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Services resuming June 15.
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Rainbows on Display
David Pisarra has thoughts on Pride Month.
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Venice Boardwalk business recovery hamstrung by homelessness

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

With over 200 tents lining the Boardwalk and crime rates spiking, local businesses are severely handicapped in their ability to recover from the financial hit of Covid-19.

While crowds are flocking back to nearby commercial strips of Main Street and Abbot Kinney, many merchants on Ocean Front Walk are struggling to turn a profit as foot traffic flounders.

Business at long-standing neighborhood eateries the Venice Ale House and The Waterfront are down 50 percent from pre-pandemic levels. Boardwalk clothing stores Venice Liberty and Redline report that sales are only at 30 percent of 2019 levels.



Clara Harter

HOMELESS: The homeless camps along Venice Beach are taking a toll on the local businesses.

Managers of all four businesses say the increase in homelessness and crime over the past year is severely impacting their business.

"We are very literally losing customers. We have people come sit down and say 'okay let's try this out and see if we can handle having a meal here' and then get up and leave," said Ale House Owner Thomas Elliott, whose tables directly face an encampment.

LAPD reports a 177 percent increase in robberies and 116 percent increase in assaults with deadly weapons in the area over the past year. In the last week alone, two men were violently assaulted by unhoused individuals. One victim was a 70-year-old street performer and the other a security guard who is still in the hospital.

"It costs us on all sides of the equation: We spend over $100,000 a year on security. We have less customers coming because they don't feel safe on Ocean Front Walk and then we also spend money to try to provide services when we can to help people in need," said Jake Matthews, who owns the Waterfront Restaurant.

Matthews is sympathetic to the hardships faced by the homeless and

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 7

BBB studies Metro's fareless initiative

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

A pilot program providing free bus and train rides for low-income riders and K-12 students in Los Angeles County recently got the green light to continue forward, but local transit leaders wonder what the move means for other operators in Southern California.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority unanimously voted last month to approve the development of the pilot program. Transit officials touted the elimination of fares as a way to help Los Angeles County emerge from the pandemic, put money back in the pockets of those who need it the most, and increase ridership.

Nearly three-quarters of Metro riders are low or extremely low-income, which is the largest percentage of low income riders in the country, Metro CEO Phil Washington said back in September 2020 when Metro leaders agreed to move forward with studying the fareless initiative.

"I believe we have a moral obligation to LA County residents to pursue a fareless system and help our region recover from the pandemic and the effects of the lack of affordability in terms of housing," Washington said as he detailed how the elimination of fares would put money back in the pockets of those who need it the most while also promoting social equity and expanding economic opportunities. "We know that housing and transportation are the two biggest expenses for households. So, imagine if we could eliminate one of those expenses."

No other large transit system in the world has gone entirely fareless, but Metro leaders believe the prospective 18-month pilot program would prove useful in determining how to proceed to a completely fareless transit system for all riders in the future.

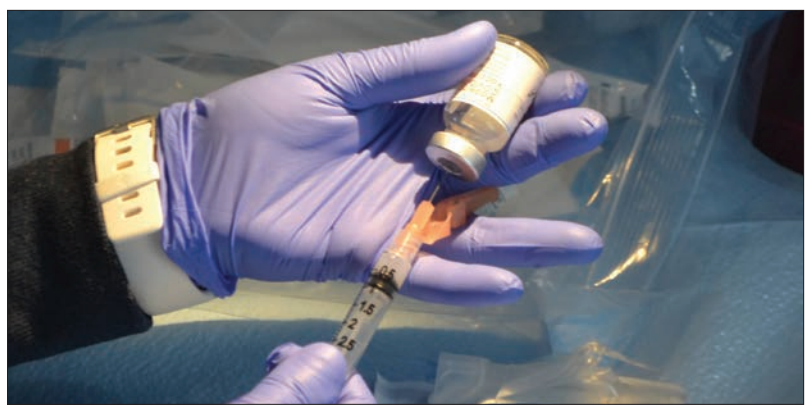
The pilot would begin with free fares for K-12 students and community college students in August 2021, but Santa Monica transit leaders have already begun exploring how the proposed Fareless System Initiative would impact the region and Big Blue Bus operations.

Throughout the last several months, an FSI Ad Hoc Committee comprised of representatives from several Municipal Operators, including BBB, and LA Metro has been meeting to evaluate the effects of the proposed pilot, according to a report to City Council from Edward King, Santa Monica's Director of Transit Services.

"The Munis have participated as they are supportive of the goal of encouraging increased ridership as life returns to normal coming out of the pandemic," King's report states. "In BBB's case, 78 percent of customers would qualify as low income under the pilot program. In addition, considering all of our K-12 customers (8 percent of total

SEE **BUS** PAGE 7

US increasingly unlikely to meet Biden's July 4 vax goal



File Photo

VACCINE: The rate of vaccination has declined in recent months.

ZEKE MILLER AND LEAH WILLINGHAM
Associated Press

For months, President Joe Biden has laid out goal after goal for taming the coronavirus pandemic and then exceeded his own benchmarks. Now, though, the U.S. is on pace to fall short of his aim to have 70% of Americans at least partially vaccinated by July 4.

The White House has launched a month-long blitz to combat vaccine hesitancy and a lack of urgency to get shots, particularly in the South and Midwest, but it is increasingly resigned to missing the president's vaccination target. The administration insists that even if the goal isn't reached, it will have

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11


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New faces enter fray as California recall slowly takes shape

MICHAEL R. BLOOD AND KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

Six weeks after California officials announced that Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom would face an almost certain recall election that could drive him from office, the contest continues to be roiled by uncertainty and questions – even the date when it might take place remains unclear.

The list of Republican challengers who have signaled an intention to enter the race is about to top 20, though no consensus front-runner has emerged. State Assemblyman Kevin Kiley this week became the latest to announce he is considering stepping in.

Newsom, meanwhile, has regained his footing after seeing his popularity fall at the start of the year amid the worst of the pandemic and criticism over his COVID restrictions for the public and businesses. The first-term governor has since benefited from a sharp decline in cases during the spring and a record-breaking surplus that allows him to bestow billions on favored projects and issues.

Still, just last week he faced another round of criticism for saying he planned to keep an emergency declaration in place even after the state fully reopens its economy next Tuesday. "There's uncertainty in the future," he warned.

The declaration means California can be reimbursed from the federal government for many of its pandemic-related expenses. But it also gives Newsom the authority to suspend state laws and impose new rules. Since declaring this emergency, Newsom has issued at least 58 executive orders to alter or suspend hundreds of laws because of the virus.

Recent polling suggests Newsom would beat back the recall; a Republican hasn't won a statewide race in heavily Democratic California since 2006. But those same surveys reveal signs of an unsettled public: independent voters, for example, tend to view his job performance skeptically and most say the state is going in the wrong direction.

Meanwhile, many voters say they are not paying much attention to the unfolding race, leaving open questions about which way they might turn. The slow push to reopen public schools, an emerging drought that is drying up reservoirs and streams, and the looming wildfire season all pose risks for the incumbent, who was elected in a 2018 landslide.

With Kiley's potential entry into the race, it signals that many Republicans remain underwhelmed with the field so far, which includes businessman John Cox, who Newsom defeated in 2018, former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and reality TV personality and 1976 Olympic decathlon champion Caitlyn Jenner.

Kiley, who is 36 and represents suburbs east of Sacramento, has been one of Newsom's chief critics in the state capital during the pandemic. Though little known to a broad swath of voters, he is a hero of sorts among the recall's most fervent organizers and volunteers.

He sued to stop Newsom's use of broad emergency powers during the pandemic. A state Superior Court ruled in favor of Kiley, but an appeals court overturned that ruling in May. Kiley and fellow Republican Assemblyman James Gallagher plan to appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Earlier this year he released a book called "Recall Newsom: The Case Against America's Most Corrupt Governor," and he spoke at dozens of recall rallies and events during the signature-gathering process.

The recall's chief organizer, Orrin Heatlie, is informally advising Kiley as he ponders a candidacy and said he's hearing a lot of frustration about the current field, but declined to give specifics.

Heatlie said his assistance to Kiley is being done outside of his role with the recall committee, which is barred from coordinating with a candidate. Heatlie said he reached out to Kiley after getting a slew of phone calls from recall volunteers asking if the assemblyman planned to run.

"With the lawsuit that he had against the governor, he's gained a lot of notoriety and he's gotten a lot of attention," said Heatlie, a former sheriff's sergeant who filed the recall petition and led the volunteer signature-collection drive.

Kiley said he has no timeline for deciding when to run and declined to criticize any of the Republican candidates, saying they all share the goal of getting a majority of Californians to support recalling Newsom.

He said he sees opportunity to appeal to many voters by pointing out California's failures in dealing with the homeless crisis and poverty, high taxes and that under Newsom public school classrooms remained closed through most of the pandemic — all familiar themes for the leading GOP candidates.

Part of the unsettled landscape around the expected election is the result of the state's time-consuming rules for placing a recall on the ballot.

State officials announced in late April that recall organizers had gathered more than the necessary 1.6 million petition signatures to place the election on the ballot, following a preliminary count. That kicked off a lengthy review process.

Even now, it's possible it could take another two months before the recall is certified for the ballot, following various required state financial reviews. Under that scenario, it would push the election into at least October. But given wiggle room in the law, and the potential for more quickly concluding those reviews, that date could come sooner.

The recall took root last year, driven largely by public dismay with Newsom's long-running virus restrictions that shuttered schools and businesses.

In the election, voters would be presented with two questions: Should Newsom be recalled? Who should replace him?

If voters say yes to the recall, then whoever among the listed candidates gets the most votes becomes the next governor.

Tuesday marked the deadline for voters to withdraw their signatures from the recall petition, a new addition to the process adopted by Democrats several years ago after a state senator was removed from office. State elections officials will release the official count later, but it is improbable enough signers pulled back to change anything.

In Mexico, Harris defends against criticism over border

ALEXANDRA JAFFE
Associated Press

Vice President Kamala Harris brushed off questions about her decision not to go to the U.S.-Mexico border as part of her work to address the spike in migration, declaring Tuesday that while it was "legitimate" to be concerned about the situation at the border, it wouldn't be addressed with a simple visit.

As she closed out a two-day visit to Guatemala and Mexico aimed at strengthening diplomatic ties to help deal with migration to the U.S., Harris declared: "When I'm in Guatemala dealing with root causes, I think we should have a conversation about what's going on in Guatemala."

Speaking to reporters traveling with her in Mexico, Harris was asked about the prospect that her decision not to visit the border may be overshadowing her focus on the very issues prompting migrants to flee their homes for the U.S.

"You can't say you care about the border without caring about the root causes, without caring about the acute causes" of migration, she said.

She added: "It would be very easy to say, we'll travel to one place and therefore it's solved. I don't think anybody thinks that would be the solution."

Pressed on why she wouldn't simply visit, if her goal is to address migration as a whole, Harris noted that she had visited previously, as a senator from California, and may again.

Harris' decision not to go to the border as part of her mission on migration threatened to overshadow her diplomacy as she closed out a two-day trip to Guatemala and Mexico focused on stemming the flow of people into the U.S. Her work thus far has focused on strengthening diplomatic relations, and she met with both Guatemala's and Mexico's presidents on her trip to discuss economic investments and increased enforcement against trafficking, smuggling and corruption.

The increase in migration at the border has become one of the major challenges confronting Biden in the early months of his first term, with Republicans seizing on an issue they see as politically advantageous. Polls suggest Americans are less favorable toward Biden's approach to immigration than they are toward his policies on the economy and the COVID-19 pandemic.

They've tried to make Harris the face of that immigration policy, charging she and Biden are ignoring the issue because both have yet to visit the southern border. Harris told reporters she was focused on "tangible" results "as opposed to grand gestures."

Harris and her aides have sought to make clear that her mission is narrowly focused on finding diplomatic solutions to the problem at the border. But during her trip this week she and the Biden administration were dogged by questions on the issue. During an NBC interview, she dismissed a question on why she hadn't yet visited by responding, "and I haven't been to Europe. And I mean, I don't understand the point that you're making — I'm not discounting the importance of the border."

After Republicans seized on her comments to portray Harris as out of touch with the issue, White House press secretary Jen Psaki was forced to defend the decision as well.

But it drew headlines even as Harris called attention to what she described as a productive meeting with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. After the meeting, the administration announced a range of agreements brokered between the two governments, including a $130 million commitment over the next three years from the U.S. to support labor reforms in Mexico and loans to bolster southern Mexico's economy.

The administration said the meeting produced an agreement to have an economic dialogue in September on trade, telecommunications and supply chains. And the two countries will also partner on human trafficking and economic programs addressing why people leave El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras for the U.S.

Harris told López Obrador at the start of their meeting that the two nations are "embarking on a new era" and emphasized the longstanding "interdependence and interconnection" of the two nations.

Harris also met female entrepreneurs and planned to hold a roundtable with labor leaders in Mexico before heading back to Washington on Tuesday night.

The visit to Mexico capped Harris' first foreign trip as vice president, a brief foray that brought her first to Guatemala on Monday. While in Guatemala, she met President Alejandro Giammattei. To coincide with their meeting, the Biden administration announced a number of new commitments to combat trafficking, smuggling, and corruption, as well as investments in economic development in the country.

But some Democrats criticized the vice president Monday when she delivered a direct message to those considering leaving their homes and making the often dangerous trek to the U.S. border: "Do not come."

Her comments echoed those made by past U.S. officials as they've tried to dissuade migrants from seeking to cross the border, as the U.S. faces unprecedented numbers of attempted border crossings. Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York called her comments "disappointing" and noted that it is legal to seek asylum.

Harris declined to respond directly to the criticism when reporters asked, saying only: "I'm really clear: we have to deal with the root causes and that is my hope. Period."

But the criticism from both Republicans and Democrats underscored the politically fraught nature of the assignment, and the difficulty Harris faces in finding success with an intractable challenge that's only grown in recent months.

Illegal border crossings have increased steadily since April 2020, after Trump introduced pandemic-related powers to deny migrants the opportunity to seek asylum, but further accelerated under Biden. The new president quickly scrapped many of Trump's hardline border policies — most notably the program that made asylum-seekers wait in Mexico, often in dangerous conditions, for court dates in U.S. immigration court.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 316 CALLS ON JUNE 7

Assault W/Deadly Weapon 900blk 12th St 12:08 a.m.
Battery 1300blk 26th St 12:37 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:57 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:03 a.m.
Strongarm Robbery 2800blk Barnard Way 1:19 a.m.
Loud Music 700blk 16th St 1:55 a.m.
Suicide 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:26 a.m.
Loitering 23rd St / Ocean Park Blvd 2:39 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 800blk Montana Ave 7:47 a.m.
Burglary Now 100blk Hart Ave 7:56 a.m.
Burglary Report 1700blk Colorado Ave 7:58 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk 26th St 8:17 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle 1100blk 4th St 8:19 a.m.
Battery Report 2200blk Colorado Ave 8:22 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1600blk 10th St 8:53 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk Olympic Dr 9:00 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2200blk Colorado Ave 9:04 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 400blk Raymond Ave 9:05 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 1300blk Arizona Ave 9:08 a.m.
Suicide Now 700blk California Ave 9:22 a.m.
Malicious Mischief 1700blk Ocean Ave 9:26 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1400blk 6th St 9:38 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 800blk Montana Ave 9:42 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 9:48 a.m.
Found Property 1500blk Princeton St 9:52 a.m.
Found Property 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:54 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600blk Hollister Ave 9:59 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk 4th St 10:34 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 2400blk Pico Blvd 10:42 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 2000blk The Beach 10:58 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 200blk Strand St 11:08 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 3100blk Lipton Ave 11:23 a.m.
Battery 2900blk Exposition Blvd 11:29 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 1600blk California Ave 11:37 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk Broadway 11:41 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk Broadway 11:41 a.m.
Panic Alarm 1500blk Montana Ave 11:46 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:00 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1500blk 2nd St 12:23 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200blk 21st St 12:33 p.m.
General Parking Problem 800blk 4th St 12:42 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk 2nd St 12:46 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 900blk 4th St 1:05 p.m.
Assault Now 1000blk 3rd St 1:06 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2400blk California Ave 1:07 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 100blk Strand St 1:15 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2000blk Ocean Ave 1:21 p.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 7th St 1:29 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 800blk San Vicente Blvd 1:36 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2200blk Colorado Ave 2:07 p.m.
Found Property 900blk 7th St 2:08 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1100blk Palisades Park 2:10 p.m.
Battery 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 2:31 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk 5th St 3:01 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2600blk Highland Ave 3:07 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk The Beach 3:11 p.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk 4th St 3:18 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1300blk 26th St 3:30 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 3:38 p.m.
Identity Theft 2600blk 25th St 3:49 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1300blk 15th St 3:59 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1000blk 19th St 4:15 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 20th St / Olympic Blvd 4:25 p.m.
Speeding Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 4:28 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1500blk 6th St 4:43 p.m.
Loud Music 600blk Pico Blvd 4:53 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1400blk 16th St 4:55 p.m.
Found Property Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 5:01 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2000blk Main St 5:03 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 5:05 p.m.
Encampment 1000blk 9th St 5:07 p.m.
Found Property 1300blk Euclid St 5:08 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 5:15 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1400blk 4th St 5:32 p.m.
Overdose 1800blk Centinela Ave 5:37 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1700blk Appian Way 5:43 p.m.
Speeding 18th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:02 p.m.
Speeding 4th St / Pico Blvd 6:27 p.m.
Found Property Ocean Ave / Montana Ave 6:31 p.m.
Battery Report 2000blk Ocean Ave 6:49 p.m.
Loud Music 100blk Fraser Ave 6:51 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 2nd St 6:55 p.m.
Speeding 1400blk 2nd St 7:17 p.m.
Found Property 2400blk 16th St 7:52 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1400blk Yale St 7:56 p.m.
Petty Theft 2600blk The Beach 8:01 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 500blk Wilshire Blvd 8:01 p.m.
Speeding 1400blk 2nd St 8:40 p.m.
Found Person 1500blk 5th St 9:10 p.m.
Construction Noise 1000blk Bay St 9:58 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1000blk Interstate 10 10:04 p.m.
Burglary Now 1200blk 15th St 10:21 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 10:41 p.m.
Construction Noise 1000blk Bay St 10:43 p.m.
Party Complaint 2400blk Kansas Ave 10:43 p.m.
Party Complaint 800blk 11th St 10:44 p.m.
Found Property 900blk 2nd St 10:44 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1500blk 20th St 11:05 p.m.
Sexual Assault 300blk Olympic Dr 11:08 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk 28th St 11:39 p.m.
Battery Report 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:47 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 11:52 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 27 CALLS ON JUNE 7

EMS 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:27 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Virginia Ave 4:46 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:16 a.m.
Hazmat - Level 1 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:51 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:20 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 600blk Wilshire Blvd 7:37 a.m.
EMS 700blk Montana Ave 8:27 a.m.
EMS 700blk California Ave 9:22 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 3300blk Barnard Way 9:26 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 14th St 9:33 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 6th St 9:49 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 100blk California Ave 10:09 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 10:54 a.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 12:19 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 500blk Wilshire Blvd 12:35 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 4th St 1:58 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 18th St 2:17 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 9th St 3:08 p.m.
EMS 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:10 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:07 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Pico Blvd 4:33 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 5:08 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200blk Colorado Ave 6:21 p.m.
EMS Park Dr / Santa Monica Blvd 7:15 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 7:17 p.m.
EMS 2900blk Pico Blvd 9:38 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Physical Rescue Interstate 10 / 4th St 10:04 p.m.

BRIEFS

The Beach

Beach House Begins Community Re-Opening June 15

As part of the City of Santa Monica's expanding in-person services, the Annenberg Community Beach House begins its re-opening next week. We welcome the community back to the courtyard and splash pad starting June 15, stand up paddleboard rentals, and swim class registration for mid-July. In the City Manager's Proposed FY 2021-23 Biennial Budget, the Beach House pool is scheduled to reopen in July.

"Next week we continue our re-opening of City facilities and community amenities with the first set of re-openings at the Annenberg Community Beach House," said Acting Assistant City Manager Susan Cline. "Summer is more fun at the beach and the Beach House is a beloved place of respite and safe, family fun."

Here is what the community can expect at the Beach House June 15:

Courtyard reopens June 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Splash pad reopens June 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Stand up paddle board rentals available June 15 (during office hours)

Complimentary beach wheelchair checkouts available June 15 (during office hours)

Beach House Guest Services are onsite and assisting customers. Learn more at annenbergbeachhouse.com.

Beach House Event Services are now providing tours, by appointment only, for private events. To learn more, visit annenbergbeachhouse.com/events.

When visiting any City of Santa Monica facility, face masks, and physical distancing are required. Members of the public should not come to the Beach House if experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms or under a quarantine or isolation order. Public spaces will provide instructions for safe distancing, but the public's support in being mindful of COVID-19 best practices, including frequently washing hands and using hand sanitizer, is appreciated.

The Annenberg Community Beach House is wheelchair accessible and ADA compliant. For disability related accommodations, please call Guest Services at 310-458-4904.

The Annenberg Community Beach House at Santa Monica State Beach is operated by the City of Santa Monica. The Beach House is made possible by a generous gift from the Annenberg Foundation, at the direction of Wallis Annenberg, and in partnership with the City of Santa Monica and California State Parks. Additional funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Citywide

Input Invited for Marine Park Improvement Projects

This summer, Santa Monica community members and stakeholders are invited to offer input for two projects at Marine Park – the Marine Park Playground Upgrade Project and the Marine Park Community Garden Proposed Plan.

The Marine Park Playground Upgrade Project will replace the existing 20-year-old playground. Project improvements may include replacement of the existing traditional play equipment, sand and rubber safety surface; improved access between the on-site surface parking, restrooms, and playground; and pedestrian amenities, including shade structures and seating. The new playground will be universally accessible.

A virtual public meeting will take place Thursday, June 17 at 5 p.m. to review proposed concepts, obtain input, and outline the next steps.

Details, including confirmed dates, and meeting links will be posted at santamonica.gov/marinepark.

The City of Santa Monica's Community Garden program is evaluating siting a new garden on the western edge of Marine Park and is collecting feedback through a survey. Currently, the program operates four community gardens, and the interest to participate greatly outpaces availability.

The draft design includes individual plots within raised beds and areas for shared gardening.

The survey, posted at santamonica.gov/marinepark, is open through July 9, at 11:59 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER



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What's the Point?

David Pisarra — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gay Pride Month Is Here For All Of Us

The Rainbows are on display! Yep, it's that month again. The month when the parking meters on Montana Ave get wrapped in rainbow streamers. When the corporations go out of their way to have special advertising to remind the world, but most especially their gay and lesbian clients, how supportive they are and LGBT friendly their business practices are.

As a gay man I have to say that the idea of a month devoted to the celebration of love and openness is a welcome change from the terroristic behavior I experienced as a young man in Northern California. Coming of age in the mid-80s was an experiment in how much trauma can we load onto a community and still have them be functional. Growing up in the age of AIDS, the 'almost pandemic' of my youth pushed my generation to the edge of its ability to tolerate pain, experience the tremendous losses and still find something to celebrate in love.

The epidemic impacted me in ways that still today echo in my psyche. I will never forget the experience of viewing the Names Project – the giant quilt that was made up of rectangles dedicated to a lost soul. It was in Moscone center, that the sections were laid out, with walkways in between and all you could hear were the muffled conversations and the sobbing and shedding of tears of the survivors. The project was the gay community trying to find a place for people to vent their pain that didn't involve protests, or burning down the structures of a society that abandoned them in their hour of need.

Today's freedoms and the changes of society's attitude were born out of the losses of those tens of thousands of men and women to a disease that still carries with it a stigma of moral judgment. The youth of today, who celebrate their freedom of sexuality and gender selection, enjoy the freedoms that were paid for with the pain and loss of a huge portion of the gay community.

It's progress that today a young gay boy can come out at 12 to his parents, join the Gay/Straight alliance at his school, find a young crush, share his budding love with his friends and not be judged, bullied or abused for being who he is. He will not grow up, hopefully, with the psychic scars of being a 'faggot' every day at school. His best lesbian girlfriend will likely be able to share he loves and crushes and not have to suffer the loneliness of an unrequited love. They will find a common support in each other, and in their circle of friends. Their parents will likely have little or no distress or concerns for their life and wellbeing. It will be a stark difference from what I went through, and still experience in the oddest of moments and ways. The memories that surface, of the comments from the other boys bring up fear, pain, anxiety, tears and anger – even some 30 years later. When I came out to my mother her primary concern wasn't was I happy or in love, was I in need of help or assistance to navigate a hostile world, no it was, "for God's sake don't get sick" – meaning don't get AIDS.

It's been 36 years since the height of the epidemic was taking men by the score daily. Today, you're more likely to die with HIV, than from it. That's progress.

As we celebrate the freedom of Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender rights this month, let's remember that people paid for this with blood, sweat, tears, loss of careers, family and loves. Progress is great, but it's expensive.

Have a conversation with someone you know who is gay. Ask them what their experiences have been, good and bad. Listen to them. Give support to those who are coming out, share your love with those who have been out and fought the fight.

I like to say that human sexuality is a 7 lane highway and most people are in the bike lane. If we can remember that diversity is the human condition, and remind ourselves that we all have battle scars, every one of us. Straight, Gay, Bi, Poly, Trans or whatever you want to call yourself, you have scars. So does every one else. Be tolerant of them, for it's the only way they, and you, heal.

David Pisarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra

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WINNER

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BRIEFS

Citywide

Public Health Emphasizes the Importance of Vaccinations as Distancing and Masking Guidelines Relax Next Week

Today, the State released the final blueprint tier numbers before the Blueprint for a Safer Economy program is retired next week; L.A. County's adjusted case rate remains at 0.7 new cases per 100,000 people, and the overall test positivity rate remains at 0.4% across the county and in areas with the fewest health affirming resources.

Los Angeles County remains in the least restrictive yellow tier in the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy framework.

On June 15, the State will be lifting most capacity limits and distancing restrictions at businesses, and the County will align with the State in order to allow businesses to fully re-open. Specific requirements will continue for large capacity events, schools, day cares, day camps, high-risk congregant settings and health care facilities. The County will also follow the State on lifting current travel restrictions on June 15 to align with CDC travel recommendations. Businesses must comply with all Cal/OSHA requirements at worksites past the June 15 reopening.

Public Health will host a Virtual Town Hall on Reopening on Thursday, June 10, at 6:00 p.m. Join the town hall to get the latest updates on the June 15 reopening of Los Angeles County. The town hall will be streamed live on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube @lapublichealth. For more information and to submit a question, visit: tinyurl.com/AskReopeningTownHall.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed 13 new deaths and 186 new cases of COVID-19. Of the 13 new deaths reported today, three people that passed away were over the age of 80, six people who died were between the ages of 65 and 79 and four people who died were between the ages of 50 and 64.

To date, Public Health identified 1,245,412 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 24,404 deaths. There are 232 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 16% of these people are in the ICU. Testing results are available for over 6,836,000 individuals with 17% of people testing positive. Today's daily test positivity rate is 0.4%.

"We know there are people across our community who have suffered tremendous loss. For those of you mourning the passing of a loved one, we wish you healing and peace," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "As California reopens and most physical distancing requirements and capacity limits are lifted a week from today, it's very important that those not vaccinated continue to take precautions. While we are making great progress with vaccinations in the County with 54% of L.A. County residents 16 and over fully vaccinated and 65 percent having received one dose of the vaccine, there are millions of residents who do not have protection from COVID-19. For those not yet vaccinated, and the over 1.3 million children under 12 years old, wearing a face covering remains important for preventing transmission."

Public Health inspectors continue to visit businesses across L.A. County. From May 31 through June 6 inspectors visited approximately 1,000 businesses. In almost all sectors, compliance with masking and distancing requirements was extremely high, with the only exceptions in garment manufacturing. Inspectors are revisiting these manufacturing sites to ensure full compliance.

During this same time period, a total of 12 citations were issued, including 8 to restaurants for noncompliance with Health Officer Orders. Non-compliance and dangerous conditions at businesses can be reported to Public Health by phone at 888-700-9995 or online at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov. These tips can be submitted anonymously.

Free COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone age 12 and older. You do not need to have health insurance and you will not be asked about your immigration status. Vaccines are offered at hundreds of locations across L.A. County. These include clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, places of worship, and mobile clinics. Many sites are open late and on weekends and no appointment needed at many locations. To find a vaccination site near you, to make an appointment at vaccination sites, and much more, visit: www.VaccinateLACounty.com (English) and www.VacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish). If you don't have internet access, can't use a computer, or you're over 65, you can call 1-833-540-0473 for help finding an appointment, connecting to free transportation to and from a vaccination site, or scheduling a home-visit if you are homebound. Vaccinations are always free and open to eligible residents and workers regardless of immigration status.

With 12-17 year olds now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, providing accurate and important information to teens is critical. Public Health participated in a COVID Vaccine Teen Forum and helped answer some of the most popular questions from Los Angeles County teens themselves, ranging from vaccine safety to how they can talk to their parents about getting the vaccine. The forum can be seen at the following link: https://youtu.be/U7U5VnckkP0.

Through Thursday, June 10, everyone 18 and older coming to get their first vaccine or who brings a first-time vaccine recipient with them to their second dose appointment at County-run vaccination sites, L.A. City and St. John's Well Child and Family Center sites, will have an opportunity to win a pair of season tickets to the 2021-2022 home season of either the LA Football Club soccer team or the LA Dodgers. Official rules and participating site locations can be found on the Los Angeles County Vaccination Sweepstakes page online.

County Reopening Protocols, COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard, COVID-19 Surveillance Interactive Dashboard, Roadmap to Recovery, Recovery Dashboard, and additional actions you can take to protect yourself, your family and your community are on the Public Health website, www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH

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Your column here

Anita Janapati

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

One of the reasons my family purchased our condo was because of its close proximity to the Ocean Park Branch Library. Unfortunately, the Ocean Park Branch is currently closed. It's a shame that such a beautiful space is going unused. It's a shame that our children can no longer walk down the street to go on a "reading adventure" as we call it. It's a shame that many of our amazing librarians are unable to serve their community. It's a shame that I have to explain to my children that we can't walk to the library anymore because lack of funds, COVID, and because the City's budget does not align with the community's desires.

The City's proposed budget contemplates turning our Ocean Park Branch into something akin to an automated bank teller. Patrons will need a keycard to enter into the facility and will need to check in and out books on their own. While this is better than nothing, libraries are not just a place to check out books. They are a place to explore, learn, and relax. And in Santa Monica, our libraries are a place to build community. They are a place to teach our children about the importance of literacy, imagination, and exploration. We will truly miss the read-alongs, pajama nights, arts and crafts sessions, and lazy days strolling through the aisles with our preschoolers.

Please re-fund the Santa Monica Public Library system, re-staff our libraries, and re-open the closed branches so that all children can benefit from the amazing library system that is waiting for our community to open its doors back up (without a keycard).

Anita Janapati, Santa Monica resident and parent. save.sm.library@gmail.com or @SaveSMLibrary1.

BRIEFS

Citywide

"Righting Our Wrongs" performance on June 11

The Santa Monica College Music Department is pleased to host "Righting Our Wrongs," a live webcast concert under the direction of Jeremiah Selvey, featuring virtually performed and recorded performances by the SMC Concert Chorale and SMC Chamber Choir, with guest Choral-Scholars-In-Residence Chorosynthesis Singers.

The event is free and will be held online at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 11. A link that takes guests to the concert will be posted with the June 11 event description on the SMC Events calendar at smc.edu/calendar. The link will go live a short time before the concert begins.

The choral event explores the idea of human and societal reconciliation through the lenses of the LGBTQ experience intersecting unaccepting religions, minority voices silenced or dismissed through the women's suffrage movement, and the breakdown of empathic dialogue among ideological tribal divides.

The concert will feature three student compositions, including "We Dream," a collage work about racial (in)justice co-composed by SMC students and Chorosynthesis Singers.

The SMC Choirs and Chorosynthesis Singers, co-directed by Selvey and guest conductor Wendy Moy, will collaborate in a second performance of Melissa Dunphy's "Amendment: Righting Our Wrongs." Commissioned by the Votes for Women Consortium and premiered in 2020 at Santa Monica College, the work composed for soprano-alto-tenor-bass (SATB) choir and cello juxtaposes the voices of the founding fathers with the voices of minority women fighting for universal voting rights.

The concert is sponsored in part by the SMC Chairs of Excellence Grant and generous individual donors. Donations to support the SMC Choirs are welcome and may be sent to the SMC Foundation (details at santamonicacollegefoundation.org/smc-choirs).

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

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH, SMC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

SEATTLE

Feds plan to curtail West Coast salmon fishing to help orcas

Federal officials are planning to curtail nontribal salmon fishing along the West Coast in especially bad years to help the Northwest's endangered killer whales.

NOAA Fisheries is taking public comment on the plan, which calls for restricting commercial and recreational salmon fishing when Chinook salmon forecasts are especially low.

The southern resident killer whales – the endangered orcas that spend much of their time in the waters between Washington state and British Columbia – depend heavily on depleted runs of fatty Chinook. Recent research has affirmed how important Chinook are to the whales year round, as they cruise the outer coast, and not just when they forage in Washington's inland waters in the summertime.

The fishing restrictions would extend from Puget Sound in Washington to Monterey Bay in central California, and they would be triggered when fewer than 966,000 Chinook are forecast to return to Northwest rivers. The last time forecast Chinook returns were that low was in 2007.

The restrictions would include reducing fishing quotas north of Cape Falcon in Oregon; delaying the start of the ocean commercial troll fishery between Cape Falcon and Monterey Bay; and closing parts of the Columbia River and Grays Harbor in Washington and the Klamath River and Monterey Bay to fishing much of the year.

If NOAA Fisheries adopts the plan as recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, it would be one of the first times a federal agency has restricted hunting or fishing one species to benefit a predator that relies on it.

There are 75 orcas in the three pods that make up the southern resident orca population. The whales have in recent years been at their lowest numbers since the 1970s, when hundreds were captured – and more than 50 were kept – for aquarium display. Scientists warn the population is on the brink of extinction.

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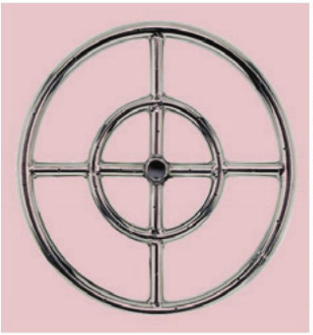








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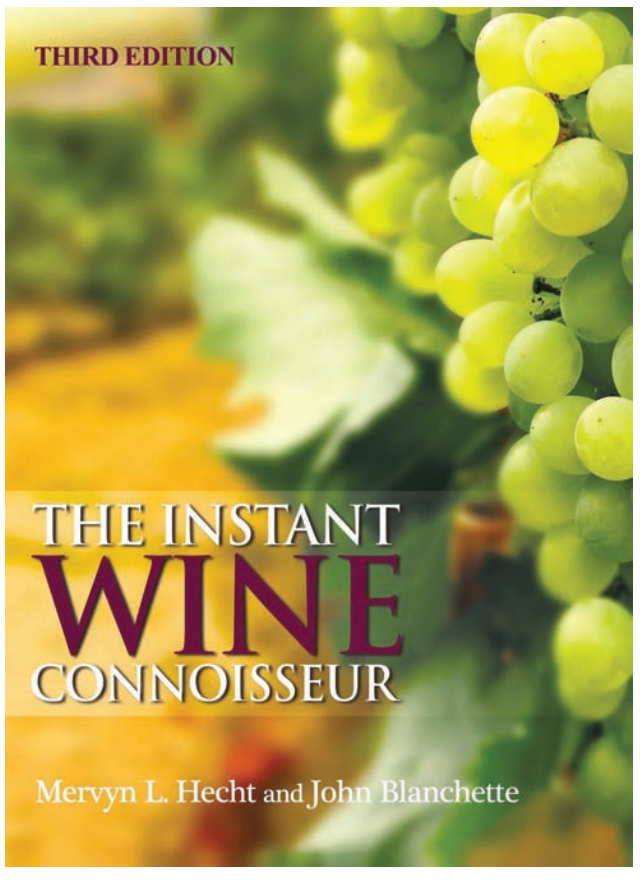




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★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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.

BUS

FROM PAGE 1

ridership) and community college customers (16 percent of total ridership), the pilot could have a dramatic impact on service." Accordingly, the Munis are concerned about the financial impacts on their operations if they were to participate.

A recent survey completed by the Munis estimated a $21 million loss in fare revenue in FY 21-22 and a $54 million loss in FY 22-23 if the program is implemented. The same survey estimated BBB would lose $3.9 million of its own fare revenues in FY 21-22 and $7.7 million in FY 22-23.

"These costs do not include potential challenges for the pilot such as paying for increased system security and funding additional service hours if demand surges," King said, adding, "If LA Metro moves forward, the pilot program would have a significant impact on the Municipal Operators in Los Angeles County, including BBB. If the Munis do not participate, it is anticipated that large numbers of riders who now ride Municipal buses would move to LA Metro's free fare system wherever possible."

King noted it would be a challenge to convince residents to begin paying for transportation again if the initiative doesn't work out. The FSI pilot would also call into question several regional partnerships and long-term funding agreements with community colleges that provide free service for the students and a consistent source of funding for the transit provider.



File Photo

FREE: Officials have been studying the impact of a free transit system.

"During the pilot program, these agreements would be unnecessary,"King said. "This would, in effect, transfer the cost of rides from the community colleges to the transit systems during the pilot period. For example, BBB would lose $1.3 million in revenues annually from Santa Monica College."

Washington said the agency is considering the use of grants from the state or federal government, existing revenues, such as advertising, and other sources of funding.

If successful, the FSI pilot is expected to expand to include low-income riders who meet Metro's existing low-income qualifications sometime in January 2022 and the pilot would end in June 2023.

Brennon@smdp.com

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

has made it a company policy to try and be supportive of their unhoused neighbors. The restaurant has hired three individuals who were living on the Boardwalk and provided safe storage areas for homeless individuals to lock their belongings.

However, in the past year the nature and scale of homelessness on the Boardwalk changed.

"There's been more criminal activity and more intimidation that has taken place since Covid started and that corresponds with the fact that you see significantly less police presence or City services or sanitation," said Matthews.

Patrick Liberty, who owns Venice Liberty clothing store, concurs that the homelessness situation has gotten completely out of hand.

"After being here 26 years I'm ready to just throw in the towel and say I can't make it here. I'm working and losing money," said Liberty, who works 10 hours every day and is currently unable to cover his rent and expenses.

The condition of the Boardwalk is not only taking a toll on Liberty's business but also on his quality of life. He lives directly above his store and says that on average he is awoken at least twice a week by loud partying or fighting.

"It's not sustainable. They can't let it go on," said Liberty. "There's too many mentally ill people, too many violent criminals, and too many people like me getting woken up at 1:30 in the night."

The City of L.A. has not articulated a plan for addressing crime or homelessness on the Boardwalk.

Citing a moment of crisis, L.A. County Sheriff Alex Villanueva has broken with jurisdictional precedent and deployed his Homeless Outreach Service Team to Venice. His goal is to offer everyone living on the Boardwalk alternative living spaces and clear the encampments by July 4th.

Local merchants are closing eyeing his intervention, as they recognize that the upcoming summer months offer a critical opportunity for businesses to get back on their feet.

"If we neglect this opportunity, not only will existing businesses be unable to recover from COVID, but the businesses that come in to replace us will not be the same neighborhood focused, locally owned businesses that reflect the character and the authentic brand of Venice hospitality," said Matthews. "That would be a tragedy on top of the tragedy."

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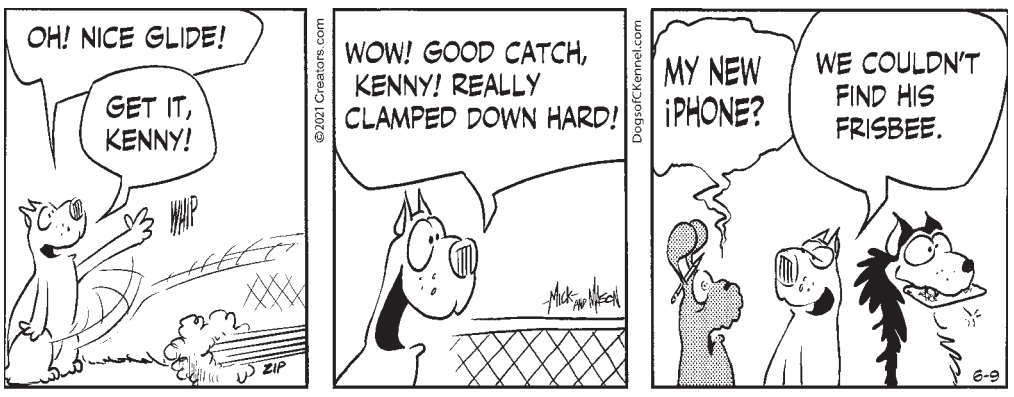
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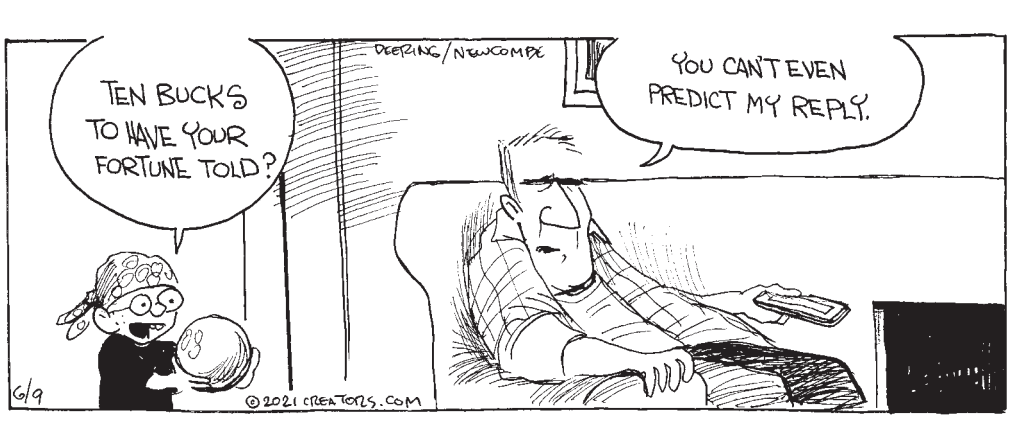
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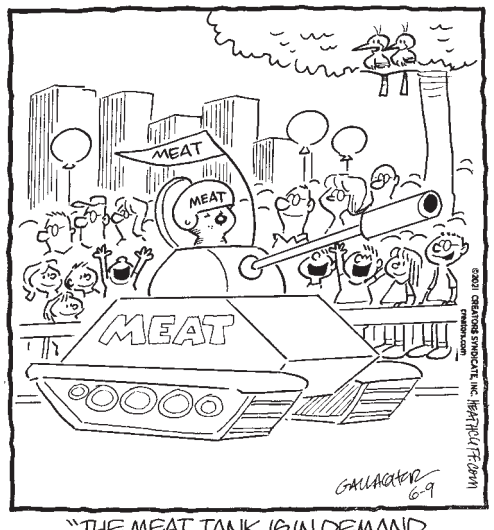
Zack Hill

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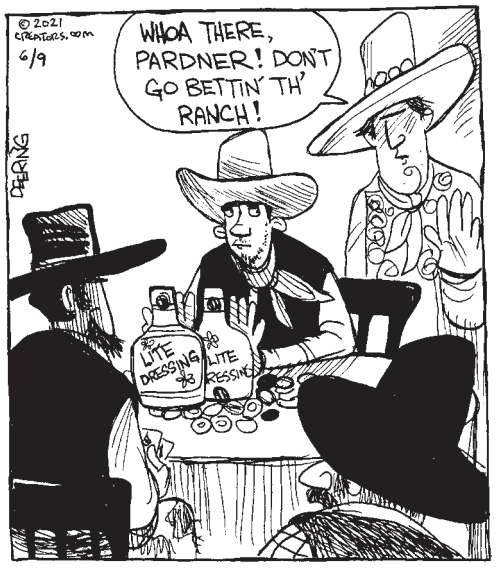
By PETER GALLAGHER



"THE MEAT TANK IS IN DEMAND FOR PARADES."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 65.5°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Should be a clean morning with incoming tide. Small, long-period SW/SSW swell shows with a few decent, inconsistent sets at summer focal points.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Similar conditions to previous day - Clean, incoming tide in morning. Small SSW swell lingers with just minor NW swell mix.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 67.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 71. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/06/09	Wed	03:59 AM	-0.40	L
2021/06/09	Wed	10:25 AM	3.44	H
2021/06/09	Wed	2:49 PM	2.22	L
2021/06/09	Wed	9:10 PM	5.86	H
2021/06/10	Thu	04:32 AM	-0.53	L
2021/06/10	Thu	11:06 AM	3.41	H
2021/06/10	Thu	3:18 PM	2.37	L
2021/06/10	Thu	9:38 PM	5.87	H
2021/06/11	Fri	05:07 AM	-0.58	L
2021/06/11	Fri	11:49 AM	3.37	H
2021/06/11	Fri	3:49 PM	2.50	L
2021/06/11	Fri	10:10 PM	5.82	H
2021/06/12	Sat	05:45 AM	-0.56	L
2021/06/12	Sat	12:35 PM	3.34	H
2021/06/12	Sat	4:23 PM	2.64	L
2021/06/12	Sat	10:44 PM	5.69	H
2021/06/13	Sun	06:24 AM	-0.47	L
2021/06/13	Sun	1:25 PM	3.33	H
2021/06/13	Sun	5:02 PM	2.78	L
2021/06/13	Sun	11:21 PM	5.49	H
2021/06/14	Mon	07:06 AM	-0.33	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 6/5
44 52 54 64 69
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 20 M

calottery MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/4
4 30 34 41 64
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 56 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 6/5
4 7 8 32 45
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 53 M

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 6/7
1 4 7 11 13

calottery Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/7
EVENING: 3 7 3

Draw Date: 6/7
MIDDAY: 5 6 1

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 6/7
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:46.80

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JUNE 9)

Your cosmic birthday gift is enough restlessness to fuel a big, beautiful adventure! Emboldened by change, you'll dive into strange environments and come away with many boons and benefits. Developments in your personal life give you a sense of security. You'll be appointed to a position in 2022. Scorpio and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 33, 2, 40 and 15.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One quest that's worthy of you is the quest to become masterful at reading the room. Even the most familiar rooms have more to offer once you tune into their particular frequency and adjust your own accordingly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The action won't be controlled. This scene has a force too strong for one person to thwart or even steer, but it can be influenced, nudged along in a way that will make a difference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll use different words and make updates to the way you present yourself both in person and in the digital realm. Your fresh style will bring social and professional opportunity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Disappointment isn't an appointment worth keeping. The way to avoid it is to set your expectations well. This takes both awareness and research. Who are you dealing with? What patterns exist already?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Belief is the code that programs the mind. Once a thing is believed, the perceived world automatically organizes around that belief, which becomes like sheet music that the world plays its song to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The cool lettering on an inspiring picture wants to be the truth, but the truth rarely presents in such a glamorous way. The truth is more likely to be uncomfortably blurted out, its grittiness taking nothing away from its power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People flock to the ocean, pay more to live near it, travel great distances to see it. Its enormity, ceaseless movement and unfathomable danger make it mesmerizing. Romantic love is mesmerizing for the same reasons.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's easier to be philosophical about a thing when you're the one in control of the decisions around it. When decisions are made by others that affect your world, it's action, not philosophy, that puts things right.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Whether or not you land a certain job will depend partly on luck and other circumstances, but keeping it or leveraging it into something even better will be contingent on what you give to the work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People who say they need a fast answer or the offer goes away are using scarcity tactics. If you already know what you want, you don't have to be squeezed for the deal to close.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People are drawn together out of mutual need, and they typically drift apart when those needs either aren't met or are no longer needs. Lasting relationships depend on periodic updates and renewals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Socializing is a dance you're good at, as you easily tune into other people's rhythms. You know when to go forward, pull back, sidestep and more. Because of this, you'll be a sought-after partner.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

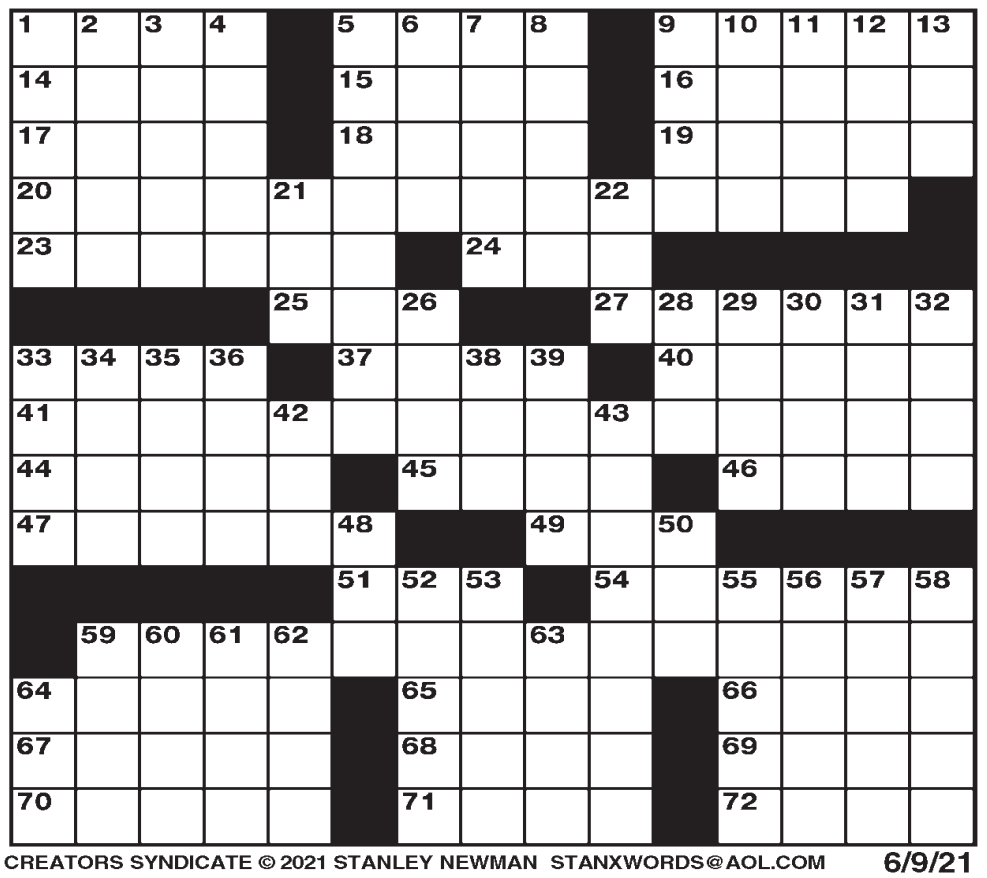
		8	3				5	
					7	4		1
		1		5			7	
5	6							9
	1		5	3	9		6	
3							1	2
	3			1		6		
9		4	6					
	8				3	9		

Newsday Crossword

CEREAL SOUNDS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Blacken a bit on a grill
5 Applies liniment
9 Biblical queendom
14 Pocket problem
15 Colossal, as a film
16 Be nitpicky
17 Diva's delivery
18 17 Across, e.g.
19 Hard to tell apart
20 Critter in a shell
23 Bungled, with "up"
24 Telepath's claim, for short
25 Despicable one
27 Blackened a bit on a grill
33 Takes steps
37 Prefix for dynamic
40 Whittle away
41 Campfire features
44 Chocolate source
45 Painter of melting clocks
46 Venue for a vault
47 Some government securities
49 Golf pro Ernie
51 Hyundai rival
54 Aviary racket
59 New Year's party ritual
64 Game-show group
65 A Great Lake
66 Double-reed instrument
67 Prefix for physics
68 Jury member
69 __ the worse for wear
70 Beer relative
71 Thomas Hardy heroine
72 Proofreader's marking

DOWN
1 Gaping hole
2 Singer Lena
3 Name after "a.k.a."
4 Gathers in
5 Leftover
6 Fairy tale's second word
7 Hogwash
8 Glasgow residents
9 Natural bandage
10 Sentry's call
11 Wickedness
12 10-year-old's transportation
13 Beer relative
21 Chest muscle, for short
22 Increases
26 Former Nevada senator Harry
28 Sushi fish
29 Typical Abu Dhabi resident
30 Italy's capital, to natives
31 Heaven on earth
32 Work station
33 Passbook no.
34 Bellyacher
35 Tex-Mex snack in a shell
36 Read the UPC of
38 Single-strand genetic material
39 Gawk at
42 Down for the count
43 Petty thieves
48 Enjoy Vail
50 Nautical pronoun
52 Totally helpless
53 Be in accord
55 Pictures on computer screens
56 Mechanical worker
57 Face-down
58 Target game
59 Gone by
60 Cognizant of
61 Lima's land
62 Whodunit essence
63 Frequent tic-tac-toe results
64 Faux __



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/9/21

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

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

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



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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Studying

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

Acts	Economics	Knowledge	Sport
Adelaide	Employee	Learn	Study
Advisor	English	Lunch	Sydney
Agent	Exhausted	Mark	Tablet
Arts	External	Night	Task
Award	Fail	Notes	Transcript
Clubs	Gallery	Pass	Unit
Dean	HECS	Points	Urban
Diagram	Index	Procrastinate	
Discuss	Jurisdiction	Scan	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Owning the catwalk

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COVID

FROM PAGE 1

little effect on the overall U.S. recovery, which is already ahead of where Biden said it would be months ago.

About 16 million unvaccinated adults need to receive at least one dose in the next four weeks for Biden to meet his goal. But the pace of new vaccinations in the U.S. has dropped to about 400,000 people per day — down from a high of nearly 2 million per day two months ago.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, told reporters at a briefing on Tuesday that he still hopes the goal will be met "and if we don't, we're going to continue to keep pushing."

So far 14 states have reached 70% coverage among adults, with about a dozen more on pace to reach the milestone by July 4. But the state-to-state variation is stark.

Fauci said the administration is "pleading" with states, particularly those with low vaccination rates, to step up their efforts in the coming months, though some of the states trailing behind are hardly sharing the urgency.

On a conference call Tuesday, White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients delivered an impassioned call for governors to join the administration in "pulling out all the stops" on vaccinations this month. "We need your leadership on the ground – which is where it matters the most – more than ever," he said.

In Mississippi, which trails the nation with only about 34% of its population vaccinated, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has called Biden's goal "arbitrary, to say the least."

The vaccination rate in the state has dropped off so sharply that it would take the better part of a year for the state to reach the 70% target.

Speaking to CNN on Sunday, Reeves said he encouraged residents to get vaccinated, but that the more important marker was the decline in cases in the state.

That sentiment makes winning over people like University of Mississippi student Mary Crane all the more important to Biden meeting his goal. She hasn't felt much urgency to get the COVID-19 vaccine because she's already had the virus, and the family she's living with during the summer break has been vaccinated.

"Initially, it was to wait on everyone else to get it and not take a vaccine," she said, explaining why she hasn't been vaccinated. "But now that it's available, there's really not a reason I haven't gotten it, other than I just haven't gotten it."

Crane, 20, said she's seen classmates who were eager to get the vaccine right away — there was a trend when the vaccine first came out of posting vaccination cards on social media sites like Instagram. But now that the vaccine has been available for a few months, Crane said she sees fewer young people talking about it.

"Everything's pretty much back to normal now," she said.

Fauci on Tuesday emphasized that increased vaccination was essential to stamping out potentially dangerous variants, including the so-called "Delta variant" first identified in India that is now the dominant strain in the United Kingdom and is growing in the U.S. Vaccines have proven less effective against that variant when people are not fully immunized, and evidence points to it being more transmissible and more deadly.

In an attempt to drive up the vaccination rate, the White House has worked to encourage an array of incentives for people to get shots — from paid time off to the chance to win a million dollars. It's partnered with community groups, businesses and health providers to make it easier than ever to get a shot. Those efforts have helped sustain some of the interest, but the trends point to Biden missing the target by several percentage points.

In Ohio, Republican Gov. Mike DeWine created a lottery offering $1 million prizes for vaccinated adults and full-ride college scholarships for children. Ohio's lottery kicked off a wave of similar incentive lotteries nationally.

DeWine's May 12 announcement of the state's Vax-a-Million program had the desired effect, leading to a 43% boost in state vaccination numbers over the previous week. But the impact was short-lived, with vaccinations falling again the following week.

For some, the chance of winning $1 million isn't enough to overcome skepticism about the need for the vaccine.

Joanna Lawrence of Bethel in southwestern Ohio says the COVID-19 survivability rate is so high, and the experiences of people she knows who took the vaccine are so bad, that she sees no need to risk a shot for herself. She made it through her own bout of the coronavirus in August.

"My life is not worth money," said Lawrence, 51, who farms and works in commercial real estate. "I can always get more money if I need to. I cannot get another life."

White House press secretary Jen Psaki declined to make a prediction on whether the goal would be met but said the administration was using " every tool at our disposal to get there,."

"Regardless of where we are on July 4th, we're not shutting down shop," she said. "On July 5th, we're going to continue to press to vaccinate more people across the country."

Husband and wife Keila Moore 41, and Willie Moore, 42, of Pearl, Mississippi, have disagreed on whether to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Willie said he knew he wanted to get it because he has high blood pressure and other preexisting conditions and is a frontline worker.

"As soon as I had the chance to get it, I took it," said Willie, who was vaccinated in February.

But Keila, who doesn't have preexisting conditions and works from home, has so far chosen not to be vaccinated.

After her husband was vaccinated, she tested positive for the virus. She said it was a mild case, but that it was still a scary experience. She said she's feeling more open to getting the vaccine, and is considering getting it this fall, if reports of side effects continue to be minimal.

"I'm just still weighing the options and the time frame," she said. "I'm a little bit more confident in it now as the time is going by because the time is going by and I'm not really seeing any side effects that are too worrisome."

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DBA

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DBA

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Background Supervisor: Design the environments of scenes or episodes. 24 mos of exp req'd in Toon Boom Harmony, 3D Modeling, & Cintiq. Must be IATSE Local 839 member or willing to join. Resumes to Bento Box Entertainment LLC, Hiring mgr, 5161 Lankershim Blvd #120, North Hollywood, CA 91601. Please reference job code: CJ442M

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