



Hail abound in this Pasadena neighborhood on Tuesday.

Hailstorm creates winter wonderland in Pasadena, other SouthCal areas

LOS ANGELES -- After a week of roasting under summer-like temperatures, Southern California underwent a dramatic cooling Tuesday, with some light rain and hail even falling in select areas.

National Weather Service forecasters said the changing conditions were thanks to a cold low-pressure system that moved into the region from Northern California.

"Scattered showers are expected through tonight across Los Angeles County with low snow levels. Gusty winds will continue in many areas through tonight as well," according to the NWS. "A warming trend will develop across the region for the latter half of the work week as high pressure aloft builds in west of the state."

Hail hit certain parts of L.A. County, such as in Pasadena where roads were peppered with hail. The area surrounding the Rose Bowl looked like a winter wonderland after the heavy downpour, as the stadium was blanketed by hail.

The Antelope Valley saw hail, ice and rain in the afternoon - at times it was heavy. It was more of the same in higher elevations of the High Desert along the Angeles National Forrest.

"This is the Antelope Valley and you never know what you're going to get," Antelope Valley resident Patrick Wick said. "We can have 80 degrees yesterday and be playing golf and today we get this. This is typical for this area." Along with the soggy weather, Wick says it won't bother him a bit if powder begins to fall, especially in the mountain areas of the Antelope Valley.

"Bring it. We haven't had any yet this year," Wick said. "So I'd be happy to have a little white in the valley."

And in Hesperia, a crazy scene played out as a high school soccer game was played in the snow.

The snow level is expected to drop to about 3,500 feet by late Tuesday afternoon. By mid-afternoon, light snow was already being reported along the Grapevine, dramatically slowing traffic in the northern reaches of the county.

'Miyami San,' new book by Neile Adams McQueen, is out

LOS ANGELES - From the author of the best-selling memoir, "My Husband, My Friend," about her life with the most famous movie star of the time, comes this new novel.

MIYAMI-SAN (A Love Story), a new book written by Neile Adams McQueen (pronounced "Neel"), is now available on www.amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com and www.authorhouse.com.

MIYAMI-SAN is a story of love in all forms and how life is not about the storm - but learning how to dance in the rain.

MIYAMI-SAN (A Love Story) is set in Manila, Philippine Islands, in 1930. When the innocent and extraordinarily beautiful Mila Alvarez takes the stage at the Olympic Stadium one fateful night as the newly named MIYAMI, she has no idea of the journey that lies before her. She transforms from a young, sheltered schoolgirl into an intuitively inventive and bold new star and soon finds fame and adoration throughout Southeast Asia and beyond.

Along the way comes handsome Lt. John Holbrook who wreaks havoc on her young life as World War II looms ever closer. When she crosses paths with Japanese industrialist Koda Sato her life changes its trajectory.

Neile Adams McQueen, first wife of actor Steve McQueen, began her career as one of Broadway's foremost Jazz dancers and performers. She has also appeared in movies and on television shows in a career spanning eight decades.

Born in the Philippines on July 10, 1932 of Eurasian descent, she spent the Second World War in Japanese-occupied Manila, emigrating to America with her mother in 1948.

After completing a scholarship at the Katherine Dunham School of Dance, she was selected by choreographer Jack Cole to become a featured dancer and a Princess of Ababu, in the original Broadway production of "Kismet." Later, she was cast as the dancing lead, Gladys Hotchkiss, in the Broadway musical, "The Pajama Game." She earned a seven-year contract at MGM. Her first feature film was "This Could Be The Night" and she became the studio's hottest young starlet.

During this period, Neile Adams met and married young actor Steve McQueen after only four months of dating. They were married over 15 and half years and had two children.

Neile Adams later married Alvin Toffel, then president of the Norton Simon Museum. They remained married until Toffel's death in 2005.

Fil-Am Kenneth Mejia running for LA City Controller, needs support

IT IS VERY RARE for a Filipino to run for office in the city of Los Angeles although there are so many Filipinos living in this big city. Alas, we have one this election cycle and he is a very well qualified candidate. He also represents the new generation of young Filipinos who have devoted much of their time to serve the community and the city they live in.

Kenneth Mejia, a certified public accountant and community activist, is running for City Controller of Los Angeles and the large Filipino community in the city should rally behind him.

Kenneth was born in Los Angeles and was raised in San Fernando Valley. Both his parents are immigrants from the Philippines. He graduated from Woodbury University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, and soon after, received his CPA license in the state of California. Kenneth worked as an auditor for one of the big 4 accounting firms, auditing multi-million and billion-dollar private and public companies to ensure that their financial statements were in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Kenneth is a dedicated housing rights activist, having co-founded in 2016 a community service group called "We Can Make a Difference - LA" which provided essential supplies to un-housed communities and low-income families in Skid Row, Westlake, Koreatown, and Echo Park. The group also raised funds for tenants fighting rent increases or evictions, and organized multiple environmental community clean ups throughout LA.

It is in a few of these cleanup campaigns in downtown Los Angeles and in the Historic Filipinotown where I first met Kenneth, who impressed me as a young, sincere and dedicated community leader who takes time out to really help the community, especially those who needed them most.

It is also in 2016 that Kenneth joined the LA Tenants Union to organize and fight alongside tenants experiencing immoral rent increases, unjust evictions, and uninhabitable living conditions. The tenants, he said, had great victories over the years, such as organizing the largest rent strike in LA's Westlake neighborhood, where the landlord refused to repair units to habitable conditions and then tried to evict striking tenants (she eventually dropped all the cases) and the fight against



The young supporters and volunteers of Kenneth Mejia



Kenneth Mejia

unjust rent increases in Boyle Heights, where tenants received an \$800-per-month rent increase.

From 2017 to 2018, Kenneth was a Neighborhood Council Board Member in Koreatown where he fought for working class families by advocating for tenant protections, affordable housing, and housing and shelter for the homeless. He represented the Neighborhood Council and Koreatown constituents in advocating for tenant protections in the LA City Council. As a result of this advocacy, the City of Los Angeles endorsed the state measure to allow California cities to enact rent control.

"I want to use my expertise as an Auditor and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to audit the city's finances to determine departmental effectiveness and identify wasteful spending that can be reallocated to other critical areas for the city. I want to provide financial data to the public in a way that is accessible; all too often, financial data can be confusing and overwhelming," Kenneth said in his website.

"I want the people of L.A. to know what the city is spending its money on so they can reach out to their City Council members

and fight for the needs of their community. I also want to educate the public on basic accounting and reading financial data so that they are armed with the knowledge they need not only to fight for a better city, but to make more informed financial decisions in their personal lives as well," he added.

"The more transparent and accessible the City's finances are, the easier it is to determine where our city's priorities lie and where they should," he concluded.

Kenneth is facing a formidable cast of candidates for LA City Controller, who serves as the paymaster and chief accounting officer of the city.

Current LA City Controller Rob Galperin has termed out and will run for California state controller. Five candidates are running to replace him. Aside from Mejia, the other four are former state legislator and LA City Council and West Hollywood City Council member Paul Koretz; former deputy city controller and former chief deputy inspector general Rob Wilcox; Reid Lidow; and David Vahedi.

The five candidates will compete in a primary election in June. The top two candidates will face off in a general election in November, which coincides with gubernatorial and congressional mid-term elections - something that will boost voter turnout.

At this time, Kenneth Mejia is our best chance to break into the corridors of power in the City of Los Angeles. If he makes it, he would pave the way for other deserving Filipinos to run for perhaps a City Council seat, something the Filipino community should look forward to and plan for.

As Kenneth said in his website, "LET US GO TO WORK!"

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