smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Letter to the Editor
Play Pickleball.
Page 3

Crime Watch
Paper plates and no license.
Page 4

EVGo Chargers open





Clara Harter

EV: Mayor Sue Himmelrich (pictured top) spoke at an event celebrating the installation of eight new EVgo electric vehicle charging stations at Downtown Lot 29. The public fast chargers will provide zero emission charging and are part of the City's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting electric vehicles.

Moderate participation at first weekend of Open Main Street program



Matthew Hall

CLOSED: Crowds were sparse during the first weekend closure.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

For all the hubbub raised around the creation of a weekend pedestrian plaza on Main Street, the actual event passed rather quietly with mild to moderate crowds and no reported incidents.

From the perspective of the organizers, Ocean Park Association and Main Street Business Improvement Association, this marks a success.

"Main Street was vibrant and lively with families and community members while not ever being overwhelmed," as MSBIA Executive Director Hunter Hall. "It certainly was not the 'Bourbon Street pub crawl' or 'Carmaggedon' that some feared it would be. It was quieter, safer, and better for the businesses too."

July 24 and 25 were the first of a four weekend summer program where two blocks of Main Street were closed to traffic creating a pedestrian only area for outdoor dining and community activities. It was an extension of the al-fresco parklet dining program, which launched in response to the pandemic last spring, and it is meant to serve as

SEE **MAIN STREET** PAGE 6

Hate crime charges for homeless man accused of purse snatching

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A homeless man has been charged with a hate crime after attempting to rob a woman of Korean descent in Downtown Santa Monica.

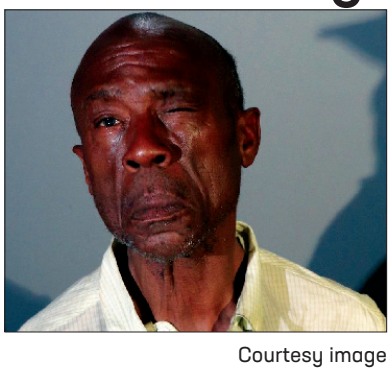
According to the District Attorney's office, Melvin Taylor faces one felony count each of attempted second-degree robbery, assault with a deadly weapon (a car door), and assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury. He is also being charged with a hate crime enhancement.

SMPD said the victim and a family member were parking her car on the 1500 block of 2nd Street on July 23. When the victim went to pay for a meter, Taylor approached, asked for money and questioned the victim's ethnicity. When he was not given money, Taylor began yelling racial slurs, ranting about the Coronavirus.

According to SMPD, when the victim attempted to get back into her car, Taylor kicked the car door causing the victim to be pinned between the door and frame of the vehicle. Taylor continued to strike her while yelling racial slurs. The victim was able to pepper spray Taylor, however it had little to no effect. Taylor took the victim's phone and threw it on the ground before unsuccessfully attempting to take her purse. Nearby witnesses intervened to assist the victim before officers arrived.

"A hate crime against one of us is truly a crime against all of us," District Attorney Gascón said in a statement. "I am committed to stopping hate in our community."

Anyone with any additional information related to this incident is encouraged to contact Detective Burciaga with the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) at (310) 458-8932 or by email at George.Burciaga@smgov.net.



Courtesy image

MELVIN TAYLOR



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Tesla reaches milestone with first $1B quarterly profit

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

Tesla's quarterly profit has surpassed $1 billion for the first time thanks to the electric car pioneer's ability to navigate through a pandemic-driven computer chip shortage that has caused major headaches for other automakers.

The financial milestone announced Monday extended a two-year run of prosperity that has erased questions about Tesla's long-term viability raised during its early years of losses and production problems.

Tesla now has cemented its position as the leader in the shift away from gas-combustion that is expected to make it even more profitable than during its most recent quarter.

The Palo Alto, California, company earned $1.1 billion, or $1.02 per share, in the April-June period. That was more than 10 times its profit at the same time last year. Revenue nearly doubled from last year to about $12 billion.

Adjusted to exclude one-time times items, Tesla earned $1.45 a share in the latest quarter, easily topping the 94 cents expected by Wall Street analysts, according to FactSet.

Tesla now boasts a market value of roughly $630 billion, far more than any other automaker and 14 times more than what the company was worth just two years ago. Its mercurial CEO, Elon Musk, is now sitting on the world's third largest fortune at an estimated $163 billion, according to Forbes magazine's calculations.

For all its recent success, Tesla's momentum could still be slowed by a persisting shortage of chips that have become vital parts in modern cars. While other major automakers had to dramatically curtail production during the first half, Tesla so far has been able to secure an adequate supply of chips to churn out vehicles at the fastest rate in its history.

In a Monday conference call, Musk said Tesla keep its manufacturing lines running largely by finding chips from alternate suppliers and then scrambling to rewrite some of the software in its cars to ensure all the technology remained compatible. Although he said things appear to be slightly approving, Musk described the chip shortage as still being "quite serious," making it difficult to plan for the second half of the year.

"The chip supply is a governing factor on our output," Musk said. "It is out of our hands."

In a telling sign that Tesla isn't immune to the shortage of chips and other components, the company disclosed that it will delay the introduction of a highly anticipated semi truck to some time next year. Its original plan was to introduce it this year.

Musk, who jokingly anointed himself as Tesla's "Technoking" earlier this year, let investors know that he might not be the executive discussing how the company is faring during the second half of the year.

After holding regular quarterly updates since Tesla went public 11 years ago, Musk said he no longer intends to be on future calls with analysts unless he has something extremely important to say. He told analysts on Monday that he wants to use the time to focus on other work at Tesla. The company already has eliminated the department that communicates with reporters.

In its most recent quarter, Tesla produced

SEE **TESLA** PAGE 6

Newsom casts political blame in new California vaccine push

KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND JANIE HAR
Associated Press

Making a fresh push for vaccinations as coronavirus cases climb in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom turned political as he announced new requirements for state workers and health care employees to show proof of vaccination, blaming "right wing" politicians and media for perpetuating misinformation about the shots.

"They're misinforming people, they're literally putting people's lives at risk," Newsom said on MSNBC, echoing similar comments in a news conference and on CNN Monday, where he specifically criticized Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia and Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

Newsom's comments veered far from his steadfast statements throughout the COVID-19 crisis, during which he's batted away questions about pandemic politics and often passed on opportunities to criticize Republicans.

The new approach comes against the backdrop of a September recall election seeking to oust Newsom, fueled by anger over his response to the pandemic.

Newsom's frustrations flashed as he announced he will require state employees and millions of health care workers, public and private, to show proof of vaccination or be regularly tested, a policy in line with a growing number of Democratic-run cities.

After Newsom mentioned Greene repeatedly, she responded by calling him a "communist dictator" on Twitter. In his response, he accused her of "literally killing Americans" by spreading misinformation. Greene has compared vaccination and mask mandates to the Holocaust and was suspended from Twitter for 12 hours last week after spreading vaccine misinformation. On Sunday night, she likened decisions by business owners to exclude unvaccinated customers to "segregation."

Monday's announcement allows Newsom to take a clear step aimed at boosting the vaccination rate while avoiding imposing broader mandates and restrictions that could further frustrate voters. His political comments appeared aimed at motivating his Democratic base by linking the recall to what he calls extremist Republicans.

In California, Democrats outnumber Republicans by nearly 2-to-1 and one of Newsom's strategies has been to nationalize the race.

"Anything he can do to emphasize who's behind this and who's attacking him is all for his own political good," said Garry South, a Democratic strategist who worked for former Gov. Gray Davis, who got recalled in 2003.

Rob Stutzman, a Republican strategist who worked opposite South in the 2003 recall, agreed that such sparring only benefits Newsom in the heavily Democratic state.

"Newsom needs to inject some intensity into his base," he noted on Twitter.

Under the new rules, employees who do not provide verification of vaccination must submit to testing once or twice a week and wear a mask while working. Vaccine verification also will be required in jails, homeless shelters and other places where people congregate, Newsom said. It's not clear who will pay for the tests.

While about 62% of all eligible Californians are fully vaccinated, the state has struggled to make significant progress in recent weeks. Infections and hospitalizations are rising, with the delta variant now making up an estimated 80% of cases in California, though the growing numbers are still far below the winter peak.

"An individual's choice not to get vaccinated is now impacting the rest of us in a profound and devastating and deadly way," Newsom said.

While many of people who have not yet been vaccinated are merely hesitant, political sparring may not persuade more of an effort to get the shots.

A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research released last week found 43% of Republicans said they had not been vaccinated or definitely wouldn't be compared to 10% of Democrats. It was taken before some Republicans and cable news personalities began urging vaccination last week.

Broadly, several epidemiologists praised Newsom's new policy as one that will encourage vaccinations and potentially lead other private sector employers to follow suit. Medical professionals applauded the rules, saying it's legal, ethical and necessary given a national surge driven by the highly contagious delta variant.

"He's really showing leadership to strengthen the case for vaccination, which the entire country is trying to make," said Dr. Monica Gandhi, an infectious diseases professor at the University of California, San Francisco.

Newsom has been hesitant to reimpose requirements on masks or social distancing since he allowed the state to reopen on June 15. Meanwhile, counties have forged ahead. Los Angeles County, home to a quarter of the state's population, is again requiring masks for people in indoor settings, and several other counties have encouraged it.

Dozens of national health care organizations released a letter Monday pleading with health care and long-term care home employers to mandate employee vaccinations. The San Francisco Bar Owner Alliance said it will recommend its hundreds of members check for proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test result before allowing guests inside.

Har reported from San Francisco.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK ADVISORY BOARD

The City of Santa Monica's Recreation and Parks Commission is currently accepting applications for a vacancy on the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB).

Two seats are currently available. Applicants must reside in Santa Monica and shall not hold paid office or employment in City government.

VAPAB members shall serve for a term of four (4) years. At the discretion of the Recreation and Parks Commission, Board members may serve for up to three consecutive terms.

Appointment will be made by the Recreation and Parks Commission at a future meeting. Applications will be kept on file for one year for future vacancies.

Applications are due
Friday, August 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

The Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board was established by the City Council in 1982 to represent the interests of park users, program participants and neighbors of Virginia Avenue Park and to advise the Recreation and Parks Commission in assessing community needs that could be addressed through park programs and amenities.

Applications are available at Virginia Avenue Park or online at www.smgov.net/vapark. Submit applications **by 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 6, 2021** to Carla Fantozzi, Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90404, email vap@santamonica.gov.

For questions or inquiries, please call (310) 458-8688.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8688.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 260 CALLS ON JULY 26

Arson 1400blk 4th St 12:11 a.m.
Fire Request Police 1800blk Ashland Ave 12:16 a.m.
Trespassing 1700blk Ocean Ave 1:07 a.m.
Trespassing 1200blk Ocean Ave 1:26 a.m.
Trespassing 1000blk Colorado Ave 3:01 a.m.
Burglary Just Occurred 2500blk Broadway 3:10 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 500blk Wilshire Blvd 3:39 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:48 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200blk 4th St 5:02 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 6:52 a.m.
Person Down 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:25 a.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 17th St 7:36 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Broadway 7:44 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Broadway 7:58 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 12th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:02 a.m.
Trespassing 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 8:21 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1100blk 11th St 8:40 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1300blk 20th St 8:46 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 700blk Broadway 8:46 a.m.
Drinking In Public 1300blk 20th St 8:48 a.m.
Trespassing 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 8:54 a.m.
Trespassing 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 9:31 a.m.
Trespassing 1400blk California Ave 9:39 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2500blk 32nd St 9:40 a.m.
Burglary Report 1100blk 9th St 9:44 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2500blk Main St 9:58 a.m.
Scar Investigation 1200blk Ocean Ave 10:02 a.m.
Medical Aid Alarm 400blk 20th St 10:08 a.m.
Civil Dispute 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 10:22 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1100blk 7th St 10:49 a.m.
Burglary Report 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 11:16 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 16th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:18 a.m.
Lost Property 300blk Santa Monica Pier 11:45 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 1900blk Ocean Way 11:46 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 16th St / San Vicente Blvd 11:58 a.m.
Trespassing 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:37 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 12:55 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 200blk Broadway 12:56 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 2200blk Main St 12:59 p.m.
Medical Aid Alarm 1500blk 5th St 1:06 p.m.
Fraud Report 1600blk Wilshire Blvd 1:10 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 800blk 12th St 1:16 p.m.
Civil Dispute 1400blk 18th St 1:31 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:34 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:41 p.m.
On Foot 1400blk 4th St 1:50 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Pier 2:07 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred Franklin St / Wilshire Blvd 2:14 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 20th St / Olympic Blvd 2:17 p.m.
Adult Prot Serv Chck 2200blk Colorado Ave 2:32 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:34 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:46 p.m.
Trespassing 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 3:03 p.m.
Medical Emergency 300blk Santa Monica Pier 3:07 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:10 p.m.
Person Down 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 3:42 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 3:43 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1600blk 5th St 3:48 p.m.
Trespassing 700blk Washington Ave 3:49 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Just Occurred 7th St / Pico Blvd 3:54 p.m.
Rape Just Occurred 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 4:15 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 2500blk Wilshire Blvd 4:29 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200blk 6th St 4:30 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1200blk 2nd St 4:36 p.m.
Trespassing 800blk Bay St 4:49 p.m.
Medical Emergency 400blk Santa Monica Pier 4:53 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1400blk Olympic Blvd 4:56 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 900blk Pico Blvd 5:25 p.m.
Civil Dispute 1500blk Ocean Ave 5:34 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 5:40 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 7th St / Washington Ave 5:56 p.m.
Sexual Assault 200blk Ocean Ave 5:59 p.m.
Trespassing 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:17 p.m.
Follow Up 1900blk Euclid St 6:48 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 800blk Montana Ave 6:58 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1200blk 4th St 7:17 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1200blk 4th St 7:18 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 8:18 p.m.
Person Down 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:49 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Montana Ave 9:48 p.m.
Unknown Trouble 9th St / California Ave 10:05 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Montana Ave 10:07 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Montana Ave 10:31 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 2800blk 2nd St 10:52 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600blk 10th St 11:43 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 32 CALLS ON JULY 26

EMS 1800blk Ashland Ave 12:15 a.m.
Wires Down 1300blk Ashland Ave 4:22 a.m.
Arcing Wires 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:31 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk California Ave 4:57 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:46 a.m.
Arcing Wires 16th St / Maple St 6:18 a.m.
EMS 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:25 a.m.
EMS 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:29 a.m.
EMS 400blk 20th St 10:08 a.m.
Broken Water Main 2900blk Exposition Blvd 10:17 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:03 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 1:06 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 1:25 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 12th St / Broadway 1:26 p.m.
EMS 2400blk 34th St 1:39 p.m.
EMS 600blk San Vicente Blvd 2:01 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:39 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600blk Pico Blvd 3:02 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 4:12 p.m.
EMS 400blk San Vicente Blvd 4:39 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 5:58 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 6:26 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 6:51 p.m.
EMS 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:00 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 200blk Arizona Ave 7:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 4th St 7:19 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 4th St 7:46 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Franklin St 8:04 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 15th St 8:14 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 20th St 8:40 p.m.
EMS Main St / Hollister Ave 10:14 p.m.
EMS Main St / Kinney St 11:39 p.m.

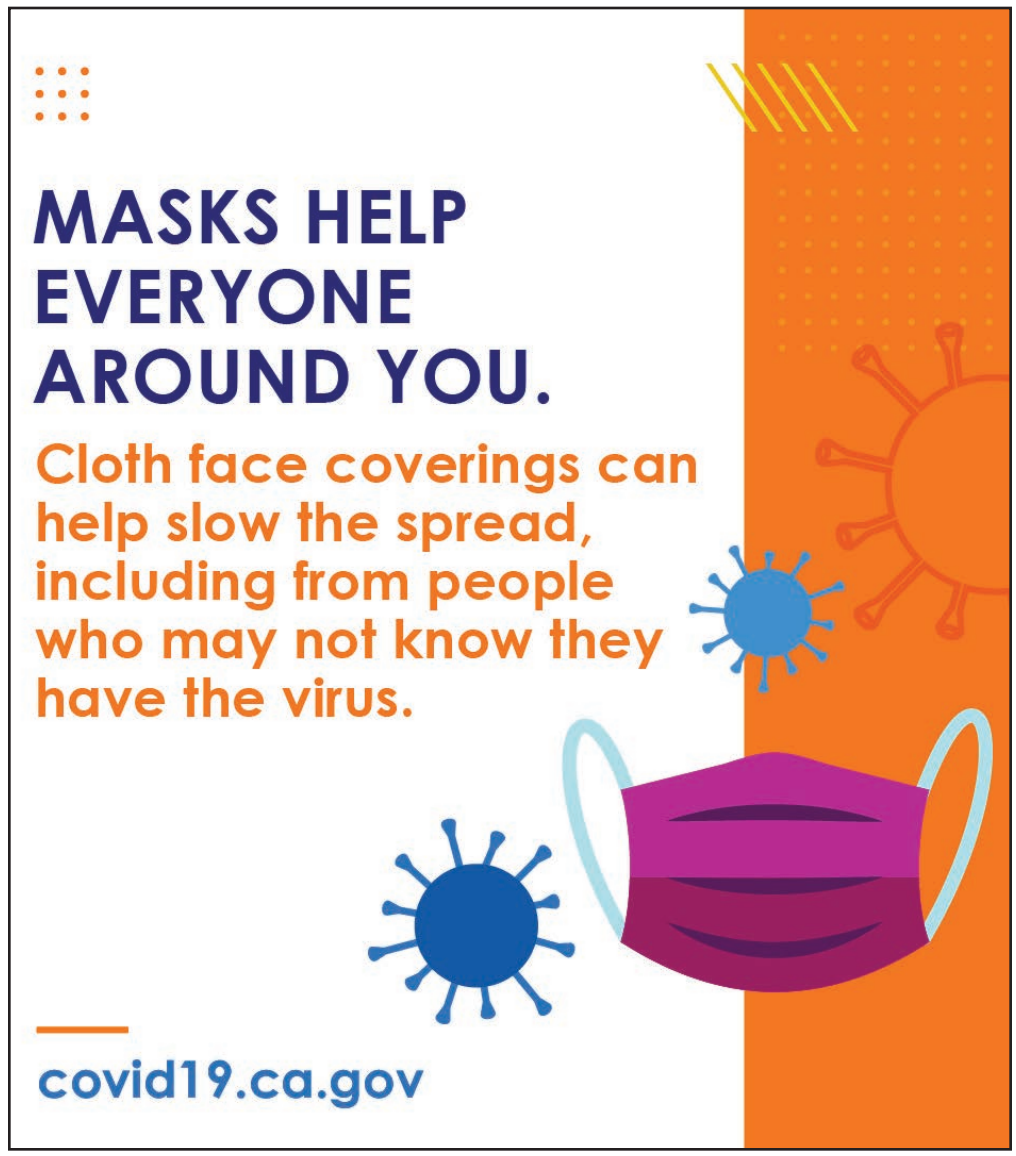
Letter to the Editor

Morris Kushner Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I am a 78 year old long time resident and avid pickle ball player. The city allowed residents to play on weekend mornings at Memorial Park before covid. Since the park has reopened the city says they don't have the staff to convert the courts.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Many seniors enjoy the sport. Many neighboring cities have been building new courts. Even though over 900 people signed a petition asking for courts and agreed to pay for them they were ignored by the city. While the city spends millions on all kinds of things including a huge soccer field they continue to turn a deaf ear to the many pickleball advocates. There are many tennis courts that go unused and a few can easily be converted to pickleball courts and it wouldn't cost the city a penny. I have no idea why the city is ignoring the pleas of so many of their residents who desire to play a game that is both healthy and fun.

Morris Kushner, Santa Monica



Democratic donor convicted of offering drugs for sex; 2 died

STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

A federal jury on Tuesday convicted a wealthy political donor on charges he injected gay men with methamphetamine in exchange for sex, leading to two deaths and other overdoses.

Ed Buck, 66, was found guilty of all nine felony counts in federal court, which could lead to a life sentence. The verdict came exactly four years after one of the victims, 26-year-old Gemmel Moore, was found dead of an overdose in Buck's West Hollywood apartment.

"Today is bittersweet," LaTisha Nixon, Moore's mother, said after the verdict. "We got victory today."

The jury deliberated for more than four hours after a two-week trial. A sentencing date has not yet been scheduled.

Prosecutors said Buck paid men and provided drugs in return for sex acts. Buck had pleaded not guilty. His defense lawyers said neither fatal overdose victim died from meth and that many of the alleged victims were drug addicts.

Buck's attorneys — one of whom was a prosecutor in the O.J. Simpson case — did not immediately return a request for comment.

Buck's 2019 arrest marked a turning point for activists who protested outside his apartment and pressured law enforcement to act after Moore died on Buck's floor in 2017.

Even after Timothy Dean, 55, died 18 months later, it took another nine months and the near-death of another overdose victim before Buck was arrested in September 2019.

"This man did some terrible things to human beings," Joann Campbell, one of Dean's sisters, said after the verdict.

Family members and activists had pushed for Buck's arrest since Moore died. They said Buck escaped criminal charges for years because of wealth, political ties and race.

"Ed Buck will never harm anyone else, and I thank God for that," said Joyce Jackson, another of Dean's sisters.

Buck is a wealthy white man who was active in gay causes and animal rights issues. He has given more than $500,000 to mostly Democratic politicians and causes since 2000.

Prosecutors say he exploited vulnerable men — most of them Black — by paying them to come to his home to use drugs and engage in sex play to satisfy a fetish. Many were destitute drug users who often worked as prostitutes to support their habit.

The defense contends all the men were at Buck's apartment under their own will and that Moore and Dean did not die from methamphetamine.

"I know this has been an arduous, lengthy and difficult process," U.S. District Judge Christine A. Snyder told jurors after she read the verdict, according to the Los Angeles Times.

One of the prosecutors dropped to her knees and wept in the courthouse hallway after the jury was dismissed, the Times reported.

During the trial, Dane Brown testified that he had overdosed in Buck's apartment twice in one week in September 2019. He told investigators he had been living in a hotel on Skid Row when he met Buck on Adam4Adam, a gay dating and escort site, and moved in with him for part of summer 2019.

Brown said Buck injected him with meth nearly daily for five weeks, according to court documents. After his second overdose, Brown said Buck refused to call an ambulance and Brown was forced to call 911 at a nearby gas station.

"I didn't think I was going to believed," Brown said after the verdict. "Walking out of that house, I didn't know what was going to happen next."



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



Robert Lemle

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

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.

TUESDAY, JULY 13 12:56 P.M.

Crime Impact Team Officers observed a vehicle with illegal paper plates driving eastbound on the 800 block of Wilshire. Officers conducted a traffic stop and learned that the driver did not have a license with him and that it was expired, officers also located a glass pipe commonly used to smoke methamphetamine on the front passenger seat. The driver further stated that the vehicle belonged to his girlfriend. The vehicle turned out to have been reported stolen and the driver was also on probation. Kenneth Uriel Fernandez was arrested 10851(a) VC- unlawful taking or driving of a vehicle and 11364(a) H&S- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

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CDC reverses course on indoor masks in some parts of US

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reversed course Tuesday on some masking guidelines, recommending that even vaccinated people return to wearing masks indoors in parts of the U.S. where the coronavirus is surging.

Citing new information about the ability of the delta variant to spread among vaccinated people, the CDC also recommended indoor masks for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

The new guidance follows recent decisions in Los Angeles and St. Louis to revert to indoor mask mandates amid a spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations that have been especially bad in the South. The country is averaging more than 57,000 cases a day and 24,000 COVID-19 hospitalizations.

Most new infections in the U.S. continue to be among unvaccinated people. But "breakthrough" infections, which generally cause milder illness, can occur in vaccinated people. When earlier strains of the virus predominated, infected vaccinated people were found to have low levels of virus and were deemed unlikely to spread the virus much, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said.

But with the delta variant, the level of virus in infected vaccinated people is "indistinguishable" from the level of virus in the noses and throats of unvaccinated people, Walensky said.

The data emerged over the last couple of days from 100 samples. It is unpublished, and the CDC has not released it. But "it is concerning enough that we feel like we have to act," Walensky said.

Vaccinated people "have the potential to spread that virus to others," she said.

For much of the pandemic, the CDC advised Americans to wear masks outdoors if they were within 6 feet of one another.

Then in April, as vaccination rates rose sharply, the agency eased its guidelines on the wearing of masks outdoors, saying that fully vaccinated Americans no longer needed to cover their faces unless they were in a big crowd of strangers. In May, the guidance was eased further for fully vaccinated people, allowing them to stop wearing masks outdoors in crowds and in most indoor settings.

The guidance still called for wearing masks in crowded indoor settings, like buses, planes, hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters, but it cleared the way for reopening workplaces and other venues.

Subsequent CDC guidance said fully vaccinated people no longer needed to wear masks at summer camps or at schools, either.

For months COVID cases, deaths and hospitalizations were falling steadily, but those trends began to change at the beginning of the summer as the delta variant, a mutated and more transmissible version of the virus, began to spread widely, especially in areas with lower vaccination rates.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the delta variant has changed the nation's COVID-19 outlook since the CDC relaxed masking recommendations.

"That is their job. Their job is to look at evolving information, evolving data, an evolving historic pandemic and provide guidance to the American public," Psaki said.

"What has not changed," she added, "is the fact that people who are vaccinated have a huge deal of protection from serious illness, from hospitalization and from death."

Some public health experts said they thought the earlier CDC decision was based on good science, which indicated that the risk of vaccinated people spreading the virus was relatively low and that the risk of them catching the virus and becoming extremely ill was even lower.

But those experts were also critical, noting that there was no call for Americans to document their vaccination status, which created an honor system. Unvaccinated people who did not want to wear masks in the first place saw it as an opportunity to do what they wanted, they said.

"If all the unvaccinated people were responsible and wore mask indoors, we would not be seeing this surge," said Dr. Ali Khan, a former CDC disease investigator who now is dean of the University of Nebraska's College of Public Health.

Lawrence Gostin, a public health law professor at Georgetown University, drew a similar conclusion.

"It was completely foreseeable that when they (the CDC) made their announcement, masking would no longer be the norm, and that's exactly what's happened," Gostin said.

The CDC may be seen as "flip-flopping," he said, because there's been no widely recognized change in the science, he said. Furthermore, it's not likely to change the behavior of the people who most need to wear masks.

"I don't think you can effectively walk that back," he said.

Ken Thigpen, a retired respiratory therapist who now works for a medical device manufacturer, is fully vaccinated and stopped wearing his mask in public after the CDC changed its guidance in May. But he started to reconsider in the last week after his job took him to hospitals in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida, where he witnessed medical centers getting inundated with COVID-19 patients.

"That delta variant is intense. It is so transmissible that we have to do something to tamp it down," he said.

"I loved it when I could call the hospitals and they said, 'We actually closed our COVID ward today or we are down to two COVID patients,'" he recalled. "And now we are opening the wards back up, and the numbers are going nuts."

Associated Press writers Aamer Madhani in Washington and Heather Hollingsworth in Mission, Kansas, contributed to this report.

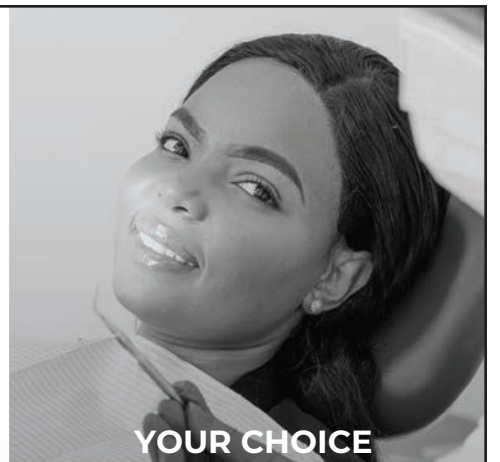
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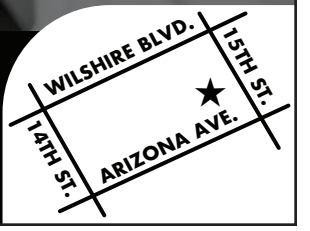
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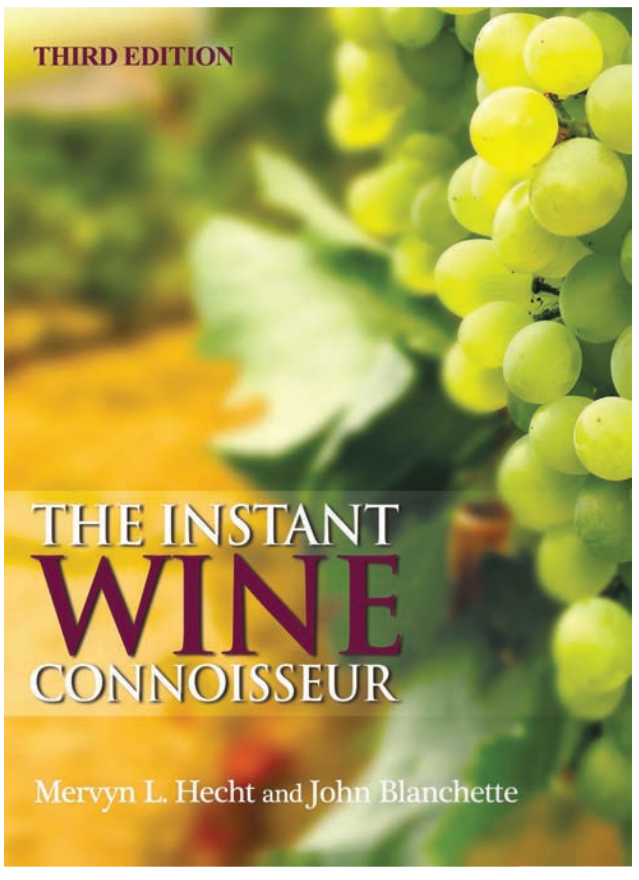


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MAIN STREET

FROM PAGE 1

an experiment for a potential more permanent pedestrian program in the future.

Both the temporary summer series and the possibility of expanding a pedestrian Main Street in the future are the subject of community controversy. Opponents cite fears around large crowds gathering, danger to pedestrians and traffic woes, while proponents believe the communal car free space is beneficial to businesses and their patrons.

"I want to reiterate that this is just a test," said OPA Executive Board Member Sean Besser. "It's only four weekends with nothing permanent or long term planned. None of us have any agenda other than to try this concept so we can have an informed dialogue of what we envision for the Main St of the future."

The Santa Monica Police Department was active in the planning process with a desire to ensure the space was well protected. They placed heavy water filled plastic barriers at each end of the street closure to prevent any vehicle incursions.

"We had personnel monitoring the event as well as monitoring traffic conditions around the area," said SMPD Public Information Officer Rudy Flores. "Overall, we did not observe any major issues, so as far as our perspective the event did run smoothly."

Flores noted that there was some traffic back up down the street due to a traffic light that was not functioning, however he said this had nothing to do with the event.

Overall, crowds were fairly limited within the pedestrian plaza in the street. Due to both the temporary nature of the closure and the fact that alcohol could not be served beyond the preexisting parklets boundaries, restaurants did not elect to expand their outdoor dining set ups.

The open street area was filled with moderately utilized picnic benches and more popular community programming including chalk art, live bands, and exercise classes. The temperature of the street became noticeably more lively when these events were running and cooled off during the interim periods.

Besser said the planning team viewed the event as a soft launch and spent 80 percent of their time focusing on logistics and safety and 20 percent of their time on programming. The plan for upcoming Aug. 21 and 22 closure is to include more programming and experiential components.

"We are still collecting data but the vast majority attendees and businesses we spoke with said it was a fabulous weekend and that they are looking forward to future pilot weekends," said Besser. "241 people on the street responded to the surveys in real time and those initial results showed a 95 percent approval rating for the pilot!"

Many of the initial opponents of the Open Street event remain unswayed by the past weekend's event. They continue to raise concerns about traffic, pedestrian danger, and the potential for Covid spread.

"As a local resident of Ocean Park, I am strongly opposed to the Main Street closures," said Kenzie Levine, who has an office space on Main Street. "I can connect you with all my neighbors, as not a single one of them was in favor of these closures."

The Open Main Street Program will run for three more weekends in August, September, and October. According to Besser, there are plans to improve signage, add more activities, and hopefully incorporate the farmers market.

Besser said anyone who attended or has constructive feedback is welcome to fill out OPA's survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MainStreetWeek1.

Clara@smdp.com

TESLA

FROM PAGE 2

more than 206,000 vehicles within a three-month span for the first time in its history. It is also gearing up to build the Model Y small SUV and other models at a new factory in Austin, Texas, that's still on schedule to be completed later this year.

Despite Tesla is now on a production pace that has raised hopes it will be able to manufacture more than 800,000 vehicles this year. That would be a significant increase from nearly 510,000 last year, when government restrictions during the early stages of the pandemic forced the company to temporarily shut down its California factory.

The uncertainty about the chip shortage may have somewhat dampened the investor response to Tesla's surprisingly strong quarterly results. The company's stock gained more than 1% in extended trading Monday after the second-quarter numbers came out. The stock has fallen about 25% from its peak price reached six months ago.

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Curious City

Charles Andrews Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What's That Smell?

SOMETHING FISHY, ON MAIN STREET

What, you're back on Main Street? Whatcha got against Main Street, Charles?

Absolutely nothing. I love it. I'm a 35-year Ocean Park guy. I walk there several times a week. At least, I try to love it, but it sure does change its face and personality often. Too many sad, blank window stares from empty insides these days. Old friends packed up and gone.

I related last time about the "impersonator" cell phone store on the west side of Main Street that is really, despite official logo signage, just a franchised operation that sells the international corporation's services and products. Really sells, sells, sells, on commission. That doesn't happen at the corporate stores, like at 2530 Wilshire.

Worst of all, they have one particular rogue there who will misrepresent, underinform, and outright lie (he did to me, and to my wife) to make a sale. Then look you in the eye and tell you what he said is true, and the corporate reps are the ones who are lying, to steal his election… uh, sale.

DON'T SAY IT - MORE CROOKS ON MAIN STREET?!

No, no, not at all! That dishonest dude and his manager are quite the exception. I'm talking about all of Main Street now. Good business citizens of Santa Monica and Ocean Park. Long-suffering and COVID-battered, they do need help.

But I tell you, there's not a genuinely needy situation that can come up without someone trying to take advantage of it. Orphans, widows, amputees, doesn't matter to the greed crowd. The day after the federal stimulus program to rescue small businesses crushed by the pandemic was passed, two LA couples and their friends and family got busy creating fake businesses with concocted tax returns and payroll schedules, and wound up stealing $18M of money that so many drowning businesses needed. They spent it on $3.5M homes, diamonds, gold, fast cars, luxury travel. And now it looks like they may get away with it because a search of their cell phones may not have been done properly. Crime does pay, I guess, if you catch a lucky break. Oh, and lawyers as skilled as they are unprincipled.

Nothing so sordid going on on Main Street. (That I know of. Yet.) But, something is definitely fishy, in a back room Santa Monica-kinda familiar way. If you dig just a little into the way our city is run, you keep bumping into programs and policies that just don't make sense. When I see something that doesn't make sense, that has a rationale behind it that a fifth-grader could shoot holes in, I figure it does make sense, dollars and cents, to someone, who has an agenda that hasn't yet seen daylight. Oftentimes, it's a long range plan, done in stages.

LAST WEEKEND WE HAD MAIN STREET CLOSURE

The first of four. A very short stretch of Main Street south of Ocean Park, from Ashland to Kinney, was closed off to automobile traffic. In that area you could walk down the middle of Main Street, sit at picnic tables (in the sun), perhaps put there so the open area wouldn't look so barren, participate in an exercise class (in the sun), listen to a lone violinist at noon Sunday, or a jazz band scheduled for later that afternoon. Big whoop.

And of course you could dine outdoors in the "parklets" that have been springing up for months now, in the street. (And, impinging on the sidewalks. And looking pretty shabby.) Nothing new there.

It seems this all required a lot of work on the part of six departments of City staff, funds from the Main Street Business Association (left over from COAST) and a $70,000 kick in from the City of SM, passed unanimously by City Council.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

Well, the stated purpose, of course, was to stimulate business on that street. (Or maybe just on that block?) But some business owners, and neighboring residents, just couldn't see it. I couldn't see it, by any stretch of imagination, that the benefits would outweigh the drawbacks. Therefore, I suspect, hidden agenda, something fishy.

Business was starting to pick up anyway, said Susan , proprietor for 45 years, on Main Street, of the unique, whimsical "antiques" store jAdis. "Summer is here and people want to go to Santa Monica and the beach. This is when we would be doing better. But these barriers and the difficult parking situation made it harder.

"Also, I had to hire extra people, and I had a theft for the first time in many years. Our building was graffitied. The manager of the One West Bank told me they decided to not open on Saturday, for fear of an easy robbery getaway. So my fears of being isolated from police and fire protection because of the closures, seemed to play out."

Across the street, south of the always-bustling Jamesons, at Spa de Rejuvenation, Edmund also expressed misgivings, that he also thought anyone could have predicted. "I'm happy to cooperate in anything that will help everyone," he said, "but I don't think this was very well thought out." We were able to chat for some 20 minutes, nearly uninterrupted, because he had only one customer.

"AT HIS TIME OF YEAR"

He said, "with restrictions starting to ease and people starting to travel, we should have more business than this. It wasn't well

SEE CURIOUS CITY PAGE 11

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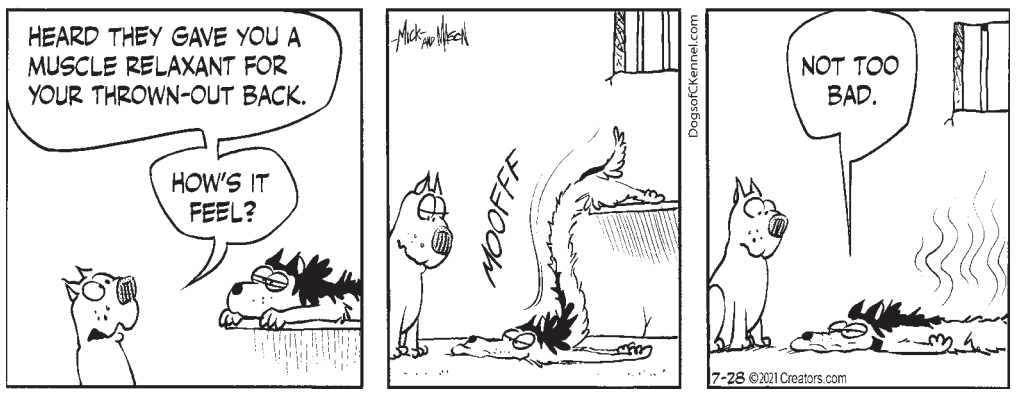
Agnes

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: 64.9°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Not much size and wind looks to trend onshore quickly from the WNW. Small S/SSE swell offers the most size west of Pt Dume.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Very similar to Wednesday but the morning wind looks lighter/conditions cleaner. S swell continues – most size west of Pt Dume.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 75.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 66.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 74.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/07/28	Wed	12:21 AM	5.22	H
2021/07/28	Wed	07:12 AM	0.29	L
2021/07/28	Wed	1:51 PM	4.51	H
2021/07/28	Wed	7:24 PM	2.26	L
2021/07/29	Thu	01:09 AM	4.47	H
2021/07/29	Thu	07:47 AM	0.92	L
2021/07/29	Thu	2:36 PM	4.55	H
2021/07/29	Thu	8:38 PM	2.29	L
2021/07/30	Fri	02:10 AM	3.73	H
2021/07/30	Fri	08:22 AM	1.54	L
2021/07/30	Fri	3:24 PM	4.60	H
2021/07/30	Fri	10:20 PM	2.12	L
2021/07/31	Sat	03:44 AM	3.16	H
2021/07/31	Sat	09:03 AM	2.10	L
2021/07/31	Sat	4:16 PM	4.70	H
2021/07/31	Sat	11:54 PM	1.71	L
2021/08/01	Sun	05:52 AM	2.96	H
2021/08/01	Sun	10:02 AM	2.55	L
2021/08/01	Sun	5:08 PM	4.86	H
2021/08/02	Mon	12:59 AM	1.20	L
2021/08/02	Mon	07:42 AM	3.14	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball calottery
Draw Date: 7/24
1 4 11 59 67
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 186 M

calottery MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/23
13 17 19 40 69
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 153 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 7/24
1 5 19 27 40
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 11 M

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 7/26
6 18 19 26 29

calottery Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/26
EVENING: 7 7 9

Draw Date: 7/26
MIDDAY: 1 9 5

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 7/26
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:42.08

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 28)

Never have you been more purposeful. You prefer the sort of power that comes from skills honed over time and earned merit. And yet, when you visit the person at the top and are granted a game-changing position, take it! This is either part of the payoff for your work or an advance payment for what you will do soon. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 26, 38, 10 and 5.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be the one who brings everyone together. Does knowing they will influence one another for better and worse make you reconsider your guest list?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Trials are your best teachers. You'll meet challenges that affirm your strength and resourcefulness. Fellow earth signs Virgo and Capricorn prove worthy team members.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Nonproductive stretches can be uncomfortable or even alarming for movers like you. Don't fight it; ride it. Something excellent will come out of the break, and it actually won't put you behind at all.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Not all boundaries are meant to keep others out. Often the fences and limits provide a much-needed sense of order. Lay down a few rules to give structure to today's uncharted territory.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Everyone falls. Whether you fall down, fall short or fall for the tricks and traps of a wild world, there's only one thing to do — pick yourself up and walk on with the lesson in your pocket.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). "Just be yourself," they say. Meanwhile, "yourself" isn't the easiest person to "just be," when you're in the process of exploring and becoming. So instead, experiment and be whoever you want to be in the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You cultivate an atmosphere of emotional safety around you. People sense you'll take care of them and make their lives a little easier, maybe even momentarily delightful. No wonder you're popular.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It requires courage to take a chance. Give yourself credit for assuming a risk, carrying it and being big enough to accept the consequences, whatever they may be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe the mystics and geniuses are right about life being an illusion. The question is what to do about it. Can you dream differently? What would it take to pierce the perception that entraps you?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Stimulating environments engage the mind, but when they go on for too long, the imagination suffers. Creativity needs the breathing room that only boredom can provide. A dull stretch is the precursor to inspiration.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Boasting, posing and posturing is the behavior of insecurity and under-confidence. You get the best out of yourself and others by offering the remedy of kind attention and acceptance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The relationships you cherish the most will be the ones that demand something of you and afford you the opportunity to emotionally expand. When it comes to love, you get what you put in.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

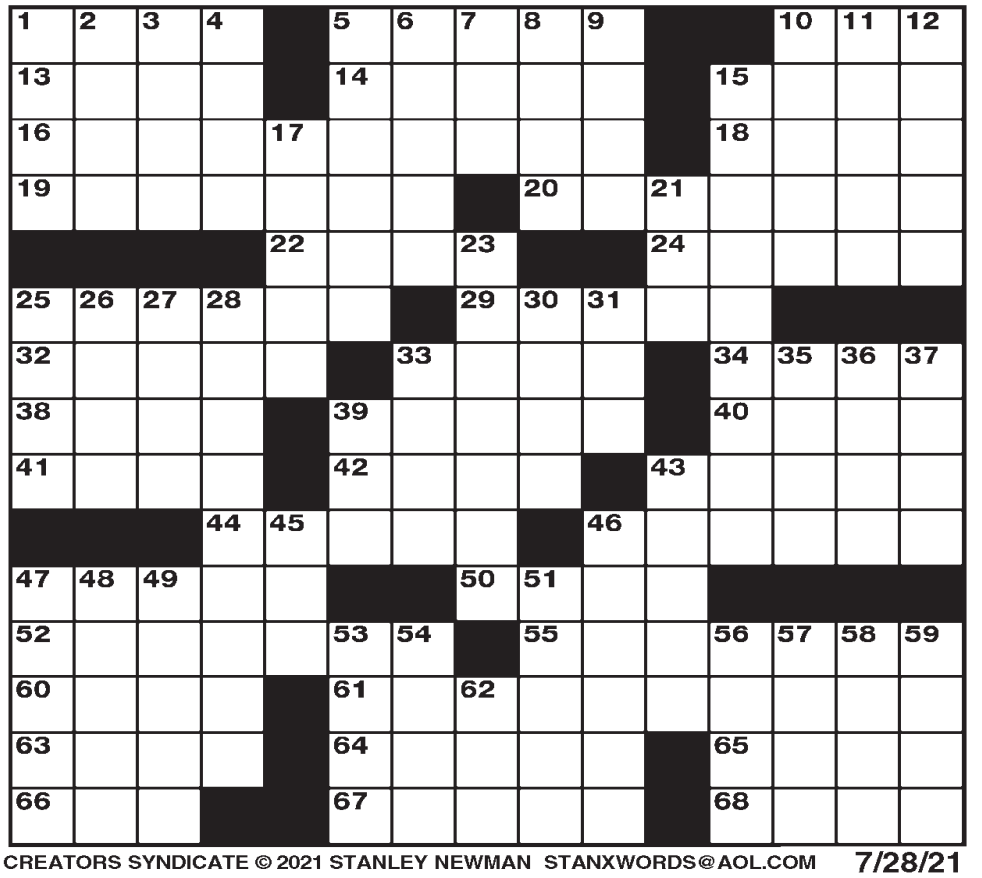
4	3	5	8	2	1	7	9	6
1	6	8	7	3	9	2	4	5
9	2	7	6	5	4	3	1	8
2	1	4	5	8	6	9	3	7
5	9	3	2	4	7	8	6	1
8	7	6	1	9	3	4	5	2
3	8	2	4	1	5	6	7	9
6	5	9	3	7	2	1	8	4
7	4	1	9	6	8	5	2	3

Newsday Crossword

SOUNDS LIKE NOTHING by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Grad
5 Secluded valleys
10 Angry
13 Tip of an airplane
14 Convex navel
15 Allay, as fears
16 Be deep in debt
18 Have sore muscles
19 What an IRA holds
20 Hung in there
22 Boating hazard
24 Symbols for apps
25 Meeting of the minds
29 Not on a tilt
32 Dense, as fog
33 Strauss of jeans fame
34 "Dancing Queen" vocal group
38 Really keen on
39 Japanese noodles
40 Neighbor of Turkey
41 Charges for services
42 Part of the eye
43 "You __ serious?"
44 Pocket-size music players
46 Heavy hammer
47 List of candidates
50 Carry by truck
52 Betting settings
55 Pedigree cat
60 Screen on a bar wall
61 "Another thing . . ."
63 Insignificant
64 Make into baby food
65 Trait determinant
66 Yoko __
67 Census collections
68 Makes a request

DOWN
1 Uncredited, as a quote: Abbr.
2 Actor Rob
3 Capitalizes on
4 Vegan's avoidance
5 Overcharged
6 Sudden thrust
7 Approx. takeoff hour
8 Longest African river
9 Observed
10 Keyboard shortcut
11 Pale-looking
12 Heroic doings
15 Wisconsin city
17 Currant, for instance
21 Vegas cube
23 Language of Belgium
25 "Ain't happening!"
26 Pine tree product
27 Adorable
28 Common blood type
30 Nights before holidays
31 Car registration fig.
33 Certain shortening
35 Raised, as rabbits
36 Door-slam sound
37 Penny-__ poker
39 Brazilian city, for short
43 Muslim Almighty
45 Cartoonist's implement
46 Deluxe hotel offerings
47 Hapless one
48 Heavy (with)
49 "Outer space" starter
51 To date
53 Klutz's comment
54 Boarded up
56 Prefix for phone or bucks
57 Barnyard females
58 Dropped sharply
59 Examines closely
62 Swimsuit section



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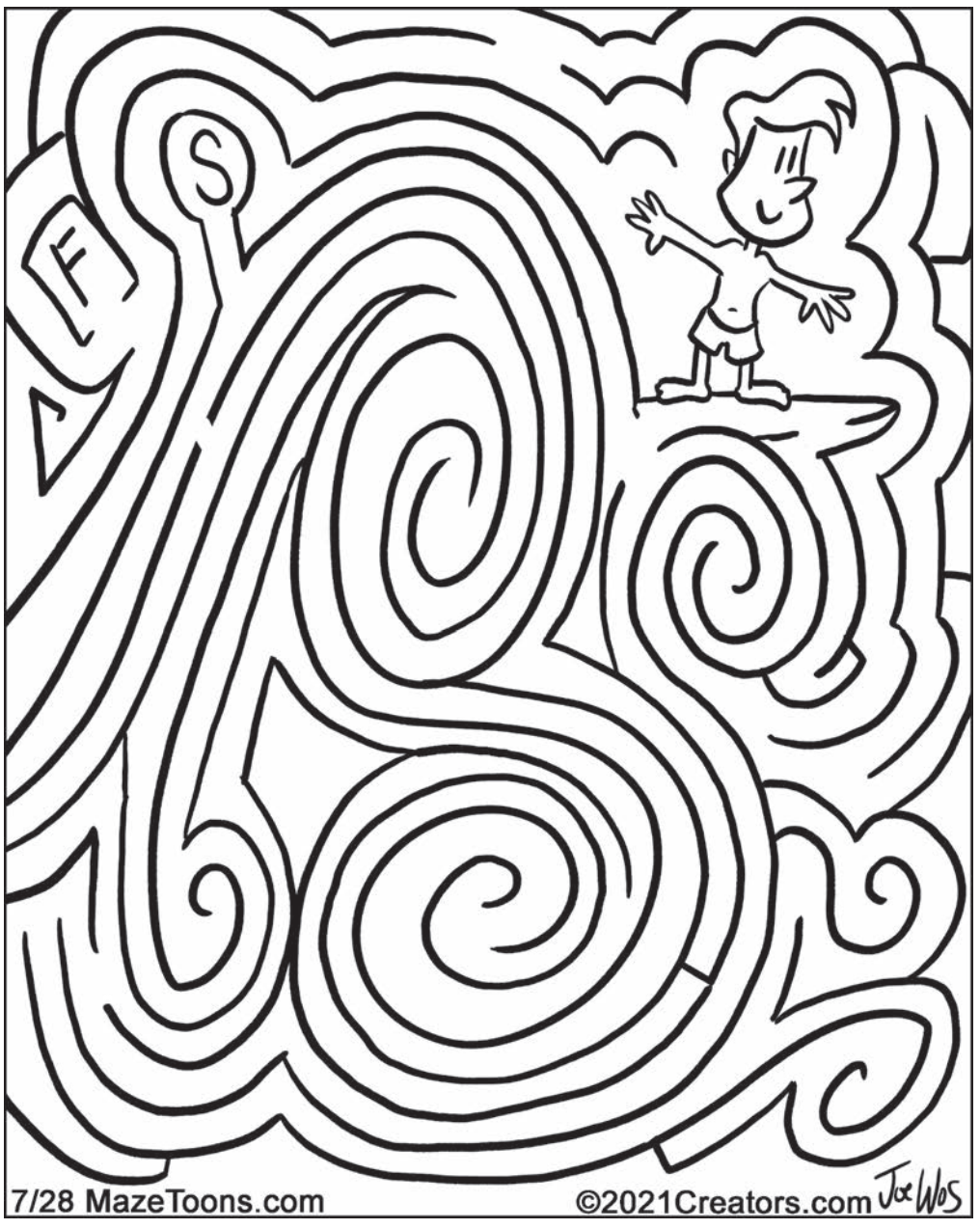
Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Too much reality

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

Acts	Death	Live	Rebecca
Advertisements	Debt	Miranda	Reject
Audio	Digital	News	Retta
Baby	Drama	Nine	Ringo
Board	Elle	Officer	Romance
Bowls	Flaws	Operation	Series
Camel	Footage	Partner	Stephanie
Compass	Golf	Play School	Susan
Cops	Grace	Popular	Tears
Crime	House	Prize	Tone
Dave	Karl	Rake	Tune

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Eye test is done. Now frame selection

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California expands health care to more low-income immigrants

Associated Press

Californians who are at least 50 and living in the country without permission are newly eligible for state health care coverage under legislation signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom Tuesday, part of a record state budget that includes major investments in mental health, homelessness and housing.

The legislation to expand Medi-Cal coverage to low-income adults regardless of immigration status builds upon proposals pushed by Democrats to extend the state's version of federal Medicaid to children in 2016 and to young adults under 26 in 2020.

"It's a point of pride, it's a point of principle, and it's what marks our values here in the state of California," Newsom said at Clinica Sierra Vista Elm Community Health Center in Fresno. "We believe in living together, and advancing and prospering together across every conceivable difference."

The new coverage kicks in next year and will eventually cost taxpayers about $1.3 billion per year. It is expected to apply to about 235,000 people, said the governor, a Democrat. The income threshold to qualify for Medi-Cal is 138% of the federal poverty level or lower— or just over $36,100 for a family of four.

About 3.2 million people in the state of nearly 40 million are projected to not have health insurance next year, according to the Labor Center at the University of California, Berkeley. Nearly half are people who are living in the country illegally, which makes them ineligible for full Medicaid benefits and other health insurance assistance programs.

California is among several states expanding health coverage to immigrants without legal status. Advocates of expanded coverage say that health care is a basic need and that the coronavirus pandemic underscored just how essential immigrants are in agriculture, food processing and other critical industries.

Detractors say taxpayer money should not be spent on unauthorized immigrants.

But many immigrants without legal status pay federal and state taxes, as well as sales tax. Millions of immigrants missed out on pandemic-related stimulus checks because they file federal taxes using what's called a taxpayer identification number and not through a Social Security number.

Beatriz Hernandez, a fellow with the California Immigrant Policy Center, said at the signing event that she is undocumented and knows what it feels like to be denied health care. She is grateful for the new policy.

"We all need this access to health care now and when we recover from the pandemic. It doesn't matter the color of our skin, or where we were born. We all deserve this, and we all contribute to the social fabric of this state," she said.

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 7

publicized, and not much is being offered to draw people here. I think these measures, especially parking, actually hurt us. It seems good for restaurants and bars, but even they don't seem to be any more crowded than last weekend."

A note sent out by the group Main Street Neighbors was titled, "An Event No-one Wanted." Obviously, some wanted it, very badly. The question remains — why?

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

BRIEF

Venice

Class-action suit targets LA over restrictions on RV parking

Parking restrictions imposed by the city of Los Angeles violate the civil rights of people who live in recreational vehicles because they have no other place to live, according to a class-action lawsuit filed in federal court.

The Los Angeles Times reports the lawsuit filed Monday seeks $1 million in punitive damages each against Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Council members and other city officials, but does not ask for monetary compensation.

The class is represented by a woman identified as C. Finley who lives in a recreational vehicle in Venice, according to the Times.

Relief for the class – the thousands of people alleged in the filing to live in recreational vehicles – would be the removal of signs being posted to prohibit overnight parking.

A spokesman for Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer told the newspaper the office would review the complaint and would not comment further.

Among other allegations, the lawsuit claims the parking restrictions violate the rights of homeless people under the 8th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution by imposing penalties for "merely being on, including sitting, sleeping, lying, or parking vehicles on public property for homeless individuals who cannot obtain permanent shelter."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Notices

Notice of Sale of Abandoned property Notice is hereby given that on August 4th at 10:00AM there will be a sale of abandoned property consisting of a household full of furniture and other personal belongings. Sale will be located at 3633 Mentone Ave., Unit 107, Los Angeles, California 90034. This sale may be cancelled anytime up to and including the date shown in the notice. If you wish to be on notice of changes to this sale please email us at info@eberlyco.com

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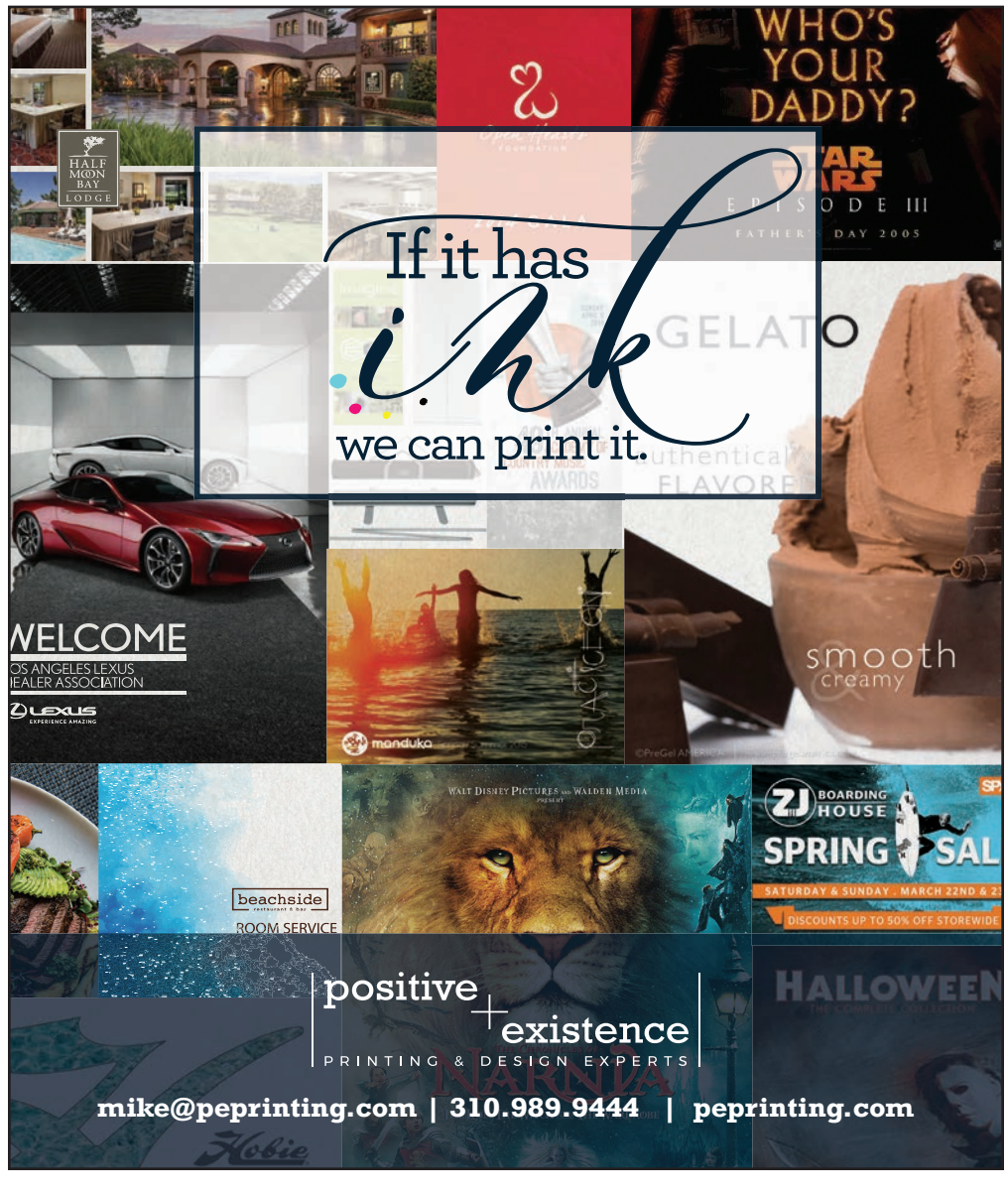


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