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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Cancer walk
Patient inspires others.
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Crime Watch
Man finds his stolen bike for sale.
Page 4

Senior Basketball



Courtesy photo

SENIORS CELEBRATE: The girls basketball seniors (Ivy Scott, Rose Morris, Alexis Pettis and Sammie Arnold) from Palisades High School enjoy a fond farewell on Friday's Senior Night.

The city's sucker-punched office market is poised to make a comeback

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The state of Santa Monica's office rental market is a case of bad news, good news.

The bad news is companies fled Santa Monica offices in higher numbers than the rest of LA, spiking vacancy rates and causing rental prices to drop for the first time since 2010.

The good news is academic experts and realtors are confident workers will soon return into the office in droves. They believe Santa Monica's rental market is poised for a strong recovery due to its desirable location and constrained

SEE **OFFICE** PAGE 7



Clara Harter

OFFICE: Prices for office space fell during the pandemic but not by as much as during previous downturns.

New technology could put an end to e-scooter sidewalk riding

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

For years residents have been bemoaning the buzzing of electric scooters on Santa Monica's sidewalks, but it appears that new technology innovations will soon provide relief.

Leading the charge is micromobility company Spin, which was one of three companies chosen to participate in Santa Monica's second shared mobility pilot program and will be rolling out sidewalk detection tech in July.

Sidewalk riding is a rampant issue across Los Angeles as it increases the risk of e-scooters colliding with pedestrians. While Santa Monica formally banned the practice in 2019, both the City and e-scooter companies recognize that this regulation is challenging to enforce.

Sidewalk detection technology has the power to curb the practice by allowing e-scooters to detect when they have been driven onto a sidewalk and produce a response.

In the case of Spin, their e-scooters will emit a warning sound and send a push notification to the user. Phuong Bui, Government Partnerships Manager at Spin, said the company could also build a function where their scooters slow to a stop on sidewalks, if the City

SEE **TECHNOLOGY** PAGE 11

Santa Monica schools ready for in-person and recorded graduations

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

High school and college seniors throughout Santa Monica are set to graduate this month and enter a new stage of life. How they complete their educational journeys in the coming weeks will differ depending on the school site, though.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District leaders confirmed this week that Santa Monica High School students will return to campus at 5:30 p.m. on June 9 and June 10 for an in-person ceremony that will celebrate graduates in the Samohi's Greek Theater for the first time since 2019. Olympic High School scholars also intend to gather for an in-person celebration at 5:30 p.m. on June 8.

"It will be a fairly normal affair but Samohi will have two graduations because there's still a need to social distance. So, it will be similar to our past events but all of the protocols necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be in place this year," SMMUSD spokeswoman Gail Pinsker said this week when she mentioned how fifth-grade promotions in the district have transitioned to a new format as well.

Superintendent Ben Drati commended local educators, including Samohi Principal Antonio Shelton, for going from distance learning a short time ago to hosting in-person events this week.

"Our seniors have worked so hard this year and have navigated challenges with poise and maturity. They have missed many traditional senior privileges and activities due to the pandemic, but thankfully we are able to finish off the year on a high note," Shelton said. "They are so deserving of a real graduation and we are pleased to provide students and families with this much-deserved recognition and a memory of a lifetime."

While SMMUSD schools throughout the city will enjoy live ceremonies, Santa Monica College, which hasn't returned to campus full-time just yet, is set to hold a live-streamed graduation ceremony ahead of a first-of-its-kind event.

Dean of Community & Academic Relations Kiersten Elliott said SMC's graduation events are the highlight of the year not only for students but also for the faculty, staff and families who annually pack into Corsair Stadium for the occasion.

Last year, the school was forced to tone back the festivities a bit

SEE **GRADUATION** PAGE 6



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COMPASS

Travel numbers climb as Americans hit the road for holiday

DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

Americans hit the road in near-record numbers at the start of the Memorial Day weekend, as their eagerness to break free from coronavirus confinement overcame higher prices for flights, gasoline and hotels.

More than 1.8 million people went through U.S. airports Thursday, and the daily number was widely expected to cross 2 million at least once over the long holiday weekend, which would be the highest mark since early March 2020.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas warned people to expect long lines at airports and appealed for travelers to be patient.

The rise in travel appears to be fueled by an increase in COVID-19 vaccinations as well as an improving economy. The U.S. Commerce Department said consumer spending increased in April, although not as much as in March, showing how consumers are driving a recovery from last year's pandemic recession.

At Miami International Airport, officials expected crowds equal to pre-pandemic levels. It was a similar story in Orlando, where airport traffic has reached 90% of 2019 levels as tourists flocked to theme parks that have recently loosened restrictions.

Along the Florida coasts and around Orlando, many hotels were booked solid through the weekend.

"We are going into off-season, and it has not slowed down," said Cathy Balestriere, general manager of Crane's Beach House, a boutique hotel in Delray Beach, Florida.

Vacation destinations like Las Vegas, Hawaii and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, were among the top destinations for holiday revelers, according to AAA. Paula Twidale, a spokeswoman for the auto club and insurer, said the pickup in travel began in April as more Americans got vaccinated and the weather improved.

"People are just excited to get out," she said.

Memorial Day coincides with some states eliminating their remaining pandemic restrictions as the number of new COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths decline.

Virginia, where President Joe Biden traveled to tout his administration's efforts to contain the virus, eased all distancing and capacity restrictions Friday. A mask mandate in Massachusetts ended Saturday.

AAA expects a 60% jump in travel over the 2020 Memorial Day weekend, with 37 million Americans traveling at least 50 miles from home, most of them in cars. That's despite gasoline prices being at their highest levels in seven years: The national average is above $3 a gallon for regular.

Prices for rental cars are up sharply, too — if you can find one — after companies culled their fleets to survive last year's deep slump in travel.

"My mother-in-law called me on a vacation and said, 'Hey, can you get me a rental car?' I said, 'No,'" said Jordan Staab, president of SmarterTravel Media. "Demand is up 500% since January, and it's tough to get a rental car right now, so plan ahead as much as you possibly can."

Hotels and other lodging in beach and mountain areas drew bigger crowds than those in cities. Lou Carrier, the president of Distinctive Hospitality Group, said the company's two hotels in tourist towns in Connecticut have seen a jump in bookings since the state loosened its mask requirements two weeks ago, but occupancy is still only around 20% at its three hotels in Boston.

Hotel room rates nationally jumped

SEE **TRAVEL** PAGE 6

City of Santa Monica

THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FOR THE PROPOSED FY 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET AND ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY'S GANN APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

The City Council, Housing Authority, and Parking Authority of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget on June 22, 2021. Pursuant to Executive Order N2920 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, members of the City Council and City Staff will participate via teleconference at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be broadcast live on CityTV cable channel 16 and online at smgov.net. Community members are invited to provide the Council with written and oral comments concerning the City's entire proposed budget. In lieu of attending the meeting, the public is strongly encouraged to submit their written correspondence and written public comments via email to councilmtgitems@smgov.net. Remote public comments can be made by phone at (310) 458-8423.

At the meeting on June 22, the City Council will also adopt a resolution for the determination of the Gann Appropriations Limit for FY 2021-22. A copy of the documentation used in calculating the limit can be viewed online at finance.smgov.net/budgets-reports/Gann. The FY 2021-23 Proposed Biennial Budget can be viewed online at finance.smgov.net. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City of Santa Monica has closed City facilities to the public until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

"A Tribute to Joe Henderson" June 13

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present the SMC Jazz Ensemble, under the baton of Frederick Keith Fiddmont, in "A Tribute to Joe Henderson." The program featuring the music of renowned jazz legend Joe Henderson will be held Sunday, June 13, at 4 p.m.

The concert is free and will be presented online. A Zoom link taking guests directly to the concert will be posted with the listing on the SMC Events calendar at smc.edu/calendar and go live just before the concert begins. To attend the concert, the Zoom software must be installed on the viewer's computer. A free download is available at zoom.com.

Henderson (1937-2001) was an American tenor saxophonist and composer revered in the jazz world and a pioneer in jazz fusion. During his career of more than 40 years at the forefront of the contemporary jazz scene, he performed with most of the jazz greats of his time, including Horace Silver, Freddie Hubbard, and Herbie Hancock, and also performed for a short time with Blood, Sweat & Tears. Many of Henderson's tunes are recognized and performed by almost every jazz student today.

More information is available by calling 310-434-3005 or 310-434-4323.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Citywide

June events at the Library

KIDS & TEENS

Summer Reading 2021: READING COLORS YOUR WORLD. Monday, June 21 through Sunday, August 15. Get ready to read with this all-ages summer reading program. Register at the Main Library, Pico Curbside, Montana Avenue Curbside, or online at smpl.beanstack.org. Track your reading over the summer to reach the goal of 10 hours/600 minutes read. Kids and teens earn special Activity Kits, and adults are entered into a prize drawing.

Take & Make Kit: Ferris Wheel by the Santa Monica History Museum. Available beginning Monday, June 7. Pickup at Main, Montana, or Pico. This kit teaches kids about the history and engineering of the Santa Monica Pier. Through play with paper straws, rubber bands, and other items, children learn the basics of building structures. Available at Main Library Youth Services, and at Montana Avenue and Pico Curbside, while supplies last.

Take & Make Kit: Recycle City. Available beginning Monday, June 21. Pickup at Main, Montana, or Pico. This art kit engages kids and families in discovering new ways to help the environment by making art from recycled household items. Kids can join the Cayton Museum team to design a miniature city sculpture and discuss the value of community. Available at Main Library Youth Services, and at Montana Avenue Curbside and Pico Curbside, while supplies last.

Summer Reading Kickoff: Monster Playhouse with Kiddle Karoo! Monday, June 21 / 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. The Library's summer reading program kicks off with a fun, interactive show for the whole family, featuring songs, dancing, puppets, and more. Register here: http://bit.ly/KiddleKarooSMPL.

The Writes of Summer: A Novel Writing Workshop for Teens. Saturday, June 26 / 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Want to write a novel over summer break? Authors Suzanne Park (Sunny Song Will Never Be Famous) and Liz Lawson (The Lucky Ones) teach teens 14-18 the fundamentals of novel writing and help them prepare to write their first novel this summer. Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsduihrDMoG9EMd7H_kGnLe-8tox1X3ax

Dial-A-Story. Access 24/7 via telephone at (424) 610-8600. New stories are recorded each week in English, Spanish and Mandarin, and can be listened to by phone at any time of day.

Llama y escucha un cuento ¡Puedes acceder a este divertido servicio 24/7! Acceso vía teléfono (424) 610-8600. Los bibliotecarios graban cuentos nuevos cada semana en inglés, español, y mandarín, y se pueden escuchar por teléfono en cualquier momento del día.

Reading-2-Go Kits. Take books wherever you go. Now available for check out, Reading-2- Go kits are themed backpacks that contain a set of five early literacy books and a CD, DVD, or toy. Kits include suggested activities to extend learning. Available in English, Spanish, and Amharic. Search 'Reading-2-Go' in the library catalog, smpl.bibliocommons.org.

ADULTS

Santa Monica Reads featuring The Pull of the Stars by Emma Donoghue. Monday, June 28 through Sunday, August 22. Join organizers for the Library's annual reading program, where community members read and discuss the same book. A free book giveaway begins on Monday, June 21. Copies of the book are available at the Main Library Information Desk, and at Montana Avenue and Pico Curbside, while supplies last. For more information, visit smpl.org/SMReads.aspx.

Adult Literacy Tutor Volunteer Orientation. Wednesday, June 2 / 6 p.m. Make a difference in someone's life! Help them learn to read and write. This orientation provides information about volunteering to be a one-on one tutor with the Library's Adult Literacy Program. For more information or to RSVP, email literacy.program@santamonica.gov. Access the event: http://bit.ly/litorientation

Ocean Park Branch Book Group Discussion. Euphoria by Lily King. Saturday, June 5 / 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. In 1930s New Guinea, anthropologist Andre Banson, frustrated by his research and depressed over the death of his brothers, begins a tumultuous relationship with a married couple. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov.

Introduction to Mindful Meditation. Monday, June 7 / 7 to 8 p.m. Instructor Heather White-Laird discusses mindfulness, a secular form of meditation, benefiting health and well-being. In the first of three-monthly sessions, simple tools will be provided to allow you to continue practicing at home. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov.

Mystery Book Group Discussion. Walk the Wire by David Baldacci. Tuesday, June 15 / 7 to

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 4

Brain cancer patient participates in awareness walk she inspired







Courtesy photos

WALK: Architect Tatiana Sarkissian believes she gets her strength from being both a brain cancer survivor and a patient, following a recurrence of the disease. She didn't draw much attention to her personal challenge following her diagnosis at 23, but six years later she is pushing for a spotlight on brain cancer in hopes of seeking new treatment.

A goal is to rival the awareness of breast cancer, a decades-long campaign that increased funding for research, which developed drugs, procedures and care models, saving lives

Today Sarkissian, 30, of Los Angeles participated in the Brain Tumor Awareness Walk, Roll or Ride, joined by more than 150 brain tumor patients and their families, doctors, nurses and staff members at Providence Saint John's Health Center and itsa Pacific Neuroscience Institute.

Joining the walk was Marcy Camacho and family and friends. Marcy traveled from her home in Arkansas for treatment at Providence Saint John's renowned brain cancer program. She begins chemotherapy this week after successful surgical removal of a tumor she had named "Ophelia." Also in the Crowd were Candice and Kevin Hodges of Moorpark. Kevin was unhappy with treatment at another hospital and came to Saint John's where he, too, underwent surgery to remove his tumor.

The Saint John's Cancer Institute and Pacific Neuroscience Institute at Providence Saint John's Health Center are committed to research, innovation and a very comprehensive care plan for patients with brain tumors. There are just five FDA-approved brain cancer drugs and one device, and Providence is committed to raising awareness to encourage more research and funding that will lead to new therapies and treatment.

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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 THURSDAY, MAY 13 10 P.M.

SMPD Officers responded to a call about a stolen bike on the 2900 block of Neilson Way. The victim described the bike to Officers and explained that building security had provided him with surveillance video of the suspect as he was stealing the bike. The following day, the victim contacted SMPD and stated he had found his bike on sale on Offer Up and provided details that were unique to the bike, including a serial number. The Officers contacted the seller on Offer Up and arranged a meeting to purchase the bike. Upon arriving at the meeting location, additional units showed up and apprehended Nicholas Francisco Bermudez for 496(a) PC - Receiving stolen property. Bermudez was later cited and released, and the victim was able to retrieve his property.

BRIEFS
FROM PAGE 2

8 p.m. Fan favorite Amos Decker teams up with an FBI colleague to investigate the death of a young woman in a fracking town replete with ruthless business owners, shady government officials, and religious outsiders. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov.

Montana Avenue Branch Book Group Discussion. Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo. Wednesday, June 16 / 7 to 8:30 p.m. From one of Britain's most celebrated writers of color, this novel is a magnificent portrayal of the intersections of identity among an interconnected group of Black British women. To register, email stephanie.archer@santamonica.gov.

Notable Fiction Book Group Discussion. Asymmetry by Lisa Halliday. Saturday, June 19 / 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This novel features the overlapping stories of an American editor's relationship with a famous writer during the early years of the Iraq War, and an Iraqi American man detained by immigration officers. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov.

Main Library Book Group Discussion. Black Wave: Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the Forty-Year Rivalry That Unraveled Culture, Religion, and Collective Memory in the Middle East by Kim Ghattas. Monday, June 21 / 7 to 8:30 p.m. A riveting and insightful history of the Mideast since 1979, written by a former BBC journalist born in Lebanon. To register, email jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov

Eddie Cole presents The Campus Color Line. Tuesday, June 22 / 7 to 8 p.m.

UCLA education professor Eddie Cole discusses his book The Campus Color Line: College Presidents and the Struggle for Black Freedom. The book examines how colleges met the challenges of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 60, stories highly relevant to contemporary issues. Register here: http://bit.ly/3lpmycO

Have questions or need help? Library staff are available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Thursday 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. Contact us at (310) 458-8600 or reference@santamonica.gov.

Citywide

SMC Jazz Vocal Ensemble Performs Free Evening Concert June 3

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present an evening concert featuring the SMC Jazz Vocal Ensemble. The performance will be held Thursday, June 3, at 7 p.m.

Under the direction of SMC music instructor Andreas Preponis, SMC's award-winning jazz vocal ensemble blends its voices in a program of jazz repertoire specifically arranged for four-part harmony.

The event is free and will be held online. A link taking guests to the concert will be posted with the June 3 event description on the SMC Events calendar at smc.edu/calendar and go live just before the concert begins.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323.

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WINNER

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMC's Drescher Planetarium Presents Free, Live Virtual Shows in June

Santa Monica College's John Drescher Planetarium continues its Friday evening events in June 2021 with free, live virtual shows presented online at smc.edu/planetarium. The friendly presentations will cover the latest developments in Mars exploration, and introduce the works of astronomers Henrietta Swan Leavitt, Annie Jump Cannon, and Antonia Maury.

The Friday evening shows are at 8 p.m. and are preceded by a streamlined, virtual digest of the popular Night Sky Show at 7 p.m., offering the latest news in astronomy and space exploration. The shows include the chance to chat with the planetarium lecturers and ask astronomy-related questions.

The planetarium is exploring a variety of ways to present its shows while the Santa Monica College (SMC) campuses are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the planetarium is using the Zoom platform. To attend the shows, the Zoom software version 5.0 or higher must be installed on the viewer's computer. A free download is available at zoom.com.

The June 2021 shows are:

• Friday, June 4 & 11, at 8 p.m. (following The Night Sky Show at 7 p.m.): "Mars Exploration Update" – Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon. By early June, more than three months will have elapsed since the Mars arrivals of the UAE's HOPE and China's Tianwen 1 orbiters, and of NASA's Perseverance rover. Show will review the preliminary science from the orbiters, the surface work from Perseverance, and how things have gone with Tianwen 1 sending its lander/rover to the surface in May. Whether everything worked perfectly or there have been glitches, there will be plenty of Martian exploration news to catch up on. Free. Zoom at smc.edu/planetarium.

• Friday, June 18 & 25, at 8 p.m. (following The Night Sky Show at 7 p.m.): "Anonymous: Who Discovered That? (Or, Lifting the Draper)" – Associate Lecturer Sarah Vincent. Show explores the works of Henrietta Swan Leavitt, Annie Jump Cannon, and Antonia Maury. Not given due credit for their work during their lives, these astronomers are now being hailed as pivotal minds. Free. Zoom at smc.edu/planetarium.

More information is available online at smc.edu/planetarium or by calling 310-434-3005. All shows subject to change or cancellation without notice.

Santa Monica College is a California Community College accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Thousand Oaks

Santa Monica Mountains Fund to Host Virtual Picnic for Park

Picnic for the Park on June 4 is a free, part-virtual, part interactive event to support the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area – the largest urban national park in the country.

During Picnic in the Park, attendees will hear from NPS rangers about their conservation work and enjoy music by Santa Monica-based singer/songwriter Abby Posner (https://Abbyposner.com) in a program broadcast online.

How SAMO Fund supports the mountain lion program, what the trail crew does, why the native plant nursery is so important and how youth mentorship helps develop lifelong environmental stewards will all be covered in the program.

The event will be broadcast live at 5 p.m. to anyone who registers in advance. To access to the event, guests must register at https://samofund.org/picnicforthepark

On the day, attendees can create their own socially-distanced Picnic for the Park with friends and family outdoors. We suggest they share photos on social media with hashtag #Picnicforthepark

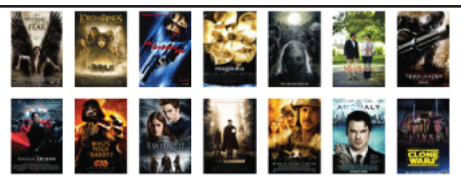
Panera Bread restaurants in Agoura Hills and Woodland Hills are hosting fundraisers on June 4 for this event, so guests can easily organize their own picnic! Guests identify as being with Santa Monica Mountains Fund when they order between 4pm and 8pm on June 4th, and Panera will donate 20% to SAMO Fund. Use Promo Code PRFund at checkout. Take-out and delivery options both available. To order: https://www.panerabread.com/content/panerabread_com/en-us/home.html?overlay=sign-in.

Broadcast production expert, Gregg Dunham (https://greggdunham.com), has volunteered his time to work with SAMO Fund to create the event which will last about 30 minutes.

Santa Monica Mountains Fund (SAMO Fund) works to protect and encourage appreciation and understanding of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

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GRADUATION

FROM PAGE 1

because of the pandemic. So, it held an online ceremony featuring videos that were submitted by students. This year, students can expect a similar event when they gather online at 4 p.m. Friday, June 25, to hear remarks from California State Treasurer Fiona Ma and school faculty.

"2020 was our 90th anniversary for the college and we wanted to do something different for the big occasion. Having to do the commencement virtually was not the kind of different we were going for, but it went really, really well and people enjoyed it," Elliott said. "So, this will be our second time doing the commencement ceremony virtually and since we kind of feel confident that we know what's happening with that, we added a new twist this year because we really want students to have something physically tangible that they can celebrate. And after some back and forth, we came up with a Diploma Drive-Thru experience."

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 19 at the SMC Bundy Campus according to Elliot, who said, "Students who are graduating have already been invited to RSVP for a time slot and we are so excited because it's basically like a huge commencement parade."

There will be an opportunity for students to get out of their cars and go get their photos taken with a diploma cover. And, of course, faculty and staff will be there to celebrate and applaud the scholars' accomplishments.

Brennon@smdp.com

TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 2

9% in April after an 8% rise in March, and airfares soared 10% in April, according to the latest available figures from the Commerce Department.

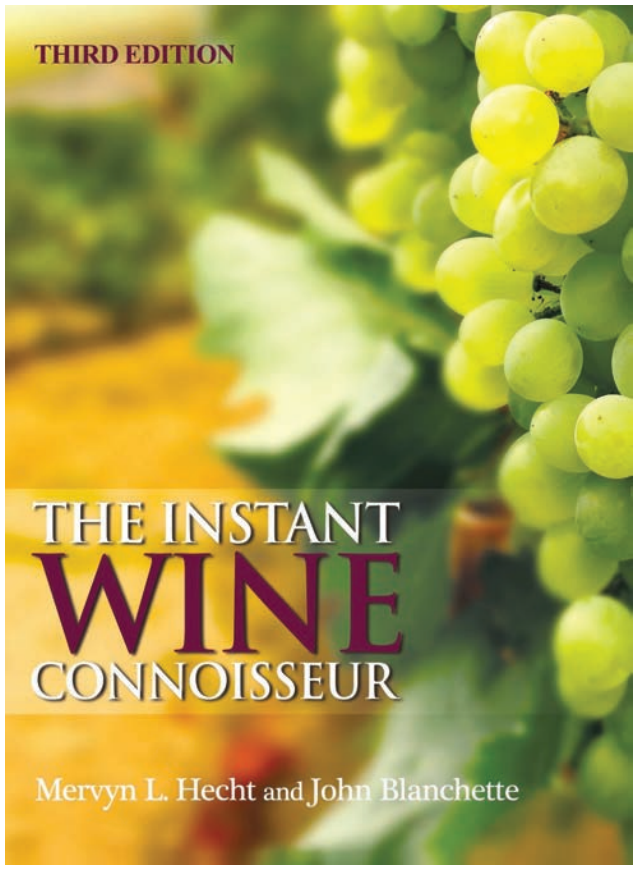
That's not stopping people from getting on planes. The Transportation Security Administration has screened nearly 1.6 million people a day this month, up from 224,000 a day in May 2020 but still down one-third from the same time in 2019. TSA officials said this week they have hired enough new screeners to handle the crowds.

Most of those travelers are taking vacations or visiting family and friends in the United States. Airline executives say domestic leisure travel is back to pre-pandemic levels. Delta Air Lines President Glen Hauenstein said this week that bookings are now running ahead of the 2019 pace.

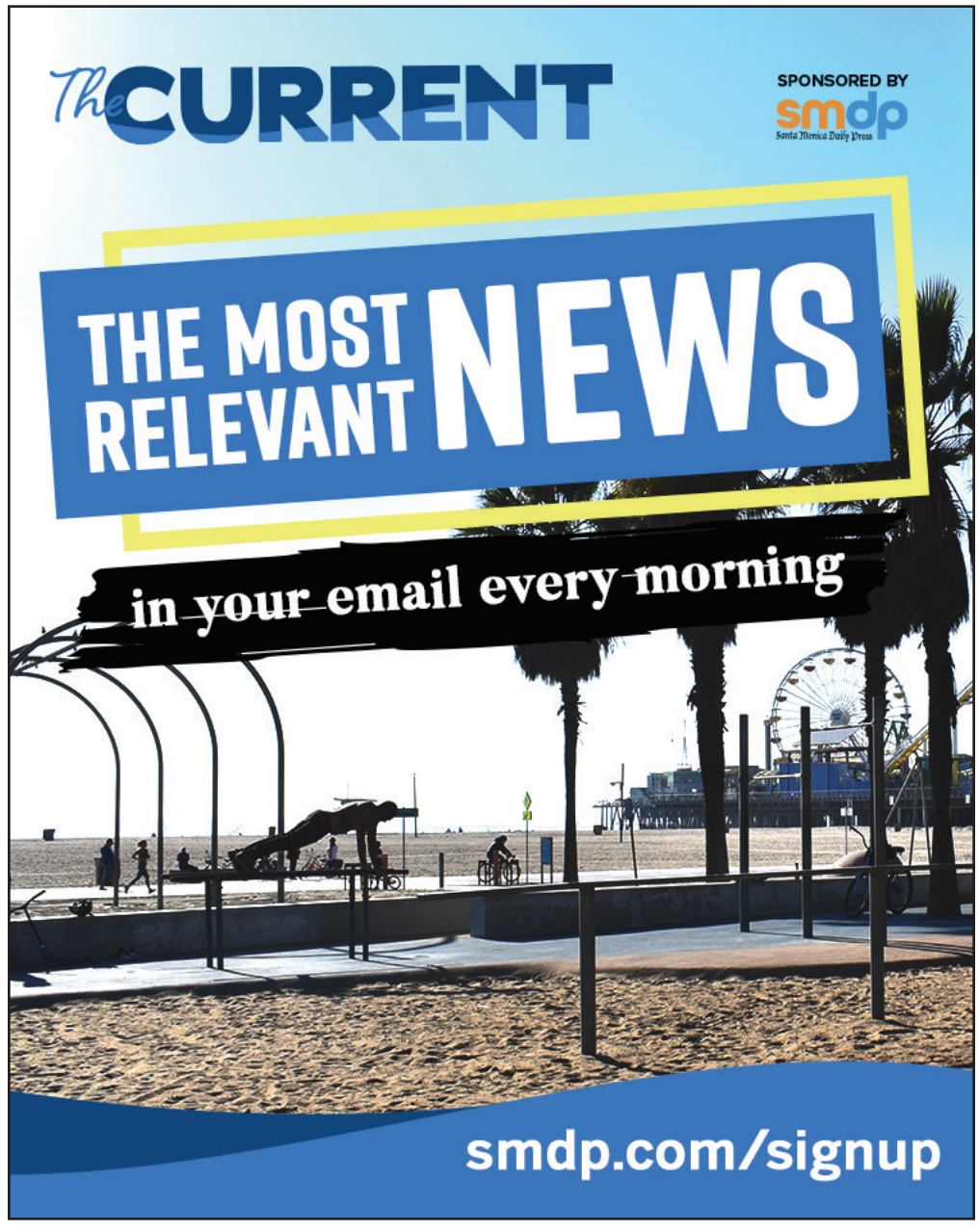
Business travelers and international visitors are still mostly absent, however, and airlines are eager to see that lucrative business return.

Associated Press writers John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio; Freida Frisaro in Miami; Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit; and Martin Crutsinger in Washington contributed to this report.

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food & Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.



OFFICE

FROM PAGE 1

supply of office space.

Currently 15.1 percent of Santa Monica's office spaces are vacant compared to 7.3 percent at the beginning of 2020, according to a report by commercial real estate data firm CoStar.

This rate rises to 20 percent when looking at four and five star rated office spaces, indicating that many companies who could leave expensive leases during the pandemic opted to do so.

The actual percent of vacant office space in Santa Monica is even higher as these statistics do not account for units on the sublease market.

In Santa Monica, companies including Bird, Lionsgate, Kite Pharma, Leaf Group, and TrueCar have put all or part of their office space up for sublease. This is a tactic taken by businesses who wanted to vacate their space, but were caught in multi year leases.

It appears that more companies sought to abandon their spaces in Santa Monica than the rest of Los Angeles. Subleases represent 7.2 percent of units being marketed in Santa Monica, compared to only 2.4 percent metro wide.

The drop in demand for office space has caused Santa Monica's prices to dip for the first time in a decade, with average rents decreasing 4.7 percent over the last 12 months.

This is much smaller than the 16 percent drop witnessed during the financial crisis, pointing to a greater faith in businesses economic recovery and the future demand for office space.

Indeed, while much speculation has been cast and some employees have fantasized about the prospect of permanent remote work, experts say this is only a daydream.

"For a large percentage of the population work from home isn't going to work, so we're seeing offices opening up and people coming back into the office and back into the city," said UCLA Economic Forecast Director Jerry Nickelsburg.

Nickelsburg outlined four reasons why people will return to the office — in-person interactions drive company culture, facetime with supervisors is important for promotions, distractions at home decrease productivity, and offices are valuable networking spaces.

Local commercial realtors also expressed confidence that most companies will bring back their employees, even if they offer more flexibility around part-time remote work options. This desire is already being reflected in the number of companies looking into new spaces.

"Our tour activity is about 80 percent of what it was pre pandemic," said Bob Zelken, Director of Commercial leasing for Douglas Emmett. "People who put off making occupancy decisions are now back in the market looking to reestablish office spaces."

Even though some companies downsized during the pandemic, Zelken is not worried that people will seek smaller spaces. He said there is greater interest in office plans that allow employees to space out more and that there are many other companies who expanded over the past year.

"There have been tech companies and sectors that have grown during the pandemic, we see that in the stock market," said Zelken. "If you're a company with three to four people leasing 1,000 square feet, it doesn't take much to outgrow your space, and startups have always been an engine for Santa Monica."

Santa Monica remains a highly desirable place to live and offers many amenities including great restaurants, retail, and beach access for office workers.

For realtors who accept the premise that the majority of companies will bring their employees back in-person, it follows that City office space will rise in demand.

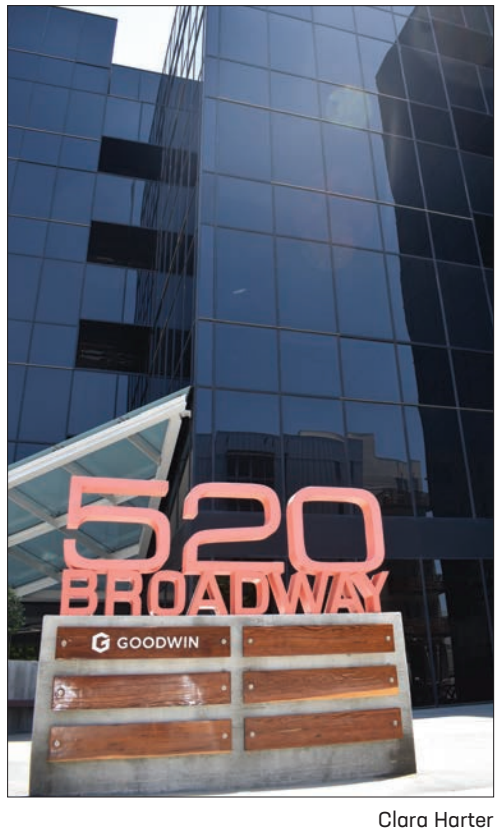
"The whole world wants to be here and that's why I have a pretty positive outlook," said Jeffrey Jarow, Senior Vice President at PAR Commercial Brokerage. "It may take a little while to get back to normal, but companies are moving in."

Even in the middle of the pandemic, one of the most expensive office sales was made in the City's history indicating a faith in the long-term value of Santa Monica office space. In October 2020, the 92,000 square foot Colorado Campus was sold to Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance for $166 million.

An additional reason the local market may be poised to recover well is the limited supply of office space.

Both zoning regulations and general community opposition to additional density restrict developers' ability to build new offices in Santa Monica. Since the beginning of 2010 square footage of office space has only increased by 2 percent.

While in the immediate future the market will remain depressed, it is expected to continuously improve as the pandemic subsides and people return to the office. Both Jarow and Zelken said they predict vacancy and rental prices to be back to normal in 2023.



Clara Harter

EMPTY: Many companies moved out of their offices last year but experts are predicting a return to office culture.

Clara@smdp.com

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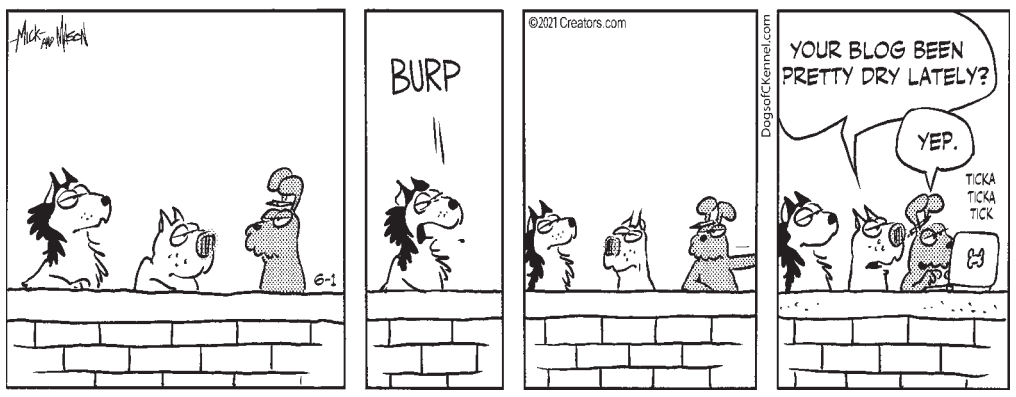
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



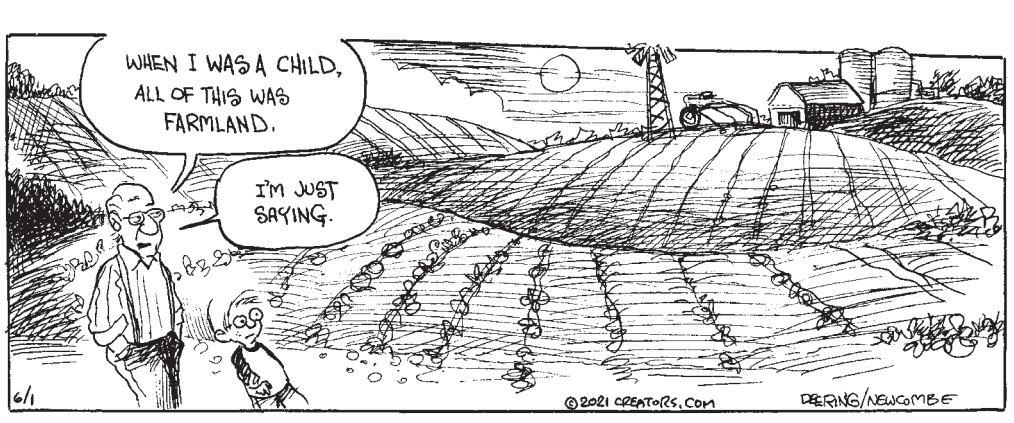
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 63.1°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Should be a clean morning but the surf looks pretty small/slow. New SSW swell should start to slowly build through the day but some onshore wind bump for the PM.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to stomach high
Clean morning with a bit more surf as new SSW swell builds. Fresh NW swell mix trends up late.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 69.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.
Wednesday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 70.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/06/01	Tue	02:18 AM	4.62	H
2021/06/01	Tue	09:50 AM	-0.11	L
2021/06/01	Tue	5:04 PM	4.11	H
2021/06/01	Tue	10:28 PM	2.66	L
2021/06/02	Wed	03:43 AM	4.09	H
2021/06/02	Wed	10:49 AM	0.26	L
2021/06/02	Wed	5:51 PM	4.42	H
2021/06/02	Wed	11:54 PM	2.15	L
2021/06/03	Thu	05:08 AM	3.75	H
2021/06/03	Thu	11:39 AM	0.61	L
2021/06/03	Thu	6:28 PM	4.72	H
2021/06/04	Fri	12:55 AM	1.58	L
2021/06/04	Fri	06:23 AM	3.58	H
2021/06/04	Fri	12:20 PM	0.95	L
2021/06/04	Fri	7:00 PM	5.00	H
2021/06/05	Sat	01:43 AM	1.02	L
2021/06/05	Sat	07:27 AM	3.51	H
2021/06/05	Sat	12:55 PM	1.28	L
2021/06/05	Sat	7:27 PM	5.25	H
2021/06/06	Sun	02:21 AM	0.54	L
2021/06/06	Sun	08:21 AM	3.48	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/26
2 8 21 34 62
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 253 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/25
14 21 31 34 54
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 22 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/26
1 6 8 23 42
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 50 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/27
5 9 12 14 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/27
EVENING: 6 6 0

Draw Date: 5/27
MIDDAY: 8 2 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/27
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:49.81

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 (JUNE 1)

You don't have to wait for joy, because you can access it anytime from wherever you are. Finding the light is not an ability but a remembering. Family will succeed together. Business is favored between loved ones. You'll help community and yourself at the same time. There will be a property purchase in November. Taurus and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 44, 8, 40 and 13.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life is tender, and relationships are among its most precious and often-fragile offerings. Today you will approach your interactions with this knowledge and a slow, capable, gentle hand.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whatever you do to make your environment more functional will help you lead a better life. Keep in mind that function depends on purpose. The good ideas will all spring from knowing what you want.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's no way around it. To participate in the mystery, you must move into the unknown. Today, however, you don't have to move very far into it to get the full effect. Take off your shoe and dip a toe in.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There will be periods of not knowing what to do. They will seem to languish on endlessly. As one Tom Petty lyric suggested, "The waiting is the hardest part." But you can rest assured this anticipation will not go on forever.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It is said that it's easier to preach 10 sermons than it is to live one. For this reason, you avoid preaching or even suggesting what should be done. Instead, you act in the best way you know how, and that says everything you need to say.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Cheerfulness takes effort, but it earns its place as your go-to tone. It stops you before an observation becomes a lament, steadies you atop slippery emotional slopes, encourages you to linger in the sunshine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll get a substitute teacher in the classroom of life today, and no one is following the assigned seating chart. Your options are open. Will you sit up front or in the back? The standard stereotypes will apply.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The dynamic: one person completely immersed in the scene to the point of losing all self-consciousness and another worried about the groupthink gathering behind the eyes of the world. They, of course, need each other.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Be neither a shusher nor a shushed. But if you have to choose, you'll probably choose to be the shushed, as there is too much life in you to stick strictly to restrictive protocol.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The group isn't perfect. The group is sometimes barely even functional. But if it were ideal, who would qualify to belong to it? And furthermore, who would want to?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's easy to muster patience for those doing their best to keep up with the flow. You've less patience for those inclined to take their time, though, and still less for loiterers, although a case could be made for all categories.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not easily discouraged. Your broad understanding gives you more to work with. You'll figure out exactly what part of the deal isn't working for the other person. Perhaps it's a small thing that can be changed.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

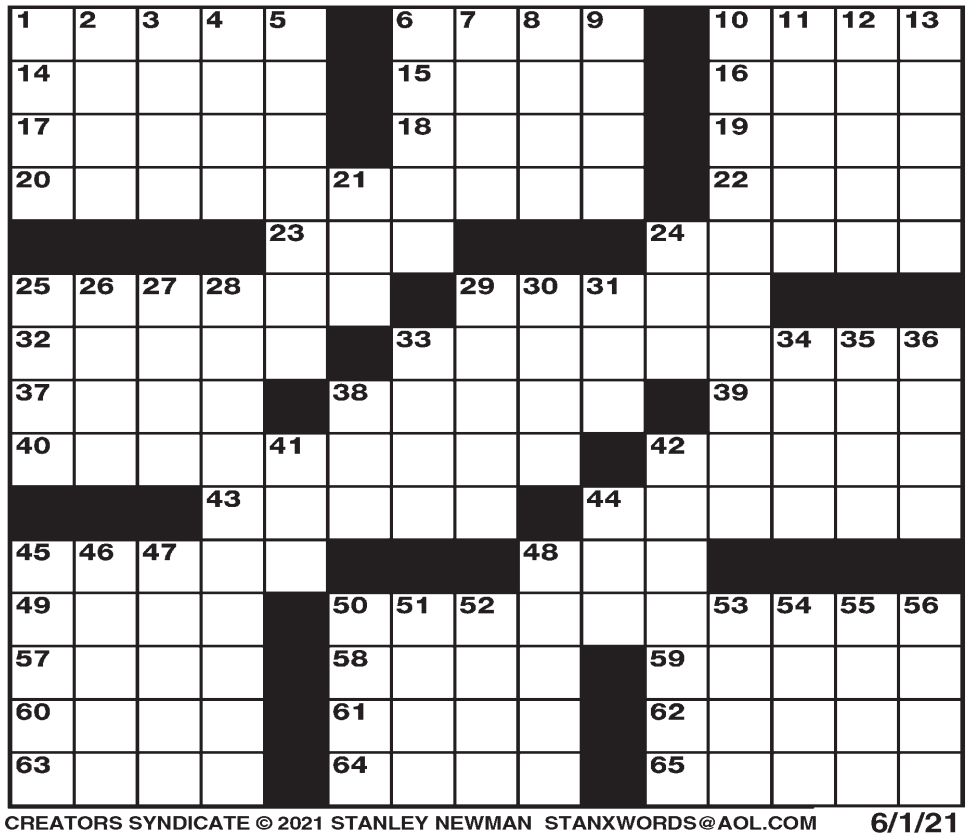
4					6		1	9
	2	7		3		6		
			8					3
		4		7				1
8		1		5		4		2
5				9		8		
3					5			
		6		4		9	8	
2	9		7					4

Newsday Crossword

TOP-GRADE GEOGRAPHY by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Robbery or arson, for example
6 Ballpark jeers
10 Shapes of rainbows
14 Showed again on TV
15 Trade show, for short
16 Apple's center
17 Two presidents ago
18 __ up (prepared a golf ball)
19 Big family
20 Moroccan city in a Bergman/Bogart film
22 Football officials, for short
23 __ *Misérables*
24 Small sample of food
25 Made to feel embarrassed
29 Informal language
32 Mountain lions
33 Neighborhood fitness center
37 Improved, as wine
38 Part of a semicolon
39 Alda of *M*A*S*H*
40 Carnival's animal exhibit
42 Pass into law
43 Hoodlums
44 Makes very happy
45 Handbag handle
48 Ingested
49 Pekoe and Earl Grey
50 "Saintly" Silicon Valley city
57 Long heroic tale
58 Black-and-white cookie
59 Floral symbol of Holland
60 Southwestern tableland
61 Tilt a little
62 Remove pencil marks
63 Fortune-teller
64 Out-of-__ (obsolete)
65 Office's work stations

DOWN
1 Gator relative
2 Country singer McEntire
3 Keogh plan alternatives: Abbr.
4 Baby's cry
5 Makes possible
6 Software test versions
7 Plow-pulling bovines
8 Oil cartel letters
9 Many a carbonated drink
10 Northwest African capital
11 Parts for performers
12 Small __ warning (weather advisory)
13 Sight or hearing
21 Was in first place
24 Explosive initials
25 Junk email
26 Immense
27 Prayer-ending word
28 East African island nation
29 Near-the-end tourney rounds
30 Poor, as an excuse
31 __ carte menu
33 Trumpet or bugle
34 Narrow wooden strip
35 Walk back and forth
36 Pests in a pantry
38 Corporate leader: Abbr.
41 Sen. Romney's party
42 Voted into office
44 When a plane is due: Abbr.
45 Flower stalks
46 Native American abode in Westerns
47 Salary increase
48 Make amends
50 Auctioned off, say
51 General vicinity
52 With no clutter
53 Angler's "tempting" gadget
54 "That's a shame!"
55 Jeopardy
56 Chimps and gorillas



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/1/21

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

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

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



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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 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 5131

A bad night out

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

Access
Aerial
Aged
Alcohol
Army
Arson
Back
Bite
Blood
Burnt
Calm
Crisis
Cuts
Damp
Danger
Died
Disaster
Drown
Fire
Flee
Graze
Head
Help
Hose
Human
Knee
Mine
Moan
Mould
Muscle
Noisy
Pain
Police
Prepare
Pull
Rescue
Ribs
Rivers
Ruin
Save
Scratch
Shark
Sick
Slip
Smash
Stroke
Task
Tear
Trees
Unintentional
Wind

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Learning the bridal waltz

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TECHNOLOGY

FROM PAGE 1

indicated interest.

Spin's sidewalk detection technology works through a combination of machine learning, computer vision and artificial intelligence. There is a forward downward facing camera on the front of each scooter which captures photos of the surface a rider is on.

"All of the images will be processed onboard the scooter, which will analyze the images in real time and be able to decipher, with over 95 percent accuracy, where the user is," said Bui, adding that Spin further boosts accuracy by training their algorithms with specific information on the layout of Santa Monica.

E-scooter company Bird was also gearing up to launch sidewalk detection tech on its Bird 2 devices this summer, but the City put the brakes on its rollout when it did not select Bird to participate in the second shared mobility pilot program.

Bird is currently in the process of appealing this decision and it remains to be seen whether it will be allowed to continue operating in Santa Monica this summer. Bird's technology does not use cameras, but instead relies on GPS mapping of the City's streets and sidewalks

"Using the GIS City data that's available, we've been comparing that with our internal data on our millions of trips in Santa Monica and mapping out the city to know when our receivers go on sidewalks," said Director of Government Partnerships Tim Harter.

Under this technology, when Bird 2 scooters ride on a sidewalk they will beep and gradually slow down to a stop. Users will receive a message telling them to return to the road to resume normal speed.

According to Harter, Santa Monica was slated to be the first city in the US to receive this technology. The appeal decision will be released on June 22 and the second shared mobility pilot program will begin on July 1.

Clara@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

IN THE STREET: The scooter industry is working on technology to detect and prevent riding devices on the sidewalk.

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