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Santa Monica Daily Press

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07.23.21
Volume 20 Issue 216

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Hope for Andrew.
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Prices are going up.
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Lieu seeks $5 billion program to fight homelessness

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Tackling homelessness has traditionally been the responsibility of local governments, but given the scope of the crisis in California and across the nation, Congressman Ted Lieu believes it's time for federal action.

That is why he, alongside California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, introduced the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act.

This bill would authorize $1 billion in grants annually for five years for local governments to spend on supportive housing models with comprehensive services and intensive case management.

Lieu said that if the bill passes, the City of Santa Monica would be an excellent grant candidate, because of its "track record of being aggressive on dealing with homelessness" and its "very competent staff."

Lieu represents California's 33rd District, encompassing the coastal areas of Los Angeles from Palos

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 5

Council selects David White as new city manager

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Council has selected David White, currently the deputy city manager for Berkeley, as the new City Manager for the City of Santa Monica.

White was selected during a special Thursday meeting by unanimous decision.

"I am excited and humbled to serve the City of Santa Monica as its City Manager," said White in a statement. "Santa Monica is a wonderful community and I am eager to engage and work closely with the City Council, staff, residents, and businesses implementing City Council's top priorities — achieving a clean and safe Santa Monica, addressing homelessness, and ensuring an equitable and inclusive economic recovery."

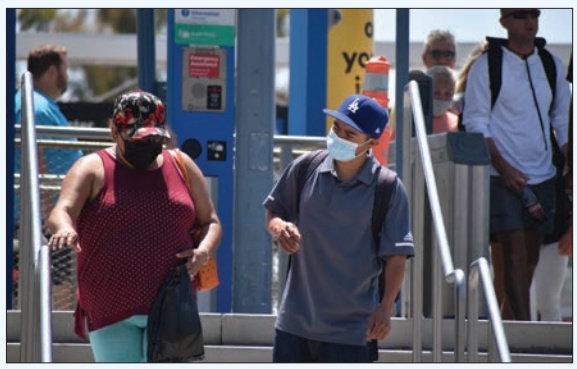
The announcement Thursday did not include details of White's contract and Mayor Sue Himmelrich said that information would be part of the Council's regular meeting on July 27.

"David has a keen understanding of the central issues our like-minded cities face and has demonstrated that he has the experience and spirit of can-do inclusion we need to lead Santa Monica at this critical time," said Himmelrich in a statement. "We are thrilled to have found a candidate so aligned with our community's values and impatiently await his arrival so we may begin our collective

SEE **MANAGER** PAGE 11

Vaccinated residents make up 20 percent of new Covid cases









Kailyn Forbes

MASKS: Masks have returned to Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Monica.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Fully vaccinated people account for about 20 percent of all new Covid cases since June but officials say vaccinated people who are testing positive are largely avoiding health consequences.

Of the roughly 4.8 million Los Angeles County residents that have received a vaccine, since January of this year, 6,520 have tested positive, 287 have been hospitalized and 30 have died. However, vaccinated individuals are about one in five of the new cases since June when the more contagious Delta variant began surging through the area.

Los Angeles County has seen a 20-fold increase in cases in a month. Of the new cases reported by Public Health, 83% are among people under the age of 50 years old with 65% of new cases among people between the ages of 18 and 49 years old.

Barbara Ferrer, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health said Thursday that if a resident is vaccinated, their chances of being hospitalized and intubated are much less than that of unvaccinated residents. She said as the pool of vaccinated individuals grows, it becomes

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11



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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 269 CALLS ON JULY 21

Burglary Now 2900blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:03 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 12:41 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 1000blk 5th St 1:20 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 1000blk 5th St 1:20 a.m.
Fire 2600blk 32nd St 3:07 a.m.
Burglary Now 1400blk Broadway 3:26 a.m.
Adult Prot Serv Chck 1700blk Delaware Ave 4:19 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 4:28 a.m.
Arson 1400blk 14th St 4:46 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 6:23 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pl 6:27 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1500blk The Beach 6:44 a.m.
Found Property 1600blk 6th St 7:25 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200blk 19th St 8:19 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2500blk Lincoln Blvd 8:20 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2300blk 4th St 8:24 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 400blk San Vicente Blvd 8:32 a.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 8:42 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2300blk 4th St 8:48 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 8:49 a.m.
Animal Related Incident Euclid St / Wilshire Blvd 8:50 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1800blk 11th St 8:56 a.m.
Found Property 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 9:17 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1300blk 23rd St 9:31 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2100blk 4th St 9:31 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 300blk Montana Ave 9:49 a.m.
Found Property 900blk 22nd St 9:51 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:53 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk 2nd St 10:02 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 10:05 a.m.
Fraud Report 400blk Bay St 10:11 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 200blk Pico Blvd 10:19 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2500blk Broadway 10:20 a.m.
Fraud Report 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 10:23 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200blk Georgina Ave 10:26 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 100blk Broadway 10:29 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 300blk Santa Monica Pl 10:35 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:36 a.m.
Burglary Report 300blk 15th St 10:41 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1200blk Idaho Ave 10:52 a.m.
Fraud Report 1500blk Wilshire Blvd 10:55 a.m.
Battery Report 500blk Colorado Ave 11:01 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 2400blk 10th St 11:02 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 11:25 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2200blk Virginia Ave 11:26 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk 2nd St 11:35 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 11:40 a.m.
Battery Report 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 12:05 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1300blk 2nd St 12:16 p.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 12:16 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:25 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1200blk Idaho Ave 12:47 p.m.
Death Investigation 500blk Colorado Ave 12:51 p.m.
Sexual Assault 1300blk 15th St 12:52 p.m.
Burglary Report 2700blk Main St 12:59 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900blk Montana Ave 1:13 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2700blk Main St 1:23 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:26 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1600blk The Beach 1:30 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 300blk Santa Monica Pier 2:17 p.m.
Fraud Report 1600blk Wilshire Blvd 2:57 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 18th St 2:59 p.m.
Person With A Gun 00blk Pico Blvd 3:01 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Report 20th St / Pico Blvd 3:44 p.m.
Armed Robbery Just Occurred 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:33 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 17th St / Montana Ave 4:55 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk 2nd St 5:09 p.m.
Fraud Report 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 5:18 p.m.
Prowler 600blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:24 p.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 5:35 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 16th St / Pico Blvd 5:51 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 700blk Broadway 6:08 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 1300blk 5th St 6:16 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1300blk Montana Ave 6:21 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1700blk Georgina Ave 6:29 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Pine St 6:38 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1500blk Ocean Ave 6:57 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 300blk Wilshire Blvd 7:12 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500blk 6th St 7:20 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:34 p.m.
Fraud Report 400blk Broadway 8:08 p.m.
Person Down Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 8:17 p.m.
Overdose 1500blk 15th St 8:52 p.m.
Injured Person 1700blk Appian Way 8:54 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk 4th St 9:16 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:34 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 20th St / Delaware Ave 9:45 p.m.
Fraud Report 400blk Broadway 9:45 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1400blk 4th St 9:51 p.m.
Person Down 200blk Santa Monica Pier 10:21 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Montana Ave 10:23 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:35 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Montana Ave 11:11 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 700blk Broadway 11:14 p.m.
Sexual Assault 1300blk Ocean Ave 11:42 p.m.
Burglary Just Occurred 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 11:42 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 33 CALLS ON JULY 21

Traffic Collision With Injury 1000blk 5th St 1:20 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 1:37 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk 15th St 2:55 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1400blk 14th St 4:34 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 5:14 a.m.
EMS 20th St / Wilshire Blvd 5:35 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 19th St 6:19 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:08 a.m.
EMS 2000blk 4th St 11:07 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Hill St 11:33 a.m.
EMS 200blk 7th St 11:45 a.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 12:49 p.m.
EMS 500blk Ocean Ave 12:53 p.m.
EMS 900blk Wilshire Blvd 1:46 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 2:03 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 2:25 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 3:02 p.m.
EMS 2500blk 3rd St 3:41 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 3:52 p.m.
EMS 100blk Hart Ave 3:58 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 6:22 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk Broadway 7:10 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Olympic Blvd 7:28 p.m.
EMS 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:37 p.m.
Public Assist 200blk Broadway 8:04 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 8:17 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Stewart St 8:23 p.m.
EMS 3300blk Barnard Way 8:49 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 15th St 8:52 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900blk Pico Blvd 10:12 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 600blk Broadway 10:31 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk Main St 10:50 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600blk Olympic Blvd 11:13 p.m.

University of California regents approve rare tuition hike

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

University of California regents on Thursday approved a multiyear plan to raise tuition and fees at the system's 10 campuses.

The proposed increase is the first since 2017 and had been criticized by opponents as a "forever hike." University officials say the increase is needed to maintain the quality of the public university system and provide more financial aid to students.

The proposal calls for tuition and fees to rise by 2% plus inflation for new undergraduates starting in the 2022-23 academic year. UC officials estimate that will amount to an additional $534, putting tuition and systemwide fees at just over $13,000 a year for in-state students. The estimate does not include additional campus-based fees.

That amount would stay flat for those students for up to six years. Increases for incoming freshmen in the following years would gradually decline from 1.5% to 0.5% plus inflation until the 2026-27 academic year, when increases would be based only on inflation.

However, regents also voted to visit the issue in five years, and the board at that time will have to reauthorize the plan. The vote was 17 in favor and 5 opposed.

Kalli Zervas, a senator with the Associated Students of the University of California at Berkeley, said she was "absolutely appalled" that leaders would consider raising costs on low-income students such as herself.

"How dare you parade yourself as a diverse system?" she told regents. "At this rate, you might as well only accept the wealthy students, as you're making it nearly impossible for the rest of us to attend."

UC President Michael Drake and others said that an accompanying increase in financial aid would more than offset increases in tuition. Only students whose families earn $150,000 a year or more would benefit from keeping tuition flat, it said, whereas everyone else would benefit from more financial aid.

Even with an increased $11 billion in the California budget for UC this year, officials say state funding has not kept pace with enrollment growth. State funding has gone from nearly $40,000 a student in 2000 to an estimated $25,200 in 2021, the office says, while enrollment has increased from 171,000 to 292,000 over the same time period.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, warned against tuition increases for both UC and the California State University system in January when he released his initial state budget.

"Right as students and families continue to struggle to recover from the adverse impacts of this pandemic, this proposal would lock-in inequitable fee increases for the foreseeable future," the University of California Student Association said in a statement, calling the proposal a "forever hike."

The University of California has a strong public mission and is invaluable in promoting social and economic mobility, said Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of Berkeley Law, in an op-ed published last year to support the increase.

"For a public university, there are only three choices: the state subsidizes, or tuition goes up, or quality gets cut," he said in an email to The Associated Press. "The only way to make sure that the University of California remains excellent is to ensure that it has adequate funds."

The office of the UC president said in-state tuition and campus fees at comparable public universities in Virginia, Illinois and Michigan average around $17,000, with increases ranging from 24% to 56% since 2011, at the same time UC tuition has gone up 6%.

The Board of Regents was scheduled to vote on a version of the tuition proposal in March 2020, but deferred action amid the pandemic.

EXPLAINER: As wildfire smoke spreads, who's at risk?

MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

Smoke from wildfires in the western U.S. and Canada is blanketing much of the continent, including thousands of miles away on the East Coast. And experts say the phenomenon is becoming more common as human-caused global warming stokes bigger and more intense blazes.

Pollution from smoke reached unhealthy levels this week in communities from Washington state to Washington D.C.

Get used to it, researchers say.

"These fires are going to be burning all summer," said University of Washington wildfire smoke expert Dan Jaffe. "In terms of bad air quality, everywhere in the country is to going to be worse than average this year."

Growing scientific research points to potential long-term health damage from breathing in microscopic particles of smoke. Authorities have scrambled to better protect people from the harmful effects but face challenges in communicating risk to vulnerable communities and people who live very far away from burning forests.

WHY SO MUCH SMOKE AND HOW DANGEROUS IS IT?

Decades of aggressive fire fighting allowed dead trees and other fuels to build up in forests. Now climate change is drying the landscape, making it easier for fires to ignite and spread even as more people move into fire-prone areas.

The number of unhealthy air quality days recorded in 2021 by pollution monitors nationwide is more than double the number to date in each of the last two years, according to figures provided to the Associated Press by the Environmental Protection Agency. Wildfires likely are driving much of the increase, officials said.

The amount of smoke wildfires spew stems directly from how much land burns — more than 4,100 square miles in the U.S. and 4,800 square miles in Canada so far in 2021. That's behind the 10-year average for this time of year for both nations, but forecasters warn conditions could worsen as a severe drought afflicting 85% of the West intensifies.

Wildfire smoke contains hundreds of chemical compounds, and many can be harmful in large doses. Health officials use the concentration of smoke particles in the air to gauge the severity of danger to the public.

In bad fire years over the past decade, infernos across the West emitted more than a million tons of the particles annually, according to U.S. Forest Service research.

Scientists link smoke exposure with long-term health problems including decreased lung function, weakened immune systems and higher rates of flu. In the short term, vulnerable people can be hospitalized and sometimes die from excessive smoke, according to physicians and public health officials.

When communities burn, the smoke can be especially hazardous. The 2018 fire in Paradise, California that killed 85 people and torched 14,000 houses also generated a thick plume blanketing portions of Northern California for weeks. Smoke from burning houses and buildings contains more toxic plastics and other manufactured materials as well as chemicals stored in garages.

WHERE ARE THE FIRES?

More than 60 large wildfires are now burning out of control across the U.S., including 17 in Montana. The largest — eastern Oregon's Bootleg fire — has grown to 624 square miles. That's half the size of Rhode Island, yet fewer than 200 houses and other structures have been confirmed as lost because the fire is burning in a sparsely populated area.

More than 200 fires are burning in Manitoba and Ontario, according to Canadian officials.

Weather patterns and fire intensity determine who gets hit by smoke. Huge fires generate so much heat that they can produce their own clouds that funnel smoke high into the atmosphere.

"It just carries across the country and slowly spreads out, forming sort of this haze layer in the sky," said meteorologist Miles Bliss with the National Weather Service in Medford, Oregon.

The combined plume from Canada and the U.S. largely passed over parts of the Midwest this week before settling to ground level across an area that stretches from Ohio northeast to New England and south to the Carolinas, air pollution data shows.

Health effects can occur thousands of miles from the flames. The smoke loses its tell-tale odor but remains a potential hazard even when it drifts that far, said Jeff Pierce, an atmospheric scientist at Colorado State University.

"It's certainly unhealthy," Pierce said of the air along the East Coast in recent days. "If you have asthma or any sort of respiratory condition, you want to be thinking about changing your plans if you're going to be outside."

People who live close to fires are more likely to be prepared and take precautions, while those who live farther away unwittingly remain exposed, according to a recent study by Colorado State University epidemiologist Sheryl Magzamen and Pierce.

HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF?

Listen for warnings about smoke and, if advised, avoid outdoor activities to reduce exposure. Keep doors and windows closed, and run an air filter to clean inside air. Face masks can protect against breathing in smoke. As with COVID-19, most effective are N95

SEE **SMOKE** PAGE 11



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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

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Hope For Andrew

Ever since "Laughing Matters" was demoted from weekly to bi-weekly, I've tried to write copy that is hopefully funnier or at least uplifting. But, these days there seems very little to choose from. (Unless you live in Milwaukee, the newly crowned NBA champs celebrating their first title in 50 years!)

Even the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo with its opening ceremony this evening, has an ominous Covid cloud hanging over it. The Olympics, normally weeks of must-see TV and thrills for hundreds of thousands of fans, won't have any fans. Inexplicably, the Japanese government's slow vaccine rollout has caused only 12% of its citizenry to be inoculated. (Meanwhile here, St. Johns Hospital's ICU is reportedly filled to capacity. Yikes!)

More grim news. Currently, 80 large wildfires are burning across the Western United States as fire season is essentially year round. Meanwhile, billionaire Santa Monican Tom Barrack was arrested for seven felony counts of acting as an agent of a foreign government. Also, a certain former president allegedly claimed that "Hitler did a lot of good things." I can think of six million reasons to be outraged but, even worse, 30% of Americans might believe him. Good grief.

Forgive my mood but I was recently a crime victim. As I was inside UCLA Santa Monica hospital admitting my 99-year-old friend Jerry Rosenblum, thieves broke the lock and stole my mountain bike. As I stood utterly dismayed, a passerby joked that I should walk to Reed Park to buy my bike back. (Thankfully, Jerry's now out of the hospital.)

Back to the pandemic, perhaps the only positive takeaway are the heroes who risked their lives, including farm laborers, retail clerks, volunteers at food banks and homeless shelters and the dedicated health care workers. My taking Jerry to the hospital gave me a close-up glimpse of these inspiring people I will never forget.

Speaking of inspiring, that brings me to my friendship with Andrew Suh who has been in prison for the past 27 years. In 2013 I viewed a riveting documentary about him and just last Friday "Dateline" released their update. Raised in Chicago by wealthy S. Korean immigrant parents, sadly Andrew became an orphan at age 13. (Father died of cancer, mother was murdered.)

Despite the tragedies, Andrew was on his prestigious high school's honor roll, football team, was elected student body president and received a 4-year Martin Luther King scholarship to the renowned Providence College in Rhode Island. It was during Andrew's college spring break when his older sister, Catherine revealed who had brutally murdered their mother by stabbing her over 30 times.

When Catherine identified the killer as her boyfriend, Robert O'Dubane, Andrew insisted they go to the police. But Catherine said they couldn't because she had been Robert's alibi and she'd be sent to prison, adding "And then you'll have nobody." (She didn't bother to mention that, as his legal guardian, she had been raiding his inheritance and also had a $250,000 life insurance policy on Robert.)

Catherine brainwashed Andrew that the only way to rid their family of the shame of their mother's murder was the eye for an eye killing of Robert. Andrew resisted over and over and returned to Providence but eventually relented. When he arrived in Chicago Catherine provided him with a gun and set up Robert to return home under the guise that she was having car trouble.

Long story, not so short, 19-year-old Andrew was arrested but Catherine fled to Hawaii. Following his father's old world admonition to never betray the family, Andrew didn't testify against his sister in her absentia trial. He received a 100-year sentence whereas Catherine, whom even the prosecutors agreed had brainwashed Andrew, received a life sentence without parole.

After my viewing the brilliant "House of Suh" documentary, Andrew and I began corresponding via phone and email. He's one of the smartest, funniest and most compassionate people I've ever known. He's trapped in prison and yet he's always concerned with how I'm doing and never fails to ask about Jerry.

A model prisoner, Andrew's list of state certificates include hospice care where he's helped taking care of dying inmates. After passing the state exam, Andrew also became a licensed optician and was selected for a coveted job in the prison's eyeglass factory where he receives a day off his sentence for every day of work.

Andrew's release date was originally 2034 but he's proudly worked that down to 2031. If the state programs continue uninterrupted it's possible he could be released as early as 2026. In the meantime with his pro-bono attorneys, he applies for clemency and, a valuable lesson to all, never gives up hope.

I'll be back in two weeks. During that time hopefully the Olympics had no Covid disasters and I've found a replacement mountain bike.

To sign Andrew's clemency petition, Google "Friends For Andrew Suh" and also Google "Dateline Twisted Loyalty." Jack can be reached at jackdailypress@aol.com

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California's recall ballot is set, but GOP strategy isn't

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

California's recall ballot is finally set, but the Republican party is still determining its best strategy for winning the governor's office in one of the nation's most Democratic states.

With less than a month until ballots start showing up in voters' mailboxes for the Sept. 14 election, the GOP has no clear favorite and must decide whether to unite behind one candidate in the bid to replace Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom. If the party does, it carries the risk of alienating supporters of the hopefuls who don't get the nod and depressing turnout.

Meanwhile, Newson has a giant fundraising edge. He has collected more than $31 million since March from donors contributing $1,000 or more while the two main pro-recall committees combined for about $5 million since December. There also is the stark reality that Democrats hold nearly 2-to-1 registration edge over Republicans, who haven't won a statewide election in 15 years and are banking on frustration with Newsom's handling of the pandemic to attract voters outside the GOP.

Dave Gilliard, a consultant for the main pro-recall group Rescue California, acknowledged it's difficult to attract major donors when the party is on such a long losing streak.

"They feel that it's a hopeless situation out here, and it's not a good investment because of that," Gilliard said.

Against that backdrop, the California Republican Party's executive committee meets this weekend to decide whether to allow a process that could result in the party uniting behind one candidate and funneling its resources to that hopeful.

Party chair Jessica Millan Patterson had previously said the party should get behind one candidate, but a spokeswoman didn't immediately comment Thursday on whether that's still her position. One of her allies, U.S. House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, wants the party to unite but is largely staying out of the process, according to an aide who was not authorized to discuss his thinking publicly.

Anne Dunsmore, the Rescue California campaign manager, said that would be a mistake. She believes the best way to win the recall is to allow multiple candidates to motivate different swaths of voters to vote to remove Newsom. Plus, the party could make the wrong bet.

"If they endorse, then it winds up being somebody who comes in fourth or fifth, it's not going to help them. It's going to look dumb," Dunsmore said.

If the state GOP's executive committee supports an endorsement, all party delegates would vote in August.

Businessman John Cox planned to hold a news conference Friday outside the state party headquarters in Sacramento, calling the endorsement process rigged in favor of Kevin Faulconer, the former San Diego mayor who is seen as having broader appeal than his rivals but isn't favored by some activists. If approved Saturday, the endorsement process would allow someone to win with support for 50% of delegates rather than the usual 60%.

"Trickery. Political scheme. Moving the goalposts. The insiders at California Republican Party are now no better than the Democrats," Cox said in a statement.

The recall is on the ballot because those upset with Newsom collected more than 1.7 million signatures. Voters will have two questions: Should Newsom be recalled? And who should replace him? If the first question fails to get a majority, the second question is moot.

There are 46 candidates on the ballot. Top Republicans include former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, nationally syndicated talk radio host Larry Elder, businessman John Cox, Assemblyman Kevin Kiley and former Congressman Doug Ose. Former Olympian Caitlyn Jenner has wide name recognition but is currently in Australia shooting a reality show, though she has vowed to spend the last month of the campaign on a bus tour of the state.

No Democrat with any political standing entered the race, giving Newsom a boost that the only California governor to be recalled didn't have. Voters in 2003 ousted Democrat Gray Davis, who faced an intraparty challenge from Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante.

Davis was replaced by Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger, whose global celebrity was at its peak. No Republican running this year has close to his name recognition, though Jenner has said she believes she's better known than Newsom.

With no one emerging as a front-runner, national Republicans have largely stayed on the sidelines after the Republican National Committee gave $250,000, mostly to the state party, last winter. A fundraising committee launched in March by the Republican Governors Association and billed as the "primary Republican fundraising and political entity" supporting the recall brought in $66,000 that month and hasn't recorded any major contributions since.

Joanna Rodriguez, a spokeswoman for the RGA, said the committee is "closely watching what's happening on the ground as the recall enters a new phase" but didn't answer questions about whether it still plans to be involved.

U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa, who is one of the richest members of Congress and bankrolled the 2003 recall effort, is the only member of the state's congressional delegation who has endorsed. He's supporting Faulconer. McCarthy has not publicly directed donor support toward the recall effort.

Attracting national support could be a double-edged sword for California Republicans, who need the money but don't want to play into Newsom's efforts to nationalize the race.

Democrats, meanwhile, are focused on making sure their voters are aware of the election and participate. California is mailing every voter a ballot, just as the state did during the 2020 election because of pandemic concerns. Previously, many counties had already moved toward all-mail ballots.

SEE **RECALL** PAGE 11

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

Verdes through Malibu, and has witnessed firsthand the escalating and deleterious impact of homelessness on local communities. He came on the Inside the Daily Press podcast this week to discuss why he believes this bill is the best approach to tackle the issue.

"My view is just because the federal government has only had limited jurisdiction in the past, does not mean that's the way it should be," said Lieu. "Traditionally we have just been very involved with veterans who are homeless. I think we need to greatly expand that and help cities and towns to address homelessness."

The grant program requirements align with the model of permanent supportive housing that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority upholds as the gold standard of homeless intervention.

In this model unhoused individuals are moved into permanent living spaces, not shelters, and are provided with a range of services aimed to tackle the underlying issues contributing to their homelessness. This includes health care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and job training.

While permanent supportive housing sounds excellent in theory, projects have drawn criticism for being both expensive and very slow to build.

For example, in 2016 Los Angeles voters passed Measure HHH, a $1.2 billion bond measure to construct permanent supportive housing. By September 2020, nearly four years later, only three new housing projects had opened and the average cost per unit was almost $559,000.

Despite this, Rep. Lieu said he believes this is the best approach for federal funding, as it simultaneously tackles all of the challenges facing unhoused individuals and can prevent them from falling back into homelessness.

"What we know from the research is that it's not enough to just put a roof over someone's head," said Lieu. "You've got to also give them services so that they can eventually transition to being out of homelessness, and that's what the bill does."

Lieu identified both substance abuse treatment and job training as two essential services for tackling the current nature of homelessness.

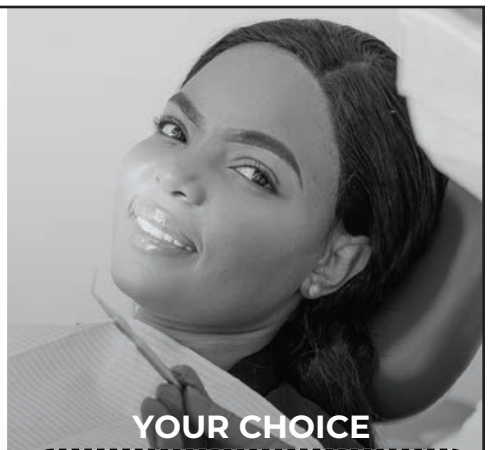
"I'm a big believer in substance abuse treatment programs as well as drug courts," said Lieu. "I think we need to shift to a view of drug use as a medical addiction rather than as something to be punished."

Although the bill is the first of its kind, Lieu believes it does have a chance of becoming law. It was simultaneously introduced in the House and Senate and is co-sponsored by two Republican representatives.

"I feel optimistic because it has bipartisan, bicameral support and that's generally a good sign. At the same time, there's a lot of issues that we're dealing with in Congress," said Lieu. "Now we're focused on getting the Americans Jobs Plan as American Families Plan through, but I'm glad we've introduced this bill into the mix for senators and members of Congress to consider."

To hear more about why Rep. Lieu believes this bill is an intelligent strategy for tackling homelessness, listen to this week's episode of the Inside the Daily Press Podcast at https://www.smdp.com/pod.

Clara@smdp.com

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Vaccinations rise in some states with soaring infections

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH AND RICHARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

Vaccinations are beginning to rise in some states where COVID-19 cases are soaring, White House officials said Thursday in a sign that the summer surge is getting the attention of vaccine-hesitant Americans as hospitals in the South are being overrun with patients.

Coronavirus coordinator Jeff Zients told reporters that several states with the highest proportions of new infections have seen residents get vaccinated at higher rates than the nation as a whole. Officials cited Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Missouri and Nevada as examples.

"The fourth surge is real, and the numbers are quite frightening at the moment," Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said on a New Orleans radio show. Edwards, a Democrat, added: "There's no doubt that we are going in the wrong direction, and we're going there in a hurry."

Louisiana reported 2,843 new COVID-19 cases Thursday, a day after reporting 5,388 — the third-highest level since the pandemic began. Hospitalizations are up steeply in the last month, from 242 on June 19 to 913 in the latest report. Fifteen new deaths were reported Thursday.

Just 36% of Louisiana's population is fully vaccinated, state health department data shows. Nationally, 56.3% of Americans have received at least one dose of the vaccine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Aly Neel, a spokesperson for Louisiana's health department, said the state has seen "a little bump" in vaccinations recently, adding that details would be available Friday.

Warner Thomas, president and CEO of the Ochsner Health system serving Louisiana and Mississippi, said the system had seen a 10% to 15% increase in people seeking vaccination over the past week or two. It has administered vaccines at churches, the New Orleans airport, basketball games and the mall.

"We see each person we get vaccinated now as a victory," said Dr. Katherine Baumgarten, director of infection prevention and control for the 40-hospital system, noting that it has been bringing in traveling nurses and that projections show its ICUs could fill up at the current rate of infection.

Dr. Catherine O'Neal, chief medical officer and an infectious disease specialist at Our

SEE **VACCINATIONS** PAGE 11





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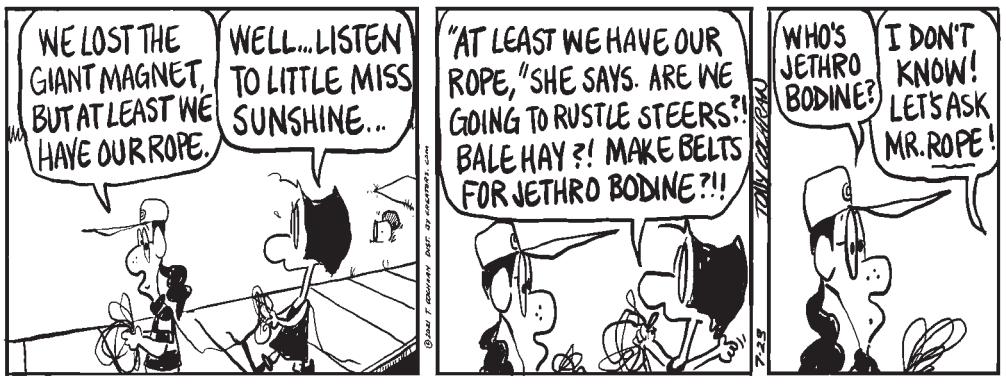
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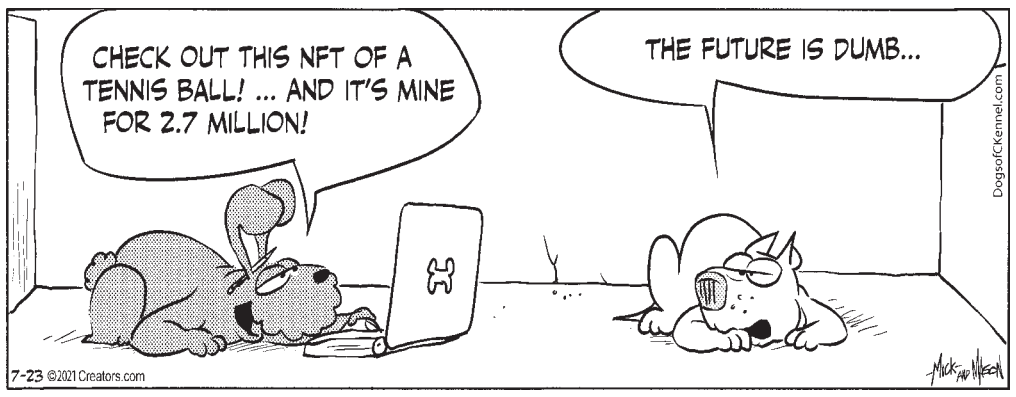
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



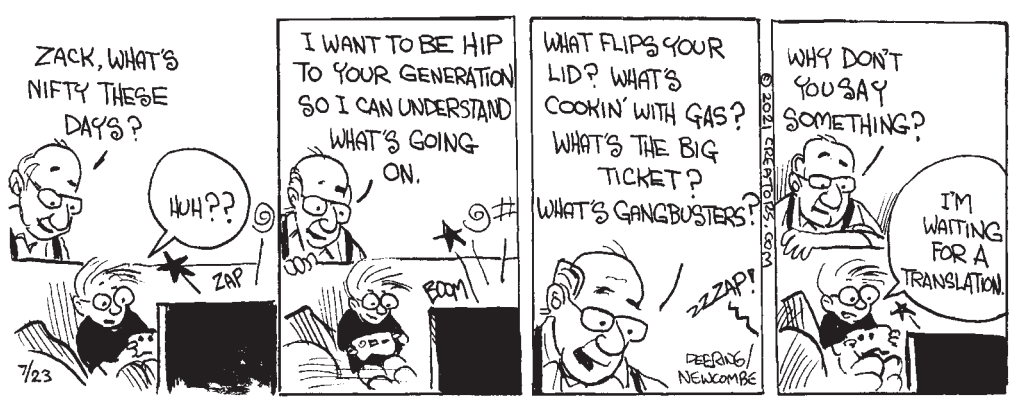
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



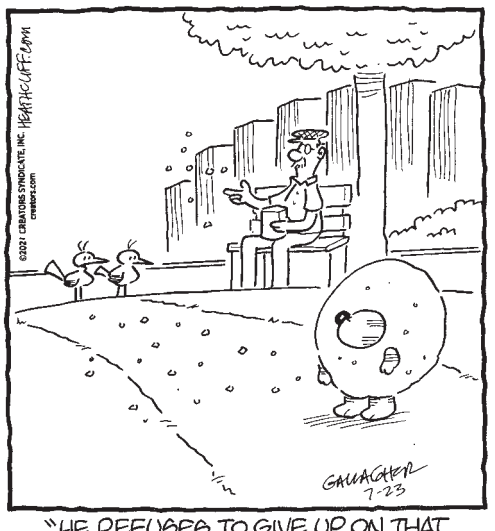
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE REFUSES TO GIVE UP ON THAT CRUMB COSTUME."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 67.5°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Peaky, relatively fun morning for the small wave gear/groms/less experienced surfer. SW/SSW swell fades, SSE/S tropical swell drops, and NW windswell is up a little further from Wednesday.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Still peaky, rideable on the small wave gear in the morning. SW/SSW swell eases as NW windswell looks to linger.

WEATHER

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 65.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 70.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/07/23	Fri	03:56 AM	-1.41	L
2021/07/23	Fri	10:24 AM	4.13	H
2021/07/23	Fri	3:04 PM	2.15	L
2021/07/23	Fri	9:22 PM	7.07	H
2021/07/24	Sat	04:39 AM	-1.39	L
2021/07/24	Sat	11:06 AM	4.26	H
2021/07/24	Sat	3:53 PM	2.07	L
2021/07/24	Sat	10:07 PM	6.87	H
2021/07/25	Sun	05:20 AM	-1.17	L
2021/07/25	Sun	11:47 AM	4.35	H
2021/07/25	Sun	4:41 PM	2.05	L
2021/07/25	Sun	10:51 PM	6.47	H
2021/07/26	Mon	06:00 AM	-0.79	L
2021/07/26	Mon	12:28 PM	4.42	H
2021/07/26	Mon	5:32 PM	2.08	L
2021/07/26	Mon	11:35 PM	5.91	H
2021/07/27	Tue	06:37 AM	-0.29	L
2021/07/27	Tue	1:09 PM	4.47	H
2021/07/27	Tue	6:25 PM	2.17	L
2021/07/28	Wed	12:21 AM	5.22	H
2021/07/28	Wed	07:12 AM	0.29	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball calottery
Draw Date: 7/21
27 28 44 67 68
Power#: 11
Jackpot: 174 M

calottery MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/20
10 26 30 52 57
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 138 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 7/21
10 11 19 30 36
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 10 M

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 7/21
7 14 18 31 38

calottery Daily3
Draw Date: 7/21
EVENING: 7 4 0

Draw Date: 7/21
MIDDAY: 2 3 8

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 7/21
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:44.87

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 (JULY 23)

Your many interests can work together in fascinating ways, so don't cut anything out in the name of narrowing your focus, or else your life will be smaller than it needs to be. Special relationships spark lucrative ventures. You'll enjoy exciting backdrops and socialize in colorful settings. Family additions in November -- Scorpio and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 15, 44, 37 and 1.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Take precautions against distraction. Finish what you start, and if you see an open loop, close it -- no brain drains. You'll experience rich benefits from keeping your energy and focus concentrated on three things that matter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Much will depend on your ability to accurately sum up a situation. Objectivity is key. Being able to take your own agenda out of the equation helps you see things with clarity, lending you a definite advantage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The best part is your unselfconscious generosity of spirit. You hold nothing back. Unless it's for your parking stub, you don't need validation. What you share will multiply your good fortune and the good fortune of others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be reminded that creation is for the brave. Once you execute the action, you relinquish control. People's reactions and the way they use or build on what you do is not up to you. Making things happen is always a risk.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People don't like to be contradicted. The bigger the ego, the more contradiction is seen as a threat. Those who prize intelligence understand how little they actually know and are willing to reduce their egos in the name of learning.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Be careful which time frames you slot your hopes and plans into. If you expect things to happen very quickly, you might be setting yourself up for frustration. Build in wide margins, and then work toward the best-case scenario.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You compromise enough. Retain the sacred autonomy of certain aspects of your life -- areas that run on your terms, are nonnegotiable and can occur exactly as you wish without anyone else's input.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Since what happens daily impacts you more than the exciting out-of-the-blue occurrences, you'll turn your attention to creating routines that support you in the person you'd like to become.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). How you get out of a thing speaks to your character more than how you got into it. You'll take care to leave things on a sweet note. You're a big tipper in more ways than service transactions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't have to make people feel important because they simply are important to you. You regard them as such, and they sense it. The celebrities in your world are the ones who are part of your daily rhythm.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Discovering your opinions, passions and voice requires effort, which you'll gladly put in. You want to know your impact. You'll do the work it takes to be engaged with the needs of your community and the world at large.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's no secret formula, only what works for you. With your work ethic and a willingness to keep going until you get the results you're after, you'll have reason to celebrate sooner rather than later.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

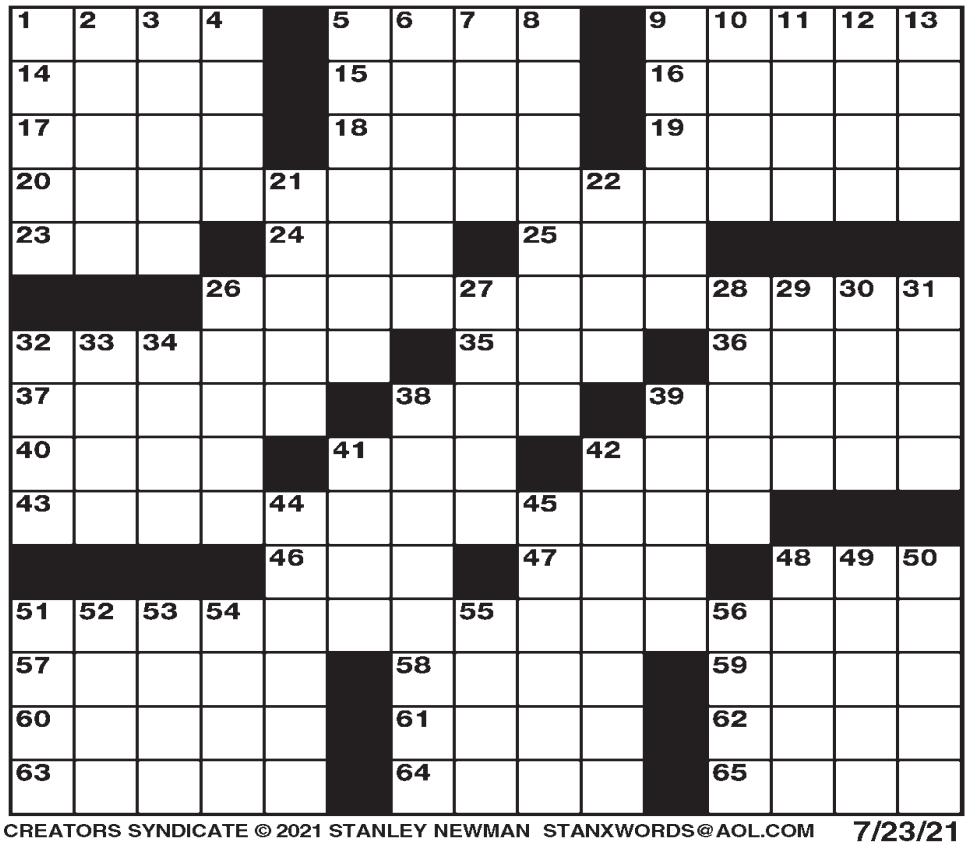
2		1	8		7			
7		6		1	5			3
	8						9	
1			5					2
			1	8	3			
9					2			6
	2						1	
8			6	5		2		4
			7		1	6		8

Newsday Crossword

SUMMERS DAY by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Tell what you shouldn't
5 Court officials
9 "Anyone there?"
14 Relax
15 Per __ (how some tolls are charged)
16 Five-syllable refrain
17 Bit of beguilement
18 Milker's need
19 Odious one
20 Control tower concerns
23 Stable staple
24 Book end
25 Subcontinental honorific
26 Crichton sci-fi opus
32 Candidates for decoration
35 Incline somewhat
36 Real scream
37 Leaps on ice
38 Hostile force
39 Country singer Gill
40 Patch up
41 Structure with a spillway
42 Part of DMD
43 It might be on your wall
46 Suffix for legal
47 "Ultimate" ender
48 Something simple, supposedly
51 Protons and neutrons
57 Obviously infuriated
58 "I Loves You, Porgy," for one
59 Guilty party, to police
60 Bowl too large for a kitchen
61 Have a preference
62 Subjective surrounding
63 Wonkish
64 Brewer's supply
65 End of seven UN country names

DOWN
1 Space by the sea
2 Mom of Jenna and Barbara
3 Lab analysis
4 Issue to gripe about
5 Slender swords
6 Combo bet
7 Wig out
8 Name revered by Rastas
9 Feverish
10 Cork's locale
11 Look like a villain
12 Debt securer
13 Lame apology substitute
21 Smoke conduits
22 Touch off, as an alarm
26 What Moore calls St. Nick
27 Noisy dance
28 Publish
29 "If you done it, it __ bragging": Whitman
30 Almond __ (crunchy candy)
31 Veg-O-Matic seller
32 Delighted (or skeptical) reaction
33 Suit, for short
34 Antonym of "vanguard"
38 Unspoken expression of exasperation
39 Twenty, in Trentino
41 Pancake, essentially
42 Far from friendly
44 May 1, in Maui
45 Up above
48 Traditional parka maker
49 Yankee great with his own New Jersey museum
50 *Washington Journal* channel
51 Name akin to Elaine
52 Ersatz swing
53 History
54 Look after
55 Province
56 Summers found in the four longest answers



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 7/23/21

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

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



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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5184

A game of chess

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

Active	Defeat	Nerves	Relax
Adjudication	Draw	Opponents	Resign
Attack	En passant	Pause	Rows
Board	Hole	Pawn	Slow
Bust	Hush	Pieces	Stalemate
Capped	Indoor	Plans	Study
Castle	Knight	Prepare	System
Chaturanga	Learn	Protect	Take
Cheapo	Lost	Queen	Test
Cook	Move	Quiet	Time

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Church and chocolate

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VACCINATIONS

FROM PAGE 6

Lady of the Lake regional medical center, said Thursday that the most shocking aspect of the surge has been its speed. The caseload has roughly tripled in the course of a week, she said.

On Sunday, the medical center stopped taking transfers of coronavirus patients from hospitals in other parts of the state because they simply did not have the capacity, she said.

In Missouri, which is second only to Arkansas and Louisiana in the number of new cases per capita over the past 14 days, officials have rolled out a vaccine incentive program that includes $10,000 prizes for 900 lottery winners. The state lags about 10 percentage points behind the national average for people who have received at least one shot.

Hospitals in the Springfield area are under strain, reaching pandemic high and near pandemic high numbers of patients.

"Younger, relatively healthy and unvaccinated. If this describes you, please consider vaccination," tweeted Erik Frederick, chief administrative officer of Mercy Hospital Springfield, noting that half of the COVID-19 patients are ages 21 to 59 and just 2% of that group is vaccinated.

The surge that began in the southwest part of the state, where some counties have vaccination rates in the teens, has started to spread to the Kansas City area, including at Research Medical Center.

"I don't want to keep putting my life on the line just because people don't want to get vaccinated or listen to what health care professionals are recommending," lamented Pascaline Muhindura, a registered nurse who has worked on the hospital's COVID-19 unit for more than a year.

"A lot of them don't even believe in COVID-19 to begin with. It is incredibly frustrating. You are helping someone that doesn't even believe that the illness that they have is real," Muhindura said.

Dr. Jason Wilson, an emergency physician with Tampa General Hospital, also has watched the rise in cases with frustration. Unlike earlier in the pandemic, when many patients were in their 70s, he has seen the median patient age fall to the mid-40s.

"I spent a lot of time this fall and last summer saying, 'We've got to do these things, these social mitigation strategies until we get that vaccine. Just hang in there," Wilson said.

Hospitals initially were hopeful as cases declined. But then, he said, "Things just fell flat."

Conservative Utah reported Wednesday that almost 300 people were hospitalized due to the virus — the highest number in five months. Intensive care units reached 81.5% capacity. Health officials renewed their pleas for residents to get vaccinated.

One of Arizona's biggest hospital systems issued its own call for vaccinations, citing an increase in seriously ill COVID-19 patients in just a few weeks. Dr. Michael White, of Valleywise Health, said doctors were mostly treating people with moderate symptoms, but that began to change two weeks ago. Now patients arrive acutely ill.

"This delta at the moment it is honing in on largely unvaccinated persons," said Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of infectious diseases in the health policy department at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville.

The variant, which originated in India, now accounts for an estimated 83% of coronavirus samples genetically identified in the U.S. It is the predominant strain in every region of the country and continues "spreading with incredible efficiency," the director of the CDC, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, told reporters at the White House.

She said the mutation is more aggressive and much more transmissible, calling it "one of the most infectious respiratory viruses we know of."

"We are yet at another pivotal moment in this pandemic," she warned. "We need to come together as one nation."

The CDC has not changed its guidance that vaccinated people do not need to wear masks. But in Georgia, Atlanta Public Schools announced Thursday that it will implement a "universal mask wearing" policy in all of the system's school buildings when fall classes begin.

Just 18% of eligible students in the Atlanta school system are fully vaccinated and 58% of its employees have said they are either fully vaccinated or plan to be, officials said.

"Given our low vaccination rates and increasing community spread, the CDC acknowledges that universal masking would be appropriate," the school system said in the statement.

In Arkansas, a group of Democratic lawmakers urged the governor and Republicans who control the Legislature to lift the state's ban on schools and local governments requiring people to wear masks.

Associated Press Writer Kevin McGill in New Orleans contributed to this report.

MANAGER

FROM PAGE 1

work."

The city has been without a permanent chief executive since Rick Cole resigned in April 2020. 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 then hired former City Manager John Jalili to serve as interim city manager following Dilg's last day on June 22.

Council previously tried to hire Rene Bobadilla for the full time position however, he declined the role following the leaking of his name. At that time, City Hall said it had 62 applicants for the position.

According to a statement released by City Hall White is a native Angeleno, grew up in Studio City and graduated from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in psychology and anthropology. He holds a master's degree in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. White will be relocating to Santa Monica with his wife and daughter and looks forward to "coming home" to Southern California.

Prior to working in Berkeley, white was employed as the city manager of Fairfield.

As City Manager, White will oversee a total City budget of $705.5 million and a workforce of 1,923. City Manager White's employment contract, including an October 11 start date and salary, will be considered at the next Council meeting on July 27.

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COVID

FROM PAGE 1

more likely that a vaccinated person will take a test and a percentage of those tests will come back positive even if the individual has no or very mild symptoms.

About 52 percent of the county is fully vaccinated which means half of all residents are responsible for 80 percent of new cases.

"So yes, if you are fully vaccinated, you have a lot of protection, which is what the vaccines have always been their best at: protecting people from serious illness and death," she said. "And these vaccines are even with the Delta variant and holding on really well."

She said vaccines are not foolproof but they are the single most effective way to fight the pandemic.

"The vaccines are not perfect, but I think as I've shown today, they're an excellent protection for COVID," she said. "We choose on a daily basis to protect ourselves using imperfect methods. For example, while seatbelts don't prevent every bad thing that can happen during a car accident, they do provide excellent protection, so much so that we all use them routinely. Would it really make sense to not use a seatbelt just because it doesn't prevent all injuries from car accidents? To think about COVID vaccines in the same way, rejecting a COVID vaccine because they don't offer 100% protection really ignores the powerful benefits that we experienced."

While Ferrer strongly advocated for vaccines, she defended the County's reimposition of a mask mandate for inside spaces. She said the community spread made possible through unmasked activity could help spawn additional variants and that even vaccinated residents should be concerned as they could pass the disease to someone else despite feeling few or no symptoms themselves.

"The Delta variant because it's so much more infectious than any other virus strain we've seen requires us to add additional layers of protection to slow transmission, as we're working to increase our vaccination rates." she said. "Not only is Delta variant much easier to transmit to others including to those who are fully vaccinated, but along with this increase in community transmission comes the threat of new mutations that may be even more dangerous than the Delta variant. That's why we're asking everyone to wear masks. Masks are an important additional layer of protection that makes it harder for there to be transmission among both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals. Vaccines and masks work together to protect us. If you think about this pandemic like a weather event, vaccines are like our umbrella, excellent protection on most rainy days. But when the rain gets really intense, for example, during a bad thunderstorm, we might also throw on a raincoat. In the same way with transmission intensifying, we're asking you to also add a mask. Well vaccinated people can be reassured about the protection the vaccine gives you from severe COVID disease. We cannot yet reassure you that given the proliferation of the Delta variant, the vaccine offers protection from infecting another person. This is why masking up right now is really important and what it's about is adding an extra layer of protection to prevent the heartache that comes from transmitting virus to others."

Anyone 12 and older living or working in L.A. County can get vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccinations are widely available throughout L.A. County and many sites are open on weekends and have evening hours. To find a vaccination site near you, make an appointment at vaccination sites, and much more, visit: www.VaccinateLACounty.com (English) and www.VacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish). If you don't have internet access, can't use a computer, or you're over 65, you can call 1-833-540-0473 for help finding an appointment, connecting to free transportation to and from a vaccination site, or scheduling a home-visit if you are homebound. Vaccinations are always free and open to eligible residents and workers regardless of immigration status.

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RECALL

FROM PAGE 5

Newsom has been traveling the state for weeks highlighting new state spending aimed at putting money in peoples' pockets and otherwise using the power of incumbency to generate attention. But the resurgence of the coronavirus poses a risk. Newsom's broad shutdown orders last year fueled the anger that helped put the recall on the ballot.

If Newsom starts to feel at risk as the election nears, he benefits by pointing to the large field of candidates and reminding voters that an unknown with no governing experience could win, said Jack Pitney, a professor of political science at Claremont McKenna College who has long studied Republican politics.

"If it starts to get a little dicey toward Election Day, Newsom, in addition to making the Trump argument, can say, 'Look at the wacko who might become governor if I'm recalled,'" he said.

SMOKE

FROM PAGE 3

masks because they are designed to block the smallest particles.

An online, interactive smoke map launched by the EPA and the U.S. Forest Service last year on a pilot basis has drawn millions of viewers. To reach people more quickly, officials are considering using mobile phone push notifications that would alert users when heavy smoke could inundate their communities, according to agency spokeswoman Enesta Jones.

Associated Press reporter Julie Walker contributed from New York.

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