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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Council prepares to approve new biennial budget



File Photo

BUDGET: An improved budget forecast is allowing some services to resume, such as limited library programs.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

In a promising sign towards economic recovery, the City Council is set to vote on the updated FY 2021-23 biennial budget that projects no deficit.

This budget signifies a marked improvement from staff's early pandemic predictions, which projected an annual General Fund deficit of $48 million, $102 million and $74 million over the coming years.

"Within its reduced footprint, the FY 2021-23 Biennial Budget supports a first-class local government capable of meeting essential community needs and providing a solid foundation for regrowth," said Interim City Manager Lane Dilg.

Dilg attributed the improvement in economic fortunes to the underlying strength of Santa Monica's industries and desirable location, alongside new revenue streams such as Measure SM.

The overall budget is $705.5 million in FY 2021-22 and allows the City to ramp up several services cutback during the pandemic with a focus on addressing the council-identified community priorities of tackling homelessness, advancing economic recovery, and keeping the City safe and clean.

It also plans for the hiring of part and full-time employees who will collectively work the hours of 17.6 full time staff members.

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 7

SMMUSD approves up to $2,000 payments for Hero Pay

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Custodians, supervisors and classified staff in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will soon receive Hero Pay compensation.

SMMUSD's Board of Education has unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding, which 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, after months of negotiations.

Under the agreement, SEIU Local 99 members who worked during the shutdown are eligible to receive up to $2,000 depending on their assignment during the pandemic. All non-represented employees, including Certificated Senior Management, management and classified staff, will be eligible for a maximum $2,000 off-schedule payment as well.

The public call for Hero Pay began back in March when SEIU members flooded the public comment portion of a meeting. It had been almost a full year since Maintenance Worker Henry Plasencia first discovered he had contracted COVID-19.

"One day, I just didn't taste my

SEE **HERO** PAGE 3

California offers digital record of coronavirus vaccination

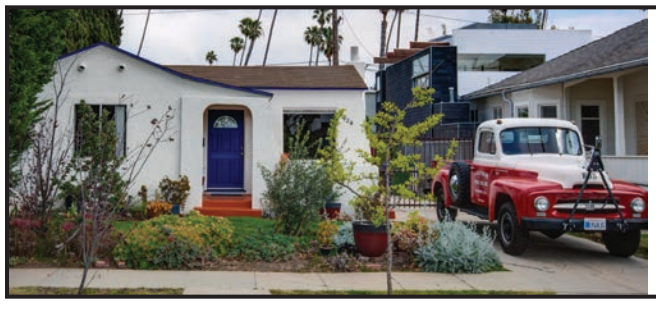
DON THOMPSON AND AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

California on Friday started offering residents a digital record of their coronavirus vaccinations that they can use to access businesses or events that require proof they got the shots.

The state's public health and technology departments said the new tool allows Californians access to their COVID-19 vaccination records from the state's immunization registry and includes the same information as the paper cards issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To access the information, Californians will enter into a state website their name, date of birth and email or phone associated with their vaccine records and they will be asked to create a four-digit PIN. The record will include a QR code that users can save to their mobile phones.

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 3



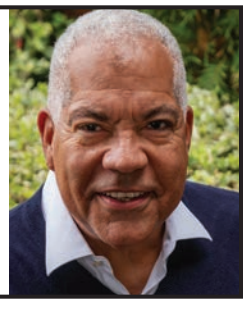
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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 273 CALLS ON JUNE 17

Defrauding Innkeeper 100blk Broadway 12:08 a.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 12:19 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 2200blk 5th St 12:46 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Ocean Ave / Neilson Way 12:53 a.m.
Loud Music 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 12:53 a.m.
Battery 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:48 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle 1300blk 2nd St 3:30 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 10th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:19 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1600blk Main St 4:30 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 5:26 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk Chelsea Ave 5:58 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone Stanford St / Arizona Ave 6:56 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 2600blk 28th St 7:02 a.m.
Petty Theft 3200blk Pico Blvd 7:45 a.m.
Fraud Report 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 7:50 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 4th St / Pico Blvd 8:07 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2200blk 20th St 8:08 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries City Prop Involved 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 8:30 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 25th St / Idaho Ave 8:35 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1200blk California Ave 9:01 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 400blk 10th St 9:21 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / California Ave 9:30 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2200blk 27th St 9:35 a.m.
Burglary Report 3200blk Pico Blvd 9:41 a.m.
Assault 7th St / Idaho Ave 9:43 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 9:55 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 7th St 10:14 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400blk Ashland Ave 10:19 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100blk 12th St 10:36 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1000blk Hill St 10:46 a.m.
Loud Music 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 10:52 a.m.
Fraud Report 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 10:53 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk Lincoln Blvd 10:57 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk Pine St 11:19 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 11:42 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 4th St / Olympic Blvd W 11:42 a.m.
Medical Emergency 300blk Santa Monica Pier 11:44 a.m.
Encampment 2700blk The Beach 11:51 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1500blk 6th St 11:51 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 4th St / Colorado Ave 11:54 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1500blk 2nd St 12:18 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2000blk 20th St 12:19 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200blk Harvard St 12:24 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 25th St / Pico Blvd 12:27 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200blk Yale St 12:34 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 12:52 p.m.
Battery 26th St / Olympic Blvd 1:19 p.m.
Battery 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:34 p.m.
9-1-1 Hang Up 1300blk 22nd St 1:41 p.m.
Found Property 500blk Idaho Ave 1:42 p.m.
Battery 400blk Broadway 2:00 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1100blk 3rd St 2:13 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk 9th St 2:14 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1800blk Pico Blvd 2:24 p.m.
Loud Music 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 2:26 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200blk 24th St 2:27 p.m.
Loud Music Marine St / Barnard Way 2:41 p.m.
Found Property 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 2:54 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 200blk Bay St 3:00 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk 9th St 3:17 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 3:29 p.m.
Loud Music 1500blk Franklin St 3:33 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Civic Center Dr 3:38 p.m.
Expired Registration 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:47 p.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 3:54 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 100blk Wadsworth Ave 4:09 p.m.
Found Property Stanford St / Wilshire Blvd 4:30 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2000blk 20th St 4:42 p.m.
Fraud Report 900blk California Ave 5:11 p.m.
Found Person 300blk Santa Monica Pier 5:20 p.m.
Loud Music 1500blk Franklin St 5:33 p.m.
Attempt Strongarm Robbery Report 2300blk 32nd St 5:36 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 5:46 p.m.
Fraud Report 1300blk Ashland Ave 6:40 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:53 p.m.
Encampment 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:00 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 7th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:35 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2200blk Virginia Ave 7:43 p.m.
Loud Music 1900blk 17th St 7:51 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 8:20 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1400blk Ocean Ave 8:24 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 300blk Montana Ave 8:38 p.m.
Petty Theft Now Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 8:48 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Main St 9:02 p.m.
Battery Now 1500blk Palisades Park 9:16 p.m.
Battery 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:28 p.m.
Battery 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 9:57 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 10:03 p.m.
Encampment 400blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:10 p.m.
Loud Music 1500blk Olympic Blvd 10:25 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2000blk 20th St 10:54 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1400blk 2nd St 11:02 p.m.
Party Complaint 1300blk 2nd St 11:10 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 31 CALLS ON JUNE 17

EMS 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:32 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Wilshire Blvd 12:45 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Wilshire Blvd 1:10 a.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 1:45 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 1:53 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 1:56 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 500blk Bay St 6:14 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Ave 6:21 a.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 7:29 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 20th St 8:08 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 8:31 a.m.
EMS 21st St / Arizona Ave 9:06 a.m.
EMS 100blk Bicknell Ave 11:31 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 23rd St 11:49 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 12:53 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:32 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 3rd St / Bay St 2:59 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 6th St 3:34 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 4:56 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600blk 7th St 6:36 p.m.
EMS 600blk Bay St 6:41 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 26th St 7:06 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Lincoln Blvd 7:07 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 6th St 8:17 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 8:20 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1400blk Ocean Ave 8:24 p.m.
EMS 400blk 23rd St 8:54 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 21st St / Pier Ave 9:04 p.m.
Arcing Wires 3200blk Colorado Ave 9:32 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1800blk Ocean Ave 10:01 p.m.
EMS 900blk 21st St 10:20 p.m.

The Re-View

By Merv Hecht Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Melisse and Citrin

I was complaining to my companion about not going to France this year, something I've done very year for at least the past 40 years. And she said "Let's go to Melisse for dinner and see if that eases your pain." So, I lined up two friends and off we went.

And it did ease my pain! I felt like I was back in Paris! Of course, in France a Michelin star restaurant would not be likely to have outside seating. But the Grand Cascade in the Bois de Boulogne Park is an exception and as far as I know it's the only restaurant with outside seating in Paris that has three stars. And it's my favorite restaurant in Paris so that too made me feel like I was back in Paris. I loved the outdoor seating because it was quiet.

The next feature that caught my attention was the service. It was perfect. We were brought fresh plates and silverware for each of our six courses. Don't you hate it when the waiter takes your soiled silverware off your plate and puts it on the table for you to use with the next course?

And then there's the food. We started with beef tartar, which I usually skip, but this one was better than those I've had in the past—sunflower seeds gave it a slightly crunchy mixed and there was just the right amount of spice to complement the raw beef.

Next was the star dish, white asparagus in a delicious sauce, somewhere between butter and hollandaise, with chopped morel mushrooms in the sauce. I would have preferred couple of whole morels in the sauce, but maybe that's too greedy.

Sweetbreads and clams with fava beans and mushrooms was done just right, and not something you find on menus around town. A new and different dish like that is one of the aspects that set off this restaurant.

Everyone raves about the lobster bolognese in reviews pre-pandemic, and it lived up to its reputation for us. I guess it's the brown butter truffle sauce that makes it so delicious.

The duck breast was less exciting. There was nothing wrong with it, but I've had better and thought it lacked any exciting nuance. We had this dish at El Encanto in Santa Barbara last month and it had more flavor there. Chef Bruno from Paris is the new chef there and the food there is quite good. But not as good as Melisse.

The next dish was clearly one of the stars: the Dover Sole preparation was vastly superior to this wonderful dish which I order all the time. But this preparation enhanced the flavor of the fish, which was cooked to perfection and crusted on one side. This was probably the best preparation of this favorite of mine I've ever had.

Finally, although we were pretty full even though we shared all the dishes four ways (we ordered double orders of some of the dishes) we had to try a beef dish and ordered a non-memorable plate with several cubes of beef in a sauce. It was good but not as exciting as some of the other dishes.

We only ordered dessert to round out this review, so we ordered two. The strawberry something was not that special, but the dark chocolate sphere with hazelnuts was superb.

Now comes the best part of the restaurant from my point of view: the wine list.

SEE **THE REVIEW** PAGE 7

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HERO

FROM PAGE 1

food anymore. I was taking cold showers to take down the fevers. Then, I started to give up the fight and started to get really sleepy," Plasencia said in an interview after he and his peers spoke at the meeting.

Plasencia remembered arriving at the emergency room and doctors asking for his final words.

"I said, 'Tell everyone that I love them and give me the phone so I can tell my wife what's going on.' But the phone wasn't working and my cell phone was at 1% so I had zero contact with her. I left her at home fighting COVID-19 and she had no idea if I was coming home or not," he said. "You couldn't imagine how I felt."

Plasencia almost lost his life after spending six weeks in an induced coma but he would survive and later join his peers on-campus, where they have worked to ensure a safe return for SMMUSD students.

"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."

On Thursday, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Mark Kelly said he was glad the district is able to recognize all of the various district employees for their extraordinary efforts during the most difficult two school years in history.

"The term 'hero' is so fitting that our SMMUSD community continue to serve students and be responsive to the many different issues that they faced — be they how to ensure continuity of instruction, ensuring students receive meals, they have the technology to engage in distance learning and what we went through to for the reopening process to make sure that our students and staff are safe," Kelly said.

"I am pleased that the Board of Education approved hero pay for our hard-working classified staff. Our classified members are essential workers. They were on the front lines throughout the pandemic in various capacities, ensuring the ongoing health and safety of our students and staff and continued stewardship of our school facilities," Superintendent Ben Drati said Friday. "We appreciate them. We are glad we received one time funds from the federal government that allowed us and many other school districts to provide hero pay."

The payments are expected to be issued no later than July 9, according to district leaders, so they can be considered an expenditure for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Brennon@smdp.com

VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1

With nearly 20 million people fully vaccinated in California and proof of vaccination already required in some circumstances such as travel, state health officials felt there would be demand for the tool, though it remains optional, said Dr. Erica Pan, the state's epidemiologist.

"The odds are someone is going to misplace their paper CDC card and a digital COVID-19 vaccine record provides a convenient backup," she told reporters.

Following a drop in COVID-19 infections and rise in vaccinations, California lifted many pandemic-related restrictions this week, though everyone must continue to wear masks in some places such as mass transit and health facilities.

Vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks at most indoor locations, though the unvaccinated still must do so. Businesses can choose whether to operate on an honor system for who must wear face coverings, require everyone to wear them or use a vaccine verification system.

Vaccine verification has been a thorny issue in many U.S. communities. About two dozen states have banned state-required vaccine passports and some, including Texas, also barred businesses from requiring vaccinations.

New York offers electronic vaccine verification through a digital app called Excelsior Pass.

California is giving residents quick access to their individual records in a database the state already maintains on immunizations, which residents could already get by making a request, said Amy Tong, director of the state's department of technology.

Businesses that use a QR scanner would see the same information as residents — their name, birthdates and vaccination details, she said. They would not be able to store the data for future use.

California officials said the tool is not mandatory, and refrained from using the word passport — which has become a politically-fraught term — in the announcement.

Los Angeles County has already been allowing residents to access electronic vaccine records and get a QR code on their phones.

In Orange County, public health officials previously discussed the idea but backtracked following community opposition.

Lucy Dunn, president and chief executive of the Orange County Business Council, said businesses want an option for vaccine verification so they can take measures to keep their workers and customers safe, especially since paper records can more easily be falsified.

"It helps keep us informed as to who is vaccinated and not," she said. "It's voluntary, personal, protected and as easy as adding it to your smart phone's digital wallet like an airline boarding pass."

Taxin reported from Orange County. Associated Press writer John Antczak contributed to this report from Los Angeles.





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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER



A Shore Thing

Matthew King
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Homelessness on the beach

It's somewhat surprising to see Santa Monica held up as model for handling homelessness, given the fractious nature of local discourse these days. But that's what happened when L.A. City Councilmember Joe Buscaino stood recently before TV cameras and praised our town for keeping beaches free of shantytowns.

"Behind me in Santa Monica is common sense. Here in Venice is nonsense," Buscaino said at a beachside press conference, gesturing north to our shoreline. Like L.A. County Sheriff Alex Villanueva, Buscaino has parachuted into the Boardwalk demanding action. The comments didn't sit well with colleague Mike Bonin, who represents the Venice area and is risking his political life with a bold proposal to fix its homelessness crisis.

His plan centers on gradually clearing out tent cities on the Boardwalk and relocating the unhoused to some form of residential support. City officials are reportedly mulling "safe camping" areas in nearby beaches and parks. Three parking lots were under consideration — Will Rogers State Beach in the Palisades, Dockweiler Beach in Playa del Rey and a waterfront lot in Marina del Rey. It's an unwise idea, but I give credit to Bonin for meeting the challenge head on.

Buscaino and Villanueva's grand-standing seems geared more toward gaining political points than untangling the knotty issue of homelessness. But they have a point: Santa Monica is doing a good job of reducing homeless counts.

It's not a popular opinion with the Nextdoor crowd, but I believe the city's multi-disciplinary street teams have made a positive impact. The number of unhoused individuals counted on the beach and in the Downtown Santa Monica area has fallen over the past two years, with a 14% decrease from 2019-20. That follows a 19% dip the prior year. Outreach teams have made 1,400 engagements, often connecting vulnerable people to support.

Lest I be accused of sipping government Kool-Aid, I know firsthand that homelessness on our beaches is still a big problem. Violence and fear persist despite the best efforts of West Coast Care, a nonprofit that patrols the sand in ATVs to counsel people experiencing homelessness.

I've been harassed by heckling panhandlers congregated at the Bay Street beach bathrooms. One street-person kicked my best friend in the ass after he politely declined to give him some change. I've darted to my car, surfboard under my arm, as a clearly schizophrenic dude chased me with F bombs.

I've seen similar violence at Reed Park, a longtime haven for people experiencing homelessness. One twitchy guy walked up to another troubled soul and sucker-punched him, knocking him out cold. He fell to the grass with a sickening thud.

These encounters angered me. They also scared the hell out of me. I can understand why frustrated residents are pushing to "reclaim" their beaches and parks. There's a move afoot to convert Reed's lawn area into an off-leash dog park. Many view it as a win-win, but there's something off-putting about the idea. The optics aren't great — as if canines take precedence over humans.

Roughly half of those experiencing homelessness in L.A. County are dealing with a serious mental issue, according to the UCLA Law Review. These broken people and others battling drug addictions are the ones most likely to be violent. And most of the unhoused find themselves in desperate straits because of economic dislocation. They have lost jobs or families, often through no fault of their own. I've been trying to follow the advice of a colleague who volunteers for the city's annual homeless count. Focus on the bigger picture, not my moments of discomfort. Lean in, not out. It's not easy.

But back to turning recreational spaces into homeless way-stations. Bonin's in the middle of a political firefight that seems unwinnable, as impossible to solve as the Palestinian crisis. The issue defies easy answers. As Communications Director at Heal the Bay, I did ally work in 2017 to get Measure H passed in L.A. County. The measure provides $300 million annually to fund homeless services, rent subsidies and housing projects. We were filled with optimism, but homelessness still haunts our region.

But that doesn't mean anything goes. We can't convert our beaches into bivouacs. It might seem like "cheap" available space. But the price is too high. What starts out as temporary, often turns into permanent. As the Arabian proverb goes: "If the camel gets his nose in the tent, his body will soon follow."

The therapeutic value of safe, shared open space in park-poor greater L.A. can't be overstated. Beaches are one of our few natural places. They are a refuge — for a few hours — from the cares of the world. But to be clear: Rejecting the beach parking-lot idea doesn't mean burying our hand in the sand. We must pursue other paths. Surely other stretches of land can be used as bridge housing: abandoned industrial lots, vacant commercial space in a soft post-COVID market, underused military facilities.

The shoreline belongs to all of us – even the homeless. But beaches need to remain beaches, not refugee settlements.

Note: If you see someone that needs help, the city has a special unit called the Homeless Liaison Program that uses law enforcement and social service strategies to address homeless issues, especially mental illness. Save their number, (310) 458-8953, in your phone or visit online at santamonicapd.org/hlp.

Matthew King grew up on the beaches of Santa Monica, where his father served as a County lifeguard for 30 years. He sneaks away from his communications and marketing consultancy as often as he can to surf Bay Street and other local breaks.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

Western heat wave threatens health in vulnerable communities

ANITA SNOW
Associated Press

Extreme temperatures like the ones blistering the American West this week aren't just annoying, they're deadly.

The record-breaking temperatures this week are a weather emergency, scientists and health care experts say, with heat responsible for more deaths in the U.S. than all other natural disasters combined. With more frequent and intense heat waves likely because of climate change and the worst drought in modern history, they say communities must better protect the vulnerable, like homeless people and those who live in ethnically and racially diverse low-income neighborhoods.

"This heat has an important effect on people and their health," said Dr. Suganya Karuppana, chief medical director at the Valle del Sol community health clinics in Arizona.

People — along with plants and animals — need cooler temperatures at night to recover from the stress of high heat, scientists and doctors said. But with overnight temperatures in the 90s, that's not happening.

Karuppana noted that many people she sees may have no car and have to take public transportation in the Phoenix heat, walking through neighborhoods with few trees and waiting at bus and light rail stops with no or little shade. Some people live in poorly ventilated mobile homes or without air conditioning. Or they may work outside in the sun as construction workers or landscapers.

Phoenix has been baking in temperatures above 115 degrees all week. The high Friday was expected to reach 117 degrees after hitting a record 118 a day earlier. Daily records were set this week in Arizona, Nevada and California, including 128 degrees in Death Valley on Thursday.

Those who are vulnerable to high temperatures include the very young, the very old and people with heart or kidney disease, ailments that disproportionately affect communities of color.

"We are activated for Phoenix and monitoring it closely," said Nicolette Louissaint, executive director of the Washington nonprofit Healthcare Ready, which was founded after Hurricane Katrina to help communities deal with natural disasters.

Louissaint said her organization has helped in heat emergencies by funding cooling centers that offer bottled water and shade or arrange transportation for older people without cars who need dialysis or heart checkups.

"Extreme heat really exacerbates those kind of serious medical conditions," she said. "It's tough on people who don't have a lot of money."

Phoenix and other local governments around the Southwest remind people on social media to drink lots of water, stay out of the sun if possible and take frequent breaks on hot days. They warn people to not leave children or pets in vehicles, and they work with nonprofits like the Salvation Army to open facilities that allow people to cool off.

The rising risks of the heat became painfully clear three years ago when 72-year-old Stephanie Pullman died at her Phoenix-area home after Arizona's largest electric utility turned off her service for failure to pay $51. A coroner listed "environmental heat exposure" as one of the causes of her 2018 death.

It led to a series of moratoriums on overdue electrical bills in Arizona that continued through the end of last year amid the coronavirus pandemic. The utility, Arizona Public Service, says it has suspended service disconnections and waived late fees through Oct. 15.

The county that includes Phoenix has reported three heat-related deaths as of Saturday, with an additional 20 fatalities being investigated as possibly caused by high temperatures.

Heat-related deaths in Maricopa County have been rising dramatically in recent years, with 323 reported last year, the highest ever recorded. The highest rates were reported among Black people and Native Americans. About 80% of those who died were men.

People living on the street are especially at risk. The Maricopa County medical examiner has said heat was a primary or secondary cause in the death of 146 homeless people last year, when the summer was the hottest ever recorded in Phoenix.

Scientists say the number of heat deaths in the U.S. West and the world over were only expected to rise.

As average temperatures rise worldwide, heat is becoming more extreme, said Gerald Meehl, senior scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

"As the average climate warms up from increasing human-produced greenhouse gases, we are seeing more intense, more frequent and longer lasting heat waves," Meehl said.

A study last month estimated the number of heat deaths each year that can be attributed to human-caused global warming. It included about 200 U.S. cities and found more than 1,100 deaths a year from climate change-caused heat, many of them in the East and Midwest, where many people don't have air conditioning or are not acclimated to hot weather.

Joellen Russell, climate science professor at the University of Arizona in Tucson, said the Southwest is an early example of what will hit the rest of the nation later when it comes to the dangers of heat extremes caused by global warming.

"I think we'd better hurry up," she said. "Our kids are counting on us."

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Jack Neworth
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Celebrating the Remarkable Life of Ed Tillmon



Courtesy photos

ED TILLMON

On April 23, Santa Monica lost one of its most admired citizens, Ed Tillmon who passed away at age 98, the devoted husband to Barbara Tillmon. The two met as students at the University of Kansas after which Ed received his Masters at the University of Nebraska. Looking very handsome in his military officer's uniform, Ed married his beautiful bride on January 24, 1945. Their union was blessed with three children, Coni, Edward Wilson and Bobbi. Ed and Barbara were married 76 joyful years, I'm guessing in no small part to their 16 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren. (27? How did he and Barbara remember all the names?)

Ed and Barbara moved into the almost brand new 17-story Santa Monica Shores in Ocean Park in 1968. They are a very special, warm family that led lives filled with remarkable accomplishments matched with humility. For example, when Ed was drafted into the military, he rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant and was a member of the world renowned Tuskegee airmen, comprised of primarily African American fighter and bomber pilots, navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, instructors, and support personnel. (Ed was trained to be a navigator and bombardier.)

Shamefully, during WWII our military forces were racially segregated. It's tragically ironic that, while we were fighting fascism to preserve freedom around the world, we apparently were okay with segregation. But not Ed who had a strong sense of right and wrong throughout his life. He and others of the 477th bombardment group were arrested when they attempted to integrate the "whites only" officers club on base. This historical act of civil disobedience, now known as "The Freeman Field Mutiny," became an important step towards desegregation of the military. (On July 26, 1948, Executive Order 9981 was issued by President Harry Truman, abolishing discrimination "on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin" in the U.S. Armed Forces.

In fact in 2007 Ed received the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington D.C. at the Capitol Rotunda. And in 2008 he was thrilled to attend President Barack Obama's first Inauguration as an invited guest with other Tuskegee Airmen. (Ed also enjoyed a vintage plane "fly over" at an U.S.C. football game where he and other Tuskegee Airmen were honored at halftime and the group were later feted on a magnificent float in the Pasadena Rose Parade.)

Ed and Barbara and their extended family are so admirable I jokingly say they deserve a book or a mini-series, but I'm only allowed 800 words. I first met Ed when we were on the board of the Shores Residents Association. I was recruited to help with the newsletter and Ed was as Treasurer because of his vast experience as a bank executive whose resume included President of the Douglass State Bank in Kansas City, Kansas and out here in Southern California as a Senior Vice-President at California Federal Savings and loan and in the late 80's was CEO of Mead Housing an organization that built affordable housing in the South Bay . Despite the tiny Shores Residents treasury Ed took his four years on the job very seriously and was meticulous with his reports. (It reminded me of Einstein being recruited to do your math homework.)

With his calm, and dignified demeanor Ed was a pleasure to be around.

He had a wonderful laugh and an abundance of kindness he shared with everyone as he would take his legendary long walks all over Santa Monica. On one of those walks he saw his friend (and mine) and fellow Shores resident, Robin Sherry, take a fall. Fortunately she was more embarrassed than hurt, but Ed insisted on turning around and walking her home. She never forgot the gentlemanly gesture.

Barbara is always a delight to chat with and, even in her grieving period, is warm to all who greet her. And she was also always fun to be around and forever young at heart. Though thirty years apart in age, on multiple occasions Robin would drive to SMC where she and Barbara would take the scheduled Big Blue Bus day trips to Indian casinos. The two would joyfully play the slots like Vegas high rollers. (Actually pennies to quarters and, if Barbara was feeling really lucky, $1 slots.) But Robin describes the trips, including a delicious lunch, as a "blast" for both of them.

As for Edward Elias Day Tillmon, he was born at sunrise January 5, 1923 and passed at sunset April 27th, 2021. Talk about a full circle and a life so well lived. His presence is deeply missed but he will continue to be honored and loved by his family and friends of which I'm grateful and proud to say I was one.

Jack also writes "Laughing Matters," which appears every other Friday in the Daily Press. Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

The proposed additions include three library employees, more crossing guards, staff for the reopened pool, and trash and recycling equipment operators.

The new budget, however, is a far cry from a full economic recovery, which is expected to take several years. Interim City Manager Lane Dilg warned residents that "a disconnect will remain between City resources — which have been reduced as a result of the pandemic — and community expectations — which have not."

The General Fund budget is $349.5 million in FY 2021-22 and $375.3 million in FY 2022-23. Both of these are around $100 million shy of the pre-pandemic General Fund budget in FY 2018-19.

The City released its Proposed Budget for FY 2021-23 on May 10, 2021. Council members examined the budget at study sessions on May 25 and May 26 and heard extensive public comment. After discussion, members of Council expressed support for the proposed budget and asked staff to reexamine certain elements to better support the Council-identified community priorities.

The FY 2021-22 proposed budget as revised is $706.8 million and $598.9 million in FY 2022-23.

The decrease in the second year is due to anticipated spending capital projects planned for FY 2021-22. These include projects through the Water Fund that build infrastructure to improve the delivery of water services in the City.

City Council will discuss the proposed budget in next Tuesday's meeting, request any additional changes, and are expected to approve it by the end of open session.

The proposed budget breakdowns for the Santa Monica Pier Corporation and Santa Monica Travel and Tourism are also on the consent calendar for the meeting.

The Pier's annual budget of $790,000 is much smaller than in years passed and includes no allocation for pier produced programming including the Twilight Concert Series. Santa Monica Travel and Tourism prosed a $4.42 million annual budget with a focus on using tourism to expedite the City's economic recovery.

The staff report and full budget is available on the agenda, which also details how community members can sign up for public comment. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the agenda can be accessed at https://tinyurl.com/CityCouncilJune22.

Clara@smdp.com

THE RE-VIEW

FROM PAGE 2

I'm so tired of redacted wine lists all over Los Angeles where your only choices are to pay 5 times the retail value of some cheap Malbec, or pay $250-$350 for a decent wine. Here was a real sommelier with an extensive list of reasonably priced wines. I found an excellent 2012 Vacqueyras from the Rhone valley (Syrah and Grenache) for $60 which was almost as good as the 2012 pinot noir that I brought. And while the corkage fee is $50, it's waived if you buy a bottle.

Slightly dazed from the extraordinary quality of the food and drink, I staggered back to the car, was driven home by our friends, and climbed into bed with memories of the dinner floating in my mind.

Merv Hecht, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book is "The Instant Wine Connoisseur, 3d edition" is available on Amazon. He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and wine products internationally. Please send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

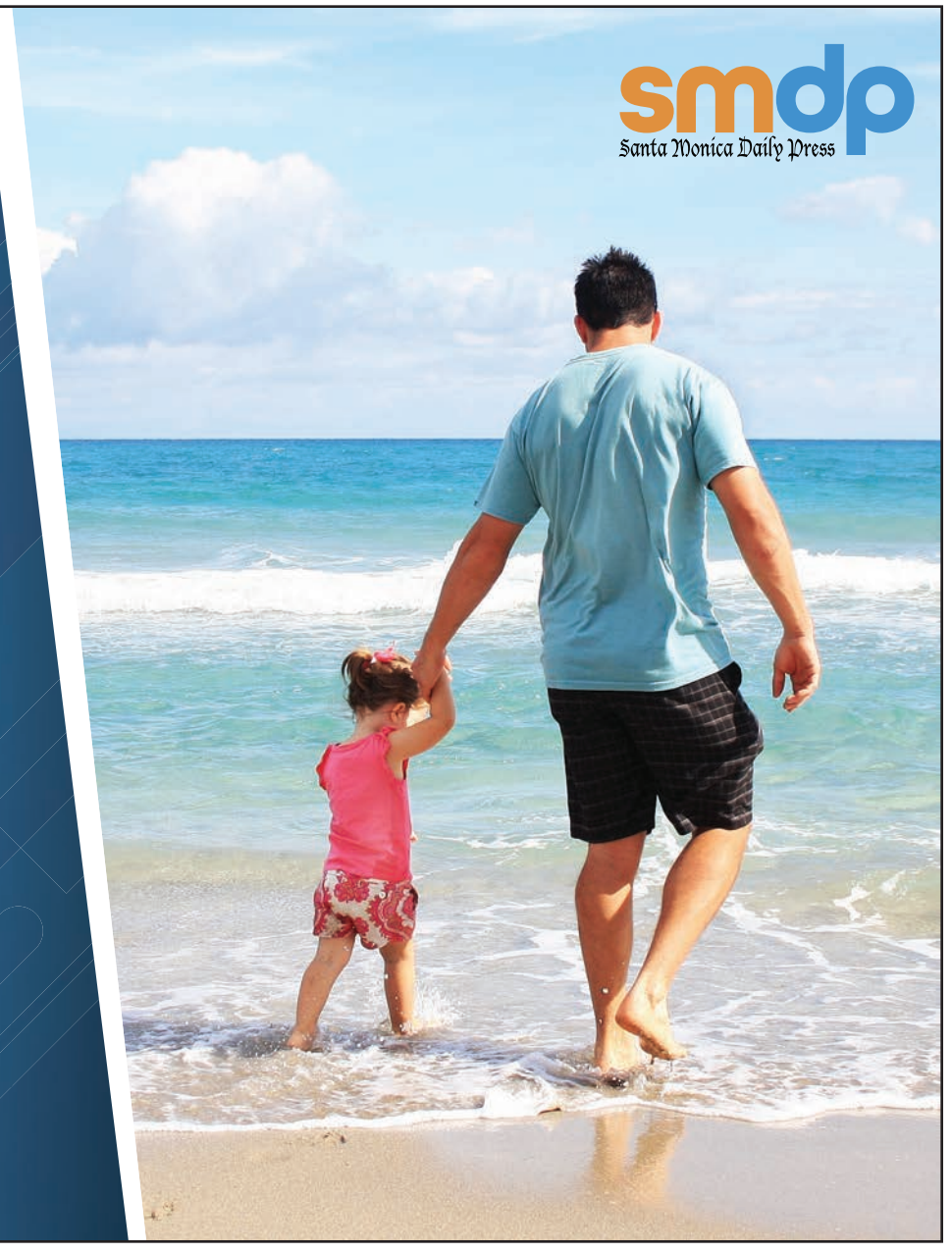
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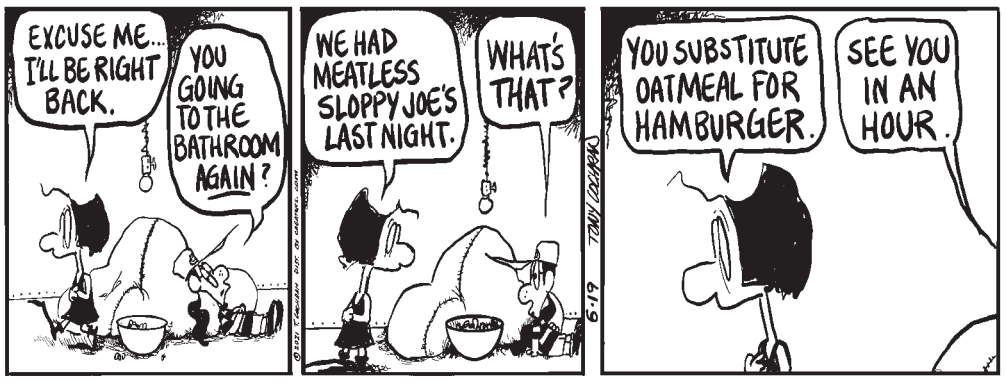
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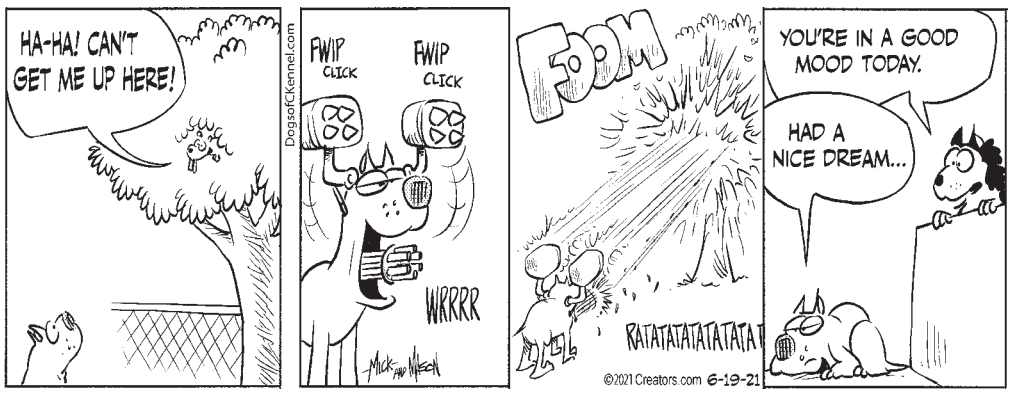
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



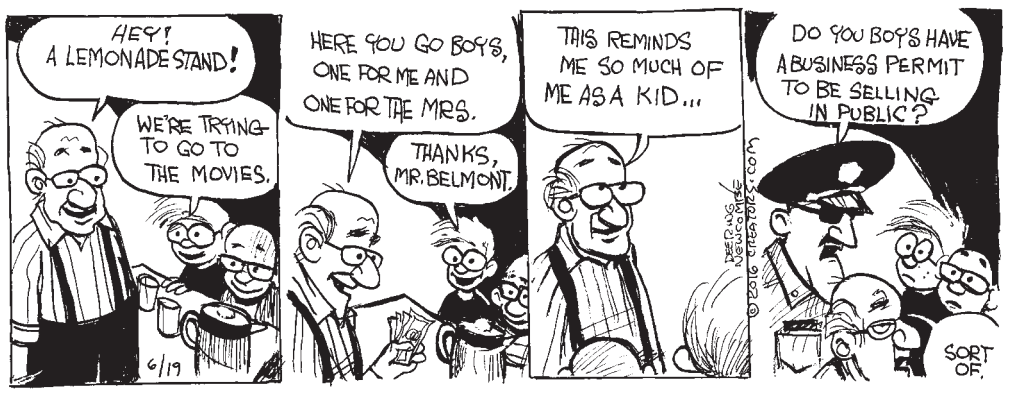
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



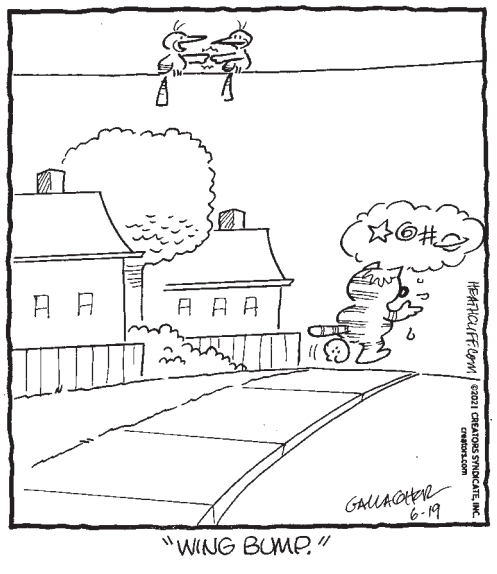
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"WING BUMP."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF REPORT

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 68.2°

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Morning looks clean. Old SSW/S swell drops. Fresh SSW swell gradually fills in.

SUNDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
More SSW swell fills in. Light winds due in the morning.

WEATHER

Saturday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 67.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/06/21	Mon	12:42 PM	1.51	L
2021/06/21	Mon	7:18 PM	6.41	H
2021/06/22	Tue	02:30 AM	-0.74	L
2021/06/22	Tue	08:45 AM	3.75	H
2021/06/22	Tue	1:30 PM	1.73	L
2021/06/22	Tue	8:01 PM	6.83	H
2021/06/23	Wed	03:18 AM	-1.31	L
2021/06/23	Wed	09:41 AM	3.85	H
2021/06/23	Wed	2:18 PM	1.91	L
2021/06/23	Wed	8:45 PM	7.08	H
2021/06/24	Thu	04:05 AM	-1.64	L
2021/06/24	Thu	10:33 AM	3.91	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/16
19 29 34 44 50
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 52 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/15
18 22 27 38 52
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 30 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 6/16
1 6 21 38 39
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 56 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/17
5 7 29 34 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/17
EVENING: 9 2 7
Draw Date: 6/17
MIDDAY: 2 8 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/17
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:43.52

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JUNE 19)

You feel a bit like a rogue planet, wandering the galaxy, unbound by parent stars. The liberation from your usual orbits will be a thrill, and a heady courage drives you toward unknown constellations. In the realm of work, you'll be a performer, which takes guts, then a top-performer, which takes mastery, and nets a bag of money. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 28, 15, 3 and 1.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To know someone is to feel something about them. The experience of people in the same room accesses feelings better than any way of communicating that requires electricity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People want to be convinced, though it will take surprisingly little to push them into certainty. Do the same thing again, but this time like you mean it, and you'll get favorable results.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You truly believe others would be better off following your advice, but you also realize people are different, and there's no way to definitively declare one correct answer to suit all. For this reason, you'll stay out of it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The hopeful future or idyllic past should be but wee bookends on the main feature of a fantastic present. If the bookends are bigger than the books, it's not a good sign.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can afford to say no and be selfish with your time. You normally don't choose that option, but it just may be the one that brings you the most vitality in the long run.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The other person probably shouldn't get so reactive to your every move, but it happens anyway. Allay their fear and they'll feel better in the moment, but you'll have to do that every time. Or, do nothing and, eventually, they'll adapt.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't worry about playing small. Actually, there are no small plays, only small-minded or low-energy approaches. You'll bring your big spirit to everything you do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Pose a better question and sweeten the day, especially if you are both the querent and the answerer. Try these: What am I most curious about here? How can I bring more levity or clarity to the scene?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It doesn't take much to get you riled up about a certain relationship. The challenge is to give and receive compassion regardless of whether it's what you feel like doing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Maybe someone chose you, so you never got the sensation of pursuit. Relationships are like tag. Changing roles and taking turns is part of it. You may make someone run just so you can feel what it's like to give chase.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'd rather spend time gaining a skill than trying to enjoy yourself in an environment that doesn't seem conducive to it. Loved ones may argue that enjoying yourself is a skill!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you choose to see it this way, life can be your party; you make the invite list and the playlist, you call the games, decide when the dancing starts and when the cake is served.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

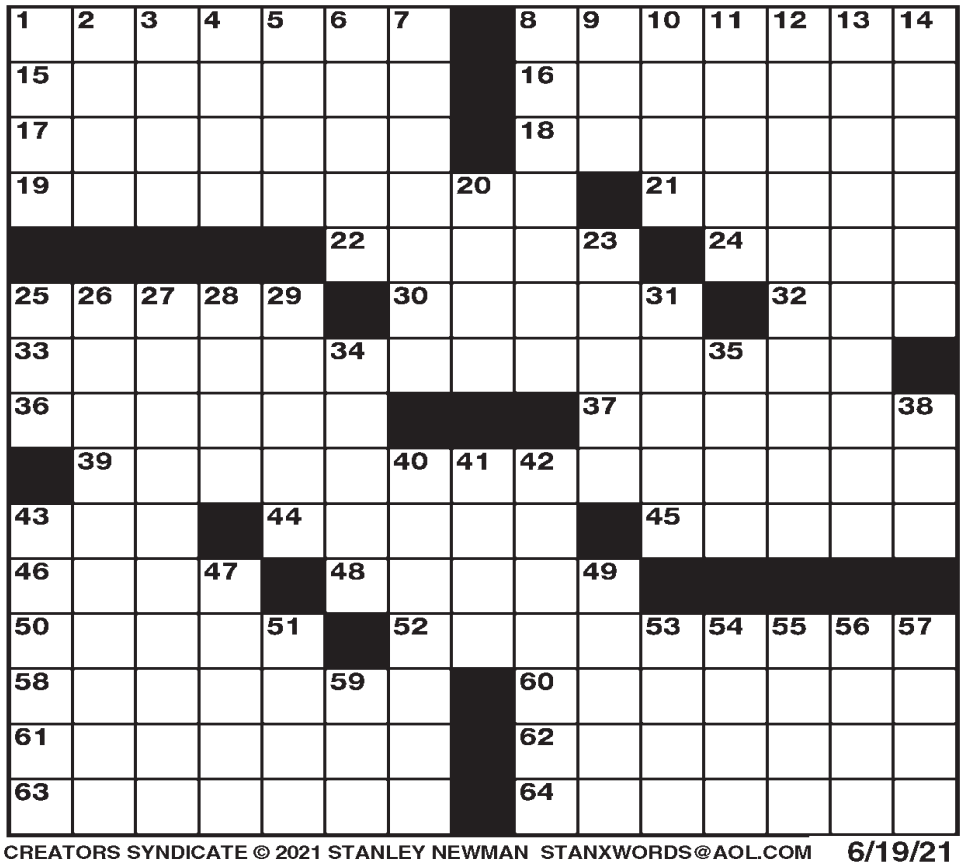
THEMELESS SATURDAY by Anna Stiga
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Folks
8 Mill output
15 Undistracted
16 "Uh-huh"
17 Give away
18 Where *Falstaff* premiered
19 Gauguin style
21 Winter warmer
22 Destroy steadily
24 Skillful
25 Planes used by the Swedish Air Force display team
30 Clears up, with "out"
32 Directed
33 Oral dismissal
36 Rolex alternative
37 Temperamental gypsy of song
39 Christener of the *USS Missouri*
43 Metal in window glass
44 Weapons with bell guards
45 Black Panthers cofounder
46 Where to find ". . . the noblest Roman of them all"
48 Really clean
50 Home of 37 Across
52 Big name in the TV business
58 Liger's mother
60 Not analytical
61 Polished
62 Bank of America purchase of '09, familiarly
63 Groucho hawked them on *You Bet Your Life*
64 Taking orders

DOWN

1 Like cobs
2 James Patterson sleuth
3 Shania Twain, e.g.
4 Love __
5 Designer of the Mae West Lips Sofa
6 Damage
7 Willow-tree derivative
8 Big chunk of show biz
9 __ favor
10 Letter ender, perhaps
11 Scout's project
12 Torn
13 Post stuff
14 Moved away from the stern?
20 Character
23 Pass
25 Feigning, for short
26 Energy source since 1942
27 They may overcome the competition
28 1 Down aardvark
29 Water chestnut's family
31 Frequent sci-fi subjects
34 Some wet bars
35 Unerring
38 About 1 o'clock, for short
40 Finds new players for
41 Federal agency whose first head was FDR, Jr.
42 Literally, "harbor wave"
43 Tried
47 Shania Twain, e.g.
49 Approach perfection
51 Skillful
53 Is off
54 Turkey purchase of less than a dollar
55 County agent's concern
56 Name on the cover of *The Case of the Lucky Loser*
57 Friend of Lars and Sven, perhaps
59 Ice, in product names



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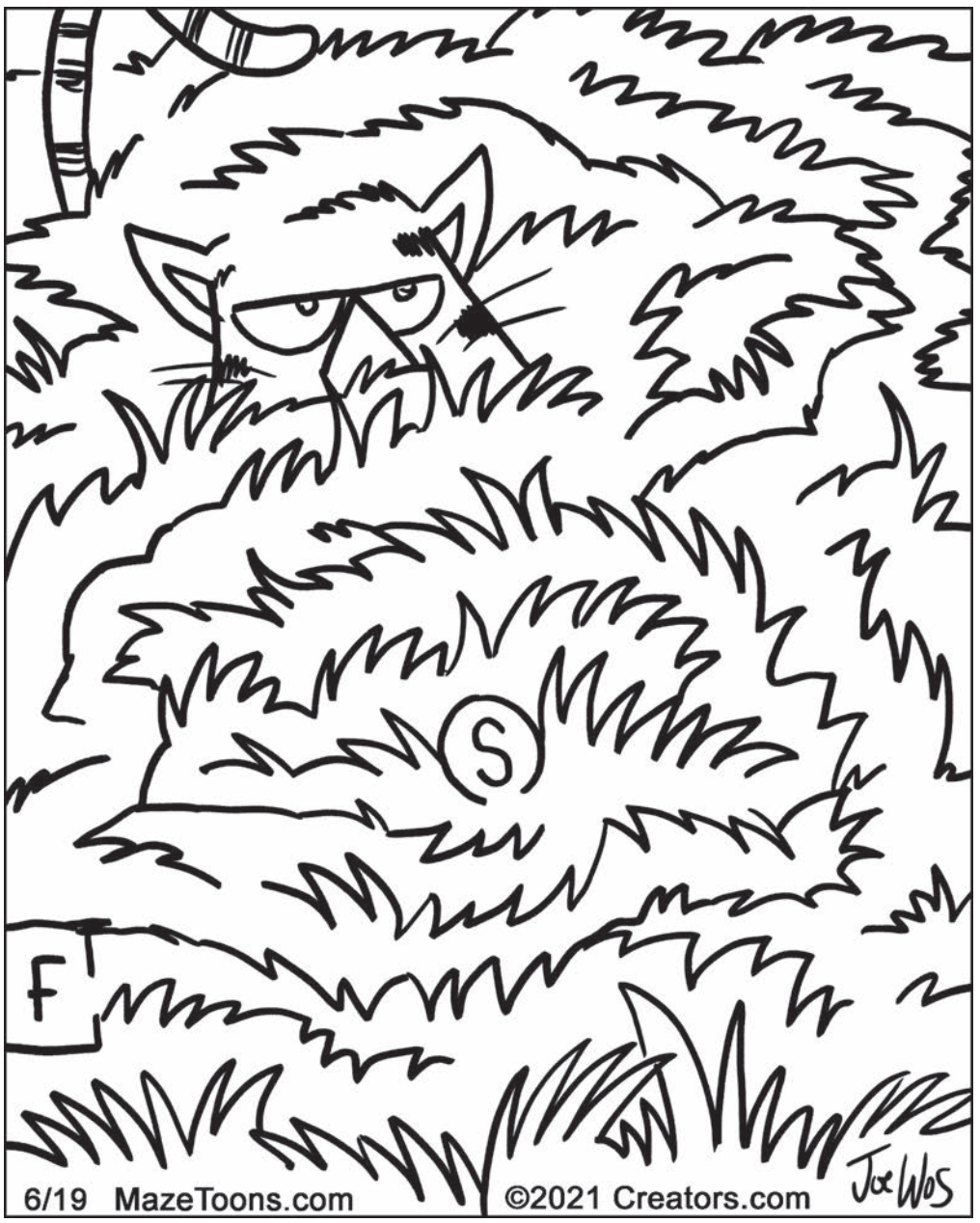
Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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



"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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5150

Taking a shower

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

Basin	Frequent	Mousse	Shaver
Bath gel	Gasket	Oils	Shower
Body	Habit	Outlet	Shut off
Brass	Hair	Pedestal	valve
Chase	Hot tap	Primer	Silicone
Counter top	Hurry	Quick	Skin
Decorative	Lavatory	Radio	Soap
Eye drops	Loofah	Robe	Tiles
Fast	Marble	Rushed	Veneer
Flow	Mats	Screen	Wake up

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COVID VACCINES ARE FOR EVERYONE!

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Studies show that the vaccines are safe and help to stop the spread of COVID-19. Trust the science.

Vaccines protect us from serious and sometimes deadly diseases including measles, mumps, polio, chicken pox, and they play an important role in keeping everyone healthy and safe. Covid vaccines protect everyone from this serious and potentially fatal disease.

If after getting fully vaccinated you come into contact with someone who has Covid, your immune system will fight off the infection. The vaccines do not contain the Covid virus, so a person cannot get Covid from getting vaccinated. The shots are safe!

Protect your family, friends and community. Everyone 12 years of age and older is eligible to be vaccinated.

You will never be asked about your immigration status when scheduling an appointment or getting vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone.

You don't have to have health insurance. There is never any cost for anyone. Vaccinations are available in your neighborhood at hospitals, including local pharmacies and clinics. Mobile vaccinations are also available.

Stay safe!

It takes two shots of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine to be safe from getting sick with Covid. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine takes only one shot. It takes two weeks after your last dose to be fully vaccinated.

You may have some temporary side effects.

It is normal for some people to have minor pain in their arm, fever, fatigue, or headache. These side effects normally go away after 1 or 2 days.

Get vaccinated now!

Call 833-540-0473 everyday between 8:00am to 8:30pm, for assistance getting vaccinated.

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