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Santa Monica Daily Press

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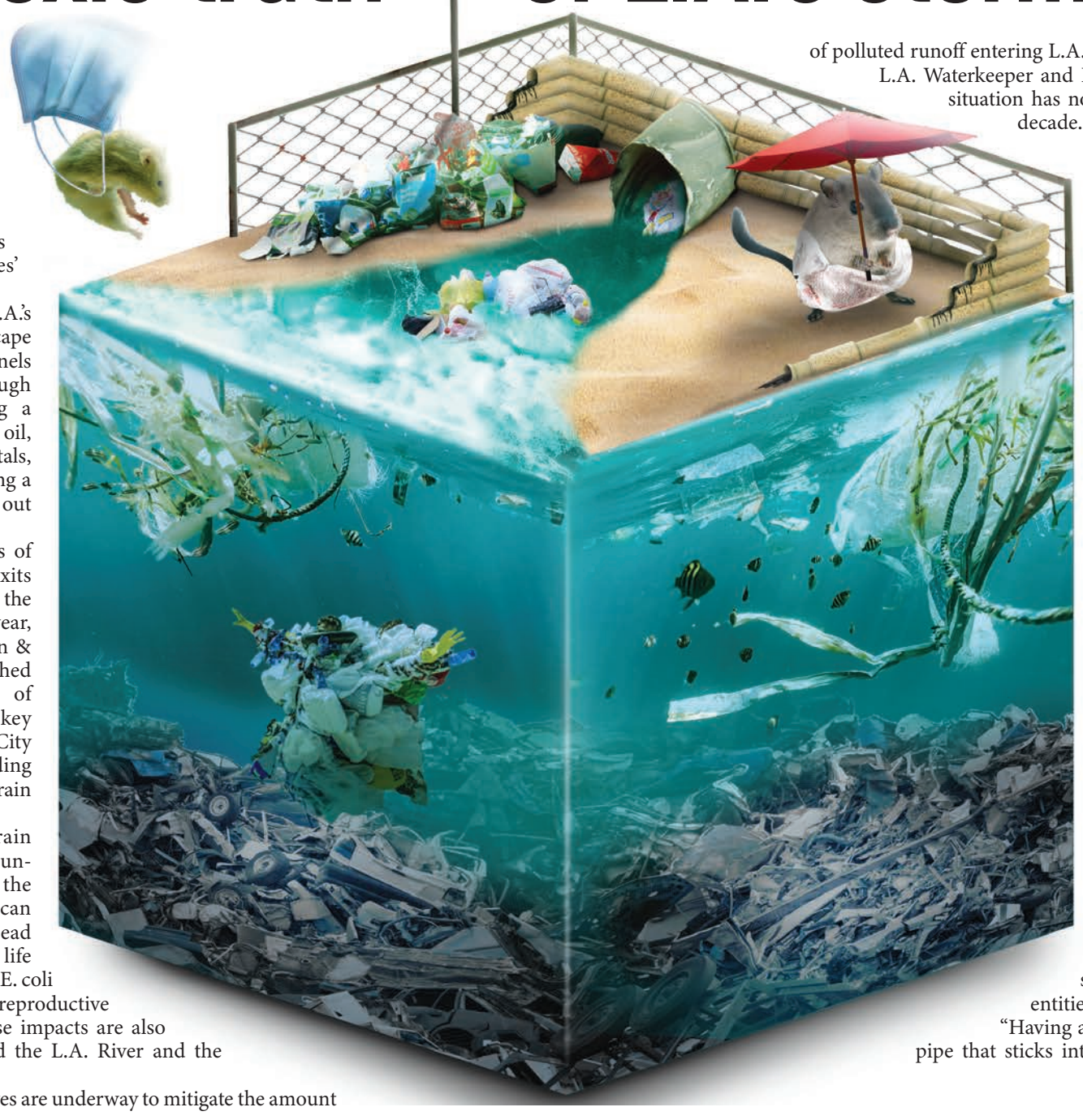
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The toxic truth of L.A.'s stormwater

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer



In a region that lauds itself as a bastion of environmental progress, the 100 billion gallons of polluted runoff that flows out of storm drains annually is Los Angeles' dirty secret.

When rain water hits L.A.'s largely impervious landscape it drains into run-off channels that criss-cross through the county accumulating a toxic slew of chemicals, oil, fertilizer, trash, hard metals, and bacteria before entering a storm drain and spewing out into the ocean.

Over 30 billion gallons of this polluted mixture exits through 200 drains into the Santa Monica Bay each year, according to LA Sanitation & Environment. This watershed incorporates 55 miles of coastline, but several key drains are located in the City of Santa Monica, including the Pico-Kenter Storm Drain and the Pier Storm Drain.

When significant rain events flush polluted run-off into the ocean, the environmental impacts can be devastating. It can lead to fish die-offs, marine life ingesting plastic, spread of E. coli infections, and permanent reproductive harm to aquatic life. These impacts are also felt on ecosystems around the L.A. River and the Ballona Wetlands.

Although many initiatives are underway to mitigate the amount of polluted runoff entering L.A.'s waterways, both representatives from L.A. Waterkeeper and Heal the Bay Foundation said that the situation has not significantly improved over the past decade.

Stormwater runoff is difficult to address for two key reasons: responsibility for the issue is widely diffused and a vast range of pollutants contribute to the problem.

The first reason, diffusion of responsibility, an issue of geography and of governance.

The Los Angeles County Flood District encompasses a vast area of 2,700 square miles and approximately 2.1 million land parcels within six major watersheds.

"Storm pollution is 1,000 different things and so it needs 1,000 different bandaids to fix it," Melanie Rivera, staff scientist at LA Waterkeeper

The storm-water runoff that winds up on Santa Monica's beaches passes through several dozen different municipalities, spanning potentially hundreds of miles and picking up numerous pollutants on its journey to the sea. However, the MS4 permits that are required to release stormwater runoff are only issued to the entities in charge of the point of release.

"Having a law that says you as the owner of that pipe that sticks into ocean are responsible for the water

SEE **WATER** PAGE 2



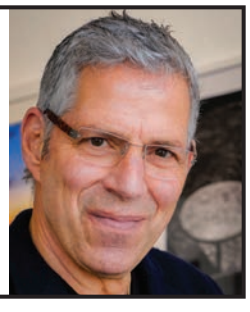
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WATER

FROM PAGE 1

quality that comes out of it makes sense legally, but practically it is a much more difficult problem to wrap your arms around because the folks that are actually creating the pollution are not the ones who own the system," said Dan Lafferty, deputy director for water resources, L.A. County Public Works.

As a result of these geographic and governing challenges, very few MS4 storm drain permits are in compliance with the water quality standards set by the EPA's landmark Clean Water Act.

"We have estimated the cost for compliance for the region to meet the standards within the MS4 permit everywhere is roughly $20 billion over 20 years and that is all money that has to be raised at the municipal level," said Lafferty.

L.A. County residents voted to pass Measure W in 2018, a parcel tax providing sorely needed municipal funds for stormwater mitigation efforts, however Lafferty said this only amounts to 20 percent of the funding needed to bring drain systems to EPA compliance.

The management of stormwater run-off in Santa Monica is a complex affair. Although individual upstream municipalities that contribute pollutants are not directly involved, a web of City and County departments are.

The Department of Public Works and L.A. County Beaches and Harbors maintain Santa Monica's storm drains and manage the beach areas around the runoff. The City of L.A. Department of Sanitation conducts water quality monitoring and the County Department of Public Health issues warnings when swimming is dangerous at certain beaches. The City of Santa Monica conducts runoff mitigation efforts in coordination with the City of El Segundo, City of L.A., the County and the County Flood Control District.

In addition to the challenges posed by the spread of responsibility and the vast area of land that drains stormwater into the ocean, run-off is difficult to deal with because of the wide variety of pollutants it carries.

"Storm pollution is 1,000 different things and so it needs 1,000 different bandaids to fix it," said Melanie Rivera, staff scientist at L.A. Waterkeeper.

Common pollutants carried in stormwater include E.coli, streptococci, PCBs, nitrates, phosphates, heavy metals, pesticides, fertilizers and plastic particles, which all originate from different sources.

"The cumulative effect of all of these contaminants can either directly cause a fish kill with acute toxicity or can have long-term effects like reducing their ability to reproduce and metabolize food, disrupting the resilience of these ecosystems," said Annelisa Moe, water quality scientist at Heal the Bay Foundation.

Even when targeted efforts are made to stop the spread of certain pollutants, their harmful effects can persist for a long-time in local ecosystems.

According to Moe, Heal the Bay still finds high DDT levels in the Ballona Creek, even though the chemical is banned, because DDT takes years to break down.

"There are studies that show a huge impact of DDT on our ecosystems in the Bay, including sea lions who are having issues with reproduction and even experiencing death because of DDT levels," said Moe.

In addition to the damage wreaked by chemicals and bacteria, the particulate matter swept into the water can have a series of deleterious effects. Environmental organizations track the impact of this by measuring the TTS, or Total Suspended Solids, present in stormwater runoff.

"When water is discharging with high amounts of TSS it can cause the water to be very turbid, which will prevent light from penetrating into the ocean and make it difficult for aquatic plants or phytoplankton to produce food," said Rivera. "When those suspended solids settle on a substrate, those particles completely cover bottom dwelling fish and organisms, which essentially suffocates them."

Stormwater runoff also makes the ocean dangerous for humans to swim in and it is recommended that people stay out of the water, and especially away from storm drains, for 72 hours following a significant rain event.

Not all cities experience the environmental and health impacts of stormwater runoff as acutely as Los Angeles.

Most cities on the East Coast, and notably San Francisco on the West Coast, have a combined sewer system, meaning that wastewater and stormwater are drained together.

The benefit of this is that most stormwater is processed at sewage facilities and is not released into waterways. The great risk of this system, and the reason it is no longer used in constructing new sewers, is that a significant rain event can overwhelm the system and result in a large discharge of raw sewage.



Surfrider Foundation

BEACH: During rain, debris from all over Los Angeles washes out to sea from Santa Monica beaches due to the storm drains.



L.A. County began building its stormwater drainage system in 1915. Prior to the construction of a flood management system, stormwater would routinely take different run-off directions and this high level of unpredictability caused massive property damage.

L.A.'s storm water drainage system was constructed to concentrate drainage in central waterways, leaving the rest of the County open for construction. As a result, the area became highly developed with impervious surfaces such as concrete and asphalt, and the amount of green area available for natural drainage was greatly diminished.

"The choices we would make today are different from the choices that were made 100 years ago," said Lafferty. "The driver back then was two-fold: I want certainty from flooding and I want to maximize developable space. There was a lot that was lost when that decision was made in terms of green space, in terms of habitat, in terms of recreation."

This article is the first in a two-part series. To learn about the ongoing efforts to mitigate the effects of stormwater run-off pollution see the Aug. 21 edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press.

Clara@smdp.com

"The cumulative effect of all of these contaminants can either directly cause a fish kill with acute toxicity or can have long-term effects like reducing their ability to reproduce and metabolize food, disrupting the resilience of these ecosystems," Annelisa Moe, water quality scientist at Heal the Bay Foundation.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 325 CALLS ON AUGUST 12

Living In A Vehicle 3000blk Pennsylvania Ave 12:10 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:16 a.m.
Loud Music 1000blk 4th St 12:46 a.m.
Public Intoxication 400blk Santa Monica Pier 2:29 a.m.
Prowler There Now 1900blk Idaho Ave 3:43 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 200blk Palisades Ave 4:49 a.m.
Auto Burglary Now 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 5:37 a.m.
Petty Theft 1100blk Pico Blvd 6:10 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:42 a.m.
Loud Music 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:56 a.m.
Death Investigation 700blk Navy St 7:11 a.m.
Kidnap 2700-290 Main St 7:24 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk Marine St 8:08 a.m.
Found Property 200blk Euclid St 8:24 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2700blk The Beach 9:08 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 9:13 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk 20th St 9:37 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 200blk Ashland Ave 9:47 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 600blk Navy St 10:05 a.m.
Elder Abuse 1300blk 20th St 10:17 a.m.
Petty Theft 300blk Santa Monica Pier 10:18 a.m.
Aircraft Crash Runway 21 10:34 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 10:42 a.m.
Death Investigation 1000blk 4th St 11:03 a.m.
Public Intoxication 2000blk Main St 11:03 a.m.
Lost Property 4th St / Colorado Ave 11:12 a.m.
Illegal Weapon Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 11:23 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 22nd St / Arizona Ave 11:26 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 11:32 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 11:51 a.m.
Loud Music 1800blk 10th St 11:51 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 14th St / Georgina Ave 12:22 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1800blk 20th St 12:31 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1600blk Ocean Ave 12:33 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 12:38 p.m.
Drinking In Public 100blk Broadway 12:40 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 200blk San Vicente Blvd 12:45 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 12:57 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1600blk Wilshire Blvd 12:58 p.m.
Lewd Activity 20th St / California Ave 1:18 p.m.
Petty Theft Now Chelsea Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 1:28 p.m.
Burglary 1900blk Broadway 1:30 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk Warwick Ave 1:56 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 0blk Pacific Ter 2:14 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 28th St / Ocean Park Blvd 2:26 p.m.
Lewd Activity 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:48 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Euclid St / Brentwood Ter 3:11 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:33 p.m.
Petty Theft 2900blk 4th St 3:41 p.m.
Found Property 200blk Euclid St 4:00 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 4:04 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 200blk Wilshire Blvd 4:04 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 500blk Euclid St 4:08 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2100blk 6th St 4:12 p.m.
Stakeout 1400blk 7th St 4:16 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 4:23 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 1200blk California Ave 4:27 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1400blk 7th St 4:28 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1400blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:37 p.m.
Petty Theft 300blk Santa Monica Pl 4:38 p.m.
General Parking Problem 3000blk Airport Ave 4:40 p.m.
Petty Theft 600blk Strand St 4:43 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 600blk 18th St 4:54 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2700blk Pearl St 5:00 p.m.
Overdose 200blk Pico Blvd 5:30 p.m.
Lewd Activity 20th St / California Ave 5:32 p.m.
Petty Theft 1600blk 11th St 5:48 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1000blk Chelsea Ave 6:12 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:15 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1000blk 12th St 6:22 p.m.
Petty Theft 1900blk 4th St 6:23 p.m.
Encampment Euclid St / Olympic Blvd 6:24 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 6:27 p.m.
General Parking Problem 100blk Fraser Ave 6:52 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 300blk Pico Blvd 7:01 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1100blk 16th St 7:08 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1500blk 6th St 7:26 p.m.
Lewd Activity Main St / Strand St 7:33 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:35 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:44 p.m.
Identity Theft 300blk Olympic Dr 8:12 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:54 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:16 p.m.
Loud Music 3100blk 2nd St 9:16 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Lincoln Blvd / Wilshire Blvd 9:17 p.m.
Party Complaint 200blk Euclid St 9:30 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100blk Georgina Ave 9:36 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 500blk Montana Ave 9:36 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 2900blk Pico Blvd 9:50 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 10:48 p.m.
Loud Music 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 11:50 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 39 CALLS ON AUGUST 12

Automatic Alarm 1500blk 5th St 12:05 a.m.
EMS Neilson Way / Pico Blvd 12:30 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 1:54 a.m.
EMS 800blk 3rd St 3:47 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 5th St 5:47 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Lincoln Blvd 7:29 a.m.
EMS 900blk 6th St 8:14 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 9:48 a.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 10:17 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 4th St 10:30 a.m.
EMS 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:05 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 11:08 a.m.
EMS 600blk Wilshire Blvd 11:21 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 9th St 11:30 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Harvard St 11:38 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 21st St 11:39 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 600blk Broadway 11:44 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:36 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk Palisades Ave 12:56 p.m.
Arcing Wires 3000blk 17th St 1:11 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:13 p.m.
Alert 1 - Minor Aircraft Incident 3300blk Donald Douglas Loop N 2:15 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 2:21 p.m.
Assist LAFD 400blk S 26th 2:51 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 4:44 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk 2nd St 5:02 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 7th St 6:07 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 6:11 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 12th St 6:16 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 6:55 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Pico Blvd 8:03 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Ashland Ave 8:44 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:16 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Interstate 10 / Lincoln Blvd 9:42 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 9:55 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 10:16 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Harvard St 10:17 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Expo Line 11:27 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Harvard St 11:41 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Local Volunteers and Blood Donors Needed For Busy Season

Many weather experts predict a destructive wildfire season this year. The American Red Cross has a special need right now for health professionals to help on the ground and blood and platelet donors to roll up a sleeve to maintain a stable blood supply in the face of emergencies.

"This year's wildfire season is already very active and dangerous because of the severe drought and dry woodlands in our area," said Thomas Hill, Regional Disaster Officer for the American Red Cross in Los Angeles. "After several years of record-breaking wildfires, the Red Cross is already responding in dozens of communities across the west and asks health professionals to train now to be a Red Cross volunteer and help care for people affected by disasters if the need arises."

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NEEDED FOR SHELTERS

The Red Cross needs volunteers who can work in disaster shelters to address people's health needs and provide hands-on care in alignment with their professional licensure (registered nurse and licensed practical nurse/licensed vocational nurse). Daily observation and health screening for COVID-19-like illness among shelter residents may also be required. We have both associate and supervisory level opportunities available. If you are an RN, LPN, LVN, APRN, NP, EMT, paramedic, MD/DO or PA with a current and unencumbered license, the Disaster Health Services position could be right for you.

After most disasters this year, the Red Cross plans to open group shelters. However, in some communities, hotels may be more appropriate if the risk of COVID-19, including the delta variant, is particularly high. The Red Cross will also continue many of the safety precautions implemented in 2020, including masks, health screenings, enhanced cleaning procedures and encouraging social distancing.

BLOOD AND PLATELET DONORS NEEDED

Wildfires, record-breaking heat and a busy hurricane season can also impact the nation's blood supply. On top of the toll extreme weather events take on the lives of millions, disasters can cause blood drive closures or prevent donors from being able to give safely. Eligible donors can help overcome the critical need for blood and ensure blood is readily available by making an appointment to give by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

As a thank-you, those who come to donate throughout the month of August will get a free 4-month special offer to Apple Music by email (new subscribers only). Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/FeelTheBeat.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Aug. 16-31

Santa Monica

8/16/2021: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St.
8/19/2021: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St.
8/20/2021: 1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., KLOS Radio - Sunset Masonic Lodge 369, 1720 Ocean Park Blvd.
8/21/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., KLOS Radio - American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St.
8/23/2021: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St.
8/24/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Boston Properties, 3250 Ocean Park Blvd, Suite 370
8/25/2021: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Virginia Ave Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.
8/28/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St.
8/30/2021: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St.
8/31/2021: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St.

SUBMITTED BY MARILYN JIMENEZ DAVILA





GOP's Faulconer still trying to make mark as recall nears

KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

Former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer has for years been a candidate-in-waiting, viewed by many California Republicans as someone moderate enough to win back the governor's office in the Democratic state.

That theory is being put to the test in the recall election against Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, but the mild-mannered, self-described vanilla candidate is quickly running out of time to make his mark.

With mail-in ballots for the Sept. 14 election already going out, recent polls show him trailing conservative radio talk show host Larry Elder, a newer entrant who quickly outraised his GOP rivals. Faulconer also faces challenges attracting independents and moderate Democrats because of his support in 2020 for then-President Donald Trump, who lost to Joe Biden by a record margin in California.

"I think I'm uniquely suited to effectively, steadily guide our state back on the right path," Faulconer said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "There's a whole lot of things that aren't going well, that you need strong and stable leadership."

The 54-year-old Faulconer announced his run for governor in February, betting that a policy-driven campaign would break through with voters in a time of strife. The recall is happening amid another COVID surge, raging wildfires and an unabated homelessness crisis.

He's pointed to his record governing San Diego, a Democratic city that is among the nation's largest, as evidence he's got the executive know-how to lead a state of nearly 40 million. He's rolled out policies to majorly cut income taxes and build more homeless shelters.

Faulconer was elected mayor in 2014 — after Democrat Bob Filner resigned amid a sexual harassment scandal — and was reelected in 2016. He took a more open stance on immigration than the national GOP, backed efforts to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions and favors abortion rights, all stances that contributed to his moderate label.

Republicans haven't won a statewide election since 2006, when Arnold Schwarzenegger was reelected governor. Faulconer's victories in San Diego had some in the GOP pushing him to run for governor in 2018 but he said he wanted to finish his term as mayor. Newsom won in a landslide over John Cox, a conservative businessman who is running again.

The recall was driven by Republicans who gathered more than 1.7 million signatures to place the question on the ballot. They are seeking to tap into displeasure over Newsom's handling of the pandemic, homelessness and crime.

Voters will have two choices: First, should Newsom be removed, yes or no? Second, who should replace him? Voters have 46 choices on the second question, including Faulconer. If a majority approve the recall, the candidate who gets the most votes becomes governor.

"The recall is about who can best crystallize voter anger with the direction of the state, and Kevin Faulconer's not your guy for that," said Thad Kousser, chair of the political science department at the University of California, San Diego. "This is about the red meat and I just don't think he can pivot to running a campaign that's focused on today's Republican base."

Democrats are urging their voters to reject the recall and not choose a replacement option. That means candidates like Faulconer are fighting for support among the state's 5 million Republicans, plus independents and Democrats who support the recall. If Newsom is recalled, it's possible a winner could get 25% or less.

In an Aug. 4 debate with three other Republican hopefuls, which Elder skipped, Faulconer was the only candidate to say he'd been vaccinated against the coronavirus and urged others to do so. But he also said he doesn't support masks in public schools and took a hard line against the teaching of "critical race theory," the latest target of the GOP.

He didn't mention that, as mayor, he supported an Office of Race and Equity aimed at tackling systemic racism in the city.

Looking back on his mayoral tenure, Faulconer says his top accomplishments were reducing homelessness, fixing roads and increasing the police budget as the "defund the police" movement took hold. His critics say he left office with few tangible accomplishments and some notable failures, including botched city real estate deals worth nearly a quarter-billion dollars and the departure of the city's NFL San Diego Chargers for Los Angeles.

Faulconer counts his efforts to reduce homelessness as a signature achievement, one that could be upsized to clean up encampments around the state. San Diego was "the only big city in California where homelessness went down, not up," said Faulconer, who was in office through December 2020.

But his record on the issue has come under scrutiny and criticism.

His doubters include Republican rival Doug Ose, a former congressman, and San Diego homeless advocate Michael McConnell, who say the reduced numbers cited by Faulconer are the result of changes in the way an annual homeless count is conducted that overlooked people living in vehicles, and aggressive policing that temporarily chased off transients.

McConnell says Faulconer's statements about falling homeless cases amount to "a nice little fairy tale."

Faulconer says he reduced homelessness by "double digits." But the San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless' annual count shows the city's homeless population went down by about 4% in 2020.

Nine months after Faulconer left office, one thing is obvious: Homelessness remains an agonizing problem in the seaside city of nearly 1.5 million.

On a recent afternoon, about a dozen people, many with shopping carts overflowing with their belongings, huddled near a pharmacy in a neighborhood near San Diego State University, about a 15-minute drive from downtown. Scores of people use San Diego's Balboa Park as a campground.

The San Diego Union-Tribune recently

SEE **RECALL** PAGE 5

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AWARD WINNER
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

Organic Waste Recycling is Coming to Malibu

The City of Malibu is launching a new mandatory organic waste recycling program to help Malibu businesses and residents reduce their carbon footprint and the impacts of climate change. The program also meets mandatory requirements established under California Senate Bill 1383.

"Malibu is committed to protecting the environment and doing our part to address climate change. This a global crisis and a threat to coastal communities like Malibu as we face the danger of rising sea levels and wildfires," said Mayor Paul Grisanti. "I hope that all homeowners and businesses will see the need for this move and join in this effort to protect the environment and our community."

Businesses must start organic waste recycling by October 1, 2021. Starting on January 1, 2022, all Malibu residents will automatically receive organic waste recycling service.

Organic waste like food scraps make up half of what Californians send to landfills, releasing large amounts of greenhouse gases such as methane that contribute to climate change. Reducing these so-called short-lived climate pollutants by diverting organic waste from landfills will have the fastest impact on the climate crisis. Increasing food waste prevention, encouraging edible food rescue, and expanding the composting and waste-to-energy digestion of organic waste will reduce methane from landfill operations.

California Senate Bill 1383 establishes the following statewide targets to reduce the amount of organic waste disposed of in landfills:

Reduce organic waste disposal by 75%

Rescue at least 20% of the edible food by 2025

Here is what to expect as a business or resident:

Businesses and multifamily residential dwellings (5 units or more) must start organic recycling or have an approved exemption waiver by October 2021. Commercial edible food generators are required to participate in an edible food recovery program. Grocery stores must participate in an edible food recovery program by 2022. Restaurants greater than 5,000 square feet and large events with more than 2,000 attendees per day must participate by 2024.

Residents will automatically receive organic waste recycling service starting on January 1, 2022 and will be responsible for sorting organics in the appropriate cart based on their City-permitted solid waste hauler. The haulers will provide specific information on how they will collect organics and which cart residents should use for organics.

To learn more about organic waste recycling or apply for a waiver, visit www.malibucity.org/organics

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

Citywide

Over $7 Billion in State Money is Available Now to Pay Rent

Santa Monicans are urged to apply today at housing.ca.gov. The statewide "CA COVID-19 Rent Relief" program (also commonly referred to as "Housing is Key") is now open and taking applications to help income-eligible households with 100% of rent and utilities, for both past and future amounts owed. Santa Monica renters and property owners are urged to review income eligibility and apply today at housing.ca.gov or by calling (833) 430-2122. This rental assistance program, along with the statewide eviction moratorium, is intended to keep families housed, shield tenants from eviction, and help both landlords and tenants recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL

RECALL

FROM PAGE 4

reported that more than 1,000 homeless people are living on downtown streets, despite hundreds being moved into shelters. There are fears unsanitary conditions could lead to a hepatitis A outbreak similar to 2017, when 20 people died and hundreds were hospitalized.

It was the 2017 outbreak — one of the worst of hepatitis A in the United States in 20 years — that spurred Faulconer to action. The city opened large tent shelters to get people off the streets, diverting $6.5 million that had been budgeted for permanent homes to operate them.

Later, Faulconer was praised for moving homeless people into the city's convention center during the pandemic and accelerating the process to get them into permanent housing.

San Diego City Councilman Chris Cate, a Republican who backs Faulconer, pointed to Faulconer's efforts to revamp the city's housing policies to allow for more affordable units as evidence he can work across party lines. Faulconer's "Complete Communities" plan passed the Democratic-led City Council in his final months in office. It aims to boost affordable housing near public transit and make disadvantaged neighborhoods more bikeable and walkable.

"He took that on and was really unapologetic about wanting to address it," Cate said of Faulconer's approach to the city's housing challenges.

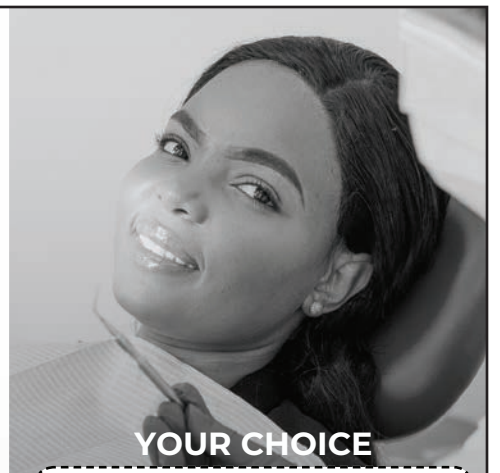
Gil Cabrera, former chairman of the San Diego Convention Center's board of directors, worked alongside Faulconer on efforts to expand the center, which remain stalled. He said Faulconer "did a lot of press conferences" but "the follow through was always kind of lacking." Cabrera is a Democrat who does not support the recall.

If the recall doesn't succeed, Faulconer has said he plans to run in 2022, when Newsom is up for reelection. How he fares in the recall will boost or dim his chances of becoming the party standard-bearer next year.

In the race's closing weeks, Faulconer believes voters will find what they're looking for in his candidacy.

"You have to be able to win Republicans and independents and Democrats to win," he said. "I'm confident that this is a real chance, as voters get to know me, get to know my record, that folks break in our direction."

Reporter Julie Watson contributed from San Diego.

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A Shore Thing

Matthew King
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

You know the only thing worse than seeing trash littered all over the beach? It's reading yet another preachy post about single-use plastics. I'm half-joking, but I'm acutely aware of beating a dead horse – especially in progressive Santa Monica.

But if you've ever doubted the selfishness of humankind, come down to the beach near the Pier very early on a Monday morning in the summer. Busted-up Styrofoam coolers, disposable vape pens and dirty McDonald's wrappers riddle the sand and parking lots – tossed aside by careless visitors like used Kleenex.

It's downright depressing. Can you imagine someone chucking a half-eaten foil-wrapped burrito or Slurpee cup onto the Grand Canyon floor or a pristine meadow in Yosemite Valley? Yet that's the abuse our city's most precious natural area takes each and every summer weekend.

And while meatheads leaving debris behind at the beach is so glaring, the bigger issue is the waste carried to our shorelines via the County's labyrinth stormdrain system. An estimated 80% of the debris that winds up on L.A. shorelines comes from inland. The Pico-Kenter stormdrain, located in front of the Casa del Mar hotel, funnels trash-laden runoff from the entire Westside to the sand. No matter how conscientious city planners are with our wastestream, our beaches will always be at the mercy of neighboring cities. That's why regional solutions are critical. Thankfully, there's some light at the end of legislative tunnel.

At Heal the Bay, I got a lot of mileage posting photos of sea turtles with straws sticking out of their noses or sea lions with heads stuck in six-pack rings. The suffering of innocent animals pulls on donors' heart-strings. But the reality is that Big Oil is slowly and methodically strangling us.

Plastic garbage just doesn't foul the ocean, it's accelerating the climate change that is poised to kill millions around the globe because of wildfires, famine, heat stroke and the like. Single-use plastic is made from the burning of fossil fuels. And the petroleum industry is staking its future on plastic, given that demand for gasoline is shrinking because of higher-efficiency vehicles and the surge in electric vehicles. Reuters reports that plastic will be the greatest growth market for oil in the next decade, with plastic production expected to double by 2040!

So much for the myth of recycling. The costs associated with gathering, sorting and cleaning plastic trash to create new "upcycled" products are simply uneconomic. It's far easier and cheaper for producers to just use fossil fuels on so-called "virgin plastic." And the vicious cycle repeats itself.

Some 85% of single-use plastic items in California are not actually recycled. With best intentions, we dutifully sort and place yogurt cups and newspaper wrappers into blue receptacles in our driveways. But the vast majority of the items wind up in the landfill. Another depressing thought, huh?

The failure of recycling programs demonstrates that sometimes we need more stick and less carrot. That means bans on certain products or consumer fees on plastic bags and the like. The idea of "producer responsibility" is gaining traction nationwide as well, whereby the costs of waste collection and disposal are transferred away from taxpayers and onto the back of companies that make and use plastic.

Californians can put some teeth in meaningful plastic reform next fall, when we vote on a statewide ballot measure that would tax producers of single-use plastic packaging, with revenue allocated for environmental programs. But more important, the measure would force producers to reduce the amount of single-use plastic packaging and foodware by 25% by 2030. It's a great start. If you love the beach, you should vote Yes.

Big Oil is already mobilizing to defeat the measure, with chemical industry lobbyists arguing that sustainability efforts are better focused on making homes more energy-efficient or reducing food waste.

I take such arguments with a grain of salt. After all, nearly 90% of table salt sold commercially contains microplastics, according to National Geographic. Tiny plastic shards from plastic bags, kids toys, personal care products and what-not find their way to the sea and then leach into the water.

Scientists still don't know how microplastic ingestion affects humans in the long-term, be it sprinkling salt on your eggs or consuming wild seafood. But studies on animals show that microplastics cause metabolic disorders and toxicity in the liver. Even more scary: there will be more plastic in the sea by mass than fish by 2050, according to the Ocean Conservancy.

Now that's some food for thought.

Matthew King grew up on the beaches of Santa Monica, where his father served as a County lifeguard for 30 years. He sneaks away from his communications and marketing consultancy as often as he can to surf Bay Street and other local breaks.

SAFETY UPDATE

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

The Safety Update is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department and Santa Monica Fire Departments.

ON THURSDAY, AUG. 12, AT APPROXIMATELY 10:32 A.M.

The Santa Monica Fire Department received a call by the Santa Monica Airport Tower of a single aircraft which experienced a hard landing. Upon arrival, Firefighters and Airport Public Safety Officers found a small aircraft with minor damage to the bottom of the fuselage and propeller, and the collapse of the nose landing gear. The pilot, who was the sole occupant, had exited the aircraft on his own. Fortunately, there was no injuries to the pilot and there was no fire or fuel spills. No damage to airport property. The pilot was evaluated by paramedics and there was no need to be taken to the hospital. The NTSB was notified and is handling the investigation.

Biden made 'Obamacare' cheaper, now sign-up deadline is here

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

With the Obama health care law undergoing a revival under President Joe Biden, this Sunday is the deadline for consumers to take advantage of a special sign-up period for private coverage made more affordable by his COVID-19 relief law.

A strong close would bolster Biden's case that Congress needs to make permanent the temporary boost in health insurance subsidies provided by the COVID legislation. His campaign promise to build on existing programs to move the U.S. toward coverage for all may also gain credence.

The government says more than 2.5 million people have signed up since Biden ordered the HealthCare.gov marketplace to reopen Feb. 15 to account for health insurance needs in the pandemic. Then, starting in April, the cost of coverage came down due to sweeter subsidies in the COVID law, which attracted more enrollment. Officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, are hoping that this deadline weekend in mid-August will surprise skeptics.

"We've seen even in the last couple of weeks increased interest in enrollment," Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure said in an interview. "When you make coverage more affordable, people buy it. What we need to do is to make coverage more affordable."

Biden's special enrollment period ends at midnight local time Sunday around the country. The regular annual sign-up season won't start again until Nov. 1.

Interest has been high in a couple of states feeling the scourge of the delta variant. Nearly 490,000 people have signed up in Florida, and more than 360,000 have done so in Texas.

At a nonprofit service center in Austin, Texas, more than 500 people have enrolled so far with the help of staff and volunteers. Foundation Communities health program director Aaron DeLaO said the schedule is booked and they're working to clear the waiting list.

"Especially with the delta variant, people are thinking about their health a little more," he said.

The application process can be complicated, requiring details about citizenship or legal immigrant status, income, and household members. That's before a consumer even picks a health insurance plan. People can apply online, via the HealthCare.gov call center, or through programs like the one in Austin.

About 9 in 10 customers at Foundation Communities have selected standard "silver" plans, which cost somewhat more but offer better financial protection when illness strikes. "That to me says that people are really interested in having comprehensive coverage," said DeLaO.

The Obama-era Affordable Care Act offers subsidized private insurance to people who don't have job-based coverage, available in every state. The ACA also expanded Medicaid for low-income adults, an option most states have taken. The two components cover about 27 million people, according to the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

"Obamacare's" place among government health programs seems secure now, after more than a decade of fruitless efforts by Republicans to repeal it or get the Supreme Court to overturn it. Earlier this year by a vote of 7-2 the conservative-leaning court dismissed the latest challenge.

The subsidy increases in Biden's COVID law have made a tangible difference. The average premium paid by new customers dropped from $117 a month to $85 a month, or 27%, with the more generous aid. According to CMS, the median — or midpoint — deductible went from $450 to $50, a reduction of nearly 90%. People who already had ACA coverage can also get the increased aid by going back to the insurance marketplace. People who've had a spell of unemployment are eligible for added breaks.

But the enhanced subsidies are good only through 2022, and Biden is pressing Congress to make them permanent. An extension seems likely to be included in the Democrats' $3.5 trillion domestic policy package, however it isn't guaranteed to be permanent, with so many other priorities competing for money.

About 30 million people remain uninsured, and a clear majority would be eligible for ACA plans or some other type of coverage. "If you build it they won't necessarily come," said Karen Pollitz, a health insurance expert with the Kaiser Foundation. "People still need to be made aware that there is coverage out there."

The Biden administration may make progress, but "this can't be the end of the story," said health economist Katherine Baicker of the University of Chicago.

It remains way too complicated for people who juggle low-paying jobs to get and keep coverage, Baicker explained. "There is both a need to expand access to affordable insurance and to better inform people about the options available to them," she said.

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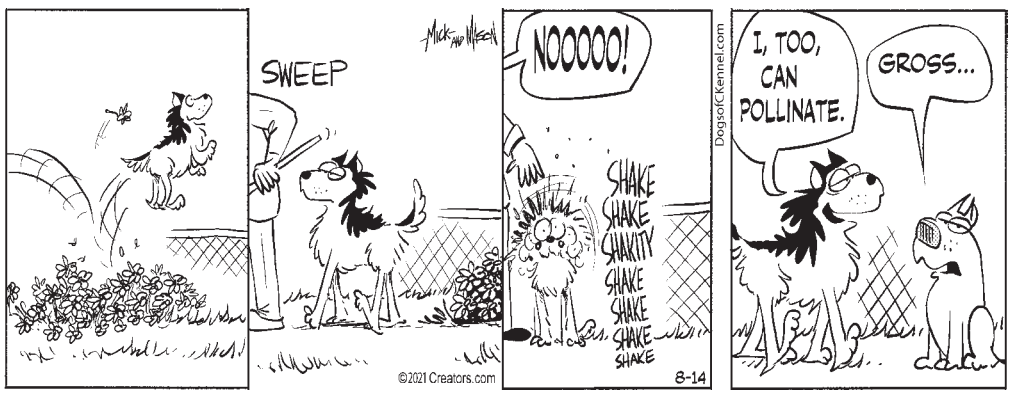
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



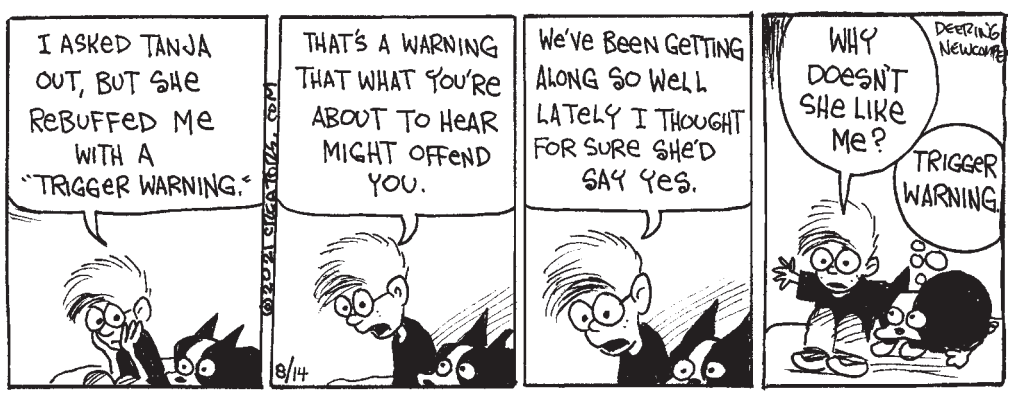
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



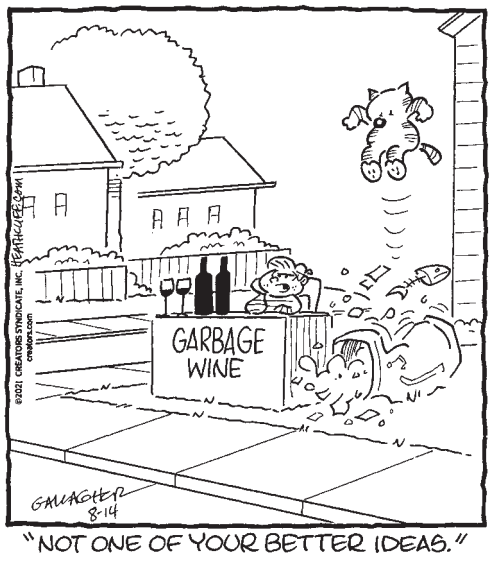
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 64.6°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
AM winds look light, as tide push helps through the mid to later morning. Surf down some from Friday - SW swell holds, but the SSE/S swell mix fades.

SUNDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Light early AM winds due, along with favorable tide. Fading S/SW swell mix. May see another round of tropical SSE swell show late in the day as best exposures....stay tuned.

WEATHER

Saturday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 72.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 64.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/08/14	Sat	01:46 AM	3.94	H
2021/08/14	Sat	07:37 AM	1.48	L
2021/08/14	Sat	2:32 PM	5.21	H
2021/08/14	Sat	9:35 PM	1.46	L
2021/08/15	Sun	03:22 AM	3.32	H
2021/08/15	Sun	08:23 AM	2.07	L
2021/08/15	Sun	3:33 PM	5.40	H
2021/08/15	Sun	11:13 PM	0.96	L
2021/08/16	Mon	05:29 AM	3.14	H
2021/08/16	Mon	09:35 AM	2.56	L
2021/08/16	Mon	4:42 PM	5.66	H
2021/08/17	Tue	12:29 AM	0.32	L
2021/08/17	Tue	07:13 AM	3.40	H
2021/08/17	Tue	11:08 AM	2.77	L
2021/08/17	Tue	5:49 PM	5.98	H
2021/08/18	Wed	01:28 AM	-0.27	L
2021/08/18	Wed	08:12 AM	3.76	H
2021/08/18	Wed	12:26 PM	2.70	L
2021/08/18	Wed	6:50 PM	6.32	H
2021/08/19	Thu	02:17 AM	-0.70	L
2021/08/19	Thu	08:53 AM	4.08	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 8/11
12 18 20 29 30
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 258 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/10
29 45 50 59 62
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 225 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/11
8 12 21 40 47
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 8 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/12
3 16 20 31 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/12
EVENING: 8 5 0
Draw Date: 8/12
MIDDAY: 3 4 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/12
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:43.67

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 14)

Here comes a flurry of new people and challenges with a rather steep learning curve to boot. Instead of trying to control and organize the pandemonium, try dancing with it. New ventures are exciting not in spite of the chaos they pack but because of it. You'll travel in October and win hearts far and wide. Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 1, 33 and 29.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Stay awake even as you repeat an action for the hundredth time. The routine works, but if followed without question, automatically enacted without a mental process, it will fail its higher purpose.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't try to pick the perfect moment to get involved. That's easy. It's always now. There's no way to predict if or how you're needed. Just show up, say what you do and see what happens.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll decide whether to continue a relationship. You could base this on finance or feeling, but those factors change. Are you better for the effort? Does it sharpen you? These are reasons to continue.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The emotional safety inside a relationship will hit levels special and rare. You'll care less about what's acceptable and more about answering your curiosity, expressing yourself and being close.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Work out territorial issues. It's best accomplished quickly, informally and possibly with primal and subconscious communication. Body language and tone convey more than a 10-page contract.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't expect people to take care of your feelings, but you appreciate when they do. It will be obvious who's looking out for you, and they'll quickly rank among your favorites.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The behavior of others is beyond your control, but you'll love your newfound power over your own reactions. Things that used to bother you now just remind you of how far you've come and the cool skills you've picked up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Friction polishes jewels, relationships, projects and endeavors of all kinds. It's the little rubs that keep things interesting. Even so, keep the conflict light and playful. It should scrub, not cut.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The answer to one problem could fix things in multiple realms. Think about what worked before that you might be able to apply in a new way or in a different group of people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What you're doing may not make sense to people who don't understand the situation like you do. This is why it's best not to try to explain things to them. It will only diminish the certainty you feel. You're right. Go with that.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Impatience is an internal issue — a false belief that one's timing is superior to the timing of the world. To be internally measured and calm is to align with the workings of the world. This is, of course, the more powerful mode.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be called to fulfill a duty. You recognize the honor in this, even if you're not that excited about the actual work involved. The right attitude can turn anything into a pleasure.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

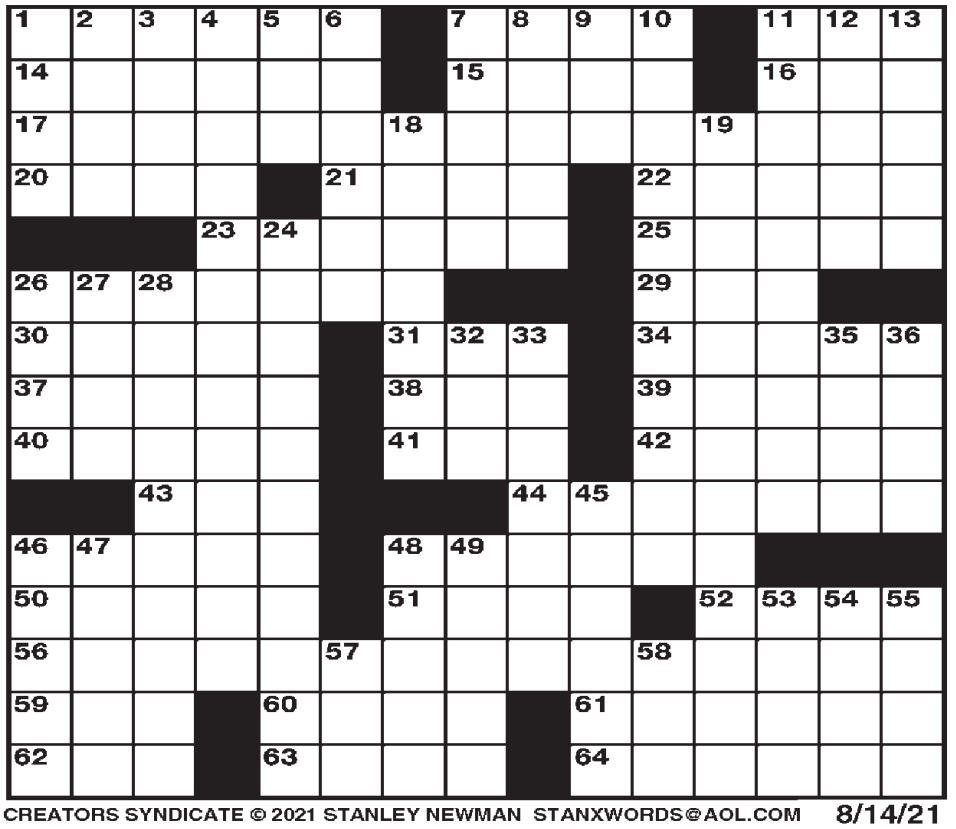
			9				5	
		5		7		1		6
7		1			4		8	
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9				6				1
		2				8	6	
	7		8			9		5
8		9		4		6		
	1				3			

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Unlikely Employee of the Month
7 Scrubbed-off stuff
11 Something laid down
14 Restrict access to, in a way
15 Rescue equipment
16 "Sharp" starter
17 '70s kids' educational animated-short series
20 What grass is made from
21 Punny lyric before "It's off to work I go"
22 High grade at high tea
23 Winner at blackjack
25 Puts in stitches
26 Create, as a space with fencing
29 Halogen suffix
30 Put on a pedestal
31 Most often, in the OED
34 Flower bud's protector
37 Part of a Yoda rebuke
38 Feathery galloper
39 Southeast Asian ethnic group
40 Common quarterback instruction
41 It's far from a yacht
42 Medicare coverage for outpatient care
43 Name forever linked to Harrison
44 Score fourth
46 Climbs, as a 15 Across
48 Finding something funny
50 About 591 drops
51 Verb related to "mayhem"
52 Go with the wind
56 App you can't download
59 Pursuit requiring subjects
60 Peace Prize and Grammy winner
61 Sweet handled in summer
62 Grass variety
63 Lanolin source
64 Becomes a thing of the past

DOWN
1 Negative suffix
2 Not to be repeated
3 Want it so badly it hurts
4 Major leaguers' road-game per diem
5 Kabuki center of yore
6 What some projections and pitchers provide
7 Oscar actor from Wellington
8 Capital of Normandy
9 Makes greater
10 Savory Chicago specialty
11 Common grade-school homework
12 Freeman, at the end of *Shawshank*
13 Playground participants
18 Reason for sockless sleeping
19 Taunt for a hand
24 Wildflower named for its boll-like cluster
26 Editor's order
27 Bit of neurology
28 Uranium ore, from the Latin for "violet"
32 It's near the LBJ Library
33 Rounds around rounds
35 Play money
36 Rainbow flag quartet
45 Drop-box legend
46 At present + before
47 Respond to pressure, perhaps
48 __ *mio (termine di affetto)*
49 Animal lab equipment
53 Liechtenstein topography
54 Something solid that sounds like it's liquid
55 Draws from
57 Manicure outdoors
58 Early TV brand



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

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



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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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The Olympics

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

Albertville
Andrew Cooper
Anthem
A-one
Bans
Bids
Booth
Brave
Crowds
Dais
Damage
Diving
Flag
Games
Gary
Glen
Gold
Green
Higher
Host
Housman
Hurt
International
Jane
Lisa
Los Angeles
Meals
Medal
Mitch
Moscow
Olympics
Oslo
Pain
Polo
Pride
Race
Rome
Run
Ryan
Seoul
Shot
Speed
Steve
Teams
Tops
Winner
Wood

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Having an early night

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Global sizzling: July was hottest month on record, NOAA says

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

Earth sizzled in July and became the hottest month in 142 years of recordkeeping, U.S. weather officials announced.

As extreme heat waves struck parts of the United States and Europe, the globe averaged 62.07 degrees last month, beating out the previous record set in July 2016 and tied again in 2019 and 2020. the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Friday. The margin was just .02 degrees,

The last seven Julys, from 2015 to 2021, have been the hottest seven Julys on record, said NOAA climatologist Ahira Sanchez-Lugo. Last month was 1.67 degrees warmer than the 20th century average for the month.

"In this case first place is the worst place to be," NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad said in a press release. "This new record adds to the disturbing and disruptive path that climate change has set for the globe."

"This is climate change," said Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann. "It is an exclamation mark on a summer of unprecedented heat, drought, wildfires and flooding."

Earlier this week, a prestigious United Nations science panel warned of worsening climate change caused by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas and other human activity.

Warming on land in western North America and in parts of Europe and Asia really drove the record-setting heat, Sanchez-Lugo said. While the worldwide temperature was barely higher than the record, what shattered it was land temperature over the Northern Hemisphere, she said.

Northern Hemisphere temperatures were a third of a degree higher than the previous record set in July 2012, which for temperature records is "a wide margin," Sanchez-Lugo said.

July is the hottest month of the year for the globe, so this is also the hottest month on record.

One factor helping the world bake this summer is a natural weather cycle called the Arctic Oscillation, sort of a cousin to El Nino, which in its positive phase is associated with more warming, the NOAA climatologist said.

Even with a scorching July and a nasty June, this year so far is only the sixth warmest on record. That's mostly because 2021 started cooler than recent years due to a La Nina cooling of the central Pacific that often reduces the global temperature average, Sanchez-Lugo said.

"One month by itself does not say much, but that this was a La Nina year and we still had the warmest temperatures on record ... fits with the pattern of what we have been seeing for most of the last decade now," said University of Illinois meteorology professor Donald Wuebbles.

While the world set a record in July, the United States only tied for its 13th hottest July on record. Even though California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington had their hottest Julys, slightly cooler than normal months in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Alabama, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire kept the nation from approaching record heat levels.

The last time the globe had a July cooler than the 20th century average was in 1976, which was also the last year the globe was cooler than that normal.

"So if you're younger than 45 you haven't seen a year (or July) where the mean temperature of the planet was cooler than the 20th century average," said Princeton University climate scientist Gabriel Vecchi.

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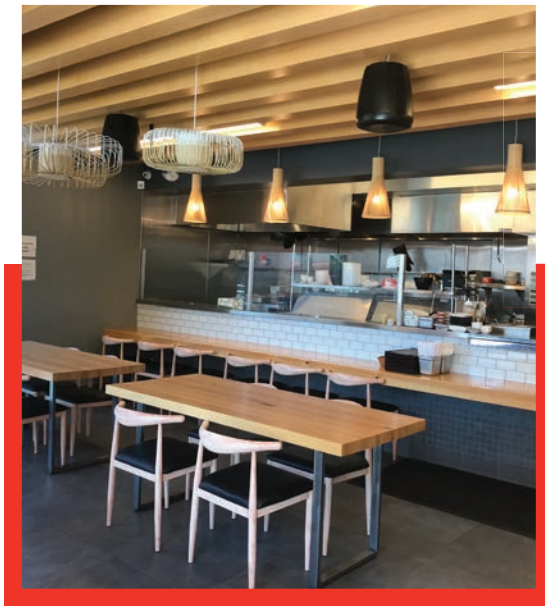
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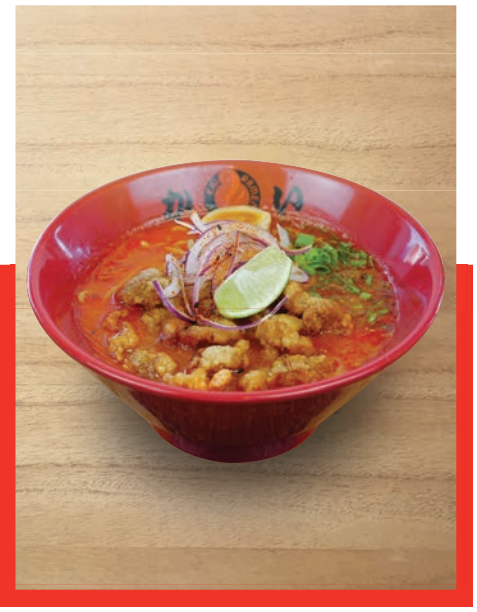
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