

THE SENTINEL

One man's junk...

Antiques Roadshow introduces a new twist on the format, **B1**



Reopening

COVID restrictions easing in US and Europe, **A3**



HOT AND SUNNY 93 • 57 FORECAST, A6 | **TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021** | hanfordsentinel.com

Agenda items for Board of Supervisors and City Council

Council expected to address the need for a new member

STAFF REPORTS

Kings County Board of Supervisors

Here are the regular agenda

items that will be appearing in the meeting for the Kings County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

Kings County Behavioral Health – Lisa Lewis/UnChong Parry: A motion will be considered by the Board to declare May as Mental Health Matters Month in Kings County.

Kings County Department of Finance – Jim Erb: Consideration to prefund the 2021/22 Fiscal Year's contributions to CalPERS and

Safety, using proceeds from a 2% discount note purchases by the Kings County Investment Pool.

Kings County Public Department of Public Health: Considering the advanced hire of Nicholas Montoya as program manager.

Hanford City Council – general business

Parks and Community Ser-

VICES: Award of a contract to Advanced Exercise for the purchase of fitness equipment for the Longfield Center in the amount of \$77,678.44 and approve the proposed fitness membership fee structure.

Parks and Community Services: Award of a contract to The National Fitness Campaign for the Fitness Court to be located at Hidden Valley Park and ap-

propriation of \$157,995 from the Park Impact Fee Fund.

Review of the proposed Process for Appointing a Council member and, if approved, direct staff to commence an appointment process as determined by the City Council.

A plan to replace Hanford City Councilmember John Draxler is also expected to be put forward.



GARY FEINSTEIN FOR THE SENTINEL

BULLPUUPS TAKE GAME 1 OF RIVALRY SERIES

Hanford High's Chris Clement throws to first base to complete a double play Friday. Hanford High beat Lemoore High 3-0 in baseball on Friday afternoon in Lemoore. Lemoore could only manage four hits in the game. This was the first of three games which will be played between the rivals this season. The next game is scheduled for May 12 with the final matchup on June 1. For more photos from the game, see Page A2.

Public transit hopes to win back riders

HOPE YEN, CHRISTOPHER WEBER, SOPHIA TAREEN AND DAVID PORTER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Taking the Los Angeles Metro for his first trip in months, Brad Hudson felt a moment of normalcy when the train rolled into the South Pasadena, California, station, harkening back to his daily commute into LA before the coronavirus pandemic.

Then Hudson boarded the train, and reality set in.

Not everyone wore masks. Metro staffing levels appeared much lighter, with more trash on the trains.

"I don't feel at risk for COVID, because I'm vaccinated and I mask," said Hudson, a child psychologist. But he felt security was worse now – he said a passenger shouted at him for no apparent reason and, on a subsequent ride, a man entered a train car with a large knife strapped to his leg.

As President Joe Biden urges more federal spending for public transportation, transit agencies decimated by COVID-19 are struggling with a new uncertainty: how to win passengers back.

It's made more urgent as the United States confronts the climate change crisis. Biden has pledged to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions at least in half by the end of the decade, an aggressive target that will require car-loving Americans to transform the way they travel, ditching gas-guzzling cars for electric vehicles or embracing mass transit.

"We have a huge opportunity here to provide fast, safe, reliable, clean transportation in this country, and transit is part of the infrastructure," Biden said at an event Friday to promote rail and public transportation.

With fewer transportation alternatives, lower-income people are more reliant on public transportation for commuting and their daily lives. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti promises free transit fares for them and for students.

The city's Metro ridership has fallen to about half its peak of 1.2 million, and Garcetti said getting more people on board would accelerate economic recovery "for our most vulnerable" and reduce the city's traffic and emissions.

In Washington D.C., where many federal employees now telework due to COVID-19 restrictions, transit officials are mulling lowering fares to draw back riders. New York City has deployed several hundred additional police officers in recent months after a spate of subway attacks that included several stabbings and one person pushed onto the tracks. The Chicago area is looking at rejiggering train schedules to accommodate more passengers traveling throughout the day, rather than during rush-hour peaks, part of a pandemic shift from traditional 9-to-5 work days.

Houston is pledging improvements to 17 of its higher-frequency bus routes, with the motto, "A better walk, a better stop, and a better ride," featuring improved sidewalks, brightly lit sheltered stops with digital arrival information, and faster trip times.

San Diego boat wreck kills 3, shows risks of ocean smuggling

ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) – A tractor-trailer slams into an SUV at an intersection on a remote California desert highway, killing 13 of 25 people crammed inside the late model Ford Expedition.

A man dangles a toddler over a border wall near Santa Teresa, New Mexico, allowing her to fall on her face before he disappears into Mexico.

A 40-foot (12.2-meter) cabin cruiser overloaded with 32 people capsizes just off the San Diego coast, killing three and critically injuring another person. The others aboard survived, with one in critical condition.

The incidents, which occurred over the last two months, show how smugglers put migrants at extraordinary peril for profits, whether by car, on foot or at sea.

The Coast Guard on Monday ended its search for survivors of the San Diego boat wreck, which happened on a bright Sunday morning near tidepools of Cabrillo National Monument, a popular spot for tourists and hikers.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretary said there were 25 men

and eight women aboard, the majority of them Mexican citizens. It was unclear why the Mexican government counted one more person than the Coast Guard.

Passengers ranged from 18 to 40 and were being turned over to U.S. immigration authorities to be returned to Mexico.

The vessel had the hallmarks of a smuggling attempt from Mexico gone awry, though authorities stopped short of confirming it. The boat captain was in custody but Kelly Thornton, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in San Diego, declined to comment, saying prosecutors were "carefully reviewing the matter."

The SUV crash occurred in March and authorities said it was one of two vehicles crammed with occupants that entered the U.S. through an opening cut into the border wall. All were being smuggled. Those inside the other SUV were not involved in the accident and were picked up by the Border Patrol.

The toddler in the New Mexico incident was believed dropped into the country by a smuggler and survived the fall.

Smuggling off the California



DENIS POROV/AP

Items from a boat sit on the shoreline at Cabrillo National Monument near where it capsized just off the San Diego coast Sunday, May 2, 2021, in San Diego. Authorities say three people were killed and nearly two dozen others were hospitalized after the boat capsized.

coast has ebbed and flowed over the years but has long been a risky alternative for migrants to avoid heavily guarded land borders. Small boats with single- or twin-engines known as "pangas" enter from Mexico in the dead of night, sometimes charting hundreds of miles north. Recreational boats, like the one that capsized Sunday, try to mix in unnoticed

with fishing and pleasure vessels during the day.

The Border Patrol tallied 1,273 smuggling arrests on the California coast during the 12 months that ended Sept. 30, a 92% increase from the same period a year earlier. Since Oct. 1, it has made 909 arrests.

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