smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Attempted murder
Man arrested after trying to shoot someone on Main Street.
Page 2

Passport Applications
Palisades Post office has limited number of walk-in spots available.
Page 5

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Labor shortage slams restaurants, but skirts hotels

Hotels hold onto their hiring power



Matthew Hall

HOTELS: Local hotels are not experiencing the labor shortage.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Battered hard by the pandemic, Santa Monica's hotels now find themselves uniquely poised to weather the labor shortage storm raging at the wider hospitality industry.

As local restaurant owners are pulling tables for lack of staff members, most hotel managers have been able to meet customer demand and even keep extra resumes in their back pocket.

Santa Monica's hotels have several factors working in their favor — a more gradual ramp up in demand, strong worker recall laws, a pre-existing employee pipeline, and the ability to offer competitive wages.

"The particular facts in Santa Monica indicate that there should not be a shortage of hotel workers right now," said Danielle Wilson, a spokesperson for the Unite Here Local 11 hospitality labor union.

Unlike most other cities, Santa Monica had a law in place prior to the pandemic that required hotels to recall all of their furloughed members, in order of seniority, once demand returned. Recall laws provide long-term job security for workers and can benefit employers by lessening the likelihood that their employees pursue new opportunities.

"One of the advantages of these laws is that when people know they have a right to go back to their job, people tend to want those jobs," said Wilson.

Prior to the pandemic, Unite Here Local 11 had 1,200 members working in Santa Monica. As of their latest count in April, only around 500 of those members were back at their jobs. While this number is likely higher now, it indicates that a significant portion of workers are still waiting to be recalled.

One such employee is Elba Hernandez who has worked in the

SEE **HOTEL** PAGE 11

Local Restaurants scramble for help



Matthew Hall

RESTAURANT: Food service workers are hard to find post-pandemic.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Across Santa Monica, restaurants and bars are bursting back to life and flooding with customers, but there is just one thing missing — the staff.

Labor shortages are plaguing industries across the nation and in Santa Monica this pain is acutely felt by restaurateurs who are eager to expand business, but lack enough employees to meet the booming demand.

Several forces are constraining the supply of restaurant workers, which threatens the economic recovery of businesses in the short-term and could lead to a restructuring of the industry in the long-term.

The most visible and politically charged factor is the ongoing $300 boost to unemployment.

"Multiple workers in both front and back of house have told us they are happy with unemployment and stimulus checks and, after being cooped up for a year, are looking forward to taking the summer off," said Jeffrey Merrihue, Owner of Heroic Italian restaurant, adding that even with the promise of higher wages, he's struggling to lure employees back.

Several other local restaurant owners echoed Merrihue's comments, saying they expect the shortage to last until these benefits expire.

"Unemployment was good enough to be able to go camping a few times," said Chef Chris Phelps, who is experiencing staffing difficulties at his popular brunch spot Salt's Cure. "But once everything gets going, I think it would be incredibly boring to not work. You can only go camping so many times."

Restaurant and hospitality expert Hunter Hall, says that boosted benefits are a red herring when it comes to understanding

SEE **RESTAURANTS** PAGE 4

City wishes Lane Dilg luck in new adventures

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica city leaders and community members emotionally bid Interim City Manager Lane Dilg farewell this week as she prepares to leave the city for Washington D.C.

Dilg arrived in Santa Monica as a City Attorney in 2017. Mayor Sue Himmelrich and Mayor Pro Tem Kristin McCowan recalled this week how Dilg took on tech giants in the name of preserving Santa Monica's housing for residents, and did so in-house, which they said was a testament to her confidence in the City Attorney's Office.

Then, in the early and most uncertain days of the pandemic the City Council had a critical decision to make: who will lead the City through the dark days of the pandemic?

"You stepped up and took the interim city manager position, which, if nothing else shows you are either the bravest, or the dumbest human being on Earth," Councilmember Gleam Davis said jokingly. "I vote for bravest, because you knew your sense of civic duty overcame whatever qualms you had, and I think that is a rare, rare quality."

Himmelrich noted this week that Dilg's was the first recruitment process she had participated in while on an ad-hoc committee.

"Then of course, we got to the pandemic and suddenly Lane was our city manager. And since she's told us she was leaving, I've been going through all of the stages of grieving," she said. "And I really thought I had gotten to acceptance

SEE **CITY** PAGE 11



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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 315 CALLS ON JUNE 23

Domestic Violence Now Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 12:46 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Alta Ave 3:47 a.m.
Drinking In Public 700blk Pine St 4:20 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 800blk Harvard St 5:00 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:42 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 7:12 a.m.
Fraud Report 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 7:29 a.m.
Forensics Request - Fingerprint 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:40 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500blk 7th St 7:42 a.m.
Scar Investigation 1000blk Pacific St 7:54 a.m.
Lost Property 1500blk Montana Ave 8:14 a.m.
Arson 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 8:19 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1600blk Ocean Ave 8:35 a.m.
Attempt Auto Theft Report 3000blk Nebraska Ave 8:36 a.m.
Fraud Report 1700blk Ocean Ave 8:54 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Washington Ave 9:12 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1400blk 5th St 9:40 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1000blk 20th St 9:45 a.m.
Person With A Gun 500blk Colorado Ave 9:48 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 800blk 19th St 9:50 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 900blk 10th St 9:55 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1300blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:04 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk Chelsea Ave 10:06 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 700blk 18th St 10:30 a.m.
Medical Aid Alarm 1400blk 17th St 11:02 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 9th St 11:04 a.m.
Medical Emergency 2000blk 5th St 11:05 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1300blk 2nd St 11:15 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 11:25 a.m.
Forensics Request - Fingerprint 3000blk Nebraska Ave 11:27 a.m.
Found Property 1500blk The Beach 11:31 a.m.
Expired Registration 1900blk 20th St 11:33 a.m.
Burglary Report 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:35 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 500blk Idaho Ave 11:36 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2700blk Barnard Way 11:39 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1300blk 2nd St 11:49 a.m.
Burglary Report 2000blk Main St 11:56 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 11:57 a.m.
Lost Property 300blk Olympic Dr 12:09 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:14 p.m.
Expired Registration 1600blk 18th St 12:20 p.m.
Found Property Harvard St / Colorado Ave 12:54 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 1500blk Ocean Ave 1:07 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Cloverfield Blvd / Broadway 1:27 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 1400blk 9th St 1:37 p.m.
Adult Prot Serv Chck 2900blk Arizona Ave 1:39 p.m.
Adult Prot Serv Chck 2900blk Arizona Ave 1:40 p.m.
Loitering 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:40 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 700blk Euclid St 1:44 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2000blk Ocean Ave 1:52 p.m.
Burglary Report 2200blk Virginia Ave 2:02 p.m.
Fraud Report 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:11 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:13 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2000blk Ocean Ave 2:37 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 2:41 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1800blk Euclid St 2:46 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 300blk Santa Monica Pier 2:54 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 12th St / Broadway 3:00 p.m.
Medical Aid Alarm 2700blk 11th St 3:09 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk Ocean Ave 3:10 p.m.
Death Investigation 1300blk Sunset Ave 3:16 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Stanford St 3:20 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 400blk 17th St 3:34 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 300blk Colorado Ave 3:41 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2100blk Montana Ave 3:42 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 5th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:43 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Main St 3:45 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 4:17 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto In Progress 23rd St / Arizona Ave 4:38 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 5th St / Arizona Ave 4:43 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500blk 19th St 5:11 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 5:23 p.m.
Person With A Gun 17th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:39 p.m.
Medical Emergency 400blk Santa Monica Pier 5:48 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 5:52 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 5:55 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1200blk 2nd St 6:02 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 2nd St / Wilshire Blvd 6:02 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2nd St / Wilshire Blvd 6:03 p.m.
Arson 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:18 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 17th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:21 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 00blk Pico Blvd 6:32 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1300blk Harvard St 7:17 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:24 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 1200blk 2nd St 7:25 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 700blk 18th St 8:06 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1300blk Ocean Ave 8:41 p.m.
Found Property 800blk 17th St 8:45 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1000blk Montana Ave 9:08 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1800blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:38 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1300blk 7th St 9:45 p.m.
Prowler 2900blk Colorado Ave 10:06 p.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 1800blk Euclid St 10:10 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 10:21 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 10:36 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2300blk 4th St 10:38 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 10:58 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2400blk 3rd St 11:02 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 44 CALLS ON JUNE 23

Automatic Alarm 1400blk 2nd St 1:02 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Arizona Ave 1:21 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 2:27 a.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 3:49 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Main St 6:49 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk 26th St 7:14 a.m.
Smoke Investigation 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:32 a.m.
Wires Down 3000blk Colorado Ave 7:55 a.m.
Structure Fire 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 8:11 a.m.
EMS 2900blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:56 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 8:58 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 500blk Colorado Ave 9:11 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 10:05 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 11th St 10:31 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Michigan Ave 10:50 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 11:02 a.m.
EMS 2000blk 5th St 11:02 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 700blk San Vicente Blvd 11:03 a.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 11:19 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 16th St 11:53 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 10th St 11:54 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Pico Blvd 12:51 p.m.
EMS 600blk Ashland Ave 12:58 p.m.
EMS 2700blk Colorado Ave 1:36 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 20th St 1:36 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 11th St 2:43 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Sunset Ave 2:48 p.m.
EMS 1600blk 5th St 3:10 p.m.
Wires Down 700blk 21st St 4:56 p.m.
EMS 1800blk 7th St 5:00 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:11 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Warwick Ave 5:24 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Wilshire Blvd 5:29 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk 15th St 5:41 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 2nd St / Wilshire Blvd 6:03 p.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:16 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk Adelaide Dr 7:40 p.m.
EMS 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:48 p.m.
Arcing Wires 2nd St / Ocean Park Blvd 9:24 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 9:26 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Georgina Ave 10:18 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 10:21 p.m.
Flooded Condition 800blk 20th St 11:01 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Pl 11:58 p.m.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON JUNE 20, AT ABOUT 8:08 P.M.

Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Officers responded to investigate a shooting that occurred in the 1900 block Main Street. When officers arrived on scene they met with the victim, who told them that he was walking with his stepson in the area when he saw the suspect, who he knows, and the suspect followed the victim as they exchanged words.

The victim was attempting to express his displeasure of Willis having any contact with his stepson when the suspect retrieved a handgun from his waistband and struck the victim on the top of the head with it. The suspect then pointed the firearm at the victim and fired one round at him. The victim was not struck and was able to run into Star Liquor (1929 Main St), to summon for help, while suspect fled eastbound on foot. A SMPD Officer observed the suspect at 3rd and Pico. He failed to comply to the officer's commands and ran into El Texate Restaurant (316 Pico Blvd). Officers quickly made entry into the establishment, and safely took him into custody. Officers recovered a loaded 9mm handgun on his person with one spent casing lodged in the chamber.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed charges against Harold Dwayne Willis, a 29-year-old male, for his involvement in the shooting.

On June 22, the Los Angeles County's District Attorney's Office charged Willis with the following:

1. 664/187(a) PC – Attempt Murder (with gun enhancement)
2. 245(a)(2) PC – Assault with a Deadly Weapon (with gun enhancement)
3. 29800(a)(1) PC – Felon in Possession of a Firearm
4. 30305(a)(1) PC – Unlawful Possession of Ammo
5. 25400(a)(2) PC – Concealed Unregistered Firearm
6. 25850(a) PC – Carrying Loaded Firearm Unregistered
7. 2 counts – 148(a)(1) PC Resist, Delay, Obstruct Arrest

Anyone with any additional information related to this incident is encouraged to contact Detective Murphy with the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) at (310) 458-8941 or by email at nicole.murphy@smgov.net.

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CDC extends eviction moratorium a month, says it's last time

ASHRAF KHALIL AND MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

The Biden administration on Thursday extended the nationwide ban on evictions for a month to help millions of tenants unable to make rent payments during the coronavirus pandemic, but said this is the last time it plans to do so.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, extended the evictions moratorium from June 30 until July 31. The CDC said "this is intended to be the final extension of the moratorium."

A Biden administration official said the last month would be used for an "all hands on deck" multiagency campaign to prevent a wave of evictions. One of the reasons the moratorium was put in place was to prevent further spread of COVID-19 by people put out on the streets and into shelters.

By the end of March, 6.4 million American households were behind on their rent, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. As of June 7, roughly 3.2 million people in the U.S. said they faced eviction in the next two months, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey.

The news brought a sense of relief to tenants on the verge of being evicted and whose only lifeline was the CDC moratorium.

Among them was Cristina Livingston, a 55-year-old mother of two from Bay Harbor Islands, Florida, who lost her job as an administrative assistant during the pandemic. She couldn't get federal rental assistance to pay upwards of $14,000 in back rent because her landlord refused to take it.

"Ah, great. I'm just asking for a little bit more time. I just need the time to move out of here in a dignified way," said Livingston, who said her biggest fear was that she would be evicted without notice before finding a new job.

"It's been a devastating experience," she said. "I have never been in this situation. It's killing me because I'm afraid anytime somebody is going to come and get me out of here. I don't have a place to go."

Ronald Leonard, a 68-year-old retired heavy equipment operator from Daytona Beach, was facing eviction from his one-bedroom apartment. His landlord also is refusing to take federal assistance to cover $5,000 in back rent.

"I don't have to worry about July no more. I feel a lot better," said Leonard, who still fears being forced to live on the streets once the moratorium expires. "It's heartbreaking. It's not going to be good all. I'm not healthy anymore. There is no way I'm going to live on the street."

The extension announcement Thursday was accompanied by a flurry of administration activity. The Treasury Department issued new guidance encouraging states and local governments to streamline distribution of the nearly $47 billion in available emergency rental assistance funding. And Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta released an open letter to state courts around the country encouraging them to pursue a number of alternatives that would protect both tenants and landlords.

Gupta's letter states that "eviction filings are expected to overwhelm courts across the country," unless additional steps are taken.

The White House had acknowledged Wednesday that the emergency pandemic protection, which had been extended before, would have to end at some point. The trick is devising the right sort of off-ramp to make the transition without major social upheaval.

Gupta's letter to state courts encourages them to do everything possible to prevent or delay evictions.

"Losing one's home can have catastrophic economic and psychological effects," she states. "The entire legal community, including the Department of Justice, the bar, and the judiciary, has an obligation to do what it can to ensure that each and every individual has meaningful and equal access to justice before facing such consequences."

That includes giving tenants as much time as possible, and making sure both tenants and landlords are aware of any emergency relief funds that may be available.

She references steps made by state courts in Texas, Michigan and Pennsylvania and directs state courts to an online assessment tool designed by the National Center for State Courts to help jurisdictions determine the most appropriate model.

This week, dozens of members of Congress wrote to President Joe Biden and Walensky, calling for the moratorium to be not only extended but also strengthened in some ways.

The letter, spearheaded by Democratic Reps. Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, Jimmy Gomez of California and Cori Bush of Missouri, called for an unspecified extension to allow the emergency rental assistance included in the American Rescue Plan to get into the hands of tenants.

Ending the assistance too abruptly, they said, would disproportionately hurt some of the minority communities that were hit so hard by the virus, which has killed more than 600,000 people in the United States. They also echoed many housing advocates by calling for the moratorium's protections to be made automatic, requiring no special steps from the tenant to gain its protections.

"The impact of the federal moratorium cannot be understated, and the need to strengthen and extend it is an urgent matter of health, racial, and economic justice," the letter said.

Diane Yentel, president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, called an extension of the eviction ban "the right thing

SEE CDC PAGE 11





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Robert Lemle

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RESTAURANTS

FROM PAGE 1

the labor shortage and warns that there are other contributing factors lurking beneath the surface.

"For somebody to say the only reason that we don't have workers is because of that darn pesky unemployment is lazy intellectually and also disingenuous from a societal perspective," said Hall.

Hall points to restaurants' high stress work environment, the opportunity the pandemic has given workers to pursue other passions, and restaurant-adjacent fields poaching employees with better working conditions as additional contributors to staffing woes.

Unlike unemployment boosts, none of these factors have an expiration date, rendering the timeline of the ongoing labor shortage much murkier.

Joel Dixon, CEO of the Rustic Canyon Family, is trying to fill around 40 positions across the groups' nine local restaurants. He noted that many of his former employees have either moved away from Los Angeles during the pandemic, studied for a new qualification, or transitioned to a different field.

"A lot of people have left the industry because they finally have the time to get around to doing the things they really want to do," said Dixon, adding that a lot of front of house workers in LA see restaurant gigs as a temporary means of financial support while they pursue their dreams.

For some workers who stayed on during the pandemic, the experience proved unpleasant, disillusioning, or even traumatizing.

Capacity restrictions meant less tips and less reliable hours. Work posed health risks to employees and to the people they live with. During this time some employees chose to quit the industry altogether.

Even prior to the pandemic, restaurant work environments ranged from stressful to downright toxic. For some former employees who adjusted to a different pace of life, this high-pressure setting is not one they wish to return to.

"Working at a restaurant is a never-ending assault on every sense you have, whether you're dealing with noise, or customers or problems that arise," said Hall. "When you give somebody a taste of what freedom from that system feels like, they don't want to go back."

Hall also said that many chefs and line cooks were able to transfer their skills to other jobs that offered higher pay and a more pleasant working experience. These include hotel kitchens, grocery store kitchens, and ghost kitchens.

The collective impact of these factors has left local restaurants competing for a small pool of available workers and, as a result, often unable to utilize all of their available tables.

"What's so frustrating for business owners and operators right now is that finally the demand is there and the restrictions are lifted, but we just don't have the workforce," said Dixon.

At the family owned restaurant Kye's, Founder Jeanne Cheng says she has to be prepared to cover any shift at a moment's notice as her staff levels are at the bare minimum to stay open. She has been trying to hire more workers for six months, but is struggling to get candidates to commit.

"Maybe one out of twenty people show up for an interview," said Cheng. "It's a strange thing; they'll schedule with you, you'll text back and forth and then they just won't show up."

Dixon noted that a similar phenomenon is happening at Rustic Canyon, where scores of applicants will disappear midway through the hiring process, presumably having found a more desirable gig.

To combat this, the Rustic Canyon Group is offering a number of incentives, including healthcare benefits, hiring bonuses and a worker referral program for existing employees.

Cheng says these practices are becoming very common and make it even more challenging for Kye's, a small mom and pops, to attract employees.

"It's hard to keep up if people are offering crazy things like $500 or $1000 signing bonuses," said Cheng. "Small businesses like ours can't really compete with that."

When it comes to the fight for local restaurant talent, Hall said hotels are emerging as the clear winners, as they have the ability to hike wages the highest.

Santa Monica's hotel minimum wage is $2 above that for other businesses, meaning hotels were offering competitive wages even prior to the pandemic. Additionally, hotels can use room rates to subsidize their restaurants and provide hourly wages in the $20 to $25 range, which most independent restaurants cannot match.

In the long-term, the higher cost of labor and smaller talent pool may lead to the closure of more local restaurants — even those that successfully weathered the storm of the pandemic. Yet, not all outcomes of the labor shortage will necessarily be negative.

"The operators that have survived and the new ones that are opening are going to be way more aware of what they can do to provide the best possible working environment, because they have no choice," said Hall, adding that he hopes this will lessen the toxicity and prevalence of substance abuse in the restaurant industry.

Hall also said that the economic challenges of the pandemic coupled with the labor shortage is driving a restructuring of restaurants towards less labor dependent models. While the traditional dining experience isn't going anywhere, locals can expect to see more counter service, ghost kitchens, and delivery-focused restaurants in the future.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PACIFIC PALISADES

Passport Fair at Pacific Palisades Post Office

To help customers who otherwise cannot schedule an appointment for passport service, the Pacific Palisades Post Office at 15243 La Cruz Dr., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, will accept walk-ins for passport applications on Friday, July 2, from 9 a.m. to 30 p.m. and Saturday, July 3rd, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. These events will be limited to the first 150 walk-ins.

Postal clerks will be on hand to provide passport information and to accept passport applications, with no appointments necessary.

To help speed up the process, customers should fill out forms ahead of time. Application forms and information on the costs and how to apply for a passport book and/or passport card can be found at usps.com/passport or travel.state.gov/passport. Customers can also obtain passport information by phone, in English and Spanish, by calling the National Passport Information Center toll-free at (877) 487-2778.

To apply for a passport, applicants need a valid form of photo identification and proof of citizenship.

Proof of identification – You may submit items such as the following containing your signature and a photograph that is a good likeness of you: Current or previous U.S. passport, naturalization certificate, certificate of citizenship or a current and valid driver's license, government ID or military ID.

A photocopy of the identification - front and back - must be submitted with your passport application. Many post offices do provide photocopy service for an added fee.

Proof of citizenship includes any one of the following:

Certified birth certificate issued by the city, county, or state

Naturalization certificate or certificate of citizenship, and

An expired passport

For anyone needing to make an appointment at a passport office that normally only accepted appointments by phone, the USPS has introduced the USPS Retail Customer Appointment Scheduler™ (RCAS™) on http://www.usps.com/scheduler.

SUBMITTED BY USPS

Los Angeles

LA City's Homelessness and Poverty Committee Advances Plan to Unify Homeless Governance

After two months of discussions at the City of Los Angeles' Homeless and Poverty Committee to review four reports on homelessness governance drafted by the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA), the City of Los Angeles' Chief Legislative Analyst, the County of Los Angeles' Chief Executive Office, and The Committee For Greater LA, respectively, Committee Chair and Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas introduced a proposed plan to unify City and County efforts to end homelessness.

"The bottom line for me is this: if we are to be successful at meaningfully abating homelessness, the multiple institutions and jurisdictions responsible for responding to this civic and moral crisis must be aligned on the mission, goals and outcomes. However, if we are going to take an honest look in the mirror, we know that is simply not the case in Los Angeles. We need to do a hard reset to ensure we are aligned with our key partner, the County of Los Angeles," said Los Angeles Councilmember Ridley-Thomas.

Research shows that there are approximately 41,000 people experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles - representing over 60% of the crisis across the County at large. Although significant resources have been dedicated toward helping our unsheltered residents, for every 207 persons housed each day, another 227 fall into homelessness anew each day, in Los Angeles.

This motion calls for the designation of City and County policy and finance experts to create a LA City/County Reimagining Homeless Governance Action Plan ("The Plan"), with a four-fold purpose:

- Establish a clear mission and goals, and uniform metrics for measuring progress.
- Provide recommendations on immediate operational changes - with a specific initial focus on establishing a unified Street Engagement and Outreach Strategy.
- Provide recommendations on an updated governance framework, which includes specific updates to the Joint Powers Agreement with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; and
- Advance updates to the City's Homeless Strategies, in alignment with the County's Homeless Initiative Strategies.

"We need more direct, mutually-accountable and transparent discussions between the leadership at the City and County on this issue to scale up our response and transition our unhoused neighbors off the streets. It would be my expectation that through this process, we can operationalize this with an urgency that is long overdue," said Councilmember Ridley-Thomas. "I look forward to working with all entities involved and doubling down on this imperative work to establish a Right To Housing and ameliorate this unacceptable crisis."

The proposed plan, which was seconded by Los Angeles Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, and supported by the other members of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee, now proceeds as a package of governance recommendations to the full City Council for consideration.

SUBMITTED BY ARIANA DRUMMOND, DEPUTY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER RIDLEY-THOMAS

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

My Marlon Brando Moment

In 2013 I wrote a column about my friend and neighbor Alison McLea entitled "Alison Flies with the Greatest of Ease on the Pier Trapeze." It was inspired by her fearless approach to her trapeze lessons at The New York Trapeze School on the Santa Monica Pier. At 38, Alison had a life long dream of joining the circus by the age of 50. (The question is, did she make it?)

Also in that column I mentioned Alison's wonderful dog, Stella, whom I often walked because Alison was swamped with massage and yoga clientele. Stella, a mix of a Hound, Yellow Labrador and Rhodesian Ridgeback, was the sweetest dog you'd ever meet.

Three years ago Alison and her husband, Michael, moved to Greece and took Stella with them. Sadly, Stella who lived to be 16, recently passed away so I'm writing this harrowing tale in loving memory of her. (Even though what she did that night in question almost took years off my life.)

It was a fun "side gig" walking Stella and this particular day seemed no different than all the others. I first went to Colleen Hughes 14th floor apartment to pick up Oscar De La Rascal, a Golden Retriever Service Dog who often seemed more human than canine. Oscar was always excited to see me knowing the fun that would soon follow.

With Oscar in tow, I went to the first floor and got his good friend Stella and off the three of us went to watch the gorgeous sun slowly setting into the ocean. (Actually I watched the sunset, the dogs sniffed the derrieres of other dogs.)

Then we headed to nearby Hollister Avenue where Andy, a surgeon friend of mine, owns Miley, a Vizsla, a Hungarian sporting breed, and a house with a huge backyard. So I took off all the leashes as the three dogs noisily chased each other while Andy and I went inside to have a beer.

As we were about to have a second beer we noticed the dogs were suddenly quiet. Uh oh. We immediately went outside and to my horror we saw Oscar and Miley but no Stella whom we quickly surmised dug a hole under the fence and had escaped! OMG.

I grabbed Stella's leash and asked Andy to watch the other two as I ran outside where I saw a man walking his pooch and he could tell I was a bit frantic. (Okay, maybe more than a bit.) "You looking for your dog?" he asked. "Yes but she's not mine, I was just watching her!" I exclaimed. "He ran to the park and made a left like he knew where he was going." "Thanks!" I replied, not correcting him that Stella was a "she," and sprinted toward to the park.

Scanning the park in the darkness of night, I repeatedly shouted "Stella! Stella," but didn't see her anywhere. As a result of my shouting, however, I inadvertently woke an inebriated homeless man on a bench who seemed annoyed that I had disturbed his slumber.

"Who do you think you are, Marlon Brando?!" he sarcastically said while slurring his words. I was actually impressed he knew Brando's "Stella" from Streetcar Named Desire. So much so that, as I resumed running south, I was now shouting "Bella!" to avoid further comparisons.

In the distance I saw an elderly woman with two dogs. I sprinted toward her to ask if she had seen Stella only to realize the second dog WAS Stella! I profusely thanked the woman and headed back to Andy's house thoroughly relieved. I could only imagine what I would have said to Alison. "Al, good news, bad news. The bad news is Stella is lost. The good news is, if you get another dog, you won't need to buy a new leash."

Alison and Michael were so highly thought of by so many in Santa Monica I'll bring you up to date on their activities in Greece. Firstly, Michael and his sister Leslie founded Verita International School educating the hearts and minds of children from 14 different countries around the world and ranging in ages from preschoolers to Year 5. Verita is described as offering "an unparalleled education where British curriculum meets 21st century learning." (Frankly, it sounds so enlightened, if you have kids that age you may have to move to Greece.)



Courtesy photo

STELLA: In front of a Temple on Aegina Island 27 kilometers from Athens, is Alison, Michael and Stella.

It's unsurprising to anyone who knows her that Alison is still highly involved in "healing through movement," as a Master Trainer at Beyond Fitness Greece and Master Bodywork. She's also busily involved in Verita International School which brings me to did Alison finally join the circus by age 50?

"I'm at the school teaching and playing with the kids." Alison says. "And we do everything a circus would, so the answer is... yes!"

Please Google "Veritaschool Athens" while Alison can be reached at: me@alisoninfinity.com/ and Jack can be reached at: jackdailypress@aol.com.



Nearly all COVID deaths in US are now among unvaccinated

CARLA K. JOHNSON AND MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writers

Nearly all COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. now are in people who weren't vaccinated, a staggering demonstration of how effective the shots have been and an indication that deaths per day — now down to under 300 — could be practically zero if everyone eligible got the vaccine.

An Associated Press analysis of available government data from May shows that "breakthrough" infections in fully vaccinated people accounted for fewer than 1,200 of more than 853,000 COVID-19 hospitalizations. That's about 0.1%.

And only about 150 of the more than 18,000 COVID-19 deaths in May were in fully vaccinated people. That translates to about 0.8%, or five deaths per day on average.

The AP analyzed figures provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC itself has not estimated what percentage of hospitalizations and deaths are in fully vaccinated people, citing limitations in the data.

Among them: Only about 45 states report breakthrough infections, and some are more aggressive than others in looking for such cases. So the data probably understates such infections, CDC officials said.

Still, the overall trend that emerges from the data echoes what many health care authorities are seeing around the country and what top experts are saying.

Earlier this month, Andy Slavitt, a former adviser to the Biden administration on COVID-19, suggested that 98% to 99% of the Americans dying of the coronavirus are unvaccinated.

And CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said on Tuesday that the vaccine is so effective that "nearly every death, especially among adults, due to COVID-19, is, at this point, entirely preventable." She called such deaths "particularly tragic."

Deaths in the U.S. have plummeted from a peak of more than 3,400 day on average in mid-January, one month into the vaccination drive.

About 63% of all vaccine-eligible Americans — those 12 and older — have received at least one dose, and 53% are fully vaccinated, according to the CDC. While vaccine remains scarce in much of the world, the U.S. supply is so abundant and demand has slumped so dramatically that shots sit unused.

Ross Bagne, a 68-year-old small-business owner in Cheyenne, Wyoming, was eligible for the vaccine in early February but didn't get it. He died June 4, infected and unvaccinated, after spending more than three weeks in the hospital, his lungs filling with fluid. He was unable to swallow because of a stroke.

"He never went out, so he didn't think he would catch it," said his grieving sister, Karen McKnight. She wondered: "Why take the risk of not getting vaccinated?"

The preventable deaths will continue, experts predict, with unvaccinated pockets of the nation experiencing outbreaks in the fall and winter. Ali Mokdad, a professor of health metrics sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle, said modeling suggests the nation will hit 1,000 deaths per day again next year.

In Arkansas, which has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the nation, with only about 33% of the population fully protected, cases, hospitalizations and deaths are rising.

"It is sad to see someone go to the hospital or die when it can be prevented," Gov. Asa Hutchinson tweeted as he urged people to get their shots.

In Seattle's King County, the public health department found only three deaths during a recent 60-day period in people who were fully vaccinated. The rest, some 95% of 62 deaths, had no vaccine or just one shot.

"Those are all somebody's parents, grandparents, siblings and friends," said Dr. Mark Del Beccaro, who helps lead a vaccination outreach program in King County. "It's still a lot of deaths, and they're preventable deaths."

In the St. Louis area, more than 90% of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 have not been vaccinated, said Dr. Alex Garza, a hospital administrator who directs a metropolitan-area task force on the outbreak.

"The majority of them express some regret for not being vaccinated," Garza said. "That's a pretty common refrain that we're hearing from patients with COVID."

The stories of unvaccinated people dying may convince some people they should get the shots, but young adults — the group least likely to be vaccinated — may be motivated more by a desire to protect their loved ones, said David Michaels, an epidemiologist at George Washington University's school of public health in the nation's capital.

Others need paid time off to get the shots and deal with any side effects, Michaels said.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration this month began requiring health care employers, including hospitals and nursing homes, to provide such time off. But Michaels, who headed OSHA under President Barack Obama, said the agency should have gone further and applied the rule to meat and poultry plants and other food operations as well as other places with workers at risk.

Bagne, who lived alone, ran a business helping people incorporate their companies in Wyoming for the tax advantages. He was winding down the business, planning to retire, when he got sick, emailing his sister in April about an illness that had left him dizzy and disoriented.

"Whatever it was. That bug took a LOT out of me," he wrote.

As his health deteriorated, a neighbor finally persuaded him to go to the hospital.

"Why was the messaging in his state so unclear that he didn't understand the importance of the vaccine? He was a very bright guy," his sister said. "I wish he'd gotten the vaccine, and I'm sad he didn't understand how it could prevent him from getting COVID."



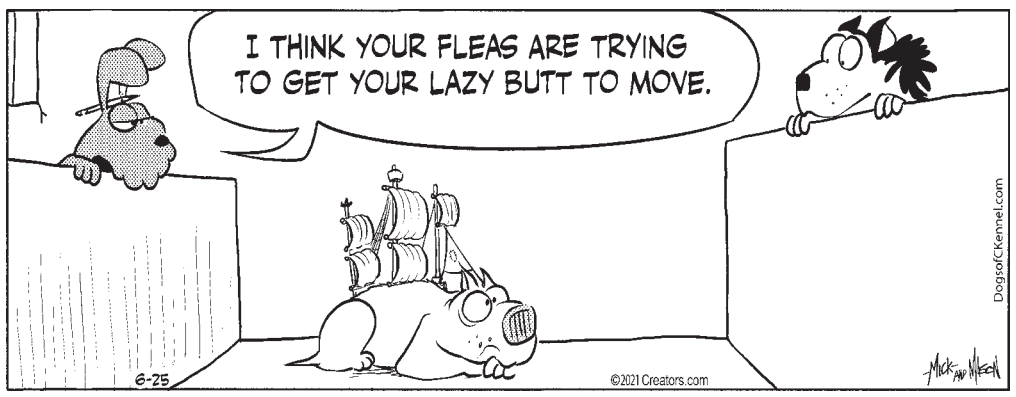
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



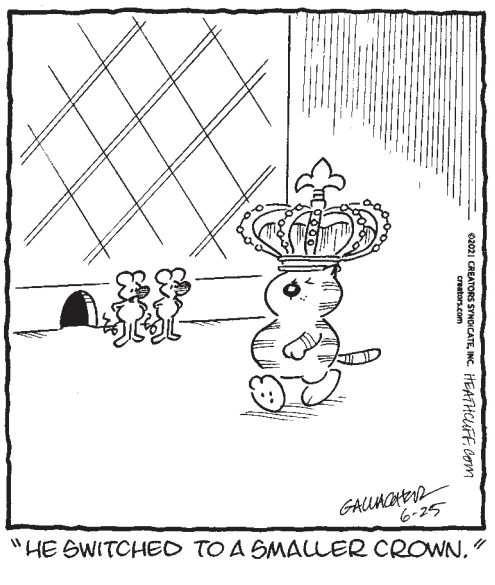
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



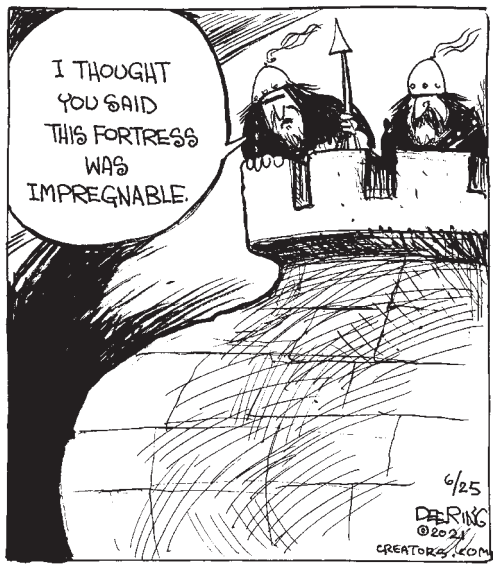
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 65.5°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
Wind looking fairly light for the morning. Fun-zone round of SSW swell continues and NW swell mix looks to rebound. Could be pretty fun for the size, especially with the early tide push.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Potential for some fun, peaky surf as WNW/NW swell builds and SSW swell continues. Light wind but drained out first thing, let the tide fill in some.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 69.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 75.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/06/25	Fri	04:53 AM	-1.72	L
2021/06/25	Fri	11:26 AM	3.94	H
2021/06/25	Fri	3:56 PM	2.17	L
2021/06/25	Fri	10:15 PM	6.94	H
2021/06/26	Sat	05:41 AM	-1.58	L
2021/06/26	Sat	12:19 PM	3.96	H
2021/06/26	Sat	4:48 PM	2.30	L
2021/06/26	Sat	11:03 PM	6.55	H
2021/06/27	Sun	06:29 AM	-1.25	L
2021/06/27	Sun	1:12 PM	4.00	H
2021/06/27	Sun	5:45 PM	2.44	L
2021/06/27	Sun	11:53 PM	6.00	H
2021/06/28	Mon	07:16 AM	-0.79	L
2021/06/28	Mon	2:06 PM	4.07	H
2021/06/28	Mon	6:48 PM	2.58	L
2021/06/29	Tue	12:46 AM	5.33	H
2021/06/29	Tue	08:03 AM	-0.25	L
2021/06/29	Tue	3:01 PM	4.18	H
2021/06/29	Tue	8:02 PM	2.66	L
2021/06/30	Wed	01:44 AM	4.60	H
2021/06/30	Wed	08:51 AM	0.32	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/23
13 20 40 51 63
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 75 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/22
1 26 48 51 59
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 50 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 6/23
4 9 38 40 41
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 58 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/23
4 12 26 29 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/23
EVENING: 9 9 9

Draw Date: 6/23
MIDDAY: 5 6 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/23
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:42.79

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JUNE 25)

You have so much social intelligence at your disposal that you don't even realize the advantage in it. Your solar year brings numerous opportunities to play these cards, parlaying yourself into a higher position or a sweeter one, scooping up the resources to help your loved ones and the ideas to rock your world. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 38, 1, 16 and 54.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everyone is entitled to their preferences. Your preference will be to tend exclusively to your own business, purposely ignoring those who try to impose their personal opinions on the world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The whole story has yet to be revealed. Ask too many or the wrong kinds of questions and you may never know. But wait and watch. Then watch and wait. Suddenly, you'll find yourself in the know.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In this building phase, it is only natural to prefer each move improve upon the last. But you will get stuck if you expect constant improvement. The ups, downs, hits and misses are all essential to ultimate success.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You love a particular activity so much that it wouldn't matter if you were to fail at it or even if you would be embarrassed by that failure. Nor would success matter too much. The payoff is the work itself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Trust that everything you've learned is worth learning. What felt like a detour (and a costly one at that) still has plenty of applications, though you'll strain yourself if you force it. Resolve to have no regrets and move forward in faith.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Today's conversations have the potential to get chaotic. Your deft steering away from the minefields will help matters. When in doubt, stick to the main roads and rely on tone to trump content.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What can you eliminate? This is what will make your life better today, and it will beat any reorganization or new rule you institute. The best part is how quick and elegant the move can be. Sell it, give it, toss it, drop it -- it's done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're clicking together, the world and you. The world is listening. The world gets you. All you have to do is open your eyes wide, and the world will take this as a cue to educate you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe all these signs don't mean you're on the wrong path. Consider that the answer is out there; you just haven't tried enough things to find it yet. Widen the search. Turn over more rocks. Ask more people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though you really prefer change to have a ramp-up and adaptation period, life doesn't often accommodate such a preference. The good thing about an unexpected shock is that it forces you to seek out something better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What are you looking forward to? What are you dreading? To do more of the former and avoid the latter would be a mistake. Nothing disempowers dread like diving right in and doing the thing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Question why you need things to be a certain way. Sometimes particularness comes out of a desire to be treated as important or special, and other times the details must be correct to serve the greater good. Which is it?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

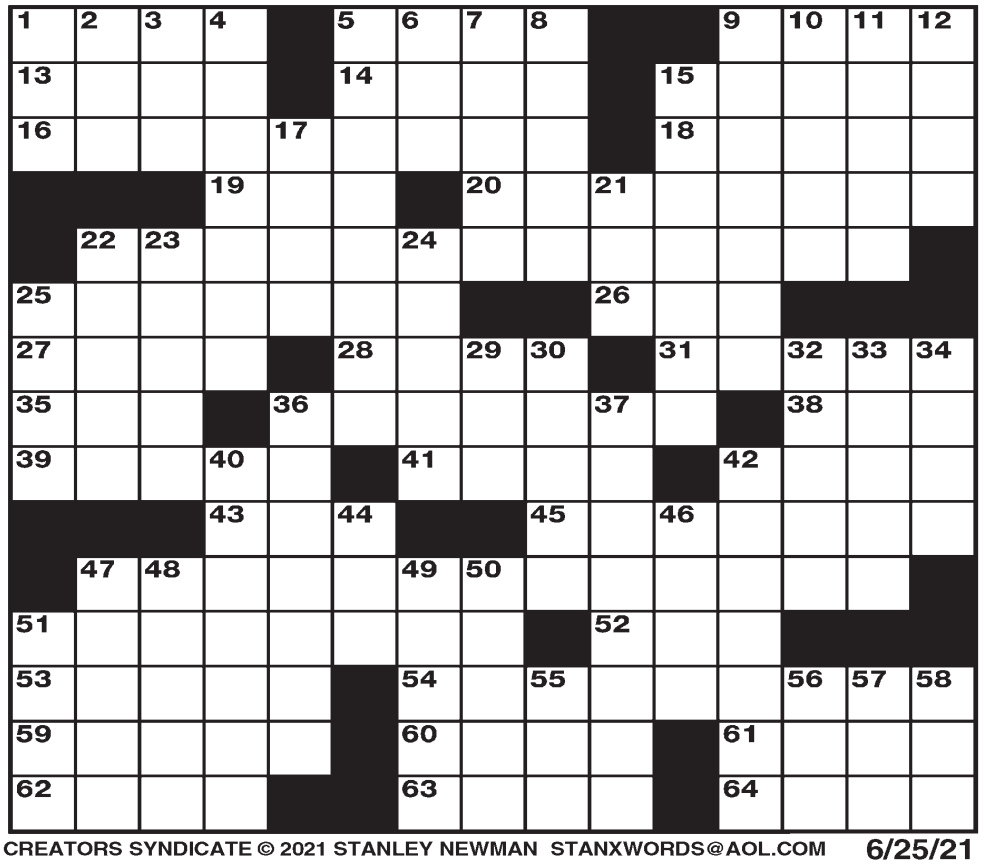
	4		1			2		7
9	2				5			
	6				3		8	
		1		5			2	9
	9			2			5	
2	8			9		4		
	1		6				9	
			9				7	1
8		9			4		3	

Newsday Crossword

WHERE ARE MY KEYS? by Steve Mossberg
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Must settle up with
5 Easy pitches
9 Pop singer Bareilles
13 Look towards
14 Hand-to-hand call
15 Of meditative exercise
16 Maybe I didn't bring them in?
18 Formal order
19 Small team
20 Clearance events
22 Maybe they're in yesterday's slacks?
25 Destructive episode
26 Dim-sum bun
27 Planets, poetically
28 It's often seen before after
31 In different places
35 Many a state name in DC
36 Extra charge
38 Org chart topper
39 __ Antonio (Caesar's *compadre*)
41 Ontario's official bird
42 Petting zoo favorite
43 John __ Lennon
45 Bad weather, briefly
47 Maybe they fell out in the den?
51 Big here-and-gone group
52 "Go on . . ."
53 Two-figure comparison
54 I sure hope they're not there!
59 Heating units
60 Show some chutzpah
61 Annoyingly suave
62 Post-party problem, perhaps
63 Leave gobsmacked
64 Look gobsmacked

DOWN
1 Not working
2 Mars' concern
3 Prefix for activist
4 Satirical renderings
5 SoCal slugger
6 "So that's what you're up to!"
7 Pirate's plunder
8 Dark-skinned wine grape
9 Bubbly beverage
10 Mentally sharp
11 Potato gadget
12 *Tosca* trio
15 Polite reply
17 Common sushi fish
21 Chitchat
22 Prepupal phase
23 Fossil preserver, at times
24 Live it up
25 Be a nomad
29 Broody subculture
30 Laugh-a-minute folks
32 Tough nut to crack
33 500-sheet stacks
34 Daycare participants
36 Rainy day wear
37 Standing firm
40 They may be removed at weddings
42 Acknowledgment for sitting or staying
44 Bit of resistance
46 Pitchfork part
47 Salsa band stick
48 Four-time Pulitzer fiction finalist
49 Nose woes
50 '40s maritime menace
51 Born in
55 Upscale vineyard
56 Covert "Company"
57 Yodeler's spot
58 Green grass



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/25/21

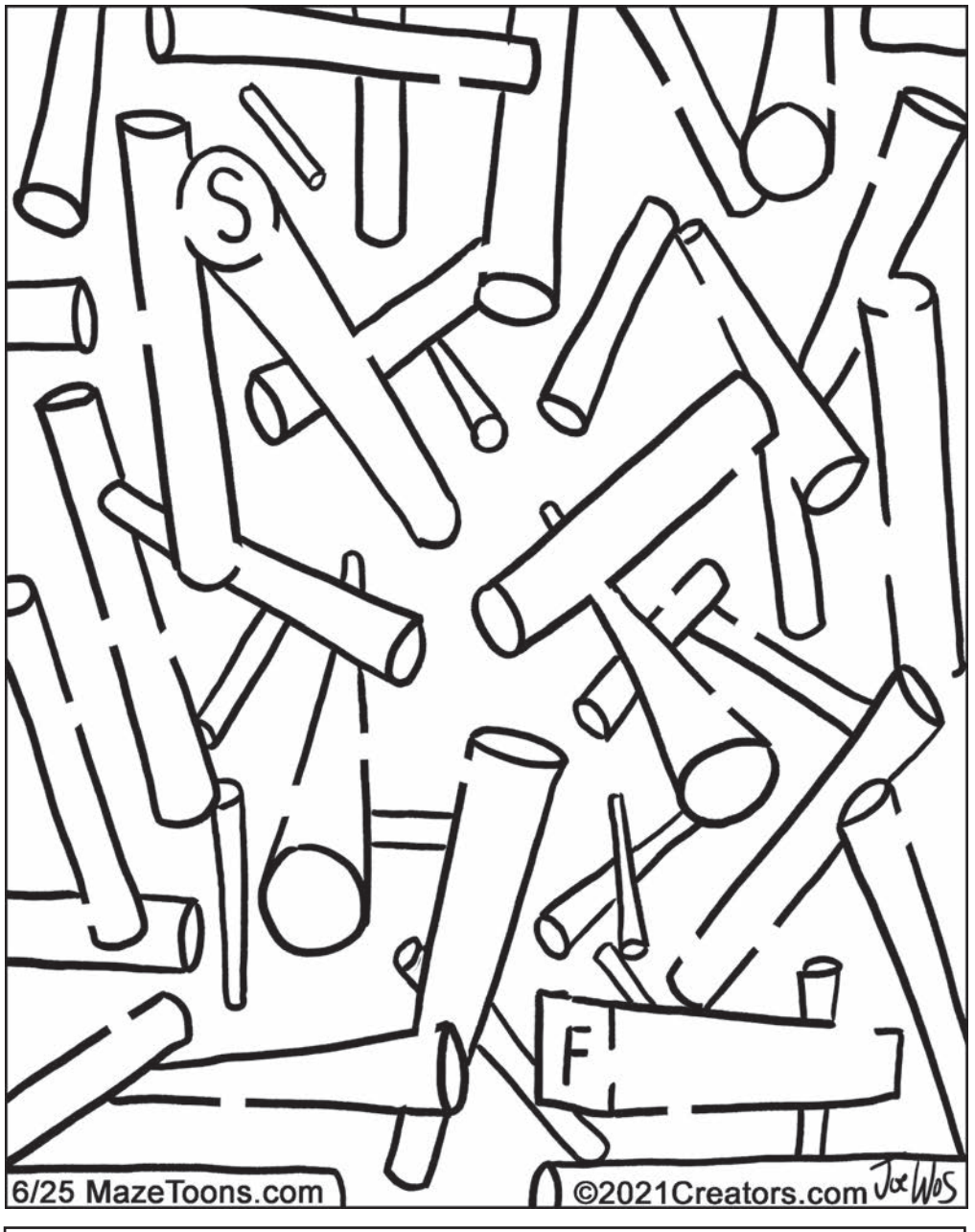
Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	O
I	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	I
I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I
O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O
O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I
I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O
I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I
O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O
I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O
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"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 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5156

Council meeting

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

Acts	Close	Dues	Plan
Adjourn	Community	Effective	PowerPoint
Allot	Cost	Ethics	Public
Areas	Council	Fair	Role
Argue	Credit	Finance	Shire
Bins	Culture	Forest	Speaker
Blunder	Data	Gavel	Staff
Board	Deals	Hands	Talk
Boss	Debate	Laws	Town
Civil	Dispute	News	Voters
Clash	Dogs	Office	Works

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
It was this big!

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CITY

FROM PAGE 1

until today."

Himmelrich said council knew from day one that Dilg possessed the knowledge and fortitude to see the City through one of its darkest times. She hit the ground running with the complex task of restructuring a City that was facing $224 million in projected revenue losses.

"Through her leadership, our fiscal health is strong," Himmelrich said. "The FY 2021-23 Biennial Budget reflects no deficit now or in the five-year forecast. We have retained our AAA bond rating, which means we are poised for a steady and solid economic and community recovery."

With finances stabilized, Dilg and city leadership shifted their focus to the safety of the city in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Economic recovery was also a focus and through the We Are Santa Monica Fund, $1.1 million was raised to sustain the Virginia Avenue Park Emergency Food Pantry and to support small businesses with small grants and the Black Agenda.

"What I've always been so impressed by is the steady calm, and how you can be very direct and informative but you also take great care for all of us, and our roles and the city and you're just incredibly thoughtful," McCowan said this week before Dilg took an opportunity to speak about her new adventure out east.

The outgoing City Manager said she couldn't help but feel like laughing because people always say she has a poker face during council meetings.

"And even I am waiting for the moment where I break into tears because, I think, that there is just so much emotion around everyone in this room and around what this year has been and around how much I love this place and the fact that I am indeed leaving for a swamp. That it is hard to bring it all together in these moments."

"I think of a moment where I was driving my son somewhere and he referred to Santa Monica as his village. And I loved it so much because it just reflected, so deeply, his love for the place and also reflected to me his vantage point… because it is his village, and he knows the trees, and he knows the streets, and he knows where the swings are and he rides his bike," Dilg added. "But it also is his village, in that it is the childcare providers, the doctors, the members of the community, the people who build the roads, who expanded the beach bike path — which still is my favorite capital project — this is the community that built his entire life. And, you know, as a mother, you love nothing more than the things that bring your child joy and health and happiness."

Dilg then moved to thank all of the individuals who make a sacrifice in the name of public service.

"I am sincere when I say to the city staff that there is not a day I could have done this without you. I leaned on all of you in so many different ways and I'm so grateful for the unbelievable dedication that you put in every day. It really was just a tremendous example of what public service is, what it takes to be a community, what it takes to create a community, and I'm so grateful to the city council for giving me the opportunity to serve in my hometown. It's really an extraordinary, extraordinary thing. So, with all of that, I just want to express my tremendous gratitude to all of you… And I'm sincere when I say that it has been a privilege and I'm really grateful to all of you."

With tears streaming down her face, Himmelrich said during this week's farewell, "I'm smiling now. But look, I'm praying on the inside that she's still going to tell me she's changed her mind and stay here. I know that's not happening, but I just am so sad to see you go Lane. I will miss you so much."

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CDC

FROM PAGE 3

to do — morally, fiscally, politically, and as a continued public health measure."

But landlords, who have opposed the moratorium and challenged it in court, were against any extension. They have argued the focus should be on speeding up the distribution of rental assistance.

There are at least six prominent lawsuits challenging the authority of the CDC ban. So far, three judges have sided with the ban and three have ruled against, with all cases currently going through appeals. One judge in Memphis declared the CDC order unenforceable in the entire Western District of Tennessee, and the U.S. District Court in Washington struck down the moratorium in May.

The judge in the District Court in Washington agreed to stay the case after the Justice Department filed an emergency appeal. The landlords in the case have filed a request to vacate the stay with the Supreme Court.

Others welcomed the moratorium extension but said the Biden administration needs to think about more long-term solutions, including expanding the federal government's housing voucher program for low-income tenants. Even before the pandemic, there were 24 million people who would have benefited from the program but couldn't get help — many of those people of color.

"For now. extending the eviction moratorium will protect the millions of people behind on rent, but many of these renters faced a similar deadline only months ago and they will face this deadline again next month," Alicia Mazzara, a senior research analyst with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, told reporters. "They need a long-term solution, not another Band-Aid. Policy makers should seize this moment to enact a more enduring solution."

Casey reported from Boston.

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HOTEL

FROM PAGE 1

housekeeping department at the Downtown Hilton since 1990. She was furloughed from her position as room inspector in March 2020 and has yet to be called back.

"I need to go back to work, because I need my job. I've been there for 30 years and I need to pay my bills, I am the supporter of my household" said Hernandez. "I'm getting money from unemployment right now, but it's not enough money to pay my bills."

According to data from Santa Monica Travel and Tourism (SMTT), hotels are at 50 to 60 percent occupancy during the week and reach 70 percent or higher on the weekends. While this is a significant rebound from last summer, a sizable gap remains from the 90 percent plus occupancies seen in a typical summer season.

"We're not running consistently high numbers that warrant bringing everybody back, because nobody wants to be in a situation where you have to turn around and lay people off again," said SMTT CEO Misti Kerns.

While many hotels are still operating at reduced staff levels, there are some locations with booming demand. The Fairmont Miramar, for example, has recalled all of its staff and is actively recruiting more employees, according to General Manager Sam Jagger.

Beyond the recall pool, hotels also have access to trained workers through Santa Monica's partnership with the Los Angeles Hospitality Training Academy.

"Santa Monica has a local hiring pipeline that it created some years ago for exactly this kind of situation; so when the hospitality industry needs to step up there would be a pipeline of local residents that want to join Santa Monica's hospitality industry," said Wilson.

The academy offers a range of housekeeping, cooking, and bartending training programs and works with several local hotels to place participants in jobs.

"We have enough participants that if anybody called us right now and said 'hey I need this kind of worker', we can send them resumes immediately," said Adine Forman, Executive Director of the HTA.

Hotels also have financial advantages over other hospitality businesses when it comes to attracting workers. Even prior to the pandemic, the hotel minimum wage in Santa Monica was more than $2 per hour higher than the rate for other businesses.

There is currently high demand for restaurant workers across the City. The Rustic Canyon Family, for example, is scrambling to staff around 40 positions in its nine local restaurants.

Since room rates, and not restaurant revenues, form the bread and butter of their business, hotels are able to lure restaurant workers with higher wages.

"The dynamic between hotels and restaurants has gotten a little contentious during COVID, because hotels are typically in a much stronger position financially to pay for workers," said restaurant and hospitality expert Hunter Hall.

At the Marriott Residence Inn & Courtyard in nearby Marina del Rey, General Manager Mark Murphy reports that the front of house workers at Brizo restaurant have hourly wages in the high teens, while back of house workers have hourly wages in the lower twenties.

When Brizo reopened after the winter shut down of outdoor dining, Murphy said he had very little trouble rehiring staff.

"Most of them came back I think because of the volume that they're doing, the opportunity for them to make a lot of money and the culture we created," said Murphy.

Although local hotels have several hiring advantages, they are not immune to the effects of the labor shortage.

"Some of the shortages in other industries are impacting hotel occupancies," said Kerns. "Just look at how many flights American Airlines canceled because they simply don't have enough staff."

American Airlines canceled more than three hundred flights over the weekend of June 19 and 20, and released a statement saying they may need to cancel 50 to 60 flights a day for the rest of the month.

Kerns also said that shortages in the rental car industry are affecting the number of tourists coming to Santa Monica. Many rental car companies sold off huge portions of their fleet last year to compensate for their revenues losses when travel ground to a halt.

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