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Federal Grant
Santa Monica could receive $27 million to offset Covid-related cuts.
Page 3

Strictly Business
A new column in SMDP.
Page 4

Transit patterns and street use transformed over the past year





File photos

TRANSIT: While car trips declined, bus usage and bike ridership remained strong during the pandemic.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

As the pandemic transformed the way individuals navigate their lives, so did it transform how residents navigate their City — bus, bike, car, and traffic accident patterns were all flipped on their head in the past year and a Daily Press analysis of transit trends yielded several interesting insights.

THE CITY BECAME MUCH SAFER

As residents worked, dined, and studied from home for many months, Santa Monica became eerily reminiscent of the sleepy beach town it hasn't been for many decades. Alongside the welcome decrease in traffic came another lesser known benefit: far less road accidents.

According to data provided by the SMPD, the number of total collisions in Santa Monica decreased by 50 percent during the pandemic compared to the prior year — going from 1302 to 658. Both injury and fatal collisions were cut in half and collisions involving pedestrians decreased by over 60 percent.

DUI arrests dropped even more precipitously, falling by over 70 percent from 256 to 71, likely due to the closure of the local nightlife scene.

While quieter streets led many positive trends, it did have one notable negative impact: increased speeding, as citations were up by 142 percent in the past year. Overall the safety benefits of less cars and drunk drivers on the road outweighed the dangers from increased speeding and only two fatal car collisions were recorded during the pandemic.

THE CITY REIMAGINED THE USE OF STREET SPACE FOR TRAVEL AND LEISURE

As the need for travel decreased

SEE **TRANSIT** PAGE 6

The first surf contest since COVID





Photo Credit: Steven Nevius

SURF: Local Middle and High School surf teams competed in the first surf contest held in over a year. The students competed in two locations at Tower 24 in Santa Monica on Sunday. Large south swells created a challenging day for the athletes, and both boys and girls competed in over 27 heats.

Santa Monica to discuss Hero Pay at Council meeting

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Council could pass a Hero Pay ordinance Tuesday that would require some Westside drug and grocery stores to pay employees an extra $5 per hour.

The proposed law targets retail grocery stores, retail drug stores, and other large stores of 85,000 square feet or more that dedicate more than 10% of their floor space to grocery or drug sales and would immediately become effective if it were to be passed. Store operators who voluntarily provided hazard pay will have a credit against the required hero pay, according to the proposed ordinance. There would also be enforcement mechanisms established before the ordinance

SEE **HERO PAY** PAGE 11

Staff proposes new rules around public assemblies, targeted residential protests

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Council will discuss new regulations regarding public assemblies, targeted residential protests, and noise on Tuesday in an effort to promote public safety and welfare, but some local residents believe the proposed amendments should be unanimously rejected by city leaders.

Along with the protests that were seen across the country this summer in relation to the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and a number of other Black Americans, a series of recurring protests also resulted at the Santa Monica residence of County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl in Fall 2020, a staff report for Tuesday's City Council meeting states. "These protests, which went on for several weeks, involved nightly, hours-long uses of amplified sound in a residential neighborhood that appeared intended to and did unreasonably harass and disturb the privacy and tranquility of residents."

In response, staff is now proposing an ordinance that would implement "content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions" in a package of amendments, the staff report states. Each seeks to balance

SEE **PROTEST** PAGE 11

California could create new hotline for mental health calls

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California would take a step toward having counselors rather than police respond to people experiencing mental health crises under a bill backed Monday by gun-violence prevention groups.

Callers who dial or text 9-8-8 would be connected with counselors and could be assisted by mobile crisis support teams staffed with mental health professionals.

Backers say it's a better option than calling 9-1-1, where police are often the first responders and advocates say the situation too often rapidly turns violent. Those who still call the emergency line but report a mental health crisis would be transferred to 9-8-8 and dispatchers for both lines would be able to decide if police, fire or medical responders are needed.

"This bill can save lives that we are losing to suicide and shootings by police," said Krystal LoPilato, volunteer leader with California Moms Demand Action.

California's 9-8-8 bill is the state effort to create 988 hotlines by July 2022 under new rules from the Federal Communications Commission and Congress. It would be funded through a surcharge on phone lines similar to 911. Counties would separately have to provide the crisis services and mobile crisis teams.

The proposal is named after Miles Hall, a 23-year-old Black man who was fatally shot by Walnut Creek police in 2019, Democratic Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan of Orinda told members of the group and affiliated Students Demand Action during their virtual advocacy day.

"He was shot and killed in the middle of a schizophrenic episode when his mother was just trying to get him help," Bauer-Kahan said.

Spokesmen for California police chiefs and sheriffs said their organizations have not taken positions on it.

Other efforts also are trying to create alternatives to police for incidents that don't require a law enforcement presence.

Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager is trying again this year to pass what she's calling the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (CRISES) Act, after Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed it last year.

Her measure would create a pilot program of grants to community organizations that could step in instead of law enforcement for mental health, substance abuse and other nonviolent episodes. Newsom disagreed with how the proposed three-year, $250,000 minimum grant program would have been administered.

The gun-violence groups took no position on Kamlager's bill even as they sought increased funding for other violence intervention and gang prevention programs.

They are also backing legislation that would require every school district to send home information about securely storing firearms.

Newsom took no position on the bills in a one-minute video presentation Monday. He backed their work while briefly criticizing those opposed to the state's ban on ammunition magazines with more than 10 bullets and requiring background checks for gun-buyers.

California State Association of Counties spokeswoman Sara Floor said her organization had not taken a position. The County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California did not immediately comment.

"We'll have an easy number you can call and the counties will send direct mental health service teams to serve the community that needs it, rather than law enforcement, who aren't trained or equipped to do that," said Bauer-Kahan.

Taun Hall, Miles' mother, said in an earlier statement that she draws comfort thinking that the measure "might help save other children and spare other families this anguish."

Letter to the Editor

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

LA Councilman Mike Bonin, ("Councilman Bonin explains his approach to homelessness", March 5), is doing the right things locally to try to solve the crisis.

He's correct to pinpoint that the homeless crisis is about housing and jobs. People critically need a roof over their heads, and they need an income to pay for it.

Nationally, the failure of the current Congress last week, to pass a federal guaranteed $15 minimum wage, after all these years at $7.25, is a tragedy that will only exacerbate homelessness.

People will continue to lose their dwellings as housing costs increase and pay is not commensurate to pay for rent.

Under-paid workers everywhere from fast-food workers, home health aides, child care teachers, to retail employees are in the fight for survival to save their housing. And some workers are employed but also at the same time un-housed, wages are so low.

Actually, the minimum wage should be $24 an hour based on the cost of living and national rate of economic growth—but $15 would have a ripple effect and be a needed boost for all workers.

The global fight for $15 continues focused on Congress, where there's still a chance to directly fight homelessness and to fight for survival of the un-housed and those on the verge.

Andrew Liberman, Santa Monica

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 247 CALLS ON MARCH 7

Living In A Vehicle 2400blk 6th St 12:01 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 2200blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:30 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Lincoln Blvd / Michigan Ave 12:35 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Neilson Way / Hollister Ave 1:23 a.m.
Loud Music 1700blk 17th St 1:35 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:26 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 2:43 a.m.
Speeding 2000blk Ocean Ave 5:06 a.m.
Loud Music 2400blk 20th St 6:17 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 300blk California Ave 6:34 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 7:31 a.m.
Fraud 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 8:06 a.m.
Construction Noise 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:30 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1700blk Ocean Ave 8:45 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1100blk 9th St 8:48 a.m.
Encampment 1300blk The Beach 9:15 a.m.
Found Property 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:31 a.m.
Bike Theft 600blk California Ave 9:38 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200blk Harvard St 9:49 a.m.
Encampment 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 9:59 a.m.
Burglary 200blk Hollister Ave 10:00 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 900blk 2nd St 10:16 a.m.
Speeding Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 10:28 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 23rd St / San Vicente Blvd 10:30 a.m.
Burglary 900blk 9th St 10:52 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1300blk Lincoln Blvd 11:10 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1500blk 4th St 11:15 a.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper 100blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:18 a.m.
Grand Theft 400blk Hill St 11:24 a.m.
Encampment 700blk Olympic Blvd E 11:26 a.m.
Smoking Violation 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 11:36 a.m.
Burglary 2200blk Oak St 11:37 a.m.
Burglary 200blk Hollister Ave 11:43 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1100blk 25th St 11:53 a.m.
Covid 600blk Kensington Rd 11:56 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 11:58 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1300blk Ocean Ave 12:13 p.m.
Found Property 1200blk The Beach 12:18 p.m.
Loud Music 2300blk Main St 12:23 p.m.
Lost Property 1600blk Appian Way 12:28 p.m.
Loud Music 2400blk Main St 12:50 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1300blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:58 p.m.
Battery 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 1:07 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto In Progress 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:16 p.m.
Burglary 600blk Idaho Ave 1:24 p.m.
Fight 11th St / Pico Blvd 1:48 p.m.
Hit And Run 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 1:52 p.m.
Fight 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:58 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 2600blk Main St 2:08 p.m.
Petty Theft 800blk Grant St 2:15 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk Bay St 2:41 p.m.
Speeding 800blk Broadway 2:46 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 22nd St / San Vicente Blvd 2:55 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:57 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 2:58 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 3300blk Olympic Blvd 3:00 p.m.
Petty Theft 300blk Santa Monica Pier 3:01 p.m.
Assault 600blk Wilshire Blvd 3:03 p.m.
Speeding Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 3:21 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 3:27 p.m.
Runaway 900blk 11th St 3:31 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 800blk Broadway 3:33 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk Euclid St 3:35 p.m.
Fight 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 3:43 p.m.
Person Down 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:13 p.m.
Petty Theft 2600blk Barnard Way 4:29 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 4:38 p.m.
Bike Theft 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 4:40 p.m.
Loud Music 900blk 12th St 4:41 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1800blk 10th St 4:44 p.m.
Encampment 500blk Broadway 4:53 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 5:01 p.m.
Found Person 300blk Santa Monica Pier 5:20 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 100blk Wadsworth Ave 5:23 p.m.
Found Property 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:26 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 5:31 p.m.
Petty Theft 00blk Pacific Ter 5:37 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1200blk Princeton St 5:45 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1100blk 21st St 5:51 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 400blk Pico Blvd 6:11 p.m.
Hit And Run 900blk Palisades Beach Rd 6:12 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2nd St / Colorado Ave 6:42 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 00blk Marine Ter 6:54 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 34th St / Pearl St 6:56 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 9th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:00 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1800blk 18th St 7:09 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1600blk 4th St 7:15 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:27 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Cloverfield Blvd / Michigan Ave 7:42 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 2500blk 32nd St 7:48 p.m.
Prowler Just Left 2500blk 31st St 7:57 p.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 8:23 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper 300blk Santa Monica Pl 8:24 p.m.
Attempt Strongarm Robbery 1200blk 4th St 8:44 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 2200blk Dewey St 9:44 p.m.
Hit And Run 1500blk 2nd St 9:49 p.m.
Hit And Run 100blk Pacific St 9:51 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Neilson Way / Pacific St 9:54 p.m.
Missing Person 00blk Bay St 9:56 p.m.
Person With A Gun 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 10:51 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

Malibu Community Members Encouraged to Join Virtual Meeting to Review and Give Their Input on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Draft

The City's draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) will be presented to the public during a virtual meeting on Wednesday March 10, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Everyone in the community is encouraged to watch the meeting, ask questions and share their input. The meeting link is available at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746107778?from=addon#success.

"Wildfire is Malibu's number one public safety threat, and the City is doing everything possible to be prepared and provide residents the resources they need to achieve community-wide wildfire preparedness," said Mayor Mikke Pierson. "The Community Wildfire Protection Plan is a valuable tool and you can help make sure it is well suited to our community's particular needs by participating in the meeting, reviewing the draft and sharing your input."

In June of 2019, the City was awarded a $100,000 Cal Fire grant for the development of a CWPP. A CWPP identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and outlines an action plan that will protect at-risk communities and essential infrastructure from wildfire, as well as make recommendations to reduce structural ignitability throughout the community. Having a CWPP in place also increases the City's chances of securing grant funding to implement the recommended action items.

During the meeting, the City's consultant will present the results of their work over the last year, including two public stakeholder meetings, an online community survey, studying the local fire history and fuels, simulations with various fire progression software applications, and numerous site surveys throughout the City, and gather public comments on the draft CWPP. Questions and comments may also be sent by email to FireSafety@malibucity.org prior to the meeting. The draft plan is posted in the Fire Safety webpage at www.MalibuCity.org/FireSafety.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

Citywide

Interim City Manager Lane Dilg on the American Rescue Plan

Interim City Manager Lane Dilg released a statement Monday regarding Santa Monica's allocation under the proposed federal coronavirus relief program.

"The U.S. Senate passed an amended version of President Biden's $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan recovery and stimulus legislation, including the $350 billion state and local government relief. The passage of the American Rescue Plan is a huge step forward for working families in Santa Monica and across the country, and will provide much needed funding to accelerate vaccine rollout, reopen schools, and support small businesses in our community. In addition, the City is very pleased to be receiving $26.7 million from the bill to help offset the very substantial COVID-related revenue losses that the City budget has experienced over the first year of the pandemic.

It is important to remember that this one-time federal aid to the City represents a small fraction of the revenue lost in COVID and only approximately 4% of the City's current operating budget. We look forward to working with the City Council to program these funds as wisely as possible in our biennial budget process as we prioritize City services to see the community through this crucial recovery period to the very bright future that lies ahead."

SUBMITTED BY DEBBIE LEE

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 25 CALLS ON MARCH 7

EMS 1200blk 9th St 12:11 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 12:51 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 4:38 a.m.
EMS 2000blk 11th St 5:29 a.m.
EMS 2000blk 20th St 6:29 a.m.
EMS 400blk 18th St 7:24 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 6th St 9:16 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1000blk Pico Blvd 10:56 a.m.
Public Assist 1600blk California Ave 11:13 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 12:57 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2800blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:00 p.m.
Flooded Condition 2400blk 25th St 1:14 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1400blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:27 p.m.
EMS 900blk Pico Blvd 1:47 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 2nd St 2:04 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 2nd St 2:41 p.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 3:31 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 3:48 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 23rd St 5:59 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 2nd St 6:24 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1400blk Interstate 10 8:47 p.m.
Electrical Fire - No Fire Visible 2200blk Montana Ave 8:55 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 100blk Larkin Pl 9:56 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 4th St 10:33 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1400blk 2nd St 10:35 p.m.

Coronavirus (COVID -19) Hotline
310.458.8400
info@santamonica.gov
santamonica.gov/coronavirus

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA HOUSING AUTHORITY

DRAFT FY 2021-2022 ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN AND ANNUAL PLAN

The City Council/Housing Authority Board of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive comment and adopt proposed revisions to the Santa Monica Housing Authority's (SMHA) Administrative Plan and Annual Plan. The Administrative Plan and Annual Plan establish oversight policies to operate SMHA housing rental subsidy programs in a manner consistent with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. The draft Administrative Plan and Annual Plan are now posted for review during the 45-day public comment period ending April 19, 2021.

Both plans are available to view online here: https://www.santamonica.gov/housing-news. For reasonable accommodation for viewing the changes to the plans, please leave a message at 310-458-8743.

Please email your written comments to: smhousing@santamonica.gov

Or mail them to:
City of Santa Monica
Housing
1685 Main St., Mail Stop #19
Santa Monica, CA 90401

by April 19, 2021.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for April 27 at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference. You can find information regarding the City Council meeting, where the hearing will take place, here: https://www.smgov.net/departments/council/.

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Strictly Business

By David Pisarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Welcome To Strictly Business

I've always loved business. The ability to create money, opportunity and value for others is what makes a good business model. As a boy I wanted to be a great industrialist. Attending college in the late 80's the dream was to be a titan of American Capitalism like I learned about from the PBS show, "In Search of Excellence". The program showcased 8 companies business consultant Tom Peters chose from his book of the same title.

I recall sitting in the den of my mom's house with my best friend Eric and we would fantasize about the amazing business ideas our teenage brains could create. There were dreams of private jets, fast cars and a world of riches and impact that played out in our imaginations. We watched voraciously and learned lessons that to this day I employ when I have employees.

One of my favorite stories was the FedEx helicopter tale. In the early days of FedEx Fred Smith (when he was betting the entire company's cash in Vegas to make payroll – maybe a true story!) was building not just the company, but its ethos, its very culture was being pieced together with new adventures and happenings that would become corporate lore. As I recall the story, one of the outlying FedEx posts in Colorado had a load of packages that had to get to the central processing, but a huge snowstorm had come through and dumped too much snow for the trucks to make the drive. The station chief was living by the "absolutely, positively had to be there" credo that was the defining characteristic of the company, and was determined to not let his customers down.

As the day worn on, the roads weren't opened, but the weather broke enough for a helicopter to take off. So the chief did the only thing he could think of, he rented a helicopter to take the packages to the processing unit, at a cost of $13,000 if I remember rightly. Now any first day business student will tell you that is absolutely the stupidest thing to do. You don't spend $13,000 to send a few packages a few miles. But the chief was living what founder Fred Smith set out as a guiding principle – "absolutely, positively had to be there." He got the packages to the processing unit in time and made his clients wishes come true.

More importantly, when the expense report was submitted by the chief, he wasn't reprimanded, he got an approval. The message sent to the entire organization was that management would back up their people when they made tough calls. Of course he was told to not make a habit of it, but think of the value to the company's esprit du corps, and the value of that story, that I'm still telling it 30-40 years later. It was well spent money.

Today, as our world pulls itself out of a cataclysmic event, the pandemic and its profound impact on the world of business, I start a new column – Strictly Business. The focus will be on what companies are doing to regroup, reposition and respond to the epic changes in the way that business is conducted, how people interact with companies and what new expectations they have of how to get things done.

I'll be focusing on both individual companies and on industries, primarily local, smaller organizations that are having a direct impact on our community. Sometimes I'll be looking at an industry and how it's being impacted by the pandemic and what changes have been forced upon the players. I'll be working with entrepreneurs, C-Level Executives and industry professionals to bring you my view of what is happening, how it will help or hurt us, and what I see as the future of business in our world.

If you have good idea for a story, or know of a company that is innovating in some novel way that should be brought to a wider audience, please drop me an email at DAVID@SMDP.COM and let's see what the future is looking like.

Letter to the Editor

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

I don't get it. These images on TV — people defying their own good sense, running, maskless, amok. I understand that masks can be uncomfortable, even annoying. Mine likes to shoot up into my eyeballs when I smile.

I understand the urge to show the sickness that we are sick of it. Me, too. But the virus doesn't care. So there's No Real Power in attempting this.

I also understand that like true soldiers, our job is to fight this enemy to the end, out-endure it, make it collapse instead of ourselves. That is Where the Power Is.

What I don't understand is this: Yes, our Constitution protects even our right to be self-defeating. But why go there?

Lily Houston, Santa Monica

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WINNER

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Jury selection on pause for ex-cop charged in Floyd's death

AMY FORLITI AND STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

The judge overseeing the trial of a former Minneapolis police officer accused in George Floyd's death on Monday paused jury selection for at least a day while an appeal proceeds over the possible reinstatement of a third-degree murder charge.

As hundreds of protesters gathered outside the courthouse to call for the conviction of Derek Chauvin, Judge Peter Cahill said he does not have jurisdiction to rule on whether the third-degree murder charge should be reinstated while the issue is being appealed. But he said prosecutors' arguments that the whole case would be affected were "tenuous."

Cahill planned to go ahead with the trial anyway and initially ruled jury selection would begin as scheduled on Monday. But after prosecutors filed a request with the Court of Appeals to put the case on hold, the judge sent the potential jurors home for the day. With no ruling from the Court of Appeals by midday, Cahill proceeded with other pretrial matters, most of which were routine. Cahill said he would proceed with the trial unless the higher courts told him to stop.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed to dismiss 16 of the first 50 jurors they reviewed "for cause," which Cahill approved. There was no debate over why these jurors were dismissed so the reasons were unknown, but Cahill said earlier that attorneys would agree to dismiss jurors for cause based on their answers to a lengthy questionnaire. "For cause" dismissals can be for a host of reasons, including when someone expresses views that indicate they can't be impartial.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death. The Court of Appeals last week ordered Cahill to consider reinstating a third-degree murder charge that he had dismissed. Legal experts say reinstating the charge would improve the odds of getting a conviction.

Chauvin's attorney, Eric Nelson, said Monday he would ask the state Supreme Court to review the appellate ruling. He has 30 days to seek a review.

For the unintentional second-degree murder charge, prosecutors have to prove Chauvin's conduct was a "substantial causal factor" in Floyd's death, and that Chauvin was committing felony assault at the time. For third-degree murder, they must prove that Chauvin's actions caused Floyd's death, and that his actions were reckless and without regard for human life.

Floyd was declared dead May 25 after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against the handcuffed Black man's neck for about nine minutes, holding his position even after Floyd went limp. Floyd's death sparked sometimes violent protests in Minneapolis and beyond, and led to a nationwide reckoning on race.

Chauvin and three other officers were fired; the others face an August trial on aiding and abetting charges.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the courthouse as proceedings began, many carrying signs that read, "Justice for George Floyd" and "Convict Killer Cops."

One speaker took a microphone and decried the concrete barriers topped by chain-link fencing, barbed wire and razor wire set up around the courthouse. DJ Hooker, 26, also ridiculed talk of the Chauvin trial as "the trial of the century," saying the jury simply needs to "do the right thing."

He led the crowd in chants of "The whole world is watching!"

Inside the courtroom, Chauvin, in a blue suit and black mask, followed the proceedings attentively, making notes on a legal pad. Bridgett Floyd, George Floyd's sister, sat in the seat allocated to Floyd's family. No one attended to support Chauvin.

Once jury selection starts, it is expected to take at least three weeks, as prosecutors and defense attorneys try to weed out people who may be biased against them.

"You don't want jurors who are completely blank slates, because that would mean they're not in tune at all with the world," Susan Gaertner, a former prosecutor, said. "But what you want is jurors who can set aside opinions that have formed prior to walking into the courtroom and give both sides a fair hearing."

Nelson earlier argued that pretrial publicity of the case and the subsequent violent unrest in Minneapolis would make it impossible to find an impartial jury in Hennepin County. But Cahill said last year that moving the trial probably wouldn't cure the problem of a potentially tainted jury pool because "no corner of the State of Minnesota" has been shielded from pretrial publicity.

The potential jurors — who must be at least 18, U.S. citizens and residents of Hennepin County — were sent questionnaires to determine how much they have heard about the case and whether they've formed any opinions. Besides biographical and demographic information, jurors were asked about prior contacts with police, whether they have protested against police brutality and whether they believe the justice system is fair.

Some of the questions get specific, such as how often a potential juror has watched the bystander video of Floyd's arrest, or whether they carried a sign at a protest and what that sign said.

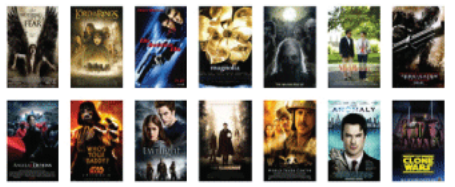
Unlike typical jury selection proceedings, potential jurors will be questioned individually. The judge, defense attorney and prosecutors can all ask questions. The defense can object to up to 15 potential jurors without giving a reason; prosecutors can block up to nine without providing a reason. Either side can object to these peremptory challenges if they believe the sole reason for disqualifying a juror is race or gender.

Both sides can also argue to dismiss an unlimited number of jurors "for cause," meaning they must provide a reason why they believe that juror shouldn't serve. It's up to the judge to decide whether a juror stays or goes.

Even if a juror says they have had a negative interaction with the police or hold negative views about Black Lives Matter, the key will be trying to find out whether they

SEE **FLOYD** PAGE 6

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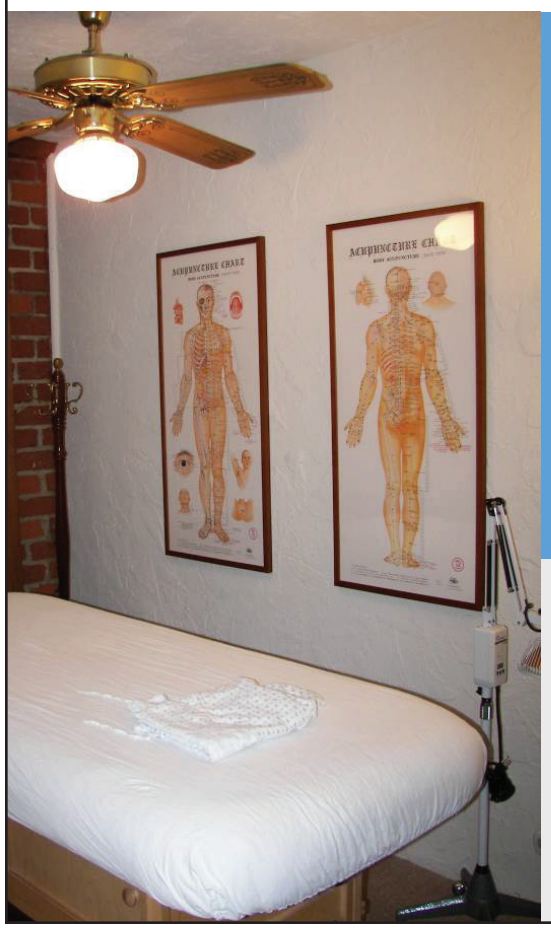
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TRANSIT

FROM PAGE 1

and the need for outdoor space grew, residents and the City reimagined how street space could be used for dining, shopping, safe socialization, and fitness.

"Twenty-two percent of Santa Monica's land area is streets and these are public spaces," said City Chief Mobility Officer, Francie Stefan. "I think that we've seen a really interesting cultural shift in people using the streets more, to be safe and maintain social distancing, but still have limited social contact and other kinds of activities they need for their livelihood."

Main Street is a prime example of reutilized street space.

With rows of k-rails hand painted by local artists sectioning off space on both sides of the road, this retail strip became Santa Monica's outdoor dining capital. Exercise centers like Circuit Works have been able to run classes in the street, while clothing stores have taken advantage of outdoor space to display their wares and attract customers.

Although there was fear that removing parking spaces would drive down visitors to Main Street, City data suggests that the opposite occurred.

"There was a 41 percent reduction in parking lot usage Citywide, however, Main Street had only a 24 percent decrease overall," said Stefan. "The lower reduction for Main Street indicates the Al Fresco project successfully helped mitigate the reduction of business activity during the pandemic."

Given the success of the Al Fresco program, both the City and individual businesses are examining ways to make outdoor dining a long-term fixture in Santa Monica.

Residential streets also saw a shift in use as families increasingly took to biking and outdoor games as Covid safe outlets. Once restrictions on gatherings are lifted, the City seeks to revitalize its 'block party program,' which allows neighbors to rent a-frame barriers to close their streets to traffic for limited periods of time.

'GREEN' TRANSIT GREW AND SUPPORTED ESSENTIAL WORKERS

While individual car traffic has been down over the course of the last year, the use of Big Blue Bus remained relatively high as it is a key means of transportation for essential workers. There was also a spike in bike sales and roller-blading and the City rolled out 18 miles of new protected bike lanes.

In order to provide guaranteed transport for essential workers Big Blue Bus waived fares for 11 months. It was able to offset this with over $24 million in CARES Act federal funding, which also covered fleet maintenance and PPE purchases.

BBB is operating at 75 percent of pre-pandemic services levels, providing as many as 16,000 daily weekday trips for essential frontline workers in the healthcare and service industries.

"The BBB team has done an outstanding job of providing continuity of service to our community and customers by delivering safe, sustainable, reliable, and effective transportation services in extremely challenging times," said Ed King, director of Transit Services.

Chief Mobility Officer Francie Stefan said she hopes many of the green travel habits — like biking, walking, or roller-blading — that people picked up during the pandemic will become a permanent part of their daily routines.

As more sectors of the economy reopen, traffic has partially rebounded in Santa Monica and greater Los Angeles. However, with many companies considering maintaining part or full-time remote work opportunities, there may be long-term decreases to rush hour traffic and pollution.

Clara@smdp.com

FLOYD

FROM PAGE 5

can put those past experiences or opinions aside and be fair, Mike Brandt, a local defense attorney, said.

"We all walk into these with biases. The question is, can you put those biases aside and be fair in this case," he said.

Jury selection will end after 14 people are picked — 12 jurors who will deliberate the case and two alternates who won't be part of deliberations unless needed. The jurors will be escorted to the courthouse daily and sequestered during deliberations. Their names will be kept confidential until further order of the court.

The number of seats in the courtroom has been limited to maintain social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and seats for jurors have been spaced out. Like others in the courtroom, jurors will be required to wear masks.

The earliest opening statements will begin is March 29.

Associated Press writer Mohamed Ibrahim contributed this report.

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Fully vaccinated people can gather without masks, CDC says

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

Fully vaccinated Americans can gather with other vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing, according to long-awaited guidance from federal health officials.

The recommendations also say that vaccinated people can come together in the same way — in a single household — with people considered at low-risk for severe disease, such as in the case of vaccinated grandparents visiting healthy children and grandchildren.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the guidance Monday.

The guidance is designed to address a growing demand, as more adults have been getting vaccinated and wondering if it gives them greater freedom to visit family members, travel, or do other things like they did before the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world last year.

"With more and more people vaccinated each day, we are starting to turn a corner," said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky.

During a press briefing Monday, she called the guidance a "first step" toward restoring normalcy in how people come together. She said more activities would be ok'd for vaccinated individuals once caseloads and deaths decline, more Americans are vaccinated, and as more science emerges on the ability of those who have been vaccinated to get and spread the virus.

The CDC is continuing to recommend that fully vaccinated people still wear well-fitted masks, avoid large gatherings, and physically distance themselves from others when out in public. The CDC also advised vaccinated people to get tested if they develop symptoms that could be related to COVID-19.

The CDC guidance did not speak to people who may have gained some level of immunity from being infected, and recovering from, the coronavirus.

Officials say a person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last required dose of vaccine. About 31 million Americans — or only about 9% of the U.S. population — have been fully vaccinated with a federally authorized COVID-19 vaccine so far, according to the CDC.

Authorized vaccine doses first became available in December, and they were products that required two doses spaced weeks apart. But since January, a small but growing number of Americans have been fully vaccinated, and have been asking questions like: Do I still have to wear a mask? Can I go to a bar now? Can I finally see my grandchildren?

The guidance was "welcome news to a nation that is understandably tired of the pandemic and longs to safely resume normal activities," said Dr. Richard Besser, president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a former acting director of the CDC.

"I hope that this new guidance provides the momentum for everyone to get vaccinated when they can and gives states the patience to follow the public health roadmap needed to reopen their economies and communities safely," said Besser, in a statement.

But some said the guidance is too cautious.

Dr. Ali Khan, dean of the University of Nebraska College of Public Health, said the guidance is reasonable in many respects — with the exception of travel.

The CDC did not change its recommendations on travel, which discourages unnecessary travel and calls for getting tested within a few days of the trip. That could seem confusing to vaccinated people hoping to visit family across the country or abroad.

"They need to relax travel for those vaccinated" and to immediately publish electronic standards for documents that show whether a person is fully vaccinated, said Khan, who formerly was a leading CDC disease detective.

The new guidance also says nothing about going to restaurants or other places, even though governors are lifting restrictions on businesses, said Dr. Leana Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University who formerly was Baltimore's health commissioner.

Wen has said the CDC should have had some kind of post-vaccination guidance ready in January, when some people first began to finish their second doses. And she called the guidance that came out Monday "far too cautious."

"The CDC is missing a major opportunity to tie vaccination status with reopening guidance. By coming out with such limited guidance, they are missing the window to influence state and national policy," Wen said, in an email.

But some people who are fully vaccinated were pleased by Monday's news.

Ruth Michienzi was among those receiving her second and final vaccine dose at a pharmacy inside a Stop and Shop supermarket in Woburn, Massachusetts on Monday morning.

The 91-year-old resident of nearby Burlington said she's fine with having to still wear a facemask in public and follow other safety guidelines even after being fully vaccinated.

But Michienzi also said she's excited to finally be able to take off her mask in front of her three great grandchildren. She's seen them in person since receiving her first shot about a month ago, but has kept her mask on.

"I hope they remember me," she said.

"I've been doing all of that for a year, and I don't want that year to be wasted," Michienzi said of the safety regulations. "I think it's smart to wait."

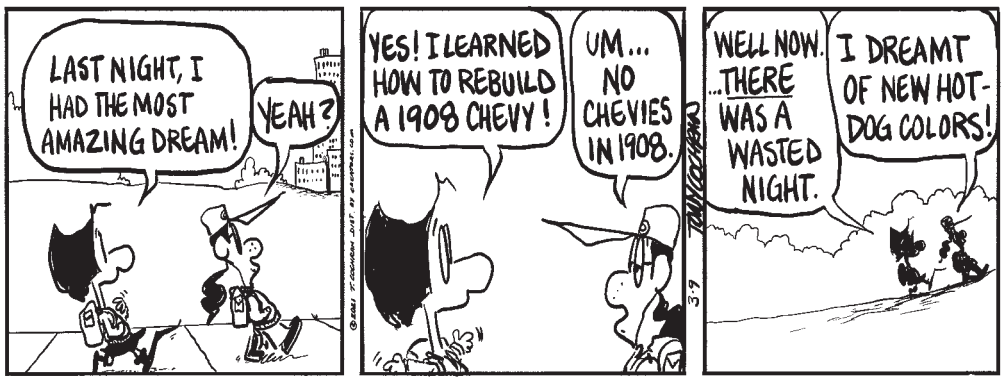
A pair of customers, who weren't in line to receive shots, though, openly groused about the continued restrictions and voiced fears that stricter mandates on travel and

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 11



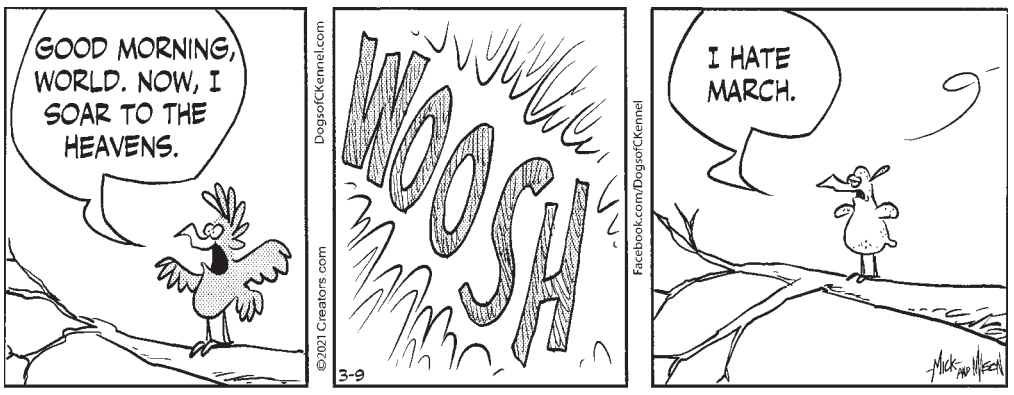
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



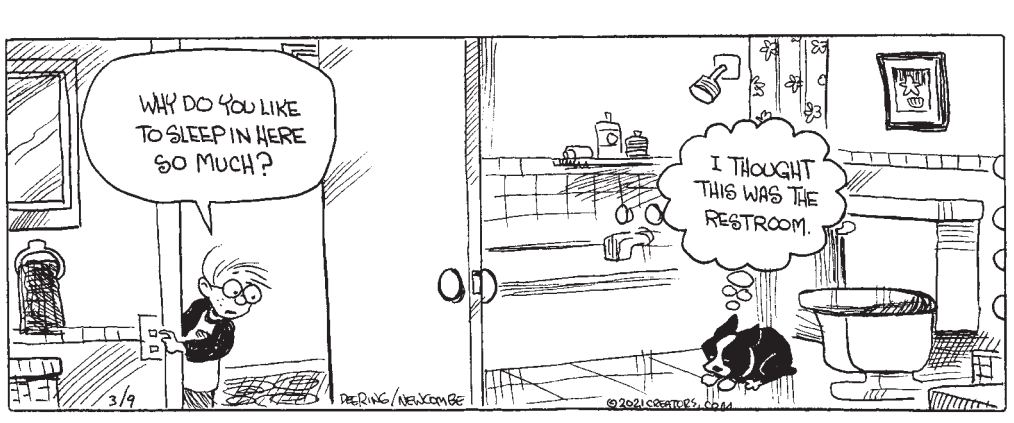
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

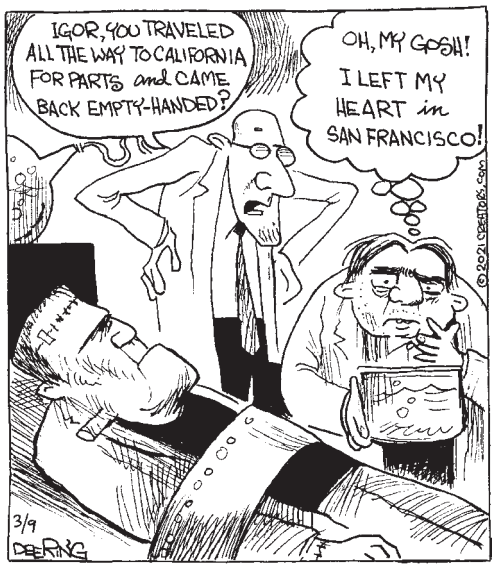
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HEATHCLIFF IS WEARING A HAM HELMET."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.0°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Onshore W-WNW wind most of the day, strong in the PM. Some of the points clean but very small (esp on the deep AM high tide).

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Incoming storm likely sets up onshore W wind most of the day and some rain. May be an ok window in the AM.

WEATHER

Tuesday: A 10 percent chance of rain after 4pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 58.
Tuesday Night: Rain, mainly after 4am. Low around 49.
Wednesday: Rain, with thunderstorms also possible after 10am. High near 56.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/03/09	Tue	12:20 AM	2.15	L
2021/03/09	Tue	06:20 AM	5.47	H
2021/03/09	Tue	1:29 PM	-1.02	L
2021/03/09	Tue	8:02 PM	4.04	H
2021/03/10	Wed	01:08 AM	1.73	L
2021/03/10	Wed	07:08 AM	5.64	H
2021/03/10	Wed	2:05 PM	-1.04	L
2021/03/10	Wed	8:29 PM	4.26	H
2021/03/11	Thu	01:48 AM	1.35	L
2021/03/11	Thu	07:50 AM	5.68	H
2021/03/11	Thu	2:36 PM	-0.91	L
2021/03/11	Thu	8:53 PM	4.44	H
2021/03/12	Fri	02:24 AM	1.04	L
2021/03/12	Fri	08:26 AM	5.56	H
2021/03/12	Fri	3:04 PM	-0.67	L
2021/03/12	Fri	9:17 PM	4.57	H
2021/03/13	Sat	02:59 AM	0.82	L
2021/03/13	Sat	09:01 AM	5.30	H
2021/03/13	Sat	3:30 PM	-0.34	L
2021/03/13	Sat	9:41 PM	4.66	H
2021/03/14	Sun	04:33 AM	0.68	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball calottery
Draw Date: 3/6
11 31 50 52 58
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 155 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 3/5
10 11 17 27 54
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 68 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 3/6
12 18 27 28 34
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 27 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 3/7
7 12 30 32 34

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 3/7
EVENING: 3 9 4

Draw Date: 3/7
MIDDAY: 3 5 5

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 3/7
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:45.00

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 9)

In the manner of opening a high window and making it rain with what you believe to be dollar bill equivalents, every day you'll give several small gifts. But these are not dollars; they are seeds, and they are worth more than you can imagine. You'll understand more fully in late August when you witness what took root and taste the fruit. Leo and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 38, 7 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. You'll be better off ignoring what you're bad at while you maximize your gifts. Put enough time into building your talent and your weaknesses become a moot point.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll find the proclamations of internet posts quite suspect. People put forth the face they want the world to see. The only way to know the inside of a person or relationship is to experience the inside of one's own being and life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your options may seem limited, but they are perfect for now. If you had any more, it would be confusing and hard to choose. Focus on the best choice you can make and from the next vantage point, you'll see much more.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll feel like you could use a break, and you're just the one to give it to yourself. Design it as you would any event you were throwing for a loved one -- with care and attention to detail.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Can you judge a book by its cover? That's debatable. But most readers would agree that you can't judge a book by its movie. Today's options include a long route and the Hollywood version, two entirely different experiences.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Once you decide to serve someone, you do it with full attention, paying special notice to the person's preferences and how they need a thing to be done. Then you give it without being asked. This is what will set you apart now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When a thing is chased, it runs. This is why you don't chase and instead focus on building attraction. Figuring out how to make a thing better is incredibly satisfying to you, and it pays off, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You crave the excitement and satisfaction that comes from growing your knowledge. And the beautiful thing about learning in the current age is that there is almost always a low-cost version, so shop around a bit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If a thing can't be proven, why argue over whether it's true or false? There's a good reason: The argument isn't about its topic; rather, it's about the dynamic and status of those in the fight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are many ways to discuss problems, including not discussing and hoping it goes away. Be brave and proactive. The adage "Tell me early, I'm your friend. Tell me late, I'm your critic" will apply.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sacrifice, by definition, is a loss. But when you sacrifice for love, it will be impossible to lose. Because no matter what you lay down at the altar of love, the act of giving makes you richer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Some think you should suffer for art/love/work, and some don't think so and are still successful by all accounts. Really, this will go down according to your beliefs, so you may as well believe in an enjoyable direction.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

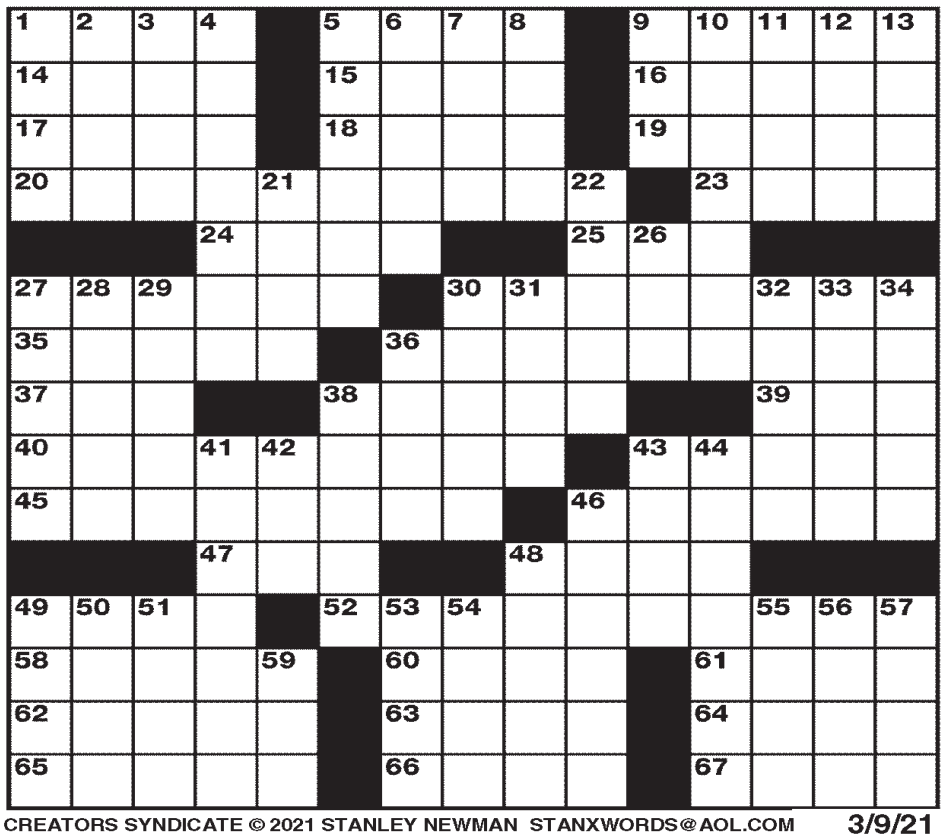
	7	6						
	9			6	1			7
3				7	2		9	
	3					5		
7		4	2	5	8	9		6
		9					2	
	4		8	1				2
5			4	2			1	
						7	4	

Newsday Crossword

MARCH HAIR by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Typical Saudi
5 Hair tool with teeth
9 Small tastes of food
14 Rude person
15 Opera singer's solo
16 Customary
17 Walking stick
18 Not so much
19 Gossipy person
20 Tight-braided hair associated with Jamaica
23 Sunrise direction
24 Tips of shoes
25 Novelist __ Tan
27 Burrowing rodent
30 Investigate something further
35 Farmland measures
36 Vertical hair near the ears
37 1101, in Roman numerals
38 Bottoms of shoes
39 Approximate landing hr.
40 Horizontal hair on upper lips
43 Pesto sauce herb
45 Article of combat footwear
46 Methodical procedure
47 Church bench
48 Swearing-in ritual
49 Hikers' walkway
52 Chin hair that comes with Santa suits
58 Not at all interested
60 Olympic vaulter's tool
61 No longer worth debating
62 Helicopter blade
63 At any time
64 Alternatively
65 Very small
66 Fathers, informally
67 Not shallow

DOWN
1 Alphabet starters
2 Sound from a loud crowd
3 Top-rated
4 Inhale and exhale
5 Person phoning you
6 Triple-decker cookies
7 "Other" category: Abbr.
8 Lie in the sun
9 Make a purchase
10 Phrase after "Peekaboo!"
11 __ fish sandwich
12 Has a meal
13 Window blind strip
21 Accomplishes
22 Percent-off promotions
26 World Series org.
27 Third Greek letter
28 Happen
29 Crystal that splits light
30 __ mignon (beef dish)
31 Praiseful poems
32 Seize
33 Disconnect, as a rope
34 Biblical song
36 London neighborhood
38 Angry expression
41 Pacific cyclone
42 Prez on a penny
43 Computer storage measure
44 Feeling very regretful
46 Cavalry swords
48 Stared at
49 Line made by a 5 Across
50 Natural burn soother
51 Carryall bag
53 Guest columnist's piece
54 Halifax, __ Scotia
55 __ model (person to emulate)
56 Unit of medicine
57 Escalator surface
59 Cook in hot oil



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Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I
O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I
I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O
O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O
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"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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5047

The wine industry

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

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Blend
Body
Brut
Cab sav
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Claret
Cold
Cork
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Cuvee
Decant
Fermentation
Fizz
Flask
Flute
Fruit
Grape
Hunter
Lees
Mead
Merlot
Moselle
Mull
Muscat
Negus
Orange
Reds
Rich
Riesling
Ruby
Seve
Sauvignon blanc
Sherry
Shiraz
Sweet
Tokay
Tun
Urns
Vines
White

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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PROTEST

FROM PAGE 1

the First Amendment rights of those who wish to engage in expressive activity through public events and assemblies, while also upholding two other significant City interests; which include safeguarding City residents, business owners, police, and protesters from violence; and protecting residential privacy and tranquility.

"I have absolutely nothing against protests. And people should march; people should have placards and if people want to use their voices to express themselves on a street corner or in front of a house, they should be allowed to. But, as we've seen, both, at a protest in front of Assemblymember Bloom's house and Supervisor Kuehl's house, it can sometimes go too far," said Councilmember Phil Brock, who originally asked for the item to be placed on the agenda back in December.

During the same discussion, Councilmember Kevin McKeown said the actions highlighted by Brock constitute "hooliganism" that's already illegal. Like other councilmembers, he also shared a reluctance to pass an ordinance that could potentially stifle free speech and violate first amendment rights.

Even so, Council supported staff returning with more information on the matter as well as any suggested actions that would reduce prolonged noise during protest activities in residential neighborhoods while still upholding First Amendment rights.

"What has come back for us tomorrow night reveals that our existing law already covered the issues of concern, although enforcement decisions may sometimes be difficult," McKeown said Monday while he detailed the strong public opposition that he has received since the public became aware of the upcoming discussion.

"The emails to the Council so far, as of noon Monday," McKeown said, "are about 20 to one against our adopting the proposed amendments to local law."

Brennon@smdp.com

HERO PAY

FROM PAGE 1

sunsets in 120 days.

The law is similar to the one recently passed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, who were among the first to discuss an ordinance requiring a $5 increase in per hour pay for essential workers back in early January. A week later, City Council members followed suit and unanimously agreed to pass a temporary ordinance once the County came back with a finalized draft of their own proposal.

Since then, local Hero Pay efforts have been on hold, but cities like Long Beach, Oakland and Los Angeles passed Hero Pay ordinances of their own and ignited controversy.

Almost immediately after Long Beach passed its ordinance, which is similar to the one proposed in Santa Monica, Kroger Co. officials said they will close two supermarkets in Long Beach as a direct response to the city's mandate.

Kroger isn't the only chain that's opposing the various hero pay ordinances that are now emerging in cities across the County though.

Jon Basalone, Trader Joe's President of Stores, recently penned a letter to Santa Monica councilmembers outlining a number of reasons why the grocer should be exempt from any law relating to Hero Pay.

"We hope the information in this letter will help you understand why a 'one size fits all' approach to increasing pay at all Santa Monica grocery stores is not necessary, and current compensation and/or COVID-19 safety performance should be factored in to your consideration," Basalone said in the letter that's available online.

However, not everybody agrees.

"Eight full weeks have passed since I first introduced 'hero pay' at the Santa Monica City Council, during which grocery and drugstore workers have continued to risk their own health to keep our families fed and healthy," Councilmember Kevin McKeown said Monday. "I hope Tuesday night the Council will join me in waiting no longer and deciding that 'hero pay' should take effect immediately."

Local resident Maurice Frazier said Monday he has similar desires.

"City council should approve the hero pay because it's the right thing to do. We are heroes during this pandemic and put our lives, literally, on the line to make sure this community can get their goods and services," he said as he detailed how his peers have been exposed to Covid or had to stay home due to potential exposure. "It's a matter of keeping a roof over one's head, food on the table, gas in their cars or just having the basic needs for day to day living."

"We've been going through this pandemic for a year now and you would be surprised at how many people have to be reminded about pulling up their mask, social distance, etc. It's getting to the point where people are very rude and disrespectful. This pandemic is real. People need to realize that," Frazier added. "This hero pay would help me and a lot of my coworkers out greatly. It means I would be able to catch up and pay off bills that have been behind because of COVID. It would break the burden of pressure and help me reset."

Councilmember Oscar de la Torre said Monday he intends to support the ordinance.

"The pandemic has taught us that our well being is dependent on the sacrifices and commitment of those workers on the front line," de la Torre said. "On principle, larger companies who have seen profits should share these gains, even if it's temporary, with their front line employees."

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

VACCINE

FROM PAGE 7

socializing would follow, even as more are vaccinated.

Grace McShane, 61, of Melrose, also received her second dose Monday at the same supermarket.

She says she qualified for the vaccine because she's high risk, including suffering a heart attack last year. The in-home caregiver said she too was fine with the continued restrictions even after being vaccinated.

"Even if you're vaccinated, it's better to be safe than sorry. This is the new normal. This is part of life and you just have to adapt to it," McShane said.

She said she's looking forward to hugging her three grandchildren without having to wear a mask. Her grown children have also been vaccinated as essential workers, she said.

"Just cuddle and give them hugs," McShane said. "That's all I want to do."

Associated Press reporters Phil Marcelo in Boston and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

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Classifieds
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For Sale	WantedvvTravel	Commercial Lease	Services	Fitness	Obituaries
Furniture	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Wealth and Success	Tutoring
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Help Wanted

R We are looking for a dedicated, dynamic and result driven manager for our LA stores located in Walnut and Steven Son Ranch. The right candidate should have managerial experience , and knowledge of Indian spices. We are looking for a career oriented team member who can manage a motivated team of employees. Please email malhi@thecurrypizzacompany.com for more details.

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