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Vaccine mandates coming to Los Angeles area cities

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The City of Santa Monica is joining other local cities considering vaccine requirements for the municipal workforce.

City Hall is meeting with the labor organizations that represent the City's diverse workforce to discuss the impacts of a mandatory vaccination policy and possibly develop a requirement once vaccines are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

City officials said the move comes as Los Angeles County experiences a steep surge in cases and as other government organizations roll

SEE **VACCINES** PAGE 11

Lover of literacy and community Patty Wong prepares to leave Library Director position



Courtesy photo

LIBRARY: Patty Wong has served as library director since 2017

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

After successfully steering the City's public libraries through a year and a half of extreme financial turbulence, Patty Wong is preparing for a new library director to take the helm.

As Wong parts ways with Santa Monica for a position as Library Director in the City of Santa Clara, she leaves behind a legacy of compassionate service, adult literacy programming, increased youth resources, and creative tech integrations.

"What attracted me to Santa Monica was the deep love of the library that our community has, which was evident from the first time I came to visit," said Wong. "What I'm going to miss most is the camaraderie with our extraordinary staff and of course the interaction with the public."

SEE **LIBRARY** PAGE 7

Council tightens noise ordinance limitations targeting protests



Clara Harter

NOISE: UNITE HERE labor union staged a small protest against the ordinance as originally proposed.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

After a debate around First Amendment rights vs the rights of residents to peace and quiet, Council came to a compromise regarding the tightening of the City's noise ordinance this week.

The updated ordinance restricts the time and length of targeted residential protests while protecting the rights of workers to protest in public spaces starting at 7 a.m.

Moving forward, protests targeted at specific residences are allowed between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the weekdays and 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the weekends.

If protesters wish to continue protesting they must move away from the targeted residence and can continue their use of amplified noise from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. This is allowed to happen for two hours for two consecutive days and is limited to 45 minutes on the third day, unless protesters move to a new location. All protests in residential areas are subject to these time and length limits after 8 p.m.

Protests that do not target a specific residence and occur on public property are allowed to use amplified sound from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and weekends. The updated ordinance as originally proposed placed an 8 a.m. start time on weekends, but Mayor Sue Himmelrich strongly advocated for the change to 7 a.m.

"As we know and we've heard from UNITE HERE and others is that 7 a.m. is an important time for them to be able to protest, because working people may begin their shifts at 8 a.m. and they want to exercise their First Amendment rights prior to joining those shifts," said Himmelrich.

UNITE HERE, is a labor union representing hospitality workers. They demonstrated their objection to the 8 a.m. restriction through public comment and by staging a small 7 a.m. protest at the Shore Hotel on July 27.

While Himmelrich was most concerned about First Amendment rights, Councilmember Phil Brock was on the opposite end of the debate, and most concerned about residents' rights.

"How do we find the time to let residents in those apartments, who have worked all week, have at least peace and quiet till 8 a.m.?" said Brock. "Most people in Santa Monica don't have air conditioning and they don't have double glazed glass, so that means those demonstrations would really affect those people."

SEE **PROTEST** PAGE 3



Thinking of making a move?
Let me guide you.

Melanie Tielmann

310.880.8892
melanie.tielmann@compass.com
@melle_compass DRE 01984179

COMPASS

California health exchange rates to increase 1.8% in 2022

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

Individual insurance premiums on California's health exchange for the uninsured will go up 1.8% on average next year — a low increase credited to record enrollment and increased competition among health carriers, officials announced Wednesday.

In the last year, nearly 250,000 people purchased insurance through Covered California, bringing its total enrollment to 1.6 million people.

More than half of the newly enrolled signed up after April 12, when financial subsidies from President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan became available. The subsidies reduce costs for some people and make health insurance basically free for many others through 2022, said Covered California Executive Director Peter Lee.

"By getting more people insured and lowering the costs of coverage, we are creating a virtuous cycle of more people being insured, healthier consumers and lower rates for everyone," Lee said.

The federal Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010, created health insurance marketplaces for some consumers to purchase individual insurance plans with the help of federal subsidies. Most states let the federal government run their marketplaces for them but California runs its own more expansive program.

Covered California premiums average about $830 a month for an individual in 2021. But after subsidies from the Affordable Care Act and the American Rescue Plan, the average consumer would pay less than $100 a month. About 700,000 consumers currently pay only $1, Lee said.

"California is continuing to make significant progress towards covering everyone in our state, and a key part of that is to make sure folks can take advantage of the federal support through the American Rescue Plan," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement.

In California, premiums increased an average of 8.5% per year from 2015 through 2019. Since then, the Democratic-controlled Legislature and governor have passed laws aimed at attracting healthier people to buy coverage, including offering subsidies and taxing those who refuse to buy health insurance. That helps spread costs among more consumers, keeping premiums lower for everybody.

The 1.8% increase for 2022 is higher than the 0.6% for this year and the 0.8% for 2020 but it's still much lower than the average 6% increase in health care costs, Lee said.

"The fact that the premiums went up a third of what it is going up through the employer coverage in 2022 is really very good news," he said.

More competition among health care providers has also contributed to lower rates, Lee said. There are now 12 health companies in the exchange, giving most consumers at least four choices of providers.

"Over 80% of Californians can now choose four or more different carriers so that means that the consumer is really in the driver's seat," Lee said.

The rates announced Wednesday still must be approved by state regulators. The overall rate increase is a statewide average. What each consumer will actually pay depends on where they live and which insurance plan they purchase.

According to Covered California, there are about 2.7 million Californians who lack health insurance through their work or family and about 1.2 million of them are either eligible for subsidies to help pay their monthly premiums or qualify for government-funded insurance through Medi-Cal.

On Tuesday, Newsom signed a law allowing Californians who are at least 50 and living in the country without permission to qualify for state health care coverage. It is expected to apply to about 235,000 people.

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 adults under 26 in 2020.

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 12:13 A.M.

Officers responded to the 1400 block of Ocean Avenue regarding a "Disturbance at a Business." Dispatchers advised that a transient individual had punched another male. Upon arrival, the victim relayed that he was working nearby and had stepped outside into the alley to throw trash away when the transient male approached him and struck him on the face with a can. The suspect then ran off as the victim chased after him and held him at the location until police arrived. Chase Carlsteph Dalton was found still holding the can he used to hit the victim. Dalton was arrested for a 245(a)(1)PC- Assault with a deadly weapon. Dalton had also originally provided officers with incorrect identifying information and was found to be in possession of an instrument to smoke narcotics. Furthermore, a records check revealed Dalton was on parole. Officers additionally charged Dalton with 11364(a) H and S - possession of drug paraphernalia, 148.9(a) PC - providing false identification to police officer, and 3000.08 (c) PC - Violation of Parole Warrant.

Delivery apps expand reach to meet customer demands

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

Spurred by skyrocketing consumer demand during the pandemic, restaurant delivery companies like DoorDash and Uber Eats are rapidly expanding their services to grocers, convenience stores, pharmacies, pet stores and even department stores.

On Wednesday, Uber Eats unveiled its newest delivery option: flowers. Uber Eats will let users order flowers directly from its app as part of a partnership with ProFlowers, an FTD subsidiary. Flower delivery will be offered first in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and a few other U.S. cities; it will be available nationwide by early next year.

"If we can deliver your burrito in 30 minutes or deliver your ice cream still frozen, we should be able to deliver anything in under an hour," said Fuad Hannon, the head of new verticals at DoorDash. "The technology makes that possible."

Expanding beyond restaurant delivery is critical for Uber Eats and DoorDash, which have struggled to make a profit on the slim margins they get from restaurants.

Restaurant delivery can be profitable in dense urban markets, where drivers can complete multiple orders in an hour, said Ali Mogharabi, a senior equity analyst with Morningstar. But outside of cities, where deliveries take longer, adding orders from Walgreens or Costco makes better use of drivers' time.

Offering more items for delivery also attracts customers, many of whom will fork over the $9.99 monthly fee DoorDash and Uber Eats charge for unlimited deliveries.

Raj Beri, Uber Eats' global head of grocery and new verticals, said the company saw a huge influx of users after the pandemic began, and many are sticking with delivery even as the pandemic ebbs. To keep them, it needs to offer goods and services they value.

"More of our users are trying these verticals outside of restaurants. Those customers have more stickiness on the platform," he said. "They're more engaged, so the membership becomes more valuable to them."

DoorDash and Uber Eats face stiff competition from established players like Instacart and Amazon, which are also experts in delivery logistics. Instacart currently controls 67% of the U.S. grocery pickup and delivery business, while Amazon controls 22%, according to Edison Trends. DoorDash and Uber Eats together control 1%.

Non-restaurant delivery makes up around 5% of sales at both Uber Eats and DoorDash. But that business is growing rapidly. DoorDash started working with convenience stores like 7-Eleven in April 2020 and more recently opened its own DashMart fulfillment centers. It's already the market leader in convenience store delivery, with a 60% share of the market, according to Edison Trends.

And there's enormous opportunity ahead. Beri says around 3 million customers per month are ordering non-restaurant deliveries from Uber Eats, but the company has a total of 98 million active users around the world. And Mogherabi estimates there will be $1 trillion worth of deliverable goods and services in the U.S. by 2025.

Delivery comes at a price. The in-store price of a gallon of milk at a Meijer in Michigan is $1.68; on the DoorDash app, it's $2.99. But so far, the extra fees aren't dampening demand. Uber Eats said non-restaurant delivery jumped 77% between the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of this year. DoorDash said non-restaurant delivery rose 40% in the same period.

Cynthia Carrasco White, a single mother and a lawyer for a Los Angeles nonprofit, used to think delivery was a luxury she couldn't afford. But she started getting meals, groceries and other necessities delivered last year so she could avoid taking her young, unvaccinated daughters to the store.

White has come to see delivery as a lifeline that saves her time, gas money and child care expenses. She uses various apps, including Uber Eats and DoorDash, and takes advantage of deals when she can.

"Now that I've seen how beneficial it is, I'll figure out a way to cut costs and continue to use it," she said.

Delivery also comes at a cost to stores, depending on the services they're using. Some businesses, like Macy's and Walmart, have customers order products on their own web site and use DoorDash to make deliveries. At other stores, like 7-Eleven or CVS, Uber Eats and DoorDash drivers do the shopping and make deliveries.

In some cases, it's a mix. The grocery chain Alberstons recently signed a deal with DoorDash for delivery from nearly 2,000 U.S. stores. In some locations, DoorDash drivers do the shopping and delivery. At other stores, Alberstons workers pack the groceries and DoorDash is only used for delivery.

Albertsons laid off many of its own delivery workers earlier this year; at least some were given other jobs within the store, the company says. Amber Kappa, Albertsons' vice president for e-commerce, said the chain simply couldn't keep up with digital order demand, which nearly tripled last year.

"If we don't offer one- to two-hour delivery fast and near-free, I don't know how long we'd last," Kappa said.

For some businesses, delivery companies are helping eliminate expensive shipping. Petco uses DoorDash to move heavy bags of kibble and kitty litter to customers' doorsteps, which is much faster and cheaper than shipping them.

"It costs the same amount of money to take a 40-pound bag as it costs for a tennis ball in that DoorDasher's trunk," said Petco CEO Ron Coughlin.

But not every delivery driver is pleased about delivery's expansion.

Barbara Mensch of Rutherfordton, North Carolina, who drives for both DoorDash and Instacart, said business was booming in the early days of the pandemic. But lately, customers have been tipping less generously, and she often turns down DoorDash orders. She doesn't like shopping for goods in unfamiliar stores like Dollar Tree or idling at Walmart while a worker prepares a delivery.

"A $13 order that takes you 45 minutes? It's not a good value for your time," she said. "I would do better to stay at home and not

SEE **DELIVERY** PAGE 5

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 307 CALLS ON JULY 27

Audible Burglar Alarm 1200blk 15th St 12:19 a.m.
Fraud Report 1400blk 2nd St 12:21 a.m.
Party Complaint 1300blk 2nd St 12:42 a.m.
Lost Property 1700blk The Beach 12:55 a.m.
Family Disturbance 1500blk Yale St 12:56 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 1:17 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:18 a.m.
Suspicious Vehicle 1100blk 24th St 1:34 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 7th St / Broadway 2:42 a.m.
Vandalism Report 300blk Olympic Dr 5:51 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 5:58 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk The Beach 5:58 a.m.
Encampment 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 6:03 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 6:59 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 7:07 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:12 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 7:32 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 500blk 25th St 7:34 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1500blk 7th St 7:51 a.m.
Forensics Request - Miscellaneous 300blk Olympic Dr 7:57 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1700blk 16th St 8:16 a.m.
Scar Investigation 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:46 a.m.
Encampment 500blk The Beach 8:49 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 9th St 8:56 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100blk Hollister Ave 9:04 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 9:16 a.m.
Vandalism Report 2800blk 2nd St 9:16 a.m.
Burglary Report 2400blk Hill St 9:17 a.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 1900blk 12th St 9:17 a.m.
Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 1000blk Michigan Ave 9:34 a.m.
Vandalism Report 3000blk Lincoln Blvd 9:37 a.m.
Family Disturbance 2600blk Barnard Way 9:39 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk 9th St 9:43 a.m.
Burglary Report 300blk Santa Monica Pl 9:47 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 10:08 a.m.
Fight 1400blk 4th St 10:39 a.m.
Burglary Report 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:43 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 600blk Idaho Ave 11:08 a.m.
Loitering 1400blk Ocean Ave 11:17 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000blk 10th St 11:18 a.m.
Fight 10th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:24 a.m.
Elder Abuse 1300blk 15th St 11:38 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2600blk 33rd St 11:41 a.m.
Forensics Request - Fingerprint 2400blk Hill St 11:46 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 6th St 11:58 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:05 p.m.
Domestic Violence Now 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:05 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 19th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:20 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600blk Idaho Ave 12:38 p.m.
Encampment 3300blk Barnard Way 1:04 p.m.
Medical Emergency 400blk Santa Monica Pier 1:14 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Hart Ave 1:15 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 1:40 p.m.
Trespassing 1100blk Palisades Park 1:41 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 3100blk Highland Ave 1:44 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 1:46 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1500blk Berkeley St 1:47 p.m.
Information Only Broadcast 300blk Olympic Dr 1:49 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:50 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 10th St 1:59 p.m.
Forensics Request - Fingerprint 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:08 p.m.
Trespassing 300blk Idaho Ave 2:11 p.m.
Identity Theft 2500blk Pico Blvd 2:19 p.m.
Burglary Report 500blk Broadway 2:55 p.m.
Fraud Report 800blk Princeton St 3:35 p.m.
Trespassing 1300blk 9th St 3:41 p.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 800blk 5th St 3:46 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 900blk Wilshire Blvd 3:51 p.m.
Trespassing 1500blk Olympic Blvd 3:56 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1900blk Ocean Way 4:01 p.m.
Trespassing 2100blk Stewart St 4:49 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1000blk 7th St 4:49 p.m.
Fraud Report 800blk Broadway 5:13 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:45 p.m.
Panic Alarm 2500blk Wilshire Blvd 5:45 p.m.
Burglary Report 400blk Broadway 5:55 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1000blk 7th St 5:55 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1700blk Ocean Ave 6:05 p.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 1900blk 12th St 6:06 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2600blk 31st St 6:07 p.m.
Battery Report 7th St / Arizona Ave 6:12 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 800blk 9th St 6:14 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Pl 6:18 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Broadway 6:35 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 7th St / Montana Ave 6:49 p.m.
Family Disturbance 200blk Ocean Ave 6:53 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 6:56 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:58 p.m.
Medical Emergency 300blk Santa Monica Pier 7:05 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 7:08 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:30 p.m.
Trespassing 2300blk Main St 8:33 p.m.
Trespassing 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 8:36 p.m.
Prowler 700blk 7th St 8:37 p.m.

SEE **POLICE LOG** PAGE 5

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 30 CALLS ON JULY 27

EMS 400blk Expo Line 12:31 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk California Ave 5:55 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1300blk 17th St 7:08 a.m.
EMS 800blk Ocean Ave 8:03 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:14 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2300blk Main St 8:43 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 4th St 9:12 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:24 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk Ocean Ave 10:13 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 10:24 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 11:14 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 11:40 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:41 a.m.
Lock In/Out 1400blk Harvard St 11:56 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 12th St 11:56 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Pico Blvd 12:20 p.m.
EMS 100blk Colorado Ave 1:25 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:52 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk California Ave 2:03 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 2:09 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 2nd St 2:14 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2900blk Washington Ave 2:36 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Neilson Way 2:53 p.m.
EMS 800blk 12th St 5:13 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100blk 2nd St 5:19 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 7:07 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 7:17 p.m.
Request Fire Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd E 10:05 p.m.
EMS 400blk Colorado 11:29 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Harvard St 11:35 p.m.

PROTEST

FROM PAGE 1

Under the understanding that protests targeting specific residences with amplified sound would still be limited to 8 a.m. weekend starts, Council agreed to adapt Himmelrich's proposed amendment and the updated ordinance passed unanimously.

This discussion came on the heels of a year of significant protesting activity in Santa Monica, including Black Lives Matter movement in summer 2020 and protests at Sheila Kuehl's house in fall 2020.

According to the staff report, the latter movement "went on for several weeks, involved nightly, hours-long uses of amplified sound in a residential neighborhood that generated multiple complaints from residents."

These complaints spurred Council to request that staff review changes to the noise ordinance on Dec. 15, 2020.

The new ordinance preserves protesters rights to target specific residences with amplified noise, but provides respite for affected residents during evening and early morning hours. The ordinance also retains a 50 foot distance restriction between protesters and targeted residences.

Clara@smdp.com

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Employment/Help Wanted

Applications Engineer (4) - sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. Dsg & build solutions for Snap's Oracle CloudFinancial & Procurement apps. B.S. or for. eq. + 5 yrs exp. OR M.S. or for. eq. + 3 yrs exp. req. Resumes: HalehHR, SnapInc., 3000 31st St., Ste C, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Use Job Code #AE4-0721-JK. EOE.

Employment/Help Wanted

Software Engineer (Camera Platform) sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. Dsgn & implmt s/ware for MacOS,Windows, iOS & Android. BS or for. eq. + 3 yrs req. Resumes: HalehHR, Snap Inc., 3000 31st St., Ste C, Santa Monica,CA 90405. Use Job Code #SWE-0721-KB. EOE.

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LEMLE LAW GROUP, PC

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Matthew King,
Kimberly Jaffe.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Clara Harter
clara@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND PARTNERSHIPS
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com
Diana Corona
diana@smdp.com
Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

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New CDC guidelines set off rush to reimpose mask mandates

PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

States and businesses scrambled Wednesday to change course after the federal government issued new guidance calling for the return of mask wearing in virus hot spots amid a dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations nationwide.

Nevada and Kansas City were among the locations that moved swiftly to re-impose indoor mask mandates following Tuesday's announcement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The guidelines also call on all schools to require masks for students, teachers and visitors, and districts around the country tried to navigate the latest advice.

In a handful of Republican-led states, lawmakers have made it illegal for schools to require masks. South Carolina's governor said the state would not reverse its mask restriction, but Arkansas leaders are weighing whether to revisit an April law banning local and state government entities from requiring masks.

Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson has faced growing calls to lift that ban, at least for schools, as virus cases and hospitalizations surge in the state.

Ford Motor Co., meanwhile, said it would reinstate face mask protocols for all employees and visitors at its Missouri and Florida facilities. The two states are among the hardest-hit by the summer surge in which the U.S. is now averaging more than 60,000 new cases a day, driven by the highly contagious delta variant spreading through unvaccinated populations.

Other government leaders said they will hold off reinstating mask rules for now.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf said he's not considering imposing a mask mandate in schools or statewide, though he urged Pennsylvanians to follow federal guidance. The Democrat said state mandates on masks were necessary before there was a vaccine.

"People have the ability to make the decision to get a vaccine," he said, speaking Tuesday on Pittsburgh radio station KDKA-AM. "If they do, that's the protection."

The CDC's new guidance applies to places with at least 50 new cases per 100,000 people in the last week, which is roughly 60% of all U.S. counties, federal officials said.

Nearly all of the South and Southwest is subject to the guidance, but most communities in the Northeast — with the exception of major metro areas like New York City and Boston — are exempt for now, according to the CDC's COVID tracker.

Elsewhere, conservative officials pushed back against reviving mask mandates, setting up the potential for a patchwork of regulations within states and counties.

In Missouri, the St. Louis County Council voted Tuesday to reverse the county's mask mandate, just a day after it became one of the first reinstated in the country.

But Democratic County Executive Sam Page insisted Wednesday that the mandate remained in effect and blamed the pushback on politics.

"This is a national problem that went all the way up to the top with the last president," he said. "And we do have some folks in our country who work very hard to undermine public health efforts with a lot of very inflammatory rhetoric."

On the other side of the state, Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, a Democrat, promised to provide details Wednesday on his plans to order mask wearing indoors in Missouri's largest city.

"We cannot ignore the rapid spread of the COVID-19 delta variant in Missouri — outpacing much of the country," he said in a statement. "We will do all we can to ensure our corner of this state is safe."

Meanwhile in Springfield, a hospital began expanding its morgue capacity as the state's virus death toll soared. Steve Edwards, the CEO of CoxHealth, said his company brought in temporary cooling equipment because 75 patients in area hospitals have died this month.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said Wednesday that her agency's updated guidance was prompted by new data suggesting vaccinated people can pass on the virus in rare cases.

"I know this is not a message America wants to hear," she told CNN. "With prior variants, when people had these rare breakthrough infections, we didn't see the capacity of them to spread the virus to others, but with the delta variant, we now see that you can actually now pass it to somebody else."

Walensky stressed that COVID vaccines are working by preventing greater levels of hospitalization and death.

Unvaccinated people, she also noted, account for the vast number of new infections. Two-thirds of the vaccine-eligible population in the U.S. has received at least one dose.

"We can halt the chain of transmission," she told "CBS This Morning" on Wednesday. "We can do something if we unify together, if we get people vaccinated who are not yet vaccinated. If we mask in the interim, we can halt this in just a matter of a couple of weeks."

In Provincetown, Massachusetts, where officials earlier this week re-imposed an indoor mask requirement following a surge in COVID-19 cases this month, store owner

SEE **MASK** PAGE 11

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Audit: California prison program illegally spent $1.3M

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

A California prison program that employs inmates illegally spent $1.3 million on goods and salaries, including $82,000 in artificial turf that has gone unused, as part of a pattern of "gross misconduct," state auditors said Tuesday.

They recommended disciplinary action against California Prison Industry Authority employees who authorized the spending and also executives they said repeatedly circumvented state civil service laws to favor relatives and friends for jobs and promotions.

The "repeated violations of state laws governing spending and hiring constitute gross misconduct," auditors said. The executives "neglected their duties as stewards of CalPIA funds, failed to act in the best interest of CalPIA, and harmed prospective job applicants."

The semi-independent authority employs state prison inmates, with the goal of teaching good work habits and occupational skills. It oversees inmates who produce more than 1,400 goods and services including things like office furniture, clothing, food and printed products, much of which is sold to state agencies.

It is supposed to be financially self-sufficient from sales of the products, and to operate as much as possible like private industry.

PIA is under new leadership since the problems 2 1/2 years ago, authority spokeswoman Michele Kane said in a statement, adding that it has since taken steps to increase accountability and oversight.

Authority executives made at least 10 "bad faith" job appointments from 2016 through 2019, the auditors found. They urged the state to take steps like voiding the appointments, reclassifying the jobs and requiring employees to return their compensation.

They included a classmate of a staff manager in 2018 who was improperly hired as a "special consultant," at least two children of executives, and an employee who is both the son-in-law of an executive and the spouse of another authority employee.

In perhaps the most egregious case, another employee was the son of one authority executive and the brother of another employee, and was hired after officials "manipulated the process" to put aside his poor test score. Officials then promoted him despite a lack of qualifications, and auditors suggested the state could require him to return more than $266,000 that they said was "unlawfully earned."

It suggested a different employee, an executive's son-in-law, should have to return $169,000 in wages. The authority said it has asked the state's human resources department to review those recommendations.

The "wasteful" spending on the turf and other purchases that benefited other state agencies were unlawful because they didn't advance the authority's mission, auditors found. The authority bought the turf in 2018 but prison officials hadn't installed as of March 2021 because it would cost another $100,000 to do so and would require using metal stakes that inmates could turn into weapons.

Aside from buying the artificial turf, the authority improperly spent $433,000 for a camera system around a prison, $350,000 on equipment and other purchases for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and more than $213,000 for prison warden training, auditors found.

It also unlawfully gave nearly $163,000 worth of inmate-made furniture to other state agencies. Other improper gifts of public funds to other agencies included $66,000 for digital cameras and $7,000 for a "bronzed state seal," auditors said.

DELIVERY

FROM PAGE 2

use my car at all than go out and work for peanuts."

But Kweli Murphy of Englewood, California, who drives for both DoorDash and Uber Eats, says he's happy with the work. Murphy, 19, just bought his first car with his delivery earnings, which average around $150 for six hours of driving.

Most of his deliveries still come from restaurants, but he occasionally shops for orders in places like AutoZone and CVS.

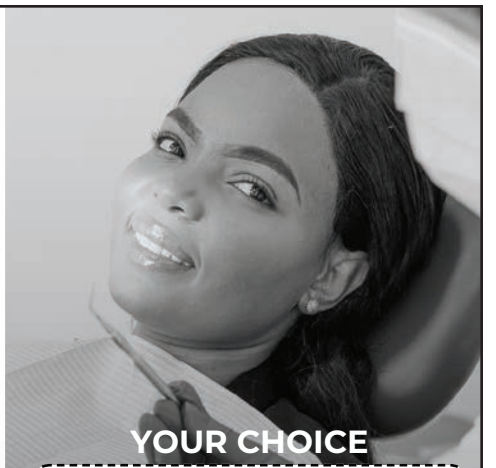
"It's not a big deal to go shopping for people. It's just an opportunity to go into different places other than restaurants," he said.

AP Business Writer Joseph Pisani contributed from New York.

POLICE LOG

FROM PAGE 3

Vandalism Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pl 8:45 p.m.
Fraud Report 800blk 3rd St 9:00 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600blk 9th St 9:52 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd E 10:02 p.m.
Trespassing 1800blk 10th St 10:04 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:13 p.m.
Family Disturbance 2500blk Pico Blvd 10:21 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation Ocean Ave / California Ave 10:26 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 14th St / Idaho Ave 10:30 p.m.
Loud Music 1500blk Berkeley St 11:11 p.m.
Suspicious Person 1800blk 9th St 11:16 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 400blk Colorado Ave 11:18 p.m.
Encampment 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:18 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Stanford St 11:41 p.m.
Keep The Peace 500blk Colorado Ave 11:48 p.m.

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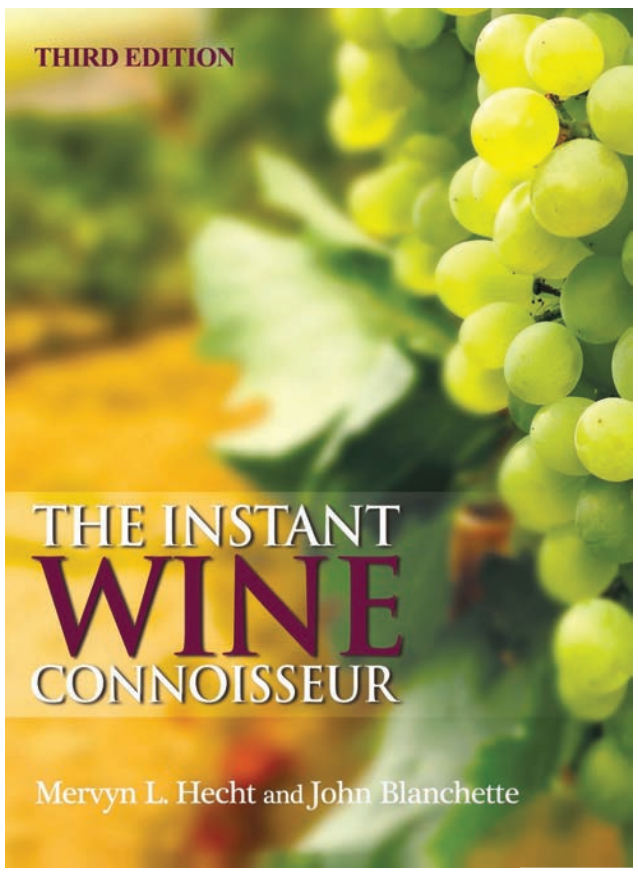
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★★★★★ **...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste**



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Noteworthy

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Star Is Born!

IN SANTA MONICA!

I keep waiting, and anticipating in this column, prematurely, the full blown return of live music. For all those months I thought it would come in a tsunami, all venue doors finally safely thrown wide open to a music-starved audience and a flood of housebound, claustrophobic musicians, creativity and new works itching for release, elbowing each other to get on stage first.

Sigh.

Thanks to fanatic medieval-mindset anti vaxxers and other knucklehead science deniers, many of them witlessly following the lead of the former Ignoramus-in-Chief who cares not one whit for any other life but his own (go ahead — argue that one with me), we are now in a deadly, rapidly spreading epidemic of the unvaccinated. It's so hard to comprehend and get used to, but here we are.

We well know that Trump made it "acceptable" to be racist, and misogynist, homophobic, xenophobic etc etc etc, but perhaps even more damaging, in the wider picture, was his promotion and elevation of sheer stupidity. Bleach, anyone? Not only do folks now admit they get their "facts" from bloggers, right wing radio liars, some guy on YouTube and their conspiracy-consumed QAnon cousin, they are danged proud of their inside knowledge and will argue their beliefs-based-on-nothing loudly and publicly. Those secret facts, that almost no one else knows. Yes, that ridiculous behavior kills people, but it can also.

KILL THE MUSIC

Please God, no. We now, all of us, even the vaccinated, have to wear masks indoors, and even outdoors sometimes. The fabled acting company Theatricum Botanicum, where I'm going with friends for a world premier staging this Saturday of "The Last Best Town," is up and running but we will have to wear masks while sitting in that beautiful outdoor amphitheater in the woods of Topanga Canyon.

And since I brought that up... I guess I must, for the umpteenth time, lament that Will Geer's Theatrucum Botanicum, one of the very best acting ensembles I've ever seen, tackling each summer a handful of Shakespeare and other provocative, socially conscious, often cutting edge presentations, retains, after nearly 50 years, the regrettable distinction of being still one of LA's "best kept secrets." On a picnic recently with three friends, TB was mentioned and two said they had never been but always wanted to, and the other said she went maybe 20 years ago and loved it but somehow had never been back. Another sigh.

But that's why I write this column, to let you know about the good stuff that may be missing your radar. We picnic pals will be occupying five seats on the benches in the amphitheater, after a lovely picnic dinner in the lovely woods of Topanga, all on the huge grounds of the Geer family property.

Don't miss peeking at the very rustic, diminutive log cabin that was occupied by Woody Guthrie on his frequent visits there. Woody's son Arlo, Pete Seeger, Della Reese, Burl Ives and many more performed there, when the McCarthy Black List kept Geer and many others from performing anywhere because of suspected "Communist sympathies." (And now we are plagued by a new McCarthy.)



Courtesy photo

DUSTY HILL: that bass, that beard.

"THE LAST BEST SMALL TOWN"

By local playwright John Guerra is premiering this Saturday, extending through Nov. 6, and if you can get tickets, through their website — TB shows often sell out — they are only 5-15 bucks for kids, $15 for students, teachers, seniors or veterans, and $26 for adults, all general admission, upper tier. (There are no bad seats.)

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" (through Nov. 7) and "Julius Caesar" (through Oct. 30) comprise their abbreviated COVID summer Shakespeare schedule.

EM THE MASTER

Do you really want to make people skeptical before they even come through the door, with an over-the-top name like that? She's young, she's British, but what could she be Master of?

Well — showmanship, songwriting, electric piano pounding, stage presence, singing, charisma, theatrics, energy, arranging, band leading, choreography — what else you want? She's also an actress, activist, and recently on the New York Times bestseller list with a little ditty she co-authored with Lady Gaga.

I was going to tell you a lot about her but the death of Dusty Hill (below) required immediate attention. Here's what you need to know for now:

She will be performing at Harvelle's, downtown SM, every Tuesday for as long as they can keep her. I would go right away if I were you. Because you will want to go back, and bring friends, to show them how smart you are and your awesome taste in undiscovered talent. 9 p.m. Gotta be the best 10 bucks you ever spent.

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 7

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 6

R.I.P. DUSTY HILL (72)

As I write this. Quite a loss. When you are a power guitar trio, like ZZ Top, the bass player better hold up his end, and he did. No easy chore when the monster guitar slinger on your left is the great Billy Gibbons. A unique story in the annals of rock and roll, and that's saying something.

How many classic songs did they create? You might say there was a similarity, but that's the blues, brother. And Hill and his ZZ brothers did it electric rock style better than almost anyone, for decades. I was fortunate enough to see them a few times, and they always tore the roof off. While barely swaying onstage.

One tour though, in 1976, got pretty theatrical, and was so popular they extended it to 18 months, unheard of in those days. It was their "Worldwide Texas Tour," on a mission to "bring Texas to the people," with a 35-ton stage in the shape of the Lone Star State and a menagerie of Texas critters including a buffalo, a Longhorn steer, several venomous rattlesnakes, some tarantulas, and six vultures all called Oscar. God bless rock and roll.

When they were so known for their iconic hot rods and those long beards — once started, never looking back — of course that was only Hill and Gibbons, drolly enough, drummer Frank Beard never grew one — their music always transcended their quirky image.

A big Stetson hats off to you, Mr. Hill.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

THE RETURN OF THE LEVITT PAVILION SUMMER CONCERTS — I am so thrilled this free, family friendly concert series in MacArthur Park is back. I have seen a lot of great shows through Levitt, from Fishbone to Loudon Wainwright III to bands I didn't know before, ranging in style from cumbia to electronic to soul to Tejano to Mexican and Central American folkloric to hip-hop and punk and beyond.

They are wasting no time with their return, having four shows scheduled just this next week. I would recommend googling the artists for a little preview, but I will say that I have almost always been impressed by the programming for these shows, so much so that I have gone to them without knowing what to expect but trusting that it will be a good time, and it pretty much always is.

One show I will recommend is happening this Sunday, presented by the Little Ethiopia Cultural & Resource Center, featuring the legendary Rastafarian and reggae artist Ras Michael and his group The Sons & Daughters of Negus. Opening for Ras is King Malik, and Guade, neither of whom I was able to find out much about online, but am open to learning more this weekend! See you there?

Sunday 4 p.m., Levitt Pavilion, free.

(This event will also be livestreamed. Visit https://levittlosangeles.org/ for details)

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He 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

LIBRARY

FROM PAGE 1

When the pandemic hit and Wong lost 65 full-time equivalent staff members, she worked tirelessly to restructure the libraries' services and bring them back to the public to the safest and fullest extent possible.

This meant rapidly developing curbside pick-up services, converting programming to virtual equivalents, and applying for a grant that made the reopening of the Ocean Park Branch possible through a self-service system.

Wong also developed take-home education and activity kits for children to ensure they didn't fall behind on their literacy benchmarks while the libraries were closed. She then advocated for the addition of a permanent youth services specialist in the revised budget to ensure youth programming does not get left behind as the library continues to grapple with reduced funding.

"We're now in the process of rebuilding and reinvesting in library services in a different way. We've had to create new hybrid in-person models as well as our very popular digital resources," said Wong. "We keep asking ourselves how can libraries best serve their communities and that means that we're going to continue to look at new improved models."

Wong encourages the next person who fills her position to continue exploring how technology can enhance the library's resources and expand services under its restricted budget. She had begun looking into alternative funding sources for the library to protect it from the City's budget volatility.

"I would say that moving forward funding diversification may need to be something that the new leadership works on because it will be many years before the library can be rebuilt entirely based on our current circumstances," said Wong. "We may need a little bit more creativity in terms of investment."

Wong began working at Santa Monica libraries in 2017 and pioneered many changes during her tenure. She revived an adult literacy program, which has graduated over 50 individuals. She also brought two social workers on site to address the needs of homeless library patrons.

Wong spearheaded efforts to recruit a more diverse workforce and coordinated speakers, discussions, and forums around racism and the fight for equality in response to last summer's Black Lives Matter movement.

"I'm really proud of the strong work that we've done, both in the city, but especially at the library, focusing on equity, diversity and inclusion," said Wong.

As she departs, Wong encourages community members to become involved with the libraries. She was very impressed with the Save Santa Monica Public Libraries group that emerged in May to push for more library funding and hopes residents continue to support their work.

"I would ask for the community's patience as we reinvest in our library and remind people of all of the wonderful services that we currently have available," said Wong. "And I strongly encourage all of the readers of the Daily Press to become advocates of the library through engaging with this new group."

Clara@smdp.com



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



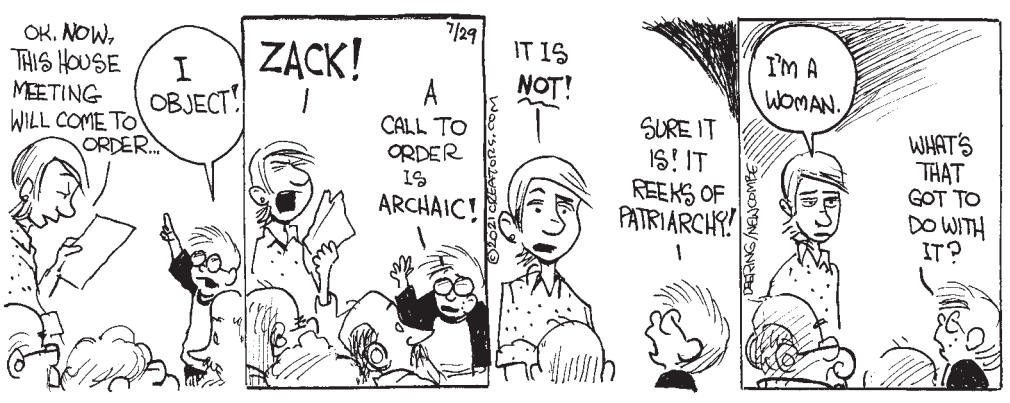
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



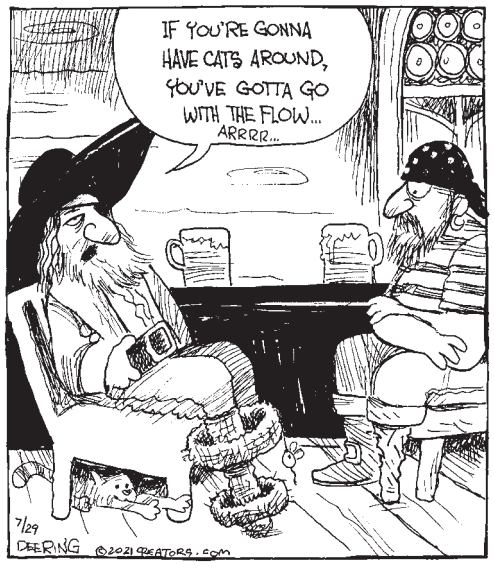
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 64.0°

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.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Smaller but clean early. Not much NW windswell so the leftover SSW/S swell is best for the summer magnets with some structure.

WEATHER

Thursday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 74.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 65.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 73.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/08/02	Mon	11:13 AM	2.81	L
2021/08/02	Mon	5:58 PM	5.08	H
2021/08/03	Tue	01:45 AM	0.73	L
2021/08/03	Tue	08:36 AM	3.38	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/27
2 35 36 54 64
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 166 M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/27
3 22 25 31 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/27
EVENING: 1 6 7
Draw Date: 7/27
MIDDAY: 8 4 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/27
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:45.50

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 29)

Your best is more than good enough; you believe it, live it and leverage it into ever-more useful achievements, ones to the great benefit of you and others alike. Oddly, though you've never been better at realizing your potential, you are also somehow becoming increasingly selfless, as you become the work and ideals you endeavor. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 1, 39, 50 and 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't always have to know what you're doing, or how to do it, to successfully execute your purpose. Intention comes with its own intelligence and it will serve you well today. Head on into the thing!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To focus on your favorite interest to the exclusion of all else isn't exactly healthy, but greatness is often tinged with such obsession and achieved through a process of imbalances righted.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The thing that gets your back up isn't all bad. Anger can be a creative resource, or it can be a distraction keeping you from more important work or, even more important, fun. So, which is it?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are moving ever-forward, driven by a mix of curiosity, need, responsibility, loyalty and ambition. It's good fuel, but you also require the very practical energy provided by proper nutrition. Look into new choices in that regard.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're a magnet for talented people, and you spot them even when they are not performing the thing they are so talented at. Your own talents are activated and grow in the atmosphere you create together.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It helps to have an awareness of the price paid by those who went before you. Mentally touching on that history -- the integrity and sacrifices of remarkable people -- will shield you from the vulgarity and idiocy so common today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're known to politely decline invitations, and now you'll take that skill to the next level by saying no in such a way as to also compliment people, letting them know how much you like them, even if you can't do all they want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You make plans, and you stick to them. The same loyalty and follow-through applies whether orchestrating for yourself or for others. Integrity is a 360-degree virtue.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Explaining has a way of complicating things. If there's a lot to explain, maybe there's something wrong with the procedure itself. Take a few steps back, and ask yourself if there's a simpler way to accomplish the aim.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Words are organizing tools. Wordless ideas are also organizing tools. Work from both directions. You'll get your head straight by talking or writing things out, and you'll get your words straight by thinking and feeling things through.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A voice is a powerful tool. Making the most of it is a responsibility most people are not aware enough to claim. You seize the opportunity, educate yourself on pressing issues and choose your words carefully.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your idols keep you sharp, but so do your rivals. Today, you may find your rivals the more motivating of the two, as the fuel they provide will be immediate, readily available and abundantly flowing.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

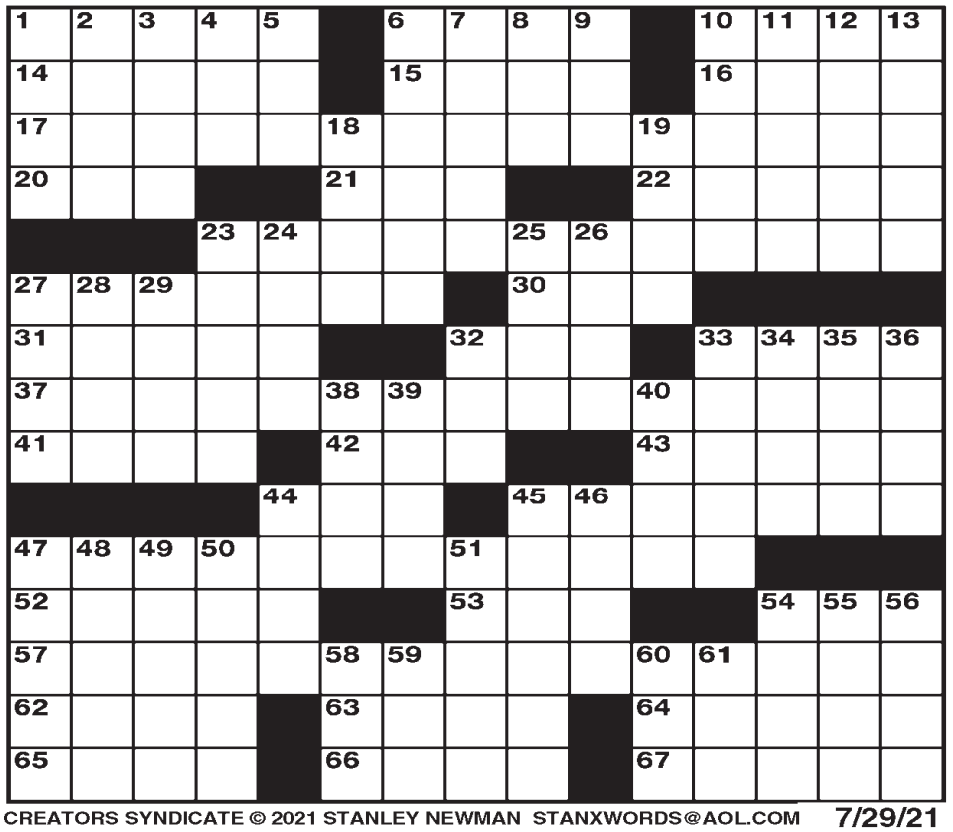
6	9				4		5	
3				8		6		
	5		2			8		4
	1	4		2	8			3
			3		9			
5			7	4		2	9	
2		5			3		4	
		6		1				7
	7		4				8	5

Newsday Crossword

DISNEYESQUE by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Secure, as a hoodie
6 What fitness fans fight
10 Performer often "trapped in a box"
14 Japanese watchdog
15 Southwestern wolf
16 Full house toppers, at times
17 Neckline features of some children's wear
20 For example
21 Text with a !
22 Home seen on Nat Geo
23 They drop water on fires from copters
27 Frozen dessert designation
30 Pose something
31 Essential ___ acids
32 Have available
33 Got behind
37 Rags-to-riches narrative
41 Brewhouse barrels
42 Stopping point
43 Got dinner delivered
44 Pollen holder
45 Add to one's age
47 Frisbee's original name
52 Part of France's Parliament
53 Thing on a stalk
54 Pressure letters
57 Largest members of the largest insect order
62 Came to earth
63 Pop favorite
64 Meal for Oliver Twist
65 Quipsters
66 Copy, in brief
67 "I want it now!"

DOWN
1 Microwaves
2 Buy-and-build retailer
3 "Oh, that's too bad"
4 Onetime Navajo foe
5 2, for many mini-golf holes
6 On fire, for dinner
7 Idea's initiation
8 Grades that make a good average
9 Late-October exclamation
10 *Bohemian Rhapsody* Oscar actor Rami
11 Statement of sincerity
12 Reason for a raise
13 Outskirts of Sioux Falls
18 Fleshy fruit
19 Have not
23 Musical battlers
24 Organic soother
25 Lecture, with "out"
26 Sch. near Chesapeake Bay
27 Emulate Attila
28 Gallic gal pal
29 Sign of a commitment
32 Previous
33 Swimmer that likes to play
34 Unpleasantries
35 Male name from the Norse
36 Physics measure of force
38 Gather what's sown
39 Something extra in an env.
40 Not outlandish
44 Annual DC speech
45 Unwavering
46 Infinitive for Monsieur Macron
47 Quaint complaint
48 *Futurama* pilot
49 Dismantle, as sails
50 Diplomatic skills
51 Storyteller before Aristotle's time
54 Purple shade
55 Look to be
56 Certain volcanic geography
58 Go-cup top
59 Part of a prof's contact info
60 Meatloaf moistener
61 Numerical prefix that sounds encouraging



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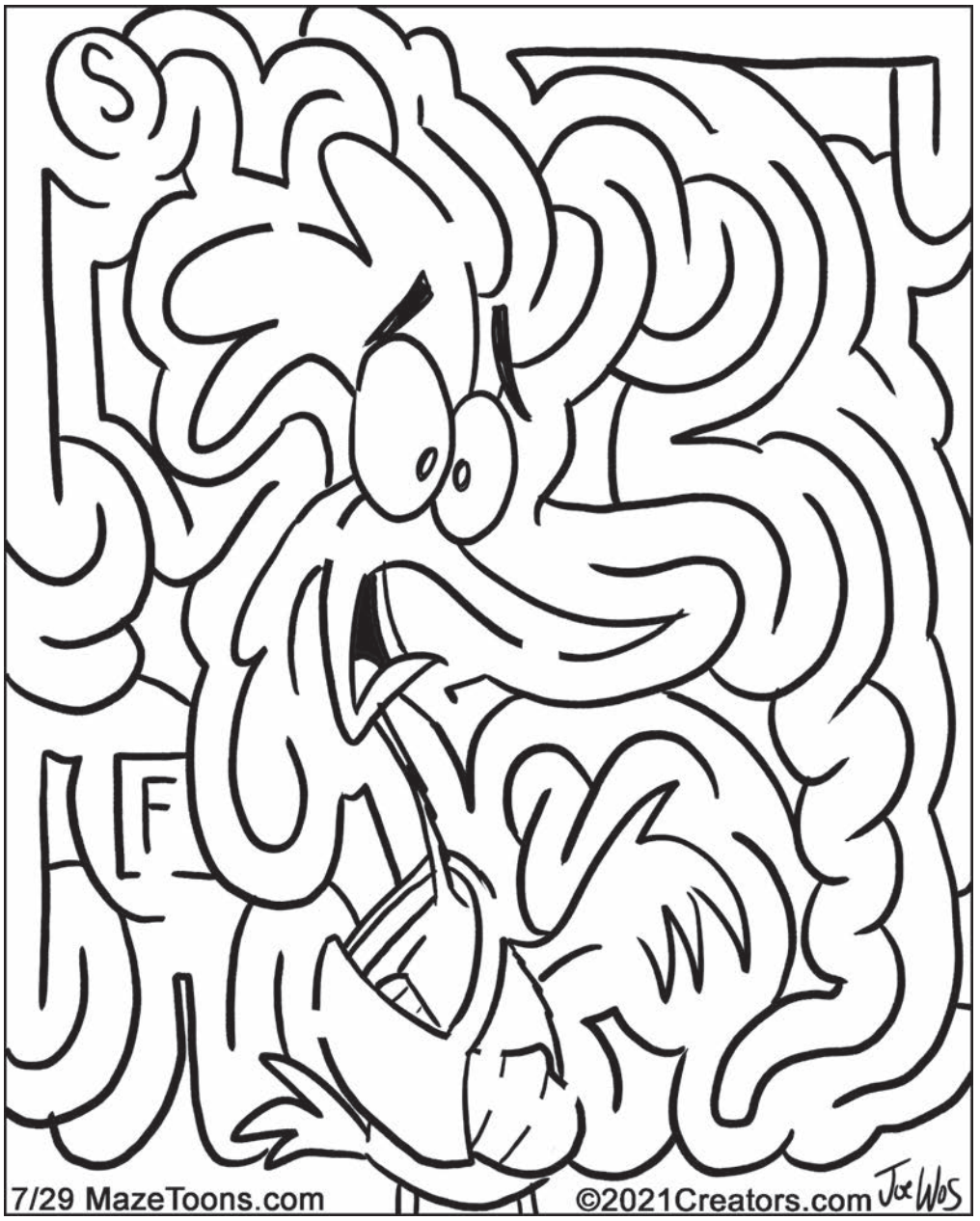
Binary Puzzle

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

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



"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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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

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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Our universities

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

Acts	Essays	Maps	Sport
Advisor	Fail	Mark	Study
Arts	Fees	Memory	Sydney
Bond	Fields	Notes	Task
Break	Grants	Online	Thesis
Clubs	HECS	Ovals	Tired
Concepts	Index	Pass	Unit
Dean	James Cook	Presentation	Wollongong
Dispute	Knowledge	Procrastinate	
Donor	Laptop	Repairs	
English	Learn	Scan	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Who watches this rubbish?

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VACCINES

FROM PAGE 1

out similar policies, including Pasadena, San Francisco, New York City, the State of California, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Just as the City of Santa Monica is often a strong model in local government, we do all we can to safeguard the wellbeing of our Santa Monica community and dedicated City workforce," said Interim City Manager John Jalili. "Vaccination is the very best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and every vaccination will make a measurable difference in our recovery."

Los Angeles will require city employees to show proof vaccination against COVID-19 or be regularly tested, officials said Tuesday, a policy in line with a new state rule announced by the governor a day earlier.

L.A Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Council President Nury Martinez said the requirement is part of a broader push toward a vaccine mandate for city employees.

They said the requirement is needed because of the growing threat from the more contagious delta variant of the coronavirus.

"This urgent need means that if you're a city employee, we're now going to require you to either show that you're vaccinated or take a weekly test, and we're committed to pursuing a full vaccine mandate," Garcetti said in the statement. "I urge employers across Los Angeles to follow this example."

Garcetti said at an evening news conference that there's "an alarming spike" of COVID-19 among the city workforce, with 110 new cases in the past week, compared to 34 in the prior week.

Los Angeles city departments will be directed to collect data on vaccination rates and deliver it by Aug. 15, Garcetti said.

The city would pursue a vaccine mandate once the Food and Drug Administration grants full approval to the three most commonly used shots.

Long Beach, the second-largest city in Los Angeles County, also announced a similar requirement.

The announcements come after Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday that he will require state employees and millions of health care workers, public and private, to provide proof of vaccination or get regular virus tests.

Under the new state 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.

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. Currently, 59% of the Santa Monica workforce has reported they have been vaccinated.

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.

"Plain and simple - vaccinations are the only way out of this pandemic, and the City of Los Angeles must lead by example," said Los Angeles Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas. "Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent transmission and limit COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths. If we want our economy to fully recover, if we want our children to be able to go to school without masks on, and if we want the most vulnerable members of our community to not end up in the hospital, we must all do our part. Voluntary efforts have proven to be insufficient to move beyond this pandemic, so it's time to think differently about our approach, and the City must lead as an example of what can and should be done."

editor@smdp.com

MASK

FROM PAGE 4

Patrick says he doesn't mind asking customers to mask up once more.

The owner of Marine Specialties, a long running Army-Navy store, had been leery of officials dropping virus safety mandates ahead of what many expected would be a busy summer season. He even tried to require customers to mask up in his store through the summer, before finally relenting in June.

"If we'd stuck with masks all along, I don't think we'd be having this conversation," Patrick said, adding that he's required all his staff to be masked and vaccinated. "They're not entirely fun, but we wore them all last summer, and we didn't have a single case in Provincetown. Now see where we're at."

As of Tuesday, the town had reported more than 750 cases of COVID-19 associated with the most recent cluster, which started around the busy July 4th holiday. Officials have said many cases are so-called breakthrough infections in vaccinated people. Three people have been hospitalized, but no one has died.

Patrick says the business drop-off has been significant, but he hopes the return of masks helps brings visitors peace of mind.

"I don't see masks as bad for business," he said. "Maybe for a nightclub or bar it is. But if it gets people back out and feeling safe, it's worth it. We take care of public health and safety, the dollars and cents will take care of themselves."

Associated Press Writer Heather Hollingsworth in Mission, Kansas, contributed to this report.

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Summons

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Surviving & Thriving



As National Breast Cancer Awareness month approaches in October, the Santa Monica Daily Press is honored to announce our partnership with the American Cancer Society through our SURVIVING AND THRIVING series of stories that will honor the path of courageous, inspirational cancer survivors.

If you or your business has a connection to this worldwide crisis, you can help present these inspirational stories, as well as an option to share your reasons why this is important to your organization.

A significant donation of the proceeds of the campaign will be made to the American Cancer Society.

Contact us with any questions.

All sponsorships will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. If you have a specific survivor story in mind, we are happy to develop that content with you. Otherwise, survivor stories will be provided by the American Cancer Society.

More information with **Cindy Moreno** at **cindy@smdp.com** | **310-573-8074**

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