smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY
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Volume 20 Issue 245

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SMPD preparing for Antifa / anti-vax clash

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica Police Department is preparing for the possibility of violence this weekend when anti-vaccine protesters are expected to gather near the Santa Monica Pier as part of an international movement against Covid restrictions.

The Worldwide Rally for Freedom is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 29 from 12 - 4 p.m. near the Pier entrance. While the event itself isn't seen as inherently dangerous, officials are worried that violence could erupt given the possibility that counter-protesters could also be out in force.

SMPD Captain Candice Cobarrubias discussed the event as part of a presentation to Council this week that asked for additional restrictions on the kinds of items allowed at protests.

Cobarrubias said the Freedom Rally organizers have held other events in Santa Monica without incident, but this weekend's gathering was cause for concern as it had been advertised on far-right internet sites and picked up by far-left opponents.

"There is a strong contingency of anti-fascist, antifa that we anticipate to be here on the 29th," she said. "With everything that has happened as of two days ago in Portland, Oregon and the event in Santa Monica, albeit peaceful, did generate a large number, the challenge has been drawn and they

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Council roundup

Editor's Note: The Daily Press will cover the decisions in more detail in the coming days but the following is a summation of the Council's meeting.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

After a brief summer hiatus, City Council returned to business with a heavy agenda this week.

The City settled claims related to abuse at the Police Activities League for $54.9 million. The settlement resolves all claims and lawsuits brought by 61 individuals who allege that Uller sexually abused or attempted to sexually abuse them between the late 1980s and early 2000s when many were youth participating in the Police Activities League ("PAL") program. Pursuant to the settlement agreement, the City will pay $54.9 million into a qualified settlement fund, and the funds will be allocated to the 61 individuals as determined by a retired Superior Court Judge, whom plaintiffs' counsel retained as a third-party neutral to perform this allocation.

Council authorized $100,000 to help the Santa Monica Black Lives Association establish itself as a new entity in town. Council's vote includes a requirement that the Association report back to the city with information on the use of the one-time funds.

Council reconsidered a motion to ban items that can be converted into weapons during large protests. The original motion failed in April but a reconstituted Council voted to ban an extended list of items during protests including items such as poles, plastic pipes, or wooden sticks unattached to a sign,

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 5

Marina businesses object to advancement of waterfront homeless camping proposal



Courtesy photo

MDR: Business owners in the Marina are concerned about plans for homeless housing near the boat ramp.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The idea that a waterfront parking lot home to Marina del Rey's only public boat launch could be converted into a homeless camping or tiny home site, is causing a stir among the local business community.

Critics of the proposal say that the parking lot is an inappropriate location due to its designation as a staging site and landing zone in the event of air or sea disaster; its proximity to heavy machinery and watercraft vessels; and the adjacent area's economic dependence on visitors and tourism.

CD-11 Councilman Mike Bonin, who identified the potential site, said that in the face of an "urgent and growing crisis" he will "leave no stone unturned" in searching for housing solutions. In May, Bonin requested that City staff conduct a feasibility study of various Westside parks and beach parking lots for emergency shelter or housing.

Bonin's bold proposal earned him praise from homeless housing advocates, but backlash from a segment of local residents, many of whom channeled their frustration into the Recall Bonin campaign.

The City Administrative Officer returned with an initial feasibility report on Aug. 10, deeming most of the sites unfeasible, but recommending further assessment for three locations including the Marina's Lot 2.

Janet Zaldua, CEO of the Marina del Rey Convention and Visitors Bureau, is spearheading an effort to bring the voices of local businesses to the attention of public officials and sent a letter to Sup. Janice Hahn outlining their concerns.

While there are numerous reasons the CVB considers the site an inappropriate location, Zaldua believes the initial study should have deemed it infeasible solely on the basis that it is a designated staging and boat launch area in the event of an emergency.

"It's listed in LAX Airport Emergency Air/Sea Disaster Plan, for not minor rescues, but major rescues which are designated and defined as 10 or more people," said Zaldua. "It's been used in the past to recover folks who were in distress on the water such as a

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 11



Thinking of making a move?
Let me guide you.

Melanie Tielmann

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COMPASS

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 30 CALLS ON AUGUST 24

EMS 1300blk Ocean Ave 1:26 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 1:42 a.m.
EMS 2400blk Oak St 2:26 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Virginia Ave 3:16 a.m.
Structure Fire 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 5:01 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Colorado Ave 8:03 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 8:46 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Hill St 8:57 a.m.
EMS 300blk 12th St 9:12 a.m.
EMS 3000blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:21 a.m.
EMS 2300blk Main St 10:30 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 2200blk Colorado Ave 10:32 a.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 10:47 a.m.
EMS 12th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:03 a.m.
EMS 3100blk Olympic Blvd 12:17 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 15th St 12:29 p.m.
EMS 2900blk Main St 12:53 p.m.
EMS 800blk 21st St 12:53 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 2:25 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 4:12 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk 15th St 4:56 p.m.
EMS 700blk Broadway 5:11 p.m.
EMS 200blk Montana Ave 5:15 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Hill St 5:32 p.m.
EMS Berkeley St / Broadway 5:33 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600blk Euclid St 5:36 p.m.
Brush Fire 20th St / Interstate 10 6:43 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Navy St 7:20 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk Ocean Ave 8:15 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Pico Blvd 9:56 p.m.

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.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 2:27 P.M.

SMPD Officers responded to Crescent Bay Park regarding a fight involving multiple subjects. Upon arrival, the Officers separated the involved parties and gathered details. Officers determined that a verbal altercation had occurred between one subject when he asked the two victims for a cigarette. During the altercation the subject threatened to return with his friends. After some time, the subject returned with his friends and a fight ensued. David Onario Ramirez, Jacob Kamon LeBlanc, Michael Shane James, and Matthew David Berman were all arrested for 182(A)(1) PC-Conspiracy and 243(D) PC-Assault with Great Bodily Injury. James was further charged with 422 PC-Criminal Threats.

City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4415 COMPREHENSIVE URBAN FOREST MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Submission Deadline is September 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **City's Online Vendor Portal.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.



DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 298 CALLS ON AUGUST 24

Death Investigation 1300blk Ocean Ave 1:32 a.m.
Overdose 2500blk Beverley Ave 2:55 a.m.
Arson 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 5:02 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1400blk 2nd St 5:18 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:48 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1400blk 18th St 7:02 a.m.
Found Property 200blk Wilshire Blvd 7:07 a.m.
Encampment Clover St / Pier Ave 7:44 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2400blk 6th St 7:55 a.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 9th St 7:57 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 3200blk Airport Ave 8:14 a.m.
Burglary 300blk 15th St 8:28 a.m.
Encampment 800blk 2nd St 8:29 a.m.
Burglary 1600blk 9th St 8:35 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 16th St / Wilshire Blvd 8:50 a.m.
Bike Theft 900blk 17th St 8:54 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 7th St / Michigan Ave 9:07 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 9:10 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 11th St / Olympic Blvd E 9:19 a.m.
Fight 1100blk 12th St 9:34 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:38 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2100blk Delaware Ave 9:45 a.m.
Burglary 2900blk Neilson Way 9:50 a.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 9:51 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:10 a.m.
Burglary 1800blk 14th St 10:10 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 200blk Marine St 10:12 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1600blk 11th St 10:21 a.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 10:23 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk 16th St 10:26 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2300blk Main St 10:30 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1400blk Ocean Ave 10:34 a.m.
Battery 1400blk 2nd St 10:51 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 11:00 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2500blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:01 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 800blk Palisades Park 11:17 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:20 a.m.
Burglary 2400blk Pier Ave 11:21 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 800blk Pacific St 11:46 a.m.
Grand Theft 1500blk Montana Ave 12:07 p.m.
Battery 1300blk 17th St 12:27 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:30 p.m.
Battery 1500blk Berkeley St 12:36 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2600blk 30th St 12:38 p.m.
General Parking Problem Centinela Ave / Montana Ave 12:46 p.m.
Found Property 3100blk The Beach 12:47 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2000blk 10th St 12:52 p.m.
Bike Theft 2500blk Kansas Ave 12:55 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 400blk Pico Blvd 1:12 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 1:21 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1600blk Appian Way 1:29 p.m.
General Parking Problem 400blk 21st St 1:32 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 2400blk 31st St 1:38 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2600blk 4th St 1:40 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:56 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1600blk Ocean Ave 2:36 p.m.
Identity Theft 1900blk Montana Ave 2:36 p.m.
Fraud 200blk Pacific St 2:49 p.m.
Fraud Suspect Just Left 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 2:58 p.m.
Battery Main St / Colorado Ave 3:05 p.m.
Battery 1500blk Berkeley St 3:13 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1800blk 7th St 3:17 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1800blk 16th St 3:33 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1800blk 18th St 3:34 p.m.
Burglary 2300blk Pearl St 3:37 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk Wilshire Blvd 3:53 p.m.
Burglary 800blk 4th St 4:00 p.m.
Illegal Weapon 2nd St / Hill St 4:01 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 4th St / Hollister Ave 4:10 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 4:13 p.m.
Identity Theft 2000blk 20th St 4:40 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 300blk California Ave 5:16 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk Berkeley St 5:23 p.m.
Petty Theft 1700blk The Beach 5:41 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk Broadway 5:47 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1800blk Pico Blvd 5:59 p.m.
Found Property 1800blk Pico Blvd 6:02 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle 900blk Colorado Ave 6:04 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1100blk 6th St 6:06 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1400blk 2nd St 6:06 p.m.
Encampment Centinela Ave / Wilshire Blvd 6:25 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1000blk Euclid St 6:54 p.m.
Identity Theft 1900blk Montana Ave 6:58 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1100blk 12th St 6:58 p.m.
Bike Theft 600blk Hill St 7:02 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 7:06 p.m.
Fraud 1000blk Ocean Ave 7:13 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1200blk Grant St 7:29 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1200blk Princeton St 7:49 p.m.
Petty Theft 1200blk 4th St 7:57 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 8:14 p.m.
Battery 1400blk 4th St 8:17 p.m.
Grand Theft 2300blk 29th St 8:45 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1600blk Bryn Mawr Ave 9:13 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Arizona Ave 9:19 p.m.
Fraud 800blk 4th St 9:35 p.m.
Petty Theft 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:52 p.m.
Prowler Just Left 1100blk 10th St 10:04 p.m.
Construction Noise 1500blk California Ave 10:13 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1800blk 14th St 10:26 p.m.
Petty Theft 2300blk Main St 10:32 p.m.
Missing Person 2900blk 4th St 11:26 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 2900blk Virginia Ave 11:26 p.m.

Experts on WHO team say search for COVID origins has stalled

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

The international scientists dispatched to China by the World Health Organization to find out where the coronavirus came from said Wednesday the search has stalled and warned that the window of opportunity for solving the mystery is "closing fast."

Meanwhile, a U.S. intelligence review ordered up by President Joe Biden proved inconclusive about the virus's origin, including whether it jumped from an animal to a human or escaped from a Chinese lab, The Washington Post reported Wednesday.

In a commentary published in the journal Nature, the WHO-recruited experts said the origins investigation is at "a critical juncture" requiring urgent collaboration but has instead come to a standstill. They noted among other things that Chinese officials are still reluctant to share some raw data, citing concerns over patient confidentiality.

Earlier this year, WHO sent a team of experts to Wuhan, where the first human COVID-19 cases were detected in December 2019, to probe what might have triggered the pandemic now blamed for nearly 4.5 million deaths worldwide, with more than 10,000 people a day succumbing despite more than 5 billion doses of vaccine administered.

In their analysis, published in March, the WHO team concluded the virus probably jumped to humans from animals, and they described the possibility of a laboratory leak as "extremely unlikely."

But the WHO experts said their report was intended only as a first step and added, "The window of opportunity for conducting this crucial inquiry is closing fast: any delay will render some of the studies biologically impossible."

For example, they said, "Antibodies wane, so collecting further samples and testing people who might have been exposed before December 2019 will yield diminishing returns."

China said Wednesday that officials should "concentrate on other possible avenues that may help trace the origin" of COVID-19 and suggested studies should be pursued in other countries.

Fu Cong, a director-general in China's Foreign Ministry, agreed it is a "pity" the search for COVID-19's origins has stalled but said it wasn't China's fault. "China has always supported and will continue to participate in the science-based origin tracing efforts," he said.

He accused the U.S. of "hyping the lab leak

SEE **WHO** PAGE 4

Delta will charge unvaccinated employees $200 per month

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

Delta Air Lines will charge employees on the company health plan $200 a month if they fail to get vaccinated against COVID-19, a policy the airline's top executive says is necessary because the average hospital stay for the virus costs the airline $50,000.

CEO Ed Bastian said that all employees who have been hospitalized for the virus in recent weeks were not fully vaccinated.

The airline said Wednesday that it also will stop extending pay protection to unvaccinated workers who contract COVID-19 on Sept. 30, and will require unvaccinated workers to be tested weekly beginning Sept. 12, although Delta will cover the cost. They will have to wear masks in all indoor company settings.

Delta stopped short of matching United Airlines, which will require employees to be vaccinated starting Sept. 27 or face termination. However, the $200 monthly surcharge, which starts in November, may have the same effect.

"This surcharge will be necessary to address the financial risk the decision to not vaccinate is creating for our company," Bastian said in a memo to employees.

The surcharge will only apply to employees who don't get vaccinated and won't be levied for spouses or dependents, a Delta spokeswoman said.

Delta is self-insured and sets premiums for its plans, which are administered by UnitedHealthcare. The company spokeswoman had said the average hospital stay costs $40,000, contradicting the figure that Bastian used in his memo, and Delta later said both figures reflected a range of the average bill.

Bastian said that 75% of Delta employees are vaccinated, up from 72% in mid-July. He said the aggressiveness of the leading strain of the virus "means we need to get many more of our people vaccinated, and as close to 100% as possible."

"I know some of you may be taking a wait-and-see approach or waiting for full (Food and Drug Administration) approval," he told employees. "With this week's announcement that the FDA has granted full approval for the Pfizer vaccine, the time for you to get vaccinated is now."

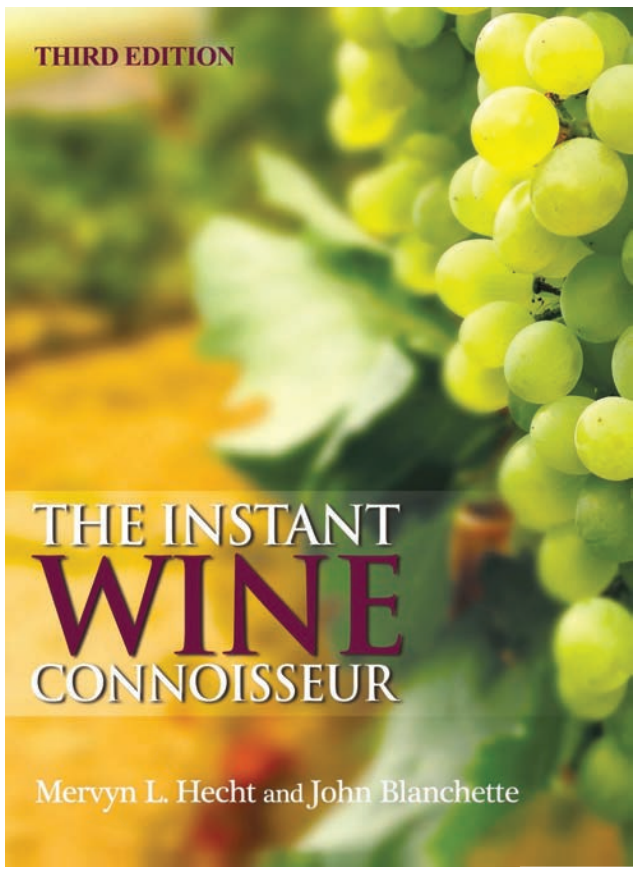
A growing number of companies including Chevron Corp. and drugstore chain CVS announced they will require workers to get vaccinated after Monday's FDA decision.

SEE **FIGHT** PAGE 11





★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

available at amazon

Letter to the Editor

Karen Farrer
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Response to SMMUSD Attack Video

I am saddened and outraged about the political propaganda video that SM-MUSD sent to parents, teachers, staff and community members attacking Malibu's effort to form its own school district.

This highly produced video, filled with falsehoods, was paid for with School District taxpayer money, a portion of which comes from Malibu families.

Among other distortions, the SM-MUSD projected a loss of revenue without accounting for the loss of Malibu students. The video also falsely states that school separation would force SM-MUSD to cut funding for English learners and at-risk students, as well as special education programs. The truth is that the federal government requires school districts to provide services to vulnerable populations and provides dedicated funding for them. SM-MUSD would not see any reduction in funding for these programs on a per-student basis.

The City and SM-MUSD both agree that we should have separate school districts; the only question is how to separate in a way that is fair and equitable for both and will not harm any students.

After years spent negotiating with SM-MUSD on the financial terms of separation, the City petitioned the County to form an independent school district, based on California's school finance principles, and in a way that would not harm students in either district.

In May 2021, the City again asked SM-MUSD to return to the negotiation table with an independent, third-party mediator, and the District has still not responded to the City's offer. Instead, they attack the City and misrepresent its petition.

Malibu is a small, rural, residential community 20 miles from Santa Monica, separated by the City of Los Angeles, with its own values and needs. We have only sought to have local control over the education of our children and to address the inequities in the programs that the District offers in Santa Monica and Malibu.

As a parent of students who attended SM-MUSD schools and a founding member of Malibu's school separation effort, I have seen firsthand how our students' educations have suffered because they did not have access to programs and resources including art, music, afterschool programs, and tutoring that were offered exclusively in Santa Monica.

This video is yet another example of SM-MUSD using taxpayer dollars against the best interest of its Malibu students and parents.

Get the real facts at MalibuCity.org/MUSD.

Karen Farrer, Councilmember, City of Malibu

WHO

FROM PAGE 3

theory" and trying to shift the blame onto China, and implied the coronavirus might be linked to high-level American research labs, suggesting the United States invite WHO to investigate some of its installations.

Marion Koopmans and her WHO-recruited colleagues listed a number of priorities for further research, including conducting wider antibody surveys that might identify places where COVID-19 was spreading undetected, both in China and beyond, testing wild bats and farm-raised animals as potential reservoirs of the virus, and investigating any credible new leads.

Some other scientists fear the best opportunities to collect samples might have been missed during the first few weeks after some of the earliest human cases appeared linked to a Wuhan seafood market.

Chinese researchers collected hundreds of environmental samples immediately after the coronavirus was found, but it is unclear how many people or animals were tested.

"Once you have wildlife traders shifting over to other kinds of employment because they're worried about whether they'll be able to do this anymore, that window starts to close," said Maciej Boni, a Pennsylvania State University biology professor who has studied virus origins and was not part of the WHO team.

Still, Boni said scientists might be able to pinpoint COVID-19's animal source by hunting for closely related viruses in species like raccoon dogs, mink or ground squirrels. But he said it could take about five years to do the kind of extensive studies necessary.

The search for COVID-19's origins has become a bitter source of dispute between the U.S. and China, with increasing numbers of American experts calling for the two Wuhan laboratories close to the seafood market to be investigated, something China has flatly rejected and branded "scapegoating."

Biden in May ordered a 90-day review by U.S. intelligence agencies of both the animal-to-human hypothesis and the lab leak theory. In July, even WHO's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Gheybreyesus said it was premature to have rejected the lab theory, adding that research accidents are common.

Ken Moritsugu in Beijing contributed to this report.

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

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SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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Scientists launch effort to collect water data in US West

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

The U.S. Department of Energy on Tuesday announced a new kind of climate observatory near the headwaters of the Colorado River that will help scientists better predict rain and snowfall in the U.S. West and determine how much of it will flow through the region.

The multimillion-dollar effort led by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory launches next week. The team has set up radar systems, balloons, cameras and other equipment in an area of Colorado where much of the water in the river originates as snow. More than 40 million people depend on the Colorado River.

Alejandro Flores, an associate professor of hydrology at Boise State University, said the weather in mountainous areas is notoriously difficult to model and the observatory will be a "game changer."

"We have to think about the land and the atmosphere as a linked system that interact with each other," he said in a call with reporters. "Up until now, there have been a lack of observations that help us understand this critical interface."

The West is in the midst of a more than 20-year megadrought that studies link to human-caused climate change. That, along with increased demand on the Colorado River led to the first-ever shortage declaration in August, and there's an increasing threat of deeper, more widespread water cuts. Arizona, Nevada and Mexico won't get their full allocations of river water next year.

Scientists will use the observatory to gather data on precipitation, wind, clouds, tiny particles, humidity, soil moisture and other things. Along with a better understanding of the hydrology, they hope to learn more about how wildfires, forest management, drought and tree-killing bugs, for example, play a part in water availability.

A big issue in predicting water supply in the West centers on soil moisture and content, said Ken Williams, the lead on-site researcher and Berkeley Lab scientist. The monsoon season largely was a dud across the Southwest for the past two years, which means more melting snow soaks into the ground before reaching streams and rivers when it does rain, he said.

Climate experts said during a separate briefing Tuesday that southern Arizona and parts of New Mexico have seen impressive rainfall totals so far this monsoon season, with Tucson marking its wettest July on record. Mike Crimmins, a professor at the University of Arizona, called it an "amazing reversal" for the desert city.

Some parts of the Southwest have seen as much as four times their normal precipitation levels. But Crimmins noted other spots like Albuquerque, New Mexico, are either at average levels or still lagging.

"We have both really wet conditions for the short term, but we also have longer-term drought still hanging out there because we have these longer-term deficits that we cannot solve with just one or two or even three months of precipitation," he said.

To reverse the longer-term trends, the region would need to see back-to-back wet winters and summers that are hard to come by, Crimmins said.

The new climate observatory, called the Surface Atmosphere Integrated Field Laboratory, brings together federal scientists, university researchers and others to build on a previous effort to study part of the upper Gunnison River basin in Colorado that shares characteristics with the Rocky Mountains.

For the Rio Grande basin, the data could help water managers as they juggle longstanding water sharing agreements among Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico, Williams said. It also could help improve weather forecasting and experiments to modify the weather, such as cloud seeding to produce more precipitation.

The data will be available to other researchers and provide a benchmark for any collection beyond the two-year project, scientists said.

Associated Press writer Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico, contributed to this report.

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

metal pipes, projectiles like rocks and pieces of concrete, glass bottles, aerosol sprays, slingshots or catapults, long chains, knives, martial arts weapons, tasers, containers with dangerous liquids, open flames, bricks, shields, baseball or softball bats, laser pointers, metal containers, gas masks or similar breathing devices, helmets, umbrellas bigger than a specified length, riot gear, protective equipment, flak jackets, stab/bullet resistant vests, and load bearing or similar "tactical vests." The rule will expire in six months (on Feb. 28) but staff may return before that date with permanent proposals.

The City of Santa Monica is considering a vaccine mandate for staff and while such a mandate would come from the City Manager's office, five of the seven members voiced support for the proposal. Councilwoman Negrete abstained and Councilman De la Torre opposed the proposal.

Council unanimously adopted new rules to prohibit dumping of commercial trash in City receptacles, dumping of liquid waste on public rights of way, on or onto the Pier or Beach, or into storm drains and the use of combustible fuels on or in close proximity to the Pier. The rules are designed to address public health and safety problems caused by illegal street vendors on or near the Pier.

editor@smdp.com

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

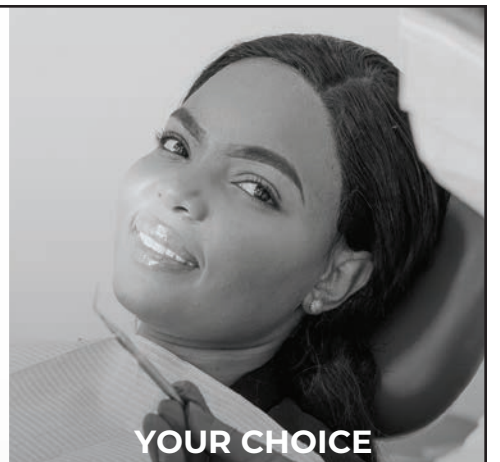
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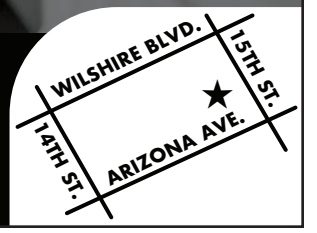
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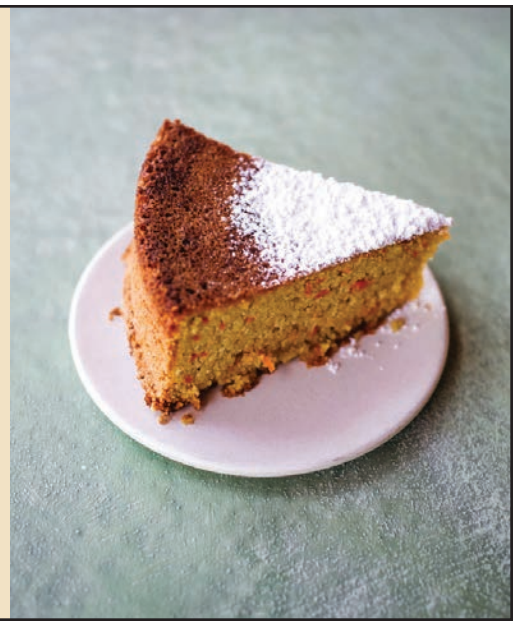
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Audit: California agency bungled COVID-19 funds for homeless

Associated Press

A California agency didn't properly distribute federal relief funds meant to help homeless residents during the coronavirus pandemic, and the mismanagement was so prolonged that local organizations may lose the money because of missed deadlines, auditors said Tuesday.

After receiving $316 million under the federal CARES Act to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on unhoused people, the California Department of Housing and Community Development "did not take critical steps to ensure those funds promptly benefited that population," the state auditor's office said in a report.

The department was in charge of distributing the funds to local groups that collaborate on homeless services and prevention under the so-called continuum of care. It took so long to finalize contracts that the local entities did not have access to much of the funding during the height of the pandemic, auditors found.

"Recognizing it lacked the capacity to manage this emergency funding, the department hired a contractor to manage the program although it did not do so until 14 months after the CARES Act passed" in March 2020, the report said.

Because the local organizations did not have access to the money in a prompt manner, they may struggle to spend the full allocations within federally mandated time frames and may lose the funding, auditors concluded.

"In the weeks and months following the passage of the CARES Act, we expected the department to have taken every step possible to ensure that timely access and it did not," the report said.

In addition, the department hasn't collected vital information needed to measure the effectiveness of the state's use of federal funds to address homelessness, according to the report.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's office sharply took issue with the report.

"Gov. Newsom acted quickly and comprehensively to protect people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic, which is why California's approach has become the national model," said a statement from Erin Mellon, the governor's spokeswoman.

"Unprecedented resources, deployed at a quick clip, has resulted in safely housing 42,000 individuals (and) the construction of permanent shelter for 8,000 more individuals," the statement said. "To suggest anything else is to fundamentally misunderstand how impactful our response was at protecting unsheltered people's lives from the worst ravages of COVID."

The auditor's office said that while the housing and community development department strongly disagrees with the findings, it plans to implement the report's recommendations, which includes developing a strategy to operate more efficiently during emergencies.

The report also recommends that the department work closely with local organizations to establish a contingency plan to reallocate unspent money to "ensure that the state maximizes the intended benefit of this funding."

PROTEST

FROM PAGE 1

are coming and they are ready to do whatever they need to do to express their concern and we have the alt-right that is ready to protect their event no matter what the cost."

On Aug. 24, the two sides clashed in Portland. The conflict included large scale property destruction and some physical injuries. An anti-vaccine protest in Los Angeles also turned violent last week when a man was stabbed in the chest.

"As a Santa Monica community member, business owner, or visitor, you should know that the City of Santa Monica, and by extension, its Police Department values the ability of the public to engage in peacefully expressive conduct as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution," said Interim Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks. "On the other hand, we do take issue with those who come to our community specifically to intimidate—through violence or other criminal behavior—those who seek to peacefully exercise their Constitutional rights."

She said the department is prepared for the protest.

"Given the nature of this upcoming event, and in an abundance of caution, this weekend, you will see an increased uniformed police presence throughout the City and in particular, the Downtown area," she said. "We are working with our municipal partners and other regional partners to ensure the Police Department is able to facilitate peaceful First Amendment activity even as we work to ensure a safe environment for our residents, business owners, and visitors. To assist us in our efforts in maintaining a safe community, last night, the Santa Monica City Council passed an emergency ordinance prohibiting possession of certain items while attending public assemblies or community events."

The protest arrives with local memories of last year's riot still fresh in the minds of residents.

On May 31 of 2021, large groups of organized criminals flooded Downtown following peaceful protests triggered by the murder of George Floyd. While a section of Downtown was looted, police officers engaged in skirmishes with protesters near the Santa Monica Pier and the community is still adapting to the fallout from the clash.

Cobarrubias said the Pier continues to be an attractive location for political activity.

"There's nothing better than the Santa Monica Pier for your cause, it's a beautiful place, it's iconic, we did have our events of 5/31 and we're trying to move forward from that and that is what we have coming on Sunday.

editor@smdp.com



Noteworthy

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Guns – Fight On Main Street

MUSIC TOPS POLITICS

Every time. Duh. But I mean, in real importance in life. I am drawn to both, but one is a fascination and a compulsion to know, like staring at a burning building, and the other is a refuge and source of both energy and calm, where the answer to all things resides. Of course, politics does cause a lot of burning buildings.

The world could survive (better) without politics. But our souls would shrivel away without music. (See the insightful documentary, "Yellow Submarine.") Fundamentalists are capable of the most horrific crimes in the name of their religious beliefs, but that aside, any movement that banishes music obviously does not have God's phone number.

Music is the world's common language. Everybody likes some kind of music. I don't know what activist/ex-mayor Judy Abdo favors specifically. Maybe even heavy metal.

You may have read yesterday in my CURIOUS CITY column of my encounter on Main Street with Abdo. No, I'm OK, thanks for asking. Actually, it was pleasant and charming, even though she was critical of me, but she was gracious.

GUNS IN THE HOUSE

I related yesterday how she began dissecting my NOTEWORTHY column of last Thursday until she finally got where she wanted to go: my list of terrible bands. When she got to my mention of L.A. Guns, she asked a few pointed questions about my familiarity with them, before announcing, "Tracii Guns is my nephew."

I resisted the temptation to ask how a good auntie could not slap him for putting an extra "i" in his name, because she clearly had no influence on his body full of tattoos. I had to admit that I came up, without much discrimination and no research, with a list of LA metal/hair bands that included Ratt, Poison, Warrant, W.A.S.P., Stryper — and L.A. Guns. Back in the day (I moved to LA in 1980), I encountered metal bands only unwillingly or unwittingly, by accident. Properly chastised by Abdo, I spent part of that night in headphones, listening to those bands for the first time in 30-40 years.

L.A. Guns first. Pretty decent hard rock band, I thought, but not remarkable. Traciiii is a hot guitar slinger and Phil Lewis a good vocalist. I listened to seven or eight songs and was getting a bit worn out, but when I tried on other bands on the list their singers were all god-awful and I was (un)lucky to get through even one song.

So Judy, and nephew Traciiiiii, I hereby apologize. L.A. Guns comes off the really bad bands list. Skid Row, climb aboard.

R.I.P.

DON EVERLY died last Saturday at 84, preceded by his brother Phil seven years ago, Simon and Garfunkel patterned their harmonies after them, Paul worked with them on "Graceland" and said "they were the most beautiful sounding duo I ever heard," and in one of their career slumps put them on tour as their opening act. When they came to Staples Center, I went more for the Everlys than S&G, and they were transcendent. Those harmonies.

I've loved them since "Bye Bye Love" hit number one in 1957. 26 Top 40 singles. Keith Richards called Don "one of the best rhythm guitar players." When you grow up singing with siblings or parents it's called "blood harmony," I learned, when my wife Diane Michelle named her first album that, singing with our daughter Nicole. The Chambers Brothers. The Andrews Sisters. The Beach Boys. Louvin Brothers, Statler Brothers, Lennon Sisters, the Judds, the Carter Family and SM's own Peters Sisters..

CHARLIE WATTS passed Tuesday, at 80. Yeah, 80, and he was about to go on another world tour with those bad boys. I have lots to say about Charlie that I will try to get in next week, when I have more space. The tributes are just starting to pour in. Seems everyone agreed he was a gentleman and a scholar, and a sharp dressed man. He was in the Stones from the beginning, 58 years, and married to the same woman for 57. (Not making a judgment — really — but interesting the contrast, that Don Everly was married four times.)

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! DUDAMEL CONDUCTS THE LA PHIL — Tchaikovsky's "Fifth," paired with Piazzola's tango vision of Buenos Aires, his violin concerto homage to Vivaldi, "Four Seasons of Buenos Aires." $8-127.

Friday and Saturday: Carlos Vives brought together the traditional sounds of Colombia with modern pop, rock and R&B, to the tune of two Grammys plus 15 Latin Grammys and millions of albums sold. Fri $16-164, Sat $22-178.

All performances 8 p.m. Hollywood Bowl.

TONIGHT! HAMILTON — No, I haven;t seen it, dammit, anyone want to treat me? But c'mon, I can only go wrong by not recommending it, right? 6:30 p.m., $55-200.

Friday - 8 p.m., $55-225

Saturday - 2 p.m., $75-449; 8 p.m., $55-449

Sunday - 2 p.m., $55-449

Tues, Wed, next Thurs, 8 p.m.,$55-369

All performances at Pantages Theater, Hollywood

WESTERNER, Ray Cholette, Leone — Westerner is a band I'll go see anytime, especially when it's as close as DTSM, but last time I saw them there first post-pandemic show, as a trio, not the same, doesn't allow jumping hot frontman Cooper as much freedom to do his thang — Harvelle's, Fri 9

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11



Nancy Marie Rankin

Empire – Nancy Marie Rankin, age 65, passed away unexpectedly on July 5, 2021 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan.

Nancy was born on April 4, 1956 in Detroit to the late Stuart Courtis and Grace Marie (Harper) Rankin. She was a bright, creative girl, fun-loving and strong-willed. She liked to bend the rules and live life on the edge. She was very funny and loved to tell stories, usually true but often exaggerated. Whether it was speeding in her Mustang down the highway, riding her horse into the post office, or sailing in the wildest of winds, life was always an adventure when it came to Nancy. She loved living life to the fullest.

Nancy got a degree in linguistics from the University of California - Santa Cruz and a teaching credential from San Jose State. In fact, she was one of the first teachers to earn National Certification in this country. Nancy was one of those unforgettable teachers who always found creative ways to reach every child and enrich their lives by providing special life experiences. She was a fierce advocate for her students and their families. Nancy was such a supportive and generous person, especially to those who struggled to help themselves. She put the needs of others first and gave them a voice. She was always there for them just like she was for everyone in her life. This was Nancy's legacy.

Family and friends were everything to Nancy. She deeply loved her three children and adored her three grandchildren. She was never happier than spending time with the people she loved at the family cottage on Little Traverse Lake. She enjoyed the simple things in life like riding horses, reading murder mysteries, and drinking a good margarita on the dock after a swim. In the end, Nancy was living her dream of owning a farm, raising her own horses and chickens, and watching the Michigan seasons change.

Nancy is survived by her beloved children: Kristina Marie Arrufat (Jay), Tarah Lynn Connell, and Payton Thomas Connell; brother Daniel Rankin (Sharon); sister Peggy Ferguson (John) and three grandchildren: Penelope Rose, Liliana Marie, and Julio Victor. She also leaves behind many dear nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Peace Ranch or Reining Liberty in Traverse City, Michigan.

In accordance with Nancy's wishes, the family will host a party in her honor at a later date.

"Life is short; eat dessert first!"

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



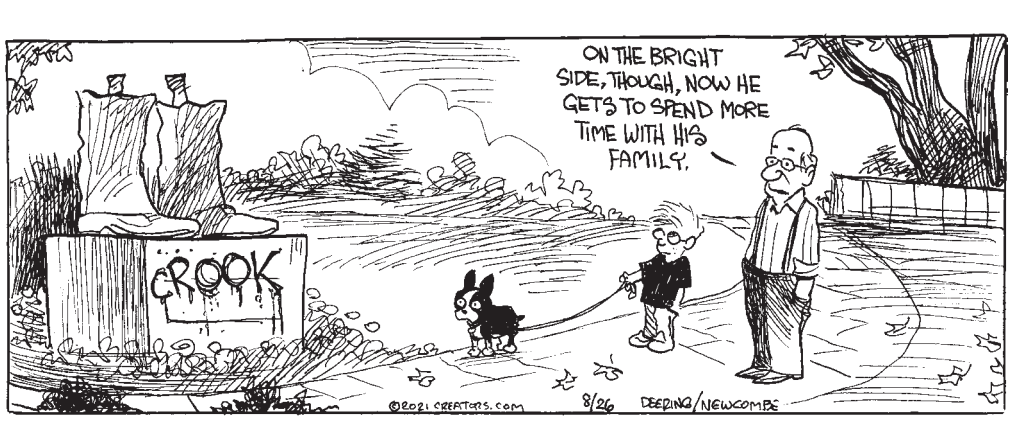
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



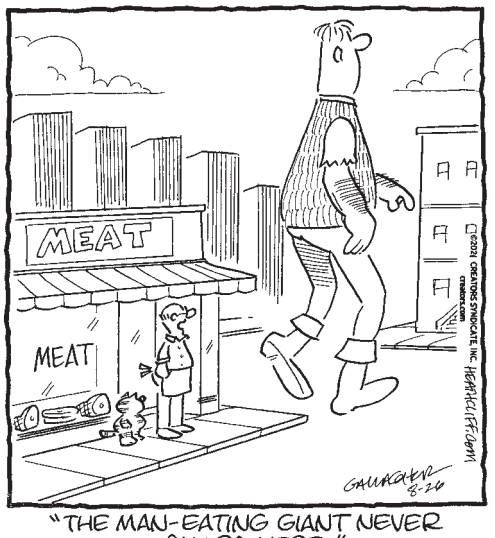
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 63.9°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Modest new SW swell. Old SSW swell down to traces, could have NW swell mix trend up through the day.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Small combo of swells with light wind in the early morning. Worth a look on the small wave gear as modest SW swell lingers, NW swell mix is up slightly.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 78. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 10 to 15.
Thursday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 69. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/08/26	Thu	06:17 AM	0.99	L
2021/08/26	Thu	12:39 PM	4.85	H
2021/08/26	Thu	6:47 PM	1.67	L
2021/08/27	Fri	12:41 AM	4.18	H
2021/08/27	Fri	06:41 AM	1.58	L
2021/08/27	Fri	1:13 PM	4.77	H
2021/08/27	Fri	7:44 PM	1.79	L
2021/08/28	Sat	01:38 AM	3.53	H
2021/08/28	Sat	07:04 AM	2.15	L
2021/08/28	Sat	1:51 PM	4.67	H
2021/08/28	Sat	9:07 PM	1.84	L
2021/08/29	Sun	03:21 AM	3.03	H
2021/08/29	Sun	07:22 AM	2.65	L
2021/08/29	Sun	2:43 PM	4.57	H
2021/08/29	Sun	11:01 PM	1.65	L
2021/08/30	Mon	3:57 PM	4.57	H
2021/08/31	Tue	12:22 AM	1.25	L
2021/08/31	Tue	08:17 AM	3.40	H
2021/08/31	Tue	10:46 AM	3.31	L
2021/08/31	Tue	5:14 PM	4.74	H
2021/09/01	Wed	01:13 AM	0.82	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 8/23
17 36 47 60 61
Power#: 15
Jackpot: 304 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/24
17 18 26 52 67
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 288 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 8/21
12 22 36 44 47
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 11 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 8/24
2 18 21 22 24

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 8/24
EVENING: 8 7 0
Draw Date: 8/24
MIDDAY: 7 0 3

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 8/24
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:49.41

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 26)

The dance of relationships is one of stepping back to get closer. You'll love your freedom and cherish togetherness as you honor your own needs for space and fall in tune with the needs of others. You become powerfully in control of your finances and make savvy investments. You'll be entrusted with coveted keys. Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 22, 5, 7 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Like an expert salesperson, you'll focus on your hot-prospects list and save time and energy by prioritizing your most likely customers. One thoughtful move will make money for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The theme centers on the Latin prefix "re," meaning "back" or "again." Prepare for reunions, renovations, remixes and remodels. All things old will be new again.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The question of standards will come up. You'll set the bar. Look around; do your research; understand the full range of what's possible, especially on the lower side.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Though you can't change history, you can change which parts of it you focus on, the way you tell it, and what it means to you. Today gives you an interesting excuse to reflect.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). "Whoever obeys the gods, to him they particularly listen," stated the Greek classic "The Iliad." You'll notice the same power dynamic on a smaller scale as favoritism will be shown by the powerful to the attentive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Those who appreciate gifts are given more of them. The opposite is also true. You'll wisely temper your reaction to receive less of something you don't want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll experience the need for harmony and beauty in your environment. This is typical for you, but it's stronger and more urgent than usual today, likely causing you to purge the old and bring in the new.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll understand a situation that baffles the others. Explaining it is the hard part. Consider skipping that and just acting on your knowledge. They'll catch up later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The special fondness between you and your people gets the spotlight as you laugh and share stories, many retold for the 100th time. This is how a legacy gets cemented.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To show up and handle responsibilities is the very least you're willing to do for your loved ones. You're proactive, thinking about the future and driving the action according to your vision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your firsthand knowledge of the grind gives you a deep appreciation for the instances in which you are paid to do something you love. Such an exchange will happen today and is deserving of celebration!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your diligence comes from strength, but if you appear to be working harder than anyone else, it will instead be interpreted as weakness. Delegate to take the pressure off so you can be cool, relaxed and in control.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

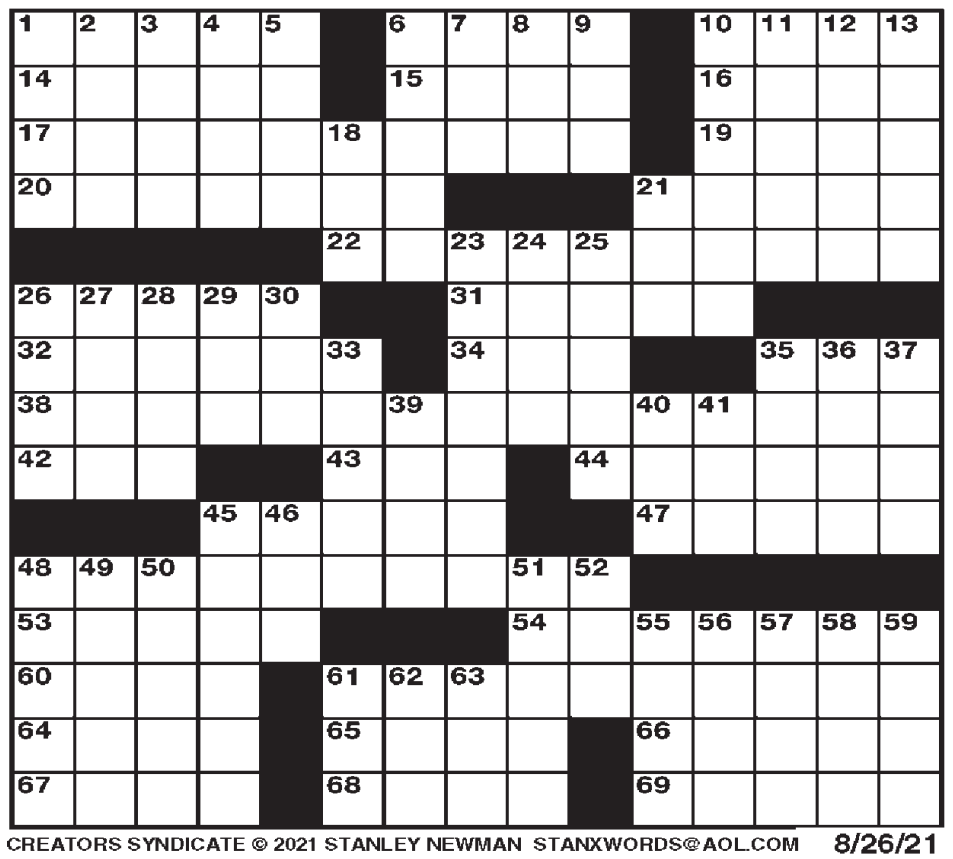
7		2	6	3			8	
	8				1	7		4
		4		8			1	
8	9							3
	4		8	6	3		9	
6							4	5
	6			4		9		
3		7	9				6	
	2			1	6	3		8

Newsday Crossword

FULL HOUSE by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 A whole bunch
6 "Ready" assets
10 Relaxation destinations
14 Fifth word of the Koran
15 Tulsan, affectionately
16 Ice cream purchase
17 Heat source
19 Oscar actor Jared
20 Espied
21 Be admitted
22 Noble global goal
26 Oxygen, essentially
31 Keep an __ (monitor)
32 Acting sulky
34 JAMA subscribers
35 *Aladdin* prince
38 Run smoothly, as an engine
42 Fenced-in farm spot
43 Actress Vardalos
44 Burst of speed
45 Twine fiber
47 One-up
48 Walter Scott contemporary
53 "Please repeat"
54 *War and Peace* heroine
60 Ninny
61 Tough and stubborn
64 Ending like mini-
65 Swordplay tool
66 Get to know
67 About 225 in a Venusian year
68 Put back together, in a way
69 Short-winded

DOWN
1 Loses buoyancy
2 Put your hands together
3 "Just like that . . ."
4 Senseless
5 Boarded up
6 Resort region rental
7 Alias introducer
8 [Uncorrected]
9 Haw's partner
10 Peevish temper
11 Michelangelo masterwork
12 Prone to mischief
13 Ring thing
18 DVR remote button
21 Main mail ctr.
23 Gave out new hands
24 Heavenly strings
25 Workplaces
26 Tour bus gear
27 Talk well of
28 Music City show, for short
29 Orbiter that fell in 2001
30 NBC satire series
33 Knife brand of infomercials
35 Keep __ (persist)
36 Expect back
37 Absorbed with
39 Coupes from Korea
40 Wall St. news
41 Capote nickname
45 Confiscates
46 Big name in spy fiction
48 Hard to impress
49 Upset tummy
50 Smartly dressed
51 All over now
52 Confiscate
55 Pinball problem
56 Suited to __
57 Draw for a drama
58 Half a matched set
59 Mrs. Shakespeare
61 Haw's partner
62 Big lug
63 __ Faire (reenactment venue)



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

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



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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5218

Accountancy

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

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Bonds
Buck
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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

scuba diver who lost oxygen."

L.A. County Sheriff Capt. Chris Johnson, who heads the Marina del Rey substation, also expressed concern about placing a homeless camping site on an emergency disaster and evacuation site.

"If there is a major emergency, like some kind of air or sea disaster in the Santa Monica Bay Area, this is the only feasible place that we can actually launch boats, or use a large area for a command post or a triage area, as well as any kind of helicopter transport," said Johnson.

For local business owners, the fears of the immediate impact a homeless camping site would have on the number of tourists and visitors feel more urgent than a potential future disaster.

"Can you imagine bringing your guests to the boat ramp or Dock 52 and they run into an encampment of tents?" said Alex Balian, who has been in the yacht charter business in Marina del Rey for over 20 years. "It's not a safe situation and it's a very bad image for visitors and tourists to come here and see this. It's not a good sight."

Rick Oefinger, who owns Marina del Rey Sportfishing, is worried about a potential uptick in crime and said that coming out of the pandemic his business cannot afford another drop in customers.

"The bank account of Marina Del Rey Sportfishing is maybe 30 percent of what we would have expected in 2019," said Oefinger. "These days with social media things get broadcast all over the world. If my truck got broken into and my belongings taken out of the Marina Del Rey boat ramp, I'd say go launch in San Pedro, never go back to Marina del Rey."

Zaldua said she worries for the safety of unhoused individuals who might be struggling with mental illness or drug addiction and are wandering around near to large trailers, machinery, and boats being backed up.

She also echoed the fears of business owners that a camping or tiny home site would deter visitors and tourists, who are the main drivers of the Marina's economy.

"We've seen what happened in Venice Beach over the summer," said Zaldua. "They've had a decline in tourism and their businesses, particularly those that are along the boardwalk, were impacted and experienced a loss of business and loss of visitors."

Capt. Johnson said that he was concerned about the idea of bringing a group of unhoused individuals into the Marina as the unhoused population is relatively low and there are no homeless service providers based in the area.

"I'm convinced that once you allow 20 or 30 tents or tiny homes in the launch ramp area, you'll attract other homeless individuals trying to set up tents and have their own camps in the area," said Johnson.

From the perspective of Mike Bonin's office, these concerns are issues that should continue to be studied as the proposal moves forward.

"The City Administrative Officer's report recommended that the city continue to explore the feasibility of creating alternatives to encampments at the boat launch ramp parking lot in Marina Del Rey, and the issues you raise are among the things that continued assessment will consider," said David Graham-Caso, Bonin's deputy chief of staff.

Other locations continuing to be studied include the Dockweiler Beach RV Park and Los Angeles World Airports owned sites.

Clara@smdp.com

FIGHT

FROM PAGE 3

United and Delta already require new hires to be vaccinated. Two smaller carriers, Hawaiian and Frontier, have said they will require either vaccination or regular testing for current employees. Other major U.S. airlines, including American and Southwest, said Wednesday that they are encouraging employees to get vaccinated but have not required it.

Delta's requirement for weekly testing of unvaccinated employees will start Sept. 12, and the requirement that the unvaccinated wear masks indoors takes effect immediately.

Fueled by the now-dominant delta variant of the virus, new reported cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. have topped 150,000 a day, the highest level since late January. Nationally the rate of increase has slowed, but the variant threatens to overwhelm emergency rooms in parts of the country.

On Tuesday, Gov. Brian Kemp of Georgia, where Delta is based, ordered members of the National Guard to 20 hospitals across the state to help deal with a surge that is larger than the national average.

Southwest, Spirit and Frontier have blamed the rise of the delta variant for a slowdown in customers booking flights, and U.S. air travel remains down more than 20% from pre-pandemic 2019.

In his message to employees Bastian referred to the fast-spreading strain of the virus as B.1.617.2, which is used by scientists to identify its lineage. The Delta CEO's effort to avoid using the more commonly known "delta variant" did not go unnoticed and B.1.617.2 began trending on Twitter Wednesday.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 7

p.m., DTSM, $10.

THEATRICUM BOTANICUM presents "THE LAST, BEST SMALL TOWN" — this moving, timely original with themes of racism, small town life, economic disparity, stereotypes, youthful rebellion, the value of education, family expectations and dynamics, East Coast-West Coast, rural-city, marriage and tradition — in other words, the human condition. Sat 7:30 p.m.

SHAKESPEARE'S "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" — one of the best "AMND" I can recall (despite the flawed attempt to inject a little singing). Loved the inventive physical comedy and the fairies were really good; who could not be charmed by their little chirping sounds? Sun 4 p.m.,

SHAKESPEARE'S "JULIUS CAESAR" — Haven't seen this one yet but TB is always solid especially with the Bard. "JC" is a bloody dose of political reality, from Imperial Rome to Elizabethan England to Trump-traumatized America. Sun 7:30 p.m.,

All performances TB. Topanga Canyon, #10-$26 general admission.

EM THE MASTER — I know, sounds pretentious... unless you can deliver and she does. I wrote a couple weeks ago about how knocked out I was by her show. Her original songs are excellent, the arrangements masterful, the band killer. She is a non-stop ball of frenetic but focused energy. Tues 9 p.m., Harvelle's, DTSM, $10.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

TONIGHT! HIGHLAND PARK INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL — See some great independent films on a big screen outside at Tierra De La Culebra Park! The mini-festival will feature four short films by different filmmakers, one of which is by SMC film student Osvaldo Ozuna, who has received multiple awards and numerous festival admissions for their film Muñecas that will be screened tonight. Free admission, free popcorn, and picnics encouraged. 8:30 p.m. gather, 9 p.m. showtime, Tierra De La Culebra, Highland Park.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 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

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