smdp
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City Manager search to restart Saturday

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A month after being left at the proverbial altar by their first-choice candidate for City Manager, City Council will get back out there and meet some people this weekend.

Council has scheduled a closed session meeting for July 10 to continue recruiting Santa Monica's next City Manager after Rene Bobadilla rejected the City's offer of employment when breaches in process made his name public prior to the council's final decision.

Following a months-long process, Bobadilla was chosen from among 62 applicants for the position. However, his current city of Montebello voted to retain him, offering him a new contract with $318,500 in salary, lifetime medical benefits and an enhanced severance package.

Bobadilla's name was leaked by individuals with knowledge of the council discussions and in declining the Santa Monica position, Bobadilla said the process was meant to remain private before saying the decision to remain in Montebello was the right one for his family at this stage of his career.

The city has been without a permanent chief executive since Rick Cole resigned in April 2020. Then City Attorney Lane Dilg was named as Interim City Manager but she resigned earlier this year to pursue job opportunities with her family out of state. Santa Monica has hired former City Manager John Jalili to serve as interim city manager following Dilg's last day on June 22.

editor@smdp.com

Governor asks Californians to voluntarily cut water use

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday asked people and businesses in the nation's most populous state to voluntarily cut how much water they use by 15% as the Western United States weathers a drought that is rapidly emptying reservoirs relied on for agriculture, drinking water and fish habitat.

The water conservation is not mandatory, but it demonstrates the growing challenges of a drought that will only worsen throughout the summer and fall and is tied to more intense wildfires and heat waves. Temperatures in parts of the region are spiking again this week but are less extreme than the record heat wave that may have caused hundreds of deaths in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia in late June.

California's most important reservoirs are already at dangerously low levels and will likely reach historic lows later this year. Lake Oroville in Northern California is at 30% capacity, and state officials worry water levels could get so low they might have to shut down a hydroelectric plant later this year. Along the Russian River, officials fear Lake Mendocino could empty later this year.

"This is jaw-dropping, what's

SEE **WATER** PAGE 11

Everything to know about Santa Monica's four e-scooter and e-bike providers







Matthew Hall

SCOOTERS: A cadre of new operators are offering several kinds of mobility device.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's second shared mobility pilot program began on July 1 with five device types provided by operators Veo, Spin, Wheels, and Lyft.

In choosing these providers, members of the City's selection committee scored a variety of factors including provider experience, rule compliance, device durability, sustainability, safety features, affordability, local hiring, and customer service. Between the four providers, there are Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, two and three-wheeled e-scooters, and a seated two-wheel e-scooter on offer.

Devices are not allowed on sidewalks, Third Street Promenade or the Santa Monica beach bike path, with the exception of the Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes offered by Lyft and Veo, which are allowed to be ridden on the beach bike path.

Santa Monica based company Bird was not selected to participate. After filing an appeal and a subsequent litigation threat, Bird was still denied entry, forcing the company to remove all devices from the city by July 1. Bird was also recently kicked out of San Francisco where it had taken over operations of e-scooter company Scoot.

There are currently 2,200 devices allowed in Santa Monica, however several companies have yet to deploy their full allotments. Each operator offers devices at different price points with different accessibility and safety features that are outlined below.

SPIN

Spin was allocated 500 two-wheel and 200 three-wheel scooters. According to a Spin Spokesperson, the company intends to scale up to 500 deployed devices by mid July and then increase incrementally in accordance with demand.

Spin devices have several unique features designed to ensure safe riding and proper parking.

All devices are equipped with tip detection, which enables the app to send a notification to the rider if they park their scooter tipped over and alerts the Spin operation team to respond to tipped devices, if the problem is not corrected. Spin's three-wheel scooters have a "Spin Valet" feature that allows remote operators to detect when scooters are parked incorrectly and prompt the scooter to self-drive to an appropriate parking spot.

Although several operators are developing sidewalk riding detection technology, Spin will be

SEE **SCOOTER** PAGE 11



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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 295 CALLS ON JULY 7

Found Property 200blk Bay St 12:13 a.m.
Prowler There Now 1200blk 14th St 1:00 a.m.
Party Complaint 1700blk Appian Way 3:29 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1400blk 17th St 4:41 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 6:13 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Neilson Way / Hollister Ave 6:18 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 200blk Broadway 6:44 a.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 2nd St 8:01 a.m.
Loud Music 2500blk Ocean Front Walk 8:42 a.m.
Encampment 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:05 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 300blk 21st Pl 9:09 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 500blk 24th St 9:10 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 300blk Strand St 9:19 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2600blk 3rd St 9:20 a.m.
Panic Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Pier 9:27 a.m.
Person Down 1700blk Broadway 9:35 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 9:37 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 9:55 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Stewart St / Olympic Blvd 10:00 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2000blk Ocean Ave 10:01 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Montana Ave 10:14 a.m.
Fraud Report 800blk Idaho Ave 10:26 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2600blk The Beach 10:30 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2400blk Pico Blvd 10:42 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk Euclid St 11:12 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 11:14 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1800blk Colorado Ave 11:19 a.m.
Keep The Peace 1500blk 5th St 11:41 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1500blk 2nd St 11:47 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 11:59 a.m.
Death Investigation 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 12:02 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1200blk 11th St 12:10 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200blk 5th St 12:12 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:14 p.m.
Found Property Ocean Ave / California Incline 12:18 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 12:19 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / California Ave 12:20 p.m.
Burglary Report 300blk Idaho Ave 12:23 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:30 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1100blk 21st St 12:34 p.m.
Prowler 900blk 2nd St 12:55 p.m.
Expired Registration 800blk 6th St 1:00 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:05 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 1:06 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 300blk Pico Blvd 1:20 p.m.
Panic Alarm 1200blk 15th St 1:26 p.m.
Fraud Report Unknown 1:31 p.m.
Fraud Report 400blk Montana Ave 2:05 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2800blk 2nd St 2:31 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1200blk 14th St 2:47 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 9th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:48 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 14th St / Montana Ave 2:58 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 200blk Broadway 3:25 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved Interstate 10 Eb Fwy / East Of Labrea 3:35 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 300blk Idaho Ave 3:44 p.m.
Battery Report 1500blk Olympic Blvd 3:47 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2500blk Main St 3:52 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 200blk 22nd St 4:00 p.m.
Identity Theft 300blk Olympic Dr 4:41 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 300blk San Vicente Blvd 4:44 p.m.
Burglary Now 1100blk 16th St 4:56 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 5:05 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500blk 4th St 5:09 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1200blk Pearl St 5:40 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1000blk Euclid St 5:52 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 400blk 7th St 5:54 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 26th St / Colorado Ave 5:56 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 7th St / Georgina Ave 6:02 p.m.
Kidnap Report 6th St / Montana Ave 6:06 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 6:10 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400blk 16th St 6:14 p.m.
Loud Music 1900blk 11th St 6:21 p.m.
Encampment 1100blk 19th St 6:29 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400blk 6th St 6:29 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 6:38 p.m.
Burglary Report 300blk Idaho Ave 6:50 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:53 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 7:20 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 11th St / Broadway 7:25 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 7:32 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pl 7:39 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 3000blk Main St 8:09 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 25th St 8:22 p.m.
Encampment 500blk Bay St 8:25 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 300blk Olympic Dr 8:44 p.m.
Petty Theft Report Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 8:54 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 9:03 p.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 800blk Pacific St 9:04 p.m.
Kidnap Report 6th St / Montana Ave 9:05 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 400blk Broadway 9:28 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Montana Ave 9:48 p.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 1400blk Ocean Ave 9:56 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 10:15 p.m.
Loud Music 1500blk Berkeley St 10:16 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 00blk Pico Blvd 10:31 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2nd St / Wilshire Blvd 11:04 p.m.
Loud Music 1100blk 17th St 11:57 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 22 CALLS ON JULY 7

Automatic Alarm 800blk Ocean Ave 12:51 a.m.
EMS 900blk 4th St 2:11 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 5th St / Broadway 5:28 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:12 a.m.
Wires Down 2300blk 3rd St 9:47 a.m.
Smoke Investigation 2900blk Wilshire Blvd 11:50 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 2nd St 11:52 a.m.
EMS 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 11:56 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:11 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 2:05 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 3:02 p.m.
EMS 2000blk 4th St 3:20 p.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 5:49 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 6:06 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600blk Euclid St 8:00 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 8:25 p.m.
EMS 100blk Strand St 8:48 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:50 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 15th St 8:51 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Urban Ave 11:01 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 11:12 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Main St 11:19 p.m.

Do I need to take precautions at hotels if I'm vaccinated?

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

Do I need to take precautions at hotels if I'm vaccinated?

Most people won't need to, but it depends on your situation.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the risk of COVID-19 is low if you're fully vaccinated, and that you can resume indoor and outdoor activities without wearing a mask or social distancing.

But if you have health issues, the CDC says to talk to your doctor about the need to continue taking precautions. Parents of young children may also want to be more careful until their kids are vaccinated. Guidance might vary by country as well, depending on local vaccination and infection rates.

"Hotels are safe, but I think there are individual personal factors that may sway you one way or another," says Dr. Soniya Gandhi, associate chief medical officer at Cedars-Sinai Marina del Rey Hospital.

To help you decide your comfort level, Gandhi suggests looking at infection and vaccination rates in the place you're visiting. If cases are low, you should feel more confident about activities that could put you in close contact with others, like dining at a hotel restaurant or using the gym.

Most U.S. hotel chains took measures during the pandemic to reduce the risk of infections, and those changes remain in effect. Many hotels offer contactless check-in, prepackaged breakfast items instead of open buffets and more frequent cleaning of common areas.

Some hotels and inns, including the MGM Resort chain, have also upgraded their air filtration systems and even added individual air purifiers to some guest rooms.

If you're concerned, call ahead to see what protocols the hotel has in place.

Marriott, Hyatt, IHG Hotels & Resorts and other hotel operators have removed mask mandates for fully vaccinated guests at their U.S. hotels. Hilton's mask rules vary by location, but employees are still required to wear masks.

BRIEFS

Citywide

Assault with a Deadly Weapon Arrest

On July 3, 2021, at approximately 2:10 am, a Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Officer was driving northbound in the 2800 block of Lincoln Boulevard when he observed multiple vehicles at the intersection of Lincoln Blvd and Hill Street slam on their brakes before coming to a complete stop in the middle of the intersection. The officer observed a male victim being chased by another subject across Lincoln Blvd, swerving in and out of the stopped vehicles.

The male suspect was running with two large knives, one in each hand, still chasing the victim. The officer immediately intervened and ordered the suspect to drop the weapons. The suspect complied; however, the officer located a third knife in the suspect's waistband when taking him into custody.

The suspect, later identified as Robert Smith, a 43-year-old homeless person, was transported to the Santa Monica Jail where he was booked for 245(a)(1) PC – Assault with a Deadly Weapon, 417(a)(1) – Brandishing, 21310 PC – Carrying a Concealed Dirk or Dagger, and 422 PC- Criminal Threats. The City Attorney filed all charges. Anyone with any additional information pertaining to this incident or subject is strongly encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Division at 310-458-8451 or the Santa Monica Police Department's Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458-8427.

SERGEANT ERIKA AKLUFI

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

Pfizer to seek OK for 3rd vaccine dose; shots still protect

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

Pfizer is about to seek U.S. authorization for a third dose of its COVID-19 vaccine, saying Thursday that another shot within 12 months could dramatically boost immunity and maybe help ward off the latest worrisome coronavirus mutant.

Research from multiple countries shows the Pfizer shot and other widely used COVID-19 vaccines offer strong protection against the highly contagious delta variant, which is spreading rapidly around the world and now accounts for most new U.S. infections.

Two doses of most vaccines are critical to develop high levels of virus-fighting antibodies against all versions of the coronavirus, not just the delta variant -- and most of the world still is desperate to get those initial protective doses as the pandemic continues to rage.

But antibodies naturally wane over time, so studies also are underway to tell if and when boosters might be needed.

On Thursday, Pfizer's Dr. Mikael Dolsten told The Associated Press that early data from the company's booster study suggests people's antibody levels jump five- to 10-fold after a third dose, compared to their second dose months earlier.

In August, Pfizer plans to ask the Food and Drug Administration for emergency authorization of a third dose, he said.

Why might that matter for fighting the delta variant? Dolsten pointed to data from Britain and Israel showing the Pfizer vaccine "neutralizes the delta variant very well." The assumption, he said, is that when antibodies drop low enough, the delta virus eventually could cause a mild infection before the immune system kicks back in.

But FDA authorization would be just a first step -- it wouldn't automatically mean Americans get offered boosters, cautioned Dr. William Schaffner, a vaccine expert at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Public health authorities would have to decide if they're really needed, especially since millions of people have no protection.

"The vaccines were designed to keep us out of the hospital" and continue to do so despite the more contagious delta variant, he said. Giving another dose would be "a huge effort while we are at the moment striving to get people the first dose."

Currently only about 48% of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated — and some parts of the country have far lower immunization rates, places where the delta variant is surging. On Thursday, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said that's leading to "two truths" — highly immunized swaths of America are getting back to normal while hospitalizations are rising in other places.

"This rapid rise is troubling," she said: A few weeks ago the delta variant accounted for just over a quarter of new U.S. cases, but it now accounts for just over 50% — and in some places, such as parts of the Midwest, as much as 80%.

Also Thursday, researchers from France's Pasteur Institute reported new evidence that full vaccination is critical.

In laboratory tests, blood from several dozen people given their first dose of the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccines "barely inhibited" the delta variant, the team reported in the journal Nature. But weeks after getting their second dose, nearly all had what researchers deemed an immune boost strong enough to neutralize the delta variant — even if it was a little less potent than against earlier versions of the virus.

The French researchers also tested unvaccinated people who had survived a bout of the coronavirus, and found their antibodies were four-fold less potent against the new mutant. But a single vaccine dose dramatically boosted their antibody levels — sparking cross-protection against the delta variant and two other mutants, the study found. That supports public health recommendations that COVID-19 survivors get vaccinated rather than relying on natural immunity.

The lab experiments add to real-world data that the delta variant's mutations aren't evading the vaccines most widely used in Western countries, but underscore that it's crucial to get more of the world immunized before the virus evolves even more.

Researchers in Britain found two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, for example, are 96% protective against hospitalization with the delta variant and 88% effective against symptomatic infection. That finding was echoed last weekend by Canadian researchers, while a report from Israel suggested protection against mild delta infection may have dipped lower, to 64%.

Whether the fully vaccinated still need to wear masks in places where the delta variant is surging is a growing question. In the U.S., the CDC maintains that fully vaccinated people don't need to. Even before the delta variant came along, the vaccines weren't perfect, but the best evidence suggests that if vaccinated people nonetheless get the coronavirus, they'll have much milder cases.

"Let me emphasize, if you were vaccinated, you have a very high degree of protection," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, said Thursday.

In the U.S., case rates have been rising for weeks and the rate of hospitalizations has started to tick up, rising 7% from the previous seven-day average, Walensky told reporters Thursday. However, deaths remain down on average, which some experts believe is at least partly due to high vaccination rates in people 65 and older — who are among the most susceptible to severe disease.

Associated Press writer Mike Stobbe contributed to this story.





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US jobless claims tick up to 373,000 from a pandemic low

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits rose slightly last week even while the economy and the job market appear to be rebounding from the coronavirus recession with sustained energy.

Thursday's report from the Labor Department showed that jobless claims increased by 2,000 from the previous week to 373,000. Weekly applications, which generally track the pace of layoffs, have fallen steadily this year from more than 900,000 at the start of the year. The four-week average of applications, which smooths out week-to-week volatility, is now 394,500 — the lowest such level since the pandemic erupted in March of last year.

The rollout of vaccinations is driving a potent economic recovery as businesses reopen, employers struggle to fill jobs and consumers emerge from months of lockdown to travel, shop and spend at restaurants, bars, retailers and entertainment venues.

In the first three months of the year, the government has estimated that the economy expanded at a brisk 6.4% annual rate. In the April-June quarter, the annual rate is thought to have reached a sizzling 10%. And for all of 2021, the Congressional Budget Office has projected that growth will amount to 6.7%. That would be the fastest calendar-year expansion since 1984.

The economy is recovering so quickly that many companies can't find workers fast enough to meet their increased customer demand. On Wednesday, the government said that U.S. employers posted 9.21 million jobs in May, the most since record-keeping began in 2000.

And in June, employers added a strong 850,000 jobs, and hourly pay rose a solid 3.6% compared with a year ago — faster than the pre-pandemic annual pace and a sign that companies are being compelled to pay more to attract and keep workers.

Still, the nation remains 6.8 million jobs short of the level it had in February 2020, just before the coronavirus pandemic tore through the economy and eliminated tens of millions of jobs. And weekly applications for unemployment benefits, though down sharply from earlier peaks, are still comparatively high: Before the pandemic, they were typically coming in at only around 220,000 a week.

The total number of Americans receiving jobless aid, including supplemental federal checks that were intended to provide relief during the pandemic recession, amounted to 14.2 million people during the week of June 19, down from 33.2 million a year earlier.

Many states, though, have dropped the federal aid, responding to complaints that the generous benefits were discouraging some of the unemployed from seeking work: A total of 26 states plan to end the $300-a-week federal benefit before it ends nationally on Sept. 6. Most of those states will also cut off federal assistance to the self-employed, gig workers and people who have been out of work for more than six months.

Still, many factors other than the enhanced federal jobless benefits are thought to have contributed to the shortage of people seeking work again: Difficulty arranging or affording child care, lingering fears of COVID-19, early retirements by older workers, a slowdown in immigration and a decision by some people to seek new careers rather than return to their old jobs.

"We see weekly filings declining over coming weeks as job growth picks up, although at least some of the improvement will be due to states suspending federal support measures," Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a research note.

AP Economics Writer Christopher Rugaber contributed to this report.

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 29 AT 4:26 A.M.

Officers responded to the Walgreens on the 1900 block of Lincoln Blvd for a burglary. Security personnel reported that while monitoring the surveillance cameras in the store, they noted a male individual use his feet to smash a front pane of glass at the store's entrance. The male made full entry and was seen rummaging through a cash register before exiting the same way he entered, empty-handed. No arrest was made in this case and the investigation remains ongoing.

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Japan bans fans at Tokyo-area Olympics venues due to virus

MARI YAMAGUCHI AND STEPHEN WADE
Associated Press

Fans will be banned from Tokyo-area stadiums and arenas when the Olympics begin in two weeks, the city's governor said Thursday after meeting with organizers of the pandemic-postponed games.

That means the Olympics will be a largely TV-only event, after the Japanese government put the capital under a COVID-19 state of emergency because of rising new infections and the highly contagious delta variant.

The declaration was made by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, and the spectator ban was agreed to by Japanese Olympic organizers, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, and the metropolitan government of Tokyo.

It was a serious blow for Japanese taxpayers and local organizers of the games, which already had been postponed from 2020 by the coronavirus. Hundreds of millions of dollars in ticket revenue will be lost, and that must be made up by the government. Fans also have endured months of uncertainty about whether the Olympics will go ahead.

"Many people were looking forward to watching the games at the venues, but I would like everyone to fully enjoy watching the games on TV at home," Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike said after the meeting. "It's gut-wrenching because many people looked forward to watching at the venues."

Fans from abroad were banned months ago, and the new measures will mean no spectators in stadiums and arenas around Tokyo — both indoor and outdoor venues.

The ban covers Tokyo and three surrounding prefectures — Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba. A smattering of events in outlying areas, like baseball in the northeastern prefecture of Fukushima, will allow a limited number of fans.

The state of emergency begins July 12 and runs through Aug. 22. The Olympics, which open July 23 and run through Aug. 8, fall entirely under the emergency period, while the Paralympics open Aug. 24.

"Taking into consideration the impact of the delta strain, and in order to prevent the resurgence of infections from spreading across the country, we need to step up virus prevention measures," Suga said.

In principle, the July 23 opening ceremony at the new $1.4 billion National Stadium will be without paying fans, although some dignitaries, sponsors, IOC officials and others will be allowed to attend.

"We will have to review the situation about the dignitaries and stakeholders," organizing committee President Seiko Hashimoto said of the opening ceremony.

"No fans was a very difficult decision," she added.

Hashimoto acknowledged some regrets, particularly about the decision coming so late.

"We had no choice but to arrive at the no-spectator decision," she said. "We postponed and postponed, one after another. I have done some soul-searching about that."

The emergency declaration made for a rude arrival for IOC President Thomas Bach, who landed Thursday in Tokyo for the games. He attended the virtual meeting on fans from his five-star hotel for IOC officials where he was self-isolating for three days.

"What can I say? Finally we are here," Bach said, sounding upbeat as he opened the late night meeting that ended close to midnight. "I have been longing for this day for more than one year."

Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the organizing committee, said many sponsors, federation officials and others would be considered to be "organizers" and thus would be allowed to attend venues. He said some might occupy public seating, but he said he did not know "the numerical details."

Organizers had expected to generate about $800 million in ticket sales. Any shortfall — and it could be almost the entire amount — will have to be made up by Japanese government entities.

Japan is officially spending $15.4 billion on the Olympics, and several government audits say it's much larger. All but $6.7 billion is public money.

Two weeks ago, organizers and the IOC allowed venues to be filled to 50% of capacity, with crowds not to exceed 10,000. The state of emergency forced the late turnaround, which was always an option if infections got worse.

On Thursday, Tokyo reported 896 new cases, up from 673 a week earlier. It's the 19th straight day that cases have topped the mark set seven days prior. New cases on Wednesday hit 920, the highest total since 1,010 were reported on May 13.

The main focus of the emergency is a request for bars, restaurants and karaoke parlors serving alcohol to close. A ban on serving alcohol is a key step to tone down Olympics-related festivities and keep people from drinking and partying. Tokyo residents are expected to face requests to stay home and watch the games on TV.

"How to stop people enjoying the Olympics from going out for drinks is a main issue," Health Minister Norihisa Tamura said.

The rise in infections also has forced the Tokyo city government to pull the Olympic torch relay off the streets, allowing it only on remote islands off the capital's coast.

"The infections are in their expansion phase and everyone in this country must firmly understand the seriousness of it," said Dr. Shigeru Omi, a top government medical adviser.

He urged authorities to take tough measures quickly ahead of the Olympics, with summer vacations approaching.

Omi has repeatedly called for a spectator ban, calling it "abnormal" to stage an Olympics during a pandemic.

A government COVID-19 advisory panel on Wednesday expressed concerns about the resurgence of infections.

"Two-thirds of the infections in the capital region are from Tokyo, and our concern is the spread of the infections to neighboring areas," said Ryuji Wakita, director-general of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases.

The Olympics are pushing ahead against most medical advice, partially because the postponement stalled the IOC's income flow. It gets almost 75% from selling broadcast rights, and estimates suggest it would lose

SEE **OLYMPICS** PAGE 11

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Day at the DMV



Matthew Hynes

DMV: Under a sweltering heat, people are standing for hours to get into the DMV

Two weeks ago I stood in line for hours in the hot sun waiting to get into the Department of Motor Vehicles. (A fate I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy...well, maybe my worst.) I hope the following is amusing to you because thank God it wasn't you and cathartic for me because hopefully I'll never experience it again.

When I rode my bike up to the DMV there were two lines, one for those with appointments and one for those without them. The "appointment" line was invitingly

SEE **LAUGHING MATTERS** PAGE 7

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LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 6

short whereas the non-appointment line was so long I gasped. (Due to Covid they weren't booking new appointments.)

I parked my bike and went to the back of the non-appointment line which one person dubbed the "loser line." It stretched south from the DMV and west down the sidewalk on Colorado Avenue. It was 2 pm so I anticipated three hours of standing before I would get into the building. They surely wouldn't shut the door at 5 pm after all that time in the heat. Would they?

Practically everybody in line killed time by being glued to their phone but, as I confess sheepishly I've never owned a cell phone. Fortunately however, at the back of the line were a few people who also didn't have cell phones. That left us eager for any chat, however mundane, that might make the time fly. ("Crawl" is more like it.)

I had brought a John Grisham novel in my backpack but I discovered I couldn't read standing up, especially in that heat. So I listened to the conversation in front of me, which admittedly didn't resemble a Mensa Meeting. The most animated character was an outgoing 30-something gang banger type who had tattoos up his neck. (Not my favorite look, but it's his neck.) He seemed scary and yet oddly charming. Among his more bizarre claims was that he had actually seen Bigfoot.

Normally I wouldn't necessarily engage in conversation with someone who claimed they'd seen Bigfoot but since we had hours of waiting in front of us I made an exception. Thankfully he enjoyed my joke speculating why Bigfoot was so camera shy. Soon he took out a thick, round wooden club-like object that he used to massage his neck but also used it to "beat the sh*t out of anyone who gives me grief." (I complimented his "multipurpose club" and added that he should warn me if I ever got close to giving him grief.)

As he worked his way up the line chatting up primarily pretty women, a skinny 20-something guy who looked like a meth head came out of the DMV holding a bicycle tire indicative that bike thievery in Santa Monica has become a cottage industry. He skillfully put his tire back on his bike while the guy ahead of me began conversing with him. Before I knew it, they had exchanged bikes. Say what?

Beyond curious, I asked the guy if he'd ever met the younger guy before and he hadn't. As "meth-head" was leaving he warned the guy who now owned his bike, "If anyone claims your bike was stolen, tell 'em they're full of sh*t!" Suddenly it was obvious the guy was a damn bike thief! That said, at least the line was getting closer to the front.

In fact I was about six people from getting into the front door when, to my horror, a heavy-set female DMV employee, like a bouncer at a bar, bellowed "If you don't have an appointment it's highly unlikely you'll get in so please come back tomorrow."

Desperate, as she passed me I stopped her and pleaded my case. It seemed she took pity on me as she whispered like I was getting a special favor, "Can you be here tomorrow at 7 am.?" I said "Sure," asking "What time will you be here?" "9 am," she replied. So much for "special favor."

OMG. I couldn't believe all that time in line frying in the sun would be for naught. But Bigfoot's BFF theorized, "She said 'highly unlikely' which means we still have a chance." Good God, was he going to use his club to bash us in?

Actually, I can't explain it but somehow we got in and I quickly had my paperwork approved. From the other side of the room a smiling Bigfoot gave me a thumbs up. I even saw the "bouncer" lady to whom I triumphantly flashed my completed paperwork. Clearly she wasn't exactly thrilled.

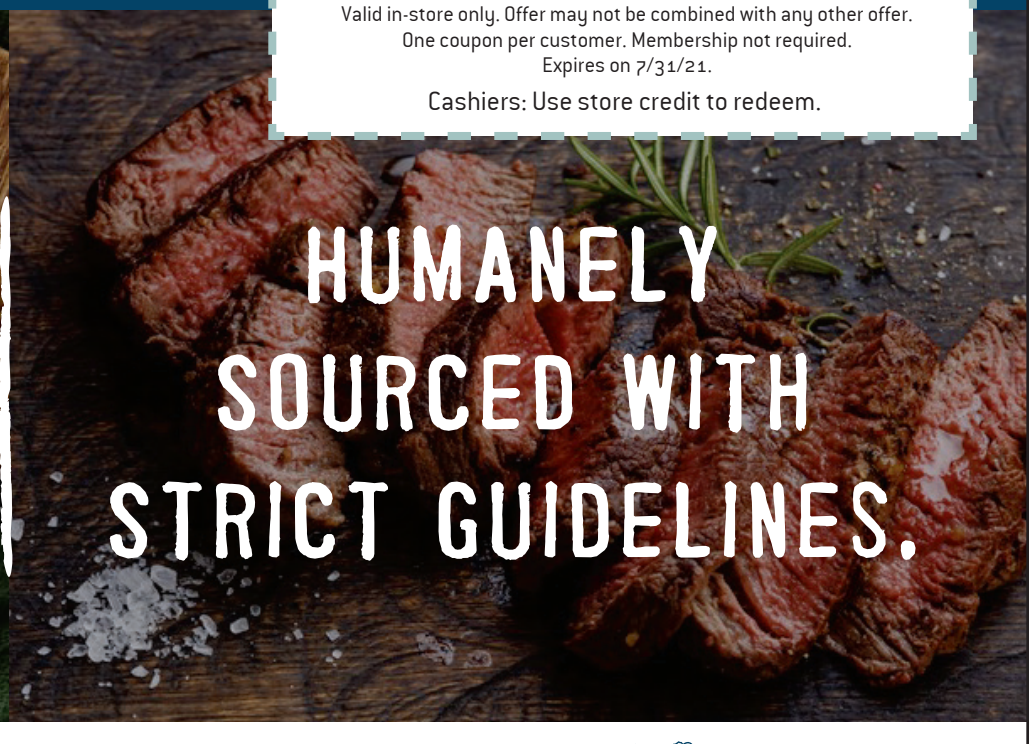
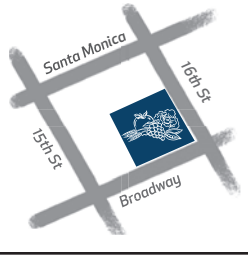
In closing, if you have to go to the DMV do whatever it takes to make an appointment, hopefully it will be on a cloudy day and other than during the tail end of a 100-year pandemic. If not, have fun talking to strangers.

Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

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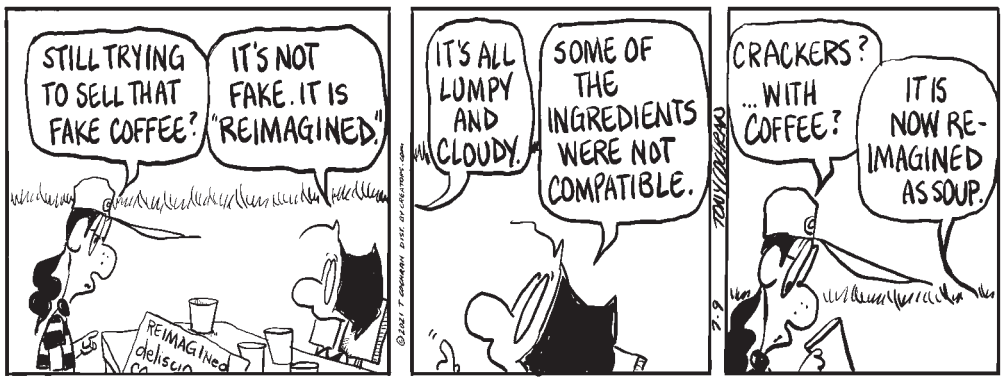
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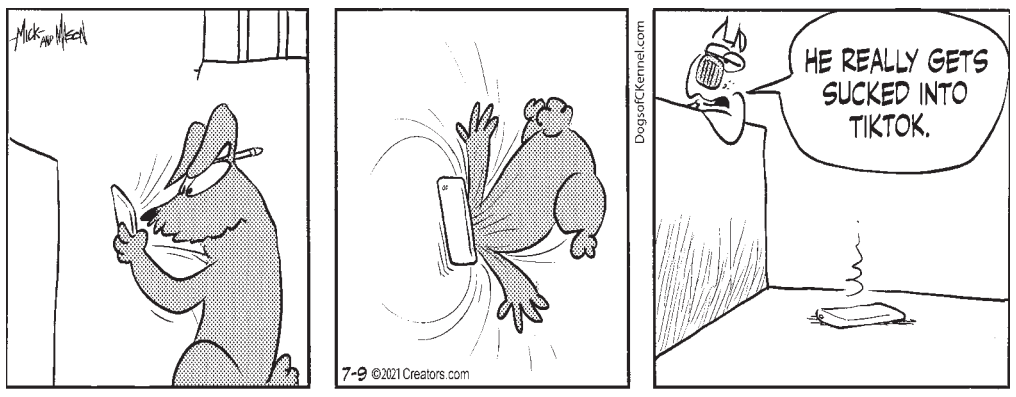
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



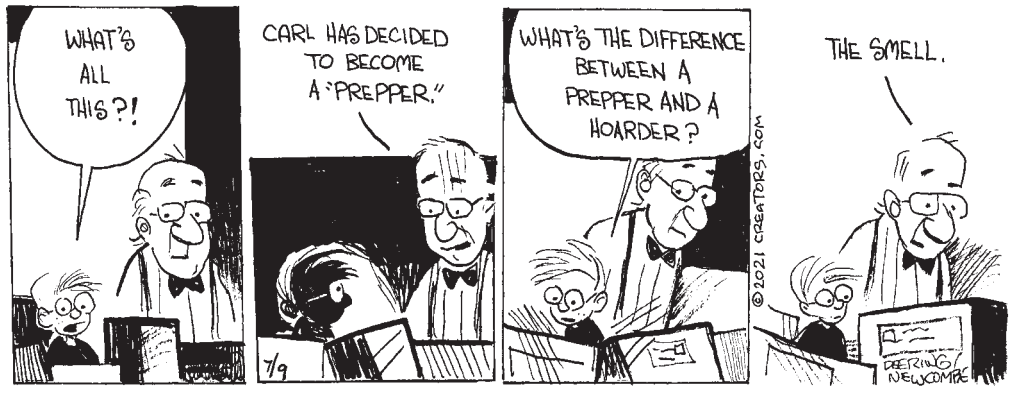
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



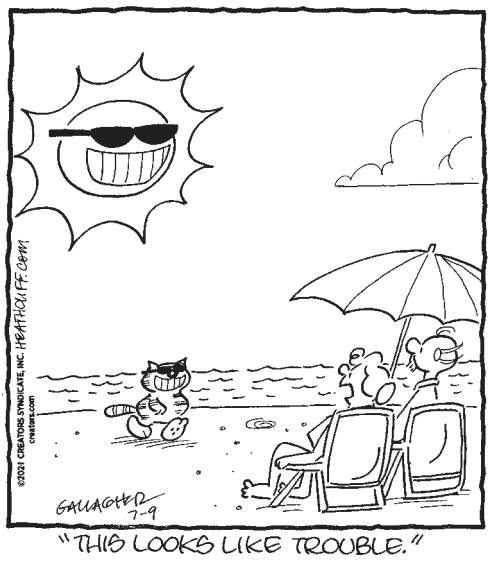
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 65.8°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
SW and SSW swell mix continues. NW swell looks to weaken. Light wind w/ a nice tide push much of the morning.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
Fresh SSW swell keeps fun surf in the water, blending with old SW swell. Likely drained out first thing in the AM, may want to let it build some before paddling.

WEATHER

Friday: Mostly cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 73.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 65.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/07/09	Fri	04:19 AM	-0.53	L
2021/07/09	Fri	10:55 AM	3.63	H
2021/07/09	Fri	3:08 PM	2.54	L
2021/07/09	Fri	9:26 PM	6.17	H
2021/07/10	Sat	04:52 AM	-0.62	L
2021/07/10	Sat	11:29 AM	3.68	H
2021/07/10	Sat	3:44 PM	2.53	L
2021/07/10	Sat	10:00 PM	6.18	H
2021/07/11	Sun	05:26 AM	-0.63	L
2021/07/11	Sun	12:05 PM	3.74	H
2021/07/11	Sun	4:23 PM	2.53	L
2021/07/11	Sun	10:36 PM	6.08	H
2021/07/12	Mon	06:01 AM	-0.56	L
2021/07/12	Mon	12:42 PM	3.82	H
2021/07/12	Mon	5:07 PM	2.56	L
2021/07/12	Mon	11:14 PM	5.84	H
2021/07/13	Tue	06:36 AM	-0.37	L
2021/07/13	Tue	1:21 PM	3.95	H
2021/07/13	Tue	5:59 PM	2.58	L
2021/07/13	Tue	11:57 PM	5.45	H
2021/07/14	Wed	07:11 AM	-0.08	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 7/7
8 21 30 49 57
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 127 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/6
18 47 63 68 69
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 94 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 7/7
10 12 32 37 39
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 62 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/7
4 9 15 31 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/7
EVENING: 1 1 0

Draw Date: 7/7
MIDDAY: 1 0 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/7
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:48.92

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 9)

Do you feel the nearness of helpers seen and unseen? You'll use your charm to carve out strategic advantages. April brings vivacious new energy. Friends have spectacular proposals in April and August. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22,14,16 and 33.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you stayed where you belong all of the time, your life would feel small and stale. Keep in mind that new things are inherently uncomfortable; better not to read anything more into it. Your zone of comfort is expanding. That's all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your body adapts to your moods and glues to your personality. Today your body's unconscious language will express loudly what you want to convey and also what you may wish to keep silent.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Courage isn't something you need to find or develop. You already have an entire swimming pool of it inside you. When it's time to be brave, just dip your cup in and draw some up.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll learn a lot about someone through a typical, appropriate line of questioning. Off-the-wall, playful questions will teach you even more about the sensibility and humor (or lack thereof) you're dealing with.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's no call right now for a big change. What would it look like if the next 24 hours were a lot like your life, only happier? Imagining such a thing will show you where you could make a small but effective shift.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The opportunities will be swept up by those with a responsive attitude. Before you step into the arena, you'll put yourself in the mindset to take in your surroundings, be decisive and swiftly act.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your mind is open, and your appetites are hearty. You're primed to listen, learn and discover the outside world, led by a small internal voice of intuition. It's the compass you can trust.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Keep in mind that some audiences are better than others. If you want the good ones, don't pander and provide for the lesser ones. An engaged audience will bring their curiosity and much more to the room.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The thick of the drama is not an actionable position. Rise up. From a higher vantage, you'll see what the situation needs and get ideas about how to serve the interests of those involved and form a suitable contribution.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People will tend to do what is easy for them. The ones who do more are stronger and probably more experienced and versatile and still doing what's easy for them. When people risk for you, it's a gift worth acknowledging.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your fears and doubts are seductive. Ignore them. Keep coming back to your plan instead. Revisit; tweak; revel in it. The plan will excite you and galvanize your powers, sealing your every move together.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Like magicians engaging in the art of misdirection to pull off an illusion, people in relationships will direct attention to their contributions, talents and beneficial qualities... which is a small subfocus of all there is to be seen and known.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

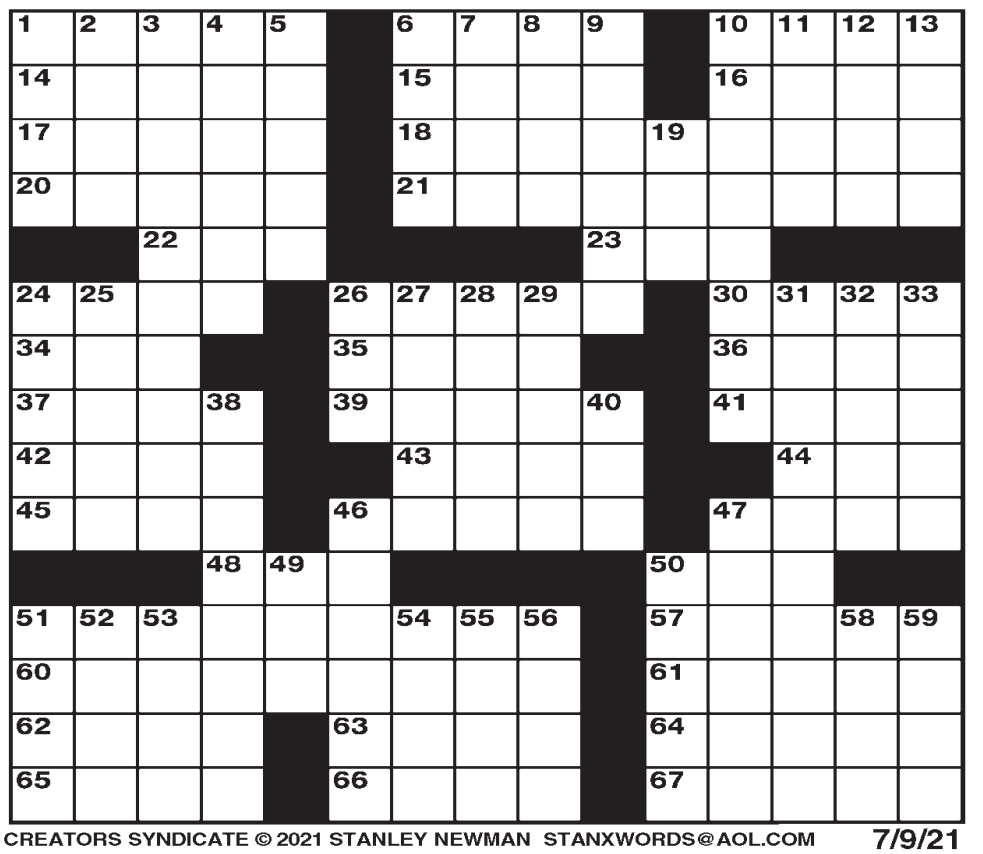
9	5	6						
1	8		6		5			
			9			8	5	
	6					7	3	
4			7		2			8
	3	7					1	
	1	3			8			
			1		6		4	9
						1	8	5

Newsday Crossword

CROSS AT THE CORNER by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Crafter's cutter
6 Nag, nag, nag
10 Source of Achilles' strength
14 Get-better regimen
15 One with an ID
16 Appear ominously
17 Become well-known
18 Flaunt one's funds
20 What custards contain
21 Errol Flynn, by birth
22 Capital of Delaware
23 Major US defense contractor
24 Medieval adult beverage
26 Prozac alternative
30 Ideologies
34 Disney channel
35 Ritual affirmations
36 Woman or man
37 Wee ones
39 Homes for alligators
41 Lamb sandwich, perhaps
42 Big name in video visitation
43 Former money in Malta
44 Except for
45 Podded plant
46 It preceded Apple and Microsoft in desktop publishing
47 It's made to go around you
48 Something to shampoo
50 Presidency, often
51 Moving company offerings
57 Stella McCartney's mom
60 Stage accessory
61 Murkiness
62 Encouraging word
63 Constantly
64 Waistless dress
65 Many moms of millennials
66 Fast-food fare
67 Wimbledon's official timekeeper

DOWN
1 Inside look
2 Space starter
3 Temple, in the '30s
4 Charged (with)
5 Falstaffian
6 Fringe group
7 About three-fourths of Russia
8 Auto racer's concern
9 Kind of concrete
10 Sloped
11 Donut shapes
12 Slow-moving exercise
13 Marvel peacekeepers
19 GPS figure
24 Exodus 12 fare
25 Tablet reading
26 Mark, as some ballots
27 British singing star
28 Definitive denial
29 Space starter
31 Fry day staple
32 Work on a wall
33 Sneery sound
38 Spruces (up)
40 "Pink Panther Theme" soloist
46 Event including snowboarding
47 S.O.S rival
49 Electronic bookmark
50 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
51 Textile fiber source
52 Metallic fabric
53 Unoriginal one
54 DVR giant
55 Scraped (by)
56 Medicinal shipment
58 Accomplished
59 What some small businesses may not take



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 7/9/21

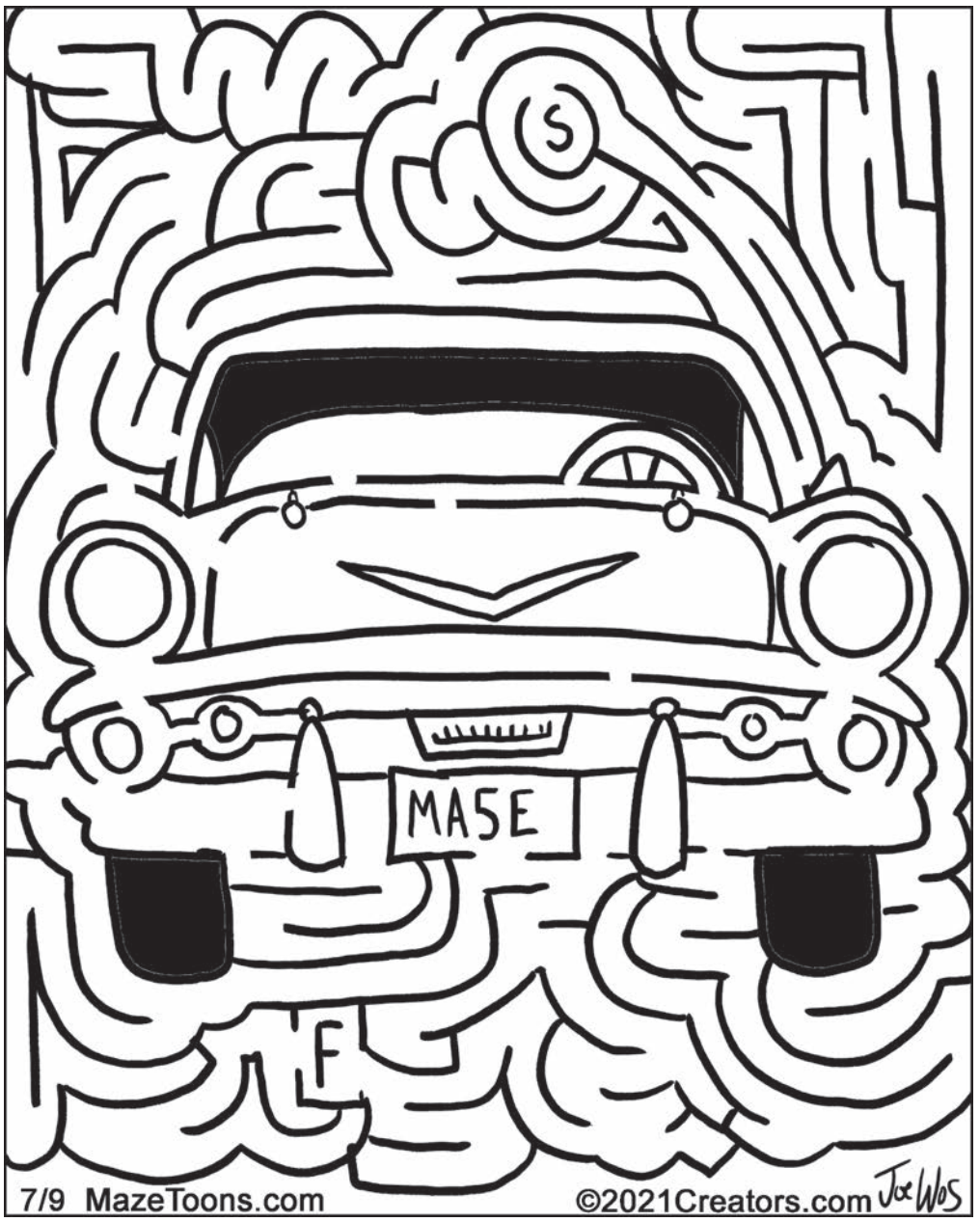
Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	O
O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I
I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	O
O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	I
I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I
O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	I	O
O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O
I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I
O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	I
O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O
I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I

I										I	
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I	O		O						O	O	
	O		O		I	I				O	



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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5170

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

Active
Admin
Al desko
Answer
Ballpark
Boss
Break
Busy
Buzz
Cabinet
Chairs
Clerk
Confrontation
Copy
Craft
Critical mass
Curate
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Items
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Quarto
Reply
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SCOOTER

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the first company to launch this technology on "a significant number" of two-wheel scooters in Santa Monica.

"Spin Insight Level 2 powered by Drover AI uses a camera that "looks" at the ground in the front area of the scooter," said a Spin Spokesperson. "Using machine learning, the images are analyzed by the computer on the scooter to determine if it sees a sidewalk, bike path or parking area. It then lets the user and surrounding pedestrians know if they are riding inappropriately with an audible warning."

Other unique features to Spin include the stability of its three-wheel scooter and their Access Area program, where rides that begin in the Pico area will cost 25 percent less. Standard rides cost $1 to unlock and $0.39 per minute of riding plus taxes and fees.

VEO

Veo launched in Santa Monica on July 9 with 50 of their Astro VS4 scooters and 50 Cosmo-E bikes. The fleet will gradually be deployed with the full allotted capacity of 200 scooters and 500 bikes expected to be reached by the end of July, according to a Veo Spokesperson.

"Santa Monica is the first city in the U.S. that will have access to Veo's new Astro VS4 scooter, equipped with safety features that no other shared e-scooter in the industry has, including turn signals to improve predictability and communication with surrounding vehicular traffic and pedestrians, and lights designed specifically for night riding," said Veo Co-founder and CEO Candice Xie.

The Cosmo-E bike features a low seat and center of gravity making it easier for riders who are less athletic or have a physical impairment to maintain balance and control. The Class 2 e-bike has a throttle and does not require riders to continuously pedal.

Veo uses GPS and LTE to track devices' locations and geofence areas as no ride, slow ride, no parking, or recommended parking zone. In order to incentivize proper parking, Veo has established geofenced "lucky zones", which riders will earn $1 ride credit for parking their devices in.

Veo devices cost $1 to unlock and $0.33 a minute to ride. In addition to the lucky zone discount incentive, residents who apply for a "resident pass" through the app can have their $1 unlock fees waived.

The Chicago-based company also plans on building a new HQ in Santa Monica, which will generate local jobs. Veo is currently developing sidewalk riding detection tech and plans to pilot it in Santa Monica.

WHEELS

Wheels was not initially selected for inclusion in the second pilot program, but after filing an appeal, Transportation Director Ed King granted the company permission to bring 200 of their two-wheel seated scooters to the city.

Wheels's argument for inclusion was that they offer a unique seated scooter device type with strong safety features.

"Our 'safety first' strategy led us to forego using the traditional stand-up scooter in favor of a completely different form factor – one with much bigger wheels, a lower center of gravity, Bluetooth speakers to allow riders to get navigation without holding their phones, and a seat for more points of contact with the rider," said a Marco McCottry, CEO of Wheels.

Like Veo and Spin, Wheels geofences its devices to detect no riding areas. Once a rider enters a no scooter area, the app will prompt them to safely slow the device to a stop. Riders will not be able to end their ride in a no scooter area. Wheels is currently working on integrating sidewalk detection tech into its next generation of devices.

Wheels cost $1 to unlock and $0.39 per minute to ride plus tax. Riders who are enrolled in a city, state, or federal associate program such as Medicaid, EBT, SNAP, or a discounted utility bill are eligible for a 50 percent ride discount through the "Wheels for All" program.

LYFT

Lyft is the only provider from the first shared mobility program that is also included in the second, however this time only its e-bikes and not its scooters are allowed.

Lyft is allocated 600 Class 1 bikes, which are electric assisted but do not have a throttle. Lyft bikes cost $1 to unlock, $0.34 per minute to ride and while docking is free at any Lyft station, it costs $1 at public bike racks.

Lyft did not respond to a request for comment on the safety, parking, and accessibility features of its devices.

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WATER

FROM PAGE 1

happening in the West Coast of the United States," Newsom said Thursday during a news conference at Lopez Lake, a reservoir in San Luis Obispo County formed by a dam on the Arroyo Grande Creek that is at 34% capacity.

A historic drought tied to climate change is gripping the U.S. West and comes just a few years after California declared its last dry spell over in 2016. The earlier drought in California depleted groundwater supplies and changed how people use water, with many people and businesses ripping out landscaping and replacing it with more drought-tolerant plants.

Compared to before the previous drought, urban water usage in California is down an average of 16%. But scientists say this drought is already hotter and drier than the earlier one, accelerating the impact on people and the environment.

California's Mediterranean climate means it doesn't get significant rain or snow until the winter. The state relies on snowmelt in the mountains to fill its reservoirs in the spring, which then provide water for farms, homes and fish throughout the year.

Some big storms in January made officials optimistic about avoiding water shortages this year. But the soil was so dry that instead of melting into runoff to fill rivers and reservoirs, much of the snow in the mountains instead seeped into the ground.

"What we didn't understand was we had this deepening and intensifying drought underground," said Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources. "It really is the speed at which the compounding effects of climate change in soil moisture and ambient temperatures have made this drought a very different kind of drought. It's no longer a slow-moving train wreck."

Given how low California's reservoirs already are, Nemeth said Newsom's request for people to use less water is about planning for next year. The Democratic governor is asking for voluntary conservation efforts, such as taking shorter showers, running dishwashers only when they are full and reducing the frequency of watering lawns.

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of Restore the Delta, called Newsom's response "too little, too late." She said her group and others warned the state at the end of 2020 to prepare for the drought. She said Newsom has been given "bad advice" by state officials.

"They let too much of the water out of the system for industrial agriculture users," she said. "Our water resources and public trust resources like salmon fisheries have been squandered for almonds and other unsustainable crops."

Farmers, meanwhile, have complained about their water allocations being severely cut this year. Nemeth said the state released water from Lake Oroville largely to satisfy water quality requirements in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, formed by those two river systems that feed into the San Francisco Bay.

"We released more than we had planned because much of that water never made it to the delta — it was diverted by other water users instead," she said.

Some local governments already have imposed mandatory water restrictions. And in Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown directed state agencies this week to stop watering lawns, washing windows at their offices and running fountains that don't recirculate water.

In Nevada, a new law bans nearly a third of grass in the Las Vegas area, targeting ornamental turf at places like office parks and street medians. The ban does not apply to single-family homes, parks and golf courses.

In California, Newsom also added nine more counties to an emergency drought proclamation, which now covers 50 of the state's 58 counties and 42% of the state's population.

Large cities, including Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco, are not included in the proclamation. But Newsom is still asking people who live in heavily populated areas to reduce their water consumption because they rely on rivers and reservoirs in drought-stricken areas for much of their supply.

Counties included in the proclamation are eligible for various state actions, including suspension of some environmental regulations.

The newly added counties are Inyo, Marin, Mono, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz.

OLYMPICS

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$3 billion to $4 billion if the Olympics were canceled altogether.

About 11,000 Olympians and 4,400 Paralympians are expected to enter Japan, along with tens of thousands of officials, judges, administrators, sponsors, broadcasters and media. The IOC says more than 80% of Olympic Village residents will be vaccinated.

Nationwide, Japan has had about 810,000 cases and nearly 14,900 deaths. Only 15% of Japanese are fully vaccinated, still low compared with 47.4% in the United States and almost 50% in Britain.



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