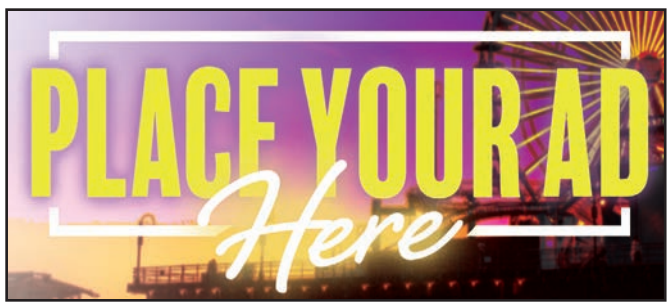
Anyone with information is encouraged to call Detective Nicole Murphy at (310) 458-8941 or Nicole.Murphy@smgov.net; Sergeant Artis Williams at (310) 458-8475; or the SMPD at (310) 458-8491.



Courtesy image

BAD AIR: Air quality warnings remain in effect for the Los Angeles region. Precautions include avoiding unnecessary outdoor exposure and limiting physical exertion (whether indoor or outdoor), such as exercise. Children and people who have air quality sensitive conditions, such as heart disease, asthma, and other chronic respiratory diseases, should follow these recommendations and stay indoors as much as possible even in areas where smoke, soot, or ash cannot be seen, or there is no smell of smoke. If your condition worsens, contact your health care provider immediately for medical advice or call 911.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

RFP: #262 WORKPLACE INJURY PREVENTION SERVICES

• Submission Deadline is October 15, 2020 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **City's Online Vendor Portal.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4400 FIBER OPTIC UTILITY CONSTRUCTION

Submission Deadline is October 9, 2020 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **City's Online Vendor Portal.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids (http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm) or ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

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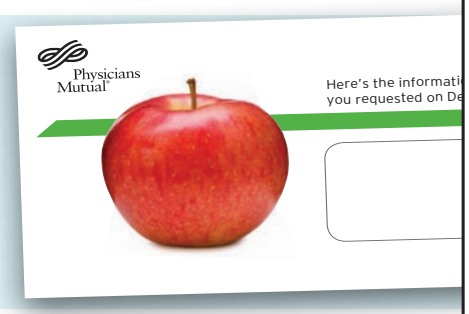
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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 282 CALLS ON SEPTEMBER 14

\Grand Theft 2500blk 17th St 12:32 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:57 a.m.
Battery 100blk Wilshire Blvd 1:32 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 1000blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:38 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 00blk Pico Blvd 5:11 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 7:04 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1800blk 12th St 7:22 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 11th St / Olympic Blvd W 7:26 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 200blk Main St 7:27 a.m.
Burglary 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:59 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:00 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 300blk Bay St 8:12 a.m.
Attempt Auto Theft 2600blk 3rd St 8:45 a.m.
Fraud 1200blk 5th St 8:53 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk Franklin St 8:59 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 2nd St 9:06 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900blk 9th St 9:08 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk Ocean Ave 9:31 a.m.
Grand Theft 500blk Pico Blvd 9:32 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 7th St 10:15 a.m.
Grand Theft 1000blk 18th St 10:17 a.m.
Loud Music 800blk 6th St 10:18 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk Euclid St 10:23 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1400blk 10th St 10:31 a.m.
Fraud 1000blk 14th St 10:44 a.m.
Burglary 1500blk 9th St 10:52 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk Franklin St 11:01 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2800blk Highland Ave 11:02 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk Euclid St 11:06 a.m.
Encampment 2200blk Pico Blvd 11:08 a.m.
Encampment 21st St / Pico Blvd 11:20 a.m.
Identity Theft 900blk 14th St 11:22 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1800blk 18th St 11:22 a.m.
Fraud 300blk Olympic Dr 11:25 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 7th St / Montana Ave 11:48 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk Delaware Ave 11:50 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1800blk 12th St 11:54 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1800blk 12th St 11:55 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk Delaware Ave 12:10 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Appian Way 12:25 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Lincoln Blvd / California Ave 12:31 p.m.
Burglary 1000blk Ocean Ave 12:54 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 400blk Colorado 12:59 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 2500blk Kansas Ave 1:01 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:02 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 1:03 p.m.
Battery Now 1800blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:13 p.m.
Burglary 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 1:19 p.m.
Petty Theft 2100blk Main St 1:31 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 2500blk Kansas Ave 1:36 p.m.
Missing Person 300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:55 p.m.
Burglary 200blk Montana Ave 1:58 p.m.
Petty Theft 900blk Palisades Beach Rd 2:20 p.m.
Person With A Gun 900blk Euclid St 2:26 p.m.
Found Property 700blk Palisades Park 2:44 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 600blk Pico Blvd 2:53 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 2:55 p.m.
Fight 1500blk Palisades Park 3:40 p.m.
Person With A Gun 300blk Santa Monica Pier 3:59 p.m.
Fight Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 4:07 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900blk 9th St 4:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Main St / Hollister Ave 4:12 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600blk Pico Blvd 4:15 p.m.
Fraud 1000blk 14th St 4:17 p.m.
Burglary 700blk Ocean Ave 4:25 p.m.
Identity Theft 800blk Yale St 4:29 p.m.
Drinking In Public 2200blk Virginia Ave 4:32 p.m.
Drinking In Public 800blk Navy St 4:38 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1500blk Olympic Blvd 4:42 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1400blk 11th St 4:50 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:57 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2000blk Main St 5:04 p.m.
Loitering 21st St / Pico Blvd 5:11 p.m.
Petty Theft 2000blk 20th St 5:22 p.m.
Grand Theft 1000blk 18th St 6:06 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 6:16 p.m.
Child Endangerment 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 6:26 p.m.
Construction Noise 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 6:34 p.m.
Panhandling 900blk 16th St 6:36 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Civic Center Dr 6:44 p.m.
Auto Burglary 2800blk Highland Ave 7:06 p.m.
Loud Music Lincoln Blvd / Michigan Ave 7:08 p.m.
Petty Theft 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 7:13 p.m.
Petty Theft 1500blk 12th St 7:23 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk Grant St 7:30 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk Palisades Park 7:50 p.m.
Lost Property 300blk Santa Monica Pl 8:02 p.m.
Lost Property 4th St / Colorado Ave 8:09 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1700blk Franklin St 8:11 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1900blk Ocean Way 8:25 p.m.
Battery 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:35 p.m.
Missing Person 1500blk 17th St 9:15 p.m.
Found Property 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 9:37 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 10:05 p.m.
Fight 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:29 p.m.
Encampment 900blk Ocean Ave 10:55 p.m.
Loud Music 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:01 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:13 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 35 CALLS ON SEPTEMBER 14

EMS 1100blk Arizona Ave 2:56 a.m.
EMS Barnard Way / Ocean Park Blvd 3:00 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:43 a.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 7:04 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1700blk 10th St 8:34 a.m.
EMS 2500blk 21st St 9:32 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 10:08 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 10:36 a.m.
EMS 400blk Georgina Ave 11:04 a.m.
EMS 2500blk 4th St 11:08 a.m.
EMS 2900blk Delaware Ave 12:10 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / California Ave 12:27 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 300blk Idaho Ave 12:48 p.m.
EMS 800blk 19th St 12:55 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 1:16 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 4th St 2:04 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:39 p.m.
Automatic Alarm Olympic Blvd / 26th St 2:54 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 3:11 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Olympic Blvd 3:14 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 3:21 p.m.
EMS 2nd St / Colorado Ave 3:55 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:01 p.m.
EMS Main St / Hollister Ave 4:12 p.m.
EMS 3100blk 4th St 4:42 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Main St 4:47 p.m.
EMS 17th St / Wilshire Blvd 5:09 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 100blk Pico Blvd 6:08 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Main St 7:31 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 3rd St 8:06 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:45 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Olympic Blvd 9:11 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Euclid St 10:05 p.m.
EMS 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:25 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Pico Blvd 11:38 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public Health Reports 47 New Deaths and 474 New Positive Cases of Confirmed COVID-19

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed 47 new deaths and 474 new cases of confirmed COVID-19. The lower number of new cases, in part, reflect reduced testing due to wildfire smoke and recent extreme weather.

Public Health reminds residents that testing capacity across the County remains high and appointments are available. Testing is also widely available within the provider community.

If you have symptoms or think you were exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should get tested. You should also get tested if you were in a crowd or gathering where people were close together and not wearing face coverings and/or keeping their distance.

For more information about getting tested, visit covid19.lacounty.gov/testing or call the County's 2-1-1 information line. Those without a regular provider are encouraged to call 2-1-1 for assistance. Residents who have a regular source of healthcare can contact their healthcare provider if they need to be tested for COVID-19.

It is important to know if you are positive because you can transmit the virus without knowing you are infected. Younger people could unknowingly spread the disease to older and more vulnerable people with underlying health conditions who can suffer more severe illness. Ninety-two percent of the people who died from COVID-19 had underlying health conditions.

To date, Public Health has identified 255,049 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County, and a total of 6,273 deaths. Nearly 70% of all cases have occurred in people under the age of 50. Santa Monica has reported 834 cases.

Of the 47 new deaths reported today, 18 people that passed away were over the age of 80 years old, 17 people who died were between the ages of 65 and 79 years old, seven people who died were between the ages of 50 and 64 years old, three people who died were between the ages of 30 and 49 years old, and one person who died was between the ages of 18 and 29 years old. Thirty-six people who died had underlying health conditions including 13 people over the age of 80, 13 people between the ages of 65 and 79 years old, seven people between the ages of 50 and 64 years old, two people between the ages of 30 and 49 years old, and one person between the ages of 18 and 29 years old. One death was reported by the City of Pasadena.

"So many are experiencing profound sorrow because they have lost a loved one or friend to COVID-19. I extend my deepest sympathies to each of you," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "Tragically, we are reporting another death in person who was under 29 years old. Younger people not only are the majority of individuals infected and infecting others, but also can experience devastating consequences themselves. Nearly 450 COVID-19 deaths have occurred among individuals under the age of 50 years old. This is why it is important for everyone, including younger residents to take precautions every time they leave their homes and to get tested if they have been exposed to the virus."

Of those who died, information about race and ethnicity is available for 5,899 people (99 percent of the cases reported by Public Health); 51% of deaths occurred among Latino/Latinx residents, 23% among White residents, 15% among Asian residents, 10% among African American/Black residents, less than 1% among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents and 1% among residents identifying with other races. Upon further investigation, 81 cases and five deaths reported earlier were not L.A. County residents.

Testing results are available for more than 2,465,000 individuals with 10% of all people testing positive. Currently, there are 772 confirmed cases currently hospitalized and 33% of these people are confirmed cases in the ICU. The downward trend in hospitalizations continues.

The Reopening Protocols, COVID-19 Surveillance Interactive Dashboard, Roadmap to Recovery, Recovery Dashboard, and additional things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your community are on the Public Health website, www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica College Presents Green Screen Series Online

Santa Monica College (SMC) unveils the Fall 2020 Green Screen Series, an informative series of free film screenings and discussions hosted by SMC film professor Sheila Laffey as an extension to her course, Green Screen: Films on the Environment and Transformation.

All presentations in the series are free and will be held online. Pre-registration is required to attend, and early registration is highly recommended. A link to pre-register is available in the Green Screen Series listings on the SMC Events calendar at smc.edu/calendar.

The Green Screen Series is sponsored by SMC Global Citizenship.

The Fall 2020 Green Screen Series lineup is:

• Monday, September 21 at 3 p.m. – "The River and the Wall: Screening and Talk with Green Screen Series Host Sheila Laffey." Director Ben Masters recruits an ornithologist, a river guide, a conservationist, and a NatGeo explorer to join him on a two-and-a-half-month, 1,200-mile U.S.-Mexico border journey along the Rio Grande by canoe, horse, and mountain bike, to explore how a border wall can affect wildlife, immigration, landowners, and public lands. The film features stunning footage that reveals unknown ecosystems and wildlife threatened by the wall.

• Monday, October 12 at 3 p.m. – "Love Thy Nature: Film Screening and Talk with Director and Nature Therapy Guide Sylvie Rokab." Narrated by Liam Neeson as Sapiens and winner of 27 awards, Love Thy Nature explores how humans have lost touch with the natural world, and takes us on a journey to discover how a connection to nature is key to our personal health and that of our planet.

• Monday, November 2 at 3 p.m. – "Hawai'i Eco Stories: We All Need the Forest and In the Middle of the Sea: Screenings and Talk with Producer Sheila Laffey and Cathi Miller, Professor of Early Childhood Education on Nature-Based Learning." Two short films produced for use in Hawaii schools will be shown. We All Need the Forest is the story of a boy who meets the Spirit of the Forest and discovers ancient principles that help heal his ailing grandfather. In the Middle of the Sea tells the tale of two youngsters taken on a magical journey on a Hawaiian mountain, where they discover why Hawaii harbors such a rich diversity of plants and animals.

• Monday, November 23 at 3 p.m. – "The Condor & the Eagle: Screening and Talk with Green Screen Series Host Sheila Laffey." The Condor & the Eagle follows four Indigenous leaders on a transcontinental journey to unite the peoples of North and South America and deepen the meaning of "climate justice." Their path from the Canadian plains to the heart of the Amazon takes them on an adventure that will forever change their connection to Earth and one another.

All programs are subject to change without notice, and new events may be added to the series. Up-to-date details are posted at smc.edu/calendar and available by calling 310-434-4100.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Citywide

City and Community Corporation of Host Bilingual Webinar to Connect Job Seekers with Employment Resources

As part of the City's economic recovery efforts, a free online Ready to Work webinar will host presentations by local agencies on employment preparation, job search, job retention, career training, and offer certificate programs for career change, literacy programs, and training in technology. Agencies planning to participate include: Chrysalis, Hospitality Training Academy, JVS WorkSource, Santa Monica College - Noncredit Initiatives, SMMUSD Adult Education Center, and Santa Monica Public Library.

Following individual presentations by each agency, participants will have the opportunity to meet with individual agencies in a breakout room to sign up for their programs or schedule follow up appointments. The opening presentation will be recorded and made available on the City website. The program will be presented twice, one in English and one in Spanish.

English: Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting directly:
https://bit.ly/2Zimy4y
Meeting ID: 943 2781 5612 Passcode: hLW73C
Spanish: Wednesday, September 30, 2020, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting directly:
https://bit.ly/3m2Cvpd
ID de Reunión: 938 7730 1627 Clave: r5bAVd
More information can be found at santamonica.gov/economicrecovery/job-resources.

This webinar is part of the City of Santa Monica's Economic Recovery Task Force focused on accelerating a safe and healthy economic recovery and return to business. Recent city-wide economic recovery efforts include the expansion of outdoor dining and shopping, the creation of new online job resources for local employment seekers, business and rental relief programs, expanded availability of health and safety related signage and PPE available to local businesses, sharing of childcare resources for local employees and residents, and the development and implementation of the Santa Monica Shines COVID-19 Assurance Program.

For ongoing updates about Santa Monica's Economic Recovery Efforts, visit santamonica.gov/economicrecovery. For questions, contact the City of Santa Monica's hotline at (310) 458-8400 or info@santamonica.gov. Sign up for emergency alerts by texting SMALERT to 888-777 and regular email updates at santamonica.gov/newsletter.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMC Student Film "The Attempt" Accepted into The American Pavilion at Cannes

"The Attempt"–a short film written and directed by Santa Monica College (SMC) film student Daniel Despart–has been accepted into The 23rd American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase during the 2020 Cannes Film Festival. SMC is the only community college and one of six U.S. film schools represented in the showcase; the other student films featured hail from the American Film Institute, USC, Chapman University, Florida State University, and the School of Visual Arts.

In a statement posted on the American Pavilion website, Monika Skerbelis, programming director, said: "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Finalist Films will be screened at a future Festival in Cannes. In the meantime, we will virtually showcase these exceptional and diverse films to our American Pavilion audiences for a limited time. [Each film] will be followed by a scheduled live Q&A with the filmmakers. Screening dates to be announced soon."

The fifth SMC student film to screen at The American Pavilion, "The Attempt"¾which will screen in the Emerging Filmmaker Student Showcase category–is set in 1921 post-World War I Berlin and it is based on a true story. "The Attempt" follows Soghomon Tehlirian, a young man who is given the mission to assassinate the chief orchestrator of the Armenian genocide. During the attempt, Soghomon realizes that killing another man is not easy and contemplates starting a new life with the woman he loves.

"It's a great honor and responsibility to represent Santa Monica College at Cannes," said Daniel Despart. "My intention with this film was to inspire others to look further into the true story behind Soghomon Tehlirian and in turn, the Armenian Genocide as a whole. We must never forget our past, and in this modern age of wholesale disinformation and double-speak, this has never been more pertinent."

Ara Woland, who plays Tehlirian and also co-produced the film, said that he was very young when he first learned about Tehlirian from his history teacher. "I was immediately drawn to his enigmatic character, and for years tried to bring his story to life," Woland said. "It's truly an unbelievable story of a young man who carried the weight of a whole nation. It was very exciting to explore the period of Soghomon's life that led him to become this heroic figure in the history of the Armenian people. And it was a particular challenge to portray the side of him that carried the contradictions and the vulnerabilities inherent in being human, especially in one who survived unspeakable tragedy."

SMC student films have won numerous accolades–including a BAFTA nomination; the Panavision Limelight Award at the Ojai Film Festival; Best Short Drama at the San Diego Film Festival; Best Short at the Prague Independent Film Festival; Special Mention at the International Festival of Film Schools in Munich; and Winner at the Women's Independent Film Festival–and have been selected to screen in many prestigious domestic and international film festivals.

The other SMC shorts to have screened in competition at the Emerging Filmmaker Showcase in Cannes were "Solidarity" (directed by Dustin Brown), "Cora" (directed by Kevin Maxwell), "Spaghetti Romance" (directed by Carrie Finklea, in co-production with CinemadaMare), and "Life in Color" (directed by Bishal Dutta, in co-production with Bridge the Divide Media).

"The mission of SMC's film program is to ensure that our students' films have artistic integrity and challenge the world we live in," said SMC Film Professor Salvador Carrasco, who heads the film production program. "'The Attempt' is the perfect example of this. By tackling head on controversial subject matter, the film explores whether its complex protagonist, the historical figure Soghomon Tehlirian, can reconcile morality with preserving the historical memory of his people. It is a gripping and beautifully executed film; we couldn't be prouder of the work produced by our student filmmakers."

Several films that have played at The American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase have gone on to be shortlisted for Academy Award nominations. For more information on The American Pavilion at Cannes, visit www.ampav.com.

SMC offers an Associate of Science degree and Certificate of Achievement in Film Production. To learn more, visit www.smc.edu/filmproduction or email Carrasco_Salvador@smc.edu. The film program–as well as the films that come out of it– is on YouTube as the "Santa Monica College Film Program" channel.

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Seeping under doors, bad air from West's fires won't ease up

SARA CLINE AND GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

Dangerously dirty air spewing from the West Coast wildfires is seeping into homes and businesses, sneaking into cars through air conditioning vents and preventing people already shut away by the coronavirus pandemic from enjoying a walk or trip to the park.

People in Oregon, Washington state and California have been struggling for a week or longer under some of the most unhealthy air on the planet. The acrid yellow-green smog may linger for days or weeks, scientists and forecasters said.

It is also a sign of things to come. With wildfires getting larger and more destructive because of climate change and more people living closer to areas that burn, smoke will likely shroud the sky more often in the future.

"I don't think that we should be outside, but at the same time, we've been cooped up in the house already for months, so it's kind of hard to dictate what's good and what's bad. I mean, we shouldn't be outside period," Portland resident Issa Ubidia-Luckett said Monday.

The hazy air closed businesses like Whole Foods and the iconic Powell's Books in Portland and suspended garbage pickup in some communities. Pollution and fire evacuations canceled online school and closed some college campuses in Oregon.

"It is so bad that you can likely smell (smoke) inside your house," said Sarah Present, the health officer for Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties. "In some areas, the air quality is so hazardous it is off the charts of the EPA's rating scale."

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality Index is considered hazardous between 301 and 500. Values above 500 — which multiple Oregon cities have reported during the past week — are beyond the index's scale.

The air quality agency extended an alert to Thursday, and the air was so thick that Alaska Airlines stopped flights to Portland and Spokane, Washington, until Tuesday afternoon.

Zoe Flanagan, who has lived in Portland for 12 years, braved the smog to walk her two dogs Monday. In desperation, she and her husband turned on the heater a day earlier because it has a better filter than their air conditioner.

She said the air made her feel hungover, despite not drinking. She could not get enough water, and she had a headache. With health officials urging people to stay inside, the poor air also took away the simple pleasure of being outdoors during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Those backyard hangouts that we all got so used to as our one saving grace are now totally gone, and we just have to keep practicing letting go of what normal is," Flanagan said.

Smoke can irritate the eyes and lungs and worsen some medical conditions. Health experts warned that young children, adults over 65, pregnant women and people with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory conditions were especially vulnerable.

"The lasting effects of breathing the small particulates in the wildfire smoke can be extremely dangerous," Present said. "It can lead to heart attacks, irregular heart rhythms and even death."

The region has had a significant increase in visits to emergency rooms due to air quality, officials said Tuesday.

Smoke from dozens of wildfires is pooling in California's Central Valley, an agricultural region that has some of the state's worst air quality even when there are no flames. Some parts of central California are not likely to see relief until October, said Dan Borsum, the incident meteorologist for a fire in Northern California.

"It's going to take a substantially strong weather pattern to move all the smoke," Borsum said at a briefing Sunday.

Joe Smith, advocacy director for Sacramento Loaves & Fishes, which helps homeless people, said California's capital city has not seen consistent blue skies in weeks. People without homes have been grappling with an onslaught of disasters this year.

"Some of the toughest folks you'll ever meet are people who live outdoors, unhoused, but it is getting to them," Smith said. "We've got COVID-19, followed by excessive heat wave, followed by smoke. What's going to start falling out of the air next on these poor folks?"

Twana James, who lives in a tent in Sacramento, coughed several times, trying to clear her throat, saying her voice is not usually so hoarse.

"Everything is covered in ashes," she said by phone Monday. "It's hard to breathe."

Places like the Oregon Convention Center in downtown Portland are being used as shelters for people who need a dose of healthy air. Typically during wildfires, people can escape to other areas of the state to breathe easy, said Dylan Darling, a spokesman for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

"That's what's standing out — there just isn't a place in Oregon right now to find fresh air," Darling said. The level of pollution lingering for so long and so widely "really stands out in the state's history," he said.

Oregon needs a "perfect balance" of winds to disperse smoke but not exacerbate the fires, said Tyler Kranz, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service's Portland office.

"We need the winds to get the smoke out of here," Kranz said. "We just don't want them to be too strong, because then they could fan those flames, and all of a sudden, those fires are spreading again."

Ubidia-Luckett was eating outside Monday at a popular burger place east of Portland with her 6-year-old son, but they moved inside because of the bad air, which had postponed the boy's first day of kindergarten for the second time.

"That's the hard part for little kids. They're so cooped up so what do you do?" she asked. "Eventually, they want to go outside."

Associated Press writers Janie Har and Juliet Williams in San Francisco contributed to this report. Cline reported from Salem, Oregon.

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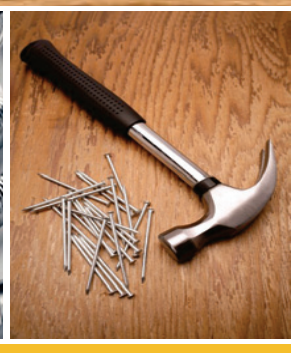
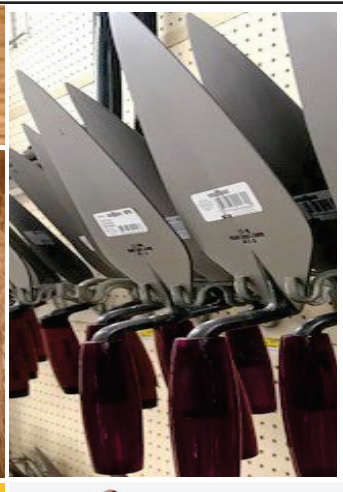
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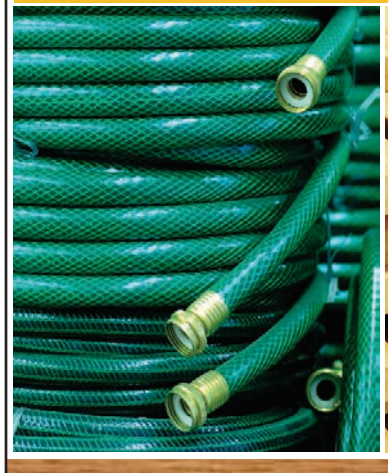
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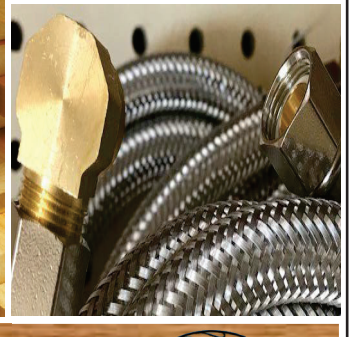
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Curious City

Charles Andrews
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Nothing to See Here, Folks

GIVE ME A BREAK

Donald Trump tries to scare people with crime — it's a shop-worn Republican trope, Law & Order, worked for Nixon, not so much for Barry Goldwater, actually goes back to Presidential campaigns in the 1700s — painting an apocalyptic picture of an America ruled by looters and thugs, police defunded and nowhere to be found, cities burning, no one safe on the streets or in their homes, people moving in next door who are …"different." That will be Joe Biden's America so you'd better vote for me because I'm the only one who can fix it.

Fix it? You broke it. People are incredibly frustrated and angry because the racism you've stoke for more than four years has resulted in more and more murders of unarmed people of color. After 400 years, we've had it. That doesn't mean burning and looting is right, but it is certainly understandable. "A riot is the language of the unheard," explained non-violent activist Martin Luther King Jr. in 1967, to a mostly white audience at Stanford.

It's been Trump's America for four years. This is one of the few ways Trump acts like a Republican: they have a long history of breaking things, like the budget, peace and autonomy abroad, voting and other rights, the environment, the economy, and then sounding the alarm, pushing the panic button, and demanding the car keys again after driving it into the ditch. Trust us, we'll get it out. (Oh, Democrats — could you lend a hand?) Just vote for us again.

What ridiculous posturing. How could he even try that, using video from Trump's America to scare people about a future Biden presidency — who would believe it? But he does try it, because they do believe it. "They," his loyal, cult base, will believe anything he says. Get away from me with those facts! You probably got them from the New York Times, or NBC News, right?

BUT WHAT ABOUT SANTA MONICA?

I often draw parallels between our local politics and national, but my goodness, we do have our differences here in SM, don't we? Not to brag but wouldn't you say we have a population above average in education, sophistication, knowledge, awareness and, we hope, sound judgement? So you can't pull that simpleton dodge on us, you politicians.

Let's take the issue of crime. Let's do that because it seems to be the number one issue for most residents for this coming election. Who hasn't been a victim, or known someone who was? In my little condo complex of 10 units we had one longtime, gray-haired resident mugged for his cell phone just a few blocks from here, and another, a big strapping young dude, who was attacked and beaten by four guys as he emptied the trash out front.

Social media shows a constant flow of reports of everything from armed robbery, commercial burglary, carjacking and home invasion (probably not local kids) to the mentally unstable pooping on your porch, to knife attacks, to grandma getting clocked in the face. As someone who has lived here for almost 35 years, I can tell you, discounting the hysteria of social media (but few are making this stuff up), it is definitely getting worse.

BUT WAIT!

I must be wrong. Here's what I heard at the recent SM Democratic Party candidate debate on zoom:

Pushing back on studies that show SM to be one of the most unsafe cities in CA — "You can cherry pick stats but compared to 10, 15, 20 years ago, Santa Monica is a much safer city than what it was. For me, public safety involves being a place where everyone can thrive. So for me, we need to become a city of wellbeing. Crime, people experiencing homelessness, a lot of the things that make us uncomfortable in the city right now are a result of the fact that we're not taking care of people, and if we solve that underlying problem, of taking care of individuals' wellbeing, a lot of the things that people do find uncomfortable will be solved. So I believe that what we need to do is invest more money in things — mental health, youth programs, programs that help seniors, those sorts of programs that reach out and help people where they are and help them thrive within the community, because not only does that help solve the individuals' problems, but it builds a better community and a deeper community."

That was incumbent Gleam Davis, addressing the issue of crime (??) in Santa Monica. It immediately brought to my mind a line in a song by the Animals, "The Story

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 11

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BOARD MEETING

FROM PAGE 1

asynchronous work. These students will have a teacher to contact, but will not receive any live instruction.

The plan also outlines several steps to address student learning loss due to COVID-19 including: diagnostic assessment, supplemental ELD instruction to English learners, supplemental learning instruction to low-income students, and expanded summer learning opportunities.

To address achievement gaps for marginalized and underprivileged students the plan provides services including: Family Engagement Coordinator, Language Access Services, Bilingual Community Liaisons, Restorative Justice programming, and a Mental Health Case Worker.

During the meeting the board will vote to adopt Resolution No. 20-06 - Endorsing Measure SM on the Nov 3 ballot.

The agenda states, "Our school district and the City of Santa Monica are long standing partners in sustaining high quality schools through the City's significant direct financial contributions to SMMUSD, totaling $25.2 million annually, through the Master Facilities Use Agreement and Measures Y and GSH revenue-sharing agreements. Revenue generated by the passage of Measure SM would benefit our students and families."

The board will also vote to adopt Resolution No. 20-07 - Urge Congress to Approve HR 763: Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

The resolution states, "HR 763 puts an annually increasing fee on carbon emissions at their source (mine, well etc.). Fossil fuel companies will then pass the increased cost onto consumers. However, the fees collected are distributed to American households in the form of a dividend. According to economic studies, low- and moderate-income families would actually come out ahead, since they are lower users of carbon."

The board will also vote to adopt Resolution No. 20-05, recognizing National Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month from Sept. 15 through Oct 15 to increase awareness and participation in the celebration of Latino American culture.

Members of the public who wish to make a public comment at the upcoming meeting can do so by completing a Google survey sign up. The survey can be found online at tinyurl.com/y6rz63jp and will be open 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

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Ian Keiller, Chief Operating Officer

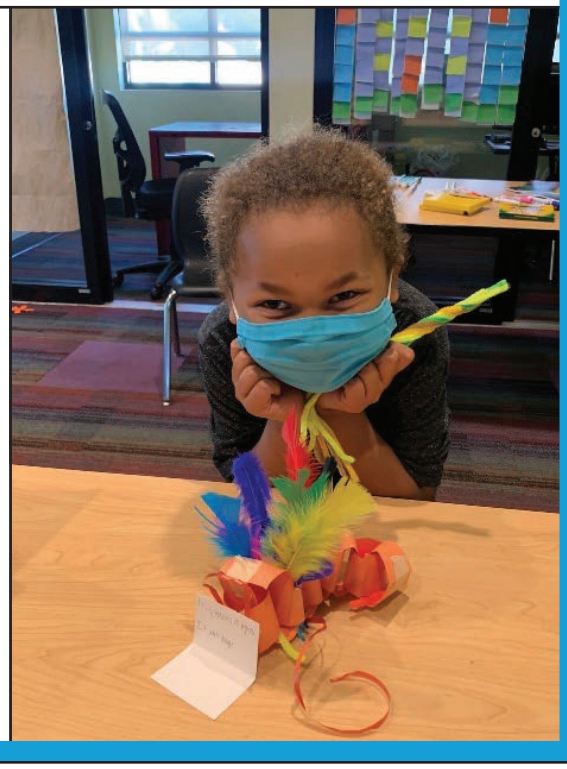
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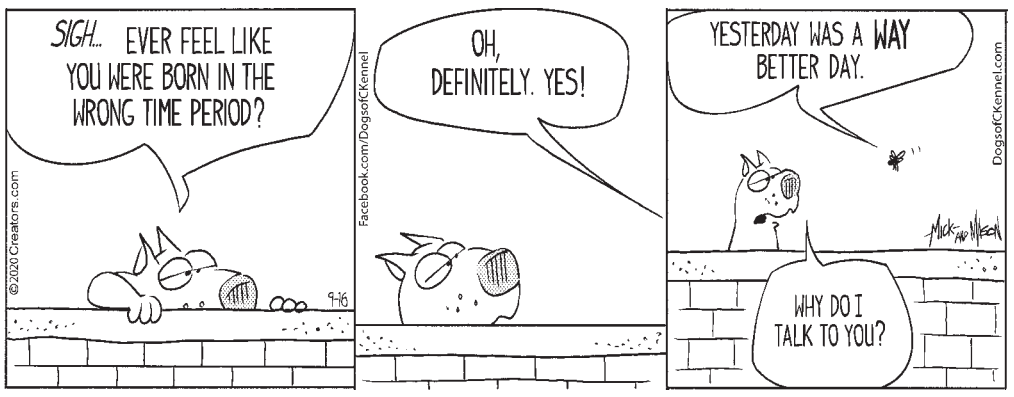
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



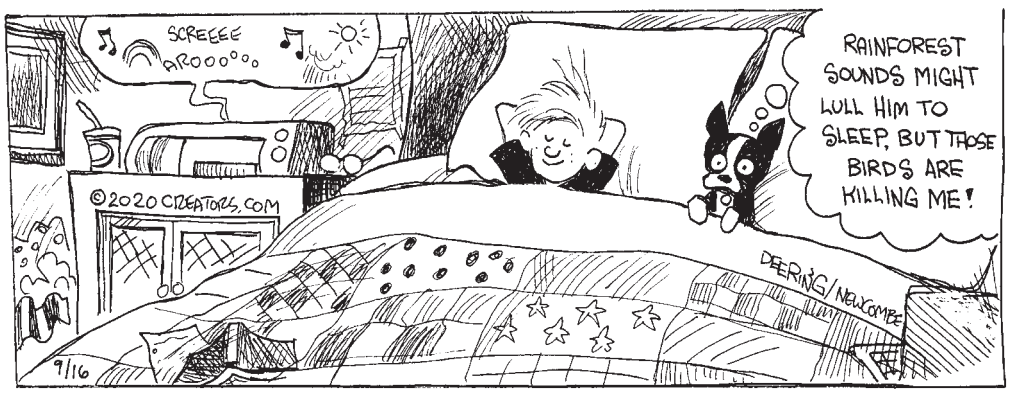
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



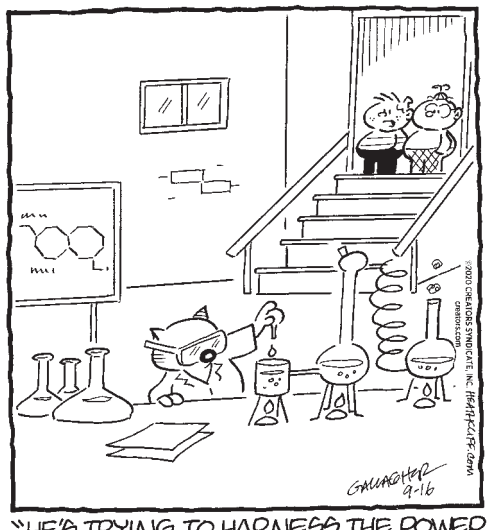
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

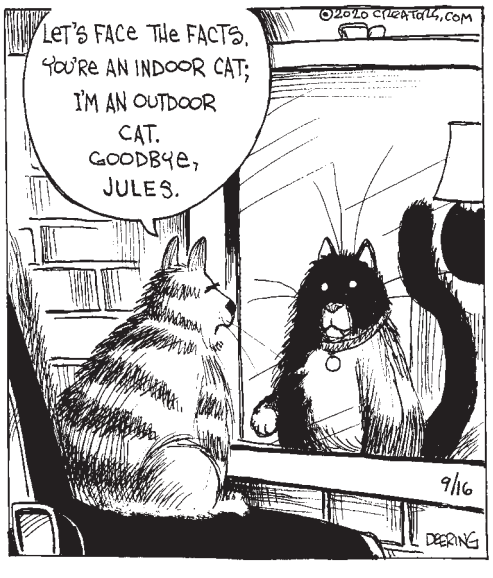
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S TRYING TO HARNESS THE POWER OF CAT BREATH."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 68.2°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach
Modest SSW/S swell continues in the AM – waist high+ for best breaks further west in the region. SSE/S swell from Karina builds in the PM. NW swell-mix trends up. AM wind looks light at this point..

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
Playful combo for exposed areas. S tropical swell peaks. Small SSW/S swell lingers. NW swell-mix continues. Light AM wind currently expected.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Areas of smoke. Sunny, with a high near 77. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
Wednesday Night: Areas of smoke before midnight. Increasing clouds, with a low around 64. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast 5 to 10 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 75. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/09/16	Wed	03:16 AM	-0.57	L
2020/09/16	Wed	09:32 AM	5.10	H
2020/09/16	Wed	3:07 PM	1.09	L
2020/09/16	Wed	9:14 PM	6.47	H
2020/09/17	Thu	03:50 AM	-0.46	L
2020/09/17	Thu	10:03 AM	5.45	H
2020/09/17	Thu	3:53 PM	0.67	L
2020/09/17	Thu	9:59 PM	6.26	H
2020/09/18	Fri	04:24 AM	-0.15	L
2020/09/18	Fri	10:36 AM	5.74	H
2020/09/18	Fri	4:42 PM	0.37	L
2020/09/18	Fri	10:47 PM	5.79	H
2020/09/19	Sat	04:59 AM	0.33	L
2020/09/19	Sat	11:12 AM	5.93	H
2020/09/19	Sat	5:35 PM	0.24	L
2020/09/19	Sat	11:40 PM	5.15	H
2020/09/20	Sun	05:34 AM	0.93	L
2020/09/20	Sun	11:52 AM	5.96	H
2020/09/20	Sun	6:33 PM 0	.26	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:09/12
16 17 20 53 67
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 94 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 09/11
3 15 42 48 56
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 119 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 09/12
3 8 19 23 32
Mega#: 20
Jackpot:9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 09/14
1 14 15 23 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 09/15
Midday: 6 1 8
Draw Date: 09/14
Evening: 3 5 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 09/14
1st: 8-GORGEOUS GEORGE
2nd: 7 - EUREKA
3rd: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
RACE TIME: 1:47.88

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 16)

Yours will be a year of sharing – your dreams, your struggles, the minutia of your life. The more you share, the better things get. A bountiful blessing comes at the end of October. There's a lot you do for other people so be sure to reserve something for yourself every bit along the way. You'll invest this savings in May. Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 30, 33, 1 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today will test your endurance, and if you persist, you will pocket a prize, tiny in comparison with the other takeaway, which is the enormous satisfaction that comes from knowing you can count on yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll deal in a different culture, not having to do with regions but with a professional setting or a social group. It is possible to remain true to your core and still let some of the influence rub off on you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are some things that cannot be accomplished with effort. In fact, the more effort you put into them, the worse they'll turn out. To know if this is the case, pull away; do nothing; and watch for improvement.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Give a thought to the environment you'll be operating within. The easier you make it for yourself, the better you can focus on the details that will make your work transcendent from the usual fare.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The desire for freedom is a trap. Whatever you choose, it comes with responsibility. The real freedom is loving your choice so much you don't mind being trapped by it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Accept your feelings, one and all, especially ones that might make you weak, vulnerable or unattractive. Approve them, because it's the only chance you have at steering those emotions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While it would be wrong to impose your care, you'll be dealing with people who won't easily accept what they need. Ask whether you can help. They'll probably say no the first time. Wait a bit and ask again later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your appreciation of the beauty around you is a kind of meditation now, especially when you can take it privately, without having to express with language what it means to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In matters of trust, someone has to lead, and it will probably be you. You'll give your trust, and the other person will behave in a trustworthy way. When you withdraw your trust, the other person will do the same.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Others won't see the truth of the situation until you point it out. Of course, what you'll point out is actually your truth, not the truth, which is still mysterious. Your truth is a start.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Follow your natural instinct to assess who gets what and why. In the animal world, territorial knowledge is a matter of life and death. For you, it will be a smart and lucrative thing to figure out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Jealous people have been known to do terrible things. Avoid attracting envy. Keep your cards close to the vest. Today, the only one who needs to know about your assets and accomplishments is you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

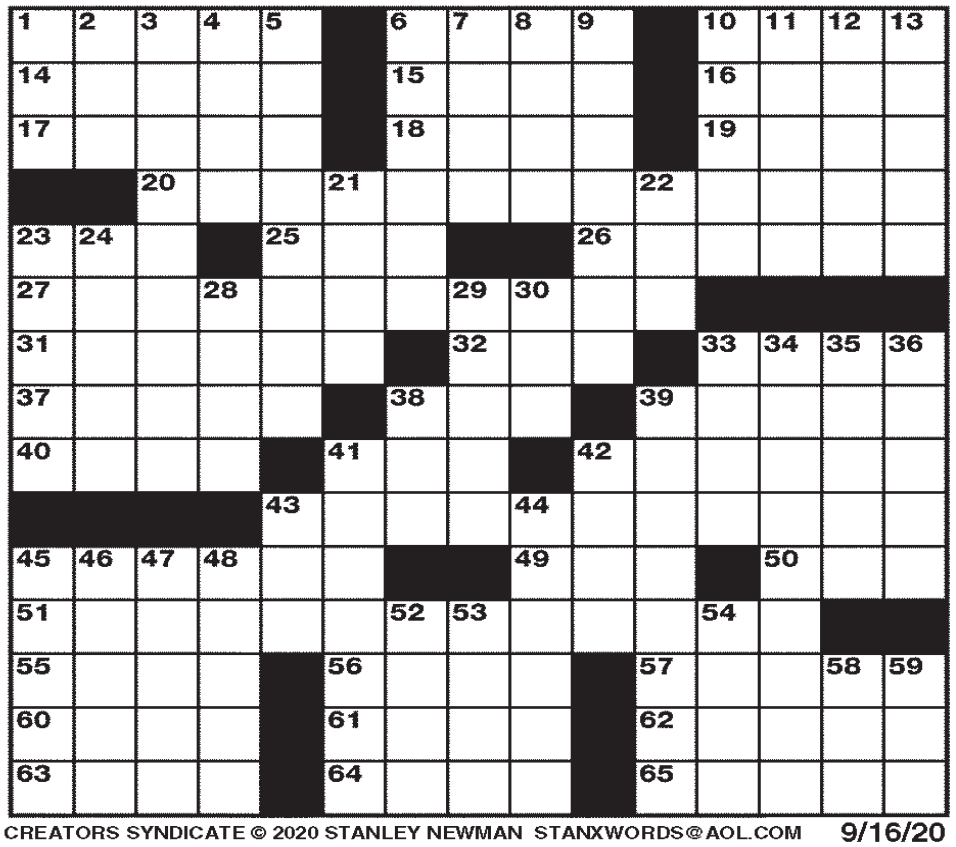
	7			3			6	
		6	8		5	1		
5				6			7	
9		2			8			
6								2
	8		4			6		1
	4			8				9
		9	5		7	3		
	5			2			1	

Newsday Crossword

THOROUGHFARERS by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 __ Allan Poe
6 Spiced tea from India
10 "No more talk!"
14 La __ (Milan music venue)
15 Chopped down
16 Purina alternative
17 One living near the Leaning Tower
18 Historical periods
19 Pack away, as luggage
20 Police officers on an Interstate
23 Colleague of Fidel
25 In addition
26 High principles
27 City marathon participants
31 In a bus with the band
32 Prez on Mount Rushmore
33 Byte prefix meaning "billion"
37 British singer of "Skyfall"
38 Dylan or Hope
39 *Evita* surname
40 German philosopher Marx
41 Cruise or Hanks
42 Sculptor or painter
43 Cattle drive leaders
45 Term of endearment from one man to another
49 Do something
50 Attention-getting shout
51 Hot-dog cart operators
55 "That's my cue!"
56 Beer's foam
57 Gave as an example
60 Letterman nickname
61 Cause to want to scratch
62 Soprano's performance
63 What mask holes are for
64 London neighborhood
65 Suburban yards

DOWN
1 Sixth sense, for short
2 601, in Roman numerals
3 Type of home furnace
4 Jai __
5 Sounded right
6 Mull over
7 Mrs. Zeus
8 Not at home
9 Influence creatively
10 Speediness
11 Prefix for violet
12 Holder for thread
13 Coyote cries
21 Typical TV drama length
22 Certain website pop-ups
23 Frog sound
24 Mazda competitor
28 GI Joe or Barbie
29 Actress Watts or singer Judd
30 Roll back, as the tide
33 Acquires
34 One-pot meal with mutton
35 Pay a visit to
36 Likely to fidget
38 Snake that squeezes
39 Diplomatic ritual
41 "Take a taste"
42 Common exam choices
43 Election Day in the USA
44 Crow's nest cry
45 Single record's lesser song
46 "Be that as __ . . ."
47 Orange orchard
48 Trait carriers
52 Governor's rejection
53 Per unit
54 Kelly of daytime TV
58 Ending for north or west
59 Courtroom VIPs



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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

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

											1
			0								
	1		0				0			1	
1							0				
						1					
		0			0			1			0
										1	
			1		0	0				1	0
				1			1				
			0								
				1						0	1
	1			1		1		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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4873

At the opera

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

Aida	Curtain	Interval	Saga
Awards	Design	Key	Sails
Baritone	Duet	Melba	Seats
Bass	Elation	Mezzo	Solo
Cahill	Encore	Note	Song
Carmen	Famous	Opera	Steps
Choir	Finale	Pit	Sydney
Clap	Formal	Program	Tenor
Comedy	Handel	Restaurants	Vocalist
Controversial	Horns	Rigoletto	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Cheap way to get around

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KINDERGARTEN

FROM PAGE 1

kindergarten enrollment reported by the L.A. Times in September.

"Our numbers are down and this is true across the state. School is legally required in California starting at age six, so some families may be choosing to wait this year out, or part of the year, and start them when we resume in person learning. This will present a challenge to all schools, if that is the case," said Gail Pinsker, the Community & Public Relations Officer at SMMUSD.

Engaging four and five year old children online for the duration of a 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. school day presents numerous difficulties for parents and teachers.

Many students need a nanny or parent present to help them run the technology platforms, use school materials, and maintain focus. Children also miss out on aspects of social learning and teachers have to invest more time preparing lessons.

Despite these challenges, District staff are working relentlessly to create an engaging classroom environment and kindergarten teachers are already reporting successful outcomes.

"We are doing lots of social emotional learning, because we are trying to build a community, but amazingly I feel like we are getting there and that's why I love kindergarteners. Even though it's all on video we are starting to get to know each other and we are starting to build a classroom community," said Catherine Handelman, a teacher at Roosevelt Elementary with 27 years of classroom experience.

TK and K teachers begin every morning with 30 minutes of social emotional learning where kids play community building games, discuss their emotions, or complete mindfulness activities.

"Kids at this age are genuinely excited to learn and love going to school, clearly this year is very different for them, but so far they still have been very excited to join and come," said Grant Clark, a kindergarten teacher at Franklin Elementary.

These teachers are using a range of strategies to engage their students during the 230 minutes of required live instruction. There are lesson presentations, independent work time, and small group breakout sessions so students can receive more personalized instruction. Teachers also use song, dance, and art activities to tap into students' creativity and get them moving.

"We are engaging the students so that they can focus and be excited to come everyday. My team and I we've really been working hard to come up with activities and games and work that they can do that is not only challenging but is also fun," said Clark.

The amount of support each student needs behind the screen varies significantly, with some students having a parent by their side for the entirety of the school day and others working independently. Clark reports that 50 to 75 percent of his students have an adult sitting with them during class.

This level of at home support is challenging for parents managing full time jobs, and is likely a factor in decreased kindergarten enrollment.

"Focus depends on the kids, some can do it independently some can't. There is a wide range. Some children need a lot of reminding and support to pay attention to the lesson," said Handelman. "Attendance varies; there are children that are there the whole time and there are children who don't always come back after lunch."

In an effort to maximize student participation, kindergarten teachers invest significant time into preparing each day's lesson plan. They send school supplies and worksheets home a few weeks in advance and provide parents with weekly learning schedules.

"The planning and the prepping takes twice as long as opposed to when we are in person," said Handelman. "Online you have to show them everything because they don't have it right in front of them, so you either have to show a video and link it or you have to take a picture of it and put it in your slide deck. Everything is just more complicated."

Clara@smdp.com

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 6

of Bo Diddley," where Bo was asked what he thought of these scruffy young English blokes on stage performing one of his songs: "Man, that sure is the biggest load of rubbish I ever heard in my life."

"NOT ALL SANTA MONICANS FEEL UNSAFE HERE

— I do not agree with your statement. It's about social justice, fortifying a safety net, that all of us feel we belong." That was incumbent Ana Jara.

"We do a good job here in SM of reducing crime. Part 1 crimes were down 16 percent in 2019, down more in 2020." Incumbent Ted Winterer.

When the issue of funding for youth groups came up, candidate Oscar de la Torre asked the incumbents how they could justify completely defunding his Pico Youth and Family Center (PYFC), which he deemed very successful at addressing such issues, while continuing to fund the Police Athletic League while they were under investigation for incidents of child molestation. Incumbent Terry O'Day responded that the required financial paperwork was not filed on time by the PYFC, and it would be fiscally irresponsible to fund any group missing that. "We have to protect public monies," O'Day said.

"The city paid a $42,000,000 settlement — how is that protecting public money…" De la Torre was then cut off from speaking by a very loud announcement of "TIME!," five seconds into what was supposed to be a round of 90 second responses.

Crime is not an issue in SM? We're good? One study ranks us the 8th worst city in CA for violent crimes, with a crime rate 131 percent higher than the national average (that's double plus a third); another, 34th most dangerous; another ranks us down at 344th among CA cities for safety. The FBI says one in 19.6 SM residents will soon be a victim of robbery or theft.

It seems a silly tactic, for City Council incumbents to deny what everyone sees every day. But in these Dark Ages of Trump, who knows? Maybe they're responding to longstanding complaints of not enough street lighting here, by going for gaslighting.

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

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Employment/Help Wanted

Public Relations Specialist, The H Holdings, LLC. Worksite: Los Angeles, CA. Req'd: Bachelor's + 6 mos of exp. working with Chinese media in the U.S. Resumes: The H Holdings, LLC, N. Lai, 1801 Century Park East, Suite 1470, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

Research Scientist (3) sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. Quantitative analysis, data mining & machine learning to create & scale insights. PhD or for. eq. + 0; OR MS or for. eq. + 2 yrs exp req. Resumes: HalehHR, Snap Inc., 3000 31st St., Ste C, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Use Job Code #RS3-0820-WW. EOE

Workday Reporting Specialist sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. Build & optimize reports & dashboards in Workday. BS or for. eq. + 3 yrs exp req. Resumes: HalehHR, Snap Inc., 3000 31st St., Ste C, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Use Job Code #WRS-0820-NS. EOE.

Sr. Account Manager sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. Build, manage & grow relationships & ad spend w/ key clients & ad partners using ad performance metrics exp. Master's or for. eq. + 1 yr exp req. Resumes: HalehHR, Snap Inc., 3000 31st St., Ste C, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Use Job Code #SAM-0820-YH. EOE.

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Data Scientist (3) sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. Use quantitative analysis to create & scale insights. Create visuals & dashboards in BI tools. MS or for. eq. + 2 yrs exp. req. Resumes: HalehHR, Snap Inc., 3000 31st St., Ste C, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Use Job Code #DS3-0820-YG. EOE.

Software Eng. (Ads Delivery Infrastructure) sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. Dvlp & modify s/ware apps & sys. MS or for. eq. req. Resumes: HalehHR, Snap Inc., 3000 31st St., Ste C, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Use Job Code #SWE-SM-0820-JZ. EOE.

IT Cornerstone OnDemand, Inc. has an oppty in Santa Monica, CA for a Sr Proj Mgr. Mail resume to Attn: HR, 1601 Cloverfield Blvd, Ste 600S, Santa Monica, CA 90404; Ref #SMNGO. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

SW DVLPR Cornerstone OnDemand, Inc. has an oppty in Santa Monica, CA for a Prncpl Cloud Site Reliability Engr. Mail resume to Attn: HR, 1601 Cloverfield Blvd, Ste 600S, Santa Monica, CA 90404; Ref #SMSPR. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Employment/Help Wanted

Full Stack Web & Mobile Application Developer sought by Tula Consulting LLC in Santa Monica, CA. Master's or equiv in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Systems Engineering, or rel + 2 yr of rel exp. Send resume to: Steve Lackenby, Founder & COO, TulaCo, 227 Broadway #302, Santa Monica, CA 90401 or e-mail info@tula.co.

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