smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

FRIDAY
05.21.21
Volume 20 Issue 161

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City Manager search continues Saturday

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

The Council meeting of June 22 will be the last for Interim City Manager Lane Dilg but establishing who, if anyone, will fill her seat after her departure remains uncertain.

Dilg has held the Interim role for just about 13 months and previously informed City Hall she would be relocating to Washington D.C. with her family. The June 22 meeting was established as her departure date as it marks the adoption of the annual budget but Council has yet to announce a replacement, interim or otherwise.

Council began interviewing candidates for the permanent job last week and according to a closed session agenda for a special meeting this weekend, those interviews will continue. Should council need more

SEE **CITY MANAGER** PAGE 11

Woman arrested for firing a gun during argument

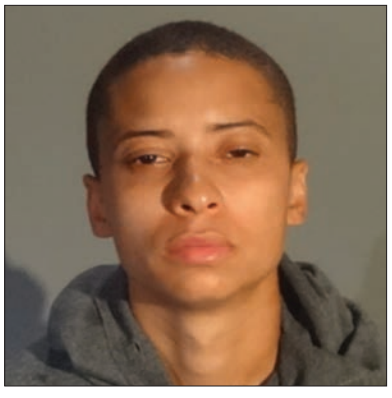
MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A woman has been arrested for firing a gun during an argument with a homeless man.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department, charges have been filed against Tarra Kenay Sheffield, a 27, for her involvement in the shooting.

SMPD said the incident began on May 17 at about 12:30 p.m. in an alley on the 2400 block of Ocean Park Blvd.

"The victim was in the alleyway pushing a stroller filled with personal property, when a vehicle drove past him. That vehicle suddenly reversed and hit the victim's stroller causing all the items to fall out and scatter onto the ground. The driver of the vehicle, later identified as Sheffield, got out of the car, and walked to the victim, while he (victim) was gathering his belongings. Sheffield said a few words to the victim, as she produced a handgun and fired one round to the ground in close proximity to the victim. Sheffield then got back into her car and quickly drove away," said SMPD Spokesman Lt. Rudy Flores.



Courtesy photo

ARREST: Tarra Sheffield was arrested for weapons charges.

Sheffield was located the next day on the 600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Detectives located a loaded 9mm handgun, with no make or model, inside of the vehicle.

According to Flores, the Los Angeles County's District Attorney's Office charged Sheffield with assault with a firearm, assault with a semi-automatic firearm and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Anyone with any information is encouraged to contact Detective Tavera at (310) 458-2201 ext. 2256 or the Watch Commander (24 hours) at (310) 458-2249.

Santa Monica Libraries launch tech savvy reopening



	Main Library (In Person)	Pico Branch Library (Curbside)	Montana Avenue Branch Library (Curbside)	Telephone and Email Service
Monday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Closed	Closed	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Closed	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday	Closed	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Closed	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 1st Saturday of each	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 1st Saturday of each month	Closed	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 1st Saturday of each month
Sunday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

Courtesy images

OPEN: Local libraries are adopting self-service models to increase the services available.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Faced with a drastically slashed budget, the Santa Monica Public Library is launching a unique self-service model to bring as many of its in-person services back to the public as possible.

Starting June 1, the Main Library at 601 Santa Monica Blvd will open access to its first floor. Residents are welcome to browse the collection, make use of computers and printers, and check out items. Staff members will remain onsite to answer questions and assist with services.

A month later on July 1, the Ocean Park Branch at 2601 Main Street will open with a new self-service model, allowing users to independently use the computers, check out and return items, and explore the collection.

This is an exciting reversal of fortune for the library team, who previously feared they would not have the ability to reopen multiple branches. Due to the City's budget restructuring in 2020, the library went from 112 full-time equivalent staff members to just 47.

"When COVID happened we really lost all of our capacity and resources and there was a lot of demand to open up all of our facilities, but we really couldn't given our limited staffing," said Library Services Director Patty Wong. "Luckily, it just so happened that the State Library of California had initiated grants to give 10 self-

SEE **REOPENING** PAGE 11



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US jobless claims fall again as some states end federal aid

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

Fewer Americans sought unemployment benefits last week — the latest encouraging sign for the rebounding U.S. economy — just as Republican-led states are moving to cut off a federal benefit for the jobless.

Twenty-two states, from Texas and Georgia to Ohio and Iowa, plan to begin blocking a $300-a-week federal payment for the unemployed starting in June, according to an Associated Press analysis. All have Republican governors and legislatures.

Recipients have been able to receive the $300 federal benefit on top of their regular state unemployment aid. The payment, which lasts nationwide until Sept. 6, was included in President Joe Biden's $1.9 trillion financial rescue package.

The states that plan to cut off the federal benefit represent nearly every one that is controlled fully by Republicans. Florida is considering ending the supplemental payment. And Nebraska, which officially has a nonpartisan legislature, has said it will maintain the payments while it evaluates all pandemic-related jobless benefits.

The move is also being considered in two additional states that have Democratic governors, Kansas and Wisconsin, though the Wisconsin governor is likely to veto any rollback passed by the legislature. As a result of the action, about 3.5 million people will have their benefits reduced in the coming months, according to Oxford Economics.

Those cutoffs coincide with a steady decline in the number of Americans seeking unemployment aid, which fell last week to 444,000, a new pandemic low, the Labor Department said Thursday. Jobless claims have now dropped in five of the past six weeks, a sign that the economy keeps strengthening as consumers spend freely again, viral infections drop and business restrictions ease.

In addition to ending the extra payment, most of the same states are also withdrawing from programs that provide jobless aid to self-employed or gig workers and to people who have been unemployed for more than six months.

Among them is Latricia Hampton, who worries that without the $300 weekly federal check, she will fall behind on her mobile phone and internet bills.

"Those smaller bills are what I'm going to have to get rid of," said Hampton, 40, who lives in Gary, Indiana. "That might not sound like much to some people, but that's another barrier to me finding work. That's my kids who can't do schoolwork at home on the computer."

Hampton had worked at a hair salon near Gary until last April, when it shut down because of the pandemic. Now, she spends hours a day applying for jobs on her phone but has yet to make it past the interview stage. She also has had trouble finding jobs that fit with her two young children's schedules, who are 4 and 8.

"It's not like I can just go pick up a job at McDonald's, and that'll solve my problems," she said. "I have two young kids. They need me, and when I'm not there, they need to be cared for. I'm a working-class single parent. We still need help in this pandemic, not pushed off the edge of a cliff and told to fly again."

About 16 million people were receiving unemployment benefits during the week ending May 1, the latest period for which data is available, the government said Thursday. That is down from 16.9 million in the previous week, and it suggests that some Americans who had been receiving aid have found jobs.

In Oklahoma, Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt said this week that the state will end the federal benefit on June 26. That was unhappy news for Gilbert Cruz and his wife, Marrissa Enloe-Cruz, whose graphic design company in Tulsa has suffered a collapse in business since the pandemic struck.

Both received jobless aid under the program for self-employed. Now, they're unsure what they'll do, especially because they're uneasy about sending their 7-year-old son back to school before being vaccinated.

"It's going to mean picking and choosing what bills to pay, or getting behind on things," Enloe-Cruz said. "It will mean whether or not we're able to put food on the table."

Eliminating the $300-a-week payment is one of several measures that states have taken to restrict or eliminate jobless aid and press more recipients to seek work. That trend gained momentum after the April jobs report, released earlier this month, showed that employers added far fewer jobs than expected, in part because many couldn't find enough workers.

Research suggests that roughly half the unemployed are receiving more income from jobless benefits, when you include the weekly $300 federal supplement, than their former jobs paid them. An analysis by Bank of America found that people who earned under $32,000 at their old jobs are likely now receiving more in unemployment aid than they did from working.

Yet some point to the steady decline in

SEE **JOBLESS** PAGE 6

COME SUPPORT SAMOHI CLASS OF 2021

BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, MAY 23RD, FROM 9:30 A.M. TO 6 P.M.,

Next to Bubble Beach Laudromat, 2633 Main Street in Santa Monica, to benefit grad night for Samohi senior. We'll also have lawn signs and be accepting donations.

Reporter's driverless van ride: Cool tech, freaky turns

JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press

The annoyed shopper paced around and knocked on the windows of a minivan blocking him from leaving his Costco parking spot. He didn't seem to notice, or care, that there was no one inside.

A colleague and I had called for the Waymo ride — our first in a fully driverless vehicle — and quickly encountered a hiccup: figuring out how to tell it to meet us at the curb.

We ended up spotting the minivan across the bustling parking lot, and hurried over. As we pulled away, the shopper raised his arm and extended his middle finger.

Welcome to the United States' first large-scale ride-hailing service with no backup drivers, which Waymo recently launched in suburban Phoenix.

An AP photographer and I took it for a spin and discovered some impressive technology. Waymo's minivans skillfully adhere to traffic laws and can detect people, vehicles and objects from several hundred yards away.

But amid the advances lurk challenges that developers face as they race to bring autonomous cars to the masses: adapting the machinery to human behavior — and getting passengers to feel at ease without a person behind the wheel.

"The technology is great, but the experience isn't there yet," said Andrew Maynard, a professor at Arizona State University's College of Global Futures who studies the social and ethical aspects of autonomous vehicles and other emerging technologies.

Waymo, a unit of Google parent Alphabet Inc., is one of several companies testing driverless vehicles in the U.S. While there are some low-speed driverless shuttle services in operation, Waymo is the first offering lifts to the public at roadway speeds with no human in the driver's seat who can take over in sticky situations.

During our rides, the minivans slowed for speed bumps and carried out a textbook right-on-red turn. Most impressive was a careful maneuver at a green light where a woman with a walker stood dangerously close to the corner.

But customers in crowded parking lots might find it hard to pinpoint pickup locations without drivers who can call, text or simply watch for them.

A Waymo minivan also made an aggressive turn at a green light that we would have never taken. Another failed to go the requested location, dropping us off about a four-minute walk away.

And watching the wheel turn by itself was, well, eerie.

The company said it is listening closely to customer feedback and acknowledges it needs to improve passenger pickups. It's also working to set the proper expectations with riders and has launched a campaign that provides tips.

Automakers and tech companies were moving quickly to put self-driving vehicles in action in 2018, but a fatal crash involving an Uber test vehicle in Tempe slowed development.

Only recently did the industry show signs of recovery. Still, most experts believe there won't be widespread use for another five years or so, and autonomous vehicles won't be in every major city until at least late this decade.

Waymo started offering autonomous rides to a limited number of customers during 2019 in an early testing program in Arizona. Last fall, it opened its ride-hailing program to anyone seeking a ride within its 50-square-mile (129-square-kilometer) service area covering parts of Chandler, Tempe and Mesa.

Our trip began with a welcome from the minivan — an automated voice correctly pronounced my French first name, which people often mangle. A partition separated the empty front seats from the rest of the vehicle, with a sign saying, "Don't touch the steering wheel."

I felt uneasy as the minivan crept into an intersection and waited for oncoming traffic to pass before making a left turn. It was as if a ghost was handling the steering wheel.

My jitters lifted until minutes later, when we made a bold left turn at another green light.

With several oncoming cars zipping toward us, the minivan darted across the road into a parking lot. Though we didn't come close to crashing, the turn frightened us.

Waymo later examined the maneuver, saying the cameras and remote-sensing technology in a dome atop the minivan had detected the oncoming cars, knew their speed and understood that the vehicle could make the turn safely.

"In your case, it was certainly safe," Saswat Panigrahi, a senior product manager at Waymo, told me.

The company said customers' comments are being used to refine its autonomous driving systems and user interfaces to address such safety concerns.

Its ride-hailing program serves hundreds of passengers each week and offers prices in line with Uber and Lyft. Waymo runs 300 to 400 vehicles in Arizona for the program and testing.

We hailed another Waymo minivan to a public library, but were dropped off on a nearby private street instead. Panigrahi believes the minivan might have been rerouted due to traffic or a road closure in the area.

From there, we tried to catch a ride back to Costco, but Waymo canceled four trip requests and stopped accepting my credit card as a fraud prevention measure, because several requests had been made in a matter of minutes.

With my Waymo account locked up, I requested a ride from another ride-hailing service with a human driver. He warmly chitchatted about his career plans but, when first picking us up, carefully avoided trying to pronounce my name.

Associated Press writer Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed to this report.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 252 CALLS ON MAY 19

Medical Aid Alarm 1800blk Oak St 5:09 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Palisades Park 6:08 a.m.
Encampment 1000blk The Beach 6:13 a.m.
Battery 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 6:35 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 500blk Hill St 6:38 a.m.
Construction Noise 2300blk Ashland Ave 7:10 a.m.
Loud Music 2800blk Neilson Way 7:43 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 800blk San Vicente Blvd 8:04 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600blk Georgina Ave 8:12 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1300blk 17th St 8:14 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 900blk 4th St 8:15 a.m.
Encampment 2500blk The Beach 8:20 a.m.
Malicious Mischief 1700blk Ocean Ave 8:20 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1000blk Grant St 8:23 a.m.
Found Property 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 8:40 a.m.
Bike Theft 1500blk 2nd St 8:55 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 800blk Ashland Ave 9:00 a.m.
Burglary 1600blk 19th St 9:05 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:05 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 900blk 15th St 9:06 a.m.
Encampment 800blk Stanford St 9:08 a.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:17 a.m.
Burglary 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:29 a.m.
Encampment 2300blk 25th St 9:55 a.m.
Person With A Gun 100blk Broadway 9:56 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk The Beach 10:07 a.m.
Burglary 900blk 7th St 10:17 a.m.
Burglary 1900blk 18th St 10:19 a.m.
Encampment 1200blk Interstate 10 10:30 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Ocean Ave / California Incline 10:46 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 11th St 10:52 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1200blk 10th St 10:54 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk 12th St 10:55 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1200blk 16th St 11:11 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 600blk Ozone St 11:17 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1200blk 15th St 11:18 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1100blk Centinela Ave 11:21 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 19th St 11:25 a.m.
Identity Theft 300blk Arizona Ave 11:32 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 11:33 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:35 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 700blk Cedar St 11:38 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2500blk Virginia Ave 12:44 p.m.
Loud Music 2500blk Main St 12:48 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:51 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 14th St / Montana Ave 12:55 p.m.
Medical Emergency 300blk Santa Monica Pier 12:56 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 400blk 19th St 12:59 p.m.
Encampment 1300blk Palisades Beach Rd 1:13 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1700blk Georgina Ave 1:15 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Hart Ave 1:16 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 700blk Pier Ave 1:29 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1400blk Olympic Blvd 1:31 p.m.
Loud Music 2500blk Main St 1:32 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 1:33 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 300blk Olympic Dr 1:47 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1700blk California Ave 1:53 p.m.
Burglary 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:54 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 600blk Arizona Ave 2:01 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 26th St / Arizona Ave 2:14 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk Berkeley St 3:05 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1400blk 9th St 3:11 p.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 3:15 p.m.
Petty Theft 200blk 21st St 3:31 p.m.
Loud Music 00blk Bay St 3:35 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 300blk Olympic Dr 3:41 p.m.
Auto Burglary 400blk San Vicente Blvd 4:08 p.m.
Fight 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 4:14 p.m.
Petty Theft 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 4:14 p.m.
Fight 2200blk Virginia Ave 4:22 p.m.
Fight 2200blk Virginia Ave 4:26 p.m.
Battery 900blk Wilshire Blvd 4:52 p.m.
Petty Theft 200blk Broadway 4:55 p.m.
Burglary 900blk 18th St 4:59 p.m.
Burglary 2000blk California Ave 5:23 p.m.
Petty Theft 700blk Ozone St 5:34 p.m.
Burglary 2800blk 2nd St 5:36 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Ocean Ave 5:53 p.m.
Auto Burglary 2900blk Neilson Way 5:57 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 400blk Raymond Ave 6:31 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1800blk Euclid St 6:31 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2500blk 28th St 6:38 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 400blk Ocean Ave 6:57 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 200blk San Vicente Blvd 7:04 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:15 p.m.
Family Disturbance 100blk Hart Ave 7:38 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Ocean Ave / Alta Ave 7:40 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk 4th St 7:56 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1800blk Main St 8:00 p.m.
Malicious Mischief 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 8:24 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 8:30 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1300blk Euclid St 9:01 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900blk Montana Ave 10:12 p.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 1100blk Centinela Ave 10:34 p.m.
Loud Music 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 10:41 p.m.
Burglary Now 700blk 25th St 11:05 p.m.
Drinking In Public 600blk Wilshire Blvd 11:16 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 26 CALLS ON MAY 19

EMS 1200blk 7th St 12:05 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 12:46 a.m.
Public Assist 800blk Ocean Ave 12:50 a.m.
EMS 700blk Broadway 1:08 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:33 a.m.
EMS 18th St / California Ave 9:22 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 10:30 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Ocean Ave 10:40 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:59 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:27 p.m.
EMS 900blk 24th St 12:36 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 1:27 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Ashland Ave 2:15 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 21st St 3:35 p.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 1900blk Euclid St 4:16 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:39 p.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 4:42 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 2nd St 5:02 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 7th St 5:44 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 7th St 6:14 p.m.
EMS 2500blk 28th St 6:38 p.m.
EMS 1700blk California Ave 8:43 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk 18th St 8:51 p.m.
EMS 100blk Wilshire Blvd 9:13 p.m.
EMS 600blk Wilshire Blvd 9:31 p.m.
EMS 2100blk 23rd St 10:47 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

By Michael Clarke — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Vile conspiracies

I appreciated the letter from Peter Harding comparing the recall efforts to QAnon and other right-wing conspiracies. The truth is, the SMMUSD recall campaign does have disturbing similarities to some of the most vile conspiracies we now see regularly on the national stage.

The most vocal supporters of the SMMUSD recall spend a lot of time on Facebook groups like Santa Monica Now. I would encourage anyone interested in learning more about the motivations of the recall supporters to spend some time in those groups. The discussions are unhinged. Innuendo, character assassinations, racism, and xenophobia are common. And although these are moderated pages, the moderators (including Councilmember Phil Brock and former Mayor Mike Feinstein) almost never intervene.

Toxicity is ruining national politics. If more responsible people do not speak up, that same toxicity will ruin politics here in Santa Monica also.

Michael Clarke, Santa Monica







WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS.



Robert Lemle

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Malibu

City of Malibu Continues the Valuable Fire Hardening Home Assessments

As part of Malibu's ongoing efforts toward community-wide wildfire preparedness, and with the appointment of Chris Brossard as the new Fire Safety Liaison, the City continues to offer its no-cost Home Ignition Zone Assessment Program to help residents harden their homes against flying embers, a major cause of homes igniting during wildfires.

During the County and State novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic stay-at-home orders, the service is provided by a single staff member, using personal protective equipment (PPE) and maintaining physical distancing to help slow the spread of the coronavirus and protect vulnerable people.

"Wildfires don't stay home during the pandemic, and our next big fire is always around the corner, so we need to continue to do everything possible to enhance wildfire preparedness in the community," said Mayor Mikke Pierson. "I am proud that the City is able to continue offering this incredibly valuable service for our community and I encourage all homeowners to contact Fire Safety Liaison Chris Brossard so they can better protect their home and family."

During wind-driven wildfires such as the Woolsey Fire, powerful, sustained winds can send burning embers traveling up to a few miles ahead of the fire front. According to fire behavior experts, more than 50% of homes lost during a wildfire catch fire due to flying embers, not direct flame contact or radiant heat. That means that all homes in Malibu are vulnerable.

The City's first Fire Safety Liaison Jerry Vandermeulen, started offering this service for residents in 2019. The City's new Fire Safety Liaison, Chris Brossard, hired in March 2021, will continue and expand upon this program to assist all Malibu residents enhance their wildfire preparedness

Chris is an experienced former wildlands firefighter with the National Forest Service, and is trained in identifying specific areas that wildfire embers can find receptive fuels in and around a home. He will inspect your home and make recommendations on how to make it more fire resistant. There are simple and often inexpensive ways to make homes safer from wildfire, including modifying landscaping around the home, sealing eaves, and moving flammable materials away from structures.

More than 200 homeowners throughout the City of Malibu and surrounding areas have received fire hardening home assessments since the City launched the program in August 2019.

Brossard is also available to meet with individuals, business owners, homeowners associations, or multifamily residential property owners or managers to offer guidance on brush clearance and home hardening. He can also explain how to monitor wildfire conditions, how to use Pulsepoint and other tools to maintain good situational awareness well in advance of a wildfire, and how to prepare emergency and evacuation plans and supply kits.

To schedule an appointment, visit https://www.malibucity.org/FireSafety and click on the "Online Scheduling System" or contact Chris Brossard at 310-456-2489, ext. 387 or FireSafety@malibucity.org.

For additional wildfire preparedness information, visit the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Ready, Set, Go program at https://fire.lacounty.gov/ready-set-go.pdf.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON MAY 20, AT ABOUT 3:25 A.M.

On Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Officers were dispatched to a business in the 1600 block of 19th Street regarding a Burglary in progress. The reporting party, an employee of the business, told police dispatch that he could hear someone on the roof. He also mentioned that the business was burglarized the night before. When officers arrived on scene, they observed an individual on the rooftop carrying a stolen item. Upon seeing the officers, the male quickly retreated out of sight. The male suspect, later identified as Christopher Reid Murphy, a 27-year-old homeless male, was given several commands however refused to comply. A perimeter was quickly established and with the assistance of a Police K9 and the Santa Monica Police Department's drone, also known as Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Teams, Murphy was located hiding inside a storage room. Murphy was taken into custody and booked for burglary and resist, delay, obstruct arrest. Murphy is also on formal probation for burglary. Anyone with additional information pertaining to this incident or individual is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Division 310-458-8451 or Santa Monica Department Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458-8427.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Nervous workers struggle to adjust to new mask policies

ALEXANDRA OLSON, JOSEPH PISANI AND ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Business Writers

An abrupt relaxation of mask policies has left workers at supermarkets and other stores reeling as they try to sort out what the new environment means for their own safety and relationship with customers.

Kroger, the country's largest grocery chain, became one of the latest to announce that, starting Thursday, workers and customers can stop wearing masks in states where mandates are no longer in effect. Other companies that have adopted similar changes include Amazon, Walmart, Best Buy, Macy's, Costco, Home Depot, Trader Joe's and Target, following updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control.

Some workers have taken to social media to cheer, but many others protested. Some don't trust customers — or their co-workers — to be truthful about their vaccination status since most companies are not requiring proof. Others fear they will be judged if they leave their own masks on, even though their reasons for doing so are varied.

William Stratford, 29, won't be fully vaccinated until next month, but shoppers and co-workers at the home improvement store where he works had been coming in without a mask even before the CDC put out its latest guidance.

He has complained to management and eats lunch in his car to avoid mask-less people in the breakroom. He gets stares from shoppers and co-workers.

"I know for a fact people have a negative opinion of me," said Stratford of Valley Center, California, who asked that the store where he works not be named out of fear of reprisal. "It's become a divisive issue in the workplace."

The CDC last week said fully vaccinated people — those who are two weeks past their final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine — can stop wearing masks outdoors and in most indoor settings. The guidance still calls for people who are not fully vaccinated to continue wearing masks indoors, and for everyone to wear them in crowded indoor settings like buses, planes, hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters.

That has left grocery stores, discount chains, restaurants and other employers scrambling to decide whether and how to adjust their own policies. Some companies, including Trader Joe's and Macy's, are allowing vaccinated customers to drop their masks but not employees. Meanwhile, some grocery chains like Safeway are leaving their mask requirements in place.

Some workers worry they have been left to bear the fallout of a confusing jumble of policies. John Bartlett, a meat manager at a Safeway in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, said he is personally relieved that, for now, his store is still requiring masks for everyone but he worries that the policy will make dealing with anti-mask customers even more difficult.

"We have customers who literally cuss at us," said Bartlett, recalling an incident where a man stormed out of the store shouting obscenities after Bartlett pleaded with him to wear a mask. "The country should just have one policy. It would make it easier because we wouldn't have deal with customers who are so rude and awful to us."

The Biden administration had faced pressure to ease restrictions on vaccinated Americans, in part to show the benefits of getting the shot at a time when vaccine demand has started to plateau. Companies are also trying to incentivize their employees to get vaccinated with measures ranging from bonus payments to on-site vaccination drives.

It's unclear if the relaxed mask restrictions will motivate unvaccinated workers to now get their shot. Some may feel more at risk of contracting COVID-19 but others may believe they can enjoy the same privileges as vaccinated workers because no one is checking.

Amazon is among the few companies requiring employees to show proof they got the shot before going mask-less, asking them to upload a picture of their vaccine card by mid-June. At Walmart, workers who don't wear masks must confirm they are vaccinated by filling out a daily questionnaire, though it is not requiring proof. Still, the company will have some insight into who is vaccinated because workers must show documentation to get a $75 bonus offered to those who get the shots.

Marc Perrone, president of the United Food and Commercial International Union, said about 40% of workers who participated in a recent union survey said they were vaccinated. He acknowledged that some many never get the shots, but he said the CDC and companies should have waited a few months to give people more time before shifting the guidance for indoor settings.

Workplace experts warn that a two-tiered mask policy risks sowing resentment and suspicions if not properly implemented.

Kristin White, a workplace safety attorney at law firm Fisher & Phillips LLP, in Denver, Colorado, believes employers should request workers to show proof of vaccination and says that many don't realize they are legally permitted to do so.

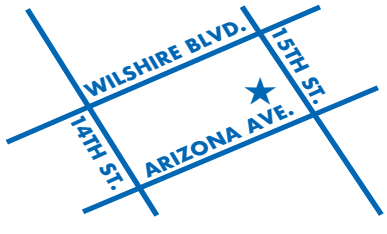
"The honor system carries more risk," said White, who has been advising companies on masks during the pandemic.

Interrogating workers on why they are or aren't wearing masks raises privacy concerns.

"Some of those employees may be wearing a mask because they have a disability and they can't get vaccinated; someone may be wearing a mask that is vaccinated but they feel more comfortable wearing a mask," White said.

She is recommending that her clients have a written policy for employees to not ask their

SEE **MASK** PAGE 11

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JOBLESS

FROM PAGE 2

the number of Americans receiving jobless benefits as evidence that most of the unemployed are still willing to take jobs when they're available.

"Today's data indicates that unemployment aid is not keeping workers on the sidelines," said Andrew Stettner, a senior fellow at The Century Foundation. "Emergency unemployment aid is doing what it is meant to do: Serving as a temporary lifeline while workers search for and return to work."

In July last year, four months after the pandemic tore through the economy, roughly twice as many people as now — 32 million — were receiving some form of unemployment benefit, though that figure was likely inflated by fraud. As recently as late February this year, about 20 million people were receiving aid.

Even so, 19 states say they will also cut off all benefits for the self-employed and gig workers, who became newly eligible for jobless aid under a relief package that was enacted in March last year. They will also drop out of a federal program for people who have been out of work for more than six months.

Those moves will end all benefits for approximately 3.6 million of the nearly 16 million people receiving aid — about one in four of current recipients — according to the Century Foundation.

In addition, 35 states have reinstated a requirement that jobless aid recipients search for work in order to keep receiving benefits. That requirement had been suspended at the start of the pandemic, when many businesses were closed and Americans were encouraged to stay at home.

In Dayton, Ohio, work evaporated for Terri Ashman, a house painter, and her husband, Steve, a remodeler, after the pandemic hit in March of last year. They struggled to obtain unemployment benefits because of delays that resulted from a flood of applicants that overwhelmed many state workforce agencies.

Eventually, they did receive aid and began to save money, in part because of the $300-a-week federal payment. By then, they had moved in with Terri's mother after a period of homelessness.

They now have nearly the entire $8,000 payment they need for their new home in Celina, near Dayton. They are required to pay a year's rent because of their credit problems.

But the two have little else saved and were counting on the continued federal payments through September to pay bills. Terri Ashman, 54, just received her second coronavirus vaccine shot, but she struggles with asthma and high blood pressure. She said she is willing to work even minimum wage jobs. But first she needs to get back on her feet.

"We finally were almost able to crawl out of this hole," she said. "Without (the $300), we're going to be living on the edge of the cliff."

AP Writers Casey Smith in Indianapolis, Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City and Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.





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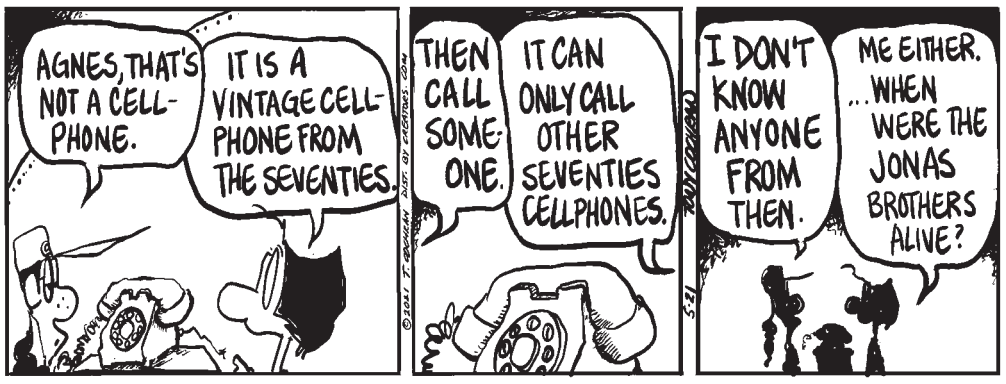
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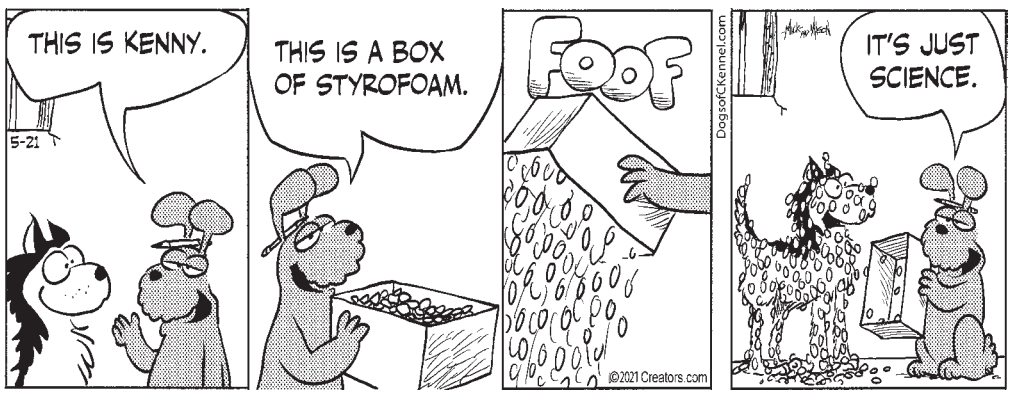
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



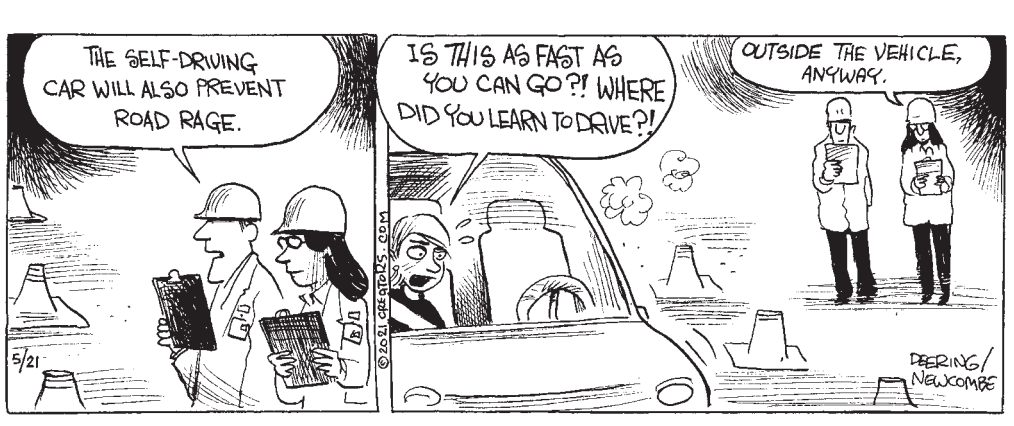
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

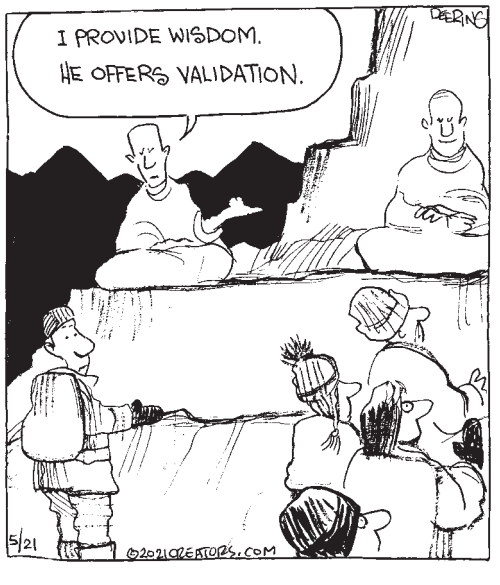
By PETER GALLAGHER



"I PUT STRAWBERRIES ON MY CEREAL."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.2°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 4-5ft Chest to head high occ. 6 ft
Potential for all day onshore WNW flow, strongest in the PM. Very long period new SSW/S swell builds all day – more size select spots. Smaller NW swell continues.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 4-6ft Shoulder high to 1 ft overhead occ. 7 ft
Looks like the biggest day of the week. E wind may be an issue for some south facing points in the AM. Solid SSW/S swell tops out, more size select spots. Small NW swell drops.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 66. Breezy, with a north wind 15 to 25 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 53.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/05/21	Fri	12:07 AM	2.06	L
2021/05/21	Fri	05:31 AM	4.04	H
2021/05/21	Fri	12:07 PM	0.27	L
2021/05/21	Fri	6:51 PM	4.78	H
2021/05/22	Sat	01:00 AM	1.22	L
2021/05/22	Sat	06:41 AM	4.11	H
2021/05/22	Sat	12:46 PM	0.41	L
2021/05/22	Sat	7:20 PM	5.37	H
2021/05/23	Sun	01:49 AM	0.34	L
2021/05/23	Sun	07:43 AM	4.17	H
2021/05/23	Sun	1:25 PM	0.62	L
2021/05/23	Sun	7:52 PM	5.95	H
2021/05/24	Mon	02:35 AM	-0.48	L
2021/05/24	Mon	08:40 AM	4.19	H
2021/05/24	Mon	2:03 PM	0.89	L
2021/05/24	Mon	8:27 PM	6.45	H
2021/05/25	Tue	03:22 AM	-1.14	L
2021/05/25	Tue	09:35 AM	4.14	H
2021/05/25	Tue	2:42 PM	1.20	L
2021/05/25	Tue	9:04 PM	6.78	H
2021/05/26	Wed	04:10 AM	-1.57	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/19
11 13 55 56 69
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 218 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/18
3 5 56 61 66
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 515 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/19
4 16 18 32 44
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 48 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/19
7 17 25 29 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/19
EVENING: 2 7 1

Draw Date: 5/19
MIDDAY: 0 9 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/19
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:47.78

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 (MAY 21)

All you've overcome has made you strong – and also funny! Humor comes from the flexibility of perspective you earned seeing different sides and extremes of life. A project will put your talents to good use, and you'll be enthusiastically endorsed, too, helping you to move up professionally and financially. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 21, 1, 7, 9 and 13.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Much has been added to your life — relationships, responsibilities, interests, material items — and going forward, you can't take it all. It's, once again, time to decide which endeavors are worth committing to.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The old you would have been eager to define things early on, but you're now wondering if it's necessary or even beneficial. Definitions are limits. Mysteries are limitless.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The tendency to go into debt isn't limited to finance. In fact, the little debts that get racked up between people can have a debilitating effect on relationships. Don't let anyone get too far in the hole with you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are those who will try and convince you of a need that doesn't exist. Things only become outdated if there are now other things that work better. Be careful not to pay to fix a thing that isn't broken.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll strengthen your mind/body/spirit connection, and it all happens with physical exertion. Every time you work on your body, it will become increasingly receptive to the command of your mind and the intuition of your spirit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have to set your plan in action to know where the problems are. Start now while there are people around you who can help you do what needs to be done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Why would anyone willingly offer up their work for scrutiny? To improve, of course. Only the courageous and the serious will proactively take this option, and you are definitely in that group. You want to be the best.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't have to be in a position to make a change to dream about your options. Fantasies are supposed to be impractical. Think of it as shopping for your future with no obligation to buy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The line between sharing and oversharing is liable to be ignored, blurred or completely crossed. Most people won't mind knowing a little more than they need to.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Money is not the root of all evil; evil is! Money is just a sophisticated bartering system that can be used for purposes as varied as the people who advance them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you care, you care deeply. When you notice, you notice a lot. What's going on around you will be as exciting and thought-provoking as your commitment level to it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As for mental arguments that only you can hear, they do serve a purpose. You'll work out the pros and cons of a decision before you ever take the risk. Contain your deliberations inside a time frame though, or they'll steal your day.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

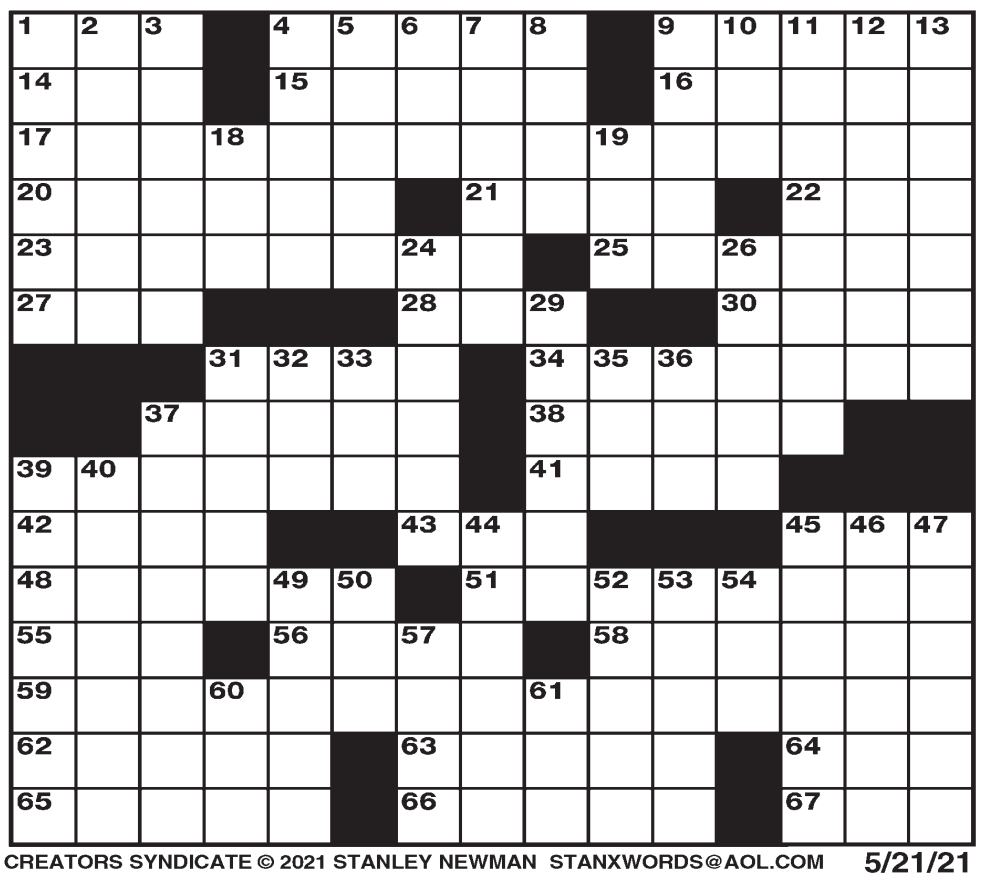
5	7	9		6		8		
6					8		9	
	4			9				5
9	8					4		
			6		2			
		4					3	7
4				5			1	
	6		4					9
		1		2		5	4	6

Newsday Crossword

U-TURNS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Cardinal, for example
4 A pair of sevens
9 All fired up
14 Post-op stop
15 South Pacific monarchy
16 Sound cranky
17 U-turn #1, part 1
20 Act opener
21 Old Testament twin
22 NL West team
23 U-turn #2, part 1
25 Shavers of a sort
27 ER personnel
28 Nativity scene beast
30 Informal exchange
31 Unasked-for message
34 Prowlers/growlers
37 U-turn #1, part 2
38 U-turn #1, part 3
39 Avowed
41 Extreme stretches
42 Scabbard section
43 *Game of Thrones* patriarch
45 *"Sprechen __ Deutsch?"*
48 Prose chestnut
51 U-turn #2, part 2
55 Vb. and conj.
56 Common deicer
58 Limelike
59 U-turn #1, part 4
62 Not vacant
63 Look cranky
64 When *Shrek* premiered
65 Sorority letters
66 Ready-__ (culinary category)
67 JRB, for 36 years

DOWN
1 Ran over water
2 Green wheels
3 Undue force
4 *I Love Lucy* lady
5 Balkan capital
6 Wintry, in brand names
7 Wetlands waders
8 What MENSA accepts in lieu of IQs
9 Zero-star
10 Ohm's reciprocal
11 Sharp-toothed swimmers
12 Implore
13 Cools it
18 What some red sticks are made of
19 Prefix for hazard
24 Legendary shorn strongman
26 FDIC concerns
29 "Venerable" British monk
31 Arranges conveniently
32 Whom a mystery award honors
33 __.com (phone service site)
35 Paper-game winner
36 Jamaican guy
37 Opens up, as a sleep sofa
39 *Variety* coverage
40 *Enfant terrible*
44 Mexican arena figure
45 Sources of immunity
46 "Am I the problem?"
47 Engrave deeply
49 Cookout accumulation
50 Portrayed
52 Phonetician's "uh"
53 Quaint denial
54 Global commerce grp.
57 Choir space
60 Screeners employer, for short
61 Small digit



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/21/21

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

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

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



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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 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5120

Gourmet tea rooms

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

Bags	China	Her majesty's	Puck
Beans	Crepy	Kenya	Puttabong
Blend	Cups	Latte	Redeye
Body	Dust	Leaf	Rose
Bohea	Earthy	Light	Siaou chu
Bold	Empty	Lunch	Soft
Break	Even	Make	Tarry
Brisk	Filter	Muddy	Temi
Brown	Flaky	Music	Tips
Burned	Good	Neat	Vibrant
Busy	Grade	Nibs	Wiry
Cafe	Green	Ouvah	Yin zhen
Chairs	Iced tea		

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Good and bad memories

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REOPENING

FROM PAGE 1

service systems away."

Library staff had been examining this system for a while as a means to extend branches' hours of operation. They jumped on the opportunity and are excited to use the program to accelerate their reopening.

In order to participate in the self-service pilot program, residents will need to be a library member for at least one year without any outstanding fees. One they sign an agreement to take good care of the equipment and materials, they will be able to use their library card to swipe into the Ocean Park Branch.

Visitors to both branches will be required to wear a mask and are encouraged to spend no more than 30 minutes at a time as there will be capacity restrictions in place.

The reopening of local libraries is an exciting prospect for all community members and especially for the many students, older residents, and low-income individuals who rely on its wifi, printing, tutoring, and job training services.

"We have people who come into the library for a variety of reasons, sometimes to charge their phone, sometimes to just take a load off their feet, and other times because they don't have anywhere else to go," said Wong. "We support community members from all walks of life."

This philosophy is reflected in the broad range of programming offered by the library, much of which has continued in a virtual format over the pandemic. There are online book clubs, tutoring resources, story read-alouds, high school diploma programs, author talks, summer education kits for kids and more.

"We are planning in-person programming to be put in place to accompany summer reading and the many activities that we have," said Wong. "There will be a hybrid development of both in-person and virtual programming. We're going to start small but will be scaling up along with our reopening plans."

The Montana Avenue and Pico branch libraries will remain closed to the public for now, but continue to offer curbside pickup throughout the summer. The public library team is working with the City to increase funding for more staff members under its next budget.

For more information on the hours and services offered at each library, Wong said residents should visit smpl.org/reopening.

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CITY MANAGER

FROM PAGE 1

time to make a decision, a second agenda item for the day will focus on the need for another interim appointment post June.

"With the darkest days of our civic life behind us and a strong financial foundation from which to build up, the City of Santa Monica is positioned for a robust recovery," said Mayor Sue Himmelrich. "New leaders of the City administration are coming at an opportune moment of transformation and the City Council looks forward to crafting Santa Monica's future with the extremely talented City organization and engaged Santa Monica community."

Council unanimously directed staff to retain Lamont Ewell (who managed Santa Monica until 2009) of Ralph Andersen & Associates to search for a replacement and the company was also given the responsibility to help recruit a new Police Chief.

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MASK

FROM PAGE 5

peers why they're wearing a face covering. She also says that workers should be trained not tell on each other.

For Bill Easton, the concern is around customers. Easton has been working as a cashier at a Safeway in Aurora, Colorado, for 27 years and he already feels helpless when customers defy his store's mask policy. He fears they will become more emboldened now that mask policies are being relaxed around the country, even though they remain in place in his store.

On the other hand, some of his friendlier, longtime customers announce to him that they are fully vaccinated and give him a big hug. Easton, too, is vaccinated and even though he appreciates the show of affection, it makes him nervous.

"You wonder, do they really have their COVID shot?" he said.

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