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US panel endorses use of Pfizer vaccine

LAURAN NEERGAARD AND MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

A U.S. government advisory panel endorsed widespread use of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine Thursday, putting the country just one step away from launching an epic vaccination campaign against the outbreak that has killed close to 300,000 Americans.

Shots could begin within days, depending on how quickly the Food and Drug Administration signs off, as expected, on the expert committee's recommendation.

"This is a light at the end of the long tunnel of this pandemic," declared Dr. Sally Goza, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

In a 17-4 vote with one abstention, the government advisers concluded that the vaccine from Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech appears safe and effective for emergency use in adults and teenagers 16 and over.

That endorsement came despite questions about allergic reactions in two people who received the vaccine earlier this week when Britain became the first country to begin dispensing the Pfizer-

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 2

SMMUSD shares vision for renovating elementary and middle school campuses



Courtesy Image

CLASSROOM: Officials are proposing several upgrades to elementary and middle school classrooms.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

In a Dec. 9 School Board meeting, Facilities Improvement Projects staff shared a plan for using $98 million of measure SMS funding for a first round of renovations to Santa Monica elementary and middle schools.

The team proposed three major moves to provide new buildings at Rogers, McKinley, and Roosevelt elementary schools, two medium sized moves to improve facilities at Grant and Franklin elementary schools, and smaller improvements at John Adams and Lincoln middle schools.

The presentation was prepared after extensive research, site visits, stakeholder consultation, and community meetings. An action item will be prepared for the December 17, 2020 school board meeting when board members will vote on whether to approve the projects.

The plan allows the District to remove 24 portable classrooms, nine at McKinley, six at Roosevelt, six at Will Rogers, and three at Franklin. With the exception of Lincoln Middle School, all of the proposed projects will create more outdoor learning spaces.

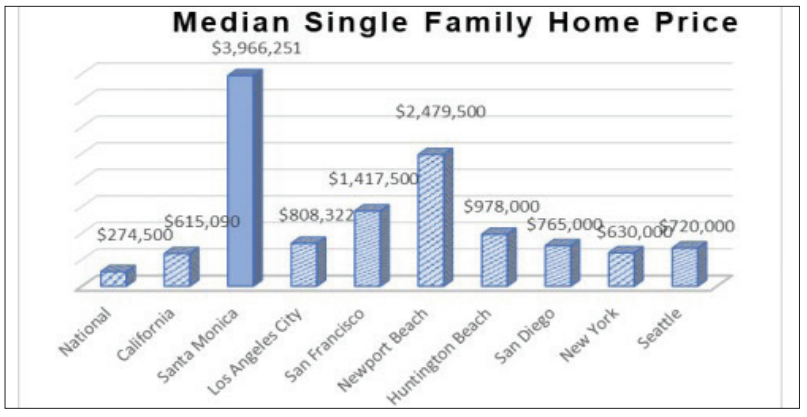
"We wanted to respect the language that we had in the bond suggesting that we would remove aging portables, so that was a priority. We also focused on things that would have a direct student impact and direct student benefits, so some of the administration type upgrades were pushed down a little bit for right now," said Judith Meiser, Santa Monica Facilities District Advisory Committee member. "We did decide to focus really on the Elementary schools because the middle schools received more recent work and the elementary schools have a lot of need."

At McKinley Elementary School $29.49 million in improvements are proposed to create a new two story building adding classrooms and school support offices. Will Rogers Elementary would receive $22.8 million in improvements to create a new building for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students and a new play yard and field. Roosevelt Elementary School was assigned $16.22 million in improvements for new PK, TK, and K classrooms and outdoor play areas.

At Grant Elementary School $8.15 million of renovations are proposed to renovate and expand the library, renovate the courtyard, and consolidate the Pre-K and Kindergarten classroom and yard spaces. At Franklin $9.3 million in improvements are proposed for a new maker space building and maker yard to enhance project based learning. Patio and

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 11

Council begins housing element discussions



Courtesy image

PRICES: The Housing Element should account for the high cost of housing.

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

City Council will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 15 for a special meeting to discuss the upcoming Housing Element update.

The Housing Element will be part of a study session and while it doesn't include a vote, the Tuesday item is an opportunity for Council to provide direction to staff on the process.

The Housing Element is a state-mandated part of a City's General Plan, a zoning document that articulates the city's development goals and policies.

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 7


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VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1

BioNTech shot.

While there are a number of remaining unknowns about the vaccine, in an emergency, "the question is whether you know enough" to press ahead, said panel member Dr. Paul Offit of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He concluded that the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

The decision came as COVID-19 cases surge to ever-higher levels across the U.S., with deaths setting an all-time, one-day record of more than 3,100 on Wednesday.

Pfizer has said it will have about 25 million doses of the two-shot vaccine for the U.S. by the end of December. But the initial supplies will be reserved primarily for health care workers and nursing home residents, with other vulnerable groups next in line until ramped-up production enables shots to become widely available on demand — something that will probably not happen until the spring.

Next week, the FDA will review a second vaccine, from Moderna and the National Institutes of Health, that appears about as protective as Pfizer-BioNTech's shot. A third candidate, from Johnson & Johnson, which would require just one dose, is working its way through the pipeline. Behind that is a candidate from AstraZeneca and Oxford University.

U.S. health experts are hoping a combination of vaccines will ultimately enable the U.S. to conquer the outbreak.

Still, experts estimate at least 70% of the U.S. population will have to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, the point at which the virus can be held in check. That means it could be several months before things start to get back to normal and Americans can put away their masks.

All eyes now turn to the FDA staff scientists who will make the final decision of whether to press ahead with large-scale immunizations with Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine. The FDA's vaccine director, Dr. Peter Marks, said a decision would come within "days to a week."

Dr. William Moss of Johns Hopkins University, who was not involved in the expert panel's review, welcomed the outcome, saying, "Given how bad the pandemic is now, we need to move."

The independent review by non-government experts in vaccine development, infectious diseases and medical statistics was considered critical to boosting Americans' confidence in the safety of the shot, which was developed at breakneck speed less than a year after the virus was identified.

Regulators in both Britain and Canada have already approved the vaccine for use in their countries, and President Donald Trump and White House officials have complained for weeks that the FDA was moving too slowly.

"Americans want us to do a scientific review, but I think they also want us to make sure we're not wasting time on paperwork as opposed to going forward with the decision," FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn said before the meeting.

FDA scientists issued a glowing review of the vaccine earlier in the week. Agency staffers said data from Pfizer's ongoing study of 44,000 people showed strong protection across different age groups, races and health conditions with no major, unexpected safety problems.

The Pfizer-BioNTech shot remains experimental because that final-stage study isn't complete. As a result, the expert panel wrestled with a list of questions that have yet to be answered.

For example, while the vaccine is more than 90% effective in blocking the symptoms of COVID-19, the FDA's advisers stressed it is not yet clear whether it can stop the silent, symptomless spread that accounts for roughly half of all cases.

"Even though the individual efficacy of this vaccine is very, very, very high, you really as of right now do not have any evidence" that it will lower transmission, said Dr. Patrick Moore of the University of Pittsburgh. He urged Pfizer to take additional steps to answer that question.

Several of the dissenting panel members objected to authorizing the shot for 16- and 17-year-olds, given their small numbers in the study and the low risk they face from COVID-19.

Members worried, too, that Pfizer will lose its opportunity to answer critical questions once it begins offering the real vaccine to study participants who had been getting dummy shots up to now.

The company proposed gradually moving those patients to the vaccine group, with priority based on age, health conditions and other factors. Under that plan, 70-year-old participants would cross over before healthy 30-year-olds.

Pfizer must still show whether the vaccine works in children younger than 16 and in pregnant women.

On the safety front, as widespread vaccinations begin, the first recipients will be closely tracked by government health authorities, since studies in tens of thousands of people can't detect side effects that strike 1 in a million. Hanging over the meeting were the British allergic reactions and a warning from authorities there that people with a history of serious reactions shouldn't get the vaccine for now.

Pfizer representatives said they have seen no signs of allergic reactions in their trial. But some of the FDA advisers fear the British warning will deter millions of Americans with allergies who might benefit from the COVID-19 vaccine from giving it a try and urged additional studies to try to settle the issue.

"This issue is not going to die until we have better data," Offit said.

Lawmakers: California jobless claims still a 'black hole'

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

A beleaguered California agency's attempt to stem an unemployment benefits scam potentially exceeding $2 billion while reducing a frustrating backlog is failing, two state lawmakers from opposing political parties said Thursday, though others reported fewer problems.

Democratic Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, who heads the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee, said she is seeing "a continued pattern of constituents who get lost in the process."

Hundreds of residents across the state report "this sense of falling into a black hole where you don't know what's wrong, where you make phone calls that go unanswered, and you wait months and months for benefits and grow increasingly desperate," she said.

Republican Assemblyman Jim Patterson, a frequent critic of Gov. Gavin Newsom's Democratic administration, cited complaints from two whistleblower employees of the Employment Development Department as well as customers who contacted his office in saying the new ID.me verification system "is failing substantially."

The system frequently rejects legitimate forms of identification, requiring those seeking benefits to undergo a more painstaking verification that can take months, Patterson said. Other applicants are waiting as long as five hours to have their identity confirmed on a video chat call, he said.

Petrie-Norris said she and her colleagues were very hopeful the new verification system "was going to represent a positive turning point, and that doesn't appear to be the case. So I think it's fair to say there's widespread concern and disappointment."

But spokeswomen for other frequent Democratic Assembly critics including Lorena Gonzalez and Phil Ting said it has not been a major recent issue.

"We still have some constituents with ID verification issues, but it is far less than what we were seeing in the spring and summer," said Jen Kwart, a spokesman for Democratic Assemblyman David Chiu. "While nothing is perfect, I think overall we would say ID.me has been an improvement."

However, she, like Patterson, wants the department to provide how many claims are being processed automatically and how many are being sent for a manual review.

The company and department officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Social media accounts also show a problem where unemployed workers are "falling into this black hole where they are being rejected for no reason, they cannot get their application to be approved and they are part of the huge backlog," Patterson said at a news conference.

The benefits applications backlog has grown again in recent weeks and may face more strain with new stay-home orders affecting nonessential employees in most of California. But Thursday's backlog of 725,051 initial and continuing claims was far below the peak of 1,695,102 on Sept. 24, before the department introduced the new verification system.

"It is not as high as the peak, but I am very concerned that it feels like we are not able to keep this under control," Petrie-Norris said in an interview. "We know that these are folks who have been waiting in some cases for months and they don't know how they're going to pay their rent, how they're going to feed their kids, how they're going to make it to the next day."

Bank of America this week said California likely paid at least $2 billion in fraudulent unemployment benefits during the coronavirus pandemic, after a statewide lockdown in March caused millions of people to lose their jobs.

Other states are experiencing problems, but the bank, which issues the state's debit cards containing the benefits, said the scale of fraud in California is unique in part because of the state's failure to crosscheck claims with disqualifiers like the applicant being in prison or jail.

Petrie-Norris said she will introduce a bill next week requiring such crosschecks and removing what Newsom's administration said are legal barriers. She also is proposing an oversight advisory board for the department.

In introducing the new verification tool in October, the department said its goal was to process more than 90% of claims automatically. At the time, their main concern was reducing the stubborn backlog.

About 64% of those who attempted to use the online verification process were successful in the early days of the program in October, the department said. Most were able to do so without assistance, but about 9% needed help on a video chat.

The department said then it would keep working on improvements.





DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 241 CALLS ON DECEMBER 9

Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk Olympic Blvd 3:28 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 5:30 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 300blk Arizona Ave 5:54 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1200blk 2nd St 6:22 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1200blk 2nd St 6:39 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 900blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:52 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2700blk 6th St 6:59 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1500blk Franklin St 7:17 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1100blk 2nd St 7:49 a.m.
Trespassing 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:51 a.m.
Burglary Report 200blk San Vicente Blvd 8:22 a.m.
Encampment 200blk Marine St 8:35 a.m.
Trespassing 500blk Arizona Ave 8:47 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk 9th St 8:49 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2600blk Barnard Way 8:54 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk Ocean Ave 8:55 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2400blk Euclid St 9:09 a.m.
Trespassing 1100blk 12th St 9:19 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk 9th St 9:30 a.m.
Battery Report Main St / Bay St 9:55 a.m.
Assault Report 1000blk 2nd St 10:17 a.m.
Death Investigation 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 10:32 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 1600blk The Beach 10:38 a.m.
Burglary Report 900blk 10th St 10:42 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 800blk Pico Blvd 10:55 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk Grant St 11:11 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2400blk 26th St 11:12 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 00blk Arcadia Ter 11:22 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2600blk Barnard Way 11:28 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk Olympic Blvd 11:31 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2900blk 2nd St 11:50 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 11:51 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 11:51 a.m.
Encampment 1300blk Palisades Beach Rd 11:53 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1800blk 19th St 12:03 p.m.
Burglary Report 900blk 5th St 12:08 p.m.
Fight 600blk Wilshire Blvd 12:15 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 600blk San Vicente Blvd 12:30 p.m.
Encampment 1100blk 14th St 12:40 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Neilson Way / Strand St 12:45 p.m.
Burglary Report 1900blk Broadway 12:46 p.m.
Assault Report 1000blk 2nd St 1:07 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 1:12 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2600blk Pico Blvd 1:15 p.m.
Loud Music 2200blk 28th St 1:21 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000blk 2nd St 1:39 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1700blk Appian Way 1:43 p.m.
Smoking Violation 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 1:55 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1000blk 19th St 2:06 p.m.
Encampment 17th St / Colorado Ave 2:10 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 1500blk 6th St 2:18 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 600blk San Vicente Blvd 2:19 p.m.
Fraud Report 2500blk 30th St 2:46 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk Idaho Ave 2:54 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1500blk Maple St 3:03 p.m.
Loitering 1800blk Arizona Ave 3:21 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2300blk 24th St 3:21 p.m.
Prowler Just Left 1200blk 25th St 3:26 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 3:27 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000blk 2nd St 3:51 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public Stanford St / Wilshire Blvd 4:12 p.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2000blk Euclid St 4:14 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk Grant St 4:15 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 10th St / Washington Ave 4:43 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200blk 17th St 4:46 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 4:56 p.m.
Fraud Report 300blk Olympic Dr 5:12 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500blk 10th St 5:21 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Just Occurred 1400blk 2nd St 5:44 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000blk 20th St 5:44 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:45 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1900blk California Ave 5:46 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2200blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:47 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk 2nd St 6:03 p.m.
Found Person 1700blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:09 p.m.
Arson 700blk Arizona Ave 6:14 p.m.
Party Complaint 1200blk 5th St 7:14 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 2600blk 28th St 7:29 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2000blk 14th St 8:37 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2900blk Main St 8:56 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2200blk 23rd St 8:59 p.m.
Fight Ocean Ave / Broadway 9:04 p.m.
Encampment 300blk Santa Monica Pier 10:47 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:10 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Ave 11:22 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2300blk Ocean Ave 11:31 p.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 11:44 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 42 CALLS ON DECEMBER 9

EMS 1500blk 5th St 12:33 a.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 2:17 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Olympic Blvd 2:40 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 3:21 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200blk La Mesa Dr 3:50 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 4:28 a.m.
EMS 1900blk 6th St 5:00 a.m.
EMS 3300blk Pico Blvd 6:19 a.m.
EMS 700blk Pico Blvd 7:19 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 6th St 9:35 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100blk 12th St 10:30 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 9th St 10:37 a.m.
EMS Main St / Ashland Ave 11:38 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 12:07 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Neilson Way 12:15 p.m.
EMS Main St / Ashland Ave 12:20 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Grant St 12:26 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:27 p.m.
EMS 2600blk 23rd St 12:36 p.m.
EMS 2900blk Exposition Blvd 12:43 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Broadway 12:48 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Neilson Way / Hollister Ave 12:48 p.m.
EMS 900blk 17th St 1:01 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Kansas Ave 1:03 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Arizona Ave 2:07 p.m.
EMS 7th St / Olympic Blvd W 3:28 p.m.
EMS 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 3:58 p.m.
EMS 1800blk 7th St 4:37 p.m.
EMS 10th St / Washington Ave 4:43 p.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Broadway 5:01 p.m.
EMS 700blk Strand St 5:03 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 11th St 5:16 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:36 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 5:55 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 5:55 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 6:10 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 6:14 p.m.
EMS 2400blk 20th St 7:18 p.m.
EMS 900blk Pico Blvd 8:31 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 600blk Broadway 8:38 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 8:58 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Pier Ave 11:49 p.m.

CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 6:34 P.M.

Officers were dispatched to the 2600 block of Main Street regarding an individual who was attempting to break into an ATM. Upon arrival, employees were standing outside the location where the Suspect was seen holding the front door shut from the inside. Employees noticed the Suspect walk in and begin to pry open the ATM, at which point they walked out the back door and called the police. When Officers contacted the Suspect they found cash and an iPhone that belonged to one of the employees. Upon broadcasting the details of the call over the radio, several other Officers recognized the Suspect from two prior Burglaries that had occurred in the city. Shawn Douglas O'Neal was arrested for a 487 PC-Grand Theft and later found to be in violation his probation, adding a 1203.2 PC to his charges. O'Neal was later cited and released per Covid-19 protocols.

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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 #4406 CUMMINS ENGINE OVERHAUL SERVICES

Submission Deadline is December 23, 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: ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.



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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Things That Aren't Here Anymore

Reading about the $50 million remodel of the Sears building on Colorado, originally built in 1947, I was pleasantly reminded of the late Ralph Story, the beloved CBS broadcaster. Among numerous programs, Story hosted Things That Aren't Here Anymore, a nostalgic look at Hollywood and Los Angeles of old and the Sears tale would have been right up his alley. More years ago than I care to admit to, I actually interviewed for an entry level writing job with Story, though the details are somewhat embarrassing.

I was 20 (going on 12) at UCLA when I enrolled in a Theater Arts class "Broadcast Speech," which was every Friday. (Ironically, just like these columns.) The other 9 students were all serious T.A. majors and didn't seem fond of my surfer/hippy attire.

Actually, I overheard a preening actor type whisper to his buddy, "What's with this clown?" I felt like responding, "When you get to know me, then you can call me a clown." The point is they were serious about acting and I was serious about the beach.

The class took place in a wooden shack studio on campus which featured a huge TV camera mounted on wheels that had video capacity and a soundproof booth up above. Students were given 5 minutes each week to perform whatever they wanted, which was videotaped and added to their portfolio.

Most did serious soliloquies from Shakespeare or Tennessee Williams. Dressed like a priest, my first "performance" was a 5-minute eulogy commemorating the tragic death of Sepulveda Boulevard following the recent grand opening of the 405 Freeway.

As each student performed the rest watched from the soundproof booth. Afterwards the student received a critique from Professor Kingston who was similar in looks and manner to the late James Lipton, host of the long-running TV show "Inside the Actor's Studio."

At first I was terrified and terrible but with help of my sardonic writer friend, Cary, the copy improved and so did the delivery. Though soundless to me, I was gratified by classmates in the booth laughing at my jokes. (Eventually students showed up to see my "act" who weren't even in the class but were invited by some who were.)

To my surprise, one day Kingston asked me to meet with Fred Friendly, a Professor Emeritus on campus who was looking for an entry level writer for Ralph Story. Unfortunately, I went wearing my college "uniform," Bermuda shorts and a t-shirt.

However, as soon as I entered the plush office filled with photos of Friendly on the walls with everyone from Eisenhower to Sinatra, I knew I had made a poor sartorial choice. Yet Friendly couldn't have been friendlier (pardon the pun) and quickly phoned CBS to arrange a meeting for me.

Lesson learned, I wore slacks, dress shirt and tie and a sports coat. Nervous as hell, I was also thrilled to meet the gracious on air staff including Story and the news anchor, who shall remain nameless. (You'll soon see why.)

Unfortunately, I didn't get the job due to my draft status as they didn't want to train someone who then gets drafted. (If only I'd had a rich, criminal father who bribed a podiatrist who rented an office from him into writing a bogus letter stating I had bone spurs.)

Despite not getting the job, I went from clown to mini-celebrity in class. Professor Kingston gave me an "A" for the course and encouraged me to take the class the next semester to keep improving.

Meanwhile, months later at my part-time parking cars job for the Slate Brothers nightclub on La Cienega, the news anchor and his young blond wife came to see a new comedian in town...Don Rickles! The anchor remembered our meeting and even ever-sour Henry Slate, owner of the club, was mildly impressed.

Later that year, via a close friend, I was invited to a Christmas party at a luxurious house off Mulholland Drive hosted by the anchor's son whose parents were out of town. He was intrigued by my CBS meeting but not so about the Slate Brothers encounter. Crestfallen, he said, "My mother doesn't have blond hair." Ouch! On the drive home my friend jokingly commented, "Remind me not to invite you to another party."

Cut to 2005 when I watched the brilliant movie Good Night and Good Luck starring and directed by George Clooney who played ... Fred Friendly! (All these years later, I had no idea Friendly, later President of CBS News, was originally the producer of the iconic Edward R. Murrow!)

Frantically, I called Cary. "Did you know Friendly was Murrow's producer?!" "Yes," he said matter-of-factly. "Then how did you let me go to that meeting in Bermuda shorts?" After a pause, he replied, "I didn't think you owned a pair of pants."

For more, go to YouTube and type "Ralph Story" and Google "Historic Sears store in Santa Monica returns." Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

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

Santa Monica Playgrounds to Re-Open Friday Under Revised Guidelines

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health updated health directives that align with the State of California's recent reversal on playground closures. With the green light from public health authorities, the City of Santa Monica will reopen previously available playgrounds Friday, December 11.

With this opening comes an even greater need for parents to practice extreme caution and vigilance as we break new daily records for positive COVID-19 cases and deaths. The risk of community spread is incredibly high at this time, with Santa Monica seeing a 15 percent increase in its total cases (as calculated over 10 months), occurring in just the last two weeks.

Follow posted health guidance every time you visit a playground. This includes:

Never visiting if you are sick. Not gathering with people outside your household. Wearing a face covering at all times, including all children over age two. Using hand sanitizer or washing hands frequently. Not visiting the playground when crowded.

The following parks will open Friday, December 11:

Airport Park Playground, Annenberg Community Beach House Playground, Clover Park Playgrounds, Douglas Park Playground, Euclid Park Playground, Gandara Park Playground, Ishihara Park Playground, Marine Park Playground, North Beach Playground, Ozone Park Playground, Reed Park Playground, Tongva Park Playground and Virginia Avenue Park Playground (slide closed).

In collaboration with Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, school play structures will reopen at Franklin, Roosevelt, McKinley, Rogers, Grant, Edison, and Muir / SMASH schools. Fields and open space at all Santa Monica elementary schools are open Monday - Friday, 3:30 - 5 p.m. and weekends and breaks through the Playground Partnership. Lincoln Middle School and John Adams Middle School fields are open for permit use only. Behavior of playground users will be monitored and if the district determines that people are not following the posted rules, the district may discontinue access.

The LA County's Department of Public Health has issued guidance that high contact programs and recreational amenities that require close contact less than six feet in distance should continue to be suspended at this time. This includes activities such as all non-professional team sports, group sporting events, organized intermural activities, pick-up basketball and volleyball, lawn bowling, and/or organized races. It also includes recreational amenities such as splash pads, outdoor fitness equipment, and outdoor BBQ grills in parks.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Citywide

SMMUSD Students Commit to Environmental Action in Go Green and Sustainability Challenges

Santa Monica High School, in its first year participating in the international Project Green Challenge, placed 21st out of 758 schools and 85 countries, affirming their commitment to environmental advocacy and action.

The Project Green Challenge asked students to participate daily during October. On the broad theme of sustainability, they were tasked with taking and uploading items like photos and short answers to questions. The challenge is run by Turning Green, a global, student-led organization dedicated to environmental education and advocacy.

Samohi sophomores (l-r) Giselle Avila-Hengsathorn, Citli Carrera and Hailie Matsui were members of a winning team called Happy Sprouts.

Also, during October, the district sponsored the Go Green Challenge for K-5 students. In both contests, winners were determined by the number of participation days and subjective criteria like thoughtfulness, creativity and relevance.

Sixty SMMUSD students participated in the challenges.

"The participation in this was great to see, and we're thankful for it," said Austin Toyama, SMMUSD sustainability coordinator. "The students' commitment to learning about environmental issues and sustainable living is important for their health and that of our communities and the planet."

Students and parents provided great feedback about the challenge, launched during the pandemic. Among their thoughts:

• It added a level of joy during a time when "life isn't as fun and interactive."

• Families learned from the challenge and made changes at home as a result. Some said they were going to share what they learned with neighbors.

• It generated interesting and educational conversations for all household members.

Winners, listed below, won gift cards.

WINNERS OF THE FALL 2020 (K – 5) GO GREEN CHALLENGE!

1st Place: Isla Sroka - Grade 3 Franklin

2nd Place: Arabella Feldman-Milliken - Grade 5 Roosevelt

3rd Place (4-way tie): Theo Richards - Grade 3 Franklin

WINNERS OF THE FALL 2020 PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE (GRADES 6 – 8)

1st Place: Sahana Lindsey - Grade 7 John Adams Middle

2nd Place: Yunho Heo - Grade 8 Lincoln Middle

WINNERS OF THE FALL 2020 PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE (GRADES 9 – 12)

1st Place: Team Happy Sprouts (Halie Matsui, Citli Carrera Arenas and Giselle Avila-Hengsathorn) – Grade 10, Samohi

2nd Place: Olivia Rizzo - Grade 9 Samohi

3rd Place: Team Green Teas (Sofia Garban, Joaquin Martinez Devis, Samantha Ramirez, and Keira Yanez) – Grade 10, Samohi

For more about the Project Green Challenge, go to https://www.projectgreenchallenge.com/

SUBMITTED BY WRITTEN BY CHRIS CLONTS, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

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SANTA MONICA MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed qualifications and proposals from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **RFQ/P #21.07.M, Malibu High School Campus Plan Phase 1 New Building Lease-leaseback (LLB) Project at the former Juan Cabrillo Elementary School Campus.** The total project cost is **estimated to be between $90,000,000 to $100,000,000** and includes the following: The abatement and demolition of the existing 9 Buildings at the former Juan Cabrillo ES campus, the construction of a new High School Core Building, "Building C" which will include classrooms, student support spaces, state of the art kitchen, café, outdoor learning areas, administrative offices, and pitch spaces connected by common areas designed to add to the collaborative learning environment, extensive grading of the site, with a substantial amount of cut and fill and the export of surplus dirt if necessary, extensive amount of landscape and hardscape within the Phase I limits, new bus/vehicle turnaround and parking and other associated improvements per the projects bidding documents. All submittals must be submitted to the SMMUSD Facility Improvement Office, 2828 4th Street, Santa Monica, California 90405 on or before 1/27/21 no later than 3:00 PM. Each submittal must be sealed and marked with the RFQ/P name and number. **All interested firms must attend the Mandatory Pre-Response meeting to be held via Zoom on 12/17/20 at 10:00 AM.** All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumping (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project RFQ/P #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 1/12/21 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at https://www.smmusd.org/domain/4172.

Mandatory Pre-Response Zoom Meeting (attendance is required for all Prime Contractors): 12/17/20 at 10:00 AM

Zoom Information: https://zoom.us/j/99873406932?pwd=R0F5OElkcXlaNGNNVHliSHIycFdTdz09

- Meeting ID: 998 7340 6932
- Passcode: 9FdGNq

Submittal Due Date: 1/27/21 no later than 3:00pm

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop-Griego at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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Inside / Outside

By Michael Feinstein
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ballot placement displacement - Part II

The 2020 global COVID-19 pandemic has challenged many aspects of our lives and caused us to rethink how we live more than ever. It also impacted our local elections.

In response to the need to social distance, the City's decades-old requirement to obtain at least 100 nomination signatures from registered Santa Monica voters was lowered to 30, leading to an extraordinarily high number of candidates on the ballot for City Council. At the same time, Los Angeles County implemented new ballot designs under its Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) program for both vote-by-mail (VBM) and in-person, ballot-marking-device (BMD) ballots.

Together this led to numerous anecdotal reports received by the Santa Monica Daily Press (and by one of the not re-elected incumbents whose name appeared near the bottom of the ballot) that many voters had trouble finding/realizing there were candidates listed in a second column on the VBM ballot, or that they had to scroll down multiple screens to find all candidates on the BMD ballots.

DIMINISHING RETURNS

In its post-election review podcast, Santa Monica Daily Press editor Matt Hall and publisher Ross Furukawa and Todd James noted that the two lowest vote-getters among the three not re-elected incumbents appeared in a second column on the VBM ballot (and near the bottom of the BMD ballots). They followed with a scathing argument that the extraordinary number of City Council candidates had crossed a line of credibility, leading to many candidates who failed to articulate interesting viewpoints, appeared to be running for selfish reasons, were individuals with no prior record of community involvement, and had raised no money and had no real campaigns.

With so many candidates, the Daily Press argued, this made it difficult to hold effective candidate debates or forums, with little time available for each candidate to articulate their views — and with the curious voter being the loser. They concluded that with so many candidates on the ballot, Santa Monica has made itself a joke, and by legitimizing non-serious candidates, has delegitimized its democracy.

HINDSIGHT BEING 20/20

How might the City and County have handled this better? The July 14 Staff Report proposing the 30 signature threshold contained only a single 101-word paragraph on the topic near the end of a 4,414 word Consent Calendar agenda item to ratify COVID-19 Emergency Proclamations and Supplements.

There was no analysis whether the decreased threshold might result in an abnormally high number of candidates. This would have led to contacting the County to inquire how this would affect ballot placement — and by bringing that before the public, the possibly to debate trade-offs.

This also would have also been the place for City Clerk Denise Anderson-Warren to report that she interprets California Election Code Section 10227 literally — i.e. that "All forms required for nomination and election to all municipal offices shall be furnished only by the city elections official" — meaning candidates can neither photocopy nor scan copies of the form to voters. Not an unreasonable interpretation, but I've been on the ballot for county and statewide elections before and was able to photocopy and scan in both. It turns out Los Angeles County interprets Section 10227 and Section 8101 (which applies to congressional, state, and county office and party central committee) differently, with the original copy needing to come from election officials, but allowing copies and scans to be made thereafter.

Had this been a matter of public debate, the City Council could have weighed in to permit such an opportunity. Voters could have received a scanned or mailed nomination signature at home, or downloaded one from social media, have members of their family sign, then mail it back to the candidate or leave it outside for pickup.

As Interim City Manger Dilg responded, "as is true with so many things, this is an area where the pandemic presented new questions, not previously considered." And she's right - but unfortunately while most of the world has tried to adapt to the need to socially-distance by utilizing electronic technologies, the rationale behind Santa Monica's lower signature requirement as ratified by the City Council was stuck in pre-COVID 19, in-person logic. Any credible candidate with a record in the community that actually did a little advance planning — and not just incumbents — could have easily put together an email list of local voters from their existing contacts, as well as distributed their scanned form via social media, then held socially-distanced Zoom signing parties while showing everyone how to correctly fill out the form. From this a threshold of far more valid 'wet' signatures could have been easily attained, that would not have created the negative domino effects of too many non-serious candidates on the ballot.

CONFUSION BY DESIGN

In response to my inquiry about the two-column confusion for the City Council race, the County stated that the VBM ballot "includes clear headers with the name of the contest and the number of eligible selections in each column." Unfortunately for Santa Monica, this was not the case.

In the first column, it said in black lettering over a light grey background: "SANTA MONICA CITY GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION Member of the City Council Vote For No More Than FOUR". Then in a second column that had an orange colored box at the top - and remarkably did not mention the race in which the candidates listed underneath were running - it said "Contest continues from previous column'. That was where five candidates were marooned - including two ultimately not re-elected incumbents.

SEE **BALLOT** PAGE 11

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

"California's housing-element law acknowledges that, in order for the private market to adequately address the housing needs and demand of Californians, local governments must adopt plans and regulatory systems that provide opportunities for (and do not unduly constrain) housing development," said the staff report.

The Housing Element must contain a needs assessment, discussion of barriers to development, an evaluation of progress, identification of sites for housing and implementation plans.

Santa Monica's plans must account for an increase of approximately 8,800 units, of which approximately 70% are affordable housing units.

The targets are set by state regulators and the current numbers are almost five times higher than the previous allocation of 1,674 units.

According to the staff report, it's too late for Santa Monica to appeal its allocation but there is a process to request a more realistic allocation if the city can show the current number exceeds available resources and the community's ability to meet the goal.

Failure to adopt a satisfactory Housing Element can result in a lawsuit brought against the city by the State.

"Other repercussions for noncompliance include limited access to state funding where eligibility for funding is contingent on the jurisdiction having a substantially compliant housing element," said the staff report. "To incentivize and reward local governments that have adopted compliant and effective Housing Elements, several housing, community development, and infrastructure funding programs include Housing Element compliance as a rating and ranking or threshold requirement."

At Tuesday's meeting, staff are asking Council to provide feedback on the scope of a study related to housing production and the scope of a study related to housing preservation.

According to the State, the Housing Element has to be finished and adopted by October 2021.

At the meeting Council will also discuss a ban on fast food restaurants on the Promenade, two appointments to the Audit Subcommittee, a vacancy on the Personnel Board and the second reading of an ordinance relating to public housekeeping training.

Council will meet via teleconference at on Dec. 15. Closed session begins at 5:30 p.m. Visit www.smgov.net for streaming information.

editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica Accounting Firm Holds Holiday Shoe Drive

Gumbiner Savett Inc. is changing up its holiday fundraising campaign from gathering toys to shoes.

The firm has held a toy drive for several years running, but when it came to their attention that the students of Washington Elementary in Lynwood were in dire need of shoe donations, collecting footwear became the focus of the 2020 charitable effort.

Located in one of the most impoverished areas of Los Angeles, the school is facing a much bigger challenge in soliciting essential items from the community during the pandemic.

To help that cause, Gumbiner will be collecting new shoes (sports and tennis shoes are preferred) for kids ages 3 to 12. Cash donations are also being accepted to allow the school to purchase the new shoes for students in need.

If you are interested in donating, please contact info@gscpa.com for more information. The firm and the kids of Washington Elementary appreciate your generosity!

SUBMITTED BY AMY LINDSAY



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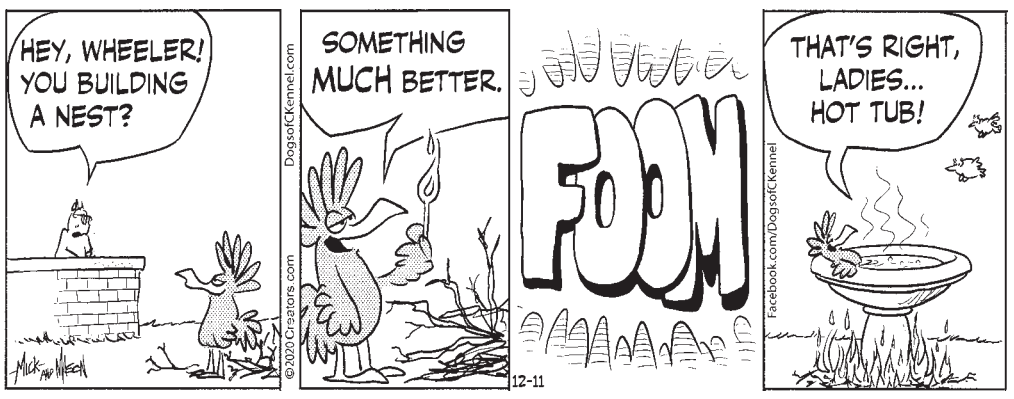
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.2°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
WNW swell eases. Still a little sluggish with the AM high tide but winds are looking to stay good through the dropping tide and possibly into the afternoon.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Smaller WNW swell. Deep early AM high tide an even bigger issue with less energy in the water.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 58.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/12/11	Fri	06:11 AM	6.14	H
2020/12/11	Fri	1:05 PM	-0.28	L
2020/12/11	Fri	7:09 PM	4.03	H
2020/12/12	Sat	12:21 AM	1.25	L
2020/12/12	Sat	06:49 AM	6.62	H
2020/12/12	Sat	1:52 PM	-0.97	L
2020/12/12	Sat	8:05 PM	4.08	H
2020/12/13	Sun	01:04 AM	1.48	L
2020/12/13	Sun	07:29 AM	6.94	H
2020/12/13	Sun	2:38 PM	-1.44	L
2020/12/13	Sun	8:57 PM	4.08	H
2020/12/14	Mon	01:47 AM	1.71	L
2020/12/14	Mon	08:09 AM	7.06	H
2020/12/14	Mon	3:24 PM	-1.64	L
2020/12/14	Mon	9:49 PM	4.03	H
2020/12/15	Tue	02:30 AM	1.93	L
2020/12/15	Tue	08:50 AM	6.96	H
2020/12/15	Tue	4:11 PM	-1.59	L
2020/12/15	Tue	10:43 PM	3.94	H
2020/12/16	Wed	03:15 AM	2.15	L
2020/12/16	Wed	09:33 AM	6.65	H

DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date:12/09
11 14 31 47 48
Power#: 4
Jackpot:277 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 12/08
15 19 33 39 68
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 276 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/09
5 8 13 20 39
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 14 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/09
3 13 14 38 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/09
Evening: 7 9 6
Draw Date: 12/09
Midday: 6 4 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/09
1st: 01 - LUCKY STAR
2nd: 04 - GOLD RUSH
3rd: 08 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:42.27

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 (DECEMBER 11)

A force guides you toward a field or person. This added layer of mystical motivation makes for a poetic story of how you satisfied very practical aims. A location change is favored, as is entrance to a new school or doctrine. You'll make a handsome profit in March and invest further to much success. Capricorn and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 43, 10, 33, 28 and 4.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today is about comfortably and casually getting to know the people who could change your life a few months down the line. This introductory process is best taken slow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It will be important to acknowledge the social system, which includes hierarchies of status. Pretending that the status scaffolding doesn't exist will only breed later resentments.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's said that you can't judge a book by its cover, but there's an entire industry that suggests the opposite. Just don't judge a book by its movie. These thoughts will be useful metaphorically, not literally.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're willing to make a sacrifice in the call of duty. It helps if there's also love involved. Dutiful sacrifices are admirable and take character. Sacrifices for love are both those things, doused in the sweetness of life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Force breeds resistance. This is why it's important you do not try to force yourself to do anything you don't want to do. Persuasion is better. Seduction is the best.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It takes time to formulate a solid opinion on something. You'll be asked to take sides or make a decision. It's too soon, and you don't have enough information yet. Stall.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Long relationships are a compilation — a string of daily decisions, many of which are so small you hardly notice you're making them. Notice today, though, because the small things will matter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's true love and there's easy love, and they don't always show up together. You will feel that the love you had to work for rings with deeper resonance because of (not despite) your fight for it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Take authority you're given and wear it regally. It doesn't mean you think you're superior. It's just a role — though a necessary one. Someone has to play it, and you'll do it well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Love fills you with gratitude. You feel lucky to know and love the people in your life and receive their affection. Something as simple as a quick conversation counts as a kind of celebration of the relationship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can't influence people you don't know. Your time will be well-spent in a pleasant effort to get to know people. Other people's problems will be opportunities for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll take a step toward mastery. You'll clear the obstacle that has been getting in the way of giving daily attention to the thing you want to be so good at.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

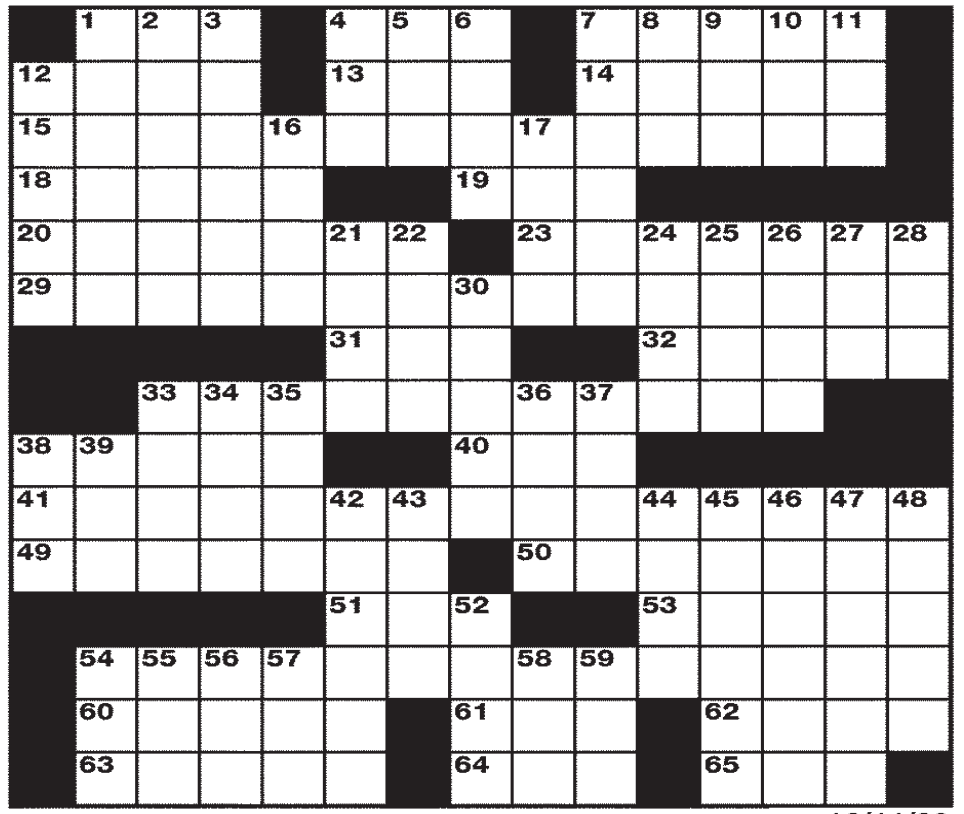
9		2	4		7			
7		5		2	3			8
	4						1	
2			3					9
			2	4	8			
1					9			5
	9						2	
4			5	3		9		6
			7		2	5		4

Newsday Crossword

NO LATITUDE by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 End of the century
4 Incubator occupant
7 "Grr!"
12 Handle roughly
13 *Iliad* activity
14 Worst possible attendance
15 Two on the equator
18 City in Tuscany
19 Speaker introducers
20 Unlike vests
23 Out of control
29 Two on the equator
31 ". . . __ reasonable facsimile"
32 Sports site
33 Two on the equator
38 Absolut rival
40 Foal's mom
41 Two on the equator
49 Hockey player's stat
50 Main event preceders
51 Treat on toast
53 Childhood ailment
54 Two on the equator
60 Give up
61 Dude
62 Apt to meddle
63 Musical skill, these days
64 French fashion monogram
65 Bit of a flue

DOWN
1 Southeast Asian metropolis
2 Bottom-dwelling fish
3 Beside oneself, perhaps
4 Feta source
5 Furnace fuel
6 Frightful
7 Octopus "arsenal"
8 *Simpsons* barkeep
9 Parisian pronoun
10 Some subset of
11 DOJ branch
12 Bette's "Divine" nickname
16 *Avatar* race
17 Longing feeling
21 Rachael Ray sautéing staple
22 Last Best Supporting Actress Oscar winner
24 Money depicting Mao
25 Urban district
26 Inspiration
27 Hamilton biographer Chernow
28 Notable stretch
30 King Salman subject
33 Cheney predecessor
34 Landed
35 Knesset nickname
36 [That's shocking!]
37 Caesar's love
38 Go downhill fast
39 Quirk
42 Scopes of activity
43 Rossini opera hero
44 Written reminder
45 Thatcher, vis-à-vis Oxford
46 Lowers oneself at a beach party
47 Mischievous
48 Put to the test
52 Frozen dessert franchise
54 __ America (basic cable network)
55 Retro shout of support
56 "From now" antonym
57 Nothing at all
58 Where interns may work
59 Text of approval



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

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



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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 30 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4959

Five star resort

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

Abundant	Day bed	Quiet
Art galleries	Escape	Relax
Beauty	Fish	Rest
Bicycles	Flora	Snorkel
Bike	Foyer	Special
Birds	Idyllic	Spoil
Board	Malabar Ridge	Visitors centre
Bush	Museum	Volcanic
Champagne	Ocean	Wedding lily
Chicken Run	Peaceful	Wine
Cliffs	Plane	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Our brave pioneers

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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

outdoor classroom improvements are also proposed.

John Adams Middle School would receive $1.62 million to renovate the library and create a new outdoor deck. Lincoln Middle School would receive $840,000 to renovate and modernize bathrooms for special education students.

School Board members in general expressed approval of the plan as it maintained the District's commitment to replacing portable classrooms and focused on projects with the greatest direct student impact.

"I think this report was really excellent and the amount of work that is reflected and the amount of process that is reflected is amazing," said Board Member Laurie Lieberman.

Three members of the community called in and urged the Facilities Improvement Project team to focus more on adaptive reuse of historic buildings. These community members cited the scheduled demolition of the History building at Samohi as an example of poor conservation planning.

Board member Ralph Mechur pointed out that most of the projects would eliminate portable classrooms that are not historically significant, but suggested FIP staff include information on how much existing buildings will be altered in the next meeting's action item.



Courtesy image

UPGRADES: The bond money will be used for a variety of projects including outdoor spaces.

"Maybe at this point to keep the community assured that we're not damaging any historic infrastructure, relative to future thinking and learning it might be as simple as just laying out where we might need to do extra work and most of these projects probably don't need that," said Mechur.

Clara@smdp.com

BALLOT

FROM PAGE 6

For voters going through a long ballot of local, state and federal races as well as the many ballot measures — and who are used to acting upon visual cues in our daily lives (like we do in super markets when we search by label), a more sensible design would've had the same colored header over both columns, and stated "Vote For No More Than FOUR from these two columns" in both.

It's not like the County of Los Angeles has been insensitive to specifically confusing ballot designs in the past. In June 2018 - when there were 32 candidates for U.S. Senate and 27 for Governor in the state's top two jungle primary, which caused the candidates to be listed over two pages - the County sent out a special extra notice with the sample ballot reminding voters to only vote for one candidate, because voting for a candidate on each page would lead to their vote being not counted.

Simultaneously on this year's BMD touch screens, only four candidates were shown at a time, and voters had to click a MORE button to scroll down to the next screen and so on. A notification screen did pop up forcing the voter to acknowledge the MORE button and that there were more than four candidates in that contest. But it was still possible to vote for all open seats without scrolling through all screens to see all candidates - further penalizing those without the good fortune of a high ballot placement.

A simple 'fail safe' could've been a functionality we are all familiar with when we sign up for something on-line — where you have to check a box to agree you've read the Terms and Conditions, but the page forces you to scroll all the way down (and pretend you read thousands of words written by a corporate lawyer) before you can click the box to says 'yes'. Had this been written into the BMD, at least we'd know all voters saw all choices before casting their votes.

A BETTER DEMOCRACY

All of this is not to depreciate the votes cast by Santa Monica voters, nor to undermine the legitimacy of the winners. We'll never know how a differently conducted election would have turned out and we need to move forward. This was the first year that the County implemented VSAP — and hopefully the last local election conducted under COVID-19, before a vaccine is widely distributed among the populace.

What the City Council should do now is direct City Staff to send a letter to the County Registrar's office — and to the five Los Angeles County Supervisors — raising these issues about VBM and BMD ballot design, and ask them to address them before the next election. Our democracy is worth no less.

Michael Feinstein is a former Santa Monica Mayor (2000-2002) and City Councilmember (1996-2004), a co-founder of the Green Party of California, and was a 2018 Green candidate for California Secretary of State. He can be reached via Twitter @mikefeinstein. 'Inside/Outside' is a periodic column about civic affairs Feinstein writes for the Daily Press, that takes advantage of his experience inside and outside of government.

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