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Crime Watch
Burn down a bathroom, get a citation.
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Virtual and physical.
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Homeless man loses eye in BB gun assault

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A Los Angeles man has been arrested after shooting a homeless man in the face with a BB gun causing a "catastrophic" eye injury.

According to SMPD, the incident began at about 1:38 p.m. on Memorial Day when officers were called to the 1500 block of Palisades Park for reports of a man waving a gun and yelling.

Upon arrival, officers located the victim and identified Kyle Leon Castaneda, 38, as the suspect.

The victim said he was standing in the park when Castaneda began accusing the victim of stealing his shoes.

"According to preliminary information, Castaneda was standing ten to fifteen feet from the victim when he pulled a BB gun from a bag and shot at the victim

SEE **ASSAULT** PAGE 6



Courtesy photo

ARREST: Kyle Leon Castaneda was arrested for assaulting a homeless man with a BB Gun.

Even vaccinated California workers may have to keep masks on

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California is set to fully reopen in less than two weeks and do away with virtually all mask and social distancing requirements for vaccinated people. But officials who regulate workplaces in the state aren't ready to go that far and that's angering business groups.

The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board on Thursday was considering new workplace rules that would only allow workers to go maskless if everyone in a room is fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

The rules could remain in place into early next year even though coronavirus cases have fallen dramatically in the state after a severe winter spike and as more people get vaccinated.

Recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance says that fully vaccinated people can now skip face coverings and distancing in nearly all situations and the state is set to follow that recommendation starting June 15.

But the state safety board's staff says conditions are different among workers, leading to a proposed rule that even vaccinated employees wear masks unless everyone else in their workspace is inoculated.

Helen Cleary, director of the

SEE **MASKS** PAGE 11

After local teen's death, parents protest Snapchat's inaction against drug dealers

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

In an outpouring of anguish, a group of families who lost children to drugs sold over social media are gathering outside of Snapchat's headquarters to demand the company take action.

Among them stands local parents Laura Berman and Sam Chapman, whose 16-year-old son Sammy unknowingly ingested a fatal amount of the synthetic opioid fentanyl on February 7.

Sammy was contacted by a drug dealer over Snapchat. The dealer claimed he was selling Xanax and delivered the poisonous pill directly to Sammy's house while his parents were sleeping.

"The organizers are all parents of children who were poisoned with Fentanyl where the mode of contact was Snapchat," said Chapman, who is helping coordinate the protest. "We say poison carefully because people confuse it with an overdose, which is not. This is someone pretending to sell one thing and selling something else."

Sammy's story is not a freak accident, but part of a tragic pattern unfolding nationwide. According to the CDC, synthetic opioids killed more than 36,000 US residents in 2019 and this rate is almost 12 times higher than it was in 2013. An increasing number of these deaths are unsuspecting youths who are targeted by drug dealers over social media.

Friday's protest is one of 30 simultaneously occurring rallies organized by The Association of People Against Lethal Drugs in an effort to raise awareness of the synthetic drug epidemic.

The Santa Monica protest in particular is calling on Snapchat to allow third-party safety monitoring software to give parents a window into the potential dangers facing their children.



Courtesy photo

FAMILY: Laura Berman lost her son when a drug dealer delivered spiked prescription drug to their home.

"These people (social media executives) are making a fortune off of our children and drug dealers, solicitors of child prostitution and all types of abusers are finding our kids on Snapchat and Discord," said Chapman.

Chapman and Berman have launched a petition to demand all social media companies allow parental safety software on their platforms and are working with U.S Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz on legislative efforts to codify this as a national law.

One such company is Bark, which sends alerts to parents when it flags potentially dangerous content such as suicidal thoughts, drug use, cyberbullying, or sexual exchanges. Although Bark is permitted on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, other highly popular youth apps including Snapchat, TikTok and Discord do not allow it.

Protesters are also calling on Snapchat and other platforms to be more cooperative providing user information to the police in the investigation.

"If you speak to the Santa Monica Police you will find that they have stopped asking big tech for help with cases because they don't reply," said Berman, who experienced this personally when trying to find information on the dealer who sold fentanyl to his son.

Protesters fear they are battling against time as the amount of synthetic opioids trafficked across the border increases alongside the influence and popularity of social media on America's youth.

Friday's gathering will be at Clover Park (2600 Ocean Park Blvd), then moving to protest outside Snap, Inc. (2772 Donald Douglas Loop N) at 11:30 a.m.

Clara@smdp.com



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One seat available for a partial term ending November 8, 2022.
Applicants must be residents and registered voters of the City of Santa Monica, and not a City employee.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, June 22, 2021.
Appointment to be made by City Council, Tuesday, June 29, 2021.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/councilappoint.

If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at clerk@santamonica.gov.

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[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
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6255

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

An Evening With LA Co. District Attorney George Gascon

On June 6 at 6:30 p.m., the next monthly gathering of the Committee For Racial Justice will feature LA County District Attorney George Gascon, who has spent his life modernizing criminal justice through data and science to reduce victimization and enhance safety and equity. Within weeks of his election a well-funded and organized opposition was mounted to oppose Gascon's efforts. There are a number of stakeholders in our current criminal justice system that don't want to see that system change in substantial ways.

Come and hear for yourself what DA Gascon is trying to do.

During Gascon's first 100 Days in office:

Ended the use of most enhancements and eliminated 8,127 years of exposure to prison time by limiting the use of unnecessary, excessive, and expensive prison sentences.

Stopped seeking the death penalty in 17 cases.

Ended the practice of prosecuting children as adults.

Withdrawn 77 pending motions to transfer kids to adult court (Saved taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.) Data shows that kids who remain in the juvenile system are far less likely to re-offend in the future.

Established the first Victims Advisory Board in the history of LA County.

Ended the practice of requiring victims to testify in order to receive victims' services.

Banned the use of body attachments.

District Attorney Gascon office will continue to build a justice system rooted in rehabilitation, healing, restoration, and accountability.

The evening will include an interview format moderated by George Brown, a retired attorney recently named chair of the newly constituted Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission in Santa Monica - the first community oversight for police in SM.

Bring your questions and join in this important discussion about the efforts to transform a critical part of the criminal justice system.

For more information call Joanne 310-422-5431

Sunday, June 6, 2021 from 6:30 -8 p.m. zoom meeting :

Register first at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpf-quqTMpE9KT8tsAWYyy9u-fr7uqUa5Do and then you will be sent the attendance link.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

20th St.

Juneteenth at Calvary Baptist

A historic event in the City of Santa Monica, A Juneteenth Heritage Celebration, is scheduled to take place on the grounds of Calvary Baptist Church, 1502 20th Street. Calvary Baptist is the oldest African-American Baptist church in the city of Santa Monica. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

Event Overview

From 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., the grounds of Calvary Baptist Church will host the following ongoing performances and speakers:

Participatory Performances by Daansekou Cultural Arts Collective of Los Angeles (African Drums & Dance Troop), J. Rich & The Free Agents Drumline, and Gospel Line Dancing with Sean Dennis

Musical Performances by Ryann Daniels, the Calvary Baptist Church Choir, Darrel Sims, Synai Obney, Tim Williams & CFC, and Dave Broussard & Friends

Step Shows by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

Guest Speakers: Dr. Lance Robert, President of 100 Black Men of Long Beach, Inc., Dr. Naomi Nightingale, Santa Monica Historian and Activist, and Mrs. Laverne Ross, Historic Santa Monica resident & Juneteenth Organizer

Food provide by Food Trucks: I Love Funnel Cakes and Belly's Sliders & Wings

Onsite Community Vendors including artists, Alva Knowles and Stella Singleton, YM Jewels, Cheryl Manor, SunkistUSA, A Marker Magic, and Elijah's Pantry

SUBMITTED BY PATSY COBB, MEMBER OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Citywide

City of Santa Monica Hosts a Day of Free Juneteenth Activities

On Saturday morning, June 19, the City of Santa Monica will present the 29th Annual Juneteenth Celebration online from 10:30 a.m. - noon, followed by Wade In the Water: A Tiny Film Fest in the evening at Historic Belmar Park from 8 - 10 p.m. These events commemorate America's second Independence Day, when the Union general in Galveston, Texas read the federal orders of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation proclaiming all previously enslaved people in Texas were free, two years after the adoption of the proclamation.

The theme for this year's virtual 29th Annual Juneteenth Celebration "The Change is Here" is inspired by the famous Sam Cook song that foretold A Change is Gonna Come. It was also developed as a response to the outpour of calls for change locally and nationally for a more equitable society. Similarly, Santa Monica's Juneteenth Celebration has been a voice of change within the community since 1992 thanks to the leadership of LaVerne Ross, whose family has celebrated Juneteenth in Texas before she and her family relocated to Santa Monica in the 1950s.

The program's Master of Ceremonies will be spoken-word artist Sean Raymond Hill and the online presentation will include:

Traditional opening drum call performed by Chazz Ross and dancer Teresa Smith

A selection of classic and original soul and blues pieces performed by Harold Wherry and the Blue Breeze Band

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 11

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 236 CALLS ON JUNE 2

Living In A Vehicle 1300blk 10th St 12:08 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 400blk Georgina Ave 12:52 a.m.
Assistance Call Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 12:55 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 4th St / Broadway 1:33 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 700blk Broadway 4:55 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 4:55 a.m.
Encampment 2900blk The Beach 5:39 a.m.
Encampment 2800blk The Beach 5:48 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2200blk Michigan Ave 6:01 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Palisades Park 6:44 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk 11th St 7:14 a.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 7:18 a.m.
Fraud Report 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 7:24 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Report 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:37 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 17th St / Colorado Ave 8:01 a.m.
Panic Alarm 3000blk Main St 8:08 a.m.
Drinking In Public 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:18 a.m.
Loitering 500blk Colorado Ave 8:33 a.m.
Expired Registration 1700blk 11th St 8:33 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk 10th St 8:59 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1100blk 10th St 9:00 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2700blk Colorado Ave 9:11 a.m.
Fraud Report 3000blk Highland Ave 9:12 a.m.
Encampment 2100blk Dorchester Ave 9:16 a.m.
General Parking Problem 200blk California Ave 9:17 a.m.
Elder Abuse 2200blk California Ave 9:29 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:52 a.m.
Fraud Report 800blk Pearl St 9:54 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:01 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2300blk Lincoln Blvd 10:04 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 2nd St 10:07 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Lincoln Blvd / Montana Ave 10:08 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 3100blk Donald Douglas Loop S 10:26 a.m.
Expired Registration 2400blk Michigan Ave 10:32 a.m.
Burglary Report 100blk Colorado Ave 10:33 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 10:52 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 11:12 a.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 5th St 11:12 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:14 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 18th St / Alta Ave 11:15 a.m.
Expired Registration 2000blk Stewart St 11:17 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1200blk Lincoln Blvd 11:28 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk Palisades Park 11:34 a.m.
Found Property 1500blk Palisades Park 11:44 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 11:48 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 300blk Santa Monica Pier 11:56 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 900blk 4th St 11:57 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1300blk 20th St 12:09 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 800blk 4th St 12:12 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 800blk Montana Ave 12:18 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 16th St 12:44 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000blk 16th St 12:56 p.m.
Expired Registration 2700blk 28th St 12:59 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200blk 22nd St 1:26 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 800blk 7th St 1:31 p.m.
Overdose 200blk Washington Ave 1:37 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 1:40 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 2:02 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:13 p.m.
Fraud Report 1300blk Stanford St 2:13 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100blk California Ave 2:34 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:45 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1200blk 14th St 2:47 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 00blk Pico Blvd 2:50 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000blk 2nd St 2:53 p.m.
Identity Theft 300blk Olympic Dr 3:01 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 3:08 p.m.
Expired Registration 100blk Bay St 3:18 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk Broadway 3:19 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 2600blk Wilshire Blvd 3:25 p.m.
Expired Registration 1900blk Ocean Way 3:42 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 3:48 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2800blk Montana Ave 4:06 p.m.
Lewd Activity Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 4:09 p.m.
Encampment 200blk Pico Blvd 4:09 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2300blk La Mesa Dr 4:12 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 200blk Santa Monica Pier 4:20 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:34 p.m.
Expired Registration 2500blk Virginia Ave 4:42 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 4:51 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:27 p.m.
Fraud Report 2600blk Highland Ave 6:06 p.m.
Loud Music 1400blk Marine St 6:31 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 11th St / Montana Ave 6:43 p.m.
Party Complaint 2000blk 21st St 7:24 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:46 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 900blk Palisades Beach Rd 8:00 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Report 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:10 p.m.
Panhandling 2500blk Lincoln Blvd 8:43 p.m.
Child Endangerment 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 8:51 p.m.
Loud Music 1900blk 17th St 9:04 p.m.
Person With A Gun 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 9:13 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1500blk 16th St 10:27 p.m.
Loud Music 800blk Broadway 10:46 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:33 p.m.
Party Complaint 600blk 17th St 11:39 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle Stanford St / Nebraska Ave 11:42 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 30 CALLS ON JUNE 2

EMS 900blk 3rd St 12:40 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 12:47 a.m.
EMS 400blk Montana Ave 12:55 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 2200blk La Mesa Dr 1:35 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:24 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 3:06 a.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 3:10 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 14th St 9:45 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 18th St / Alta Ave 11:15 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 11:17 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Chelsea Ave 11:19 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Lincoln Blvd 11:25 a.m.
EMS 900blk 4th St 11:56 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 12:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 100blk Wilshire Blvd 12:38 p.m.
EMS 200blk Washington Ave 1:37 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 3300blk Barnard Way 1:43 p.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 100blk Wadsworth Ave 2:12 p.m.
EMS 600blk Wilshire Blvd 3:06 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 3:20 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 5:06 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 5:58 p.m.
Wires Down 1400blk Franklin St 6:29 p.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1900blk Pico Blvd 6:38 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Hill St 7:01 p.m.
Structure Fire 1400blk 18th St 8:10 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 8:52 p.m.
EMS 2300blk 23rd St 9:14 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Ocean Ave 10:19 p.m.

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 JUNE 1, AT APPROXIMATELY 11:28 P.M.

Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Officers responded to assist the Fire Department (FD) at a structure fire in a rear house in the 1400 block of 6th Street. Officers contacted the owners of the property and arranged for the alley gates to be unlocked so that the Fire Department could fight the blaze. The owners told officers the rear house was unoccupied and should be empty. When the fire was contained, fire fighters and officers located a male subject semi-conscious and covered in soot lying under a blanket on furniture outside the rear house. The subject, Shane Adam Honaker, a 33-year-old male from Los Angeles, was unknown to the property owners and trespassing. Most of the fire damage was in a bathroom in the rear house. The cause of the blaze is currently unknown, but FD arson investigators responded along with SMPD forensics personnel to gather additional information. Honaker was transported to the Santa Monica Jail where he was booked for 602.5(b) PC – Trespassing while the resident is at home and 452 (b) PC – Recklessly Causing any Structure to Burn. Per current LA County bail regulations, Honaker with released with a citation.

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



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



Robert Lemle

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Letter to the Editor

By Susan E. Lieberman

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why Experiment?

Dear Editor:

My store, JADIS, has occupied the corner of Main and Hill for 45 years. Contrary to what has been reported, the experimental weekend closure proposed for sections of Main St. is NOT supported by all Merchants.

In fact, a group of us questions the timing of this experiment, its merits, and the value of up-ending existing systems for the benefit of a few.

Countywide limits are about to be lifted, and bars and restaurants can revert to pre-pandemic indoor capacity PLUS their bonus, outdoor seating. We, Merchants, have forfeited valuable on-street parking and drive-by visibility to help our bars and restaurants survive.

Fortunately, retail business has been steadily improving with every weekend as customers venture out and people begin to travel again.

So the question remains, "Why now?"

Proponents claim that more people will bring more business.

As a long term retailer, I can tell you that this is a false narrative. Most events (Summer Solstice, Cyclovia, Holiday) are labor-intensive, requiring extra staff, and are largely participated by retailers out of neighborliness and good will. They rarely, if ever, result in productive sales and primarily benefit food and drink establishments.

Our group has yet to receive a satisfactory answer to the question of how emergency vehicles will navigate the road closure. Main Street is a thoroughfare and at least 4 – 6 times per weekend, there are fire trucks and ambulances racing south on Main Street. If the street is closed, an emergency mid-block would be a disaster.

And what about moving the bus stops? Both the Big Blue Bus and the MTA service our street. How arrogant to ask elderly patrons to walk an extra block or two!

Our loyal customers who live near Main Street are legitimately concerned that their neighborhoods will become grid-locked as confused visitors navigate the side streets either to park, or exit the area.

Why are we about to EXPERIMENT with something that will impact and upset our community? We have all come through a horrific year. We should be supporting, not alienating, each other and causing more stress.

Finally, we feel this is an ill-conceived and bizarre idea for this moment.

Moreover, we, the Merchants, are not eager to play co-hosts to an "Oktoberfest" every weekend which is fraught with problems to benefit a few.

Susan E. Lieberman, Owner JADIS

California to allow sale of to-go cocktails through 2021

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ AND KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

There's one pandemic change that Californians are sure to toast: The to-go cocktail.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Thursday that the state will continue allowing restaurants to sell takeout alcohol and keep expanded outdoor dining through the end of the year. Restaurants turned to takeout and outdoor dining during the past year as coronavirus restrictions severely limited indoor service.

"I'm very excited about this and I think this is a good thing for our economic recovery. It's also a good thing for our public health because what occurs is more people will still be outside," Newsom, a Democrat, said during a news conference outside Tommy's Mexican Restaurant in San Francisco.

The extensions come as California plans to lift most business restrictions and social distancing rules on June 15, allowing restaurants to resume indoor service at full capacity. Even so, maintaining outdoor dining could help the state control virus spread, Newsom said.

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control relaxed regulations in March 2020 to let restaurants sell alcohol to go, right around the time Newsom imposed the nation's first statewide stay-at-home order, shuttering restaurants for in-person dining. Since then, restaurants have been allowed to sell pre-packaged alcohol like bottles of beer and wine as well as pre-mixed cocktails ordered with food.

In May, as the state began allowing outdoor service to resume, the department made it easier for restaurants to expand outdoor dining by offering temporary catering authorizations. That allowed restaurants to continue to sell alcohol in off-premises locations like sidewalks and adjacent parking lots where many set up tables. The department has issued more than 10,000 of those licenses, said Newsom spokeswoman Amelia Matier.

Local governments also play a big role in determining how restaurants operate outdoor dining, and Newsom sent officials a letter Thursday urging them to continue

SEE **COCKTAILS** PAGE 11

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Drought ravages California's reservoirs ahead of hot summer

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

Each year Lake Oroville helps water a quarter of the nation's crops, sustain endangered salmon beneath its massive earthen dam and anchor the tourism economy of a Northern California county that must rebuild seemingly every year after unrelenting wildfires.

But the mighty lake — a linchpin in a system of aqueducts and reservoirs in the arid U.S. West that makes California possible — is shrinking with surprising speed amid a severe drought, with state officials predicting it will reach a record low later this summer.

While droughts are common in California, this year's is much hotter and drier than others, evaporating water more quickly from the reservoirs and the sparse Sierra Nevada snowpack that feeds them. The state's more than 1,500 reservoirs are 50% lower than they should be this time of year, according to Jay Lund, co-director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California-Davis.

Over Memorial Day weekend, dozens of houseboats sat on cinderblocks at Lake Oroville because there wasn't enough water to hold them. Blackened trees lined the reservoir's steep, parched banks.

At nearby Folsom Lake, normally bustling boat docks rested on dry land, their buoys warning phantom boats to slow down. Campers occupied dusty riverbanks farther north at Shasta Lake.

But the impacts of dwindling reservoirs go beyond luxury yachts and weekend anglers. Salmon need cold water from the bottom of the reservoirs to spawn. The San Francisco Bay needs fresh water from the reservoirs to keep out the salt water that harms freshwater fish. Farmers need the water to irrigate their crops. Businesses need reservoirs full so people will come play in them and spend money.

And everyone needs the water to run hydroelectric power plants that supply much of the state's energy.

If Lake Oroville falls below 640 feet (195 meters) — which it could do by late August — state officials would shut down a major power plant for just the second time ever because of low water levels, straining the electrical grid during the hottest part of the summer.

In Northern California's Butte County, low water prompts another emotion: fear. The county suffered the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century in 2018 when 85 people died. Last year, another 16 people died in a wildfire.

Walking along the Bidwell Canyon trail last week, 63-year-old Lisa Larson was supposed to have a good view of the lake. Instead, she saw withered grass and trees.

"It makes me feel like our planet is literally drying up," she said. "It makes me feel a little unsettled because the drier it gets, the more fires we are going to have."

Droughts are a part of life in California, where a Mediterranean-style climate means the summers are always dry and the winters are not always wet. The state's reservoirs act as a savings account, storing water in the wet years to help the state survive during the dry ones.

Last year was the third driest on record in terms of precipitation. Temperatures hit triple digits in much of California over the Memorial Day weekend, earlier than expected. State officials were surprised earlier this year when about 500,000 acre feet (61,674 hectare meters) of water they were expecting to flow into reservoirs never showed up. One acre-foot is enough water to supply up to two households for one year.

"In the previous drought, it took (the reservoirs) three years to get this low as they are in the second year of this drought," Lund said.

The lake's record low is 646 feet (197 meters), but the Department of Water Resources projects it will dip below that sometime in August or September. If that happens, the state will have to close the boat ramps for the first time ever because of low water levels, according to Aaron Wright, public safety chief for the Northern Buttes District of California State Parks. The only boat access to the lake would be an old dirt road that was built during the dam's construction in the late 1960s.

"We have a reservoir up there that's going to be not usable. And so now what?" said Eric Smith, an Oroville City Council member and president of its chamber of commerce.

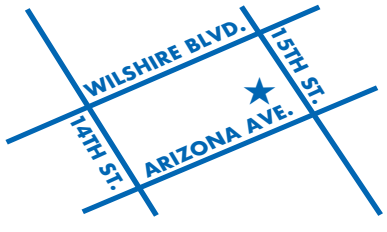
The water level is so low at Lake Mendocino, along the Russian River in Northern California, that state officials last week reduced the amount of water heading to 930 farmers, businesses and other junior water-rights holders.

"Unless we immediately reduce diversions, there is a real risk of Lake Mendocino emptying by the end of this year," said Erik Ekdahl, deputy director for the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights.

Low water levels across California will severely limit how much power the state can generate from hydroelectric power plants. When Lake Oroville is full, the Edward Hyatt Power Plant and others nearby can generate up to 900 megawatts of power, according to Behzad Soltanzadeh, chief of utility operations for the Department of Water Resources. One megawatt is enough to power between 800 and 1,000 homes.

That has some local officials worrying about power outages, especially after the state ran out of energy last summer during an extreme heat wave that prompted California's first rotating blackouts in 20 years. But energy officials say they are better prepared this summer, having obtained an additional

SEE **DROUGHT** PAGE 11

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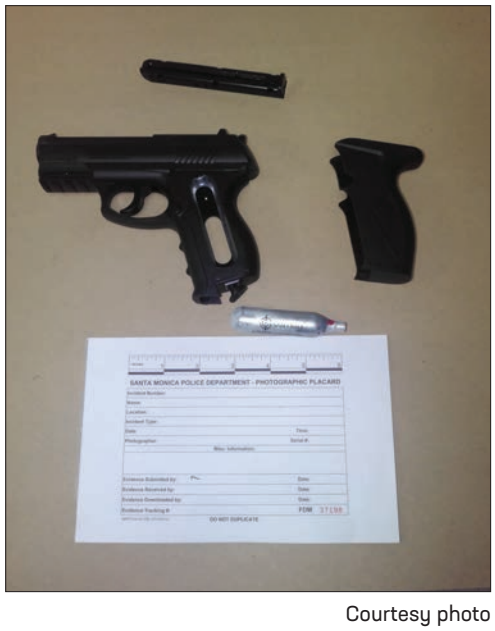
FROM PAGE 1

several times in the face and upper torso. One of the BBs hit the victim in the right eye, rupturing the globe," said Sergeant Erika Aklufi in a statement. "The victim also had a pellet lodged in the top of his head and had several small lacerations to the back of his head."

The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Castaneda has been charged with mayhem, assault with a deadly weapon, batter with great bodily injury and assault with a BB gun.

Anyone with any additional information pertaining to this incident or subject is strongly encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Division at 310-458-8451 or the Santa Monica Police Department's Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458-8427.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

BB: The victim was hit in the eye with a BB on Memorial Day.

Clippers looking for another road win

SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Sports Writer

A first-round rematch between Luka Doncic and Kawhi Leonard has come to this: The first team to win at home takes the series.

Unless the visitors sweep seven games for the first time in NBA history.

Doncic, the young Dallas sensation, has the Mavericks one victory from their first postseason series win since the 2011 NBA Finals.

To get it, Dallas needs a victory in Game 6 on Friday night over Leonard, Paul George and the Los Angeles Clippers, who evened the series with two double-digit victories on the road before the Mavericks' 105-100 win at LA for a 3-2 lead.

Utah, the top seed in the Western Conference, awaits the series winner.

"It's very obvious," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "We have got to play better basketball at home."

The road team has never won the first six games of an NBA playoff series, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The Clippers, who beat Dallas in six games in the first round in the Florida playoff bubble last August, hope to make history.

"We have to win on the road more than win at home if we want to become champions," George said. "Yeah, we have to take care of home court, but we've got other jobs to do. At the end of the day, we still have an opportunity to close this at home if we get this win in Dallas."

Doncic had two days to rest a neck strain that clearly was an issue in Game 4 and responded with 42 points, a playoff career-high 14 assists and eight rebounds.

This time, the 22-year-old only has one day of rest, but he wasn't grimacing and grabbing the neck in Game 5 the way he did while posting series lows in points (19), rebounds (six) and assists (six) in a 25-point loss in Dallas.

"He's getting a lot of massage, ice," Carlisle said. "He's just one of the toughest players I've ever seen, ever been around. He's just a warrior-type guy that happens to be one of the very best players in the world."

Leonard and George combined to shoot less than 50% in Game 5, including Leonard's air ball on a potential tying 3-pointer in the final seconds, after making 41 of 66 shots to carry the Clippers through the first games.

The LA stars didn't get into the lane as much because the Mavericks used more zone. Now it's time to see how the Clippers adjust to that defensive move. Most eyes will be on Leonard, who is averaging 30 points in the series while Doncic is at 35.

"Still can't take away from our aggressiveness attacking the paint, attacking the basket, even though they tried to run a lot of zone," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "We still got open shots and you still could drive it as well. So we have to be better when it comes to playing against the zone."

Friday's Game 6 starts at 6 p.m.

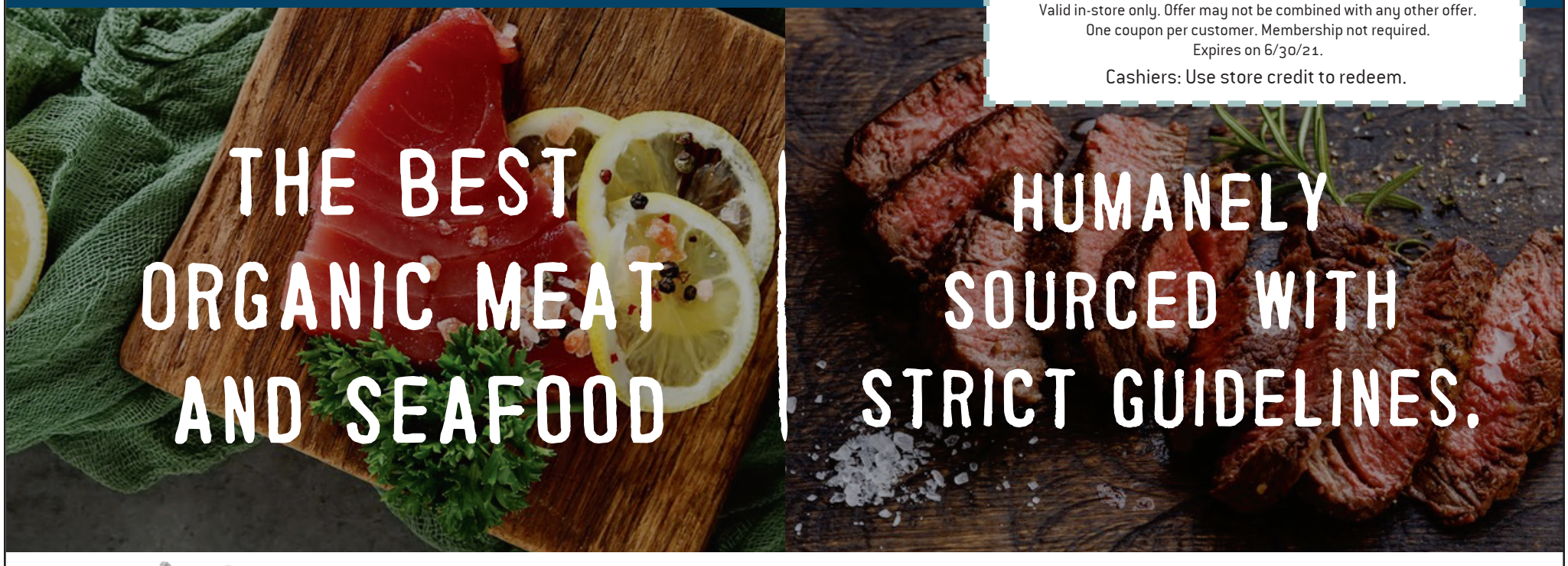






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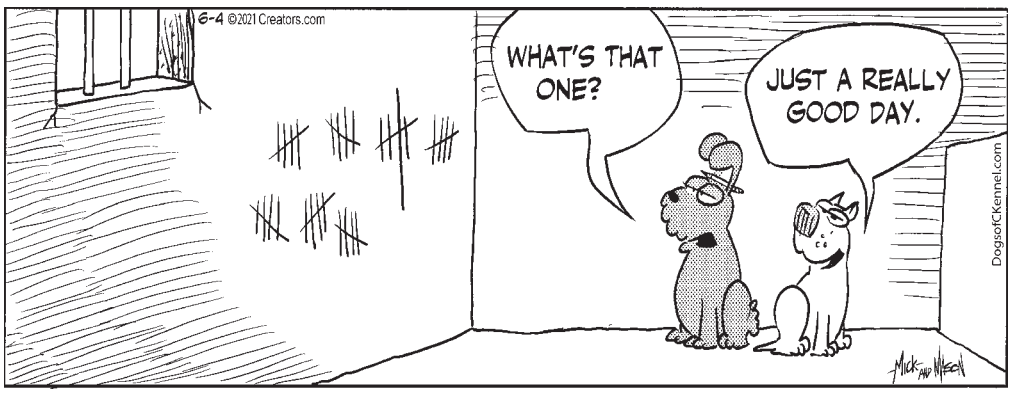
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



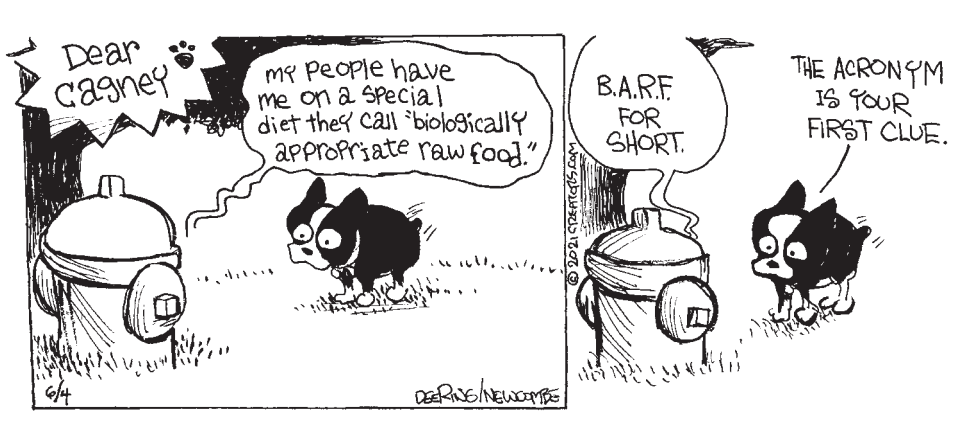
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



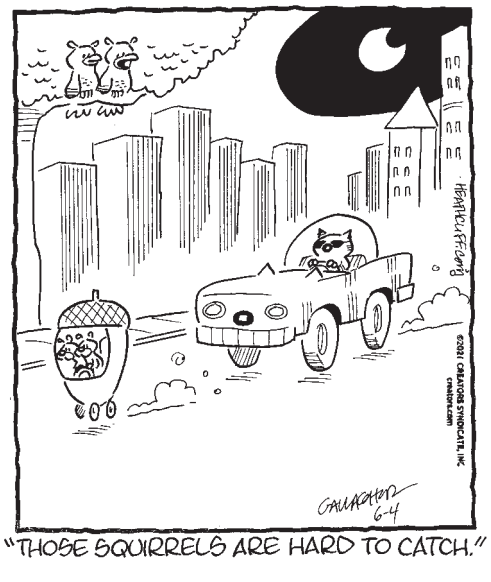
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 62.6°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-5ft Waist to head high
Reinforcing SSW pulse keeps size elevated. Lingering NW swell mix should be enough to cross up the primary Southern Hemi energy in the morning. E trending SE/S morning wind favors spots west of Dume.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
Watching wind - trending more favorable. Lingering SSW swell slowly begins to taper off late in the day. NW swell mix should keep combo breaks fairly peaky. Eye on the tropics.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 66.
Friday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 59.
Saturday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 69.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/06/06	Sun	1:26 PM	1.58	L
2021/06/06	Sun	7:52 PM	5.46	H
2021/06/07	Mon	02:55 AM	0.14	L
2021/06/07	Mon	09:06 AM	3.48	H
2021/06/07	Mon	1:54 PM	1.84	L
2021/06/07	Mon	8:17 PM	5.64	H
2021/06/08	Tue	03:27 AM	-0.18	L
2021/06/08	Tue	09:46 AM	3.46	H
2021/06/08	Tue	2:21 PM	2.05	L
2021/06/08	Tue	8:42 PM	5.78	H
2021/06/09	Wed	03:59 AM	-0.40	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 6/2
6 7 11 66 67
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 286 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/1
7 11 33 58 63
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 45 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 6/2
9 23 27 28 41
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 52 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/2
5 10 29 33 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/2
EVENING: 2 4 9

Draw Date: 6/2
MIDDAY: 3 8 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/2
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:45.33

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 4)

You make unorthodox choices with results so interesting you'll talk and teach on the subject of your own unconventionality. But now, it's about figuring out how things fit together as well as finding and cherishing the people who help you make it work. Success springs from your light, flexible and experimental approach. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 6, 13 and 22.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You appreciate the people who tune into you without making you work for it. You don't have to raise your voice to be heard. It is with soft insistence that you make your point or get your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll take notice of those who seem to be misreading reality. They likely have a personal motive for doing so, but who doesn't? That's the thing about reality -- everyone gets to have one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As infinite as your soul may be, you've plenty of internal resources that are as exhaustible as any external resource. Come from a soulful place and avoid depletion.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Often, from inside a dream, you don't realize that you're dreaming until you start coming out of the thing. At that point, you can see the available option of waking up. Today brings a similar dynamic.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Maybe you didn't plan it just right, or maybe you left just the opening that destiny needed to stick a hand in. So waste no time in worry. Use what you have then back off and accept the assist.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The marketplace will take whatever money you have to throw at it. If you want to fix the problem for $10, you can. If you want to fix it for $10,000, you can. Get informed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Stories don't last if they are not told and retold. So don't worry about whether you said it before, especially if it's part of your family heritage. Say it again. You learn and share something a little different every time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will be remarkably versatile in your approach to love. You can be intellectual about it, imaginative, intuitive or kinesthetic, reading all you need to know in the language of gestures and movements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't have to have the same taste as someone to appreciate your connection. You'll experience things together, each with a takeaway that is different from and enhanced by the other.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't think about it much, nor do you walk around feeling any different from anyone else. And yet, your unique past has made you stronger. You continue to draw strength and ideas from what you learned back there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It could be considered a stretch to put today's task in the category of "fun," but it's the sort of job that is easier to do than avoid. Also, being the one who handles things without hesitation or complaint makes you awesome.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You prefer to surround yourself with items that have use and meaning to you; otherwise, it's more to organize with very little reward for doing so. What story do your material possessions tell about you?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

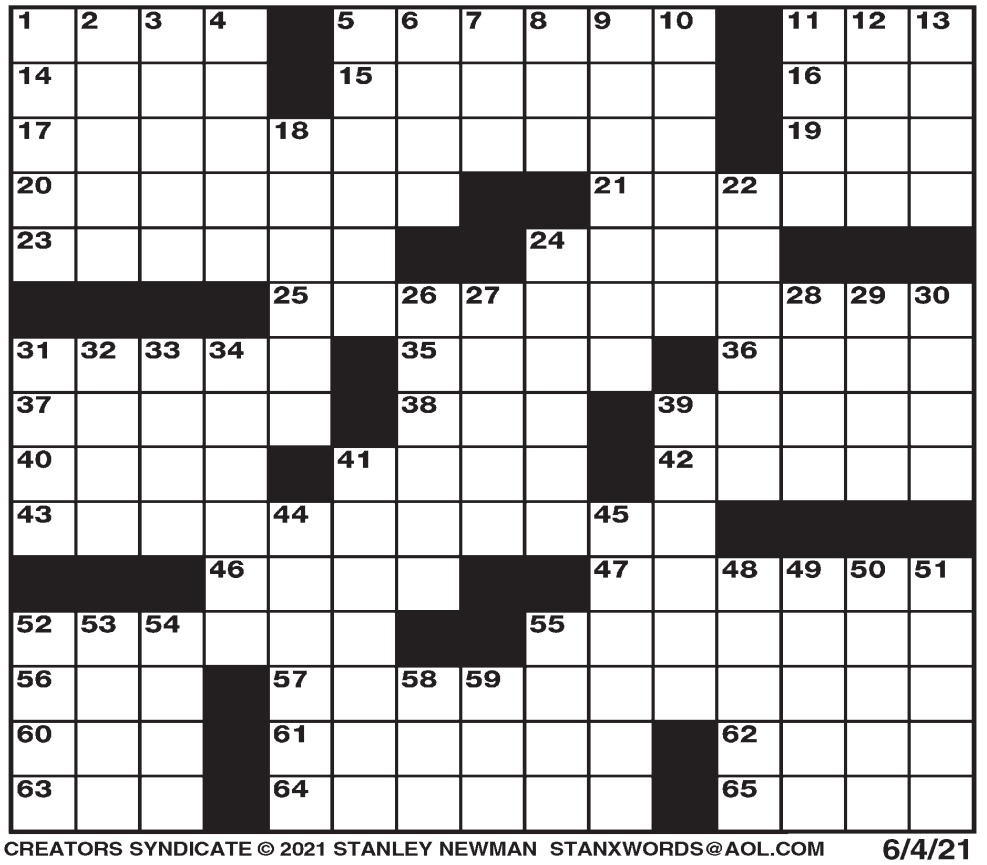
		2						
		4		5		7	6	
1		9	6		3		5	
	9			3	7			
2		3				1		7
			1	9			3	
	2		7		9	3		1
	8	6		1		9		
						6		

Newsday Crossword

BURIED TREASURE by Winston Emmons
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 The Bard's Sir __ Belch
5 Caesar supporter's full first name
11 Of prime importance
14 Paranormal vibe
15 Aggregate
16 School for Spike Lee
17 Take care of that horror film staple
19 Important reign, to historians
20 California Air Force base
21 Golden-haired
23 Oration locations
24 Delta material
25 Flee the city where van Gogh worked
31 Beds for hothouses
35 What van Gogh worked in
36 Nautical prefix
37 "Don't play" musical instruction
38 See 56 Across
39 "You got it!"
40 It's more obvious than "Psst!"
41 Sailing hazard
42 Finish with
43 Credits for a Hindu guide's articles
46 Holders of netting
47 Wanders around
52 Understands
55 Encouraging words
56 With 38 Across, certain sushi filling
57 One who won't accept a board's prediction
60 QANTAS hub, on tags
61 Cause to expand
62 Ballet bend
63 Plane domain
64 On your drive
65 Horse opera sound

DOWN
1 Electrical weapon
2 Surpass
3 What the worried might knit
4 Talk shrilly to
5 Miatas, for instance
6 Israeli author Oz
7 CD-__
8 Baby leopard
9 Amalgamates
10 Sir Paul's designer daughter
11 Lego competitor
12 Brit lit governess
13 Beijing bucks
18 Keep from advancing
22 Subway of song
24 Ill humor
26 Beach shop souvenirs
27 Tortellini topper
28 Provide provisionally
29 It follows that
30 Not long from now
31 Bambi, ultimately
32 Luau locale
33 Pastry aide
34 Monkeylike mammals
39 Considerate farewell
41 Workout wear
44 Rifle supporters
45 Ate away
48 Best left unsaid, for short
49 Diner device
50 Refrain from childhood
51 Throat bug
52 What are hidden in the four longest answers
53 Kind of sense offense
54 Friend in deed
55 Where the Preakness starts
58 UN workers' agency
59 Shake up



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/4/21

Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O
I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	O
O	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	I
I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I
O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O
I	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O
I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O	I
O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O
O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	I
I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
O	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	I
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	O		O								
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		O								O	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 5134

The artist's garret

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

Ashton	Floris	Media	Rose
Attitude	Focus	Messy	Ruby
Auburn	Goya	Miro	Scott
Busy	Grey	Model	Shop
Classical	Hair	Moist	Sitter
Cloth	Hals	Monet	Sketch
Cyan	Hands	Muted	Still
Dali	Heysen	Oils	Tawny
Derain	Hues	Orange	Tea
Drama	Inks	Orchestra	Tents
Easel	Jars	Participate	Texture
Enjoy	Lips	Reds	Tint
Eyes	Luminous	Rees	Tubes

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
The amazing human body

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MASKS

FROM PAGE 1

Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable, a coalition of large businesses with major California operations, said she was "astonished" that the staff of the safety board, known as Cal/OSHA, didn't follow guidelines from federal and state health officials. The proposed rules would "create two classes of people" in the workplace, she told the board.

The proposed regulations set up "an inconsistent standard" between members of the public and employees of private and government workplaces, the California Chamber of Commerce and more than five dozen other business organizations said in a letter to the board.

"A fully vaccinated server could work a lunch shift at a restaurant, get off work, go home, change out of their uniform and then go out to dinner with their family or friends at the same restaurant in the evening and not be required to wear a mask, even though they had to wear a mask earlier in the day while at work," added Katie Hansen, senior legislative director for the California Restaurant Association.

Safety board staff member Eric Berg said the proposed rules incorporate the latest scientific evidence and have been reviewed and supported by the state Department of Public Health.

They recognize key differences between employees and the public at large, including that employees have "longer cumulative exposures" in the workplace than with casual social contact, Berg said.

Allowing some to wear masks and others to go unmasked would create significant enforcement issues for employers and Cal/OSHA, Berg said.

The Cal/OSHA regulations being considered by the board apply in almost every workplace in the state. Its pandemic rules apply to all employees except those working from home or where there is a single employee who does not have contact with other people.

"A very large proportion of California employees will remain unvaccinated as of June 15, 2021," the staff said in its recommendation. "Due to changes in social norms, as mask-wearing and physical distancing decline among fully vaccinated people, those precautions are likely to decline among unvaccinated and partially vaccinated people as well."

Yet unvaccinated employees will remain at risk particularly from more contagious coronavirus variants, the staff reasoned.

Business groups are upset the staff didn't ease its masking recommendation during a two-week delay since the board postponed its consideration while its staff reviewed the CDC guidelines.

"CalOSHA is out of step with the rest of the country," said Andrew Sommer on behalf of the California Employers COVID-19 Prevention Coalition.

With the state set to reopen in less than two weeks, "we need worksites to be able to operate under normal conditions," added Melissa Patack, a vice president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

More than 17.5 million of California's nearly 40 million residents are fully vaccinated, state health officials said Thursday, and the positivity rate for the virus is 0.9%.

While most speakers at the hearing opposed the proposed rules, they were supported by unions representing teamsters, machinists, utility workers, engineers and school employees.

"Worksite outbreaks are still occurring," said Maggie Robbins, occupational health specialist with Worksafe Inc., an Oakland-based worker advocacy group, noting that the majority of Californians are not fully vaccinated.

"The workplace is not the same as deciding to go to a dinner party or the gym or go to a movie," she said. "There's a lot of work to be done before we have a substantially immune population where we can relax more of the controls."

Employer organizations were also critical of a proposed rule that starting July 31 would require employers to provide the most effective N95 masks for voluntary use by employees who work indoors or at large outdoor events and are not fully vaccinated.

That will require employers to track workers' vaccination status and stockpile masks in competition with health care workers and as the state's wildfire season heats up.

Cal/OSHA's Berg said the masks used should be the most effective N95 respirators because "workers are in close proximity to each other for extended periods of time" and need the best protection from the virus.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 2

Gospel favorites performed by Kaleo & the Voice of One Singers featuring Dr. Henry Jackson

The annual presentation of the Juneteenth Proclamation by Mayor Himmelrich to LaVerne Ross, founder and visionary of the Juneteenth Celebration in Santa Monica

The 29th Annual Juneteenth Celebration is presented in collaboration with the Juneteenth Celebration Committee, Inc. Registration for the online webinar event is available at bit.ly/SMJuneteenth.

More information about this free community online event is available at www.smgov.net/vapark or by emailing vap@smgov.net or calling 310-458-8688.

On the evening of June 19, from 8 - 10 p.m. at Historic Belmar Park, the City will host Wade in the Water: A Tiny Film Fest. This in-person outdoor screening of short films will celebrate Black culture and its connection to water. The screening will feature the premiere of BELONGING, a Belmar History + Art site-specific dance film honoring African Americans in Santa Monica.

Pre-event activities will include food trucks and music by DJ Moni Vargas. Participants are also encouraged to explore the historic panels and public sculpture, "A Resurrection in Four Stanzas" along the park's walking path.

The panels and public art, along with the film, BELONGING, were developed as part of the Belmar History + Art project, which commemorates the home of a thriving African American community in the 1950s and honors the legacy of the historic Belmar neighborhood's contributions to Santa Monica life.

This event will follow LA County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 protocols. For more information about Wade in the Water: A Tiny Film Fest, including COVID safety guidelines for the event, visit santamonica.gov/historicbelmarpark.

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COCKTAILS

FROM PAGE 4

allowing outdoor dining in places such as sidewalks and parking lots that aren't zoned for eating.

In San Francisco, "parklets" that expand open-air dining onto streets and roadways have popped up all over the city. Mayor London Breed, who joined Newsom, called outdoor dining "the one bright light we had" during the pandemic. She's now fighting with the city's board of supervisors over a permanent expansion of such outdoor services.

"It's bringing life to the city like never before," she said. "As far as I'm concerned, they're here to stay."

Lawmakers could permanently extend the allowance of to-go cocktails through a bill by state Sen. Bill Dodd, a Napa Democrat. He said his proposal would boost income for struggling restaurants and give customers greater choice.

Newsom, who owns wineries and restaurants, praised the industry for its resilience and innovation during the pandemic. But restaurants struggled amid the stop-and-start restrictions that often varied by county. Even now, counties with the lowest virus transmission rates can only allow indoor dining at 75% capacity if all patrons are fully vaccinated. Nearly a third of California restaurants permanently closed during the pandemic, the California Restaurant Association told lawmakers last month.

All capacity restrictions will lift June 15, but now employers say they're struggling to find workers. As of May, restaurant employment was down by a quarter from pre-pandemic levels.

DROUGHT

FROM PAGE 5

3,500 megawatts of capacity ahead of the scorching summer months.

The low levels are challenging for tourism officials. Bruce Spangler, president of the board of directors for Explore Butte County, grew up in Oroville and has fond memories of fishing with his grandfather and learning to launch and drive a boat before he could drive a car. But this summer, his organization has to be careful about how it markets the lake while managing visitors' expectations, he said.

"We have to be sure we don't promise something that can't be," he said.

Low lake levels haven't stopped tourists from coming yet. With coronavirus restrictions lifting across the state, Wright — the state parks official for Northern California — said attendance at most parks in his area is double what it normally is this time of year.

"People are trying to recreate and use facilities even more so (because) they know they are going to lose them here in a few months," he said.

Associated Press writer Brian Melley in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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