smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Volume 20 Issue 252

Arsonist takes plea
Man faces 10 year sentence for fire set during downtown riot.
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Ed Walked the Walk.
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Officials urge caution and patience for holiday

JAMIE PAIGE
Special to the Daily Press

With a three-day weekend and another heatwave looming, many people are looking to get out to the coastline for Labor Day weekend. With the crowds come several warnings from County Lifeguards and Beaches and Harbors.

The Los Angeles County Lifeguards suggest using common sense when visiting the beach. They said tragedy in the ocean can happen quickly; therefore, having knowledge of aquatic safety is crucial when coming to the beach. Lifeguards say some precautions you can take include always swimming near a lifeguard station and knowing conditions before you hit the water. Keep a safe distance from piers and rocks, always obey warning signs, and use swim fins and a leash whenever bodyboarding.

PACK IN- PACK OUT

Nicole Mooradian, a spokesperson for the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, asks beachgoers to pack a trash bag and take home what they brought to the beach.

SEE **HOLIDAY** PAGE 6

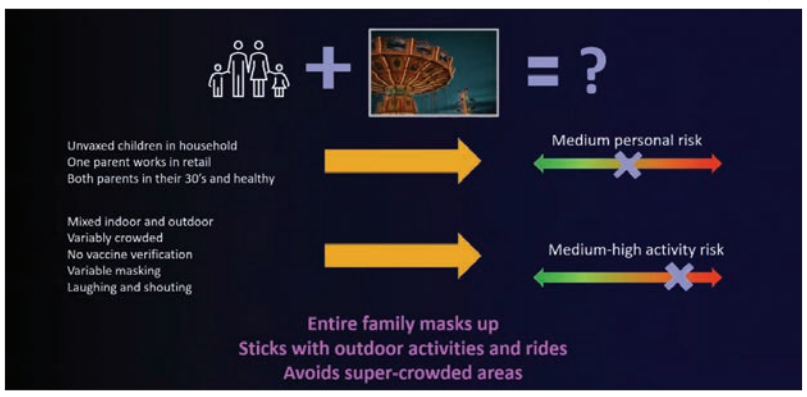
Opera opens Downtown



Daniel Farr

OPERA: Birds in the Moon is playing in a Downtown parking lot this weekend. The show explores themes of freedom, migration and borders. Tickets can be purchased at www.thebroadstage.org.

COVID-19 cases trend down ahead of Labor Day



Courtesy image

RISK: Residents are being asked to consider their risk factors for activity.

DANIEL FARR
SMDP Staff Writer

After weeks of worry over the impact of a more infectious Delta variant on the County's COVID-19 fight, data presented this week suggests trends are heading in a positive direction but officials warned the Labor Day holiday could jeopardize progress as could abandonment of safety protocols like masks, distancing and vaccine advocacy.

The seven day case rate of transmission in L.A. County remains high but it actually fell by 16% this week, with the seven day cumulative case rate at 159 new cases per 100,000 residents, according to health officials.

This is the second consecutive

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11

Recall voters are Democratic and older

MICHAEL R. BLOOD AND KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

The critical question left in the California recall election that could remove Gov. Gavin Newsom isn't whether someone likes the first-term Democrat — it's who is going to take the time to vote.

At this point, it's all about turnout.

Mail-in ballots went to all 22 million registered voters in mid-August for the unusual, late-summer election. More than 4.6 million have been returned so far and while it's not known how they voted, information is available on their political affiliation, age and ethnicity.

The data shows Democrats are off to an encouraging start, turning in more than twice the number submitted by Republicans, a rate that largely mirrors the party's registration edge in the state. More than a third of those who have voted are 65 or older.

But with less than two weeks left before the Sept. 14 election, many unknowns remain.

Some of the state's most inconsistent voters – younger people and Latinos who lean Democratic – aren't showing up in expected numbers. Will that change? And will many Republicans wait to vote in person rather than send in mailed ballots? That's what happened in 2020 and it helped the GOP re-capture several U.S. House seats in the heavily Democratic state.

Because of the oddly timed election — scheduled at the tail end of summer amid a pandemic — it's difficult to be confident about who will vote. "The exact number is really anybody's guess," said Mindy Romero, director of the University of Southern California's Center for Inclusive Democracy. She called a recall election "its own unique animal."

Driving voter turnout is a crucial factor but it's not a precise science. Newsom and his Republican rivals, including conservative talk radio host Larry Elder and former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, are competing with a host of distractions as they seek to win over votes, from back-to-school preparations to massive wildfires

SEE **RECALL** PAGE 4



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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

A discussion will be held by the Landmarks Commission on the following:

1665 Appian Way, Landmark Designation Application 21ENT-0067, Zoning: R3 BCH (Medium Density Residential Beach Overlay) District. Consideration of a Landmark Designation application to determine whether the multi-family residential building in whole or in part, should be designated as a City Landmark and, if so designated, whether an associated Landmark Parcel should be defined and described in order to preserve, maintain, protect, or safeguard the Landmark. The Landmarks Commission will consider the application based on whether the application, research and public testimony presented demonstrates that the building meets one or more of the required criteria for Landmark designation pursuant to SMMC Section 9.56.100(A). **Applicant:** Shawn Hugus. **Owner:** Shyle LLP.

212 San Vicente Boulevard, Certificate of Appropriateness 21ENT-0112, Zoning: R2 (Low Density Residential) District. Consideration of a revised landscape design, exterior building painting, lighting, railing replacement, and other maintenance items in accordance with S.M.M.C 9.27.030 (C). **Applicant & Owner:** United Property Management Services, Jeff Appel.

1415 Ocean Avenue (Georgian Hotel), Certificate of Appropriateness 21ENT-0136, Zoning: DCP OT (Downtown Community Plan Ocean Transition) District. Consideration of a sign adjustment to replace identity signage for "The Georgian" a designated City Landmark. **Applicant:** Margaux Rotter, VP of Development West, BLVD Hospitality. **Owner:** GSM Hotel Owner LLC.

DATE/TIME: **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 AT 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Landmarks Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The public may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/hwxsrgtt or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 4681881 #).

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give public comment must make that request via email to planningcomment@smgov.net. Written information received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Landmarks Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Written information received after 12 p.m. September 13, 2021 will be read aloud at the meeting for a total of three minutes.

QUESTIONS regarding the project may be addressed to Stephanie Reich, AIA, LEED AP, Design and Historic Preservation Planner at stephanie.reich@smgov.net.

MORE INFORMATION: For disability-related accommodations, please contact planning@smgov.net or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica sobre una solicitud para remodilar un edifecio que tiene valor historico importante. Para más información: planning@smgov.net

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 288 CALLS ON SEPTEMBER 1

Shots Fired 800blk 4th St 12:31 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Wilshire Blvd 12:58 a.m.
Battery 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 2:55 a.m.
Battery Now 1600blk Ocean Ave 4:16 a.m.
Battery 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 4:39 a.m.
Petty Theft 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:25 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 400blk 4th St 6:23 a.m.
Smoking Violation 1100blk Palisades Park 7:02 a.m.
Encampment 10th St / Pico Blvd 7:11 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1800blk 20th St 7:17 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Main St / Pico Blvd 7:35 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 1400blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:51 a.m.
Domestic Violence Lincoln Blvd / Pearl St 7:55 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 300blk 21st St 8:02 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Idaho Ave 8:21 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk 12th St 8:27 a.m.
Petty Theft 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:41 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 400blk Ashland Ave 8:56 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Centinela Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 8:57 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2100blk 3rd St 9:07 a.m.
Encampment 00blk Pico Blvd 9:17 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle 22nd St / Delaware Ave 9:24 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 700blk Ozone St 9:34 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900blk 15th St 9:54 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 5th St / Pacific St 10:01 a.m.
Grand Theft 1500blk Montana Ave 10:05 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 14th St 10:06 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 26th St / Georgina Ave 10:16 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600blk 11th St 10:20 a.m.
Identity Theft 300blk Olympic Dr 10:37 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk 18th St 10:43 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2400blk 5th St 10:45 a.m.
Petty Theft 700blk Broadway 10:46 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000blk 17th St 10:54 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 22nd St / Pico Blvd 11:03 a.m.
Vandalism1300blk 4th St 11:15 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1600blk 19th St 11:35 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1200blk 9th St 11:44 a.m.
Battery Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 11:56 a.m.
Fraud 2200blk 24th St 12:07 p.m.
Burglary 1700blk Ocean Ave 12:09 p.m.
Found Property 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:37 p.m.
Death Investigation 1500blk 16th St 12:59 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1000blk 2nd St 1:01 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 730blk Washington Ave 1:02 p.m.
Petty Theft 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:03 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 400blk Raymond Ave 1:07 p.m.
Encampment 1100blk 5th St 1:11 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2500blk 3rd St 1:11 p.m.
Petty Theft 100blk Washington Ave 1:14 p.m.
Lost Property 1100blk Georgina Ave 2:08 p.m.
Found Property 1300blk 2nd St 2:18 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 4th St 2:19 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 15th St 3:02 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 500blk 26th St 3:34 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2000blk Ocean Ave 4:05 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2200blk 5th St 4:06 p.m.
Petty Theft 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:13 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:18 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 4:27 p.m.
Vandalism2000blk Ocean Ave 4:29 p.m.
Grand Theft 1600blk Olympic Blvd 4:30 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2200blk Broadway 4:32 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 4:36 p.m.
Fraud 1200blk 10th St 4:46 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1500blk 16th St 4:51 p.m.
Found Property 1600blk Ocean Ave 4:59 p.m.
Vandalism2000blk 4th St 5:02 p.m.
Found Senile Person 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 5:04 p.m.
Found Property 2500blk Lincoln Blvd 5:20 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk Palisades Park 5:27 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2500blk Ocean Front Walk 5:32 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:34 p.m.
Bike Theft 1400blk 5th St 5:58 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2500blk Ocean Front Walk 6:50 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 7:16 p.m.
Petty Theft 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 7:17 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 7:24 p.m.
Burglary Now 1200blk 6th St 7:34 p.m.
Vandalism1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:46 p.m.
Battery 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 7:51 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1600blk Ocean Ave 7:52 p.m.
Loud Music 1900blk 17th St 8:12 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 800blk Pacific St 8:58 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1400blk 5th St 8:58 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700blk Ocean Ave 9:08 p.m.
Battery 500blk Wilshire Blvd 9:12 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1800blk 20th St 9:16 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:22 p.m.
Loud Music 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 10:11 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 500blk Wilshire Blvd 10:24 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 200blk Santa Monica Pier 10:41 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 16th St 11:00 p.m.

Social media's 70-up 'grandfluencers' debunking aging myths

LEANNE ITALIE
AP Entertainment Writer

Joan MacDonald's health was in shambles at age 71. She was overweight and on numerous medications with high cholesterol, rising blood pressure and kidney trouble.

Her daughter, a fitness coach, warned that she'd wind up an invalid if she didn't turn things around. She did, hitting the gym for the first time and learning to balance her diet with the help of a brand new tool, an iPhone.

Now 75, MacDonald is a hype beast for health with a bodybuilder's physique and 1.4 million loyal followers on Instagram.

She's among a growing number of "grandfluencers," folks 70 and up who have amassed substantial followings on social media with the help of decades-younger fans.

"It's so rare to find someone her age being able to do all these things," said one of her admirers, 18-year-old Marianne Zapata of Larchmont, New York. "It's just such a positive thing to even think about."

Both aspirational and inspirational, older influencers are turning their digital platforms into gold.

MacDonald has paid partnerships with the sportswear and supplement brand Women's Best, and the stress-busting device Sensate. And she just launched her own health and fitness app not so many years after learning how to use digital technology herself.

On TikTok, four friends who go by @oldgays — the youngest is 65 — have 2.2 million followers, including Rihanna. They have an endorsement deal with Grindr as they delight fans with their clueless answers to pop culture questions.

Others focus on beauty and style, setting up Amazon closets with their go-to looks and putting on makeup tutorials live. Lagetta Wayne, at 78, has teens asking her to be their grandmother as she tends to her vegetables and cooks them up in Suisun City, California, as @msgrandmasgarden on TikTok.

Wayne, with 130,500 followers amassed since joining in June 2020, owes her social media success to a teenage granddaughter. Her very first video, a garden tour, clocked 37,600 likes.

"One day my garden was very pretty and I got all excited about that and I asked her if she would take some pictures of me," Wayne recalled. "She said she was going to put me on TikTok and I said, well, what is TikTok? I had never heard of it."

Most people ages 50 and up use technology to stay connected to friends and family, according to a 2019 survey by AARP. But less than half use social media daily for that purpose, relying on Facebook above other platforms.

Just 37% of those 70 and older used social media daily in 2019, the research showed. Since coronavirus struck, older creators have expanded their horizons beyond mainstay Facebook and gotten more voracious, often driven by the growing number of feeds by people their own age, said Alison Bryant, senior vice president for AARP.

In the California desert town of Cathedral City, Jessay Martin is the second youngest of the Old Gays at 68.

"I thought I was going to spend the rest of my life relaxing pretty much, and I do, but this is picking up more for us. I had a very structured week where Monday I worked the food bank at the senior center, Tuesday and Friday I did yoga for an hour and a half, Wednesday I was on the front desk at the senior center. I was just sort of floating by, not being social, not putting myself out there in the gay community. And boy, has the Old Gays changed that," Martin said.

Like MacDonald, they do a lot of myth busting about what's possible in life's sixth, seventh and eighth decades.

"They're showing that anybody can do these things, that you don't have to be afraid of aging. The 20 and 30 somethings don't often think about that," Bryant said. "The authenticity that we're seeing in some of these older influencers is really refreshing. That's part of the complexity of their narratives. They're bringing other parts of their lives to it. They're grandparents and great-grandparents and spouses. They're more comfortable in their own skins."

Sandra Sallin, a blogger and artist, has slowly built her following to 25,300 on Instagram. Her reach recently extended to the British Olympic gold-medal diver Tom Daley, who raved about her mother's cheesecake recipe after his coach spotted it online and made it for her athletes and staff. Sallin, a lover of lipstick who focuses on cooking and beauty, also shares photos from her past and other adventures, like her turn last year in a vintage Spitfire high above the Cliffs of Dover.

"I wanted to expand my world. I felt that I was older, that my world was shrinking. People were moving, people were ill," Sallin said. "So I started my blog because I wanted to reach out. After that, I heard about this thing called Instagram. It was really hard learning it. I really stumbled my way in. I'm shocked because most people who follow me are 30 and 40 years younger. But there are people who are older, who have kind of given up and say, 'You know, I'm going to start wearing lipstick.'"

Toby Bloomberg, 69, in Atlanta is a Sallin supporter. She discovered Sallin after Sallin competed on the short-lived Food Network show "Clash of the Grandmas."

"She talks a lot about aging. That's quite an unusual phenomenon on social media, which is obviously dominated by people far younger than we are," Bloomberg said.

MacDonald said she was surprised at the beginning that people actually cared what she had to say.

"Why would people want to follow an old

SEE **SOCIAL MEDIA** PAGE 5



Marvel's 'Shang-Chi' jabs, flips Asian American film cliches

TERRY TANG AND MARCELA ISAZA
Associated Press

Like a lot of Asian actors, Simu Liu has played the nameless guy who can do martial arts but inevitably loses out to a more skilled white guy. It was one of his very first stunt jobs.

"Yeah, I took my paycheck and I went home. I didn't really complain about it," said the Chinese-Canadian actor. "But then, you look at the bigger picture and you look at the opportunities that are available to Asian performers. You see that yeah, past a certain point, there really isn't that deeper representation."

Now, it's Liu's time to take out baddies and be No. 1 on the call sheet. He is taking on the titular role in Marvel Studios' first Asian-led superhero flick, "Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings." The highly anticipated movie, which opens Friday, has all the bells and whistles of a Marvel tentpole — huge fight sequences, dizzying stunts and sweeping locales. While Shang-Chi can high-fly kick and punch any opponent, is the "master of kung fu" powerful enough to make Hollywood finally bury tired story tropes and support projects by actors and filmmakers of Asian descent?

The movie, directed and written by Asian Americans, centers on trained assassin Shang-Chi trying to live an ordinary life in San Francisco. Awkwafina and comedian Ronny Chieng also star. The original comic book was inspired by the popular '70s kung fu films. It pays homage to those but also strives to bring humanity outside of the action. Liu, known for the sitcom "Kim's Convenience," won the role for his acting chops, not karate chops.

"It's his comedy. It's his ability to show simultaneous strength and vulnerability," said director Destin Daniel Cretton. "It's his humanity that breaks stereotypes."

The martial arts movie genre has been a double-edged sword for Asian Americans for decades. Bruce Lee, who was born in San Francisco, is credited with bringing Hong Kong kung fu films to non-Asian audiences because of his jaw-dropping martial arts prowess. But for many Asian American males, it's still an unfortunate rite of passage to be mockingly called Bruce Lee or Jackie Chan or asked about knowing karate.

"When I moved over to California from Hawaii, it was the first time that just a random person in a bar just, you know, lightly and jokingly called me Bruce Lee," Cretton said. "I love Bruce Lee. He is awesome. The only problem is that's all we had."

In fact, a national survey commissioned by nonprofit Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change in the spring found 42% of 2,766 adults polled could not name a current famous Asian American. The next two most popular responses? Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee.

Phil Yu, who comments on Asian American pop culture on his longtime "Angry Asian Man" blog, also co-hosts a podcast, "They Call Us Bruce." Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan themselves were never the problem, he said. It was the way Hollywood ran with the formula.

"It does feel like martial arts, the concept as it's been distorted through a Western lens, is used to pigeonhole us, to make us feel smaller and to mock us," Yu said. In "Shang-Chi," "when you have a movie that is nearly all Asian ... or almost every face is Asian, you have room for everyone to serve a different narrative purpose."

Another cliche narrative that persists is the mystical Asian mentor who trains a white protagonist in martial arts. The white pupil then gets to be the savior back home in the U.S. It's a story that Marvel drew backlash for when, in 2017, they cast a white lead in their "Iron Fist" Netflix series.

SEE **FILM** PAGE 6

RECALL

FROM PAGE 1

burning in Northern California.

Celebrities, political and not, are being enlisted in the fight, with former progressive presidential candidates and U.S. Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren cutting ads opposing the recall while Elder counts actors Chuck Norris and Dean Cain among his supporters.

Potential voters are being hailed with texts, digital ads, emails and TV commercials — and visits at their front doors from volunteers — all in hopes of spurring them to fill out the two-question ballot that could end Newsom's term and replace him with one of dozens of candidates. His rivals range from the obscure to the famous, notably, former Olympian and reality TV personality Caitlyn Jenner.

In an email this week, the Orange County Republican Party warned that Democrats were leading in turnout in the critical swing county by 8% and called on volunteers to knock on voters' doors or make phone calls in the closing sprint to Election Day.

"This campaign will be won by turnout," the party said, noting that 175,000 voters had been reached with a recent digital ad campaign flogging Newsom. The party was aiming for an election day stampede to the polls.

"This is where Republicans have traditionally turned the tide: in person," the email said.

The recall was largely driven by frustration with whipsaw coronavirus restrictions that shuttered businesses and schools. Those who want Newsom removed turned in more than 1.7 million valid signatures to get the question before voters.

The embattled Newsom remains a prohibitive favorite in liberal-leaning California, where Democrats hold every statewide office and a super-majority in the Legislature.

In the recall, voters are asked two questions: Should Newsom be removed? And who should replace him?

In a deeply polarized political environment similar to the 2020 presidential election, "Democrats are more likely to vote for Newsom and Republicans are more likely to vote against (him)," said Joshua Spivak, senior fellow at the Hugh L. Carey Institute for Government Reform at Wagner College who specializes in recall elections. With a huge advantage for Democrats in registration "the more polarized the electorate, the better for Newsom."

Polling released Wednesday by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California was encouraging for the incumbent.

The survey found 58% of likely voters oppose the recall, with 39% supporting it. The survey also found 60% approve of the way he's handled the pandemic.

Newsom's comfortable margin in the poll of 1,706 adults conducted Aug. 20–29 stood out among other findings that suggested mixed views of his leadership. For example, voters were about equally divided on whether the state was headed in the right or wrong direction.

Among potential replacement picks, Elder held a commanding edge, piling up 26% support among likely voters. Faulconer was far back at 5%, followed by businessman John Cox and state Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, each with 3%, the poll found. Jenner received just 1%.

Newsom has urged his supporters to vote no on the recall and leave the second question blank. The idea is to not provide any sense there's a suitable replacement among the 46 candidates. The survey found 25% said they will not vote for a possible successor.

Despite Newsom's edge on the recall question, the poll found Democrats are less energized than Republicans and independents. When asked if they are more enthusiastic than usual about voting in the election, 54% of GOP voters and 53% of independents said yes, compared to 40% among Democrats.

In another push to round up support, campaigns are dispatching regiments of door-knockers, hoping to make a connection with indifferent or wavering voters in the run-up to the election.

In Sacramento last weekend, volunteers opposed to the recall were distributing flyers that featured a silhouette of former President Donald Trump and the plea, "Stop the Republican power grab!" Another volunteer crew gathered there Monday, planning to target Democrats who hadn't submitted their ballots.

Volma Volcy, field director for the Sacramento Central Labor Council, said he recently encountered a barber who didn't know about the recall — or even that he'd been mailed a ballot. Volcy later instructed him on the steps to vote, after the barber located the missing ballot.

"A lot of people are not paying attention, which is why we've got to talk to people seven to 10 times," Volcy told a group of organizers.

Volunteer and union member Mitchell Bechtel has been warning members of his ironworkers union that women's rights could be endangered if Elder takes charge. One of his messages: "You might not love Gavin, but the alternative is infinitely worse."

Instagram has become another popular platform to influence voters, especially for celebrities. Singer Katy Perry recently posted a slideshow warning "Red Alert! CA is about to get a Republican governor. Vote No on the recall." It warns California's progressive stances on climate change, gun control and health care are at risk.

Elder has been sharpening his message to lure Latino voters and residents alarmed over rising crime rates, saying he would push back against efforts to "defund" police departments.

"I want to do something about the outrageous rise in crime," he told reporters Wednesday. "Crime disproportionately affects people living in the inner city; many of those are Hispanic."

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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

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ed Walked the Walk

It's with a heavy heart I write this as tributes continue to pour in mourning Ed Asner's passing this past Saturday at age 91. I'm gratified, however, they're also celebrating Ed's remarkable career and range as an actor, his two terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild and a lifetime of humanitarian work on behalf of human rights, civil rights, the environment and autism. (Ed had a son and grandson on the spectrum.)

Spanning six decades Ed appeared in over 400 films and TV shows, including the renowned mini-series Roots and Rich Man, Poor Man. His seven Emmys are a record and so is his having won for playing the same character, Lou Grant, on two different shows, one a comedy and the other a dramatic role. (Ed jokingly downplayed the seven Emmys by noting he also had seven hip surgeries, adding that when his surgeon suggested he might need another Ed quipped, "Not until I win another Emmy.)

Among the many reasons I was proud to consider Ed a friend was the manner in which he led his life. A definition of the expression "walked the walk" is "to do what one claims one will do." And that was Ed, though he often paid a dear price. For example, the once top-rated "Lou Grant" was canceled in 1982 many believe because of Ed's outspoken objection to America's support of repressive governments in Latin America. Though Ed's popularity waned, he never wavered in his beliefs. Sure enough, over time the public's affection returned bigger than ever as Ed seemingly became America's grandfather.

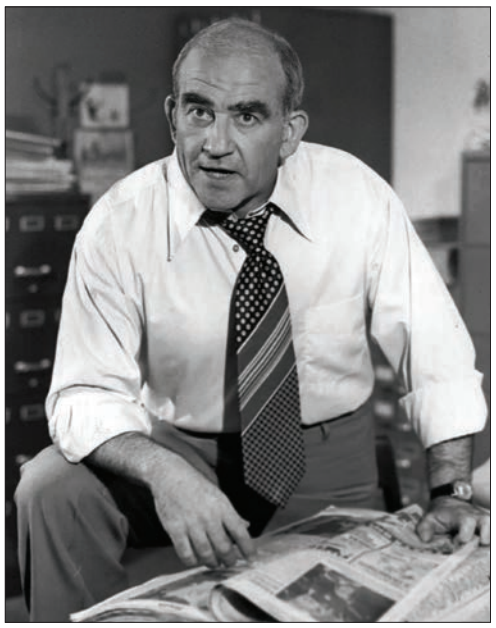
Twenty years ago, my relationship with Ed began with his phone call regarding a screenplay I had written, The Amazing Mr. Z. It featured Irving Zupermann, a Polish immigrant who had been the teenage strongman in the Warsaw Circus in the late 1930's.

But now in his late 80's, Mr. Z lived in a welfare Alzheimer's facility in Miami because, though he was thoroughly sane and had a biting wit, he insisted he was a superhero. Unwilling to take no for an answer, Ed bellowed, "Your movie will be my last hurrah!" I countered, "Gee Ed, I don't think I've ever had a 'first hurrah.'"

Ed got Mr. Z to director friends of his Rob Reiner and Jon Favreau both of whom passed on the project. Favreau directed Elf, in which Ed played Santa Claus, a movie that grossed a whopping $233 million. Naively, I hoped Santa, which Ed played five times, and a geriatric superhero, were pretty much in the same league. Evidently, they weren't.

Thankfully for me Ed and I maintained a friendship all these years. He read other screenplays of mine and once said, "You're so talented, it's an honor to know you." Overwhelmed, instead of simply saying "Thank you," I did a Mary Tyler Moore impression, "Oh, Mr. Grant. I think I'm going to cry." While Ed didn't suffer fools gladly, luckily in this case he overlooked it.

Ed was remarkably generous with his time and money to causes he believed in and to people needing a break. In his tribute to Ed, Michael Moore revealed that when he was desperately trying to raise money for his first documentary Roger and Me, Ed sent him a check for $500 with a note. "I don't know who you are, but good luck."



Courtesy image

ACTOR: As Lou Grant, Ed Asner is the only actor to receive two Emmys playing the same character.

After one of my numerous columns about Ed, I received an email from an English professor at Rutgers. As a college freshman she had been in a Latina writer's group that couldn't stay afloat with rent and even photocopying expenses. Somehow Ed got word and sent a check that sustained them for a year. I was touched by the professor's gratitude decades later. I forwarded Ed the email asking, "Could there be two Ed Asners?"

Sheila Lafey, a longtime Adjunct Film Studies Professor at SMC, also shared a heroic story about Ed's caring soul. From 1998 to 2004 Sheila produced three environmentally oriented documentaries including: The Last Stand: The Struggle for the Ballona Wetlands; Update: 2000; and Heroes at Ballona Wetlands. All aired on PBS stations, won many awards and most importantly, helped save over half of the wetlands. Magnanimously, Ed volunteered to host the series donating his time, credibility and passion. (Impressed with his endless energy, Sheila referred to Ed as "a force of nature.")

I'll close with two strange coincidences. Last Friday night I sent Ed an email asking if my friend, Darya Jones, an "Advocate Ambassador" for Autism Speaks could interview him. When I awoke Saturday morning I was stunned to learn Ed had passed away. And this past Tuesday I signed an option renewal for Mr. Z with the independent film company WOF Entertainment, Inc. While I hope and pray (says the atheist) the movie finally gets made I'll never forget that without The Amazing Mr. Z I might never have met the amazing Mr. Asner.

For those ever entertained by Ed, please return the favor by going to TEAFC.org. Jack can be reached at jackdailypress@aol.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA

FROM PAGE 3

broad," she giggled from her home in Ontario, Canada. "My daughter, Michelle, cleared that up. She said it's what you're representing, that people can do what they think they've not been able to do or were told that they couldn't do."

Grace Maier, 32, is home full time with her two kids, ages 6 months and 2. She follows Barbara Costello, a 72-year-old Connecticut grandmother who uses the handle @ brunchwithbabs.

"She does these posts, 'Did your mom ever tell you?' and I followed her immediately on Instagram," Maier said. "Her content brings me joy! She's got all of these life hacks and tips that remind me of things my grandma shared with me before she passed. She also doesn't take herself too seriously and just seems like the kind of person who would welcome you into her home."

Mae Karwowski, founder and CEO of the influencer marketing agency Obviously, has more than 100 influencers in her network between the ages of 60 and 80. With more than a billion users on Instagram alone, she points to the successes on that platform of 93-year-old Helen Ruth Elam (baddiewinkle), 67-year-old Lyn Slater (iconaccidental) and 100-year-old style legend Iris Apfel.

There's another aspect to the reach of seniors: Grandparents and grandchildren who have teamed up to share their adventures together, from traveling the world to Nerf gun battles.

"Mainstream media, I would say, presents a really narrow viewpoint on this age group. What's great about social media is you can follow a really cool 75-year-old woman who is just doing her thing in Florida and that's fun. That's different. And she's funny," Karwowski said. "The 21-year-old fashion model influencer is managed. She has a team. She has designers falling all over themselves to give her everything. She has professional photographers. A lot of these 70-plus influencers are doing it all."

Candace Cima, 74, taught herself to shoot and edit video for Instagram by watching YouTube tutorials. She hopped on the platform in February 2019 as a fresh voice on fashion and style while encouraging her audience not to be afraid of aging. Her husband sometimes helps out with photos for @styleinyour70s. withleslieb (Leslie is her middle name).

"I'm still in that learning curve, I have to be honest. Two and a half years ago, I didn't even know what an influencer was," said Cima, in Ithaca, New York. "I've always had a lot of ideas about aging. I don't understand why aging has such a negative connotation."

With 37,900 followers, some of her youngest fans have shared with her why they care: "They don't want to age the way they saw their relatives aging," Cima said. "They feel like they can learn something."

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HOLIDAY

FROM PAGE 1

"When trashcans overflow, trash scatters, which causes pollution and attracts birds," said Mooradian. "We want to keep our beaches clean and beautiful so everyone can have a great day."

FIRE HAZARDS

There are also growing concerns about fire hazards. Mooradian said beachgoers build illegal firepits outside of designated areas, which are dangerous for fellow beachgoers and the environment. She said that when people are done with a firepit, they put sand over the fire. Many beachgoers with bare feet can walk over the hot sand and burn themselves. Soot and ash are also environmental concerns. Mooradian said some days; there are up to 40 plus illegal firepits built. Beachgoers should only use sanctioned firepits located at Dockweiler Beach in Marina del Rey.

EXPECT CROWDS

When headed to the beach — be patient. With large crowds comes the expectation that you will have to wait to get into parking lots. Mooradian also noted that the parking lot at Point Dume is still closed because of erosion.

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FILM

FROM PAGE 4

The "Shang-Chi" team assures that their foray into the Marvel Cinematic Universe is something that speaks to the Asian American experience. The high-octane adventure is ultimately a family drama about a young Asian immigrant who shuns his father's wishes to live his own life in America. Dave Callaham, a co-writer, found himself getting emotional over the screenplay.

"I've been writing professionally for 19 years. It's the first time I've ever been asked to write from my own perspective," Callaham said. "Every other movie I've ever written it's 'Step one: Imagine you're a beautiful man named Chris' — a white man usually."

"Shang-Chi" is the latest in a cluster of martial arts-theme productions with Asian actors front and center. "Snake Eyes," with "Crazy Rich Asians" star Henry Golding and based on the "G.I. Joe" character, opened in July. That movie also starred Andrew Koji, who is the lead in the HBO Max series "Warrior." The historical drama, which has been renewed for a third season, was inspired by a pitch Bruce Lee wrote. Then there's the recently renewed CW Network's "Kung Fu," a remake of the 1970s show where the white David Carradine played a Shaolin monk.

Olivia Liang, star of the new "Kung Fu," said it feels like Asians are reclaiming something.

"We get to have fully fleshed out characters who also kick (butt) and do martial arts. ... That's the biggest difference that I feel right now," said Liang, at last month's "Shang-Chi" premiere. Entertainment "shapes our world view. For us having been so under-represented for so long, people who don't see a lot of Asians in the community forget we are part of the fabric of their world."

"Angry Asian Man" blogger Yu is glad to see these more progressive adaptations but is ready to see Asian talent move beyond this arena.

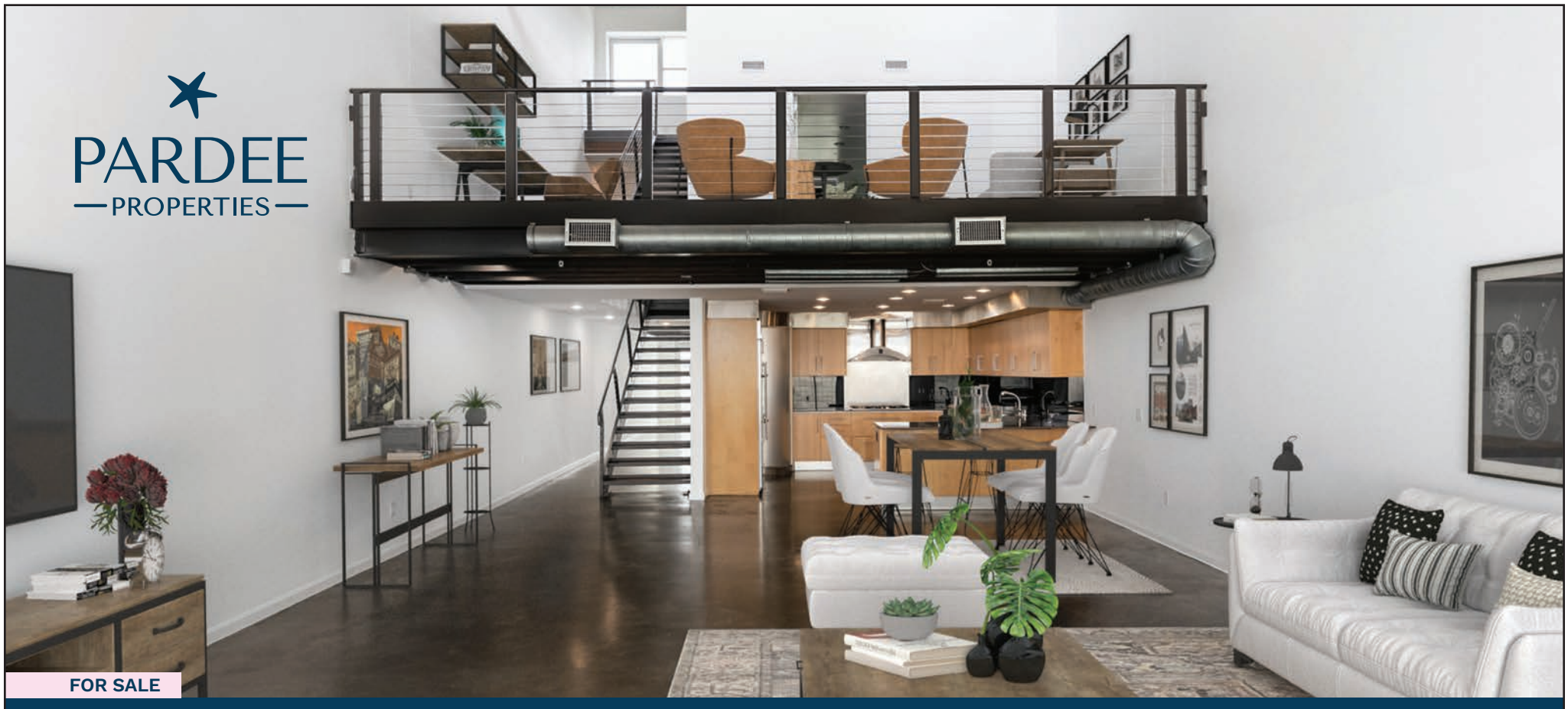
"We're still playing in this box of Asians as martial arts heroes," Yu said. "There's nothing inherently wrong with that. But that box should be wider. Look at all these things that are Asian-led stories that have come out in the last couple of years."

"Shang-Chi" comes at a time when Asian Americans are looking for escapism but also to feel more visible. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Asians and Asian Americans have been targets of race-based verbal and physical assault because the virus was first reported in China. All the actors in "Shang-Chi" have used their platform to speak out or donate money.

Like rom-com "Crazy Rich Asians" three years ago, "Shang-Chi" has more pressure than most of its fellow MCU movies. It's that pressure that somehow the future of Asian-led projects is tied to box office success.

"We're always seen as the 'other,'" said Jodi Long, who plays Mrs. Chen in the movie. "I just don't think we're considered sometimes. I think this movie hopefully will change that because it's our first Asian superhero. We have a lot of heroes in our Asian American community."

Associated Press video journalist Amanda Lee Myers contributed to this report.



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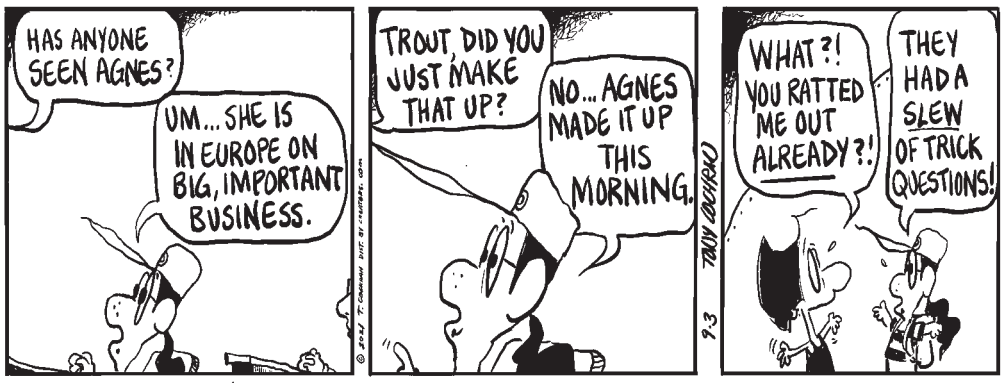
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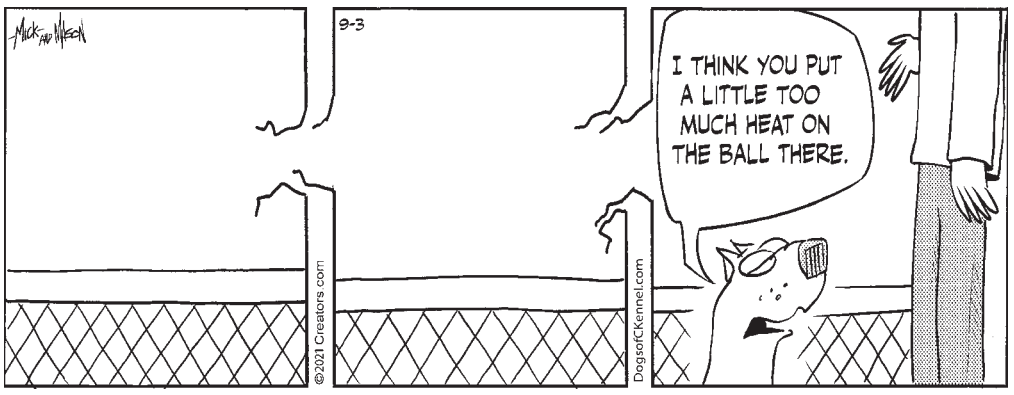
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



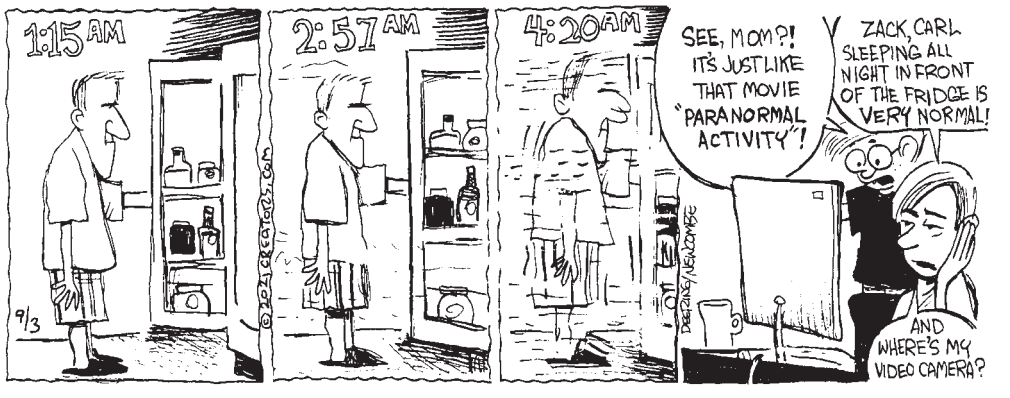
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



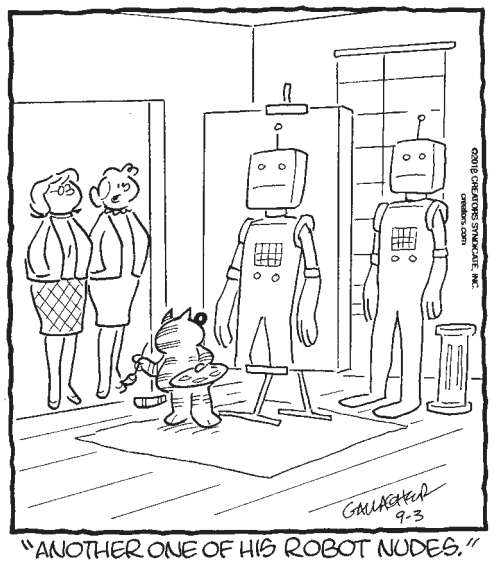
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



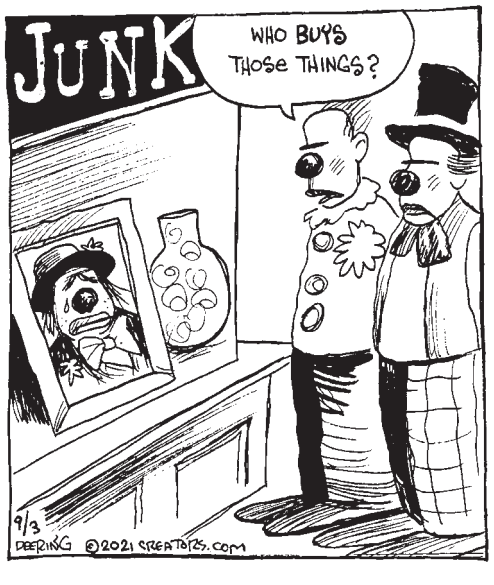
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 63.3°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high
Smaller leftovers. NW swell and SW swell drops. Clean in the AM but not much size.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Small scale surf through the morning creeps up a touch through the afternoon at summer exposures. New SSW swell gradually fills in through the day. Trace NW swell mix.

WEATHER

Friday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 72.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 78. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/09/03	Fri	02:22 AM	0.10	L
2021/09/03	Fri	09:00 AM	4.06	H
2021/09/03	Fri	1:40 PM	2.57	L
2021/09/03	Fri	7:44 PM	5.79	H
2021/09/04	Sat	02:51 AM	-0.15	L
2021/09/04	Sat	09:18 AM	4.27	H
2021/09/04	Sat	2:15 PM	2.21	L
2021/09/04	Sat	8:21 PM	6.09	H
2021/09/05	Sun	03:19 AM	-0.31	L
2021/09/05	Sun	09:39 AM	4.50	H
2021/09/05	Sun	2:51 PM	1.84	L
2021/09/05	Sun	8:57 PM	6.25	H
2021/09/06	Mon	03:47 AM	-0.35	L
2021/09/06	Mon	10:03 AM	4.76	H
2021/09/06	Mon	3:29 PM	1.49	L
2021/09/06	Mon	9:34 PM	6.24	H
2021/09/07	Tue	04:16 AM	-0.25	L
2021/09/07	Tue	10:30 AM	5.02	H
2021/09/07	Tue	4:10 PM	1.20	L
2021/09/07	Tue	10:13 PM	6.02	H
2021/09/08	Wed	04:45 AM	0.02	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 9/1
10 20 29 48 51
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 367 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/31
8 14 31 58 68
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 323 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 9/1
7 10 15 43 45
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 14 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/1
1 7 16 23 29

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/1
EVENING: 9 3 4
Draw Date: 9/1
MIDDAY: 7 6 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/1
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:43.26

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 (SEPTEMBER 3)

Physical vitality increases, and you feel more attractive than ever. Future you will whisper into your ear, guiding the next moves to a place that will be comfortable fun to inhabit later. An investment will pay dividends for years to come. You'll be trusted with problems to solve; leadership will bring you to foreign soil. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 44, 1, 2 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll decide to go forward, thinking that even the worst-case scenario will be manageable to you. Once you've made your decision, start envisioning only the best outcomes you can dream.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People who can only see things one way, their own, should be easy to predict. If you think they will throw a wrench in the efforts, don't waste time with them. Choose supportive company.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Wondering why you're not there yet? Maybe there is no "there," only resolving "here" to the best of your ability. As you apply yourself to your present environment, you are the embodiment of a key unlocking your own fate.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you're not finding the cool arrangement you want, it's only because it's up to you to make it happen. It is well within your ability to put this together, or, if necessary, invent it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The goal is the same, but your motivation has shifted, begging the question, "How badly do you really want it?" You can change the intensity of your appetite by focusing more or less on it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your sense of responsibility extends further than most. You don't always feel like driving the bus, but you'll do it in a heartbeat if the person behind the wheel doesn't seem competent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your worldview is unique and ever-changing. You'll enjoy learning what others see, and this broadens your capacity and knowledge. Wisdom cannot be achieved alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The classic story structure has something to teach us all if we're not careful: pride goeth before the fall. Don't be afraid to pursue your ambition, but do it with humility.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not a favorable time to open the arena to outsiders. You don't need a hero to save the day, especially not one who isn't as familiar with "the day" as you are. Let the day evolve with the original team.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you choose to fight, you also choose destruction. A decision to create or educate is a decision to build. What's right for one time is wrong for another time. What will best serve the current situation?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If things are mostly agreeable, you are wise to go along. Nitpicking is for another day — a day when you're paid to deliver detail-oriented work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The stronger move is actually the softer move, too. It takes fortitude to forgive and security to be compassionate. The weak find it difficult to nurture others as you do now.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

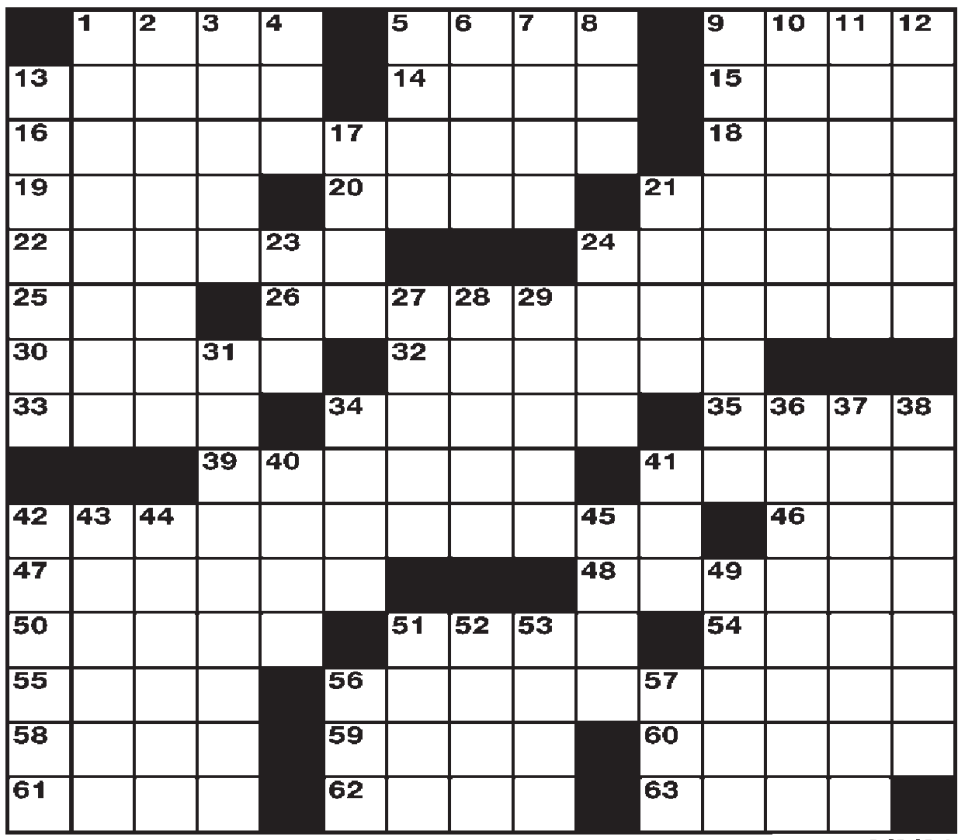
7			5		2	3	6	
	3			8				
					4	9		1
	5					2		
2	4		3	5	9		1	7
		8					9	
6		1	4					
				2			4	
	2	3	1		5			8

Newsday Crossword

DON'T BOTTER by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Lay away
5 Trojan War hero
9 Former Volvo rival
13 Infamy
14 Racer without wheels
15 44 qvadrvpled
16 Baker's preparation
18 Adhere to
19 "Indeed!"
20 Erosive effect
21 Ingest impolitely
22 Lodges overnight
24 "Indeed"
25 Work the aisles, so to speak
26 Overperform
30 Pet shop purchase
32 WWII Pacific Fleet leader
33 All about
34 Miscellaneous
35 Takes a wrong turn
39 Perfume vial
41 Conversation starter/ender
42 Stubborn holdout
46 Kennel Club category
47 Too small to see
48 Doesn't look forward to
50 Thinnest iPods
51 Reagan secretary of state
54 Played to a tie
55 __ plaid (wool fabric)
56 Dinner table server
58 Cash that depicted Volta and Marconi
59 *Victor Frankenstein* aide
60 Kids' song conclusion
61 Nice and __
62 Nice and snug
63 Badlands formation

DOWN
1 Snoopers for hire
2 Punch precursor
3 Eerie signs
4 Deception metaphor
5 Flute range
6 Extends outward
7 Many a year
8 '70s tot
9 Alpine kin to chicken-fried steak
10 Where the Jays play
11 Disinclined
12 Attempt to acquire at auction
13 Humerus-clavicle connector
17 Purina sister brand
21 Editor's directive
23 "I hate it!"
24 Citation abbreviation
27 Kept in reserve
28 Debater of 1960
29 Improve
31 Form of campaign financing
34 Fashion designer Jacobs
36 New England traffic circles
37 Zimbabwe, formerly
38 Querulous question
40 Island chains
41 Itinerary abbr.
42 Wrist adornment
43 *Ciò che circonda il Vaticano*
44 Contents of copier cartridges
45 Sharp surface
49 Nickname like Ned
51 Quasimodo creator
52 Full-spectrum
53 "Aw shucks, it was nothing"
56 Wite-Out brand
57 Dreamy state, for short



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 9/3/21

Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
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		0						0		0	0
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"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 29 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5226

Western Australian wildflowers

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

Bark	Goldfields	Pinnacles
Bloom	Harvey	Pods
Bud	Jarrahdale	Rain
Bunbury	Kangaroo paw	Sandy soil
Cervantes	Leaf	Scrub
Coral Coast	Life	Species
Cue	Mallee	Sturt's
Derby	Myrtle	Swans
Drought	Nannup	Tom Price
Foxgloves	Orchids	Toodyay
Fuchsia	Peas	Trees

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Our rural community

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COVID

FROM PAGE 1

week officials reported a small decrease in the overall case rate with a 22% decrease from the peak of 204 cases per 100,000 people on Aug. 19 according to Dr. Barbara Ferrer, the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Hospitalizations and deaths have also declined.

"There are 1,673 people currently hospitalized with COVID-19, which is a small decrease of about 58 people. This past week we did see a very small decline, about 11% from the prior week to a seven day average of 17 daily deaths," Ferrer said.

Communities of color continue to report some of the highest case rates in the county due to their roles as essential workers and low vaccination rates.

"When examining the data on hospitalizations, the highest hospitalization rates are among unvaccinated Black residents, followed by unvaccinated Latinx." Ferrer said.

Older unvaccinated adults are the largest demographic for hospitalizations. Unvaccinated adults 50 and over are more than 18 times likelier to be hospitalized than their vaccinated counterparts.

Ferrer noted if L.A. County can reach an 80% fully vaccinated rate, "It would be a great step forward and would provide a lot of additional protection." Currently, 56% of L.A. county is fully vaccinated.

She said more work is needed to overcome vaccine hesitancy among those who are in most need of the protection.

"It's not a coincidence that the communities with the lowest vaccination uptake are the ones who have historically had the lowest access to high-quality, affirming, respectful medical care," she said. "And while repairing the damage caused by structural racism will not happen overnight. We need to see faster gains to turn around the disproportionality in cases, hospitalizations and deaths."

Entering the Labor Day weekend, many Santa Monicans will have opportunities to engage in a variety of activities with friends and many community members will be asking whether it's safe to do the things people want to do when making plans.

Ferrer said it might be helpful to think about the different places where risk comes from when you're engaging in activity.

A low risk activity would be celebrating outside with a few people you know are fully vaccinated, while a higher risk activity would be going to the fair where proof of vaccine is not required and where people are not wearing masks while eating or drinking. Even when outside, gathering in a place where there's hundreds of people is risky.

Another risk is how many people, if any, are unvaccinated in your home. Having an unvaccinated infant is a lot different than having multiple unvaccinated adults at home.

Ferrer said if everyone engaged in only lower risk activities, regardless of their personal risk areas, very few people would transmit or catch COVID-19, but out of necessity, or sometimes out of desire, people do engage in higher risk activities, including people with high personal risk.

"Think about the risk of the activities you want to take part in," she said.

daniel@smdp.com

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 36 CALLS ON SEPTEMBER 1

Automatic Alarm 300blk Olympic Dr 1:10 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 1:43 a.m.
Flooded Condition 2700blk Main St 2:54 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 800blk 11th St 3:18 a.m.
EMS 1700blk 12th St 3:29 a.m.
Arcing Wires 4th St / Idaho Ave 3:33 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 4:07 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 1300blk 4th St 4:41 a.m.
EMS 2900blk Colorado Ave 6:42 a.m.
EMS 3100blk 3rd St 6:48 a.m.
EMS 2400blk 31st St 7:56 a.m.
EMS 2300blk 4th St 8:25 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:25 a.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 8:29 a.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 9:24 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 19th St 9:40 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 10:03 a.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 800blk Ashland Ave 10:59 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 22nd St / Pico Blvd 11:03 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Ocean Ave 11:08 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 9th St 11:41 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 11th St 11:42 a.m.
EMS 3200blk Pico Blvd 12:02 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:26 p.m.
EMS 1500blk California Ave 12:46 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 16th St 12:49 p.m.
EMS 100blk Bay St 1:51 p.m.
Electrical Fire - No Fire Visible 1300blk 4th St 2:44 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 4:56 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Colorado Ave 4:59 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 6:11 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Centinela Ave 6:18 p.m.
EMS 400blk 17th St 7:58 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 9:26 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Ave 9:33 p.m.

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DAILY FIRE LOG

Citywide

Guilty plea for sushi restaurant arson

A West Hills man who started a fire that caused substantial damage to a Santa Monica restaurant during the civil disturbances that erupted during the spring of 2020 pleaded guilty Thursday to a federal criminal charge.

Micah Tillmon, 20, pleaded guilty to one count of possession of an unregistered destructive device.

According to his plea agreement, on May 31, 2020, Tillmon entered Sake House by Hikari, a Japanese restaurant located in downtown Santa Monica, without authorization and while the business was closed because of the civil unrest occurring in the city at that time.

While inside the restaurant, Tillmon possessed and used an incendiary device to ignite a fire that rapidly grew, enveloped the entire restaurant space and spread to other areas of the building adjacent to the restaurant.

Security video from the restaurant shows Tillmon removing "a red tube-shaped object from his jacket, which he placed behind the reception desk area of the restaurant before walking away. Within seconds of that action, smoke and fire appeared from the area...."

The Santa Monica Fire Department (SMFD) responded to the fire and extinguished the flames using several fire trucks and numerous personnel but SMFD needed to return several times throughout the night to extinguish additional flare-ups. The restaurant permanently closed.

Tillmon was identified by detectives with the Santa Monica Police Department, who reviewed numerous security videos and social media posts. Tillmon was also linked to the fire when investigators uncovered a video showing his white Ford Explorer parking next to the Sake House four minutes before the fire started and then reversing across the street soon after the fire started.

In his plea agreement, Tillmon admitted to knowingly possessing an incendiary device that had not been registered with the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, the central federal registry for all items regulated under the National Firearms Act.

United States District Judge Michael W. Fitzgerald has scheduled a December 6 sentencing hearing, at which time Tillmon will face a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison.

SUBMITTED BY CIARAN MCEVOY, USDOJ PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds
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