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Annenberg Beach House Happy Birthday Marion celebration goes virtual

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer



Courtesy photo
GUEST HOUSE: The annual celebration of history is going online.

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, the Annenberg Beach House team say it's time to bring out the champagne and raise a glass for a virtual celebration of original Beach House resident Marion Davies.

The Happy Birthday Marion celebration is in its ninth year and though the Zoom event will look a little different, it's set to be jam packed with music, photos, art, and stories commemorating Davies' legacy and the Gold Coast era of the 1920s.

"We feel so strongly about our Happy Birthday Marion program and we really didn't want to let it go this year," said Beach House Manager Nan Friedman. "We hope that people come and enjoy it, that it lifts their spirits and brings a bit of the Beach House to life."

The event will commemorate Davies' life with performances by Janet Klein & Her Parlor Boys and pianist Frederick Hodges, tales about her adventures from

SEE **MARION** PAGE 11

Restaurant Spotlight: Lanea cocktail bar and taqueria



Photos courtesy of Lanea
TACO: The downtown spot is known for cocktails and tacos.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

As outdoor dining reopens and local restaurants begin the road to recovery the Daily Press is highlighting one excellent eatery a week sharing their history, pandemic struggles, and signature dishes.

This week the spotlight is on Lanea — a taco bar serving authentic family recipes from Puebla Mexico and what the owners claim are the best spicy margaritas in all of Santa Monica.

SEE **RESTAURANT** PAGE 6

City is years away from pre-COVID economic revenues

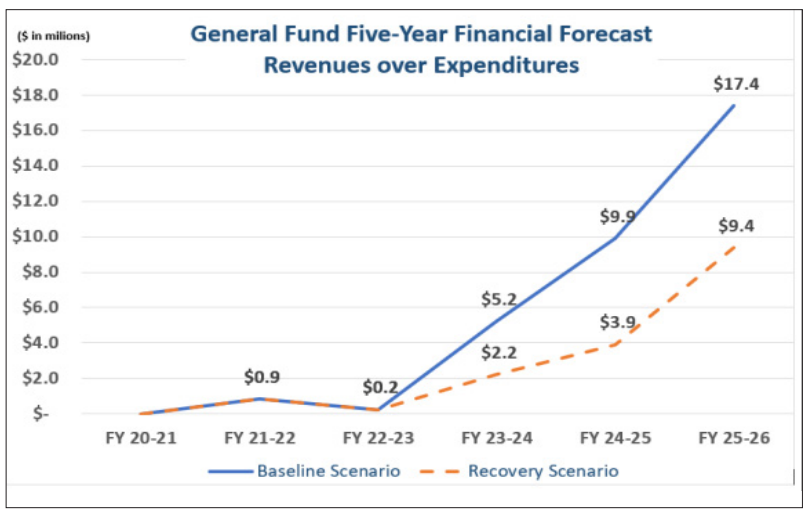
BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

While economists are pegging the national economy to recover next year, the City of Santa Monica believes its own economy won't reach pre-COVID revenue levels until 2025.

City staff presented the new five-year revenue projections to council this week. The numbers were based on actual revenues generated in the first half of the year and the impacts of the extended public health restrictions.

Last year, in the midst of historic volatility and the economic devastation brought on by the pandemic, staff's forecast detailed an annual General Fund deficit of $48 million, $102 million and $74 million over the coming years. Officials cut more than 300 staff positions, reduced services and postponed expenses to handle the crisis.

The June 2020 forecast also anticipated that Stay at Home Orders would lift by July 1, 2020, and that the economy would have already begun a recovery process by January 2021; instead, surges in June and July and since the end of



October have resulted in persistent restrictions and closures that have delayed the prospect of reopening and recovery.

As a result, Finance Department Director Gigi Decavalles-Hughes told Council Tuesday, "our research tells us that it will take additional time for economies like ours, which are reliant on the hospitality sector, to recover, so we expect to reach pre-COVID revenue levels in fiscal year 2025 — three years after the rest of the country."

"But the important takeaway

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11


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Biden opens sign-up window for uninsured as COVID-19 rages

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Thursday ordered government health insurance markets to reopen for a special sign-up window, offering uninsured Americans a haven as the spread of COVID-19 remains dangerously high and vaccines aren't yet widely available.

Biden signed an executive order directing the HealthCare.gov insurance markets to take new applications for subsidized benefits, something Donald Trump's administration had refused to do. He also instructed his administration to consider reversing other Trump health care policies, including curbs on abortion counseling and the imposition of work requirements for low-income people getting Medicaid.

"There's nothing new that we're doing here other than restoring the Affordable Care Act and restoring Medicaid to the way it was before Trump became president," Biden said as he signed the directives in the Oval Office. He declared he was reversing "my predecessor's attack on women's health."

The actions were only the first steps by Biden, who has promised to build out former President Barack Obama's health care law to achieve a goal of coverage for all. While Biden rejects the idea of a government-run system that Sen. Bernie Sanders has pushed for in his "Medicare for All" proposal, his more centrist approach will require congressional buy-in. But opposition to "Obamacare" runs deep among Republicans.

The most concrete short-term impact of Biden's orders will come from reopening HealthCare.gov insurance markets as coverage has shrunk in the economic turmoil of the coronavirus pandemic. That's an executive action and no legislation is required.

The new "special enrollment period" will begin Feb. 15 and run through May 15, the White House said. It will be coupled with a promotional campaign and a call for states that run their own insurance markets to match the federal sign-up opportunity.

The Biden administration has ample resources for marketing, said Karen Pollitz, a health insurance expert with the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. The foundation estimates that the Trump administration left unspent about $1.2 billion in user fees collected from insurers to help pay for running the marketplaces.

"The reason it wasn't spent is the Trump administration spent its time in office cutting services that support consumer enrollment," Pollitz said. "All the while the user fee revenue was coming in, (but) they were not allowed to spend it on anything other than marketplace operations."

Created under the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, the marketplaces offer taxpayer-subsidized coverage regardless of a person's medical history or preexisting conditions, including COVID-19.

Biden also ordered the immediate reversal of a federal policy that bars taxpayer funding for international health care nonprofits that promote or provide abortions. Known as the Mexico City Policy, it can be switched on or off depending on whether Democrats or Republicans control the White House. Abortion rights supporters call it the "global gag rule."

The new president's signing of a growing stack of executive orders is bringing increasing criticism from Republicans and also from some of his allies, especially after Democrats lambasted Trump when he acted on his own. Biden's team says he's looking to Congress for major legislation but feels that certain actions are crucial in the meantime.

Some directives he issued Thursday could take months to carry out.

He instructed the Department of Health and Human Services to consider rescinding Trump regulations that bar federally funded family planning clinics from referring women for abortions.

HHS will also reexamine a Trump administration policy that allows states to impose work requirements as a condition for low-income people to get Medicaid health insurance. Work requirements have been blocked by federal courts, which found that they led to thousands of people losing coverage and violated Medicaid's legal charge to provide medical services. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the issue.

And Biden directed HHS to review Trump policies that could undermine protections for people with health problems, such as a rule that facilitated the sale of short-term health insurance plans that don't have to cover preexisting medical conditions.

Such changes cannot happen overnight. Rescinding a federal regulation requires a new regulation, which has to follow an established legal process that involves considering different sides of an issue.

Former Trump health policy adviser Brian Blase said the Biden administration has to take care it doesn't throw out some policies intended to help solidly middle-class people who don't qualify for financial assistance under Obama's law.

"Obamacare plans are generally only attractive to people who receive large subsidies to buy them," said Blase. He cited a Trump policy that allows employers to provide tax-free money for workers to buy individual plans.

The abortion-related actions brought Biden immediate praise from women's rights groups, as well as condemnation from social and religious conservatives. Under President Trump, abortion opponents had free rein to try to rewrite federal policy, but now the political pendulum has swung back. Trump's abortion counseling restrictions led Planned Parenthood affiliates to leave the federal family planning program.

Biden campaigned on repealing longstanding federal prohibitions against taxpayer funding for most abortions, but that was not part of Thursday's orders. A change of that magnitude to a group of laws known as the Hyde Amendment would require congressional approval.

Biden's nominee for health secretary, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, has not yet been confirmed by the Senate, but the White House said that will not stop health agencies from immediately going to work on

SEE **BIDEN** PAGE 5

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica Library Calendar of events for kids

Dial-A-Story: Access 24/7 via telephone at (424) 610-8600. Are you looking for a fun way for your children to hear exciting stories? Check out Dial-a- Story. New stories are recorded by librarians each week, in English and Spanish, and can be listened to by phone at any time of day.

Llama y escucha un cuento: Disponible las 24 horas del día, 7 días de la semana por teléfono marcando al (424) 610-8600 ¿Está usted buscando una manera divertida para que sus hijos escuchen cuentos emocionantes? Visita nuestro nuevo servicio Dial-A-Story (Llama y escucha un cuento). Los bibliotecariosgraban nuevos cuentos cada semana, en inglés y español, y se pueden escucharpor teléfono a cualquier hora del día.

Take & Make Craft Kits: Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year: Available at Curbside Pickup. Hours and locations are listed below. Pick up a monthly Take & Make Activity Kit for fun activities to do safely at home. We provide all the supplies for fun educational crafts, early literacy, and STEAM learning. For kids ages 3-10 and their families, while supplies last.

Building Blocks for Kindergarten with SMPL: Mondays, February 1, 8, 15 & 22 / 1:00 to 1:15 p.m. Access via Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/smpublib. Join us for short bilingual English/Spanish video segments that focus on kindergarten-readiness skills through reading and activities. Track Building Blocks activities your child completes through the virtual platform Beanstack and earn points towards a prize drawing for book packs. To register, go to smpl.beanstack.org.

Construyendo los Cimientos para el Kinder con SMPL: Lunes, 1, 8, 15 y 22 de febrero / De la 1:00 a 1:15 p.m. Acceda por Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/smpublib. Únase a nosotros para ver breves segmentos de videos bilingües en inglés/español que se enfocarán en habilidades específicas de preparación para el kinder a través de actividades interactivas y de lectura. Rastree las actividades de Building Blocks que su hijo complete, a través de una plataforma virtual llamada Beanstack y gane puntos para un sorteo de premios para paquetes de libros. Para registrarse en este programa gratuito, vaya a smpl.beanstack.org.

Family Black History Month Program: Talking Drums: Saturday, February 6 / 1 to 2 p.m. Live via Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/smpublib and Bluejeans - https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/zeqwafjt

Celebrate Black History Month with Ina the Sunshine Storyteller. Ina presents African and African American folktales, poetry, and songs. For Kids ages 3-10 and their families.

CURBSIDE PICKUP

No appointments are necessary for curbside pickup. Just place a hold to pick up items at your preferred location: Main Library, Pico Branch, or Montana Avenue Branch. Wait to receive your email, text, or phone notification that your hold items are ready, then drop in to pick up your items at your selected location. Upon arrival, follow the directions on the posted signs. When picking up items, please bring your Library card or photo ID, wear a mask, and practice social distancing.

Pickup locations and hours:

- Main Library
  10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  Monday – Friday
  Saturday, January 9 & Saturday, February 6
- Pico Branch
  10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  Monday – Friday
  Saturday, January 9 & Saturday, February 6
- Montana Avenue Branch
  10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  Monday & Wednesday
  There will be no Curbside Pickup and Library services on Monday, February 15

Have questions or need help?
Library staff are available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact us at 310-458-8600 or reference@smgov.net.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN REITZ

Citywide

CHP chase ends in arrest

Officers from the California Highway Patrol arrested three individuals Thursday morning after they crashed near the intersection of 5th Street and the 10 freeway.

At about 2 a.m., officers saw a vehicle weaving between lanes on the freeway near the Lincoln exit. Officers attempted a stop but the vehicle fled the scene and attempted to exit the freeway on the 4th street ramp. However, the car crashed into a sign pole and struck the fence of a nearby office building.

One individual fled the scene on foot and escaped but three juveniles were arrested at the scene.

Anyone with information about the incident can call the West Hollywood CHP station at (310) 642-3939.

SMDP STAFF

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press **editor@smdp.com**

California lawmakers agree to help cover some unpaid rent

ADAM BEAM AND DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California lawmakers on Thursday agreed to use $2.6 billion in federal stimulus money to pay off up to 80% of some tenants' unpaid rent — but only if landlords agree to forgive the rest of their debt.

The legislation, which Gov. Gavin Newsom helped negotiate and is expected to sign into law, is the state's first major attempt to clear unpaid rents that have piled up during the pandemic as millions of people lost their jobs because of government-ordered business closures.

"The pandemic has created a mountain of unpaid rental debt, which has caused instability and financial hardships for both tenants and landlords," said Democratic Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes, the majority floor leader. The legislation provides "urgent assistance to renters and for the first time to struggling mom and pop landlords across California."

But the move is risky because of two big unknowns: Is $2.6 billion enough to cover all of the unpaid rent in the state, and how many landlords will take the deal?

No one knows for sure how much unpaid rent is in California, the nation's most populous state with nearly 40 million people. Estimates range from a high of $3.6 billion by the advocacy group Housing NOW! California to a low of $400 million by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

Last year, Newsom signed a law that banned tenants from being evicted for not paying their rent during the coronavirus, but only if they paid at least 25% of what they owed after Sept. 1. The move prevented what many feared would be an "eviction tsunami," but still required tenants to repay their debts, empowering landlords to take them to court to recoup their money.

Those protections would have expired on Monday. The bill lawmakers approved on Thursday extends those protections through at least June 30 while also giving landlords and tenants the opportunity for a clean slate.

"Today we help Californians keep a roof over their head and keep their heads above water," said Democratic Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, promising that work on the issue will continue in coming months.

Newsom officials say California is so far the only state using federal stimulus dollars to entice landlords to forgive debt.

The legislation goes beyond protections enacted in New York last month that freeze evictions and certain foreclosures for two months, or until May 1 for renters who assert that they've faced hardship from the coronavirus pandemic.

Some housing advocacy groups worry California's legislation gives too much power to landlords. If landlords refuse the deal, the law would only pay off 25% of the tenants' debt — enough to ensure they could not be evicted.

That is "a troubling power imbalance," said Democratic Assemblyman David Chiu, among many objecting to that provision.

"This is not a perfect deal," Chiu, who heads the Assembly housing committee, said as he and Democratic Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon noted lawmakers must do more to fill the gaps before the new protections expire in June. Yet "at this deadliest of moments in the pandemic, we can't have tenants pushed out into the streets," with the current protections set to expire this weekend.

The legislation had rare bipartisan support, passing 71-1 in the 80-member Assembly and 34-0 in the 40-member Senate with some Republicans not voting.

"This isn't perfect...but we are in a desperate time right now," said Assemblyman Devon Mathis, though he and other Republicans said they remain concerned that there will be bureaucratic complications over administering the program.

"We ask Gov. Newsom to please not screw this one up too," Mathis said, referencing ongoing delays and billions of dollars in fraud in allocating pandemic unemployment benefits.

Several lawmakers warned that disadvantaged communities could be left behind, though Democratic Sen. Dave Cortese said the measure requires setting up a statewide multilingual call-center in part to help landlords and tenants who lack internet access.

The bill is "not the perfect solution, but it is a solution to a dire problem," said Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron. "We need to ensure that the program will actually work and that it is accessible to all."

The federal money includes $1.5 billion sent to the state, and another $1.1 billion sent to some cities and counties.

The money could also be used to pay for unpaid utility bills. A survey by the State Water Resources Control Board found 1.6 residential water customers, or 12% of all households, have unpaid bills amounting to $1 billion.



DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 196 CALLS ON JANUARY 27

Drunk Driving Investigation 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:28 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 2:21 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2000blk Pico Blvd 3:11 a.m.
Fight 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 4:53 a.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1400blk Pearl St 5:08 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 900blk Broadway 5:38 a.m.
Found Property 1400blk 4th St 6:45 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2600blk 32nd St 7:02 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1300blk 18th St 7:03 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Marine St 7:51 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Lincoln Blvd / Marine St 7:53 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 2600blk Barnard Way 8:51 a.m.
Burglary Report 300blk Pacific St 9:06 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Lincoln Blvd / Ashland Ave 9:20 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1400blk 11th St 9:22 a.m.
Burglary Report 1100blk 3rd St 9:35 a.m.
Fraud Report 3000blk Urban Ave 9:35 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1000blk Princeton St 9:42 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1500blk 2nd St 9:50 a.m.
Panhandling Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 10:15 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Michigan Ave 10:15 a.m.
Burglary Report 1100blk 3rd St 10:20 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:24 a.m.
Fraud Report Unknown 10:27 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 10:53 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 1200blk 23rd St 10:58 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 11:02 a.m.
Found Property 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 11:05 a.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 11:08 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:17 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2800blk 14th St 11:22 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 11:26 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk Idaho Ave 11:43 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk Stewart St 11:45 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 2600blk 2nd St 11:49 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 12th St / Washington Ave 12:05 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100blk 3rd St 12:11 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 7th St 12:11 p.m.
Burglary Report 300blk Pacific St 12:40 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:47 p.m.
Panic Alarm 900blk California Ave 1:03 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 1:25 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900blk 21st St 1:50 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2700blk Washington Ave 1:51 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2600blk Barnard Way 1:52 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 17th St / Delaware Ave 2:19 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2900blk Nebraska Ave 2:30 p.m.
Missing Person 800blk 2nd St 2:35 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1000blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:47 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500blk 7th St 2:47 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 600blk 9th St 3:01 p.m.
Person With A Gun 300blk Pico Blvd 3:29 p.m.
Burglary Report 2700blk Washington Ave 3:39 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:06 p.m.
Burglary Report 900blk 4th St 4:06 p.m.
Vandalism Just Occurred 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 4:07 p.m.
Stalking Suspect There Now 2400blk 28th St 4:13 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2800blk Neilson Way 4:16 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 4:29 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1800blk 34th St 4:30 p.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk 14th St 4:43 p.m.
Burglary Report 2400blk 5th St 4:56 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 5:28 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2000blk Main St 5:51 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 10th St / Olympic Blvd E 6:13 p.m.
Death Investigation 500blk 15th St 6:19 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1500blk Ocean Ave 6:43 p.m.
Vandalism Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Bay St 8:01 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 700blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:04 p.m.
Vandalism 20th St / Olympic Blvd 8:28 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 34 CALLS ON JANUARY 27

Traffic Collision With Injury Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 1:39 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1400blk 4th St 5:23 a.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 7:48 a.m.
EMS 200blk Ocean Ave 8:19 a.m.
Wires Down 800blk 23rd St 8:24 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 9:00 a.m.
EMS 200blk Broadway 9:45 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 9:47 a.m.
Lock In/Out 3400blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:06 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 2nd St 10:47 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Main St 11:23 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 18th St 11:50 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:19 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 2nd St 1:12 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 5th St 1:22 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:35 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 1:48 p.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 2:09 p.m.
EMS 17th St / Delaware Ave 2:19 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:07 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Wilshire Blvd 3:18 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:06 p.m.
EMS 2700blk Wilshire Blvd 4:13 p.m.
Wires Down 2200blk Virginia Ave 5:39 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 800blk 2nd St 5:40 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 2000blk Main St 5:51 p.m.
EMS 500blk 15th St 6:17 p.m.
EMS 200blk Montana Ave 8:05 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 300blk California Ave 8:15 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Georgina Ave 8:24 p.m.



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Robert Lemle

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WINNER

Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Scarface, Stone Face, Loser's Face



Courtesy image

FACES: Three narcissistic sociopaths, which is the least evil?.

Now that Donald Trump is a private citizen, numerous insiders are predicting he'll likely wind up in jail. The list includes his niece Mary Trump, a clinical psychologist and best-selling author; Michael Cohen, currently a podcast host and Trump's personal attorney for 10 years; and Anthony Scaramucci, founder of Sky Bridge Capital and Trump's Communication Director, albeit for 11 days or, as he puts it, 15,840 minutes.

However, all suggest Trump might escape conviction for his most serious crimes. Trump's predicament has been compared to mob boss, Al (Scarface) Capone, who was never successfully prosecuted for murder, or his vast Chicago crime syndicate but was "pinched" for tax evasion. (As it happens, Monday marked the 74th anniversary of his death from syphilis.)

Capone's sentence was a slap on the wrist compared to the death penalty most Americans felt he deserved for his horrendous and corrupt record. (Which, coincidentally is how I've described Trump's failed presidency.)

Actually Trump and Capone have a lot in common. In their youth, each physically attacked a teacher, and in their old age each loved living in Florida. In their prime, both amassed great fortunes. Capone's was estimated at $100 million, or $1.5 billion in today's value. However, due to his dementia it disappeared when Capone literally couldn't remember where he hid it. (And I get mad at myself when I can't find my keys.)

Capone's missing fortune hearkens us back to Geraldo Rivera's April 21, 1986 boring syndicated TV extravaganza dynamiting open Capone's barren vault, unless you count empty beer bottles. (That also marks the date when Geraldo went from a one-time award-winning investigative journalist to a full-time TV clown.)

As for Trump's fortune, many experts predict with years of civil and criminal court proceedings facing him and the accompanying legal bills, his wealth may also disappear. And at least two people are convinced Trump, like Scarface did, has syphilis.

One is my neighbor, Robin, who has been insisting that for years. The other is Dr. Steven Beutler, in Redlands, who has been practicing medicine for over three decades, specializing in infectious diseases and who voiced his controversial opinion in "The New Republic" in February 2017.

Dr. Beutler made the case that Trump suffers from "neurosyphilis," which he says exhibits its first symptoms "in the form of psychiatric issues and personality changes." (Whereas I say Trump has always been an a**hole.)

Beutler cited Trump's own statements (including on the Howard Stern radio show) that he was sexually promiscuous in the 1980s, a period when syphilis cases were skyrocketing. Dr. Beutler noted symptoms include irritability, loss of ability to concentrate, delusional thinking, and grandiosity. (In defense of Trump, I think he's just a mentally ill sociopath with a narcissistic disorder.)

Speaking of narcissistic sociopaths, that brings us to Russia's apparently forever President, Vladimir Putin, aka "Trump's puppet master." I'll never forget in December 2015, Trump calling into MSNBC's "Morning Joe" TV show as giddy as a high school cheerleader after a date with the star quarterback. Elatedly, Trump bragged Putin had referred to him as "brilliant." (In reality, Putin had described Trump as a "shiny object that grabs attention.")

Joe Scarborough interjected, "Donald, you do know that Putin kills political opponents and journalists." Poor Donnie was so dejected it was as if his father discovered his box of switch blade knives hidden under his bed which precipitated his being immediately shipped to military school. Fake patriot Trump snapped back at Joe, "Yeah, well we kill plenty of people, too."

Who knows what blackmail Putin has had on Trump all these years, or how much Trump can pocket selling our state secrets to Vlad. On the very unlikely chance Trump were convicted in the Senate trial ("Impeachment: The Sequel") he would lose his Secret Service, his pension, and the ability to ever run for federal office again. But sequels are rarely as good as the original, in

SEE **TRUMP** PAGE 6

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Novavax COVID-19 vaccine works, but less so against variants

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

Novavax Inc. said Thursday that its COVID-19 vaccine appears 89% effective based on early findings from a British study and that it also seems to work — though not as well — against new mutated versions of the virus circulating in that country and South Africa.

The announcement comes amid worry about whether a variety of vaccines being rolled out around the world will be strong enough to protect against worrisome new variants – and as the world desperately needs new types of shots to boost scarce supplies.

The study of 15,000 people in Britain is still underway. But an interim analysis found 62 participants so far have been diagnosed with COVID-19 – only six of them in the group that got vaccine and the rest who received dummy shots.

The infections occurred at a time when Britain was experiencing a jump in COVID-19 caused by a more contagious variant. A preliminary analysis found over half of the trial participants who became infected had the mutated version. The numbers are very small, but Novavax said they suggest the vaccine is nearly 96% effective against the older coronavirus and nearly 86% effective against the new variant. The findings are based on cases that occurred at least a week after the second dose.

"Both those numbers are dramatic demonstrations of the ability of our vaccine to develop a very potent immune response," Novavax CEO Stanley Erck said in a call with investors late Thursday.

Scientists have been even more worried about a variant first discovered in South Africa that carries different mutations. Results from a smaller Novavax study in that country suggests the vaccine does work but not nearly as well as it does against the variant from Britain.

The South African study included some volunteers with HIV. Among the HIV-negative volunteers, the vaccine appears 60% effective. Including volunteers with HIV, overall the protection was 49%, the company said. While genetic testing still is underway, so far about 90% of the COVID-19 illnesses found in the South African study appear due to the new mutant.

"These are good results. There is reason to be optimistic" about the 60% effectiveness, said Glenda Gray, head of the South African Medical Research Council. Even against the new variant that now causes more than 90% of new cases in that country, "we're still seeing vaccine efficacy," she said.

More concerning is what the study showed about a totally different question — the chances of people getting COVID-19 a second time, said the leader of the South African study, Shabir Madhi of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Tests suggested that nearly a third of study participants had been previously infected, yet rates of new infections in the placebo group were similar.

"Past infection with early variants of the virus in South Africa does not protect" against infection with the new one, he said. "There doesn't seem to be any protection derived."

Novavax said it needs some additional data before it can seek British authorization for the vaccine's use, sometime in the next month or so. A larger study in the U.S. and Mexico has enrolled slightly over half of the needed 30,000 volunteers. Novavax said it's not clear if the Food and Drug Administration will need data from that study, too, before deciding whether to allow U.S. use.

Meanwhile, it is starting to develop a version of the vaccine that could more specifically target the mutations found in South Africa, in case health authorities eventually decide that updated dosing is needed.

Vaccines against COVID-19 train the body to recognize the new coronavirus, mostly the spike protein that coats it. But the Novavax candidate is made differently than the first shots being used. Called a recombinant protein vaccine, the Maryland company uses genetic engineering to grow harmless copies of the coronavirus spike protein in insect cells. Scientists extract and purify the protein and then mix in an immune-boosting chemical.

AP Medical Writer Marilynn Marchione contributed

BIDEN

FROM PAGE 2

the president's directives.

The idea of reopening Obamacare's health insurance markets in the pandemic has had broad support from consumer, medical, and business organizations. The main insurer trade group, America's Health Insurance Plans, applauded Biden's move.

As the number of uninsured Americans grew because of job losses in the pandemic, the Trump administration resisted calls to reopen HealthCare.gov. Failure to repeal and replace Obamacare was one of the former president's most bitter disappointments. His administration continued trying to find ways to limit the program or unravel it entirely. A Supreme Court decision on Trump's final legal challenge to the Affordable Care Act is expected this year.

Experts agree that number of uninsured people has risen because of layoffs in the coronavirus economy, but authoritative estimates await government studies due later this year. While some estimates cite 5 million to 10 million newly uninsured people, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says its analysis suggests a smaller number.

Nonetheless, the CBO projects that nearly 32 million Americans are uninsured and of those, about 2 in 3 are eligible for some kind of subsidized coverage.

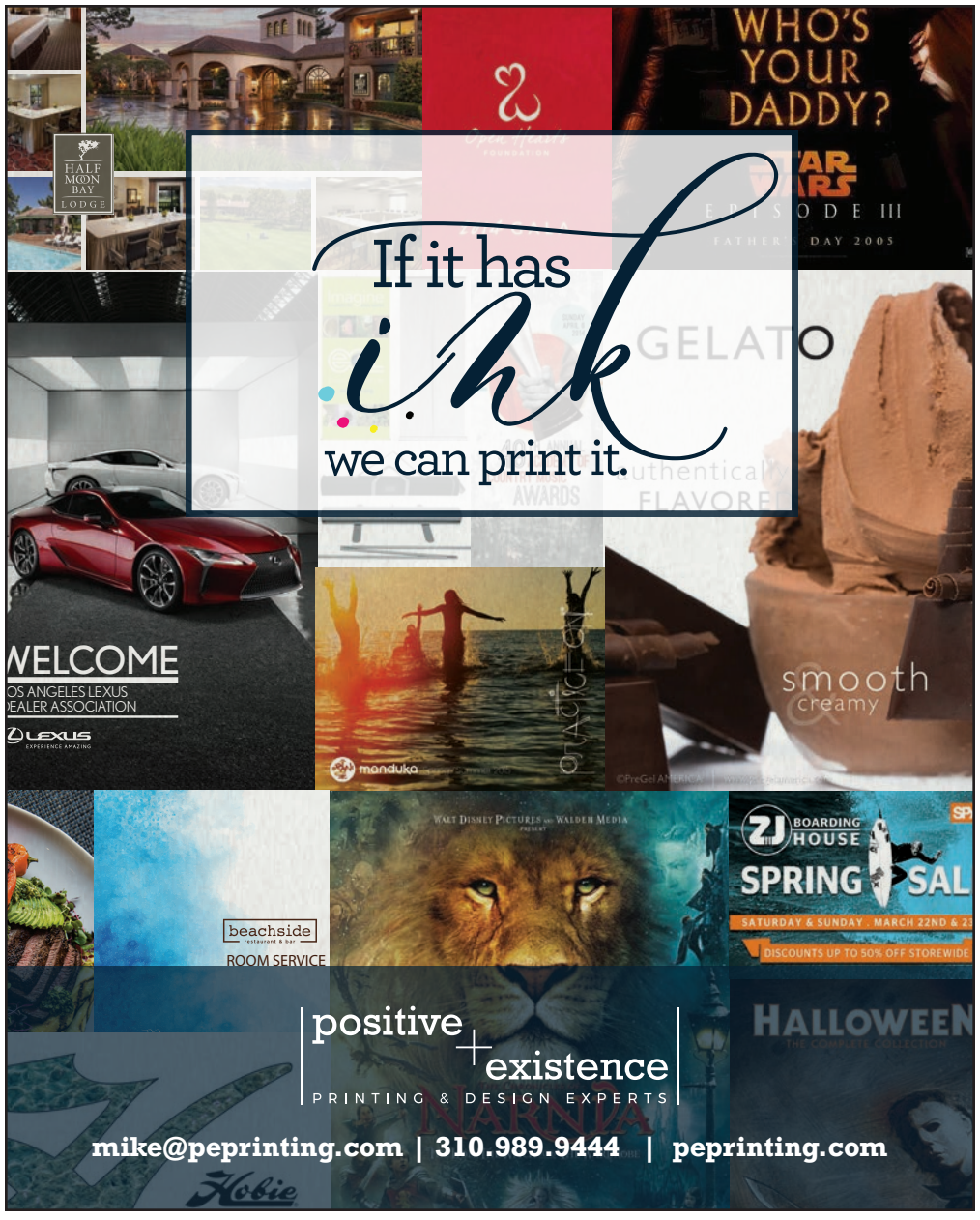
The Obama-era health care law covers more than 23 million people through a mix of subsidized private insurance sold in all states, and expanded Medicaid adopted by 38 states.

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This ad is underwritten through a partnership with the SMDP.

RESTAURANT

FROM PAGE 1

THE STORY BEHIND LANEA

Lanea was created in July 2019 by local restaurateur Peter Trinh and taco chef extraordinaire Petra Zavaleta.

Zavaleta grew up in Puebla and used her traditional cooking skills to launch Barbakush, a lamb barbacoa business, out of her family's East LA home in 2018. The business became so popular that Zavaleta opened a food truck in under a month and a brick and mortar location in under a year.

When Trinh was looking for a culinary partner to help transform the former Copa d'Oro bar in Downtown Santa Monica he was connected with Zavaleta by one of his partners and the two clicked right away.

"There is nothing derivative about Lanea; it is authentic Mexican food generated and invigorated by a genuine and amazing Mexican family," said Trinh. "I couldn't be more honored to have them as partners."

The bright and airy Lanea bar took off right away, offering over 400 hand-selected mezcals and tequilas and selling thousands of tacos a week — until the pandemic hit.

SURVIVING THE PANDEMIC

As was the case for most restaurants, the outbreak of Covid-19 sent Lanea's finances reeling, but the team got scrappy and resourceful to stay afloat.

"The pandemic hit us pretty hard. We lost a lot of our events and money," said Zavaleta. "But Lanea we're a family, we help each other out, we give each other ideas, we make sure none of us are left in the dirt."

The team began a takeout service for the first time, invested in an expansive outdoor dining, and worked rapidly to develop a cost-effective way to can their cocktails which they began selling directly through Fetcha.co as well as other third party apps.

During the two rounds of dining shutdowns the restaurant attracted to-go customers through special drink deals — like four canned cocktails for $20 — and different holiday themed meal packages.

"We're not corporately structured, we're a small business owned by several entrepreneurs , so the idea has always been just to try and survive this," said Trinh. "Luckily with local support and really resilient and hardworking partners, we've been able to weather the storm so far."

WHAT TO ORDER RIGHT NOW

Diners would be amiss to visit Lanea and not try a taco made with Zavaleta's legendary lamb barbacoa.

The Zavaleta family hand pick the lamb in Chino Hills and season it with cilantro, garbanzo, onions, and chipotle at their home. It is then wrapped in agave leaves and roasted in an underground pit for 36 hours to maximize the lamb's flavor and succulence. The juice that falls off the meat is used to make a special consomme served with chipotle chickpeas.

Other top selling tacos are the asada, pollo, pescado con mango, and camaron con mango, which are all seasoned with Zavaleta's distinctive spices.

"You're going to need to order more than one taco, because you're going to want more than one," said Trinh. "I think it's the same for the margarita, whether you like spicy one or not, you've got to try them because they're pretty top notch."

Lanea's craft cocktails are flavored with inventive recipes curated by bar directors John Neumueller and Connor McRaith. The margarita is sweetened with a unique dry Curacao and has much less sugar than a typical margarita.

Food is available for take-out on Toast, Grubhub, Doordash, Postmates, UberEats and the team looks forward to welcoming back outdoor diners this weekend with extensive safety precautions in place.

"If it wasn't for local support and people making an effort to come to the restaurant and bar to purchase food and beverages we'd be permanently closed," said Trinh. "I see nothing but brighter days ahead and I look forward to seeing the smiles on people's faces like when they have a great taco or love the cocktail they try."

Clara@smdp.com

TRUMP

FROM PAGE 4

this case, a witness-less sham.

Barring a conviction, it appears Trump will still receive intelligence briefings, which he never bothered to read in the first place but now could monetize. (Unless his possible syphilis acts up and he forgets where he put them.)

Trying to end on a positive note, of the three character-challenged men, who's the least evil? Putin poisons people at will and has personally robbed Russia of $200 billion. Trump put kids in cages, 600 of whom will probably never see their parents again; incited a deadly white supremacist insurrection attack on the Capitol that hadn't been invaded since 1812; and, given his inexcusable mishandling of the pandemic is likely responsible for at least 350,000 of the 420,000 U.S. Covid deaths.

So, I gotta vote for Scarface. As a person who misplaces his keys, I evidently empathize with a guy who misplaced millions of dollars.

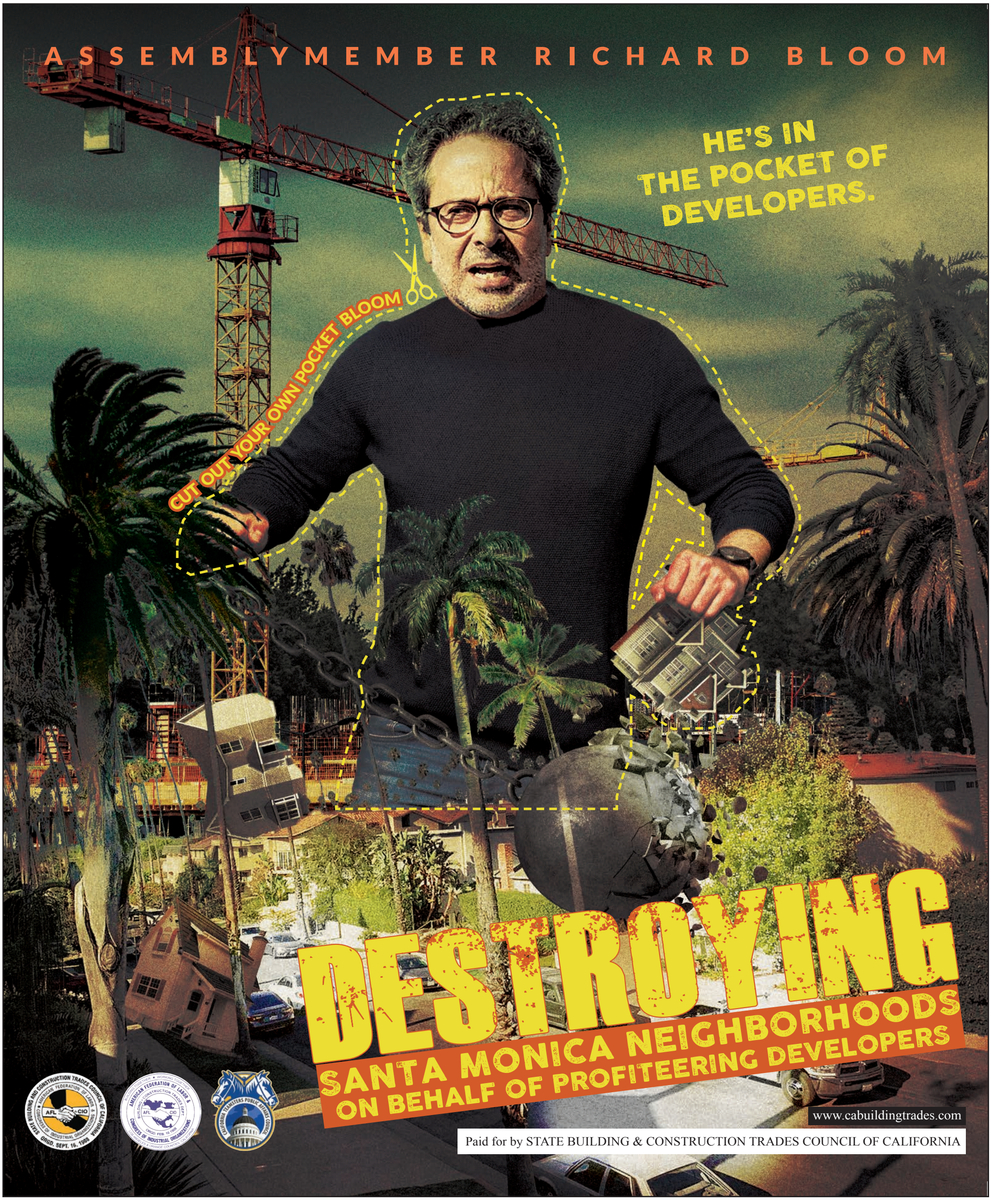
FYI, movies about Capone include: "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre," 1957, Jason Robards; "Al Capone," 1959, Rod Steiger; "Capone," 1975, Ben Gazzara; "The Untouchables," 1987, Robert De Niro; "Mobsters," 1991, Titus Welliver; and "Capone," 2020, Tom Hardy.

FYI #2, Jack is at jackdailypress@aol.com.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

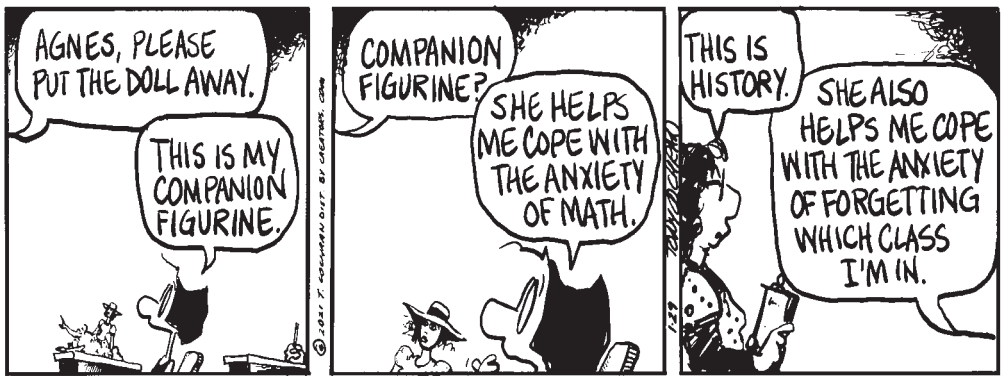
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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 56.5°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
WNW/NW swell due to fade. Light AM winds expected trending to breezier WNW in the afternoon.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Old NW swell mix, small S swell. Confidence increasing for light wind but the deep 6' high tide by mid-morning will result in sluggish/slow conditions.

WEATHER

Friday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 55.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/01/29	Fri	02:51 AM	1.83	L
2021/01/29	Fri	09:02 AM	6.29	H
2021/01/29	Fri	4:12 PM	-1.17	L
2021/01/29	Fri	10:38 PM	3.97	H
2021/01/30	Sat	03:34 AM	1.71	L
2021/01/30	Sat	09:41 AM	6.09	H
2021/01/30	Sat	4:46 PM	-0.99	L
2021/01/30	Sat	11:13 PM	4.12	H
2021/01/31	Sun	04:21 AM	1.63	L
2021/01/31	Sun	10:23 AM	5.67	H
2021/01/31	Sun	5:19 PM	-0.63	L
2021/01/31	Sun	11:50 PM	4.30	H
2021/02/01	Mon	05:15 AM	1.58	L
2021/02/01	Mon	11:10 AM	5.03	H
2021/02/01	Mon	5:54 PM	-0.13	L
2021/02/02	Tue	12:31 AM	4.48	H
2021/02/02	Tue	06:19 AM	1.55	L
2021/02/02	Tue	12:05 PM	4.23	H
2021/02/02	Tue	6:29 PM	0.48	L
2021/02/03	Wed	01:17 AM	4.67	H
2021/02/03	Wed	07:42 AM	1.44	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/27
17 33 35 42 52
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 30 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/26
29 49 56 66 67
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 25 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 1/27
9 10 16 30 46
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 16 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/27
8 10 21 26 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/27
EVENING: 0 0 1
Draw Date: 1/27
MIDDAY: 5 3 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/27
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:46.72

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 (JANUARY 29)

You'll give up three things to gain one crucial ingredient to your success. The year is still young when you succeed at your purpose with loving eyes on you -- what could be better. Even as you cross the finish line on your own, you know you the truth -- that you sail on the invisible wings of your team. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 10, 5, 33 and 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To learn fast, first forget what you know. Clean the slate and begin anew. You'll absorb your environment better once you lose all preexisting ideas about the place.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've made efforts to fit in with people and now those are starting to pay off. They feel like they know, like and trust you. For these reasons, you'll have influence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Time has one job -- to march forward. When done well, this tends to keep everything from happening at once. Today, it's like time got distracted, stood still, and now there's a cluster of events vying for the same slot.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're often inspired to contribute, and sometimes you feel driven to contribute even when uninspired. But when the situation stirs neither inspiration nor drive, that's a message, too. Maybe it's just not a match.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The lunar position has you quite literally mooning, heart full of love, body swept into the swoon and your mind a bright projection into the fog of possible next moves and an array of potential futures.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's so much within your control that it would be a terrible waste to worry about anything that is not. Dive in and play hard with the multitude of resources you have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It will enliven you to connect with your environment. Where you are doesn't have to be particularly appealing either, but it helps if it's new or if for some reason you are now noticing new things about it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Life is a buffet, and you're a pro. You know better than to start loading up your plate at the start of the display. Give it a walk through first. You won't be able to eat it all. What's the delicious priority?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The same pursuit that should, theoretically, be avoided at all costs is also too seductive to resist. Consider how you might be able to use this very human response to the forbidden.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What keeps you from mixing it up right now? Do you think eventually this imperfection will get fixed and all will be different? What if this is it? You may as well tussle and play in this imperfect moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Challenging scenarios and novel victories have their place, but that is a strategy for a different time. Right now, focus on the battle you know you can win.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The seasoned sailor tests the water, not out of fear but intelligence. The information-gathering makes for better decisions and smoother sailing. It's also a sign of respect to the sea.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

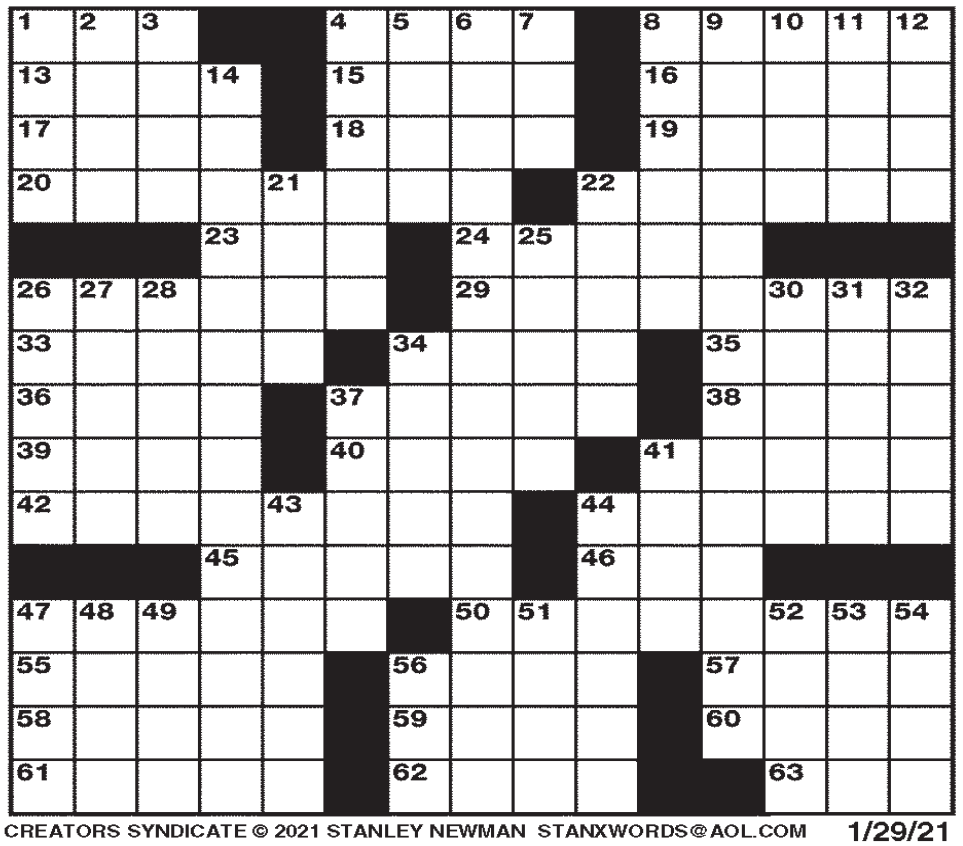
			2				6	
		6		5	8	1		3
5		1			4		9	
	6	9				5		
2				3				1
		8				9	3	
	5		9			2		6
9		2	1	4		3		
	1				7			

Newsday Crossword

WINTRY MIX by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Kabul's land: Abbr.
4 Many animal toons
8 Gets back to, as requested
13 Hammer gripper
15 Labor Dept. arm
16 Alphabetical quintet
17 Symbol of a 34 Down
18 Louisville's river
19 Mother-of-pearl
20 Instances
22 Useful skills
23 Certain Ivy Leaguer
24 Shelter made of 54 Down
26 Bit of many brownies
29 Willowy quality
33 Off the mark
34 Cottony stick
35 Loud lament
36 Inspect
37 Polynesian people
38 "Aha!"
39 What this is in Madrid
40 German article
41 Either Apple founder
42 Worst of a deal
44 Tote
45 Espresso order
46 DC-based alliance
47 Night spots of a sort
50 How to get your party going?
55 Album excerpt
56 High hair
57 *Coal Miner's Daughter* subject
58 More than is justified
59 Sound of contentment
60 Sum, in a phrase
61 Lathered up
62 *Frozen* queen
63 Cupid's device

DOWN
1 Gut feeling
2 Linen source
3 "Festive" apple variety
4 "Enough!"
5 Rod Laver rival
6 "How marvelous!"
7 Portuguese 34 Down
8 Automaker Olds
9 Cookbook instruction
10 Wickedness
11 Place for anchoring
12 Seeks damages
14 Quadrennial football event
21 Selling point
22 Court defense
25 Driving hazard
26 Surfing essential
27 Simple-living group
28 Deceive
30 Canvas support
31 It won't hold water
32 Drop off
34 Holy person
37 Complies with
41 "Get lost!"
43 Q neighbor
44 State south of Arizona
47 A/C capacity
48 Florentine river
49 Zip
51 Miscalculates
52 Invitation directive
53 Frequent Scriptural follower of "said"
54 What's "falling" (in mixed order) within the three longest answers
56 Gibraltar beast



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/29/21

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

I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O
I	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I
O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O
I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I
I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O
I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O
O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I
O	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I
I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I
O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	I

			I								I
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		O		I						I	I
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		I			O		I	I		I	I
		I		I		I				I	I



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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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5008

In the mood

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

Awe	Highs	Natural	Sorrow
Belligerent	Honest	Pain	Spite
Blunt	Hope	Panic	Sure
Bold	Intuitive	Perky	Sweet
Bored	Ire	Pleased	Tame
Dread	Isolated	Pragmatic	Vocal
Envy	Joy	Pride	Wary
Folksy	Kind	Reliable	Weird
Forlorn	Love	Resistant	Wise
Fury	Mad	Rude	Woeful
Gay	Malice	Sad	Wrath
Glee	Mean	Sick	Zeal

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Getting around Sidney can be tricky

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MARION

FROM PAGE 1

Santa Monica Conservancy docents, a Sunset at the Beach mocktail making, and more.

"Marion Davies was many things: a very special performer, a philanthropist, a famed party hostess. She was described as like the bubbles in a glass of champagne," said Friedman.

Both the Beach House and Davies have glamorous and intriguing histories well worth spending time exploring.

Newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst first bought the five acre oceanfront site to develop a mansion for Davies in the 1920s.

Davies came from humble beginnings and ran away from her Catholic family in Brooklyn to become a showgirl in the Follies. Davies met Hearst while performing and became his lifelong companion, muse, and mistress — a role that both elevated her and came with many difficulties.

"Hearst never divorced his wife and I think it was very challenging to be such a high profile celebrity and also a woman in that situation," said Friedman. "One of the reasons why she celebrated so much at home and hosted so many incredible parties is that it was easier for her to have people at her home than to be at others' homes."

With the support of Hearst's film company, Davies became a famous movie star known for hosting lavish soirees for the Hollywood elite. She remained by Hearst's side until his death in 1951 and dedicated her later life to charitable work.

In 1947 Joseph Drown bought the Beach House from Davies and converted it into the Ocean House Hotel and Sand & Sea private beach club. The property was sold to the State of California in 1959 and later managed by the City of Santa Monica.

The house was severely damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake, but thanks to a $27.5 million grant from Wallis Annenberg of The Annenberg Foundation, the City was able to rehabilitate the building and create a year-round public beach facility.

"The fact that the historical site was first developed as private property and over time became public and available to everyone is a piece of history in itself," said Friedman.

In 2009 the Annenberg Community Beach House opened, providing cultural programming celebrating the site's unique history alongside public recreation and event spaces.

While many of the Beach House's amenities are currently closed due to Covid-19, the public can still access the parking lot, playground, beach restrooms, and Back on the Beach Cafe.

Friedman said community members of all ages are welcome to attend Sunday's virtual celebration and should register at: http://happybirthdaymarion2021.eventbrite.com

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here is that by the end of the forecast period, if we are putting some money aside to take care of these very important things that will make us more resilient, we will have another $9.4 million at the end of that (five-year period)," Decavalles-Hughes added later in the meeting. And if you add that to the $3 million that will be set aside for reopening efforts, starting next year, the city could have $12 million available to address programs and services.

Interim City Manager Lane Dilg recognized the City's Five Year Financial Forecast showed slow economic growth in an interview with the Daily Press last week but said it was important to recognize the City is no longer projecting deficits like so many other cities are in this moment.

"I think that what we see here is the projections put the city on a stable course through what is a very uncertain and volatile moment," Dilg said. "I think the other thing we see is we remained fairly on target with our projections because, I feel, we've remained open to making adjustments within our current budget to continue to adjust to community needs in a very changing environment."

However, with a new president in the White House, Dilg does believe there is reason to believe the city could see additional funds that will bolster local recovery efforts.

"Absent stimulus funds though, we are not in a position to add spending to our budget," Dilg said, explaining how there are some years when the community can provide services and fund them with no hesitancy. "But this year, while we are in a very stable financial position, we need the community to be aware that there are constraints and we'll have to work within the resources that are available to us. So, if people want new resources then there will have to be some tradeoffs."

Decavalles-Hughes said it's also important to remember it's hard to predict the future .

"But what we can do is talk to many different experts, take a look at what is out there and make whatever determinations we can make based on them," she said. "This year, we looked at the data as we do each year; we talked to the economist; we talked to our economic recovery team; and we're talking to consultants about trends that they are seeing, so the process remains pretty much the same at its basic level. Obviously, the results are very different this year but planning and looking at the future is just as important now as we look at how we can refill our reserves... In the past, we had strong reserves and we've always been able to maintain them. At this point, it's just about us needing to build back up."

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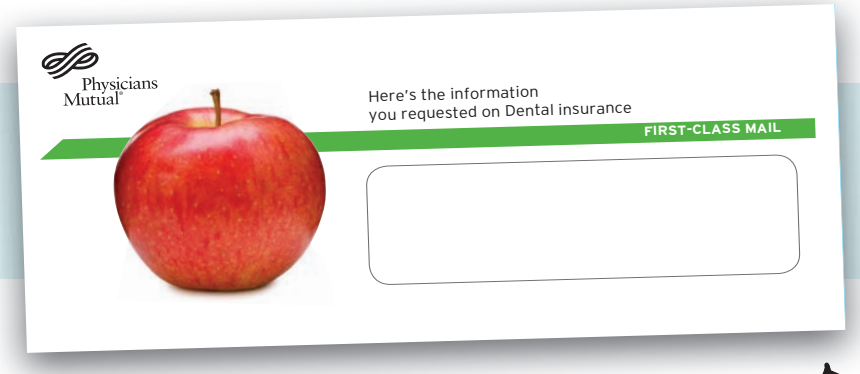
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