smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

FRIDAY
10.15.21
Volume 20 Issue 288

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Ramon Batista chosen as Police Chief

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Ramon Batista has been chosen as the next Chief of Police for the City of Santa Monica.

Batista was previously the Chief in Mesa and was a finalist for the Chief job in Madison, Wisconsin although he was passed over for that position despite strong community support.

Chief Batista holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety and Homeland Security and a Master of Science degree in Leadership. He is a Fellow at the National Police Foundation, a current member of the Police Executive Research Forum, a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police, and the FBI National Academy.



Courtesy photo
CHIEF RAMON BATISTA

Batista has three decades of law enforcement experience after starting his career with the Tucson Police Department in 1986. He served as patrol supervisor, traffic division/solo motors, training academy commander, public information office director, patrol division commander, SWAT division commander and chief of staff.

He rose to the rank of captain in 2011 before becoming assistant chief, first for the patrol bureau (2014 – 2016) followed by the investigative bureau (2016 – 2017) where he had oversight of all detectives and major criminal investigations, the crime lab, and the evidence section.

However, Batista left Mesa after a string of controversial decisions

SEE **POLICE CHIEF** PAGE 4

Open Main Street



Courtesy photo

CONTEST: Main Street is hosting the last open street event this weekend and it's going to be Halloween themed. The event will combine the annual Howl-o-ween pet parade and costume contest with several additional activities. The first place pooch will win 500 dollars sponsored by Bulldog Real Estate. In addition, there will be a pumpkin patch and outdoor movie showing of Charlie Brown and Beetlejuice. Live music will be played and free fitness classes will be offered by a range of local workout studios. For a full schedule visit www.mainstreetsm.com

Westside food bank is experiencing high demand as the holidays approach

DANIEL FARR
SMDP Staff Writer

The Westside Food Bank (WFB) saw an unprecedented spike in need when the Covid-related stay-at-home orders first went into effect last year, and after regressing toward the norm during summer months, the demand is at extremely high levels yet again.

Over the past 19 months, WFB has distributed almost twice as much food as normal, as many new families required first-time assistance.

The local food bank generates 50% of their food income during the holiday season and is hoping to maintain the status quo to help with the very high level of demand.



Courtesy photo

FOOD: The local food bank is looking for help for the holiday season.

"You know this is the time of year when people are thinking about giving, and we hope that folks will remember their local food bank, because we really are on the front lines of making sure that everyone in our community is getting through these difficult times with enough nourishing food to sustain their health," Genevieve Riutort Deputy Director & CDO of Westside Food Bank said. "And you know we also look at our food as homelessness prevention, because you know people are having to make really hard choices about how they spend the funds that they have. So, if we can take the food equation out of the picture and make sure that people don't have to spend their money on

SEE **FOOD** PAGE 5



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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

RFP: # PRJ0011672 Public Safety Technology Modernization

- **Submission Deadline is October 25, 2021 at 5:00 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 ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

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 #4418 VEHICLE BARRIERS AT THE SANTA MONICA PIER

Submission Deadline is November 3, 2021 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: ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361

DATE/TIME: Monday, October 18, 2021, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Architectural Review Board and City Staff will participate via teleconference. Participants may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/vekecyew or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 PIN: 3609519 #

PROPERTIES:

- 21ARB-0192: 1448 7th Street: Mixed-Use
- 21ARB-0203: 1650 Euclid: Office Building
- 21ARB-0226: 1640-1644 14th Street: Office Building

PRELIMINARY DESIGN REVIEW:

- None

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@smgov.net. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Public comment can also be made by phone during the meeting by calling 1-408-740-7256 (Meeting ID: 165863681 and Passcode: 0790 followed by #) when the caller queue opens for the item on which you wish to comment. Remarks from the public will be limited to 2 minutes per item. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 300 CALLS ON OCTOBER 13

Panhandling 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:49 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 200blk San Vicente Blvd 2:13 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Main St / Olympic Dr 2:37 a.m.
Loud Music 1600blk Appian Way 2:47 a.m.
Loud Music 1200blk 6th St 3:17 a.m.
Fight 1600blk Appian Way 3:44 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Ave 5:10 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:15 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 400blk Washington Ave 5:56 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1700blk 4th St 6:04 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 900blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:21 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 6:33 a.m.
Encampment Ocean Ave / California Incline 6:43 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk The Beach 7:11 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1500blk 10th St 7:19 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100blk Georgina Ave 7:36 a.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 7:42 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 7:44 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 600blk Ocean Ave 7:51 a.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 2100blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:10 a.m.
Burglary Report 2800blk Neilson Way 9:16 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 17th St / Pico Blvd 9:17 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 600blk Ocean Ave 9:53 a.m.
Burglary Report 1300blk 4th St 10:05 a.m.
Lewd Activity 200blk Broadway 10:35 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 15th St / Arizona Ave 10:50 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 10:52 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:54 a.m.
Burglary Report 600blk Broadway 10:57 a.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 10:58 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1900blk Arizona Ave 10:59 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2500blk Neilson Way 11:02 a.m.
Expired Registration 1500blk 9th St 11:15 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 5th St / Broadway 11:24 a.m.
Encampment 1200blk The Beach 11:24 a.m.
Panic Alarm 1300blk Lincoln Blvd 11:26 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 7th St / Arizona Ave 11:56 a.m.
Fight 19th St / Pico Blvd 11:59 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 3000blk Lincoln Blvd 12:01 p.m.
Encampment 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 12:19 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Urban Ave / Pico Blvd 12:21 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1800blk 14th St 12:35 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 12:52 p.m.
Expired Registration 900blk 4th St 12:54 p.m.
Lewd Activity 900blk 5th St 12:56 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1200blk Berkeley St 1:11 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 2200blk Virginia Ave 1:16 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Stewart St / Olympic Blvd 1:23 p.m.
Prostitution 1000blk 7th St 1:33 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 1:35 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2000blk Ocean Ave 1:42 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1300blk Grant St 1:50 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1300blk Yale St 1:53 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1200blk 15th St 1:59 p.m.
Identity Theft 100blk The Grove Dr 2:00 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500blk 6th St 2:02 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk Broadway 2:03 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 1600blk 4th St 2:11 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:19 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 400blk Broadway 2:22 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 2:41 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 2:45 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Ocean Ave / Hollister Ave 2:51 p.m.
Encampment 17th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:52 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 2:54 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 2400blk Virginia Ave 3:01 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Alta Ave 3:22 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 3100blk Pico Blvd 3:35 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:36 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400blk 10th St 3:45 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 22nd St 3:46 p.m.
Encampment 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:53 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1200blk 4th St 4:08 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1900blk Arizona Ave 4:12 p.m.
Expired Registration 1400blk 9th St 4:17 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 1400blk 2nd St 4:34 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 400blk 4th St 5:01 p.m.
Encampment 1400blk Ocean Front Walk 5:04 p.m.
Stalking Report 1900blk 11th St 5:14 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 200blk Broadway 5:22 p.m.
Loud Music 2400blk 34th St 5:34 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 20th St / Virginia Ave 5:50 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1500blk 4th St 6:17 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Pier 6:26 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 2000blk 4th St 6:48 p.m.
Loud Music 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 7:18 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1700blk Appian Way 7:32 p.m.
Loud Music 3200blk Donald Douglas Loop S 7:34 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Main St / Pico Blvd 7:37 p.m.
Public Intoxication 2600blk Main St 7:46 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:32 p.m.
Public Intoxication 2900blk Main St 8:46 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000blk 10th St 9:08 p.m.
Loud Music 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 9:28 p.m.
Death Investigation 1000blk 3rd St 10:15 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:19 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:39 p.m.
Panic Alarm 300blk 22nd St 10:51 p.m.
Burglary Now 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:59 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1000blk 12th St 11:12 p.m.

From condiments to condoms: new California laws bring change

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom spent the summer campaigning to keep his job and, with a landslide victory in hand, he's continued pushing progressive California further left.

In the four weeks after beating back a recall attempt, the Democrat signed laws that require gender-neutral displays of children's toys and toothbrushes in large department stores, made it illegal to remove a condom without consent during intercourse and cleared the way for a nation's first ban on the sale of new gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers.

He also made it illegal to film someone near an abortion clinic for the purpose of intimidation, banned secret employment settlements involving harassment or discrimination and limited the use of rubber bullets by police during protests. He even prohibited restaurants from handing out ketchup packets and other disposable condiments unless customers ask for them.

California is among the deepest blue states in the country — Democrats control all statewide offices and have super majorities in the Legislature, which nowadays often acts as a laboratory for liberal policies that would not get to a vote in many other states. The governor wields immense power over what becomes law because California lawmakers rarely override vetoes.

If this had been a normal non-election year, Newsom might have been more cautious heading into his 2022 re-election campaign. But in early September, just three days into the 30-day period the governor has to review legislation, Newsom convincingly beat back the Republican-led effort to oust him.

Just three days after that election, Newsom signed two laws aimed at limiting single-family zoning in California, a stark change for a state with many communities that define suburban sprawl but now faces an affordable housing shortage.

In all, Newsom signed 92% of the bills lawmakers put on his desk — the highest percentage during his three years in office, according to an analysis by veteran lobbyist Chris Micheli, who has tracked gubernatorial vetoes for years.

The result was "oodles of progressive legislation and oodles of virtual signaling," said Bill Whalen, a policy fellow at the Hoover Institution, a conservative think tank at Stanford University.

"Traditionally, we have governors who have been more centrist than Newsom," he said. "With the recall now gone, this is a governor who is really not threatened in any way."

But what counts as progressive in most of the country can be seen as moderate in California.

Newsom angered many among the state's left wing with his vetoes, including blocking a bill that would have required state contractors to confirm their supply chains don't contribute to tropical deforestation.

He also axed a bill that would have made jaywalking legal, a move advocates have said is needed because police disproportionally stop and ticket Black people for the offense.

And he halted a bill that would have let farm workers vote by mail in union elections, a decision that made some workers so angry they marched in protest to the French Laundry, the fancy restaurant in the San Francisco Bay Area where Newsom was famously photographed dining without a mask during the pandemic. The scene of Newsom out with lobbyist friends while telling others to stay home helped drive the recall effort.

In the weeks leading up to the recall, lawmakers said that the Newsom administration was unusually involved in the legislative process, prompting a flurry of amendments to tailor bills to his liking. He signed a law making California the first state to prohibit mega-retailers like Amazon from firing workers for missing quotas that interfere with bathroom and rest breaks.

But he insisted on lawmakers removing language ordering regulators to impose a statewide standard on reasonable work speeds, according to Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, the author of the bill.

"From somebody who considers themselves probably to the left of this governor, ... I don't think he went all that far," said Gonzales, a Democrat from San Diego and chair of the powerful Assembly Appropriations Committee. "If you look at some of the bills, as they started, and then where they ended up because of input by the administration, then ... you kind of see what's happening."

Lawmakers did not send Newsom as many bills as they normally would. The pandemic limited where and how often lawmakers could hold committee hearings, prompting legislative leaders to limit lawmakers to authoring 12 bills each. And this was the first year of a two-year legislative session, so many of the most controversial proposals were delayed for consideration until next year.

One bill would have eliminated the crime of loitering with the intent to commit prostitution, a law advocates have said targets Black women and transgender people. The bill passed the Legislature, but the author decided not to send it to Newsom yet.

Gonzalez believes lawmakers "had a lot of self-regulation" during the session, cognizant that forcing polarizing issues on Newsom could hurt him in the recall election.

But Sen. Sydney Kamlager, a Democrat from Los Angeles, said few lawmakers would have delayed bills because they were worried about how it would impact Newsom's political future, saying "legislators also have egos." She

SEE **LAWS** PAGE 11



POLICE CHIEF

FROM PAGE 1

that put him at odds with his department.

According to news reports published at the time, during his tenure in Mesa, the city's police department received significant scrutiny. An officer was acquitted of murder after shooting an unarmed man who was on his knees and begging for his life. In two other cases, different officers are seen on video attacking an unarmed man and beating a 15-year-old armed robber suspect who was already in handcuffs.

Batista criticized the officers who were accused of improper use of force and worked to change the culture in the department following those cases. He was given credit for changes to the department and the City reported its lowest violent crime rate (23 events per 1,000 residents) under his watch.

However, local police unions cast a vote of no confidence against him for what they described as abandoning officers during his attempts at reform

In announcing his hire, city officials described him as a proponent of 21st Century Policing initiatives and community resiliency. The announcement cited his implementation of a mental health crisis 911 diversion program that directed suicide calls from police to crisis counselors. The announcement said he launched a strategic plan for the Mesa department, which included enhancing diversity across ranks, focusing on internal and external communication, and de-escalation techniques that led to safer engagement between the community and the officers.

"Chief Batista is a tenured law enforcement professional who built strong community relationships in both of the communities he has served with outstanding performance," said City Manager David White. "We are certain he will do the same here in Santa Monica where strong relationships underpin community safety, trust, and collaboration."

The Santa Monica Police Officers Association welcomed the news of his hiring.

"The SMPOA is committed to strong relationships with the community we serve, and we're excited to welcome the stewardship of a Chief who shares our values," said the group in a statement. "In his recent book, Do No Harm, 5 steps to align police actions with community values, Chief Batista has literally written a blueprint to create a culture of accountability and transparency between law enforcement and the communities they so heroically serve."

Chief Batista is married, and he and his wife have two children and one grandchild. They enjoy running, hiking, and all activities related to their family. His start date is Monday, October 18, with an annual salary of $298,788.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected as the next chief of police for the City of Santa Monica and to lead the Santa Monica Police Department into the next era of public safety," said Chief Ramon Batista. "The Santa Monica Police Department has a history of honorable public service, collaboration, outreach, and community safety. I look forward to being a part of the team and serving our residents alongside them."

Chief Ramon Batista will be sworn into service on Monday, Oct. 18 at 10 a.m. The public can view live on Santa Monica CityTV Channel 16 or the City's YouTube channel by searching for "Police Chief Swearing in Ceremony".

editor@smdp.com

Jan. 6 panel sets vote on contempt charges against Bannon

MARY CLARE JALONICK, ERIC TUCKER, JILL COLVIN AND MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press

A congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection has set a vote to recommend criminal contempt charges against former White House aide Steve Bannon after he defied the panel's subpoena on Thursday.

The chairman of the panel, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said the committee will vote next Tuesday to recommend the charges. That would send the recommendation to the full House for a vote.

If the House votes to pursue the contempt charges against Bannon, the Justice Department will ultimately decide whether to prosecute. The committee had demanded documents and testimony from Bannon, who was in touch with President Donald Trump ahead of the violent attack.

"The Select Committee will not tolerate defiance of our subpoenas, so we must move forward with proceedings to refer Mr. Bannon for criminal contempt," Thompson said in a statement.

The committee had scheduled a Thursday deposition with Bannon, but his lawyer said that at Trump's direction he wouldn't appear. Bannon also failed to provide documents to the panel by a deadline last week.

A deposition for a second witness that had been scheduled for Thursday, former Defense Department official Kashyap Patel, has been delayed, but Patel is still engaging with the committee, a committee aide said.

Two other men who worked for Trump — former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and longtime Trump social media director Dan Scavino — were scheduled for depositions Friday, but they have both been pushed back as well, according to the aide. Meadows, like Patel, has been given a "short postponement" as he is in talks with the panel. Scavino's deposition has been rescheduled because there were delays in serving his subpoena.

Bannon's testimony is just one facet of an escalating congressional inquiry, with 19 subpoenas issued so far and thousands of pages of documents flowing in. But his defiance is a crucial development for the committee, whose members are vowing to restore the binding force of congressional subpoenas after they were routinely flouted during Trump's time in office.

"Mr. Bannon has declined to cooperate with the Select Committee and is instead hiding behind the former President's insufficient, blanket and vague statements regarding privileges he has purported to invoke," Rep. Thompson said in his statement. "We reject his position entirely."

Other witnesses are cooperating, including some who organized or staffed the Trump rally on the Ellipse behind the White House that preceded the violent riot. The committee subpoenaed 11 rally organizers and gave them a Wednesday deadline to turn over documents and records. They have also been asked to appear at scheduled depositions.

Among those responding was Lyndon Brentnall, whose firm was hired to provide Ellipse event security that day. "All the documents and communications requested by the subpoena were handed in," he told The Associated Press.

Brentnall had previously said, "As far as we're concerned, we ran security at a legally permitted event run in conjunction with the U.S. Secret Service and the Park Police."

Two longtime Trump campaign and White House staffers, Megan Powers and Hannah Salem, who were listed on the Jan 6. rally permit as "operations manager for scheduling and guidance" and "operations manager for logistics and communications," have also provided documents or are planning to do so.

It remains unclear whether the others who were subpoenaed intend to cooperate. A committee spokesperson declined to comment Wednesday on the responses it had received and how many of the 11 were complying.

Two additional rally organizers, Ali Alexander and Nathan Martin, as well as their "Stop the Steal" organization, were also subpoenaed for documents, which are due Oct. 21.

Many of the rioters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6 marched up the National Mall after attending at least part of Trump's rally, where he repeated his meritless claims of election fraud and implored the crowd to "fight like hell." Dozens of police officers were injured as the Trump supporters then broke through windows and doors and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

The rioters repeated Trump's false claims of widespread fraud as they marched through the Capitol, even though the results of the election were confirmed by state officials and upheld by the courts. Trump's own attorney general, William Barr, had said the Justice Department found no evidence of widespread fraud that could have overturned the results.

Also Wednesday, the panel issued a subpoena to a former Justice Department lawyer who positioned himself as Trump's ally and aided the Republican president's efforts to challenge the results of the 2020 election.

The demands for documents and testimony from Jeffrey Clark reflect the committee's efforts to probe not only the insurrection but also the tumult that roiled the Justice Department in the weeks leading up to it as Trump and his allies leaned on government lawyers to advance his election claims.

Clark, an assistant attorney general in the Trump administration, has emerged as a pivotal character. A Senate committee report issued last week showed that he championed Trump's efforts to undo the election results and clashed as a result with Justice Department superiors who resisted the

SEE **BANNON** PAGE 11



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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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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.

Coast Guard: California oil spill likely 25,000 gallons

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

The amount of crude oil spilled in an offshore pipeline leak in Southern California is believed to be close to 25,000 gallons, or only about one-fifth of what officials initially feared, a Coast Guard official said Thursday.

The leak off the coast of Orange County was previously estimated to be at least 25,000 gallons and no more than 132,000 gallons. The final count for the spill will likely be closer to the lower figure, which correlates with the amount of oiling seen on the California shore, Coast Guard Capt. Rebecca Ore said Thursday.

"We have a high degree of confidence that the spill amount is approximately 588 barrels," she told reporters in Newport Beach. "That number may potentially adjust a small degree."

The spill off Huntington Beach was confirmed on Oct. 2, a day after residents reported a petroleum smell in the area.

Coast Guard officials said it came from a leak in a pipeline owned by Houston-based Amplify Energy that shuttles crude from offshore platforms to the coast. Officials said the cause of the leak remains under investigation but the pipeline was likely damaged by a ship's anchor several months to a year before it ruptured.

The shorelines in Huntington Beach, which is known as "Surf City USA," and neighboring Newport Beach were shut down until Monday.

Fishing also has been barred off the coast of Orange County. State officials are taking samples of fish from the area to assess whether they've been affected by the oil before allowing fishing to resume.

Workers in protective gear continue to comb the sand for tar balls washing ashore along more than 70 miles of coastline in Orange and San Diego counties. Roy Kim, an environmental scientist with California's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, said the size of tar balls being collected on beaches has diminished from the early days after the spill.

"They were seeing huge patties of oil in the beginning," Kim said, adding that the oil slick has largely been broken up into tar balls by the tides and winds. "Now you're just kind of seeing the smaller stuff."

Crews are also working to remove oil from rocky coastal habitat while being careful not to damage it, he said.

Some oil is naturally present off the coast of Southern California and residents are used to seeing some tar on beaches, said California Fish and Wildlife Lt. Christian Corbo. Tar samples collected in the clean up will be sent to a state petroleum chemistry lab to determine whether they're from the spill, he said.

In the coming days, workers will likely start assessing beach conditions in specific areas to determine whether the clean-up is complete, Ore said.

While it's still possible tar balls will wash up from the spill after that point — and officials will continue to respond to reports that come in — "at some point, and we're evaluating this right now, we reach a point where we recommend no further treatment on segments of the beach," she said.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 49 CALLS ON OCTOBER 13

Automatic Alarm 1700Blk 4Th St 12:23 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 16Th St 12:25 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Wilshire Blvd 12:51 a.m.
EMS 2200Blk 4Th St 1:54 a.m.
EMS 2600Blk 25Th St 2:01 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 3000Blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:19 a.m.
EMS 1800Blk 16Th St 4:02 a.m.
EMS 4Th St / Broadway 4:27 a.m.
EMS 2900Blk Pearl St 6:08 a.m.
EMS 3300Blk Barnard Way 6:32 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 5Th St 7:20 a.m.
EMS 2900Blk Arizona Ave 7:25 a.m.
EMS 2100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:09 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15Th St 8:16 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Broadway 8:40 a.m.
EMS 17Th St / Pico Blvd 9:17 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 9Th St 10:14 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:15 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:28 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk Euclid St 11:53 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk Montana Ave 11:53 a.m.
EMS 19Th St / Pico Blvd 12:06 p.m.
EMS 2Nd St / Broadway 12:38 p.m.
EMS 2100Blk Oak St 1:00 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Franklin St 1:14 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk Pico Blvd 1:15 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 26Th St 1:34 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 7Th St 1:51 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:53 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:24 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7Th St 2:57 p.m.
Public Assist Main St / Kinney St 4:03 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:07 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 4:07 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 2Nd St 4:16 p.m.
EMS 1700Blk Ocean Ave 4:23 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk 11Th St 5:09 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:58 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 21St St 6:03 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 3Rd Street Prom 6:09 p.m.
EMS Barnard Way / Hart Ave 8:32 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 20Th St 8:38 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 200Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:56 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:59 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 3Rd St 10:12 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 3Rd St 10:19 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 5Th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:19 p.m.
EMS 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 10:41 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:39 p.m.

FOOD
FROM PAGE 1

food, then that means they have more money to spend on childcare and all the other basic needs."

WFB is responsible for supplying food to one-tenth of LA County and their services stretch from Inglewood to Malibu.

It's hoping their 31st annual 5k Hunger Walk will help them keep up with the demand as well. A virtual event once again, the Hunger Walk kicks off Oct. 17, and runs through Oct. 24. Normally, more than 500 gather at the beach and everybody walks together. This year participants are suggested to walk with their families or their pod groups. It's free to sign up to participate and donating is appreciated, but it's completely optional.

WFB has also added several new agencies to their customer list, some of which are brand new organizations that have popped up in response to the pandemic. Others are organizations that existed but didn't necessarily have food programs such as several of the local YMCAs, which have started to distribute food to their members.

The organization gets about half of their food from various donated sources and then the other half is purchased from the wholesale market. WFB is encouraging virtual food drives, which will allow the organization to allocate its time and resources more efficiently.

"If a company or a school or any group wants to set up a virtual food drive we can create a custom website for that and they can put their own images on there and branding and so we're encouraging that because it really helps to take some of the burden off of our staff of going out and picking up physical food collections," Riutort said.

The non-profit is also asking for items like breakfast cereal, granola and protein energy bars because those are really in high demand and expensive and challenging to get otherwise.

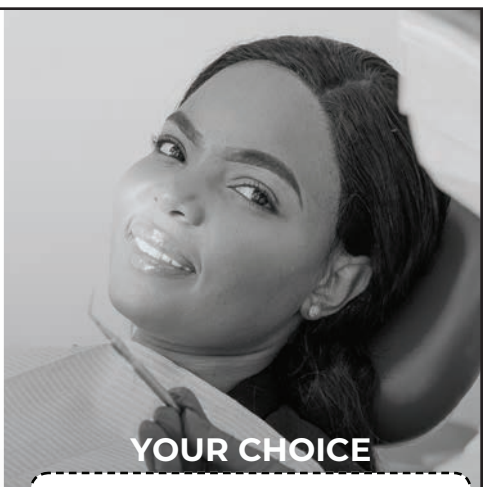
Riutort has worked at the food bank for over 17 years and her personal hardships kept her inspired to stay involved in helping the community.

"I've been on both sides of the food assistance equation and so for me it really is a personal issue. I grew up with a single mom who benefited from all kinds of social service programs including hunger relief and scholarships and after school care and childcare," she said. "And then in my own life, there was a period of time where I was a single mom and I was going through a divorce, and I experienced both housing insecurity and food insecurity and I know what it feels like to be scared about how you're going to feed your family, and I also know how it feels to get that sense of relief knowing that there is a safety net there and that the community cares to help people like me who were in a difficult situation."

She said it's really meaningful for her to now be part of that safety net, and to be able to let other parents get that sense of relief in knowing that they're going to be okay and will reach the next phase of their life.

For information on donating or gaining assistance visit: https://www.wsfb.org/

daniel@smdp.com

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!
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If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!
WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
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*No interest payment plans
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to
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• Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants
• Zoom bleaching
• and more

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INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
OR
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM
AND CLEANING
For New Patients
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DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
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1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589
WILSHIRE BLVD.
15TH ST.
14TH ST.
ARIZONA AVE.

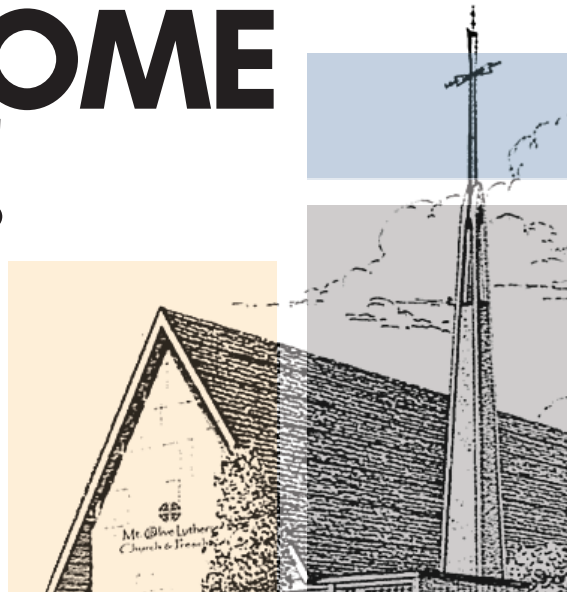
WELCOME BACK!

In-person worship at Mt. Olive Lutheran

SAT. OCT. 16 - 5PM
SUN. OCT. 17 - 9AM

1343 Ocean Park Blvd.
at 14th st. in Santa Monica

for online services go to:
mtolivelutheranchurch.org



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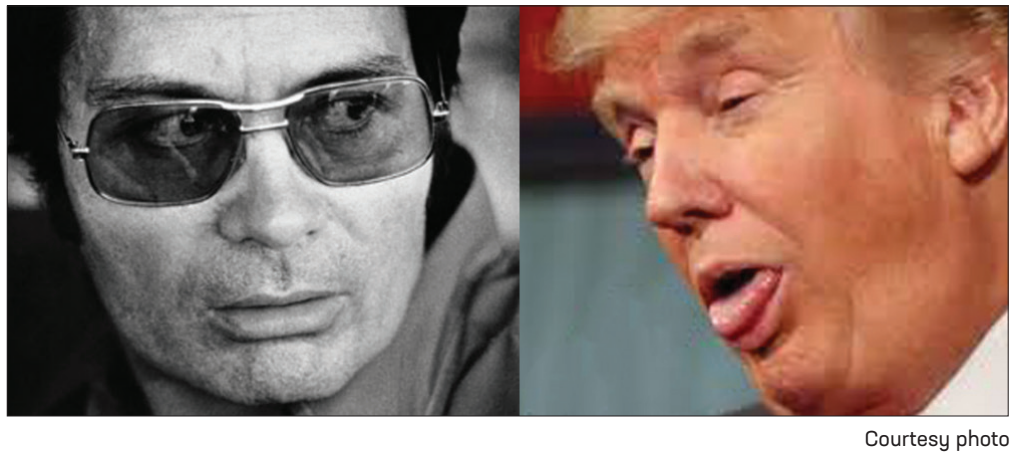
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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cult Leaders Often Despise Their Followers



Courtesy photo

CULTS: In 1978 Jim Jones convinced 900 followers to poison themselves. In 2020 Trump suggested followers use bleach to fight Covid.

Last Saturday night I was flipping channels when I saw a Trump rally in Iowa. Almost a full year after the election and giving new meaning to the expression "sore loser," Trump was repeating his baseless voter fraud routine. Question: If the election was rigged how did the GOP do so well down ballot? And why, after the record recounts, including the Cyber Ninja absurdity in Arizona, does Biden win by even more votes? Given the cult-like crowd eating it up, I was nauseous. It felt like the crazies were "getting the band

SEE **LAUGHING MATTERS** PAGE 11



FOR SALE

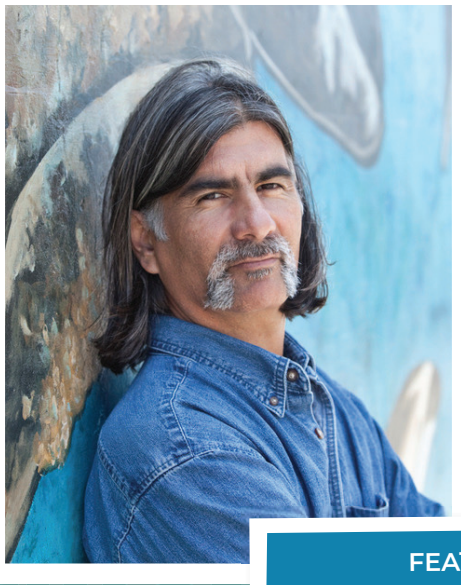
This Tuscany-inspired villa is truly a sanctuary within the sanctuary that is Ojai. Set on 40 acres overlooking the valley, this beautiful property boasts an infinity pool, a vineyard, citrus and fruit orchards, a dry cactus garden, a mandala lavender farm, and more.

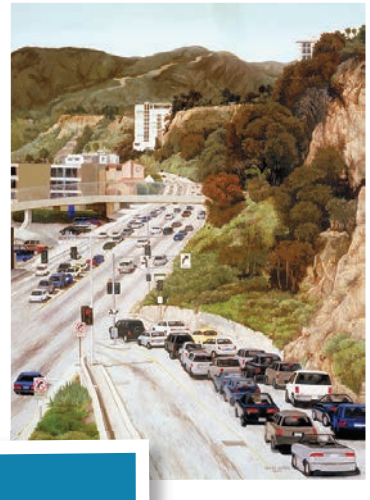
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The Santa Monica Black Agenda celebrates

Hispanic Heritage Month

recognizing their contributions to
Culture, Heritage & Unity in the community.







FEATURING
Danny Alonzo
Local artist roots in the Santa Monica community since 1902

SOCKTOBER IS BACK!



OCTOBER 1ST – OCTOBER 31ST

SOCKrates the famous footwear philosopher once said, "Santa Monicans are the most generous people in the world, they're the heart and SOLE of California."

HELP SANTA MONICARES RAISE OVER 1,000 PAIRS OF SOCKS BY OCTOBER 31ST! SOCKRIFICE A FEW DOLLARS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED.

DROPOFF AT:
SMTT's Visitor Center,
2427 Main Street,
Santa Monica, CA 90405.

WE OFFER CURBSIDE PICKUP:
***simply text* 424-443-8830**

Socks are the #1 requested item in homeless shelters & rehabilitation facilities.
Please donate new socks for infants, children, women, and men.

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www.santamonicares.com

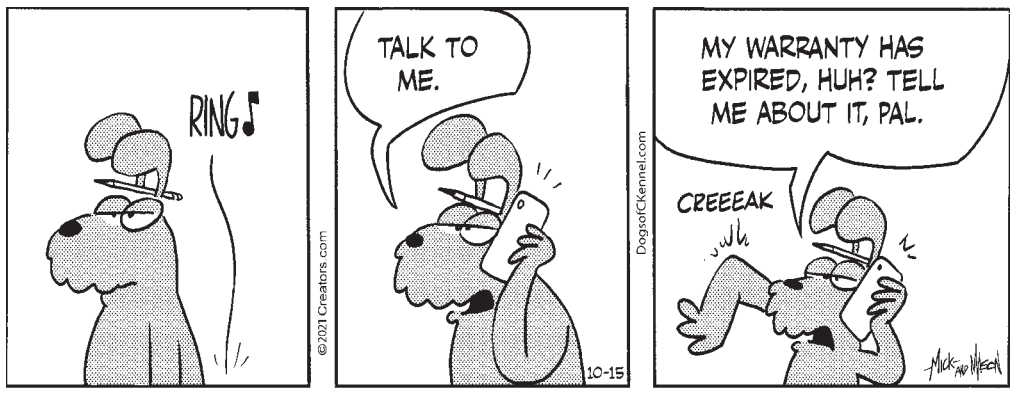
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



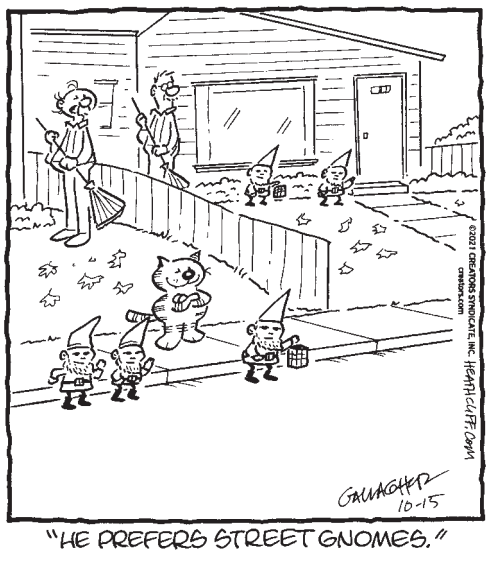
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



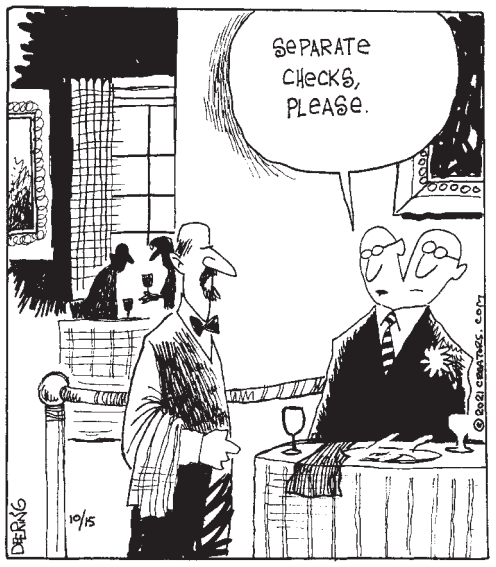
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.9°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Light morning wind and a few clean leftovers on order. Combo of lingering SSW swell and refreshed NW swell mix. Account for the mid to higher tide all day.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Another clean, peaky little morning of waves. Should be worth a look on the small wave gear. SSW swell levels off and NW swell mix continues. Account for the early AM high tide.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 81. North northeast wind around 10 mph.
Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 57. West southwest wind around 10 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 80. North northeast wind around 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/10/15	Fri	12:44 AM	-0.15	L
2021/10/15	Fri	07:31 AM	4.61	H
2021/10/15	Fri	12:54 PM	2.27	L
2021/10/15	Fri	6:39 PM	5.28	H
2021/10/16	Sat	01:28 AM	-0.13	L
2021/10/16	Sat	08:00 AM	4.95	H
2021/10/16	Sat	1:42 PM	1.70	L
2021/10/16	Sat	7:32 PM	5.34	H
2021/10/17	Sun	02:04 AM	0.02	L
2021/10/17	Sun	08:26 AM	5.23	H
2021/10/17	Sun	2:22 PM	1.20	L
2021/10/17	Sun	8:18 PM	5.28	H
2021/10/18	Mon	02:34 AM	0.28	L
2021/10/18	Mon	08:50 AM	5.46	H
2021/10/18	Mon	2:58 PM	0.80	L
2021/10/18	Mon	8:58 PM	5.12	H
2021/10/19	Tue	03:01 AM	0.61	L
2021/10/19	Tue	09:13 AM	5.63	H
2021/10/19	Tue	3:32 PM	0.51	L
2021/10/19	Tue	9:35 PM	4.86	H
2021/10/20	Wed	03:24 AM	0.99	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 10/13
23 29 47 59 60
Power#: 15
Jackpot: 60 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/12
21 26 56 61 65
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 84 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 10/13
1 14 21 37 40
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 26 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/13
17 22 30 35 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/13
EVENING: 6 0 4
Draw Date: 10/13
MIDDAY: 9 9 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 10/13
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:41.16

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (OCTOBER 15)

New experience changes identity. You love who you are, but it's also your destiny to grow. So you'll prioritize novel experience, and you'll sign up for the things that have a chance to shape you in the direction of fulfilling the promise of your talents. This allows you to touch more lives. A savvy investment pays in February. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 14, 44, 7 and 34.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Those who share your interest may not do so with the same amount of passion as you. You'll be most effective and influential when you temper your enthusiasm to their level, plus one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Get your hands dirty in the endeavor. It's the only way to learn that you can really trust. What works, works. You don't have to know why it works. You'll make incredibly complicated things happen by just flipping a few switches.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your focus has more power than usual, and you'll benefit from deciding early in the day what you're going to think and how you're going to feel. Too contrived? It's a contrivance that will work wonders for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Thoughts create currents that actions get swept into. Flow a multitude of sparkling, powerful thoughts in the same direction. Thoughts that contradict, rub or collide with each other can cause paralyzing turbulence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The usual methods will fall flat. They are too familiar. People need excitement and risk. Strangely, you'll be more effective when you care less about the effect.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In the television series of life, those involved in your storyline have their own spinoff shows, too. You don't think of yourself as being in the center of it all, and because of this, everyone around you feels like a star.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Physically finishing the task won't be enough to get the sense of completion you desire. Stick around to witness how your work is received. Are you up to getting feedback? It will make you proud.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Once again, you'll find yourself in over your head. The fish don't care, and neither should you. Even if this were as deep as the Mariana Trench, you'd still be swimming, as you do, near the top.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Not everyone is as skilled in the art of getting along as you are, but you'll provide good modelling as you acknowledge the validity of other people's wants and needs, even when you personally cannot relate to them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're not sure if the story you hear today is true. You're not even sure how to go about finding out either way. Wander discretely away from that drama, and go where more honesty and evidence exists.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've seen love strike like a bolt from beyond right onto the movie set. Here comes something else... a realistic version of love developed over time with trust, effort and compromise, which is somehow every bit as electric.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can't control what happened before you got on the scene, but you feel partially responsible for what happens after you leave. This is why you exercise as much influence for good as you can while you're there.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

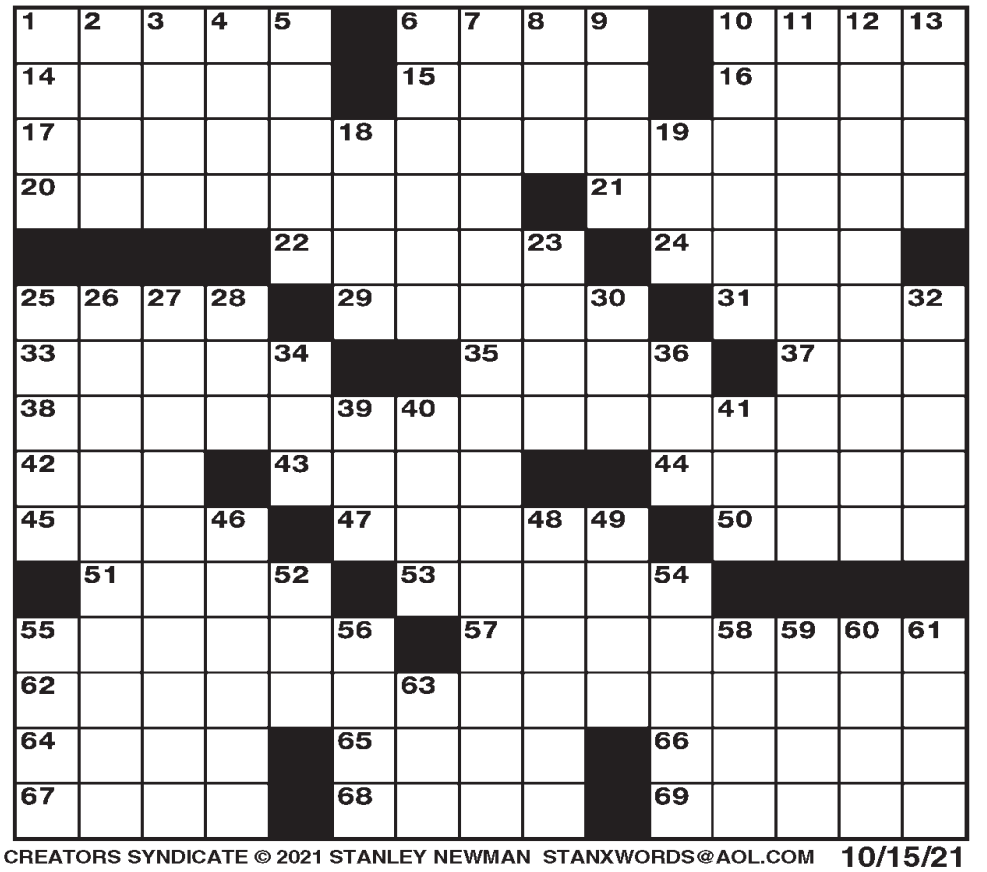
7	1							6
			5	1				
4				8		3	1	5
		4		2	7		6	
		3				7		
	2		3	5		9		
5	3	8		7				9
				9	4			
9							7	8

Newsday Crossword

FULLY MODEST by S.N.
Edted by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Santa __, CA
6 Former TV vendor of songs
10 Prename of Bacon's spouse
14 Norseman of cartoons
15 Real estate measure
16 Tough to fathom
17 Sweet bread spread
20 Small U-Haul rental
21 Rush hour jams
22 Nacho partner
24 Not fooled by
25 Votes (for)
29 What scarves cover
31 Loads and loads
33 Lower leg
35 Breed of steed
37 Hrs. through early November
38 Al Gore, to Tommy Lee Jones
42 Took courses
43 Handed over
44 Marathon handout
45 Sub __ (secretly)
47 Word on many a restaurant door
50 Sea swallow
51 The two together
53 Upset states
55 Get mushy
57 Polo or volleyball
62 Proxy, e.g.
64 Where 007 was expelled from
65 Dunderhead
66 Narrow craft
67 Batted only
68 Omen observer
69 Has down pat

DOWN
1 Mousse base, perhaps: Abbr.
2 Pasternak woman
3 Lab gel
4 Resonated
5 Odysseus' dog
6 Joe's close colleague
7 Paper mender
8 Racket ender
9 Hasty escapes
10 Pop star from Alberta
11 From January 1
12 Seafood entrée
13 Crude dudes
18 Welsh John
19 "We'll take that as __"
23 Of planes
25 Any of a Hepburn quartet
26 Arcade shooter
27 Tearful earfuls
28 NBC weekend staple
30 __ Paulo
32 Not up for any nonsense
34 Ale holder
36 Rolls-Royce owner
39 Squelch
40 Days before
41 Gymnast's surface
46 Go to
48 Be about to topple
49 Clobber
52 Yonder yacht
54 Splatter catcher
55 Made tracks
56 Drops (off)
58 Mom's mom
59 Roman's 12 months
60 Shelter sound
61 Homophone for what's absent here (from clues and answers)
63 One opposed to you



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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | OCT. 15

LIVE MUSIC
Free Live Music Friday Nights with good-time Americana band Wild Rust delivering high energy honkey tonk songs to soulful ballads with beautifully blended vocal harmonies at the Third Street Promenade's Main Stage. Oct 8th, Oct 15th, Oct 22nd (Live music from 7-8pm). You won't want to miss it ! https://www.instagram.com/wild.rust/

CLOSING CELEBRATION AND HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY
Closing event with music, awards, dance, lowrider car show, and art. This event will also host a Job Fair and vaccination clinic. Don't forget to submit your stamped loteria cards you received at the September 15 kickoff event for a drawing to win a Hispanic Heritage Month giveaway. 3:30 p.m., speakers begin at 4:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall

ENGLISH AS S SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, LOW
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY | OCT. 16

OPEN MAIN STREET
Main Street, Santa Monica turns into a pedestrian plaza with a pumpkin patch, beer booth, live music, kid korner, fitness classes & more. Open Main Street returns for Halloween. Enjoy al fresco dining, family friendly activities, & other fun experiences with local businesses when the two blocks between Hill & Kinney streets close to cars. Visit the "Popup Park" near Ashland & Main for live music in partnership with TRiP Santa Monica, free fitness classes by Fit Girl Club & activities for kids in front of Pump Station (2727 Main St.). Event schedule: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-main-street-halloween-edition-tickets-178274763617

GET LIT AT THE PROMENADE
Get Lit at the Promenade is a monthly showcase featuring poets, artists and musicians for an evening of entertainment. Every third Saturday of the month. 7:30 p.m. Free.

SUNDAY | OCT. 17

FARMERS MARKET
2640 Main St. (In The Victorian Parking Lot) 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

OPEN MAIN STREET
Two day event continues from Saturday. Event schedule: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-main-street-halloween-edition-tickets-178274763617

MONDAY | OCT. 18

LIVE MUSIC
Free Live Music Friday Nights with good-time Americana band Wild Rust delivering high energy honkey tonk songs to soulful ballads.

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
Join a community discussion of current and classic books, alternating fiction and nonfiction each month. October's title is "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson. Email jeff.schwartz@smgov.net for the Zoom link. 7 - 8 p.m.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING
Regular meeting of the Architectural Review Board. Agenda is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/

TUESDAY | OCT. 19

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION: THE SURVIVORS BY JANE HARPER
A young man with a growing family returns to visit his parents at his coastal birthplace, only to have long-held secrets stirred up when a dead body washes up on the beach. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov. 7 - 8 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

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 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5268

Boys' names

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

Aaron	Colt	Hunter	Liam	Owen
Abel	Cooper	Isaac	Logan	Rory
Adriel	Elliot	Jace	Louis	Ryan
Aidan	Enzo	Jake	Luca	Sean
Alan	Evan	Jesse	Luke	Sebastian
Alejandro	Ezra	Joel	Maddox	Silas
Amir	Frank	Juan	Mark	Theo
Angel	Gael	Jude	Micah	Tony
Asher	Gavin	King	Milo	Zane
Ayden	George	Knox	Myles	
Beau	Grayson	Leon	Noah	
Bert	Greg	Levi	Oliver	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
A political football at times

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LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 6

back together" preparing for 2024.

I'm not an expert on cults but my friend since high school, Paul Morantz, a lawyer who spent nearly 40 years battling cults, is an authority on the subject. In 2012, Paul wrote an outstanding book, "Escape, My Lifelong War Against Cults." It documented his battles with the Manson family, the Symbionese Liberation Army, Jim Jones' People's Temple and Scientology. In 1978 he became famous stemming from one of his earliest cases that almost ended his life.

It was just weeks after Morantz had won a $300,000 judgment against Synanon, a shady drug rehab facility that opened in Santa Monica in 1958. The founder, Charles Dederich, a recovering alcoholic turned cult leader wanted revenge. He assigned his violent Synanon "Imperial Marines" to stuff a 4-foot rattlesnake in Paul's mailbox.

Diabolically, they removed the snake's rattles. Thus, as Paul retrieved his mail he was bitten viciously. (He would have likely died if his neighbor hadn't just completed a Red Cross training program on how to treat rattlesnake bites.)

The rattlesnake story lit up TV's nationwide and internationally as they even featured hospital news conferences on Paul's tenuous condition. After intensive care, however, Paul slowly recovered. Unfortunately, decades later, complications from the rattlesnake venom reappeared. Suddenly Paul's life depended on getting exhaustive blood transfusions every two weeks. (Paul jokes that he has developed empathy for Dracula and, while getting transfusions, never wears a black cape.)

Meanwhile, Dederich built Synanon into a $30-million, nonprofit, tax-exempt business owning vast California real estate, 450 vehicles, planes and boats. Chapters sprang up in San Francisco, Detroit, Tulare and Marin counties, and even in Germany and Malaysia.

Following years in court, Morantz was finally able to rid Santa Monica of Synanon whose cult members had violently threatened neighbors and businesses. In 1984, when the IRS removed Dederich's tax-exempt status, Synanon went bankrupt. When a feeble and wheel-chair-bound Dederich arrived in court for the last time, Morantz actually felt forgiveness.

For decades, a sadistically angry Dederich intimidated his followers, "You were crazy when you got here, I can make you crazy again." In 1987 Dederich, 83 and penniless, died in a run down trailer park in Visalia.

Speaking of sadistically angry, while Trump is still remarkably popular with his "base" he was recently booed by a Maga crowd when he recommended the Covid vaccine. Shocked, he quickly back pedaled, "But you've got your freedoms."

Yes, he desperately needs their donations, sweetened by the fact that until he officially declares his 2024 candidacy he can just stuff the dough into his pockets. But he also considers his Magats to be losers and lowlifes.

When he infamously said, "I could shoot someone on 5th Avenue and I wouldn't lose any votes" he was also saying "See what morons my followers are?" During the January 6 insurrection Trump wasn't bothered by the violence but rather how sloppy-looking his followers looked. Actually it's quite common for cult leaders to hate their followers because they have to pretend that they care about them.

In almost every case, Morantz views cult leaders as essentially the same person, a narcissistic sociopath. Often they've been failures until discovering a cause they transform into a cult. Hitler longed to be an artist but was rejected when he applied to college. L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, was a failed science fiction writer so he created a religion based on science fiction. Despite his father's $400 million (today's dollars) Trump, with six bankruptcies, was a failed businessman until he created the Maga cult.

Another similarity among cult leaders is that they're often extremely suspicious of the second in command. This would explain why when Trump was watching the insurrection and heard shouts, "Hang Mike Pence!" he didn't lift a finger to help him.

In the epilogue of his 2012 book, Morantz presciently warned of a constitutional crisis whereby America might become an anti-democracy authoritarian government. When readers ask if he had Trump in mind. Paul jokes, "I never imagined he would be that bad."

Reflecting back to Dederich's downfall, if Trump somehow wound up penniless would I be happy or would I need him to end up in prison? My answer is both. A guy can dream, can't he.

For more, go to PaulMorantz.com. Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

BANNON

FROM PAGE 4

pressure, culminating in a dramatic White House meeting at which Trump ruminated about elevating Clark to attorney general.

The committee's demands of Trump aides and associates are potentially complicated by Trump's vow to fight their cooperation on grounds of executive privilege.

Biden has formally rejected Trump's claim of executive privilege surrounding a tranche of documents requested from the former president's time in the White House, and has set up the documents' potential release to Congress in mid-November. White House Counsel Dana Remus wrote to the National Archives in a letter released Wednesday that Biden believes that "an assertion of executive privilege is not in the best interests of the United States."

Colvin reported from New York and Smith from Providence, Rhode Island. Associated Press writers Farnoush Amiri and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

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LAWS

FROM PAGE 3

said the governor is "always involved" with legislation.

"You would want a governor or an administration to be involved, you know, because policy that doesn't fit or can't be implemented just ends up becoming a dream," she said.

Next year, lawmakers could send Newsom legislation to regulate health care prices and impose COVID vaccine or testing mandates for employers, decisions the governor must make amid his re-election campaign. But those decisions could be easier for Newsom now that the recall has affirmed his political strength, despite protests from Republicans. Newsom defeated the recall attempt by more than 60% of the vote.

"Life has become harder and more expensive for families, yet Democrats focus on things like banning to-go ketchup packets and gas-powered lawn mowers," sate Senate Republican Leader Scott Wilk said. "I hope that 2022 brings some common-sense to Sacramento."

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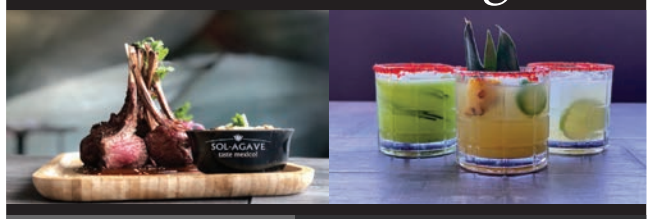
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