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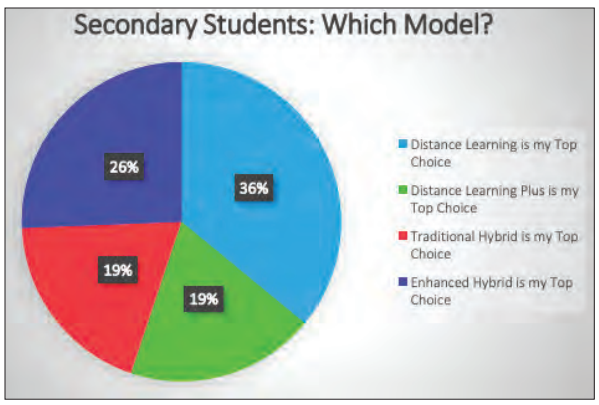
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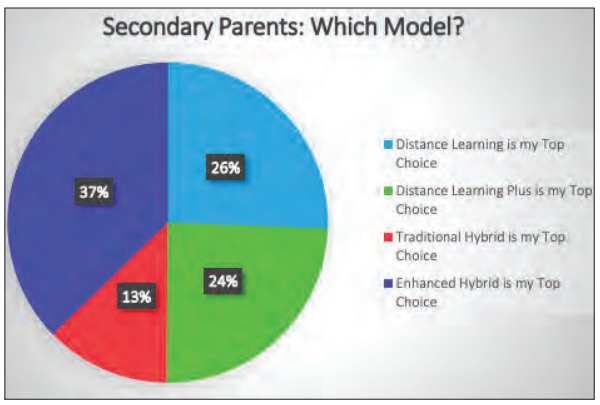
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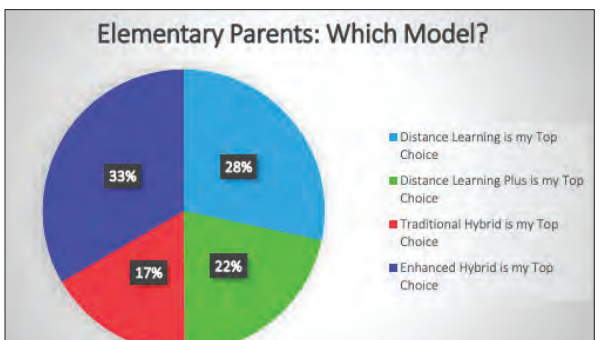
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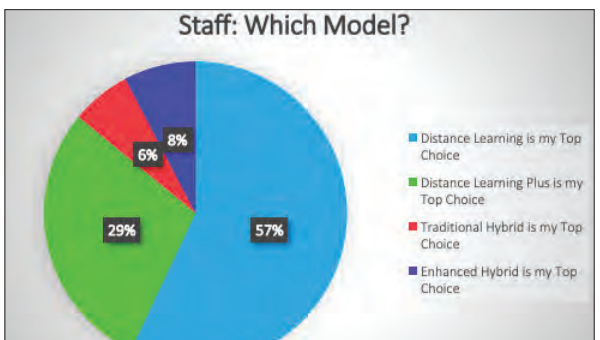
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SMMUSD to propose 'distance learning plus' reopening model for schools









Courtesy images

SCHOOL: Officials are debating how to handle continued distance learning for most grades.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

On Dec. 17, the Board of Education will vote on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's staff recommendation to adopt a 'distance learning plus' reopening plan for when L.A. County enters Tier 2 of COVID restrictions.

As L.A. County currently remains in Tier 1 the District is offering limited in-person special education services and awaiting approval to open Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 2 through the County's waiver program.

Once the County enters Tier 2, SMMUSD will have the option to open in-person services TK through Grade 12, but is not planning on taking it.

Following months of stakeholder deliberations, staff decided a distance learning plus model is the best way to meet the collective interests of "social-emotional connections on campus; maintaining connection to classmates, staff, and school community; continuity of academic support and instruction; and health and safety precautions during the pandemic," according to the meeting agenda.

Under this model students will maintain their current distance learning schedule and have the

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7

Vaccine arrives at UCLA





Courtesy photos

VACCINE: Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center received its first batch of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, which arrived early Tuesday morning. The first vials are being prepared for distribution to front line medical staff, which begins on Wednesday. UCLA Health staff moved the first vials of COVID-19 vaccine from their storage box into freezer after delivery. The timer shows they got the vials in the freezer in one minute twenty-seven seconds. The vials need to be transferred in under three minutes. Pictured are Heather Karpf, Christina Shin and Hannah Mansky.

Homeowners association sues City and Fairmont Miramar over hotel redevelopment approval

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

After 10 years of planning, City Council gave the Fairmont Miramar's redevelopment proposal the green light on Sept. 30, but community controversy continues as on Dec. 7 the Santa Monica Bay Towers Homeowners Association filed a lawsuit challenging the approval.

SMBT alleges that the redevelopment project violates the coastal land use plan (LUP) and the Downtown Community Plan (DCP). SMBT further charges that

SEE **MIRAMAR** PAGE 11

Local leaders looking for ideas to increase economic activity

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

As the people of Santa Monica prepare for a holiday season under safer-at-home orders, city leaders are calling on local retailers and residents to share their ideas that could potentially spur economic growth on the Westside.

City of Santa Monica's Emergency Operations and Business Liaison Teams launched a short survey this week online at bit.ly/38ammb1 that asks questions relating to rent expenses, how the city should best utilize funding if it receives any, and "what is your biggest stress right now?"

Staff said the City felt it was a necessary time to check in with residents since health orders have changed once again and survey responses will only be used by the

SEE **LEADERS** PAGE 3


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Hopeful sign: Midwestern states see drop in new virus cases

ADAM GELLER
Associated Press

After a punishing fall that left hospitals struggling, some Midwestern states are seeing a decline in new coronavirus cases. But the signs of improvement are offset by the infection's accelerating spread on both coasts.

States including Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Nebraska have seen decreases in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 over the past couple of weeks. All, however, are still experiencing an alarming number of deaths and hospitalizations because of the earlier surge of cases.

With winter weather driving people indoors, where the virus spreads more easily, there's no guarantee the improving dynamic can be maintained, doctors and public health officials say.

"We have a vaccine rolling out, but that doesn't change the overall picture," Dr. James Lawler with the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Global Center for Health Security told the Omaha World-Herald. "Things could still turn south pretty easily."

But he and others are encouraged by the figures. In Iowa, for example, the number of new virus cases reported daily has declined over the past two weeks from nearly 1,800 to about 1,250. In Nebraska, it has gone from about 1,800 a day to a little under 1,300.

"I am fingers crossed right now," said Dr. Stacey Marlow, an emergency room physician at UnityPoint Allen Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa. "The COVID patients that I am seeing are very, very sick. But there are ... less of them."

Deaths from the virus in Iowa have continued to rise sharply, to an average of 79 a day, up from 28 two weeks ago.

The hope, of course, is that the drop in infections will translate into a decline in deaths, but that could take a few weeks. Many of those now dying of COVID-19 may have been infected weeks ago.

Nationwide, the death toll has topped 300,000, with more than 16 million confirmed infections. On average, the U.S. is seeing about 2,400 deaths and over 215,000 new cases per day. An influential model from the University of Washington says deaths could total 502,000 by April 1, even with a vaccine.

Lawler said more Nebraska residents appear to be following warnings to limit dining out and wear masks in public. It helps that a number of Nebraska cities recently passed mask mandates, he said.

But he said it's important for Nebraskans to remain vigilant about maintaining social distancing as they wait for vaccines to become widely available in the spring.

In a call with governors this week, White House coronavirus task force member Dr. Deborah Birx said the progress in Midwestern states is being offset by a "deteriorating situation" on both coasts.

Nationwide, the number of people in the hospital with the virus has hit an all-time high of more than 110,000, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

In California, for example, the supply of beds in intensive care units is dwindling as new cases average more than 30,000 a day.

"We have reached case counts that exceed all previous records," said Van Do-Reynoso, Santa Barbara County public health director. "It is imperative that each individual take action now and stay home. We are reaching a point where we can see on the horizon our health care system being overrun."

In New York City, officials halted indoor dining at restaurants Monday as the number of infections continued to climb. State and city officials have warned that a broader shutdown might be necessary if things keep getting worse.

"We cannot let this virus keep growing, especially at a moment where we are finally getting the vaccine and can turn the corner," Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

About 370 coronavirus patients were in intensive care in the city this week, triple the number of a month ago, but a fraction of the more than 3,100 patients who filled ICUs in April.

In New Jersey, a rise in new cases from about 4,000 a day at the end of November to an average of 4,900 has raised concerns among officials and health providers. But the dynamic is very different from the crisis of last spring.

"People do still continue to die from the disease but certainly not in the kinds of numbers that we were seeing back then," said Dr. John Bonamo, chief medical and quality officer at RWJ Barnabas Health, a large hospital operator in the state.

Associated Press writers Heather Hollingsworth in Mission, Kansas, and Carla K. Johnson in Washington state contributed to this report.



US vaccinations ramp up as 2nd COVID-19 shot nears

MATTHEW PERRONE, LAURAN NEERGAARD AND DAVID PORTER
AP Health Writer

Hundreds more hospitals around the country began dispensing COVID-19 shots to their workers in a rapid expansion of the U.S. vaccination drive Tuesday, while a second vaccine moved to the cusp of government authorization.

A day after the rollout of Pfizer-BioNTech's coronavirus shots, the Food and Drug Administration said its preliminary analysis confirmed the effectiveness and safety of the vaccine developed by Moderna and the National Institutes of Health. A panel of outside experts is expected to recommend the formula on Thursday, with the FDA's green light coming soon thereafter.

The Moderna vaccine uses the same technology as Pfizer-BioNTech's and showed similarly strong protection against COVID-19 but is easier to handle because it does not need to be kept in the deep freeze at minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 70 Celsius).

Another weapon against the outbreak can't come soon enough: The number of dead in the U.S. passed a staggering 300,000 on Monday, according to Johns Hopkins University, with about 2,400 people now dying per day on average.

The devastating toll is only expected to grow in the coming weeks, fueled by travel over Christmas and New Year's, family gatherings and lax adherence to mask-wearing and other precautions.

Packed in dry ice, shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine began arriving Tuesday at more than 400 additional hospitals and other distribution sites.

The first 3 million shots are being strictly rationed to front-line health workers and nursing home patients, with hundreds of millions more shots needed over the coming months to protect most Americans.

The rollout provided a measure of encouragement to exhausted doctors, nurses and other hospital staffers around the country.

Maritza Beniquez has had a front-row seat to the devastation the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought on communities of color in New Jersey, so she jumped at the chance to take the vaccine that is being hailed as a turning point in the long and grueling battle against the virus.

The 56-year-old emergency room nurse at Newark's University Hospital became the first person in New Jersey to receive the vaccine on Tuesday. All recipients will get a second shot a few weeks later.

"I'm happy that in another month and a half I won't have to be afraid to go into a room anymore. I won't have to be afraid to perform chest compressions or be present when they're intubating a patient," Beniquez said. "I don't want to be afraid anymore, and I don't want to have that risk of taking it home to my own family and my own friends."

Widespread acceptance of the vaccine is critical to eventually protecting enough of the U.S. population to defeat the outbreak. But just half of Americans say they want to get vaccinated, while about a quarter don't and the rest are unsure, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Health Research.

In Manchester, New Hampshire, intensive care unit nurse Heidi Kukla said she volunteered to get the shot first to help dispel fears about the vaccine's long-term effects and the speed with which it was developed.

"I know a lot of people have reservations about getting the vaccine," she said after getting vaccinated at Elliot Hospital. "But I can assure you that there is absolutely nothing worse than being a patient on a ventilator in an ICU anywhere in this country right now with COVID."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a childhood polio survivor, urged elected officials to "step up" and get vaccinated.

"We really need to get the country vaccinated," he said. "It's the right thing to do for yourself, for your family and for the country."

The federal government is planning hundreds more shipments through the weekend.

Shots for nursing home residents won't start in most states until next week, when some 1,100 facilities are set to begin vaccinations. Government officials project that 20 million Americans will be able to get their first shots by the end of December, and 30 million more in January.

That projection assumes swift authorization of the Moderna vaccine, which also requires two shots for full protection. The U.S. government has purchased 100 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and orders for 200 million doses of the Moderna serum. Assuming no manufacturing or distribution delays, that would be enough to vaccinate 150 million Americans by mid-2021.

Elsewhere around the world, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is being given in Britain and Canada. And European Union regulators moved up a meeting to assess the vaccine to Dec. 21, more than a week earlier than planned, under pressure from Germany and other countries on the continent.

In scrutinizing early results of a 30,000-person study, the FDA found that Moderna's vaccine worked just about the same as Pfizer-BioNTech's.

The Moderna vaccine was more than 94% effective overall at preventing COVID-19 illness, and 86% effective in people 65 and older. The FDA uncovered no major safety problems. Side effects can include fever, fatigue and aches as the vaccine revs up the immune system.

Even such a large study can't detect very rare problems. But the FDA looked carefully for signs of allergic reactions after Britain last week reported some possible reactions among people with a history of severe allergies who received the Pfizer-BioNTech shot.

The FDA found no serious allergic reactions in the Moderna study. About 1.5% of vaccine recipients and 1.1% who got dummy shots reported possible smaller, "hypersensitivity" reactions.

Both Moderna's and Pfizer-BioNTech's shots are so-called mRNA vaccines. They aren't made with the coronavirus itself, meaning there is no chance anyone could catch it from the shots. Instead, the vaccine contains a piece of genetic code that trains the immune system to recognize the spiked protein on the surface of the virus.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 209 CALLS ON DECEMBER 14

Loud Music 2700blk Main St 12:12 a.m.
Battery Report 1300blk 20th St 12:13 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Ave 1:12 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk 9th St 1:31 a.m.
Loud Music 2700blk 6th St 2:35 a.m.
Loud Music 2700blk 6th St 3:20 a.m.
Encampment 2200blk Ocean Ave 6:54 a.m.
General Parking Problem Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 7:06 a.m.
Encampment 2200blk Ocean Ave 7:09 a.m.
Municipal Code Violation 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:24 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1600blk Ocean Ave 7:35 a.m.
Fraud Report 2200blk 20th St 7:40 a.m.
Loitering 1100blk 4th St 7:58 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 700blk Wilshire Blvd 8:00 a.m.
Battery Report 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:30 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1700blk Main St 8:47 a.m.
Family Disturbance 800blk Ashland Ave 8:56 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1600blk 9th St 9:00 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk 22nd St 9:06 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1800blk 11th St 9:23 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk Berkeley St 9:55 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2100blk Ocean Ave 9:55 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1200blk 23rd St 10:13 a.m.
Fraud Report 1200blk California Ave 10:19 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Ocean Ave 10:45 a.m.
Fraud Report 1300blk 15th St 10:58 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 20th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:02 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk 5th St 11:08 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 700blk Wilshire Blvd 11:11 a.m.
Found Property 2600blk Main St 11:24 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 2200blk 23rd St 11:43 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2100blk Lincoln Blvd 11:47 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk Montana Ave 11:50 a.m.
Encampment 14th St / Montana Ave 11:53 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100blk Harvard St 12:04 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2700blk 3rd St 12:21 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 500blk Pico Blvd 12:40 p.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 12:45 p.m.
Abandoned Vehcile 2200blk 28th St 12:56 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2600blk 33rd St 1:04 p.m.
Animal Related Incident Ocean Ave / California Ave 1:17 p.m.
Abandoned Vehcile 2000blk Stewart St 1:37 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk 9th St 1:42 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 1:44 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 1:53 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 200blk Wilshire Blvd 1:57 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1800blk Washington Ave 2:15 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 7th St / Montana Ave 2:18 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 2:24 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1100blk 5th St 2:39 p.m.
Overdose 200blk Broadway 2:39 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1400blk 4th St 2:41 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 900blk 15th St 2:51 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 2:59 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 2nd St 2:59 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 3:03 p.m.
Burglary Report 2700blk Neilson Way 3:05 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1500blk 12th St 3:05 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 700blk Arizona Ave 3:11 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 3:12 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1300blk Centinela Ave 3:18 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 200blk 26th St 3:18 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 600blk Pacific St 3:53 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 26th St / Washington Ave 3:58 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries City Prop Involved 4th St / Interstate 10 4:51 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 4:52 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk Marguerita Ave 5:00 p.m.
Panic Alarm 00blk Gale Pl 5:20 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1600blk Montana Ave 5:33 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200blk Montana Ave 5:53 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 4th St / Olympic Blvd W 5:55 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2400blk Main St 6:03 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 17th St 6:10 p.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk Olympic Dr 6:12 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200blk Yale St 6:23 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 200blk 23rd St 6:24 p.m.
Auto Burglary Now 100blk Bicknell Ave 7:19 p.m.
Loitering 2200blk San Vicente Blvd 7:27 p.m.
Overdose 200blk 26th St 7:28 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2100blk Ocean Ave 7:51 p.m.
Burglary Now 500blk Broadway 8:38 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 4th St / San Vicente Blvd 8:47 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1400blk 5th St 8:56 p.m.
Fight 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:25 p.m.
Loud Music 2300blk Wilshire Blvd 9:41 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 3100blk Colorado Ave 10:09 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1100blk Pico Blvd 10:31 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Ave 10:56 p.m.

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 39 CALLS ON DECEMBER 14

EMS 1500blk 7th St 4:01 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 11th St 7:58 a.m.
EMS 2700blk Main St 8:38 a.m.
Broken Gas Main 2200blk 24th St 9:14 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Euclid St 9:18 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 19th St 9:25 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 7th St 9:28 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 9:46 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 2nd St 10:46 a.m.
EMS 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:23 a.m.
Wires Down 800blk Hill St 11:33 a.m.
EMS 3100blk 4th St 1:03 p.m.
EMS 200blk Broadway 2:39 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Lincoln Blvd 2:41 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:51 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 15th St 2:56 p.m.
Vehicle Into A Structure 200blk 26th St 3:18 p.m.
Wires Down 600blk 22nd St 3:22 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 4:52 p.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:57 p.m.
EMS 600blk 20th St 5:16 p.m.
Fire Out Investigation 800blk Montana Ave 5:16 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 10th St 5:35 p.m.
EMS 24th St / Pico Blvd 6:01 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 6:07 p.m.
EMS 3000blk 4th St 6:13 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Main St 6:42 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 2nd St 7:26 p.m.
EMS 200blk San Vicente Blvd 7:28 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:47 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 4th St 8:43 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2700blk Neilson Way 8:46 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 4th St / San Vicente Blvd 8:47 p.m.
Flooded Condition 1700blk 11th St 9:11 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:30 p.m.
EMS 2700blk Kansas Ave 10:29 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 11:07 p.m.
EMS 2600blk 34th St 11:25 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 11:52 p.m.

LEADERS

FROM PAGE 1

City of Santa Monica's Emergency Operations Center and Economic Recovery Task Force to focus their COVID-19 response and economic recovery on the issues residents want addressed.

The topic of a survey, and other available resources that are available to local businesses and employees, first arose during a recent small business webinar that was hosted by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce in partnership with various city and county organizations earlier this December.

Santa Monica Rent Control Board representative Caroline Torosis was one of the many speakers who took time during the webinar to speak about the grants, tax credits and other financial assistance programs that are available to people and businesses in need.

"I know that this is a really challenging time for businesses and I know that many of our businesses have come to us with really excellent ideas. And I just want you to know that we receive all of the feedback directly," Torosis said. "I know that you are busy... we're constantly hearing over the phone (and) over email the frustration in people's voices," but a few minutes of your time can go a long way.

As she shared how most residents who reach out want little more than to see creative ideas being put in action to spur economic recovery, Torosis encouraged entrepreneurs to share their ideas by visiting the website prosperla.lacounty.gov/.

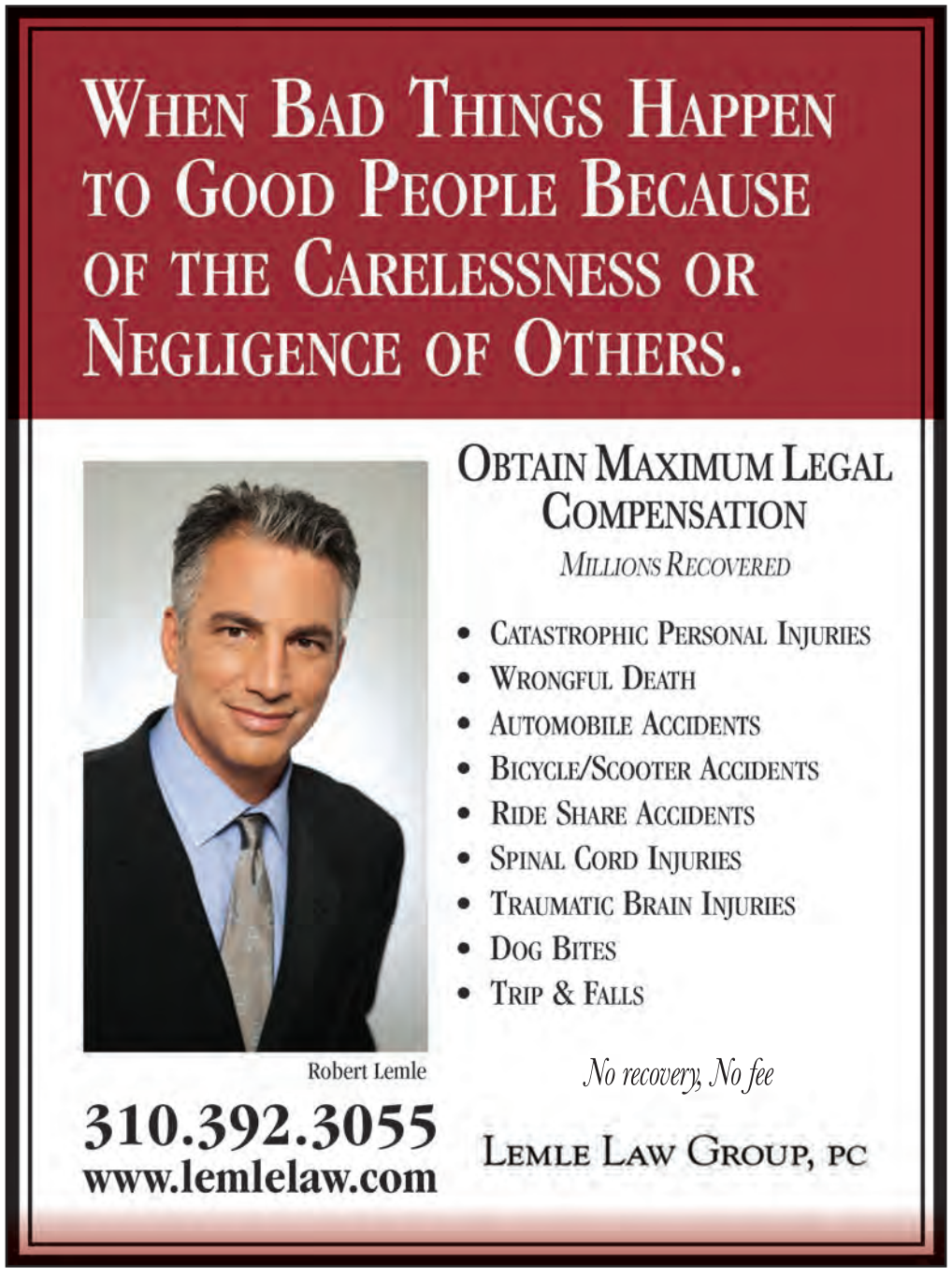
"Of course, as we continue working with (Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation) around our roadmap to economic recovery, no idea is a bad idea. We're looking for creative policy solutions to spur job growth... so I encourage any of you to reach out to both ProsperLA and then me," Torosis said.

And let's say you're a business owner or employee who doesn't have a creative idea; you just need help — well, head to the website as well because there's a number of resources that people may not know about. "And if you are in the difficult situation of having to lay off a large group of individuals," Torosis added, then the group can provide you with business tax credit information and possibly help provide workers with access to unemployment insurance or other job opportunities.

Brennon@smdp.com









Curious City

Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

OFF TO A BAD START

IT'S TOO EARLY!

To start judging our new City Council. Give them some time. Give them a break!

Yeah, that's what I heard about Trump, from people who were ignoring or glossing over what he had done and shown himself to be his entire life. Now because of the terrible damage he did in four years, the planet has a lot less time than before. So does our city, in this time of a pandemic and economic collapse.

This, of course, is not one person, it's a dynamic of seven individuals on City Council. But we also know them, from their years of leadership.

Kevin McKeown has been on Council for 22 years. Gleam Davis, 11. Sue Himmelrich, she reminded everyone as she fought hard and strategically at the Dec. 8 Council meeting for the title of Mayor (http://santamonica.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2), has been there six years. Hmm, 22, 11… 6.

So keep in mind, the first three ruled Council, along with their like-minded defeated incumbents Terry O'Day and Ted Winterer and a couple of short-lived lock-step appointees, during the period of time that so damaged the city and angered voters that they did the unimaginable, the unprecedented, they turned out three incumbents and sent in a new team. (But a new team lacking a 4-3 voting majority.) We voted against the incumbents, and for a change of direction, not more political gamesmanship, ego gratification, and catering to outside interests.

So the previous regime was nearly completely repudiated, except for the re-election of Gleam Davis. This is called a mandate, folks, a clear mandate, and Councils and Congresses are supposed to pay attention to that, the voice of the people at the ballot box. But they usually don't. In a small city we expect our neighbors whom we elect to respect our wishes.

I DON'T SEE IT

By the time you read this our new City Council will have had its first real working meeting. Let's see what comes out of their closed session. Will they continue to work with the developers who want to turn our taxpayer-owned property in the center of downtown at 4th/5th-Arizona into tall, dense buildings with little open space and little return to the city, or will we see a restart that might allow for open space there, a true plaza, so desperately needed in our dense downtown? Will they continue the endless appeals of the lawsuit the City lost over district voting, continuing to flush millions of our dollars down the drain?

Let's see what they do with the consent calendar. I hate consent calendars. They are supposed to be for little stuff, easy-peasy issues that everyone agrees on. No hidden complications, no controversy. They're all lumped together for one yes or no vote, so you shouldn't have one messy one in there that will pass only because the others are all needed. Instead, "veteran" politicos use a consent calendar to slip through and pass things they would rather not have the public notice.

This consent calendar had very close to $13,000,000 in authorizations. Yes, the staff makes their recommendations, but… well, what's good for the staff (who mostly do not live here) and for their shiny resumes and future job prospects, is not necessarily good for those of us who do live here.

YOU LOST

Donald Trump, face it. Forward-SMRR, developers rule, business as usual in pandemic times Council members — you lost. Face it, and act like it, or we the voters may not even wait until 2022, we may need to use recall to get you to act on what we voted for. You have a golden opportunity to turn a dirty track record into something people will remember with pride. If you are going to pass on that, I am not going to give you a pass.

It's not like the people we voted for are just angry rebels. They have long records of public service too, many decades, from Samohi class president to Boys and Girls Club volunteer to municipal public safety expert to commissions and school board. They deserve your respect, and cooperation with the mission we sent them there to accomplish.

BROWN ACT VIOLATION?

After outgoing Mayor Kevin McKeown gave a speech at that first Council meeting Dec. 8, of his intention to offer Himmelrich a one-year term as Mayor, something he knew was anathema to her (she refused it four times during the nominating and voting), Kristin McCowan disclosed that she had advised Interim City Attorney George Cardona, who was in the meeting, "that I may have inadvertently violated the Brown Act" by having conversations with three other Council members "regarding the selection of a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem." She indicated that she had previously made public statements of that same information. (My understanding of the Brown Act is that does not change anything.) She said Cardona advised her to make this public, on the record, before the voting took place.

After what seemed like a stunned and confused seven seconds of absolute silence from everyone, Cardona broke in and said, "I believe that you can proceed," and Himmelrich immediately said, well, I guess we have to have a discussion of this new information of a possible Brown Act violation before we proceed…"

No, just kidding. she immediately said, "And, uh, I am flattered by the suggestion, Kevin, but since I have been on the Council for a few years, I will only serve as the Mayor if I can serve for two years..."

And no one said another word about the Brown Act violation concerning the vote they were about to take. But then, three of them are the same ones who said not even a tsk tsk when it was shown that Mayor Pam O'Connor had violated the law so badly in 2015 that the City

SEE **CURIOUS** PAGE 11

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Talks escalate on new COVID-19 relief, top lawmakers to meet

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

Talks on a long-delayed COVID-19 aid package intensified Tuesday as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi summoned other top congressional leaders for a potentially critical meeting.

Pelosi, D-Calif., spoke with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin for more than an hour, her office tweeted, and Mnuchin will join the make-or-break meeting of Capitol Hill's "big four" leaders by phone.

The uptick in activity could be a sign that an agreement is near, though COVID-19 relief talks have been notoriously difficult.

Pelosi hasn't met with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell in months. The Kentucky Republican is playing a strong hand in the lame-duck session and is pressuring Democrats to drop a much-sought $160 billion aid package for states and local governments struggling to balance their budgets because of the pandemic.

Rank-and-file Democrats appear increasingly resigned to having to drop, for now, the party's demand for fiscal relief for states and local governments whose budgets have been thrown out of balance by the pandemic.

Pelosi, D-Calif., pressed in talks with Mnuchin on Monday for help for struggling states and localities. But top Democratic allies of President-elect Joe Biden came out in support of a $748 billion plan offered by a bipartisan group of lawmakers and hinted they won't insist on a pitched battle for state and local aid now.

"We cannot afford to wait any longer to act. This should not be Congress' last COVID relief bill, but it is a strong compromise that deserves support from both Republicans and Democrats in the Senate," said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del. "We cannot leave for the holidays without getting relief to those Americans who need it."

The message from Coons, a confidant of Biden, and a similar message from Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin, D-Ill., came as a bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled a detailed COVID-19 aid proposal in hopes it would serve as a model for their battling leaders to follow as they try to negotiate a final agreement.

But the group was unable to forge a compromise on GOP-sought provisions shielding businesses from COVID-19-related lawsuits, a key priority of McConnell. He is pressing a lowest-common-denominator approach that would drop the lawsuit shield idea for now if Democrats agree to drop a $160 billion state and local aid package.

"We can live to fight another day on what we disagree on," McConnell said Tuesday. "But we ought to go forward with what we can agree on."

Pelosi has insisted for months that state and local aid would be in any final bill, but as time is running out, Democrats appear unwilling to hold the rest of the package hostage over the demand. Several Democrats appeared at a bipartisan news conference on Monday to endorse the $748 billion package.

"We're not going home until this is done," said Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., on CNN Tuesday morning. "We've got to get people a lifeline. It will pass — the $748 (billion)."

The $748 billion aid package contains money for struggling businesses, the unemployed, schools and vaccine distribution. There is also $45 billion for transportation and transit assistance, funding for rural internet service and help for the Postal Service, among other provisions. The other bill proposes a $160 billion aid package for state and local governments and a modified liability shield that is backed by Republicans and Democratic moderate Manchin, but it is probably too politically freighted to advance.

Outstanding issues in the leadership talks include a potential second round of direct payments to individuals, a plan for $300-per-week bonus unemployment benefits, state and local aid, and the GOP-sought liability shield against COVID-19-related lawsuits.

Lawmakers also worked to finalize a yearend catchall funding package that will be the basis for the last significant legislation of the Trump presidency.

There's a hoped-for deadline of midnight Friday to deliver the completed package to President Donald Trump, which is when a partial government shutdown would arrive with the expiration of last week's temporary funding bill. But there's no guarantee that the massive yearend measure will be completed in time. If the talks drag, further temporary bills could be needed.

Negotiations on the $1.4 trillion catchall spending bill are "essentially finished," said a congressional aide participating in the talks. While details are closely held, "the status quo is prevailing." That means Trump would get another $1.4 billion or so for a final installment to continue construction of his long-sought U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Republicans have succeeded in killing a $12 billion plan to break last year's budget mini-agreement by using accounting maneuvers to pad veterans health care funding to accommodate big cost increases from expanding access to health care services from private providers. Instead, a different set of moves is being employed to provide for equivalent spending increases for other domestic programs.

The post-election lame-duck session is the last chance to wrap up the unfinished work this year, a goal of all involved, though they have been slow until now to forge the often-tricky compromises required to pull the measure together.

Pelosi has not thrown in the towel on her drive to obtain state and local aid, which was part of the almost $2 trillion CARES Act that passed the Senate unanimously in March. The $150 billion aid package to states and large cities evoked little controversy then, but many Republicans are adamantly against the idea now, though any additional aid would also go to smaller municipalities left out of the prior round.

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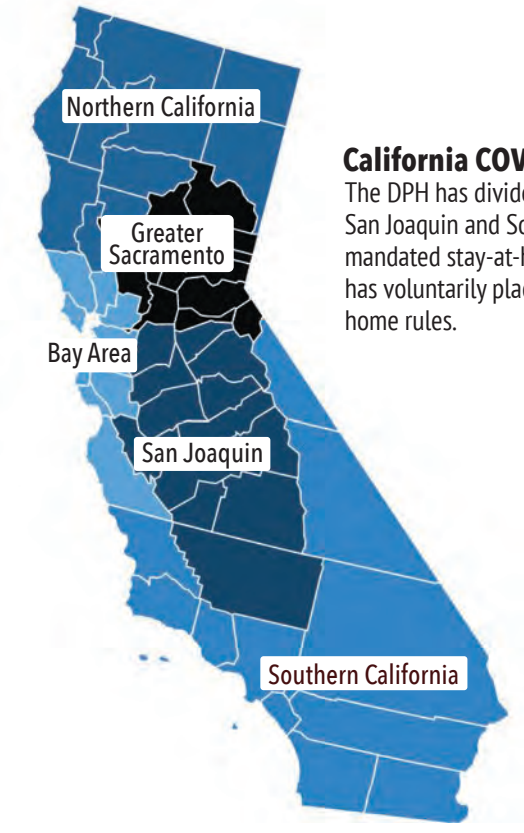

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Primer: Stay at Home Rules

On December 3, the California Department of Public Health issued a regional stay-at-home order in response to rapidly increasing COVID-19 infections Implementation of the order occurs when a region's ICU capacity drops below 15%. Starting December 7, Southern California falls under the order due to having only 10.9% capacity.

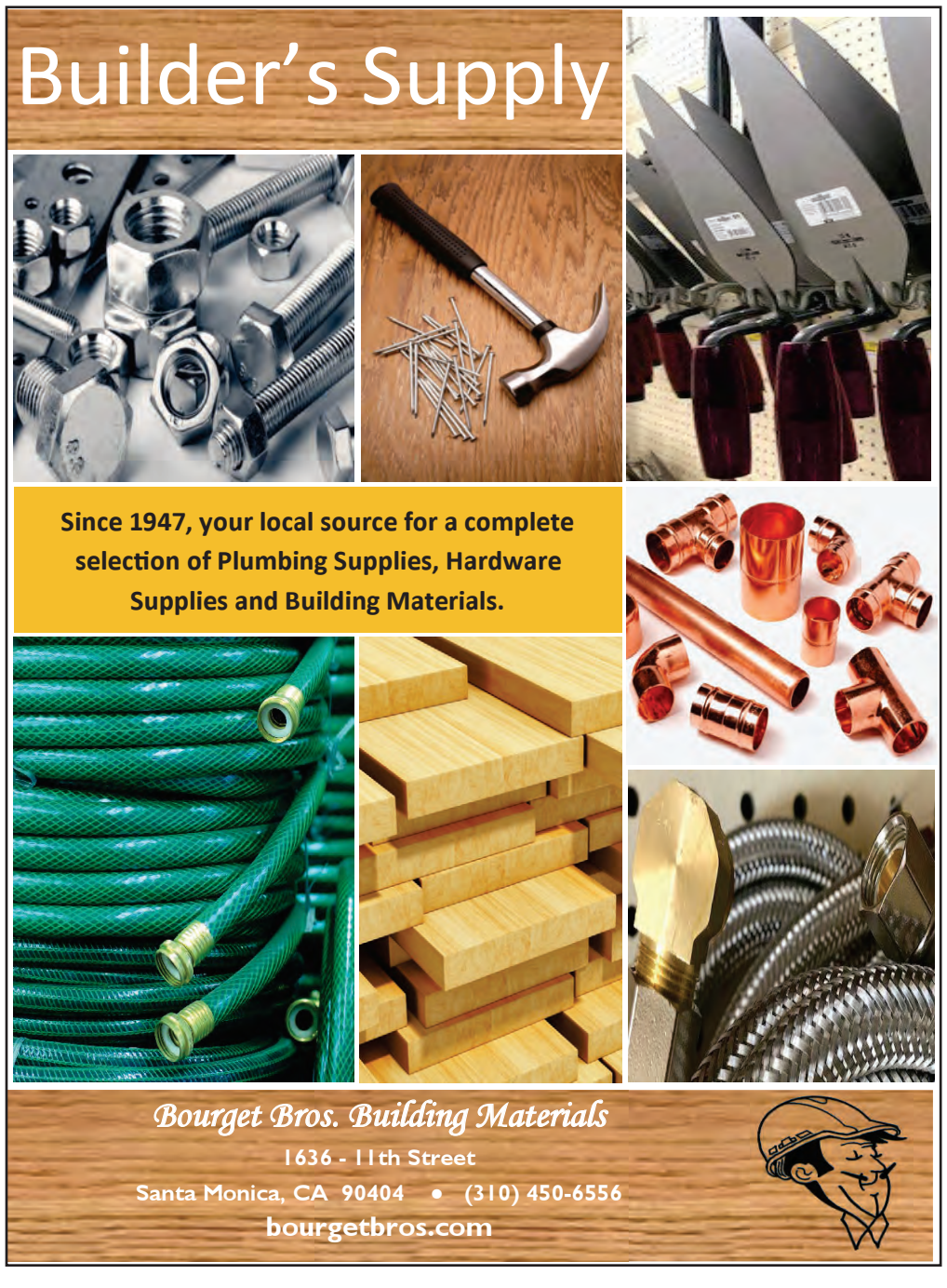
Below is a map of the 5 regions, as well as a color coded list of activities that are allowed, allowed with restrictions or prohibited.



California COVID-19 Stay-at-home regions
The DPH has divided the state into 5 regions. San Joaquin and Southern California are under mandated stay-at-home orders. The Bay Area has voluntarily placed itself under stay-at-home rules.

Activities Impacted by Stay-at-home order

KEY: Open · Limited · Closed	
Open	Child care/pre-K, subject to local rules
Limited	Gyms & fitness centers, outdoor services only
Closed	Hair salons and barbershops
Limited	Hotels, only to house critical infrastructure workers
Closed	Indoor recreational facilities
Closed	Indoor use of libraries
Closed	Movie theaters, family entertainment centers and casinos
Closed	Museums, zoos & aquariums
Open	Non-urgent medical and dental care, subject to local rules
Limited	Restaurants, breweries and wineries, take/delivery only, no onsite dining
Limited	Parks (except some amenities)
Closed	Personal care services
Limited	Places of worship, outdoor services only
Open	Playgrounds (reopened Dec 11)
Limited	Retail stores & shopping centers, open but limited to 20% capacity



US regulators OK genetically modified pig for food, drugs

CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press

U.S. regulators have approved a genetically modified pig for food and medical products, making it the second such animal to get the green light for human consumption. But the company behind it says there are no imminent plans to sell it for meat.

The pig is genetically engineered to eliminate the presence of alpha-gal, a type of sugar found in many mammals. The sugar makes its way into many products — including medications, cosmetics and food — and can cause allergic reactions in some people.

The main goal of the company behind the pig, United Therapeutics Corp., is to develop medical products, such as blood thinners, that won't set off such reactions, said its spokesman Dewey Steadman. Eventually, the Silver Spring, Maryland-based firm hopes to develop a way for the pig's organs to be transplanted into people.

The pig, called GalSafe, also has commercial potential as food, but Steadman said the company doesn't know when it might be able to secure an agreement with a meat producer to process and sell it. He noted the meat allergy the pig addresses, called alpha-gal syndrome, isn't yet considered a major issue.

"It's known, but it's not well known," Steadman said.

Health researchers don't fully understand how the allergy develops, but it has been tied to bites from certain ticks. In 2009, there were 24 reported cases, but more recent estimates exceed 5,000 cases, according to a report by a working group for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Symptoms can include hives, itching, cramping and vomiting. Unlike other food allergies, alpha-gal reactions typically happen several hours after eating beef, pork or lamb, making it difficult to diagnose.

Jaydee Hanson, policy director for the Center for Food Safety, noted that meat from the genetically modified pigs wasn't tested in people with the allergies.

"You're offering it up as something they can eat, without knowing whether it addresses their allergy," Hanson said.

The FDA said it didn't evaluate allergy-specific food safety, since the company's application didn't include data on the preventing such reactions.

The Center for Food Safety has sued the FDA over the first genetically modified animal the agency approved for human food — salmon engineered to grow faster. The group said it's reviewing the agency's decision on the GalSafe pig posted Monday.

Greg Jaffe of the Center for Science in the Public Interest said the FDA's approval of the GalSafe pig announced Monday is also concerning because it came without a chance for public comment.

"Nobody was given notice, and all of a sudden there's an approved animal," he said.

The company didn't disclose exactly how it altered the animal's DNA. Jaffe said the pig was produced by knocking out a gene responsible for producing the sugar and adding another that serves as a marker for the silenced gene.

Jaffe said he's not aware of any rules on how pork from genetically modified pigs would need to be labeled to be sold in supermarkets. A representative for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees meat labeling, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Steadman said the United Therapeutics pigs would be more difficult to produce than conventional pigs for meat because of requirements governing how they must be kept and slaughtered. He said there are about 25 GalSafe pigs at an Iowa farm.

Long term, he said the goal is to combine the genetic modification with multiple other changes to make their organs acceptable for transplants in people. For years, researchers have been looking into the idea of transplanting pig organs as a way of eliminating shortages of donated organs.

Though there aren't any plans yet to sell meat from GalSafe pigs, the genetically modified salmon could become available in the U.S. soon. AquaBounty, the company that produces the fish, says it is determining the best time to harvest the salmon, which have been growing in indoor tanks at a plant in Indiana.

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

option to come on campus for 'plus' enrichment activities such as social emotional learning, outdoor fitness, academic support, and clubs.

While the District looked at adopting a hybrid model for Tier 2, the option was highly unpopular with staff who cited health and safety as their primary reopening concern. In a December survey 86 percent of staff said they preferred a distance learning model over a hybrid model.

Parents and students were more divided, but also expressed fear about the safety of a hybrid model. Parents were split fifty-fifty between preferring distance learning or preferring a hybrid model in the December survey, while 55 percent of students said they would prefer distance learning.

During this meeting the Board will also elect a President, Vice President, Annual Representative to the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, a voting representative to elect members to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, and a California School Boards Association Delegate.

The Board will thank outgoing President Jon Kean and Vice President Laurie Lieberman, and recognize the departure of former board member Oscar de la Torre .

The School Board meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. Members of the public who wish to make a public comment can do so by completing a Google survey sign up. The survey can be found online at https://tinyurl.com/ycr8dvuv and will be open 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

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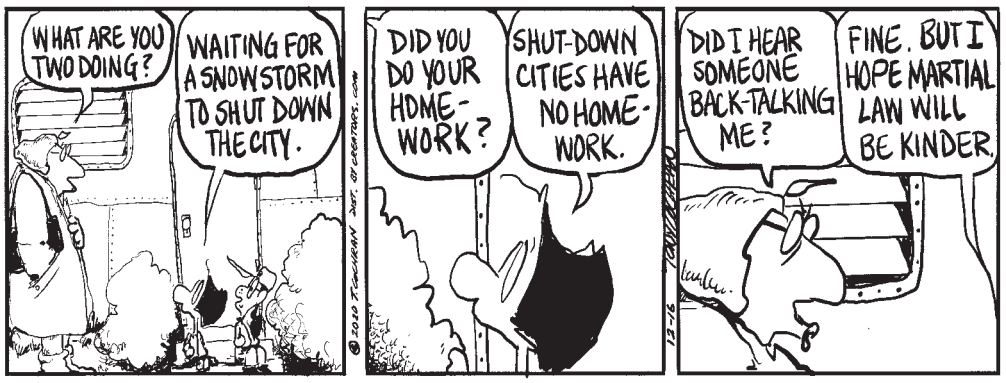


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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



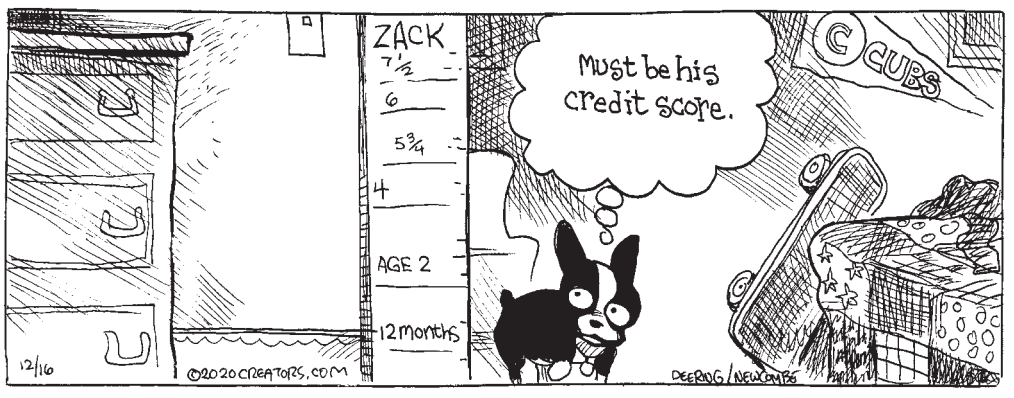
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



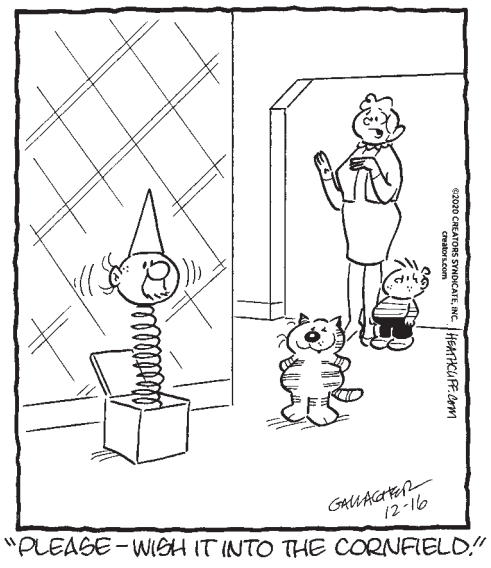
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"PLEASE-WISH IT INTO THE CORNFIELD."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.0°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
WNW swell-mix is fun for select spots – there's less size through rest of the week.

THURSDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
WNW swell-mix is down a notch and levels off in size. Dawn patrol tide push probably the best window.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 68.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. East northeast wind around 5 mph.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/12/16	Wed	03:15 AM	2.15	L
2020/12/16	Wed	09:33 AM	6.65	H
2020/12/16	Wed	4:58 PM	-1.35	L
2020/12/16	Wed	11:38 PM	3.86	H
2020/12/17	Thu	04:04 AM	2.38	L
2020/12/17	Thu	10:18 AM	6.16	H
2020/12/17	Thu	5:46 PM	-0.96	L
2020/12/18	Fri	12:36 AM	3.82	H
2020/12/18	Fri	04:59 AM	2.62	L
2020/12/18	Fri	11:06 AM	5.55	H
2020/12/18	Fri	6:35 PM	-0.48	L
2020/12/19	Sat	01:38 AM	3.84	H
2020/12/19	Sat	06:04 AM	2.81	L
2020/12/19	Sat	11:58 AM	4.87	H
2020/12/19	Sat	7:27 PM	0.03	L
2020/12/20	Sun	02:42 AM	3.95	H
2020/12/20	Sun	07:32 AM	2.89	L
2020/12/20	Sun	1:01 PM	4.19	H
2020/12/20	Sun	8:22 PM	0.51	L
2020/12/21	Mon	03:39 AM	4.15	H
2020/12/21	Mon	09:30 AM	2.67	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball — Draw Date:12/12
17 54 56 63 69
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 287 M

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 12/11
19 31 37 55 67
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 291 M

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

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 12/14
11 22 27 31 33

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 12/14
Evening: 1 6 4
Draw Date: 12/14
Midday: 0 9 9

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 12/14
1st: 04 - BIG BEN
2nd: 09 - WINNING SPIRIT
3rd: 11 - MONEY BAGS
RACE TIME: 1:46.58

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 16)

here is no consensus on what constitutes a lifestyle upgrade. Your genius will be in sensing the change that's right for you and then bravely opening yourself to a generous source and accepting what comes. Settling into the new groove will take some creative problem-solving. Supportive alliances help, too. Leo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 28, 1, 44 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are many levels beyond excellence. You'll elevate a work by fusing the styles you already know and adding your own unusual elements. The fresh approach will impress and fascinate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As soon as you put a word to how you are feeling, the feeling is subtly changed into something your consciousness can process. There are times when this helps and other times when wordlessness is divine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your powers of mind control are augmented, and you'll guide your own thoughts as an expert rider would guide an obedient horse; the slightest tension on the reins and your thoughts go off in the direction of your choosing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People want what they want. Don't wait for someone to desire in the same direction or intensity as you. Whatever you can do to release others from your expectations will make everyone happier, especially you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Knowing that your role in a group is essential and that you are crucial to the outcome of other people's goals, you often make decisions based on what everyone needs but you. Press pause on that tendency today. Act in self-interest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It can take a long time to learn the ropes, or it can take a short time. Being your own teacher is the hard way. You're better off looking around, reaching out and even paying to avoid needless confusion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you don't know what to do to support another person, just try something. Effort will be admirable, regardless of how it lands. That you care to respond at all is, in and of itself, meaningful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Even though "no drama" is among your proclamations, the fact is that without some degree of tension and conflict, the story of a relationship would be mighty boring. Maybe change your mantra to "some drama."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be made aware of how the word "responsibility" means something different to everyone. The standard you hold yourself to is so far from universal, it may as well come from a different ZIP code of the multiverse.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Charm can be used for benevolent or nefarious purposes. Distrust it in others today, and that goes double for yourself. Question motives. Why is it, do you think, that this added layer of social grease is suddenly necessary?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The need to socialize and the reliance on other people for survival will be noticeably balanced by an individual and hard-to-explain need for tranquility and a connection with something beyond human.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will get the same message that others get, but you'll hear something very different in it. If language is a code, then you crack it, deciphering the intent and motive behind each word.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

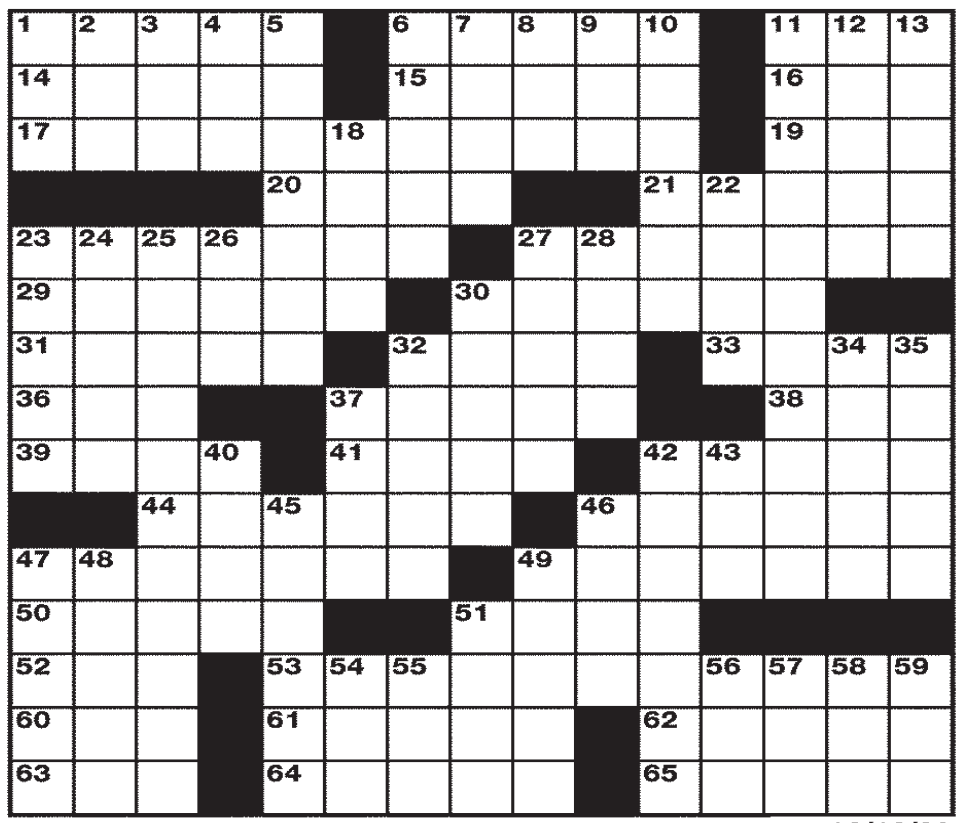
4	5	1	6	9	7	3	8	2
3	7	6	4	2	8	5	9	1
9	8	2	3	5	1	7	4	6
7	2	4	9	6	3	1	5	8
6	1	9	5	8	4	2	7	3
5	3	8	7	1	2	4	6	9
1	6	5	2	4	9	8	3	7
2	9	3	8	7	5	6	1	4
8	4	7	1	3	6	9	2	5

Newsday Crossword

PARK IT by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Find a sum of numbers
6 "Beat it!"
11 Kind of camera, for short
14 Reagan's chimp costar
15 Either of two African nations
16 After-dinner hot drink
17 Gavel wielder
19 Cereal grain
20 Firm up, as muscles
21 Treasure find
23 Advisory group
27 Breathed out
29 Retort to "Am too!"
30 Excellent two-pair hand
31 Coin with Abe's portrait
32 Fashion designer Christian
33 Former Italian coin
36 Stamped return env., for example
37 __ with faint praise
38 Liquor in martinis
39 Willy Wonka creator
41 Black-and-white cookie
42 Shoplifting, e.g.
44 Emulated a banshee
46 New Orleans cuisine
47 Played for time
49 Gave the cold shoulder to
50 Wall painting
51 Mushroom piece
52 "Big Blue"
53 Capital city
60 Director Ang or Spike
61 Pursuer of Bugs
62 Oneness
63 Muff a grounder
64 High society
65 Canterbury coins

DOWN
1 Alphabet opener
2 Homer Simpson's cry
3 Genetic letters
4 Action-film gun
5 Philip Roth's complainer
6 Trail for hounds
7 Nuclear reactor part
8 ICU workers
9 Time past
10 Fairly long time
11 Police informer
12 Sailor's shore time
13 Deemed worthy of
18 Sonnet creator
22 Cuban leader Castro
23 Dressed like Dracula
24 Place for a bout
25 Second-stringer
26 Tourist stop
27 Money-saving, in brand names
28 Gen-___ (post-boom babies)
30 Pointed at a target
32 Acted bold
34 Rummage (through)
35 Contributed, with "up"
37 Distribute, with "out"
40 Song syllables
42 Fabricate, as charges
43 Coop brooder
45 "Haven't decided yet"
46 Gourmet cook
47), in an emoticon
48 Potato or yam
49 Squirrel away
51 "Keep it" mark
54 90-degree bend
55 "What ___, chopped liver?"
56 Early afternoon
57 Pitcher's success
58 Miscellany abbr.
59 Diner loaf



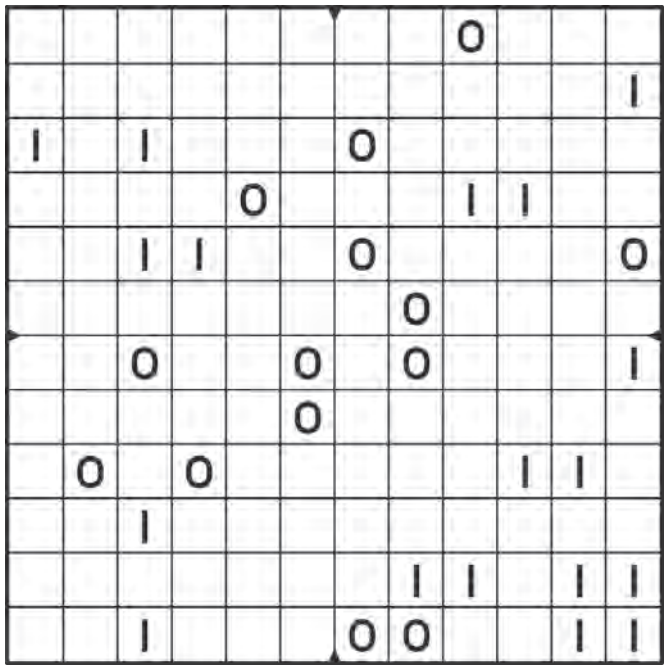
CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/16/20

Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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





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

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What's in the fridge

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

Apple	Curds	Item	Pie
Bacon	Diet	Jams	Roast
Banana	Duck	Leeks	Sago
Beans	Edam	Lemonade	Salami
Beef	Eggs	Liverwurst	Sheep
Bread	Fish	Meat	Soda
Broth	Fudge	Milk	Soup
Camembert	Gifts	Mozzarella	Stew
Chips	Goats	Oils	Tuna
Coke	Hash	Orange	Wine
Creme fraiche	Healthy	cake	Wrap
	Icing	Peas	Yoghurt

SOLUTIONS TO DECEMBER 14 AND 15 WORDS PUZZLE.
Every different culture adds to ours / Diverse and beautiful

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MIRAMAR

FROM PAGE 1

in approving the project City officials violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

"Our lawsuit is not to say 'no' to any redevelopment activity on the Fairmont Miramar property," said Kay Ward, president of the SMBT Board of Directors. "It is about requiring the Miramar hotel & condo developer to follow the law, just like other developers in the city must."

SMBT, which represents owners of the 91 condominiums located adjacent to the Miramar in Bay Towers, filed the complaint against Ocean Avenue LLC, the owner of the Fairmont Miramar, and the City Council.

the units would be located outside the hotel complex and residents would not have access to Miramar amenities.

SMBT further claims that City Council members violated the CEQA when they certified the Miramar's environmental impact report as part of the approval process.

The City of Santa Monica denies SMBT's allegations and asserts that the City Council and Planning Commission followed all proper procedures when voting on the project. The Planning Commission voted 6 - 1 in favor of approval and City Council voted 4 - 2 in favor, however three of the supporting council members lost their seats in the November election.

"The redevelopment plan for the Miramar hotel site was the subject of an extensive public process that spanned multiple years. The lawsuit challenges that process. We do not believe the lawsuit's allegations have merit, and we will be defending against them in the pending litigation," said City Spokeswoman Constance Farrell.



Courtesy images

HOTEL: Plans to redevelop the hotel have drawn a lawsuit from neighbors.

"We are disappointed that following an exhaustive 10+ year public process, a small number of self-serving individuals are seeking to delay a project that will bring much needed revenue, jobs and affordable housing to this City, because the decision did not go in their favor," said Dustin Peterson, representative for the Miramar Hotel. "The proposed project is entirely consistent with the City's General Plan and Downtown Community Plan, both of which were adopted after many years of public input."

The half a billion dollar 502,1570-square-foot redevelopment plan would renovate the century-old hotel and create 312 guest rooms, 60 luxury condos, and 18,000 square feet of commercial space. The lawsuit seeks to challenge the approval of the project, however the SMBT Board said in a letter to its members that it is open to negotiating a settlement with the Miramar developer to amend the plan.

The current plan would replace the existing Ocean Tower and bungalows with a 130 feet and a 80 feet high rise building. SMBT alleges that though these heights are allowed under an amendment passed to the LUP by the City Council on Sept. 29, they are not legally valid as the amendment has not been certified by the California Coastal Commission.

The plan also set aside land for a 42 unit affordable housing complex opposite the hotel on 2nd St. SMBT alleges this violates the DCP, which prioritizes affordable housing, because

The SMBT is acting on behalf of Bay Towers condominium owners, but the Board President said that the lawsuit stands to support a much broader group of community members.

"This will greatly benefit not only the SMBT, but also many other California Avenue and Ocean Avenue residents, and countless residents and office workers in our Downtown, who will bear the brunt of the demolition and construction noise pollution, the air pollution, the traffic gridlock, and the traffic hazards this oversized project design imposes on the community. Millions of annual city visitors who come to enjoy Palisades Park and the state beach below, too, will benefit from compliance with the planning and environmental laws our lawsuit seeks to enforce," said Ward.

The Miramar's legal counsel said SMBT's allegations are baseless and emphasized that the project's 7,000 plus page environmental impact report was independently, thoughtfully and thoroughly analyzed prior to gaining the City's approval.

Clara@smdp.com

CURIOUS

FROM PAGE 4

lost a lawsuit to the tune of nearly a million dollars.

If McCowan had recused herself, as I believe would have been proper, Himmelrich would not have had the votes, and you would likely today be talking about Mayor Phil Brock. (He graciously cast his vote and his slate followed) for Sue, to break the logjam.

Not a good start, old guard.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2020182936 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/09/2020 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Daniel Ortiz Clothing Supply Company 817 W 30th St Los Angeles, CA 90007. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Daniel Alejandro Ortiz 817 W 30th St Los Angeles, CA 90007 This Business is being conducted by: An Individual The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Daniel Alejandro Ortiz Title: Owner, Daniel Alejandro Ortiz, Daniel Alejandro Ortiz This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/09/2020 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish , 12/09/20, 12/16/20, 12/23/20, 12/30/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION // STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, DAVIDSON COUNTY. In the General Court of Justice, file numbers 20 SP 262 and 20 SP 263 For the Adoption of Carson J Blair and Corbin Andrew Blair (Petitioner: Christine Alison Blair) TO: Unknown Sperm Donor from Cryobank in California, punitive father of Carson J Blair and Corbin Andrew Blair, born July 18, 2015 (mother: Holly Cope Blair).TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for adoption has been filed against you. You are required to make defense to such petition no later than 45 days after 12/15/2020 (date first appeared in the newspaper) and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. 12/15/2020 (date first appeared in the newspaper). Melissa Sams, Esq., 1208 Eastchester Drive, Suite 101, High Point, NC, 27265 (Attorney for the Petitioner)

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

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