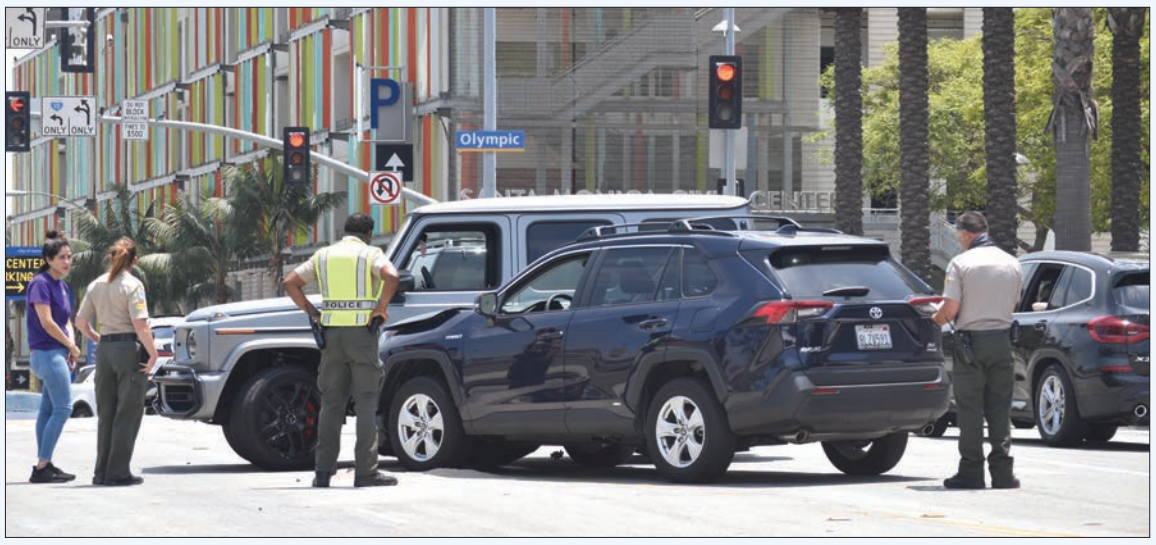
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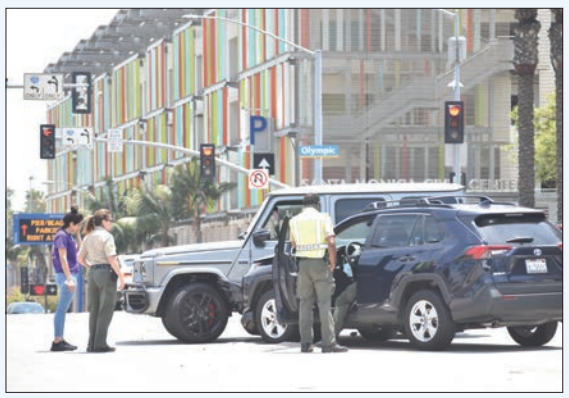
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Most Loved Results
The results of the annual contest will be revealed tonight at 6 p.m. with a virtual awards ceremony. To register for the event, visit: https://www.smdp.com/most-loved-awards/205855

Crash snarls downtown







Brennon Dixson

CRASH: An accident around 12:47 p.m. snarled up traffic at the intersection of 4th Street and Olympic Avenue on Tuesday. No injuries were reported but one driver was pregnant so she was taken to a nearby hospital out of precautionary measures, according to Santa Monica Police Department officials.

City park policy puts pickleball players in a pickle







Courtesy photos

COURTS: The City's pickleball players are unhappy with the state of play.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Every weekend hordes of passionate pickleballers flock to Memorial Park, but to their dismay the City's park policies are progressively limiting their ability to play.

To the 250 or so locals who regularly enjoy the sport, the dwindling availability of pickleball courts is a big deal. The game, which is a slower and more social version of tennis, is a favorite outlet for a diverse range of residents including many elderly individuals.

There are no permanent pickleball courts in Santa Monica, however there are four tennis courts in Memorial Park that are striped for pickleball. Prior to the pandemic there were designated hours during the week when the Park Planner would set up pickleball nets on these courts, which players could come enjoy.

Since the City's two Park Planner positions were eliminated in the pandemic budget restructuring, the nets are no longer taken out. Ho Nguyen, the pickleball ambassador for Santa Monica, has taken it upon himself to arrive at the courts at 7:30 a.m. most mornings, before they are open, and set up his own nets for the general public to use.

On the weekends he says there are well over 100 players who come together to play. However, since there are no longer designated hours for pickleball, players have to compete with tennis players for space.

"Numerous times I've had the tennis players tell us we're not

SEE **PICKLEBALL** PAGE 6

SMMUSD readies to approve Hero Pay

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Custodians, supervisors and classified staff in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District could receive Hero Pay compensation if district leaders approve an agreement during a meeting this Thursday.

After months of negotiations, a Memorandum of Understanding was ratified on Friday, June 11 by SEIU Local 99, a union representing hundreds of SMMUSD custodians, food service workers, teaching assistants and other classified school employees. Now, SMMUSD will consider approving the agreement, which means union members will likely be eligible to receive up to $2,000 depending on their assignment during the pandemic.

In recognition of the unique challenges of the school year and the commitment and dedication from other SMMUSD employees, all non-represented employees will be eligible for a maximum $2,000 off-schedule payment as well, according to Tuesday's agenda.

The proposed pay bump comes a few months after classified staff spoke during a board meeting about their struggles during the pandemic.

Maintenance Worker Henry Plasencia, who has been one of the more outspoken members of the union during the process, said he almost lost his life after spending six

SEE **HERO** PAGE 11


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Covid's Sweep through CA

The Associated Press

JANUARY 2020

— The Orange County Health Care Agency reports California's apparent first case of COVID-19, a man who had traveled to Wuhan, China.

FEBRUARY

— The Feb. 6 death of a San Jose woman is the first known U.S. death from COVID-19.

— A California resident becomes the first confirmed non-travel related case, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

— A Solano County woman becomes the first U.S. case involving community transmission, meaning she didn't have any known contact through travel or with a known infected person.

MARCH

— The number of confirmed cases in California continues to increase. By month's end, it will pass 7,000. As the caseload rises, Gov. Gavin Newsom declares a state of emergency. Several counties also declare local emergencies. On March 19, Newsom issues the nation's first statewide stay-at-home order, closing all nonessential businesses and restaurant dining. He writes President Trump to say that 25.5 million Californians could be infected within two months. While cases rose dramatically, they never come close to that level.

APRIL

— California's death toll from the virus tops 1,000 and climbs throughout the month. Confirmed cases are around 40,000.

MAY

— The state has seen more than 50,000 infections but new cases and weekly death tolls fall for the first time. Newsom praises Californians for helping slow the infection rate. Following a decline in hospitalizations, Newsom announces new criteria allowing larger counties to reopen more of their economies if they have the virus adequately in check. Within a month nearly every county in the state is approved to reopen large segments of their economies.

JUNE-JULY

— Virus cases and hospitalizations rise across the state, leading Newsom to issue a mask order and renew some social distancing restrictions as infections spike. COVID-19 cases are now reported in every county in the state. In late July, California has a record daily total of cases, topping 400,000 and overtaking New York for the most cases in the country. More than 7,000 deaths have been recorded.

AUGUST

— Newsom says California is showing improvement in its fight against the virus, citing a lower number of confirmed new cases and a sharp dip in the hospitalization rate. Even so, by the end of the month California has the most confirmed virus cases in the nation at more than 700,000.

SEPTEMBER

— Infection rates fall to their lowest level of the pandemic and by late in the month hospitalizations have dropped to a level not seen since the first week of April. The state is closing in on 800,000 confirmed cases and more than 15,000 deaths. But the declines prompt officials to loosen restrictions in many counties, allowing more businesses to reopen.

OCTOBER

— California has been seeing several thousand new cases a day but by mid-month the number of deaths and hospitalizations drops. Some counties get state permission to ease restrictions. However, infections and hospitalizations begin to inch up again by the end of the month, with the deadly winter surge to come.

NOVEMBER

— Newsom attends a birthday dinner at the exclusive French Laundry with lobbyists. Photos show there are more people than recommended by state guidelines, sitting close together and without masks. Health officials plead with the public to stay home for the Thanksgiving holiday as hospitalizations rise. The governor orders almost all nonessential businesses to close. The state hits 1 million infections and more than 18,000 dead.

DECEMBER

— The crisis prompts Newsom to create a conditional stay-at-home order for different regions of the state based on ICU bed capacity. Vaccine shipments start arriving as hospitalizations and deaths rise. Hospitals treat patients in makeshift tents, auditoriums, anywhere they can find space. California hits a record 2 million confirmed coronavirus cases on Christmas Eve as nearly the entire state is under a strict stay-at-home order.

JANUARY 2021

— The new year starts on a grim note with funeral homes running out of space and 8,000 people in hard-hit Los Angeles County hospitalized. California hits 3 million cases and reports a one-day record of 764 COVID-19 recorded deaths, but the rate of new infections starts to fall. Newsom lifts the regional stay-at-home orders.

— Newsom expands vaccine eligibility to the general public, starting with people 75 and older, and taps insurer Blue Shield to operate a new statewide vaccine delivery system.

FEBRUARY

— California surpasses 50,000 dead and the Federal Emergency Management Agency opens its first joint mass vaccination sites in LA and Oakland. San Francisco sues its own school board to reopen classrooms as the governor pushes to get kids back in school. In the U.S., a half-million people have died from the coronavirus.

MARCH

— New case rates continue to plummet but vaccine supply remains extremely tight. It's clear residents are violating self-certified eligibility rules to get their shot at a confusing array of sites, including mass vaccination centers, pop-up clinics catering to the poor and pharmacies. Newsom announces that 40% of vaccine doses will go California's hardest-hit neighborhoods. Disneyland announces it will open in April.

SEE **TIMELINE** PAGE 11

California fully reopens after being 1st to shut in pandemic

JOCELYN GECKER AND STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

California, the first state in America to put in place a coronavirus lockdown, has turned a page on the pandemic.

The nation's most populated state lifted most of its restrictions Tuesday, meaning no more state rules on social distancing or capacity limits at restaurants, bars, supermarkets, gyms, stadiums or anywhere else.

And masks — one of the most fraught symbols of the pandemic — are no longer mandated for vaccinated people in most settings, though businesses and counties can still require them.

Gov. Gavin Newsom celebrated the milestone by hosting a lottery-style selection of 10 winners who will get $1.5 million each simply for being vaccinated. It was the grand finale to the nation's largest vaccine incentive — $116 million in COVID-19 lottery jackpots and cash card giveaways.

"Finally we are here, June 15th, to turn the page," Newsom declared from a stage at Universal Studios Hollywood during festivities to mark what he called the "full reopening" of the state's economy.

The Democratic governor pointed to the more than 40 million doses of vaccine administered and the resulting plunge in cases as the reason for the reopening.

"Foundationally, that's why we're here today," Newsom said.

Just in time for summer, California wants to send the message that life is getting much closer to normal. The economy is fully reopen for the first time in 15 months and people can largely return to pre-pandemic lifestyles.

Fans can cheer maskless at Dodgers and Giants baseball games. Disneyland is opening to all tourists after allowing just California residents since April. People can pack indoor bars and nightclubs from the Sunset Strip in Los Angeles to the Castro in San Francisco.

Tourism was among the hardest hit industries during the pandemic and now wants to make up for lost time.

"In terms of our incredible cities, our iconic attractions, the industry is ready to roll out the red carpet to visitors in California, around the nation and even the world," said Caroline Beteta, president and CEO of Visit California.

Pandemic highs and lows saw California go from being a success story to the U.S. epicenter of the virus. As the first in the country to impose a statewide lockdown in March 2020, California's businesses were just starting to reopen last June when cases started rising and restrictions were imposed again.

By summer's end, a darker reality set in as California hurtled toward a deadly winter surge. Shutdowns, curfews and harrowing images from overwhelmed hospitals became the norm as the state set records almost daily for infections and deaths.

More people tested positive for the virus in California (3.8 million and counting) and more people died (63,000 plus) than anywhere else in the country, although the nation's most populous state had a lower per capita death rate than most others.

California now has one of the lowest rates of infection in the country, below 1%. That dramatic drop in infections combined with an increasing number of vaccinated residents — over 70% of adults have had at least one dose — led Newsom to announce in April that most COVID-19 restrictions would be lifted June 15.

The reopening doesn't necessarily mean people will immediately flock to places and events they once packed or that businesses will opt to return to full capacity immediately. But a palpable feeling of anticipation has replaced the anxiety, frustration and sadness that ushered in summer 2020.

For Angie Barragan, who was born in Los Angeles and visited last week from Las Vegas, so many things that were once normal feel new, awkward and amazing: strolling in public without a mask, socializing for the first time in ages.

"It's kind of learning how to be a human again," she said as she shopped and strolled on LA's historic Olvera Street, a restored Mexican marketplace once clogged with tourists. "But it's great to be among people."

The reopening doesn't mean the pandemic is over, Newsom has repeatedly stressed as an explanation for retaining his statewide emergency declaration.

Some public health measures will stay for "megaevents." People attending indoor concerts, sporting events or other large gatherings of more than 5,000 people will have to show proof that they are vaccinated or have a recent negative COVID-19 test. Those going to outdoor events with more than 10,000 people are "strongly encouraged" to do the same.

While fully vaccinated people will no longer be required to wear masks in most places, those who are unvaccinated are expected to, but it won't be enforced. Businesses have three choices: operate on an honor system, require customers to show proof of vaccination or require everyone to cover their face.

Many question if the honor system will work, including the California Nurses Association, which said the new rules essentially call on businesses and essential workers to be the vaccination police.

"This is not a sound public health strategy," said Sandy Rending, a president of the association, which is calling on people to keep masks on indoors and in crowds.

For now, masks are still required in places like public transit, airports, health care settings and indoor school classes.

While applauding the reopening, some business owners said ever-shifting mask rules are confounding.

"We're excited — and a little confused," said Tom La Torre, owner of Sabella & La Torre Restaurant at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, a tourist haven that transformed into a ghost town during the pandemic.

Until now, his restaurant was limited to 50% capacity.

"That will be nice to fill the place up. However, we are still confused about the mask mandate," La Torre said.

It's also unclear if people will come.

SEE **REOPENS** PAGE 11

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 278 CALLS ON JUNE 14

Audible Burglar Alarm 2000blk 20th St 1:37 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1700blk Berkeley St 2:46 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2200blk 30th St 5:08 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Ocean Ave / Washington Ave 5:48 a.m.
Encampment 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:00 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2700blk Wilshire Blvd 6:47 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2900blk 31st St 6:58 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk 4th St 7:43 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk The Beach 8:04 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto In Progress Ocean Way / Bay St 8:29 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1000blk 2nd St 8:34 a.m.
Found Property 2300blk Wilshire Blvd 8:42 a.m.
Battery Now 2800blk Neilson Way 8:49 a.m.
Construction Noise 1600blk Wellesley Dr 8:54 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 25th St / Ocean Park Blvd 8:57 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Euclid St 9:13 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 10th St / Ocean Park Blvd 9:15 a.m.
Burglary Report 2400blk Main St 9:17 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100blk Pacific St 9:19 a.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 400blk Broadway 9:24 a.m.
Battery Report 500blk Olympic Blvd W 9:26 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk Washington Ave 9:30 a.m.
Injured Person 1400blk 4th St 9:43 a.m.
Encampment 9th St / Montana Ave 9:51 a.m.
Burglary Report 1100blk 4th St 9:53 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 800blk 18th St 10:27 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 10:37 a.m.
Burglary Report 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 10:39 a.m.
Death Investigation 1900blk 11th St 10:58 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 300blk Montana Ave 11:05 a.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 400blk Broadway 11:16 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2600blk Highland Ave 11:22 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 100blk San Vicente Blvd 11:23 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk 11th St 11:23 a.m.
Assault Just Occurred 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 11:24 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 200blk 10th St 11:25 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk 10th St 11:26 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk 10th St 11:28 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk The Beach 11:54 a.m.
Lost Property 1800blk Navy St 12:04 p.m.
Burglary Report 1700blk Berkeley St 12:05 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:08 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk 4th St 12:30 p.m.
Burglary Now 1500blk 12th St 12:33 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2200blk Colorado Ave 12:39 p.m.
Fight 300blk Santa Monica Pier 1:07 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk 12th St 1:11 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2500blk Pearl St 1:15 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2000blk Pico Blvd 1:17 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 800blk Georgina Ave 1:19 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1100blk 17th St 1:54 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 1000blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:26 p.m.
Burglary Report 2900blk 31st St 2:31 p.m.
Found Property 900blk 6th St 2:45 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:48 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 2400blk Oak St 3:00 p.m.
Battery Now 1300blk Palisades Park 3:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 28th St / Ocean Park Blvd 3:20 p.m.
Stalking Suspect There Now 200blk Pacific St 3:48 p.m.
Loud Music 2800blk Neilson Way 3:57 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 4:05 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2300blk 22nd St 4:24 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 2300blk Schader Dr 4:25 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2100blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:52 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1400blk 2nd St 5:06 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 2000blk The Beach 5:11 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500blk 4th St 5:14 p.m.
Encampment 600blk Montana Ave 5:25 p.m.
Fight 1500blk 2nd St 5:37 p.m.
Illegal Weapon 1600blk Ocean Ave 5:55 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 200blk Broadway 6:02 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:11 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 2nd St 6:22 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2700blk Barnard Way 6:22 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 700blk Arizona Ave 6:31 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:34 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk Oak St 6:35 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200blk Princeton St 6:48 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk 4th St 6:52 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2400blk Kansas Ave 6:53 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1700blk Hill St 6:54 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1000blk Ashland Ave 6:55 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 7:25 p.m.
Construction Noise 2600blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:29 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Ave 7:37 p.m.
Found Senile Person 18th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:06 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 8:31 p.m.

SEE **POLICE LOG** PAGE 5

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 48 CALLS ON JUNE 14

Odor Of Natural Gas 1200blk 14th St 12:30 a.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 1:02 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 500blk Wilshire Blvd 1:54 a.m.
Odor Investigation 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:56 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Washington Ave 5:48 a.m.
EMS 1700blk 9th St 6:31 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Berkeley St 7:04 a.m.
EMS Chelsea Ave / Arizona Ave 7:58 a.m.
Wires Down 500blk San Vicente Blvd 8:05 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 8:10 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 2nd St 8:37 a.m.
Wires Down 1500blk 17th St 8:51 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 10th St 8:55 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 4th St 9:40 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 25th St 9:57 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1800blk 10th St 10:00 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 10:17 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 10:51 a.m.
EMS 1900blk 11th St 10:56 a.m.
EMS 18th St / Arizona Ave 10:56 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:11 a.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 11:36 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 12:06 p.m.
EMS 400blk Broadway 12:08 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600blk 7th St 12:34 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 12th St 12:41 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 1:16 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:33 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600blk 7th St 1:42 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Lincoln Blvd 2:09 p.m.
Lock In/Out 2700blk Main St 2:40 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Colorado Ave 2:54 p.m.
EMS 28th St / Ocean Park Blvd 3:20 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 20th St 3:50 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:07 p.m.
EMS Euclid St / Broadway 5:09 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1700blk Robson Ave 5:10 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:58 p.m.
Wires Down 1000blk 6th St 6:05 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 6:24 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1600blk Bryn Mawr Ave 6:34 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Kansas Ave 6:53 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 7:09 p.m.
EMS 18th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:06 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 21st St 8:27 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 9:13 p.m.
EMS 15th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:40 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2600blk Washington Ave 9:52 p.m.

How California's pandemic rules are changing

The Associated Press

Californians can eat, drink and rub shoulders at restaurants, movie theaters and most other businesses without COVID-19 restrictions as the state fully reopened Tuesday. Here are some things to know about the changes:

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

When the pandemic hit last year, California issued the nation's first statewide stay-at home order, closing all nonessential businesses and restaurant dining. Since then, restrictions have been tightened or eased as circumstances changed.

Last summer, California adopted a four-tier, color-coded system of business restrictions and guidelines. Each county was assigned a color based on their COVID-19 risk.

Infections have dropped precipitously and more than 70% of eligible people have gotten at least one shot, leading Gov. Gavin Newsom to end the tier system and fully reopen the state.

WHAT IT MEANS

Restaurants, shopping malls, movie theaters and other businesses can open without capacity limits or social distancing requirements. However, people who want to attend indoor concerts, sporting events and similar gatherings that draw 5,000 people or more will have to verify that they are vaccinated or don't have COVID-19. Attendees at outdoor events drawing 10,000 people or more are "'strongly encouraged" to do the same.

All students are allowed to resume classroom learning. However, those in K-12 public schools must continue to wear masks and social distance because many children haven't been vaccinated. Some universities also are keeping their mask requirements in place.

Counties are expected to follow the state guidelines but they have the option of enforcing stricter regulations. Following federal guidelines, masks will still be required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation and at airports and train stations.

Only unvaccinated people must wear masks indoors, though businesses may require face coverings if they choose. All workers initially must remain masked and physically distanced on the job. The regulations apply in almost every workplace in the state, including offices, factories and retail.

However, fully vaccinated employees would not need to wear masks under rules to be approved Thursday by the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board. Newsom said he will then issue an executive order putting those regulations into effect immediately, bypassing a normal 10-day legal review.

Under the plan, employers would have options, including requiring workers to show proof of vaccination; requiring everyone to remain masked, vaccinated or not; or allowing employees to self-attest to their vaccination status, with the employer keeping

SEE **PANDEMIC** PAGE 11



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



Robert Lemle

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER



Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What a Mess!?

WHAT'S TO BE DONE?

Our city, state, nation, the world. The bad guys seem to be winning. Common sense and the common good, good luck.

Of course, there is the other side of the coin. Trump is gone. The economy is recovering, people are going back to work. The U.S. is getting vaccinated and emerging from a long lockdown into relative safety. Santa Monica continues to densify at an alarming, ruinous rate but Kevin McKeown is gone, there is talk of recalling another, and because of an unprecedented election, half our City Council is set to do the right things (but the other half is throwing roadblocks up like the Confederates running from Sherman). The Keystone Pipeline is dead, as is, for now, drilling for oil in the pristine Arctic. Kids are back in school; parents are canceling therapy sessions. I can play basketball again (if ever I could, but the courts here are open), and hear live music.

— at the start of a terrible heat wave, in the midst of a terrible drought, which could easily lead to our worst fire "season" ever. Climate change is still going the wrong direction. Some lawmakers in Sacramento are trying to usurp local control from cities, imposing requirements to build tens of thousands of new housing units in even the densest cities (Santa Monica), with disastrous long term consequences, in a transparent ploy to address a mythical "housing crisis" (we have an affordability crisis, and you can't build your way out of that, you will only make it worse, but the developers who fund political campaigns are pleased as punch). Trump is not really gone yet, and we have one of our two political parties trying to overthrow democracy itself. The unhoused and mentally ill (not the same) are in control of our streets and beaches in Santa Monica and Venice, and our evil sheriff Villanueva is riding in to take advantage of that only to get re-election. There are too many people who watch Faux News and believe QAnon. And not only are dictators like Putin jailing and even killing their enemies and rigging elections, let's not forget he still has enough nuclear warheads to put the cockroaches in control.

GLASS HALF EMPTY?

With a crack in the bottom? I guess it is the age-old matter of perspective. But once you've reached your own assessment, what do you do? There are a few choices.

Nothing, is certainly one of them. Shrug your shoulders and disengage, with whatever philosophical justifications make sense to you, and go about your life, making it as carefree, satisfying, rich and happy as you can. That could be a wise choice for some, and might bring contentment for the rest of your life.

But the truth is you are ignoring the reality around you, which others may not be able to do. In America, if you are white, with a nice nest egg, good health and own your home, it may indeed be smooth sailing. (Maybe you even have a boat!) Being male helps too.

I'm not making judgements though I'm sure it does seem that way, but that contentment does depend on ignoring what may be going on with your neighbor. That's something that comes easily and naturally to many. Mind your own farm. It's not me, it's not my family, it's not anyone I know. I've got enough trouble keeping my own lawn mowed.

Fair enough. Not everyone is cut out to be an activist, or even to see things that way. Your brother's keeper? There have been a few who've come along in history, to remind us of that, and sometimes a few million wind up following them, or at least getting their book onto the bestseller list.

FIRST, DO NO HARM

Live and let live. If you can manage those two, you'll hear no judgement from me. But for those of us who look around and say, that's not right, that has to stop, things must change — the choices become more complex.

I believe it is good to do some kind of work to make this a better neighborhood and planet. Giving back, for the many blessings we all have. But when you feel moved in that direction, what then?

Although I've been politically involved since 13 and an activist since college, I'm not the one to give any lessons. But I have made a few observations.

Whatever you choose to do, be effective. If you got really bad service somewhere, don't yell at the cashier. That isn't fair and won't change anything. Ask for the manager and make your complaint as general as possible, so others won't have the same things happen. (I also ask for managers when I get exceptionally good service, even on the phone. Seems only fair.)

RIGGED

There can always be legitimate disagreement over policy, but if your elected officials seem time and again to be unwilling to even listen to constituents, don't waste your time. Vote them out? Ha. Depends. In many instances that is an exercise in futility, and the GOP is working hard to make that harder. Most elections are indeed rigged, and not the way the Orange Man was whining about.

Money. Money money money. Controls elections, and most of the people elected that way control everything else with the laws they pass, or don't even consider. So if you want things to change, electoral politics may or may not be the way to go.

You have to figure out where the problem is originating, and controlled. If you want buildings in your neighborhood to stop going up, or to keep some from coming down, railing against elected officials, who may in fact be the cause of those things, does no good.

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 11

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Your column here

David Alvarado

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Libraries Will Help Children Reconnect After Lockdown

A little over a year ago, on March 13, 2020, I remember standing in my office at work when I heard the world was "shutting down." I was wishing a friend and colleague farewell on his last day at work, and I recall the uncertainty between us about whether or not we could hug or even shake hands to say goodbye. Since then, many have grown accustomed to all of the recommended safety measures that decrease the spread of COVID-19. This has had a great impact on all of our lives, especially for children and youth. As a psychologist working with children and a father of two young kids, I have seen firsthand the impact that our world's response to COVID-19 has had on children: the social isolation, lack of playdates and get-togethers, learning on computers as a substitute to learning and connecting with peers in person, and a fear of them or loved ones getting sick or even dying.

Lockdown has had a big impact on children's mental health in many ways including depression, anxiety, poor concentration, sleep disturbance, increased irritability or tantrums, heightened pre-occupation with physical appearance, and an increased concern with health and safety. Luckily, children are very resilient. Despite all the hardships in the past year, our life and communities are starting to return to normal. Our children are now beginning to get back to school, go on playdates and see friends again, and once again gain access to all that our communities have to offer.

Something that has always stood out to the children I work with as well as my own children are how much they love the library and everything it has to offer. In addition to meaningful resources directed towards literacy and mental wellness, our libraries provide our community with a place to come together, socialize, and make new connections. Due to the impact of COVID-19, a lack of connectivity and socialization has had a strong impact on our children and their socioemotional development. It's time to get our children connected to each other and their communities again; and, in my opinion, re-funding, re-staffing, and re-opening our city's libraries are a great and absolutely essential way to do that.

In our libraries, story times give young children a chance to be surrounded with books, to hear and learn new words, to play, and to see other children who are going through the same developmental changes as them. Many of these young children are not yet in school and, for some, story time is the only chance they get to see other children singing, talking, reading, writing, playing, and laughing. For teenagers and young adults, the library provides a resource to help expand their curiosities and interests outside of their school curriculum and to interact with others with similar interests, with libraries providing them access to music, literature, film, and art.

This is why I strongly believe Santa Monica should increase library services beyond what was in the City's Fiscal Year 2021/2023 Proposed Budget. The City should enhance library services as much as possible to counteract the existing impacts of the lockdown and allow our children to thrive. In addition, the City should continue to do this as more funding becomes available. Based on my current understanding, the budget the City Council will approve on June 22, 2021 does not just impact library access in 2021, but it will also impact library access in 2022, 2023, and beyond. To provide some perspective, what the City Council decides this month will impact today's Pre-K students' library access until they are entering third grade. The positive impact that re-opening libraries will have on children is indisputable, and I strongly urge the City of

Santa Monica to take the necessary steps and re-fund the Santa Monica Public Library system, re-staff our libraries, and re-open the closed branches to the greatest extent possible.

David Alvarado, Psy.D. Child Psychologist, Saint John's Child and Family Development Center. Email save.sm.library@gmail.com or contact @ SaveSMLibrary1 for more information.

POLICE LOG

FROM PAGE 3

Found Property 2800blk The Beach 8:41 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 100blk Pacific St 9:14 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 15th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:40 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2300blk Ocean Ave 9:48 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1200blk Euclid St 10:10 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 10:24 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 10:41 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk Ocean Ave 10:42 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1700blk California Ave 10:42 p.m.
Party Complaint 600blk San Vicente Blvd 10:55 p.m.
Arson Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 10:55 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Neilson Way 11:13 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:26 p.m.

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PICKLEBALL

FROM PAGE 1

allowed to play there and say these are not pickleball courts," said Nguyen. "They refuse to get off even though there is supposed to be a time limit of 35 minutes when people are waiting."

There are tennis camps starting up this summer that will occupy three of the four pickleball compatible tennis courts in the mornings. Crossroads School and Santa Monica College both use the Memorial Park Courts for classes, which further limits their availability for pickleball.

The pickleball players said they in no way oppose having these sports activities available for local children. However, they are seeking a permanent place or time where they are guaranteed the ability to play.

They gathered 918 signatures on a petition asking the City Council to approve funding to convert the four tennis courts at Memorial Park into 16 permanent pickleball courts.

During a City Council meeting on May 25 this request was denied and the players were told that this project would be passed on to a future Park Planner, if the position is reinstated under the July budget. Councilmembers said there is not enough funding currently available to dedicate anything to pickleball.

The players were also denied a request to have designated pickleball hours reinstated. They additionally offered to gather the money to stripe tennis courts for pickleball in other parks in the City.

"We've made all kinds of offers to try to keep this thing going," said Fred Silberberg, member of the pickleball group. "The bottom line is that the City won't agree to do anything."

The Parks and Recreation Commissioners support giving pickleball players an opportunity to play, however City Council has maintained that changes will need to wait until there is a new Park Planner. Interim City Manager Lane Dilg has taken the same position.

Commissioner Andrew Gomez is in strong favor of working to find a faster solution. After attending a pickleball open house hosted by the local players, he has become a passionate player himself.

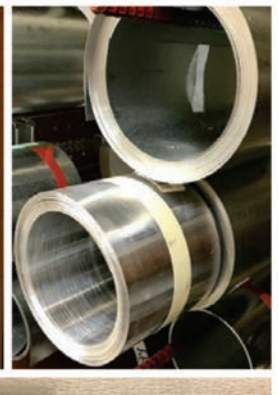
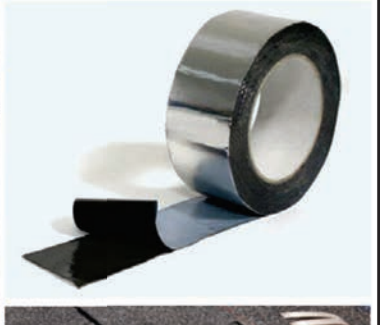
"I showed up on Monday and they taught me how to play and I have not missed a day since," said Gomez. "I'm at that park for four hours a day playing pickleball."

Gomez said that the sport is a great way to get more residents outdoors as four pickleball courts can be set up on one tennis court, allowing up to 16 players to use the space at once.

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Drought saps California reservoirs as hot, dry summer looms

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 — which it could do by late August — state officials would shut down a major power plant for just the first 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 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, 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 3,500 megawatts of capacity ahead of the scorching summer months.

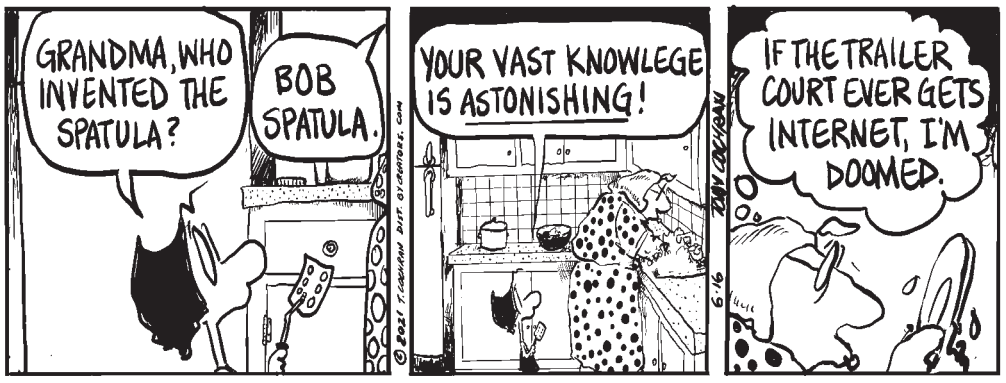
The low levels are challenging for tourism officials. Bruce Spangler, president of the board of directors for Explore Butte County,

SEE **DROUGHT** PAGE 11



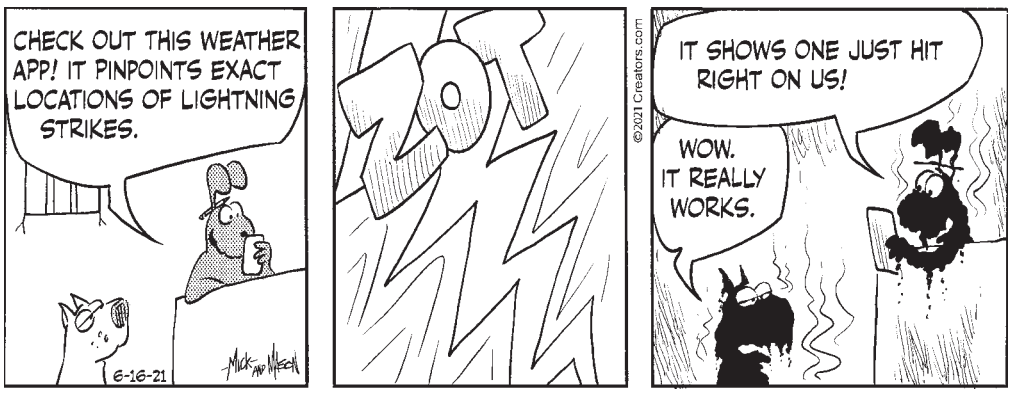
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



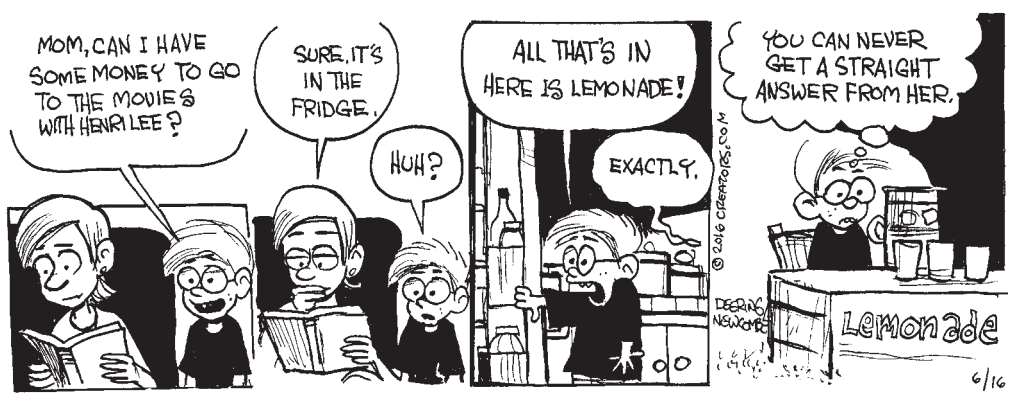
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



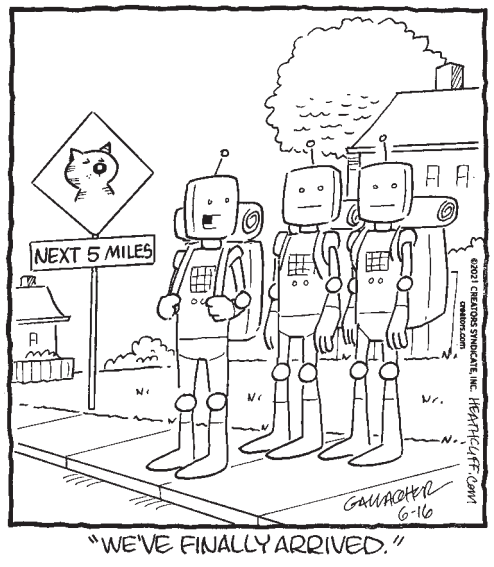
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 68.4°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Modest SSW/S swell continues, smaller NW swell eases. AM winds look light. Tide push helps mid day. Points more rideable than previous days with a bit more S running.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
A little more SSW/S swell shows, blending with minor/fading NW swell. AM winds look light. Points should be rideable, especially for the big boards.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. East northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 66.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/06/16	Wed	12:58 AM	4.79	H
2021/06/16	Wed	08:37 AM	0.10	L
2021/06/16	Wed	4:03 PM	3.84	H
2021/06/16	Wed	8:37 PM	2.95	L
2021/06/17	Thu	02:05 AM	4.32	H
2021/06/17	Thu	09:28 AM	0.37	L
2021/06/17	Thu	4:44 PM	4.24	H
2021/06/17	Thu	10:24 PM	2.53	L
2021/06/18	Fri	03:32 AM	3.88	H
2021/06/18	Fri	10:20 AM	0.66	L
2021/06/18	Fri	5:21 PM	4.73	H
2021/06/18	Fri	11:44 PM	1.79	L
2021/06/19	Sat	05:04 AM	3.62	H
2021/06/19	Sat	11:09 AM	0.95	L
2021/06/19	Sat	5:59 PM	5.30	H
2021/06/20	Sun	12:46 AM	0.91	L
2021/06/20	Sun	06:28 AM	3.56	H
2021/06/20	Sun	11:56 AM	1.24	L
2021/06/20	Sun	6:37 PM	5.88	H
2021/06/21	Mon	01:40 AM	0.03	L
2021/06/21	Mon	07:43 AM	3.63	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 6/12
8 25 34 38 41
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 40 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/11
4 43 56 63 68
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 22 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 6/12
5 10 21 22 36
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 55 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/14
7 11 18 22 28

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/14
EVENING: 4 2 9
Draw Date: 6/14
MIDDAY: 4 0 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/14
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:44.63

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JUNE 16)

It's action time. You've already processed your situation, and now you'll move without thinking, although thousands of decisions get made below your consciousness that will ultimately land you in a sweeter place than you ever thought possible. In love, you'll shake a historic influence to embrace an improved way of operating in relationships. Scorpio and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 9, 28, 40 and 11.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While it's possible that a self-sacrificing act will help a relationship, it benefits you to consider the opposite tactic as well. You'll be surprised at the improvements that come from answering the question, "What's in it for me?"

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Ultimately, the mother of frustration is desire. Team an expectation with a time frame and suddenly the climate is perfect for desire. There are at least two immediate solutions. Let go of the desire or lengthen the time frame.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The duality of the twins will fascinate others. You'll be many things at once. Exhilarated yet patient; hopeful yet reasonable. You'll have trepidation and still move forward in boldness, ready for what comes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Thinking a thing through can happen in a flash. Carrying it out takes much longer than you anticipate, though, especially in light of the complexity of your current endeavor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have the grit that will propel you forward, regardless of obstacles. And while you would prefer to reach your destination as soon as possible, the important thing is not how long it takes but that you do it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The golden rule will extend like a blanket of karma over your whole scene. Everything counts. Stay on the safe side. Spare feelings. Spare spiders! Practice the compassion of catch and release.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The group participation route isn't always your favorite, but your current endeavor really does require a team effort. When one person is tired and ready to give up, another will be ready to help.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are, in fact, in the process of change. You happen to be so deep in it that it would be impossible to see what's happening, and you don't need to. That's a job for future you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are well aware of how everyone likes a good storyteller and that bad ones are tolerated to varying degrees. You'll make sure you're interesting to talk to, which is partly about brevity and partly just reading the room.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your heart defies logic like that's it's job. For instance, the bigger your heart gets, the less worried you are about breaking it. Love seems to provide its own kind of protection.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your ego likes to think it's the source of your strength and therefore it beats its chest in a display of dominance when its position is challenged. The truth is real strength has nothing to do with posturing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't assume that being happy is better than being other emotional tones. The best feeling is the one that's coming up, no matter what it is. Fully feeling is fully processing, and eventually, this leads to peace.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

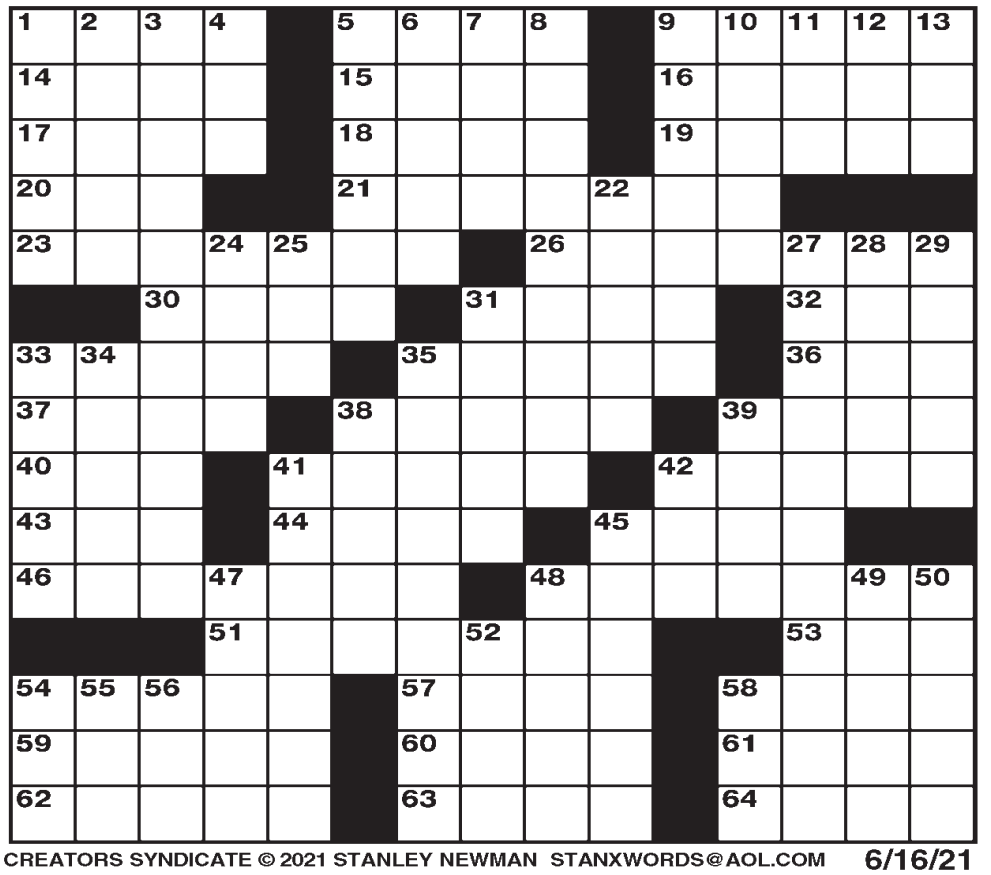
		7		8	2		1	
9							8	
			6		9	4		2
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	1							6
	2		1	4		3		

Newsday Crossword

HEADED DOWN by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Help oneself to
5 Sphere of yarn
9 Drop by
14 Totally mess up
15 Three-tiered snack
16 In flames
17 Painting, sculpting, etc.
18 Madison's state: Abbr.
19 Himalayan land
20 Movie, for short
21 Layered pasta
23 Sly plans
26 French pilgrimage site
30 In any way
31 Jazz singer Anita
32 Dull routine
33 Building wing
35 Leak symptoms
36 In the style of
37 Throw out
38 Italian white wine
39 "__ the picture"
40 Poetic pugilist
41 Laundry convenience
42 Close call
43 Vied in a marathon
44 Broccoli __ (salad veggie)
45 Campus honcho
46 Pen partner of the past
48 Scoundrel
51 For most movie audiences
53 Dict. listing
54 Hand-dyed fabric
57 Be bold
58 Boldness
59 Make a couple of
60 Creative flash
61 Flow slowly
62 Tried, as patience
63 Use a spyglass
64 Candid

DOWN
1 Golf hazards
2 Containing gold
3 "Everything but" item
4 USNA grad
5 League member, often
6 Prima donna pieces
7 Diminished by
8 Seedy tavern
9 Los Angeles area
10 Words of apprehension
11 Small taste
12 Tax-deferred plan
13 Bus. card number
22 Lose one's cool
24 Times to call, in ads
25 Tex-__ cuisine
27 Computer mouse action
28 Calculus pioneer
29 Condition
31 Take to the stump
33 Video game name
34 Pitching great Ryan
35 Ice cream order
38 Commandments word
39 Confident comment
41 Needed oiling, perhaps
42 Neptune's realm
45 Makeshift bookmark
47 Drop a line to
48 Shopping adventure
49 Take forcibly
50 All the time
52 Miami-__ County
54 "On the other hand . . ."
55 Santa __ winds
56 Box-office buys, briefly
58 Sticky stuff



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/16/21

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

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



"The City of Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned, diligent news coverage." - Terry Francke, Journalist

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5147

Discover the Northern Territory

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

Arid
Bait
Balmy
Boab
Cafes
Camp
Casino
Catch
Chasm
Climb
Creeks
Croydon
Dirty
Dust
Ferry
Fire
Flat
Flora
Gardens
George Gill Range
Grit
Guide
Heat
Holes
Hot
Huge
Jabiru
Karumba
Link
Lost City
Marrara
Open-air cinema
Pots
Rainforest
Remote
Rods
Route
Solar
Swim
Timor Sea
Tourist
Warm
Water

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Don't arrive late for a show

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CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 4

Look higher, wider, deeper. The homeless in Santa Monica, and the dangerously mentally ill — two distinct groups — need help. And then we will all be safer. The problem may not be with anyone or anything in Santa Monica. You may have to address it somewhere else. L.A. County? Sacramento, maybe. And how about reaching for the roots and working for social and economic justice?

Don't waste your time and energy tilting at windmills. Do your research, listen to others. Be smart, be effective. Progress may be slow, but some folks have been at it for 400 years.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

TIMELINE

FROM PAGE 2

APRIL

— California reports the lowest average COVID-19 cases per capita in the country. Major League Baseball welcomes a limited number of fans back to outdoor stadiums. The governor announces that indoor concerts and sporting events will reopen with limited capacity April 15, the same day everyone 16 and older becomes eligible for vaccination. Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco begin welcoming students back into classes after more than a year of distance learning. The state sets a statewide reopening date of June 15.

MAY

— With continuing record-low cases, the governor aligns with CDC guidelines saying that fully vaccinated people don't have to wear masks outdoors unless in crowds. But he declines to adopt federal guidelines allowing fully vaccinated people to go mask-free in most indoor settings.

— State officials confirm on May 21 that they will drop social distancing and nearly all other restrictions when the state reopens June 15. More than 62,000 people are dead from the virus.

— With millions still unvaccinated, California announces it will give away the country's largest pot of vaccine prize money — $116.5 million in lottery jackpots and cash cards — to tempt more people into getting shots before the state fully opens.

JUNE

— Most of California's population is now living under the least restrictive COVID-19 guidelines. Out of 58 counties, all but three are in the lowest two of the state's four color-coded tiers.

— On June 15, California fully reopened its economy. The color-coded tiers are dropped. Restaurants, shopping malls, movie theaters, and most other places can open without capacity limits or social distancing requirements. Fully vaccinated people don't have to wear a mask in most places, although the unvaccinated must still mask up in public settings.

REOPENS

FROM PAGE 2

For Rita Torres, a retired university administrator in Oakland, the last 15 months were "mindboggling." She has missed dancing at live concerts and hugging her girlfriends at weekly happy hours. But for her, the reopening is just another day.

"Deep down, I want to rejoice," Torres said, but she's going to take it slow. "Because it's kind of like, is it too soon? Will we be sorry?"

Associated Press writers John Antczak and Brian Melley in Los Angeles and Terence Chea and Janie Har in San Francisco contributed to this report.

HERO

FROM PAGE 1

weeks in an induced coma.

"My life was almost cut short and now God has given me a second chance at living again. That's why I'm dedicated to fighting for even a dollar more an hour. So, if I go my family has an extra dollar to go a little bit further," Plasencia said. "When you're gone and they ask, 'How much was in his last paycheck or pension?' — that's when the Hero Pay is going to help because there will be something extra there to help cover the rent, to help cover the light bill or put food on the table. That's when that $5 an hour is going to count because, at any minute while we're working, one of us could get sick, go into the hospital, and whatever we have in the bank is all our families are going to have. And that's why I say this fight for an extra $5 an hour is worth it."

Max Arias, Executive Director of SEIU Local 99, said Plasencia's story is one of many that can be told by the essential workers in Southern California. That's why he and his peers have been asking to institute hero pay since last year, Arias said, explaining how the school district has repeatedly stated that it does not have the resources to recognize workers with additional pay even though other school districts like Los Angeles Unified and Hacienda La Puente Unified have secured additional pay of $5 an hour for essential workers.

"The people that do the cleaning are the ones that make the least, but it shouldn't be so, especially now because they're the only ones that are being asked to risk the health of their families and themselves to ensure students have a clean work environment," Arias added.

Brennon@smdp.com

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
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DROUGHT

FROM PAGE 7

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.

PANDEMIC

FROM PAGE 3

a record of who self-attests.

WHAT WON'T CHANGE

The state is still requiring people who haven't been vaccinated to wear a mask in indoor public settings and businesses, including restaurants and government offices.

Health officials will continue encouraging people to get vaccinated and will continue testing and contact tracing programs to detect COVID-19 spread.

Newsom says California will remain under a state of emergency that grants him broad authority to issue, alter or suspend state laws and regulations. California has been under the state of emergency since the pandemic began in March 2020. Newsom says the virus that killed more than 62,000 Californians hasn't been eradicated and "it's not taking the summer months off."

Santa Monica Daily Press
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Reconnecting Business and Community

June 23rd, 2021

5:30pm - 7:00pm

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Meet incoming 2021-22 Chair of the Board Michael Ricks! Currently, Michael serves as the chief executive of Providence Saint John's Health Center. He earned his Master of Health Administration degree at Washington University's School of Medicine and is a California native and an accomplished sportsman.

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