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Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY
09.10.20
Volume 19 Issue 151

Random pole beating
Crime Watch.
Page 3

Music and Movies
Noteworthy and Culture Watch.
Pages 6 and 7

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Racial justice reforms include new Police Commission

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

City Council approved a raft of recommendations this week designed to promote racial equity in Santa Monica.

Among the many decisions in the seven hour meeting were authorization for a new Police Commission, instituting Equity and Inclusion Officers in every City department and creation of the Santa Monica Black Lives Association (a nonprofit designed by Black community leaders to support Black Santa Monicans).

"We hope this is the beginning of changes in our community that will be the basis for systemic change in our society," said Barry Snell, a member of the Black Agenda for Santa Monica Steering Committee who presented to Council Tuesday night. "The nonprofit is in progress and we hope to have the entire community represented. That's how we'll create the change we need."

The new commission will oversee ongoing reforms to the police department including a future discussion revising use of force policies.

Lisa Parsons, who worked with Snell and others in recent weeks to develop the Public Safety Reform Advisory Committee's report, said the purpose of the committee was to think about how Santa Monica could look at public safety as something beyond catching criminals.

She said the reforms are about making sure the city is supporting people so that they're never at risk of needing to have a negative encounter with the police department in the

SEE **REFORMS** PAGE 11



SMDP File Photo

EQUIPMENT: SMPD has said removing local equipment would require more assistance from outside agencies. Discussions of military style equipment and tactics will continue at a newly formed commission.

GOP targets Democratic-run California in election gamble

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

Republican candidates eager for a turnaround in heavily Democratic California are spotlighting what they see as a dire threat to families and communities — their own state's policies.

GOP contenders from the U.S. House to city councils are looking to make the November election a referendum on California itself under progressive Democratic rule, pointing to pervasive homelessness in major cities, calls to defund police and shifting government coronavirus orders that have closed thousands of schools and restaurants and recast everyday life for 40 million residents.

If Joe Biden says he's fighting for the soul of America, Republican candidates say they are fighting for the soul of California.

Democrats want to spread "the same policies that have destroyed Los Angeles and the rest of California," warns U.S. House candidate Joe Collins, a Navy veteran trying to engineer an upset of longtime Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters, one of President Donald Trump's harshest critics.

In a post on Twitter, Republican U.S. House candidate Eric Early drives by squalid homeless encampments in Los Angeles and faults his Democratic rival, Rep. Adam Schiff, for focusing too much attention on Trump's impeachment trial while thousands are trapped in a desperate life on the streets.

"Look at what's being going on on Adam Schiff's watch," he says, as the camera pans sagging tents and

SEE **ELECTIONS** PAGE 5

Health officials urge residents to avoid trick-or-treating this Halloween

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

If you haven't purchased a costume yet, you might want to hold off because Halloween won't include trick-or-treating due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to newly released Public Health Department guidelines for the holiday.

Many locals have questioned how Halloween would look this year with social distancing measures continuing to be a factor in the day-to-day life of residents across the Westside. This week, answers were given when Los Angeles County health officials issued a list of restrictions that pertain to some of the holiday's most popular traditions. The Public Health Department was kind enough to also offer up a few practices that residents can partake in this year to celebrate as well though.



Courtesy photo

NO CANDY: You can still dress up to impress your housemates, but health officials are discouraging trick-or-treating.

"Since some of the traditional ways in which this holiday is celebrated does not allow you to minimize contact with non-household members, it is important to plan early and identify safer alternatives," the county guidelines

SEE **HALLOWEEN** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

LA Metro Commits to National Effort to Ensure the Health and Safety of Returning Public Transit Riders

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has joined the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and transit agencies across the nation in committing to specific measures to help ensure the safe return of transit riders as the U.S. recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

APTA's national "Health and Safety Commitments Program" seeks to ensure a safe and healthy rider experience. Under the partnership, which Metro is expected to commit to:

Following official guidance on safe riding practices from health experts and agencies

Protecting riders through cleaning, disinfecting, good ventilation, providing room for social distancing when practical, the use of face coverings and other methods

Sharing information that will empower riders to make informed choices

Ensuring transit workers and passengers are healthy

The commitment comes as part of APTA's Mobility Recovery & Restoration Task Force, which is chaired by Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. The task force is charged with providing senior public transit operations leaders with strategies and tactical solutions that can help protect riders and agency employees from COVID-19, as well as help with future pandemic preparedness.

"This commitment is much more than just words. We intend to put intent into practice as we work to come out from under this pandemic stronger than ever in our efforts to move people safely around Los Angeles County," said Washington. "But we can't do it alone. It requires a partnership with our riders and a similar commitment to helping keep everyone safe and healthy as we work to get through this situation."

As part of this campaign, Metro will also ask riders to do their part by wearing face coverings, doing their best to social distanced and following best health practices and avoiding transit when not feeling well.

Transit agencies and their customers across the nation are facing unprecedented challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite those challenges, riders have begun to return to transit, with Metro currently up to 55 percent of its normal ridership, when compared to about 31 percent in April.

Metro recognizes that transit remains a critical lifeline to healthcare professionals, first responders, grocery and pharmacy employees and to people who need us to get them to medical appointments, grocery stores and other critical services. Keeping everyone as safe as possible on Metro is critical to Los Angeles County's recovery from COVID-19.

IMPROVED CLEANING

Metro has strengthened sanitation operations at Union Station facilities and strengthened cleaning regimens at major transit hubs, including Los Angeles Union Station, El Monte Bus Station, 7th Street Metro Center Station and the North Hollywood Red/Orange Line stations. This includes an elevated focus on cleaning high touch point areas such as handrails, railings, elevator call buttons, door handles and TAP vending machines. Our rail custodial staff is performing disinfecting services on high touch point areas three times per day at all Metro Rail stations and Orange Line and Harbor Transitway stations.

Buses and trains are cleaned on a daily basis, which includes vacuuming, trash removal, sweeping and mopping, cleaning the panels and using EPA-approved disinfectants that can kill germs beyond their immediate application.

PASSENGER HEALTH

Metro is coordinating closely with the L.A. County Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on riding guidelines. Messaging remains that Metro urges riders to travel only to perform essential activities, which includes commuting to an essential job; visiting a doctor or veterinarian; obtaining medical supplies or medication; grocery shopping for yourself or others; providing care for minors, seniors, dependents and persons with disabilities or other vulnerabilities; legally mandated government purposes and to comply with law enforcement or court orders.

Metro continues to require riders to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing whenever possible while using the system. In addition, Metro reminds riders to follow best hygiene practices such as sneezing or coughing into a tissue or your arm, and performing best practices for frequent hand washing with soap and warm water.

Metro has installed hand sanitizer dispensers at major transit hubs and is exploring equipping buses and trains with these dispensers.

AIR FILTRATION AND VENTILATION SAFETY

LA Metro's Operations team has been working tirelessly to ensure that the air riders breathe is safe. Metro trains and buses use high-quality air filters that clean and recirculate air at a high rate.

LA Metro's heavy and light rail cars use high-efficiency air filters rated at MERV-8 or higher that recirculate air in between every two to four minutes. Metro's buses use air filters rated at MERV-7 and circulate air every 1.2 minutes.

Metro is exploring additional air filtration and ventilation options to increase safety – including UV-C light disinfection and higher MERV-rated filters – to further help clean air on transit vehicles.

CROWDING

With social distancing of paramount importance during the COVID-19 crisis, Metro is doing everything it can to avoid crowding on its buses and trains to avoid spread of the coronavirus.

Metro is currently running 81 percent of the service that it ran in February for about 55 percent of the ridership to help accommodate social distancing where practical. In late July, Metro added additional trips on busier bus lines to provide more room for riders.

Metro's official smartphone app, Transit, can now help riders stay safe by predicting the crowding levels on Metro buses. Just tap on the bus icon and crowding levels will show up. The predictions are based on regularly updated data collected in the prior two weeks from automated passenger counters on Metro buses. That allows the Transit app to predict the number of riders on any Metro bus at a particular time, location and direction of travel, following the most recent ridership trends.

These predictions will help riders decide whether they want to ride Metro, wait for another bus or seek another way to reach their destination.

Metro has also added contactless fares for Apple users on their iPhones or Apple Watches, allowing riders to pay their fares by simply having their device near a Metro TAP fare dial.

RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Metro has formed a Recovery Task Force that is exploring ways for Metro to not only recover from the COVID-19 pandemic as an agency, but come back stronger.

This task force is charged with providing specific advice and recommendations for senior leadership and the Metro Board of Directors to decide on how best to recover from the pandemic. Examples include encouraging more telecommuting, exploring temporary closure of some streets to encourage walking, rolling and biking, and exploring new cleaning technology to make transit even healthier. In addition to recovering from the difficult conditions created by the pandemic, the task force is identifying opportunities for Metro to advance its mission and help create a new normal of mobility without congestion.

The task force has held internal and public meetings to solicit input on how best to recover from COVID-19 and has already begun implementing some early action items. The task force intends to hold additional meetings to get feedback on additional action items.

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN HAAS/JONI HONOR, METRO MEDIA RELATIONS

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #271 INDEPENDENT AFTER ACTION REPORT AND EVALUATION REGARDING EVENTS LEADING TO, DURING AND FOLLOWING MAY 31, 2020

• Submission Deadline is September 24, 2020 at 4:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **City's Online Vendor Portal.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 287 CALLS ON SEPT. 8

Bike Theft Appian Way / Arcadia Ter 12:01 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:07 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:09 a.m.
Petty Theft 900blk 17th St 1:56 a.m.
Attempt Armed Robbery 1300blk Ocean Ave 2:25 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 300blk Bay St 3:01 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 5:38 a.m.
Fight 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 6:16 a.m.
Found Property 1600blk The Beach 6:27 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk Ocean Ave 7:04 a.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk Pacific St 7:22 a.m.
Arson 11th St / Olympic Blvd E 7:34 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1900blk Euclid St 7:43 a.m.
Found Property 2400blk 34th St 7:55 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Berkeley St / Wilshire Blvd 8:22 a.m.
Burglary 1500blk California Ave 8:28 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1200blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:29 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1200blk Olympic Blvd 8:34 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2300blk 34th St 8:44 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk Olympic Dr 9:00 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk 5th St 9:32 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000blk 18th St 9:36 a.m.
Child Endangerment 2600blk Main St 9:36 a.m.
Auto Burglary 500blk Broadway 9:41 a.m.
Burglary 1600blk Appian Way 9:44 a.m.
Burglary 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 10:16 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1600blk Ocean Ave 10:22 a.m.
Identity Theft 1100blk 2nd St 10:33 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1500blk 14th St 10:35 a.m.
Petty Theft 2400blk Pico Blvd 10:40 a.m.
Burglary 1900blk Euclid St 10:45 a.m.
Battery 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 11:05 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 200blk San Vicente Blvd 11:11 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk Stanford St 11:14 a.m.
Extortion Investigation 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:18 a.m.
Found Property 1300blk The Beach 11:22 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 11:54 a.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 1900blk 18th St 11:57 a.m.
Petty Theft 300blk Olympic Dr 12:14 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1100blk 2nd St 12:32 p.m.
Fight 1500blk 7th St 12:37 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 26th St 12:40 p.m.
Fraud 900blk 5th St 12:44 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 300blk California Ave 12:47 p.m.
Fight 22nd St / Wilshire Blvd 12:48 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 1:11 p.m.
Burglary 400blk Ashland Ave 1:24 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1600blk Ocean Ave 1:37 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk 18th St 1:40 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 900blk 18th St 1:46 p.m.
Petty Theft 1200blk 7th St 1:50 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 20th St / Arizona Ave 2:06 p.m.
Petty Theft 1800blk 12th St 2:11 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 7th St 2:18 p.m.
Battery Now 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 2:25 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2800blk Pico Blvd 3:02 p.m.
Battery Main St / Bay St 3:12 p.m.
Fight 1000blk Bay St 3:27 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1600blk Appian Way 3:34 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 3:34 p.m.
Auto Burglary Now 1000blk 7th St 3:45 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 3:50 p.m.
General Parking Problem 200blk Ashland Ave 4:03 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 17th St / California Ave 4:10 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 900blk 19th St 4:11 p.m.
Petty Theft 1700blk 11th St 4:17 p.m.
Battery 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 4:55 p.m.
Fraud 800blk 16th St 5:15 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1300blk 2nd St 5:58 p.m.
Petty Theft 2500blk Barnard Way 6:06 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 300blk Ocean Ave 6:29 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 400blk Wilshire Blvd 6:43 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 14th St 6:54 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 300blk Olympic Dr 8:03 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 600blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:04 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 300blk Santa Monica Pier 8:14 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1800blk Hill St 8:19 p.m.
Construction Noise 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 8:51 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 900blk 2nd St 8:52 p.m.
Found Property Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 9:13 p.m.
Found Property 1500blk Palisades Park 9:19 p.m.
Person Down 100blk Hollister Ave 9:26 p.m.
Construction Noise 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:36 p.m.
Burglary 3300blk Virginia Ave 10:24 p.m.
Battery Now Ocean Ave / Bicknell Ave 10:27 p.m.
Construction Noise 1700blk Colorado Ave 10:55 p.m.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 33 CALLS ON SEPT. 8

EMS 1000blk 4th St 12:12 a.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 2:05 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 2nd St 2:20 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:09 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 5:29 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1100blk Olympic Blvd 7:35 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:29 a.m.
EMS 2900blk 4th St 9:34 a.m.
EMS 600blk Georgina Ave 10:19 a.m.
EMS 700blk Raymond Ave 10:29 a.m.
EMS 800blk 10th St 10:36 a.m.
EMS 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 12:05 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 12:53 p.m.
EMS 200blk San Vicente Blvd 2:11 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:37 p.m.
EMS Main St / Bay St 3:15 p.m.
EMS 00blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:50 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Bay St 4:09 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 4:17 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 4:20 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 6:00 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 300blk Ocean Ave 6:29 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Ocean Ave 6:38 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 4th St 7:04 p.m.
Request Fire 1100blk 4th St 7:17 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:07 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Euclid St 8:28 p.m.
Wires Down 900blk 4th St 8:37 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 9:04 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 9th St 9:18 p.m.
EMS 100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:16 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Bicknell Ave 10:31 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 11:49 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.

ON AUGUST 27 AT APPROXIMATELY 9:48 P.M.

SMPD sworn police officers were informed by a Civilian Public Safety Officer of an injured person near the front of City Hall. The victim claimed to have been struck in the arm by a male transient with a metal pole. The suspect, Lavell Barker, was described and later located by officers in the nearby area. The victim stated the suspect approached him and his girlfriend at the corner of Main and Olympic while they awaited the traffic signal to change and for no apparent reason attacked him with a metal pole. Barker was charged with 245(a)(1), assault with a deadly weapon and booked into the Santa Monica Jail.





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- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES
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Think 2020's disasters are wild? Experts see worse in future

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

A record amount of California is burning, spurred by a nearly 20-year mega-drought. To the north, parts of Oregon that don't usually catch fire are in flames.

Meanwhile, the Atlantic's 16th and 17th named tropical storms are swirling, a record number for this time of year. Powerful Typhoon Haishen lashed Japan and the Korean Peninsula this week. Last month it hit 130 degrees in Death Valley, the hottest Earth has been in nearly a century.

Phoenix keeps setting triple-digit heat records, while Colorado went through a weather whiplash of 90-degree heat to snow this week. Siberia, famous for its icy climate, hit 100 degrees earlier this year, accompanied by wildfires. Before that Australia and the Amazon were in flames.

Amid all that, Iowa's multi-billion dollar derecho — bizarre straight-line winds that got as powerful as a major hurricane — barely went noticed.

Freak natural disasters — most with what scientists say likely have some kind of climate change connection — seem to be everywhere in the crazy year 2020. But experts say we'll probably look back and say those were the good old days, when disasters weren't so wild.

"It's going to get A LOT worse," Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb said Wednesday. "I say that with emphasis because it does challenge the imagination. And that's the scary thing to know as a climate scientist in 2020."

Colorado University environmental sciences chief Waleed Abdalati, NASA's former chief scientist, said the trajectory of worsening disasters and climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas is clear, and basic physics.

"I strongly believe we're going to look back in 10 years, certainly 20 and definitely 50 and say, 'Wow, 2020 was a crazy year, but I miss it,'" Abdalati said.

That's because what's happening now is just the type of crazy climate scientists anticipated 10 or 20 years ago.

"It seems like this is what we always were talking about a decade ago," said North Carolina State climatologist Kathie Dello.

Even so, Cobb said the sheer magnitude of what's happening now was hard to fathom back then. Just as the future of climate disasters is hard to fathom now.

"A year like 2020 could have been the subject of a marvelous science fiction film in 2000," Cobb said. "Now we have to watch and digest real-time disaster after disaster after disaster, on top of a pandemic. The outlook could not be any more grim. It's just a horrifying prospect."

"The 2030s are going to be noticeably worse than the 2020s," she said.

University of Michigan environment dean Jonathan Overpeck, a climate scientist, said in 30 years because of the climate change already baked into the atmosphere "we're pretty much guaranteed that we'll have double what we have now."

Expect stronger winds, more drought, more heavy downpours and floods, Abdalati said.

"The kind of things we're seeing are no surprise to the (scientific) community that understands the rules and the laws of physics," Abdalati said.

"A lot of people want to blame it on 2020, but 2020 didn't do this," Dello said. "We know the behavior that caused climate change."

Consider the world's environment like an engine: "We have injected more energy into the system because we have trapped more heat into the atmosphere," said World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

That means more energy for tropical storms as well as changes to rainfall patterns that bring drought to some places and heavy rainfall to others, Taalas said.

In California, where more than 2.3 million acres have burned, the fires are spurred by climate change drying plants and trees that then go up in flames, said University of Colorado fire scientist Jennifer Balch. California is in the midst of a nearly 20-year mega-drought, the first of its kind in the United States since Europeans arrived, Overpeck said.

Scientists also make direct connections between heat waves and climate change.

Some disasters at the moment can't be directly linked to man-made warming, such as the derecho, Overpeck said. But looking at the big picture over time shows the problem and it's one that comes down to the basic physics of trapped heat energy.

"I am not an alarmist. I don't want to scare people," Abdalati said. "It's a problem with tremendous consequences and it's too important not to get right."

And so even though the climate will likely get worse, Overpeck is also optimistic about what future generations will think when they look back at the wild and dangerous weather of 2020.

"I think we'll look back and we'll see a whole bunch of increasingly crazy years," Overpeck said. "And that this year, in 2020, I hope we look back and say it got crazy enough that it motivated us to act on climate change in the United States."

Associated Press writer Gillian Flaccus contributed from Portland, Oregon.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

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AWARD WINNER
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ELECTIONS

FROM PAGE 1

people sprawled on the sidewalk.

Trump lost California by over 4 million votes in 2016 and remains widely unpopular outside his base. During his term, the president has long sought to make California a byword for government dysfunction and liberal excess on issues from immigration to public safety.

The president will be a drag on many Republican candidates in the state, so the GOP hopes to slant the focus away from the White House race to divisive issues they yoke to Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state's dominant Democrats, who hold every statewide office, 45 of the state's 53 U.S. House seats and a strong majority in the Legislature.

Those issues include economic turmoil tied to the virus outbreak; Proposition 16, a ballot proposal that would repeal a 1996 constitutional amendment and allow preferential treatment based on race, sex or ethnicity in public employment, education or contracting; and a homeless crisis that is a national embarrassment.

Also at issue: a polarizing new labor law that seeks to give wage and benefit protections to workers in the so-called gig economy, including ride-hailing drivers at Uber and Lyft. But many freelancers say the law will kill jobs, not improve them, and Uber and Lyft last month threatened to shut down in California.

Rep. Mike Garcia, who in a May special election became the first Republican in over two decades to seize a Democratic-held congressional district in California, summed it up this way during his campaign: "I don't want my country to turn into what my state has become."

In the Republican-leaning 48th House District in Orange County, Republican Michelle Steel, A South Korean immigrant who heads the Orange County Board of Supervisors, has seized on the fight over affirmative action and the new labor law known as AB5 in her bid to oust first-term Democratic Rep. Harley Rouda.

She has called for repeal of AB5, saying "Sacramento is intent on pushing more people out of work." In opposing Proposition 16, which was placed on the ballot by the Democratic-run Legislature, she has warned it would "reinstate racial discrimination" in the name of pursuing equality.

Yet, in an election year that could produce a record Democratic turnout in California, Republican chances of gaining ground are uncertain at best.

Democrats said it's Republicans who are out of step with state voters on issues from public safety to health care.

"If the election is a referendum on California — the progress we're continuing to make and the positive agenda we've setting for the nation — that's not a winning proposition for Trump or Trump-loving Republicans," Schiff said in a statement.

Rouda said he was puzzled by the focus on AB5, which is state legislation. "Either my opponent needs a civics lesson or doesn't understand which office she is running for," he said.

The California Republican Party was once a national powerhouse, and Orange County was a foundation block in the conservative revolution that sent the former California Gov. Ronald Reagan to the White House.

But those days ended with a shifting population — many white, suburban voters, the backbone of the GOP, moved away with the collapse of the defense industry while immigration surged. The number of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks has outnumbered whites since 1998, and Hispanics alone now surpass whites.

California has 5 million registered Republicans, but that's fewer than 20 years ago. Democrats outnumber them today by nearly 2-to-1. The party is also narrowly outnumbered by independents, who tend to vote like Democrats.

The numbers are witnessed at the ballot box: The GOP hasn't won a statewide election since 2006 and George H.W. Bush was the last Republican presidential candidate to carry the state — in 1988.

The daily squabbling on Capitol Hill can seem far removed from the West Coast, so Republicans are hoping to tap into frustration over day-to-day concerns: lingering anger over beach closures and an economy wounded by virus orders, rolling blackouts, schools reopening or not.

The goal is to drive up Republican and conservative-leaning turnout in races where the GOP remains competitive, including seven U.S. House seats the party lost to Democrats in 2018, four of them all or partly in Orange County.

MASKS HELP EVERYONE AROUND YOU.

Cloth face coverings can help slow the spread, including from people who may not know they have the virus.



covid19.ca.gov

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A WORLD AWAY FROM THE ORDINARY A BLOCK AWAY FROM THE BEACH

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

My Matchless Memories

MAKE MEMORIES WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG

(But don't ever stop!)

You can savor them for the rest of your life.

I always thought that was a good approach to life. It's not like you have to be focused on it, or impetuous or foolhardy. But if you have a choice and fear is holding you back — fear of failure, of what others might think, of unintended consequences — but you really want to do it — go for it. It's highly unlikely you will get a second chance. If you pass, you will still have the memory for a lifetime, but it is one of regret.

I've been pretty good about that. I limited myself for the sake of my young son, born when I was only 22. I felt I had to make certain I was there for him, especially when his mother became mentally ill and he had only one functioning parent. So I never did skydive, or take acid, move to Morocco or high dive off a cliff somewhere; it was a loving, rewarding choice I made about which I have no regrets. But I didn't retreat to a closet. I sucked in my share of high-octane pot and dragged Chris to an awesome Grateful Dead/ New Riders concert when he was only two. (He fell asleep, in my arms.) Took him to a vanload of other concerts too (no, his hearing was not damaged), and we later took our nine-month-old daughter Nicole to Reggae Sunsplash in Jamaica, three loooong nights of music and days of adventure. Neither of them remembered it, but it altered their DNA, I'm sure, for the better.

When Chris was not yet three we headed of to Europe for a year, travelling by VW campervan, and after about two months of having to figure this new thing out, constant camping, he was all in, mixed beautifully with people from all over the world, and wound up with an amazing vocabulary for a three-year-old (only the adults he met spoke English, and most didn't talk down to him). It was such an adventure it was repeated with Nicole, after Samohi graduation, and her mother.

LIKE A LOT OF YOU

I'm devoting some pandemic down time to cleaning out, going through old boxes. Except… my stack is pretty high. I wound up with a lot of mixed up content, 90 percent throw-aways but 10 percent precious. Somewhere in there are some of my music reviews and interviews from college days.

But last weekend I went through an unexpected trove of music memories: my large collection of matchbooks. (Remember matchbooks?) Hundreds. Maybe a thousand. Some just really cool ones from places we never went, but most of them with memories attached.

I should probably go through them again sometime and open up each matchbook, bound to be some surprises there, but that would've taken so much longer. For some reason I flipped open one from Club Lingerie, and there was owner Kurt Fischer's name and phone number. The Lingerie was one of the greatest music clubs in the history of Los Angeles (depending on your perspective, of course). Probably number one in my book. It would take a book to tell you why but they had amazing acts of every sort of every genre, godlike veterans and tomorrow's stars, and the crowds were too hip and musically



Courtesy photo

MUSIC: Living Legend TOOTS in ICU.

knowledgeable, the waitresses legendary for their disdain and distinctive dress. Credit much to talent genius Brendon Mullen; if there was a bookers Hall of Fame, he might be the first entry. Kurt would agree, I'm sure.

OF COURSE YOU REMEMBER MARK'S

Just kidding, I'd be surprised if more than a handful did. (NOT St. Mark's ion Windward n Venice.) I don't think Mark's was around for long. I remembered it as being in Echo Park or thereabouts, but the address said it was on far north La Cienega. It was a small room, simple but elegant, with a resident grand piano. One rainy night many years ago — no one in LA ventures out on a rainy night — my wife Diane, a jazz singer, and I would have driven through a hurricane to get to Mark's, because the incredibly talented and special Nina Simone was performing, solo on piano. We had both been longtime huge fans, and never had another opportunity to see her perform. Good choice, to brave the downpour.

There may have been one or two other couples there. But it wasn't well-promoted at all, and Mark's was not well known. Of course it was musically, historically, aesthetically a landmark evening and now a precious memory, topped off by our boldly inviting her to sit at our table afterwards and have a drink. I can't tell you what we talked about, I just remember sitting there pretty incredulous. Picking up that matchbook brought it all home like yesterday.

SIMPLY BLUES

Was a fantastic, always packed, restaurant and jazz club atop the 20-story Sunset Vine Tower in Hollywood, 360 degree views. The piano was in the middle and all the tables circled it. I found it because my future wife sang there frequently. It drew a musically sophisticated and demanding, nearly all African American clientele, so that very white (but very soulful) chick from Pedro

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Two Documentaries About Two Dads



Photo by Maleonn Studio

CAST: Puppets and puppeteers from "Our Time Machine."

I love movies that don't follow a standard story line and that veer into unknown, imaginative and thought-provoking territory. That's exactly what I got, watching a pair of adult artists, living across the globe from one another, as they dedicate themselves to honoring their fathers' lives, while watching their memories fade, in two remarkable, fantasy-inflected documentaries.

"Our Time Machine," and "Dick Johnson is Dead" are brilliant examples of how to face end-of-life realities while recognizing and celebrating the lives of those whose minds no longer fully serve them.

OUR TIME MACHINE

In "Our Time Machine" Maleonn, one of China's most influential conceptual artists, is pouring everything he has into creating an ambitious theatre project, "Papa's Time Machine," a puppet play based on autobiographical scenes from his father Ma Ke's life and career. An only child, he wants to collaborate with his father, with whom he has had a distant relationship that has begun to improve over the years. But now Ma Ke has Alzheimer's and it's a race against time.

During the Cultural Revolution, Ma Ke and his wife were sent to the countryside to pick cotton. A decade later, when the family returned to the city, Ma Ke began staging Peking operas as artistic director of the Shanghai Chinese Opera Theatre. In this documentary, Ma Ke proudly repeats—frequently—that he directed more than 80 productions, a measure of both his pride of accomplishment and the fact that, even as his memory leaves him, this one defines who he is.

Maleonn, an only child, is renowned for fantastical puppet and mechanical creations. But here, he is trying hard to connect with his father's memories and engage with his experiences to create a stage play about him, something he's never done before. It becomes more difficult to collaborate as Ma Ke's memory and medical condition deteriorate. Running way over budget, Maleonn is nevertheless obsessed with meeting his obligation to honor his father and finish this project, even while trying to make it a commercial success.

The story is beautifully documented by filmmakers Yang Sun and S. Leo Chiang, who follow the entire process of Maleonn's project from creation to completion, documenting Ma Ke's personal history and Maleonn's reminiscences about their relationship. The machines and puppets that Maleonn builds are fantastic in and of themselves, and allowing us to observe his creative process is a masterful touch.

It's visually stunning, emotionally moving and altogether inspiring. "Our Time Machine" won the "Best Cinematography" Award at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival. Do a good local turn and watch it via Laemmle Theatres Virtual Cinema, starting tomorrow. https://www.laemmle.com/film/our-time-machine

DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD

Meet Richard Johnson, a beloved 86-yearold psychiatrist whose daughter Kirsten is a renowned cinematographer and respected independent documentary film maker ("Cameraperson"). Dick's losing his memory which, as a professional, he recognizes to the extent he can. But he and Kirsten together watched his wife's mental condition deteriorate and spiral into dementia and they both know what's coming.

As Kirsten begins seeing some of the same signs of dementia in Dick as she saw in her mother's decline, she realizes that his time

SEE **CULTURE WATCH** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

SMC Continues Free Business & Entrepreneurship Series

Santa Monica College (SMC) continues its Business & Entrepreneurship Series this fall with four Divon Academy workshops that help prepare individuals to land a first job and be career ready. All workshops in the series are free and will be held online. Pre-registration is required to attend, and registering early is highly recommended. A link to pre-register for the workshops is available in the listings on the SMC Events calendar at smc.edu/calendar.

The Fall 2020 Business & Entrepreneurship Series lineup for Divon Academy's "Stand Out, Succeed, and Be Career Ready!" workshops is:

• Thursday, September 17 at 11:15 a.m. – Workshop 1 of 4: Strategy and Stretch Goals. A workshop on how technology has disrupted the skills needed to succeed, the challenges and opportunities a career-seeker faces, and the three key skills a future employee MUST develop to get ahead and be career ready. The workshop also explains how to leverage signature strengths and passions into a future career that can lead to impact and success.

• Thursday, September 24 at 11:15 a.m. – Workshop 2 of 4: Stress Management & Peak Habits. A workshop that unpacks the DNA of stress and how to manage and minimize it with practical tools for de-stressing in high-pressure situations. The workshop includes how to appreciate the value of 'discomfort,' and how to induce flow in daily routines to enhance focus, creativity, and productivity. It also explains the importance of habits in creating change and achieving the desired results, and how to customize a personal 'habit plan.'

• Thursday, October 1 at 11:15 a.m. – Workshop 3 of 4: Mindset Mastery. A workshop that explores the power of belief and its effect on an individual's physical state and perception of the world. The workshop also explains how to cultivate a particular mindset that will lead to more confidence and self-reliance.

• Thursday, October 8 at 11:15 a.m. – Workshop 4 of 4: Emotional Intelligence & Building Relationships. A workshop that teaches how to stand out and get noticed, how to apply for a job in a way that commands attention, and how to build connections with others in a way that is memorable and creates an impression. The workshop presents simple techniques to improve relationships, communication skills, and ability to influence, collaborate, and problem-solve.

All workshops are subject to change without notice. Up-to-date details are posted at smc.edu/calendar and available by calling 310-434-4100.

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Public Relations Specialist, The H Holdings, LLC. Worksite: Los Angeles, CA. Req'd: Bachelor's + 6 mos of exp. working with Chinese media in the U.S. Resumes: The H Holdings, LLC, N. Lai, 1801 Century Park East, Suite 1470, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

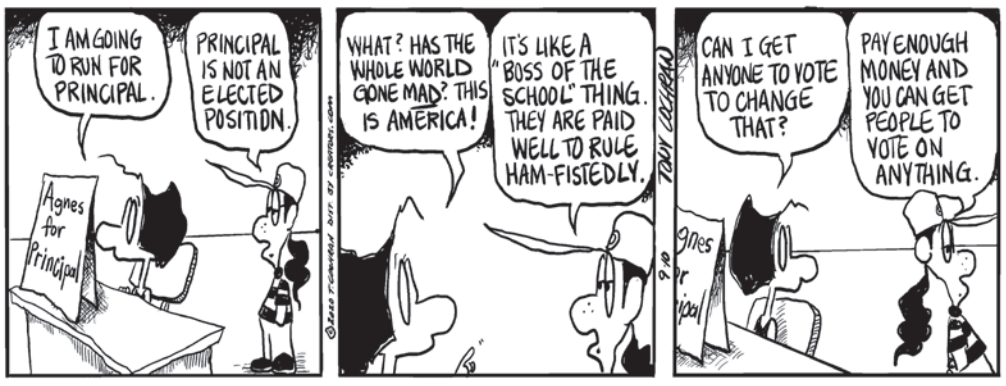
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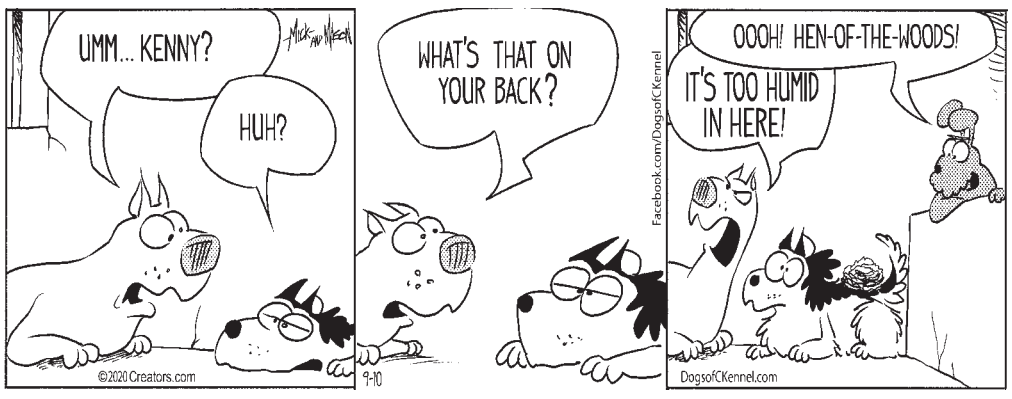
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



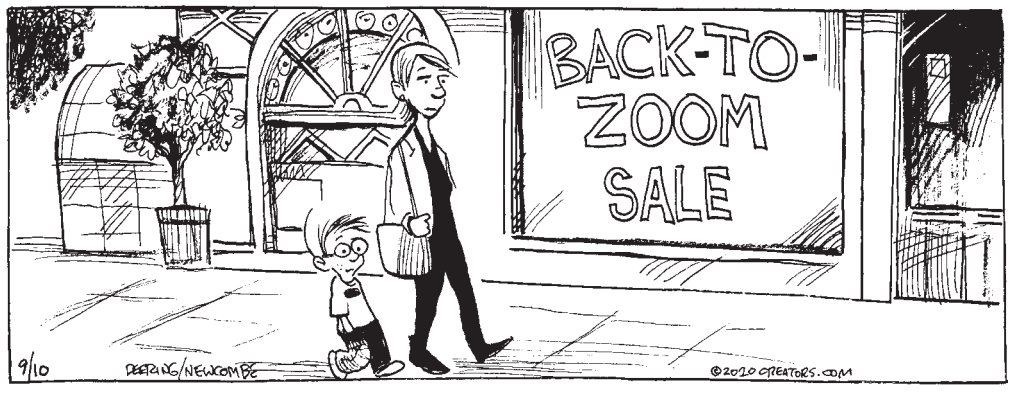
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



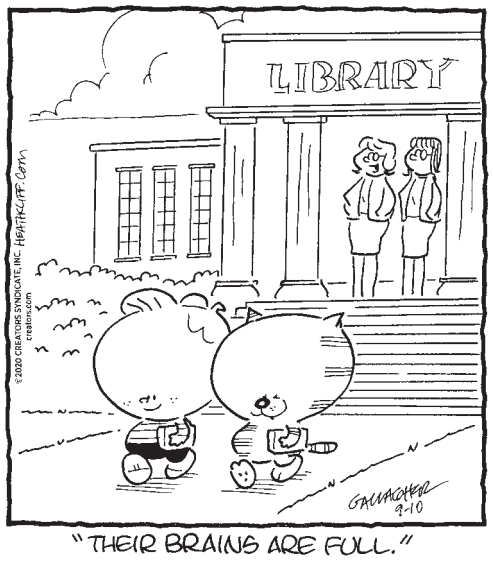
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 68.7°

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
Fun-zone SSW swell lingers through the day, gradually fading – not great but should be worth a look. Minor WNW picks up. Light AM winds with stronger onshore flow and heavier bump in the PM.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
SSW swell mix continues, but down from previous days – not great but should be worth a look. Minor WNW mixing in. Light AM winds and clean, moderate onshores for PM with bump.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 66.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 74.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/09/10	Thu	3:42 PM	4.60	H
2020/09/11	Fri	12:04 AM	1.12	L
2020/09/11	Fri	07:47 AM	3.46	H
2020/09/11	Fri	10:46 AM	3.29	L
2020/09/11	Fri	5:04 PM	4.86	H
2020/09/12	Sat	12:54 AM	0.63	L
2020/09/12	Sat	07:59 AM	3.75	H
2020/09/12	Sat	12:05 PM	3.03	L
2020/09/12	Sat	6:07 PM	5.28	H
2020/09/13	Sun	01:34 AM	0.16	L
2020/09/13	Sun	08:18 AM	4.05	H
2020/09/13	Sun	12:57 PM	2.62	L
2020/09/13	Sun	7:00 PM	5.75	H
2020/09/14	Mon	02:09 AM	-0.22	L
2020/09/14	Mon	08:39 AM	4.38	H
2020/09/14	Mon	1:41 PM	2.12	L
2020/09/14	Mon	7:46 PM	6.16	H
2020/09/15	Tue	02:43 AM	-0.48	L
2020/09/15	Tue	09:04 AM	4.73	H
2020/09/15	Tue	2:24 PM	1.59	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:09/05
15 21 22 27 47
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 75 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 09/08
7 10 15 31 57
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 108 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 09/05
1 18 22 26 27
Mega#: 12
Jackpot:7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 09/08
2 8 18 19 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 09/09
Midday: 4 4 4
Draw Date: 09/08
Evening: 5 4 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 09/08
1st: 04 - BIG BEN
2nd: 01 - GOLD RUSH
3rd: 09 - WINNING SPIRIT
RACE TIME: 1:49.00

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 10)

It's not just what you choose to do but what you choose not to do that makes this a really magical cycle. You're able to let go of habits and fearful concerns that once held you back. You'll be emboldened to claim what you want out of relationships. Also, you'll have fun making money in a different way. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 9, 40, 28 and 32.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What is a hero? Usually, it's just a person predisposed to help others, or internally directed, or trained to do so. Well, there are many ways to get there, but ultimately, all of them boil down to selflessness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sure, in a perfect world, everyone, or at least a majority of the people, like and approve of you. However, what's even better — and really achievable today — is not caring either way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you have several prospects, you won't feel too much worry over any particular one. Putting too much emphasis on one relationship or project will only stifle it. Diversify.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your success will depend on accountability. You'll go farther with a good teacher, leader or coach than you will on your own. Look for someone who will invigorate you to new heights.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You ignite passion without meaning to do so. When you express your interests and show that you're willing to go deep, others want to get as excited about life as you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll deal in social structures with many components. It will not always be obvious where the power lies. A relatively small player could be calling the shots. Study and stay aware.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The city of Seattle was named after a great chief who suggested people, "Take only memories; leave only footprints." This way of living seems nearly impossible in the modern world, but you'll do your best with it today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An idea will catch on just as fire does — with enough fodder to keep it going through the early stages and plenty of oxygen to fuel the flames. Avoid giving too much close attention, as it has a smothering effect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Because it is more difficult to have compassion once someone has already made you mad, you'll do preliminary work. You'll consider where people are coming from and avoid potential hot buttons.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're not interested in the kind of happiness that comes at the expense of someone else's. It's a difficult thing to judge sometimes, but today your guesses will be correct.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Good luck should come with a warning label, specifically to highlight the dangers of too much advertisement, pride, entitlement or greed. When something good happens, and it will, quietly pocket it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are nothing if not discreet. People trust you because of it, even though they may never exactly catch you in action. That's the thing about discretion. It takes one to know one.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

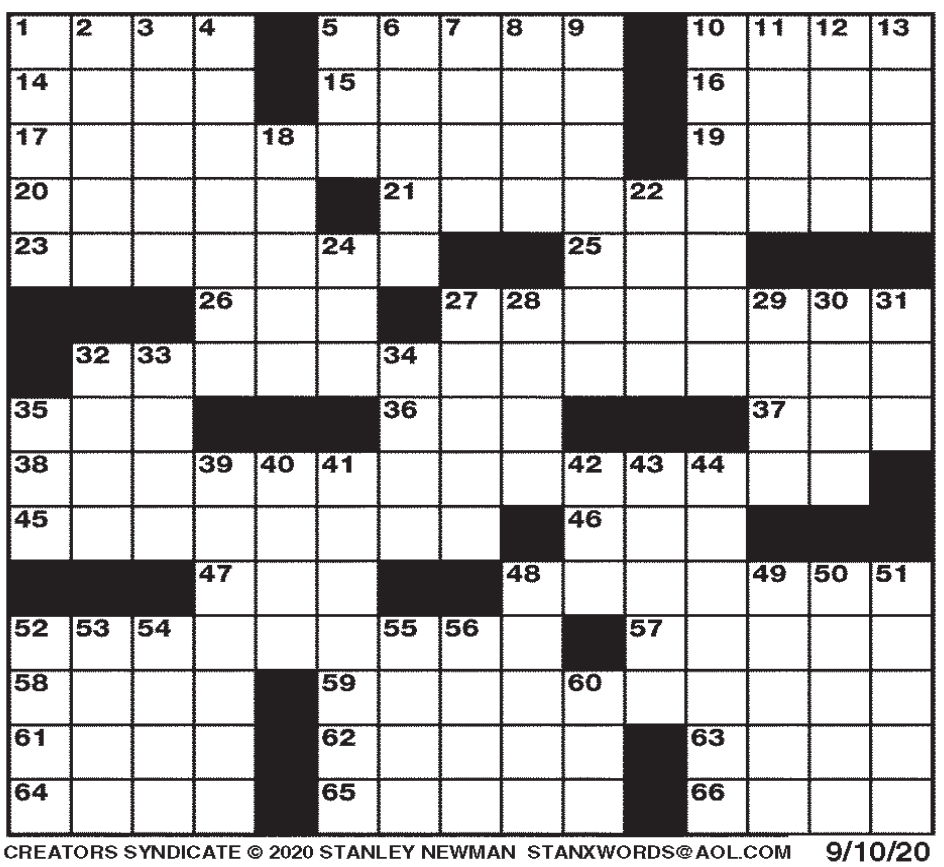
	3		7			2		
7		8		3			4	
	9		2	1	8		7	
		7			3		5	
2	6			7			1	8
	4		8			7		
	5		9	6	7		3	
	1			4		5		7
		3			5		6	

Newsday Crossword

TASTES LIKE CHICKEN? by Steve Mossberg
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Sort of sandwich
5 Getting just right
10 Pack (down)
14 Tenor delivery
15 Bard boy in the NATO alphabet
16 Skater's leap
17 Reception aid on old TVs
19 Give credit to
20 Stand in good __
21 Alone on the ballot
23 Cell phone pouch
25 Arcing tennis shot
26 Surveillance device
27 Epicure's condiments
32 Why I'm not singing today
35 Call from the pasture
36 Watercraft implement
37 Take a stab at
38 Phony sadness
45 Encouraging word
46 "__ no use!"
47 Measure of work in physics
48 Most in need of a massage
52 Scoreboard zeros
57 Listless feeling
58 Gumbo veggie
59 It flows through Idaho Falls
61 Restaurant "garden" serving
62 Subdues
63 Network connection
64 Altar exchanges
65 Simmers on the stove
66 Seeing things

DOWN
1 Habitat for herons
2 Muse of poetry
3 Malign in print
4 10 Down topping
5 Elementary school class
6 Heart, in France
7 Supermodel from Somalia
8 First-century despot
9 Hit the ground, then burst
10 Buffet serving shells
11 Line of rotation
12 Hand (out)
13 Made one's case
18 Collar attachment
22 Upper-crust
24 Beatles' former record label
27 T-shirt size
28 Brontë heroine
29 Tolkien trilogy, to fans
30 Road surfaces
31 Metaphor for a messy room
32 Certain snow structure
33 Cheer (for)
34 Detective film genre
35 Country music record label
39 The Seven __ (group including 8 Down)
40 Big meanie
41 Takes time to process
42 Eccentricity
43 Old-time anesthetic
44 Very foolish
48 Slightly slanted
49 Diplomatic representative
50 Fuzzy wear
51 Road rotators
52 Asian wasteland
53 Gave the nod
54 Sandwich often deep-fried
55 Pest in a swarm
56 Ready to try
60 What serenity starts with



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 9/10/20

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

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

1			1							0	
	1							1		1	0
						0	0				
1		0		0						0	
						1					
	1			0		1				1	
									1	1	
1	0		0					1			
	0		0	0				1			1
							1			0	
						0					0
	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 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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It's brunch time

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

Bill	Entree	Liver	Pork
Brioche	Facial	Merry	Rage
Cafe	Floor show	Mints	Rice
Casserole	Friends	Mornay	Satay
Chips	Fruit	Muesli	Sauce
Chop	Garlic	Music	Smoked
Cocoa	Gift	Newspapers	salmon
Dear	Heat	Nuts	Tapas
Dine	Host	Pate	Taxi
Dish	Hot dog	Peas	Timbale
Duck	Icing	Pie	Tomatoes
Eggs	Jigs	Play	Winner

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Winter weekend escape

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REFORMS

FROM PAGE 1

first place, and making sure that the right people are in place to address issues that are more mental health issues than crime related

Parsons said the work of a civilian oversight committee could include potentially diversifying the groups who could respond to 911 dispatch calls.

Staff will work with the new commission to return to council with more details on use of force revisions and training revisions. Council approved doubling the Neighborhood Resource Officer Program from four to eight and requesting more help from the County on mental health interventions.

Mayor Pro Tem Terry O'Day supported the ideas but he was unsure if the costs would make the initiatives feasible. Despite the hesitation, councilmembers agreed unanimously "to build a more equitable and just Santa Monica."

Council did not shave $8 million off the Santa Monica Police Department's budget but did say it would work toward a more balanced investment of city resources across all departments.

The Santa Monica Police Officers Association released a statement praising the effort put into the discussion but warning against new restrictions and cuts.

The statement said officers are committed to listening and value progressive policies that match community values but said they would not support actions that they felt made the community more dangerous.

"Investments in training that keep important issues like deescalation and implicit bias front and center in the development of our officers are more than worthwhile, budget cuts that would limit our ability to carry out that important work are damaging," said the statement. "Fortifying our ranks with mental health professionals who are uniquely equipped to handle specific service calls makes a lot of sense, limiting the public's ability to access those and other services does not."

The statement said the association is ready to work on reasonable changes that are within the scope of the law.

Mayor Kevin McKeown feels like progress was made this week.

"In a series of unanimous votes, the Council demonstrated steadfast commitment to real change for racial equity," McKeown said. "Our actions are an acknowledgment of and apology to all those who've been hurt by systemic injustices. We can't change the past, but we acted tonight to assure a better future."

Interim City Manager Lane Dilg said at the conclusion of the hourslong discussion the city has put an extraordinary amount of time into creating and running its Public Safety Reform Advisory committee throughout the last couple of months.

"And we did that for precisely this reason: We believed community engagement was the most important first step and we believe we needed to do it for real and in a meaningful way," Dilg said. "And I think (councilmembers) have affirmed tonight that you believe that was a strong and positive process."

"At this point, we do need time to now take your direction and implement it," Dilg added, mentioning staff will bring back an ordinance to create a Police Commission, advance the formation of a nonprofit organization and review SMPD's use-of-force policies as directed by the council.

"With that, I just want to be sure that we're setting expectations appropriately… As you have pointed out these things cost money, they require staff time, they require reallocating resources. We need time to do that and they require legal work from your very busy city attorney's office. So you have given very, very strong direction tonight, and what we would like is to have some time to implement that."

brennon@smdp.com

HALLOWEEN

FROM PAGE 1

begin. "The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health would like to share information on how to take part in this holiday in a manner that reduces your risk of developing COVID-19," and since some of the traditional ways in which the holiday is celebrated are not permitted this year — the department has considered some safer alternatives that are listed below.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

This year there can be no door-to-door trick-or-treating, health officials said, because it's nearly impossible to maintain proper social distancing measures at front doors and especially in neighborhoods that are known to attract a lot of crowds.

No "trunk or treating" events are allowed this year either, meaning children will not be allowed to gather candy from car-to-car as an alternative to door-to-door activities, according to the department's statement. "Gatherings or Parties with non-household members are not permitted even if they are conducted outdoors," and the same goes for carnivals, festivals, live entertainment and haunted house attractions.

ALLOWED ACTIVITIES

Virtual parties and contests such as costumes or pumpkin carving are encouraged. Car parades that comply with public health guidance for vehicle-based parades are also allowed, health officials said, as long as residents dress up their cars and have drive-by judges that are appropriately physically distanced.

Two of the few group activities permitted during the upcoming holiday are outdoor Halloween movie nights at drive-in theaters and outdoor museums.

Health officials didn't say what kind of enforcement measures would be in place. But Sheriff Alex Villanueva told the Associated Press Wednesday that his deputies will not be ticketing trick-or-treaters.

Los Angeles County remains in the state's highest tier for virus danger, which is purple, meaning many nonessential businesses are closed, there's no indoor dining and schools can't return to in-person teaching unless they obtain a waiver to do so. Annual Halloween events such as Knott's Scary Farm, Universal's Halloween Horror Nights, Disneyland's Oogie Boogie Bash and the Queen Mary's Dark Harbor have also all been canceled recently because of COVID-19 concerns.

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NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 6

considered it a compliment to be chosen to warble there. They had a lot of celebrity drop-ins but neither Diane nor I can remember any names, except one, Stevie Wonder. I was really disappointed I wasn't there that night.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

BROWSE SANTA MONICA'S CONCERT HISTORY — The Concert Archives website is exactly what it sounds like: an ever-growing database of concerts from over 15,000 locations and counting. There are 13,989 concerts tagged for all of Los Angeles, and a sizable 157 for Santa Monica, dating all the way back to 1965. Depending on the concert, there may be information including lineup, setlist, details (date, venue), videos (less common), and photos (flyers or otherwise). There is also an option to listen to a Youtube or Spotify-generated playlist of the setlist (most likely all studio versions; if you want to get into the nitty gritty of recorded concerts you may need to pay a visit to the great and powerful Internet Archive— archive.org). Link to the Santa Monica-tagged Concert Archives page: https://www.concertarchives.org/locations/santa-monica-ca

Or, if you want to cut to the chase and watch a NOTEWORTHY-approved full length Santa Monica concert from back in the day, check out Toots & The Maytals performing at the Santa Monica Pier in 1997: https://tinyurl.com/TootsSM97. Toots was admitted to a private hospital in Kingston in critical condition sometime last week for reasons that have not yet been disclosed, so, now may be a good time to send some serious love and positivity his way.

Charles's note: God bless Toots, one of the best singers ever, any genre, and I remember this great show! Anyone remember who opened up?

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,500 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

CULTURE WATCH

FROM PAGE 7

on Earth is limited. To deal with this reality in her own way, she commits to creating a fantasy documentary that confronts his inevitable death.

Except she does this humorously and imaginatively, inventing creative ways for him to die, in a movie in which he stars.

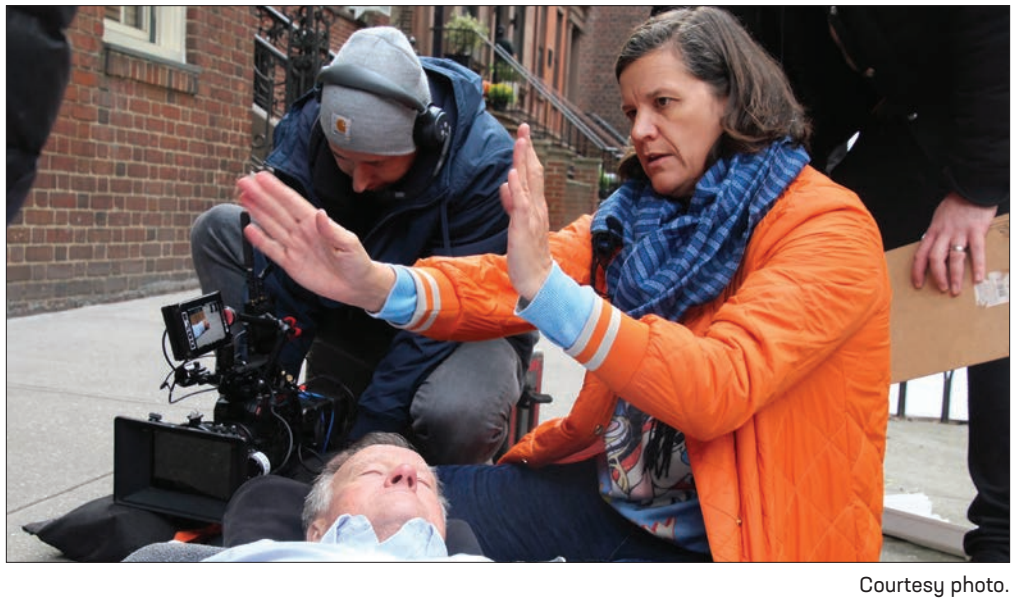
It's a very "meta" kind of movie: you're watching behind the scenes as the sausage is being made, so you know that there are stunt doubles, who are doing the "actual" (staged on camera) dying, and no actual Dick was harmed in the making of the movie.

There's everything you could want: humor, pathos, animation, watching sets being built to create some of the fantasy scenes; you'll see an air conditioner fall on Dick's head, Dick in a car crash, and what I am assuming is an ACTUAL scene of Dick being taken away by ambulance after he suffers a heart attack. You'll even attend his funeral. Sort of. It's the OPPOSITE of morbid.

It's a continually surprising movie, and while I don't want to spoil the multiple endings, every time you think it's over for Dick, well—just maybe—it isn't. Seriously, there are some real head-twirling moments that will make your heart break, then burst with relief and astonishment.

It's a great escape film that touches on our deepest fears about death, life and memory loss, but it's joyous, redemptive and so wonderfully well done that I'm going to watch it again. Which will be easy because "Dick Johnson is Dead" will be available on Netflix, starting October 2. Do not miss it.

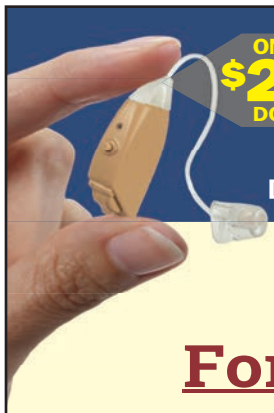
Sarah A. Spitz is an award-winning public radio producer, retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.



Courtesy photo.

MOVIE: Kirsten Johnson sets the shot with Dick in "Dick Johnson is Dead."

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