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Santa Monica Daily Press

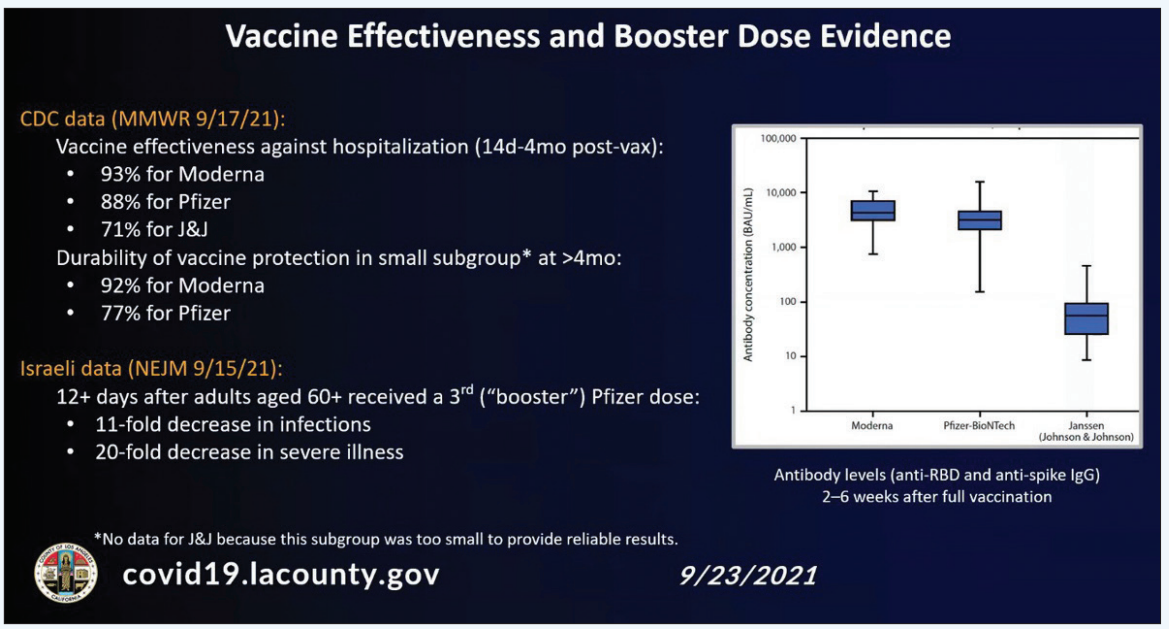
FRIDAY
09.24.21
Volume 20 Issue 270

Water rescue
Man hoisted from water onto the Pier.
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What's Up Westside
Events in Santa Monica.
Page 2

@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

County prepares to rollout COVID-19 booster shots



Courtesy image

CASES: While there are differences between the vaccines, all are effective.

DANIEL FARR
SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles County will work with the state and local partners to ensure that those eligible for COVID-19 vaccine booster shots are able to get their third dose, while prioritizing those that have not yet gotten their first dose, and those that are most at risk for severe outcomes according to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration approved third shots of the Pfizer formula for people who are 65 and older, people at high risk of severe illness, and health care workers and others in danger of becoming infected on the job. Advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said boosters should be offered to people 65 and older, nursing home residents and those ages 50 to 64 who have risky underlying health problems. The extra dose would be given once they are at least six months past their last Pfizer shot.

The U.S. has already authorized third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for certain people with weakened immune systems, such as cancer patients and transplant recipients but widespread adoption of additional doses has not been recommended yet.

"If you're in an eligible group but you received a vaccine, other than the Pfizer vaccine," Ferrer said. "It looks like you will need to wait until the FDA reviews the data around the need for the Moderna or J&J boosters."

Ferrer said the easiest way to plan for a booster if you fall into one of the eligible groups is to make an appointment at one of the hundreds of sites that offer Pfizer vaccines using the online system (https://myturn.ca.gov/). Boosters are initially limited to people who received two doses of Pfizer prior to April 1.

Community members looking to get their third dose need to bring proof that you have received two previous Pfizer doses, which for most people will be in the form of a white vaccination card or a digital vaccine record. Or you may be asked to sign an attestation form at the time you get your booster dose indicating that you meet the criteria to receive a booster.

LA County currently has 1,300 permanent vaccine sites and 400 mobile teams ready to assist community members who need to be vaccinated or a booster shot. The county also has the ability to administer 130,000 doses daily.

The majority of LA residents who live in skilled nursing homes

SEE **COVID** PAGE 7

SMMUSD plans special meeting on student vaccine mandate

DANIEL FARR
SMDP Staff Writer

SMMUSD will consider a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for students with a formal vote to be scheduled somewhere in the second week of October.

The decision followed intense public debate over the issue that included personal threats to Superintendent Ben Drati, numerous references to various government codes and analogies to several points in history where civil liberties have been at stake.

The debate this week took place during a discussion item and was not a formal vote to implement a vaccine. Instead, the Board asked for a special meeting dedicated to the topic that would include a complete analysis of the issue. The decision to agendize a formal vote was supported 6 - 1 with Craig Foster as the lone opponent.

Several board members agreed that Governor Gavin Newsom and the state of California need to mandate the vaccine because currently, the state's leadership has left it up to individual school boards.

"I think the state should pass the vaccine law for COVID-19," said boardmember Jennifer Smith. "I

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 11

Montana Art Walk looks to help artists and business



Daniel Farr

ART: The annual event returns to Montana Ave. this Saturday.

DANIEL FARR
SMDP Staff Writer

From 6th to 17th street, Montana Avenue will look quite different on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Retail stores and restaurants will operate the same, but expect sidewalks and street corners to be lined with artwork, activities for children and live music.

Kara Taub, Chairperson of Montana Merchant Association and member of the 10 Women Gallery on Montana avenue said participants can expect to see artwork outside on easels, large paintings, photography, and a little bit of ceramics.

SEE **ART** PAGE 11


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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | SEPT. 24

MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE TOUR 12 P.M.
Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute visits docent tours are available on a walk-up basis, for groups of up to six people on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 - 2 p.m.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) 10 A.M.
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. 10 a.m.

ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE TOUR 12 P.M.
Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute visits docent tours are available on a walk-up basis, for groups of up to six people on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12pm - 2pm.

SATURDAY | SEPT. 25

STORY TIME AT THE SANTA MONICA PIER AQUARIUM 2 P.M.
Join us every Saturday at 2:00 p.m. for a whale of a tale! The Santa Monica Pier Aquarium will host story time in the Dorothy Green Room. Children (and adults) love to hear a good story, and the Aquarium has a nearly endless supply of books celebrating life on the sea. Join us any Saturday.

MONTANA AVENUE ART WALK 10 A.M.
Mark your calendars for the much-anticipated Montana Avenue Art Walk. September 25th. Featuring local artists, activities, music, and more.

SELF-CARE SATURDAYS AT THIRD STREET PROMENADE 10 A.M.
Take some time to take care of YOU. Join us & Fit Girl Club LA for a morning of self-care featuring FREE workouts on Third Street Promenade. Mingle with like-minded fitness fanatics or make a trip to the celebrated Downtown Santa Monica Farmers' Market. Bring a yoga mat, towel and water for maximum enjoyment.

SUNDAY | SEPT. 26

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET 8:30 A.M.
The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers!

PEDAL ON THE PIER 2021 / HAROLD ROBINSON FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER 12:00 P.M.
The Pedal on the Pier fundraiser returns September 26, transforming Santa Monica Pier into a high-energy outdoor cycling studio to raise money for the Harold Robinson Foundation's Camp Ubuntu, which provides LA's underprivileged children in South LA with a unique, three-day camp experience.

SELF-CARE SATURDAYS AT THIRD STREET PROMENADE 10 A.M.
Take some time to take care of YOU. Join us & Fit Girl Club LA for a morning of self-care featuring FREE workouts on Third Street Promenade. Mingle with like-minded fitness fanatics or make a trip to the celebrated Downtown Santa Monica Farmers' Market. Bring a yoga mat, towel and water for maximum enjoyment.

MONDAY | SEPT. 27

SEPARATING FEAR FROM FACT: UNDERSTANDING THE REALITIES OF THE PANDEMIC 3 - 4 P.M.
The Chamber of Commerce is hosting a webinar with several hospitals covering: the current state of the Delta and other variants, best practices for keeping safe, where we stand with vaccines. Free for members. $15 for non-members. Visit the Chamber's website (https://smchamber.com) to register.

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING 4 - 7 P.M.
The Airport Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to the Municipal Airport and to aviation matters generally to the extent that they affect the City. https://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/Commission/

DISABILITIES COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING 6:30 P.M.
View the agenda online at:
https://www.smgov.net/portals/AccessibleSM/agendas.aspx

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 324 CALLS ON SEPTEMBER 22

Prowler There Now 2200blk Main St 12:49 a.m.
Person With A Gun Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 12:51 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:33 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1300blk 4th St 2:35 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200blk 26th St 2:45 a.m.
Armed Robbery In Progress 2000blk Ocean Ave 3:04 a.m.
Shots Fired 2100blk Ocean Ave 3:04 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100blk San Vicente Blvd 3:50 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 00blk Pico Blvd 4:46 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200blk Arizona Ave 5:29 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Palisades Park 5:31 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1200blk 2nd St 6:20 a.m.
Grand Theft 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:22 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk The Beach 6:54 a.m.
Encampment 1300blk The Beach 7:20 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2400blk Virginia Ave 7:51 a.m.
Found Property 2900blk Wilshire Blvd 8:00 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk Olympic Blvd 8:00 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 100blk Hollister Ave 8:05 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk The Beach 8:21 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 600blk Georgina Ave 8:32 a.m.
Burglary 900blk 17th St 8:35 a.m.
Auto Burglary 400blk Colorado Ave 8:52 a.m.
Lewd Activity 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:53 a.m.
Found Person 11th St / Hill St 8:57 a.m.
Battery Now 600blk Pico Blvd 8:58 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2200blk Main St 9:02 a.m.
Grand Theft 800blk 23rd St 9:06 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2400blk 7th St 9:23 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 600blk 9th St 9:45 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk The Beach 10:09 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2600blk 6th St 10:11 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2400blk Washington Ave 10:23 a.m.
Found Property 1400blk Ocean Ave 10:23 a.m.
Burglary 700blk Ocean Ave 10:25 a.m.
Fraud 300blk Olympic Dr 10:25 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk The Beach 10:33 a.m.
Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 1500blk 10th St 10:52 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk Stewart St 10:53 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk Ocean Ave 10:54 a.m.
Grand Theft 4th St / Colorado Ave 11:19 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 100blk San Vicente Blvd 11:36 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2500blk 7th St 12:11 p.m.
Encampment 3300blk Pico Blvd 12:22 p.m.
Battery 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 12:27 p.m.
Encampment Interstate 10 / Centinela Ave 12:28 p.m.
General Parking Problem 3300blk Barnard Way 12:58 p.m.
Battery Now 1400blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:15 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 500blk Broadway 1:22 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk 18th St 1:31 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk Stanford St 2:28 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2100blk Stewart St 2:32 p.m.
General Parking Problem 100blk Hart Ave 2:58 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk 18th St 2:59 p.m.
Fight 100blk Broadway 2:59 p.m.
Fight 2nd St / Broadway 3:00 p.m.
Burglary 900blk 3rd St 3:01 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1800blk 7th St 3:10 p.m.
Auto Burglary 700blk 21st Pl 3:25 p.m.
Expired Registration 1300blk 18th St 3:44 p.m.
Battery 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 3:47 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:03 p.m.
Burglary 300blk Pacific St 4:08 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2000blk Main St 4:19 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Wadsworth Ave 4:20 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 100blk California Ave 4:20 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:35 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 4:37 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 21st St / Pico Blvd 5:02 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk Michigan Ave 5:11 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1400blk 23rd St 5:42 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation Highland Ave / Marine St 5:49 p.m.
Stalking 1100blk 26th St 6:01 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk Stanford St 6:05 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Pier 6:10 p.m.
Bike Theft 1600blk The Beach 6:12 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1900blk Ocean Ave 6:14 p.m.
Construction Noise 2100blk Ocean Ave 6:16 p.m.
Construction Noise 1100blk Yale St 6:20 p.m.
Trash Dumping 800blk 11th St 6:27 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 6:33 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1100blk Georgina Ave 6:39 p.m.
Shots Fired 100blk Wilshire Blvd 7:07 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Wilshire Blvd 7:33 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 200blk Wilshire Blvd 8:51 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk California Ave 9:09 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 100blk San Vicente Blvd 9:10 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 100blk San Vicente Blvd 9:10 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 100blk San Vicente Blvd 9:11 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 4th St / Pico Blvd 9:24 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk Montana Ave 9:38 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 200blk Wilshire Blvd 9:39 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2000blk Ocean Ave 9:41 p.m.
Arson 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:48 p.m.
Found Property Main St / Bicknell Ave 10:07 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1900blk 17th St 10:20 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation Cloverfield Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 11:05 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1400blk Palisades Park 11:20 p.m.
Party Complaint 2200blk Pier Ave 11:26 p.m.
Petty Theft 900blk 15th St 11:48 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Marine St 11:52 p.m.

US sets the stage for COVID booster shots for millions

LAURAN NEERGAARD AND MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writers

The U.S. vaccination drive against COVID-19 stood on the verge of a major new phase as government advisers Thursday recommended booster doses of Pfizer's vaccine for millions of older or otherwise vulnerable Americans — despite doubts the extra shots will do much to slow the pandemic.

Advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said boosters should be offered to people 65 and older, nursing home residents and those ages 50 to 64 who have risky underlying health problems. The extra dose would be given once they are at least six months past their last Pfizer shot.

Deciding who else might get one was far tougher. While there is little evidence that younger people are in danger of waning immunity, the panel offered the option of a booster for those ages 18 to 49 who have chronic health problems and want one.

The advisers refused to go further and open boosters to otherwise healthy front-line health care workers who aren't at risk of severe illness but want to avoid even a mild infection.

"We might as well just say give it to everyone 18 and older. We have a very effective vaccine and it's like saying, 'It's not working.' It is working," said Dr. Pablo Sanchez of Ohio State University, who helped block the broadest booster option.

Still, getting the unvaccinated their first shots remains the top priority, and the panel wrestled with whether the booster debate was distracting from that goal.

All three of the COVID-19 vaccines used in the U.S. are still highly protective against severe illness, hospitalization and death, even amid the spread of the extra-contagious delta variant. But only about 182 million Americans are fully vaccinated, or just 55% of the population.

"We can give boosters to people, but that's not really the answer to this pandemic," said Dr. Helen Keipp Talbot of Vanderbilt University. "Hospitals are full because people are not vaccinated. We are declining care to people who deserve care because we are full of unvaccinated COVID-positive patients."

Thursday's decision represented a dramatic scaling back of the Biden administration plan announced last month to dispense boosters to nearly everyone to shore up their protection. Late Wednesday, the Food and Drug Administration, like the CDC panel, signed off on Pfizer boosters for a much narrower slice of the population than the White House envisioned.

It is up to the CDC to set final U.S. policy on who qualifies for the extra shot. A decision from the agency was expected later Thursday, but the CDC usually follows its advisers' recommendations.

The booster plan marks an important shift in the nation's vaccination drive. Britain and Israel are already giving a third round of shots over strong objections from the World Health Organization that poor countries don't have enough for their initial doses.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky opened Thursday's meeting by stressing that vaccinating the unvaccinated remains the top goal "here in America and around the world."

Walensky acknowledged that the data on who really needs a booster right away "are not perfect." "Yet collectively they form a picture for us," she said, "and they are what we have in this moment to make a decision about the next stage in this pandemic."

The CDC panel stressed that its recommendations will be changed if new evidence shows more people need a booster.

The CDC advisers expressed concern over the millions of Americans who received Moderna or Johnson & Johnson shots early in the vaccine rollout. The government still hasn't considered boosters for those brands and has no data on whether it is safe or effective to mix-and-match and give those people a Pfizer shot.

"I just don't understand how later this afternoon we can say to people 65 and older, 'You're at risk for severe illness and death, but only half of you can protect yourselves right now,'" said Dr. Sarah Long of Drexel University.

About 26 million Americans got their last Pfizer dose at least six months ago, about half of whom are 65 or older. It's not clear how many more would meet the CDC panel's booster qualifications.

CDC data shows the vaccines still offer strong protection against serious illness for all ages, but there is a slight drop among the oldest adults. And immunity against milder infection appears to be waning months after people's initial immunization.

For most people, if you're not in a group recommended for a booster, "it's really because we think you're well-protected," said Dr. Matthew Daley of Kaiser Permanente Colorado.

Public health experts not involved in Thursday's decision said it is unlikely people seeking third doses at a drugstore or other site will be required to prove they qualify.

Even with the introduction of boosters, someone who has gotten just the first two doses would still be considered fully vaccinated, according to the CDC's Dr. Kathleen Dooling. That is an important question to people in parts of the country where you need to show proof of vaccination to eat in a restaurant or enter other places of business.

Among people who stand to benefit from a booster, there are few risks, the CDC concluded. Serious side effects from the first two Pfizer doses are exceedingly

SEE **BOOSTER** PAGE 11



City of Santa Monica

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

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, October 12, 2021, AT 10:30 AM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Zoning Administrator and City Staff will participate via teleconference. Participants may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/vkpztcag or by dialing in at (415) 466-7000 (PIN: 2736816#).

A public hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator to consider the following request:

2700 WILSHIRE BLVD, 21ENT-0179 (MINOR USE PERMIT). The applicant requests approval of a Minor Use Permit to establish a 5,908 square-foot emergency veterinary services use within an existing one-story building located at 2700 Wilshire Boulevard. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.11.020, veterinary services located within the Mixed-Use Boulevard (MUB) District require a Minor Use Permit. [Planner: Rathar Duong] **APPLICANT:** VEG California. **PROPERTY OWNER:** SFR West Coast, LLC.

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment.

Those wishing to provide written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received later than 5:30 P.M. the day before the meeting will be read aloud at the meeting (with time limitations) and must be received prior to the Zoning Administrator's consideration of the item. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Those wishing to provide oral public comment shall dial the following number when the item begins: (888) 240-2560, enter Meeting ID: 431733781# and Passcode: 0128#. You will be unmuted when it is your turn to speak. Please state your name for the record and begin your comments. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item.

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Rathar Duong by e-mail at rathar.duong@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. 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:
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

Democrats see tax 'framework' to pay for huge $3.5T package

LISA MASCARO AND ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

The White House and congressional Democrats have agreed to a framework of options to pay for their huge, emerging social and environment bill, top Democrats said Thursday. Now they face the daunting task of narrowing the menu to tax possibilities they can pass to fund President Joe Biden's $3.5 trillion plan.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California announced the progress as Biden administration officials and Democratic congressional leaders negotiated behind the scenes. The package aims to rewrite tax and spending priorities to expand programs for Americans of all ages, while upping efforts to tackle income inequality and fight climate change.

Staring down a self-imposed Monday deadline, lawmakers said they would work nonstop to find agreement on specifics. Democrats' views on those vary widely, though they largely agree with Biden's idea of raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy to fund the package.

"We certainly think it's progress," Biden press secretary Jen Pskai said at the White House.

Biden has been putting his shoulder into the negotiations, inviting more than 20 of his party's moderate and progressive lawmakers to the White House for lengthy meetings this week. He's working to close the deal with Congress on his "Build Back Better" agenda at a time when his presidential campaign promises are running into the difficulty of actually governing.

But the party has been divided over many of the details.

Moderate Democrats, most prominently Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, are demanding that the massive dollar total be reduced. The revenue options to pay for it — that mostly means taxes — being considered can be dialed up or down, the leaders say. The ultimate price tag may certainly slip from the much-publicized $3.5 trillion.

Republicans are solidly opposed to the package, calling it a "reckless tax and spending spree." So Democrats will have to push it through Congress on their own, which is only possible if they limit their defections to a slim few in the House and none in the Senate.

"We're proceeding," Pelosi said. "We intend to stay the course and pass the bill as soon as possible."

The congressional leaders huddled early Thursday with the chairmen of the tax writing committees to agree to the framework, pulling from work already being done on those panels. They are intent on sticking to Biden's pledge not to raise taxes on people making less than $400,000 a year.

Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., the chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee, has already drafted his version, which would raise about $2.3 trillion by hiking corporate tax rates to 26.5% for businesses earning more than $5 million a year and increasing the top individual tax from 37% to 39.6% for those earning more than $400,000, or $450,000 for married households.

The House panel's bill also includes a 3% surtax on the adjusted incomes of very wealthy people making more than $5 million a year.

The Senate Finance Committee under Sen. Ron Wyden has not yet passed its bill, but has been eyeing proposals that further target the superrich including efforts to curtail practices used to avoid paying taxes.

"I'm not going to get into any specific stuff today, but I've made it very clear as chairman of the Finance Committee a billionaire's tax will be on the menu," Wyden said.

Those tax goals align with the Biden administration, which is marshaling arguments that the increases are fundamentally about fairness at a time of gaping income inequality.

According to a new analysis released Thursday by the White House, the wealthiest 400 families worth more than a billion dollars paid an average tax rate of just 8.2% between 2010 and 2018. Treasury Department tables show that is lower than the average tax rate of families with an income of roughly $142,000.

The analysis suggests two clear reasons why billionaires pay a lower rate than the upper middle class: They derive income from stocks, dividends and other assets that are taxed at lower rates and they can permanently avoid paying tax on certain investment gains that by law are excluded from taxable income.

SEE **DEMOCRATS** PAGE 6

SAFETY UPDATE BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Safety Update is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Fire Department.

ON SEPT. 22 AT ABOUT 3:42 P.M.

Santa Monica Fire and Santa Monica Harbor Guards responded to a male in his 30's seen in the water at the west end of the Santa Monica Pier. Harbor Guards entered the water and performed a water rescue, using their hoist to extract the person from the water and onto the Pier deck. The victim was not breathing, and Paramedics began resuscitation. The victim was transported to a local hospital in critical condition.

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.

Long Beach opens up for grand prix return, IndyCar closer

JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

One of the crown jewels of both motorsports and the North American street festival scene opened Thursday for the first time in 17 months after the pandemic snapped a 45-year run for the Grand Prix of Long Beach.

The annual event was one of the longest continuously run street events in auto racing dating to its 1975 opening as a temporary street course through the picturesque Long Beach downtown. The prestige grew during an eight-year run hosting Formula One, and the globetrotting series found it to be a favorable stop because of pleasant weather, proximity to Los Angeles and the demands of the worn-and-torn 1.968-mile stretch of city roads that run clockwise through 11 turns.

For four days a year, Long Beach is the intersection of fast cars and fancy stars, where motorsports and celebrity collide. And as the racing roars on around the parties, vendors in the Expo Center hawk everything from flavored popcorn to handmade jewelry or racing memorabilia. House of Pistachios on Thursday was already set up in the same spot the family-run business has been selling nuts since 1984.

Jim Michaelian, part of the Grand Prix group since 1975 and now its president and chief executive, said exhibits in the Expo Center will be down this year as many companies have yet to resume marketing programs halted by the pandemic. But the vendors have mostly returned and music concerts, a lifestyle expo, kids' zone, and food and drink spots will all be in place.

Maks are required even outdoors, and entrants must show proof of vaccination or a negative test for COVID-19 taken no earlier than 72 hours before Friday's opening day.

"We're expecting very strong attendance and we want to create the same sense of excitement and energy this event typically carries," Michaelian said Thursday. "We're doing that it in a very safe and secure manner. That's important because when this race concludes (Sunday) this will have been the safest mega-event in California open to anyone to attend."

The 2019 race drew 187,000 spectators over three days, a 1% increase from the year before when the Grand Prix boasted its highest attendance total since 2000. Those who meander down to the water this weekend can feast at food trucks with an up-close seat to IndyCar's changing of the guard.

Alex Palou will win his first IndyCar championship on Sunday barring a total collapse in which a finish of 11th or better clinches the title. The 24-year-old is in just his second season in IndyCar, but a move this year to Chip Ganassi Racing has pushed a previously unknown driver to within one race of becoming the first Spanish champion of America's open-wheel series.

Palou will be up against Pato O'Ward, the 22-year-old star for Arrow McLaren SP trying to become IndyCar's first Mexican champion. O'Ward has had a strong season with the first two victories of his career and a bravado that has drawn parallels to the Juan Pablo Montoya.

No matter who wins between them — two-time champion Josef Newgarden, an American, is mathematically eligible but a longshot — IndyCar will have its first champion from a Spanish-speaking country since Montoya in 1999. The winner will also be the first champion under 25 since Scott Dixon, who has collected six crowns since that 2003 first title at 23.

O'Ward has said the championship is Palou's to lose, but didn't conceded after falling 35 points behind the leader last weekend at Laguna Seca. O'Ward raced at Long Beach in 2019 (12th-place finish) but Palou saw the circuit for the first time in his life on Thursday.

"I'm going for the win in Long Beach, whatever it takes," O'Ward said. "We still have a shot. I know things can go south real quick in racing. All I can do is just send it, take the fight to the guys."

Palou has taken a laid-back approach in part because he's teammates with Dixon and seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson. Three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dario Franchitti is Ganassi's driving coach, so Palou has a priceless vault of tips and tricks to access.

Johnson even counseled Palou last month on the mental aspects of racing for championships. On Thursday, Palou participated in his first career helmet swap as a professional. A helmet swap is a sign of respect between drivers, who trade helmets that are more like pieces of art and carry significant personal meaning.

Palou, who has never won a championship at a major level and last won a title five or more years ago while karting in Spain, swapped with Johnson. It was one small celebration in what Palou has called "probably the most important week of my entire life."

He vowed to "enjoy every single moment of" Long Beach but wasn't getting ahead of his title goal.

"It's like putting salt on food, you need to have a balance," he said.

It is expected to be as close to a typical Long Beach event as possible — with the added excitement of a championship race. Willy T. Ribbs, inducted Thursday into the Walk of Fame alongside current IndyCar pace car driver Oriol Servia — the last Spanish driver to win a race prior to Palou this season — believed the potential is there for a vintage Long Beach weekend.

Ribbs pointed at a glass-walled high-rise and said he watched the inaugural 1975 Grand Prix from inside the building. Three years later, he made his United States racing debut on the circuit, and Long Beach in 1990 was where Ribbs made his IndyCar debut.

"I've watching this place grow, I see what it means to the city and to the racing community," Ribbs said. "If there's any two (races) in this country that auto racing built (the cities), it would be the Indianapolis 500 and the Long Beach grand prix."

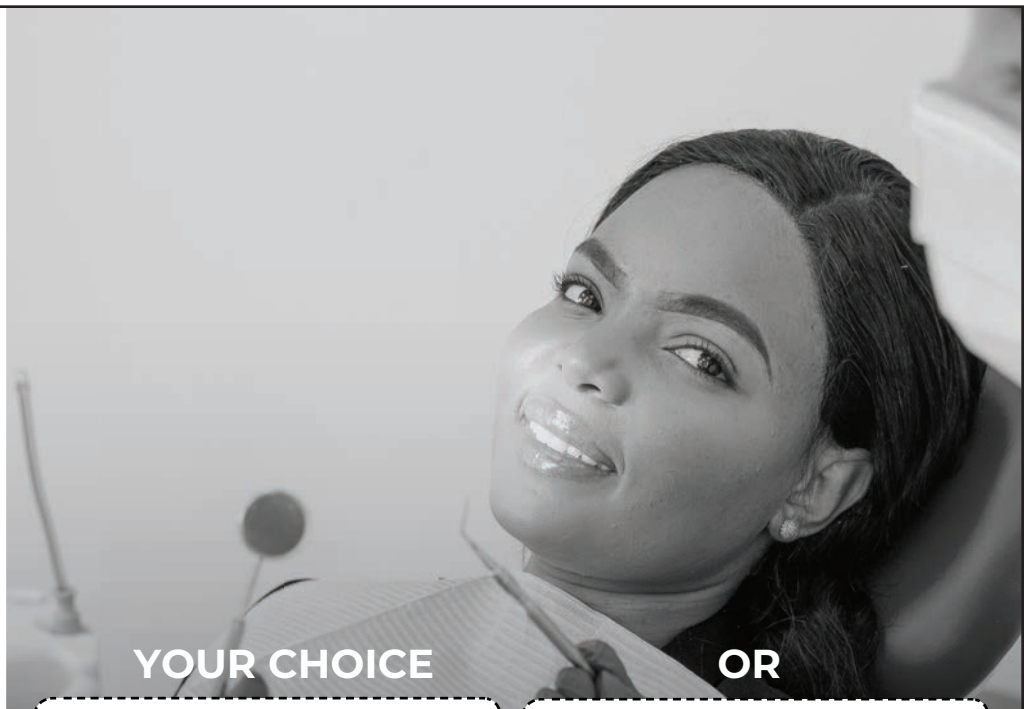
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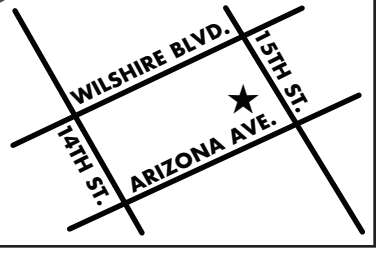


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DEMOCRATS

FROM PAGE 4

Without divulging a framework, Wyden indicated he is in agreement with the House's plans for certain retirement savings accounts used by the wealthy to shield liabilities.

Targeting "Mega IRAs," Democrats hope to correct what they see as a flaw in the retirement savings system enabling billionaires to amass millions in independent retirement accounts without ever paying taxes. Under some proposals, individuals earning beyond $400,000 would be barred from contributing to their IRAs once their account balances top $10 million.

The Biden administration has also shown interest in one climate change tax — a so-called pollution importer fee, which would essentially impose a tariff on goods coming from countries without certain emissions controls — and seen as a way to pressure China.

Gaining less traction seems to be a carbon tax that could fall on households and stray from Biden's pledge not to tax those earning less than $400,000.

Another big unknown: Whether Democrats can coalesce around a plan to rein in prescription drug costs, which could save the government hundreds of billions that could be used for Biden's goals

Thursday's sudden announcement of framework options caught key lawmakers off guard, including Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., the chairman of the Budget Committee, and others playing leading roles in assembling one of the biggest bills Congress has ever attempted.

Schumer later acknowledged about the emerging framework — "it's hardly conclusory, but it was a good step of progress."

Yet the framework could help the congressional leaders show momentum as they head toward crucial deadlines and start to address concerns raised by Manchin and other moderates who want a more clear-cut view of what taxes are being considered before they move forward, aides said.

On Monday, the House plans to begin considering a separate $1 trillion package of road and other infrastructure projects as a first test of Biden's agenda. That public works bill has already passed the Senate, and Pelosi has agreed to schedule it for a House vote to assuage party moderates who badly want that legislation passed but are leery of supporting the larger $3.5 trillion measure.

But progressives are threatening to defeat the public works bill as inadequate unless it is partnered with the broader package. To make sure both bills can pass, Democratic leaders are trying to reach agreement on the bigger bill.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate remain at a standstill over a separate package to keep the government funded past the Sept. 30 fiscal year-end and to suspend the federal debt limit to avert a shutdown and a devastating U.S. default on payments. Senate Republicans are refusing to back that House-passed bill, despite the risk of triggering a fiscal crisis.

Associated Press writers Marcy Gordon and Josh Boak contributed to this report.

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COVID

FROM PAGE 1

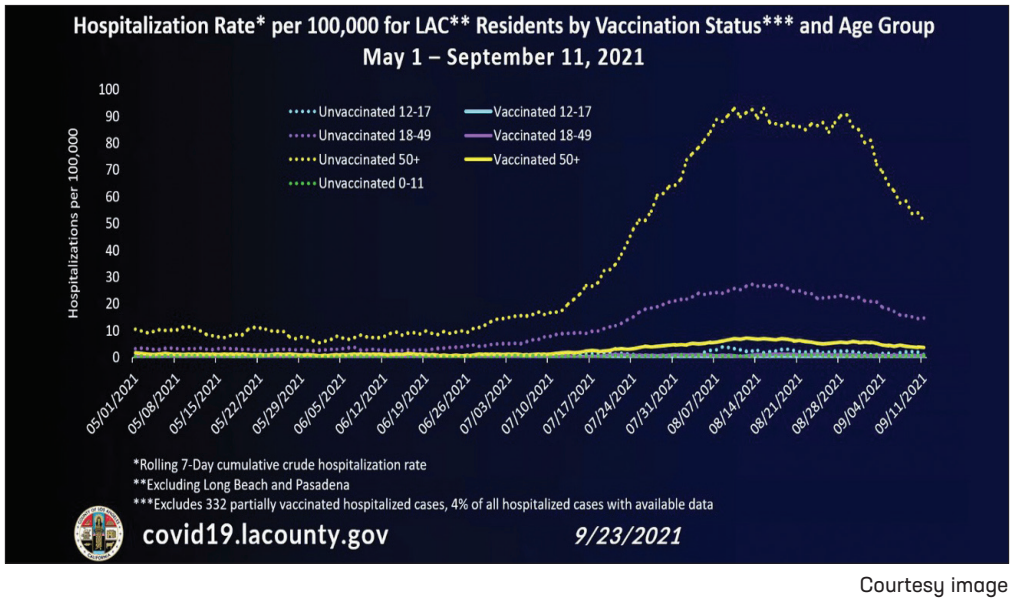
received the Moderna vaccine, which will force them to wait for a booster shot.

Officials said if residents have questions about their booster status, it is recommended that you talk to your primary care doctor about your concerns.

Ferrer said flu vaccinations are also in the pipeline and encouraged widespread adoption of flu vaccines as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to absorb healthcare resources.

"Obviously it's super important that we get our flu vaccinations, and this is the time where we're starting to vaccinate," she said. "There'll be many sites where we're going to be offering both flu and COVID. For those who haven't yet gotten a vaccine or maybe needing a booster and, you know, the guidance right now supports that you can get both of those vaccinations at the same time, for those people who don't want to get both of those vaccinations at the same time, depending on where you fall in terms of eligibility for boosters, we would encourage those not yet eligible to go ahead now you can get your flu, your flu shots all across the county you're ready, go ahead and do that."

daniel@smdp.com



Courtesy image

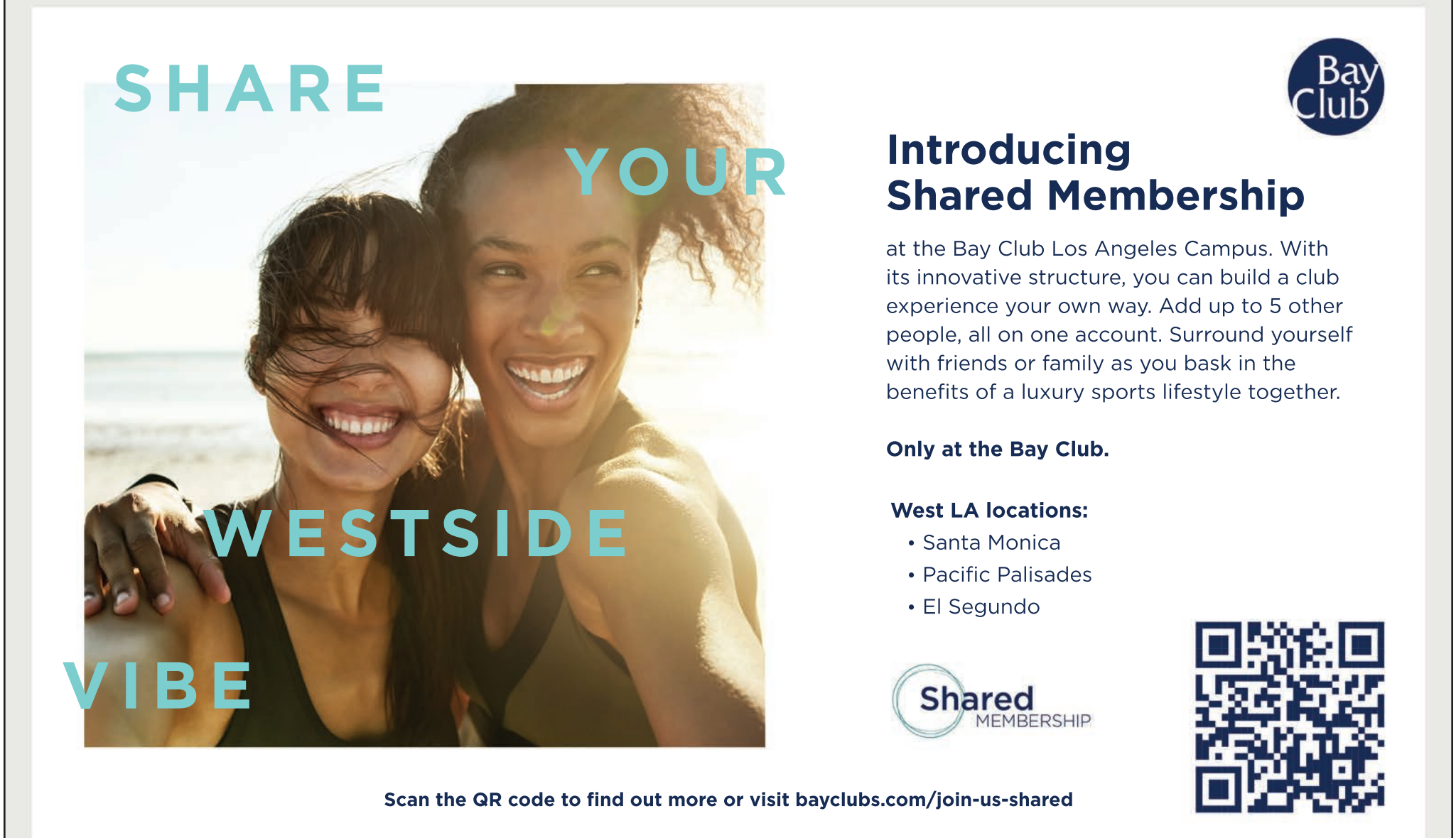
HOSPITALIZATION: Unvaccinated residents over the age of 50 are at most risk.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 37 CALLS ON SEPTEMBER 22

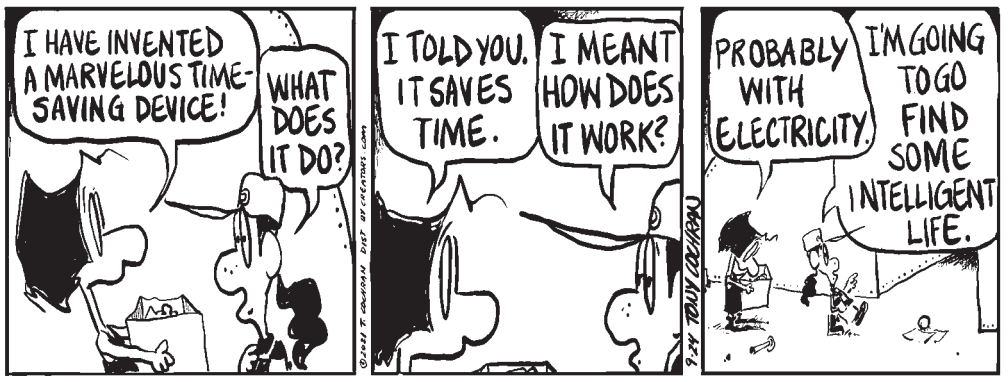
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 17th St 1:13 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 2:02 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Pacific St 3:04 a.m.
EMS 900blk 16th St 4:50 a.m.
EMS 2500blk 23rd St 5:59 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 6:12 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Pine St 6:37 a.m.
EMS 00blk Village Pkwy 7:36 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:36 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 500blk Pico Blvd 10:19 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 5th St 10:35 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 10:37 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:12 a.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 12:32 p.m.
EMS 400blk Montana Ave 1:52 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1500blk California Ave 2:31 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 3:17 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 11th St 4:49 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 21st St / Pico Blvd 5:03 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 22nd St 5:09 p.m.
EMS 400blk Colorado Ave 5:16 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 5:39 p.m.
EMS 900blk Stanford St 5:43 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 5:56 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 6:23 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 6:33 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 6:33 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 6:50 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 7:25 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk Montana Ave 8:16 p.m.
EMS 800blk 12th St 8:31 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 8:42 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Delaware Ave 8:58 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 9:21 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:48 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Cloverfield Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 11:05 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 11:42 p.m.

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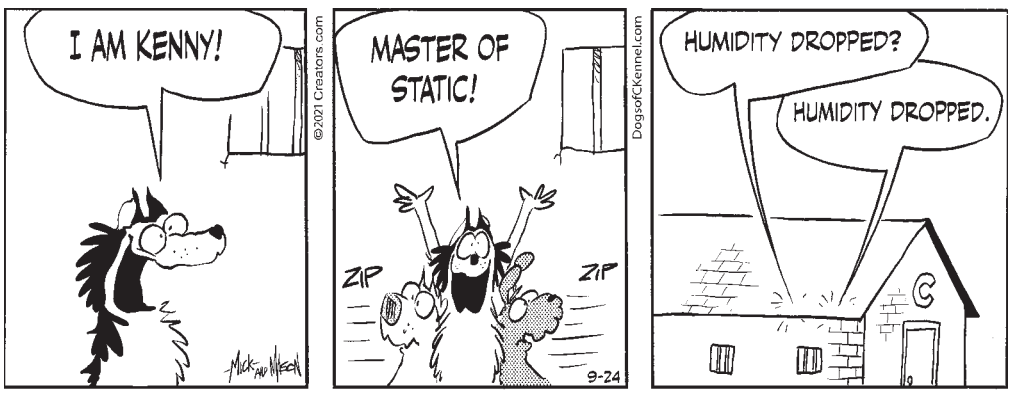
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



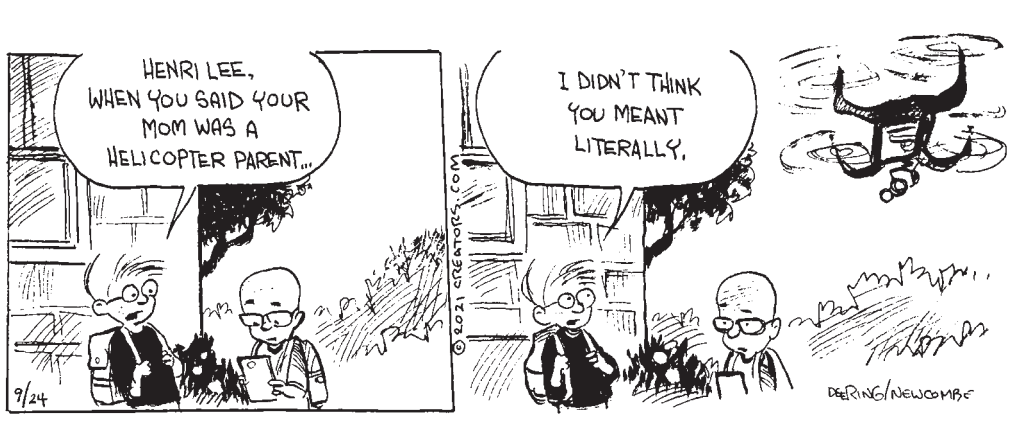
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"SAME OLD, SAME OLD."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 68.2°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Fresh SSW swell moving in, blending with lingering NW swell. Still on the smaller side but a bit more juice getting into those spots shut out from the NW energy. Clean morning for the tide push.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
SSW swell continues as easing NW swell mixes in, making for peaky surf at open exposures. Clean morning with an okay tide push to start the day. Afternoon onshores looking manageable at the moment.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 72.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 72.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/09/24	Fri	05:19 AM	1.66	L
2021/09/24	Fri	11:32 AM	5.23	H
2021/09/24	Fri	6:16 PM	0.99	L
2021/09/25	Sat	12:25 AM	3.82	H
2021/09/25	Sat	05:38 AM	2.15	L
2021/09/25	Sat	11:59 AM	5.06	H
2021/09/25	Sat	7:04 PM	1.16	L
2021/09/26	Sun	01:27 AM	3.32	H
2021/09/26	Sun	05:51 AM	2.60	L
2021/09/26	Sun	12:29 PM	4.85	H
2021/09/26	Sun	8:08 PM	1.34	L
2021/09/27	Mon	03:40 AM	3.02	H
2021/09/27	Mon	05:40 AM	2.98	L
2021/09/27	Mon	1:10 PM	4.60	H
2021/09/27	Mon	9:52 PM	1.39	L
2021/09/28	Tue	2:26 PM	4.38	H
2021/09/28	Tue	11:29 PM	1.16	L
2021/09/29	Wed	08:14 AM	3.65	H
2021/09/29	Wed	10:38 AM	3.59	L
2021/09/29	Wed	4:19 PM	4.40	H
2021/09/30	Thu	12:25 AM	0.81	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 9/22
20 40 47 55 63
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 523 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/21
36 41 45 51 56
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 9/22
4 6 26 39 41
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 20 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/22
2 15 22 25 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/22
EVENING: 4 8 3
Draw Date: 9/22
MIDDAY: 4 5 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/22
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:43.66

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 24)

You focus on enjoying people, and you dedicate yourself to the causes that improve their lives. It's a social value that keeps your days interesting and filled with love. A private wish will become a public prize. Apply new strategies for work and finance in 2022. There's more than one reason to learn and ride trends. Pisces and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 33, 8 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Having been lost at different points in your life, you consider it a blessing to know your purpose and fulfill it. Daily structures provide health-inspiring rhythms, even if the actions themselves aren't astoundingly healthful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Needs are not weakness, and limits are not always negotiable. Pay attention to what your body is telling you. Sometimes, the tougher move is to take care of yourself instead of muscling through.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In all matters of construction, including relationships, companies and physical structures, stability is the first tenant of the build. Do not lay a foundation on anything but the most solid ground.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The only makeover worth taking on is your own, as you'll get to steer the process, learn the lessons and enjoy the results. As for the others, inspiring them will be much more effective than trying to change them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's a time to stop comparing yourself and focus on what you have at hand. In addition to a unique collection of talents and resources, you are truly gifted with a sharp mind and the ability to quickly learn what you need to do to succeed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The rules will go out the window, and everyone will act according to their understanding and feelings in the moment, allowing a prime opportunity for you to cleverly arrange things to benefit you and yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When a baby cries in public, it activates all mothers within earshot to care. This is how you respond to the cry of a soul. Your heart reaches out to all cries within your radius of feeling.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Energy flows through everything. Though perhaps there is not "good" and "bad" energy, there is certainly energy more or less conducive to your thriving. Invite that kind, and make an unobstructed path for it to enter your world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Activities are only as productive as they are healthy because the cost of anything that wears away at your health outweighs the benefits. What gets done is far less important than the spirit in which it is done.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You want to be the reason someone smiles today. It's easy for you because you've gotten in the habit of watching what people enjoy and looking for the opportunities to put it in their path.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If only conflict were like a pest you could trap and carry far away from you and set free in some distant field. Well, maybe it is. Give it time and distance and see what happens.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Faith keeps you going when you lack evidence that your efforts will pay off. But don't rely on faith alone. Keep acquiring more experience until you see tangible results.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

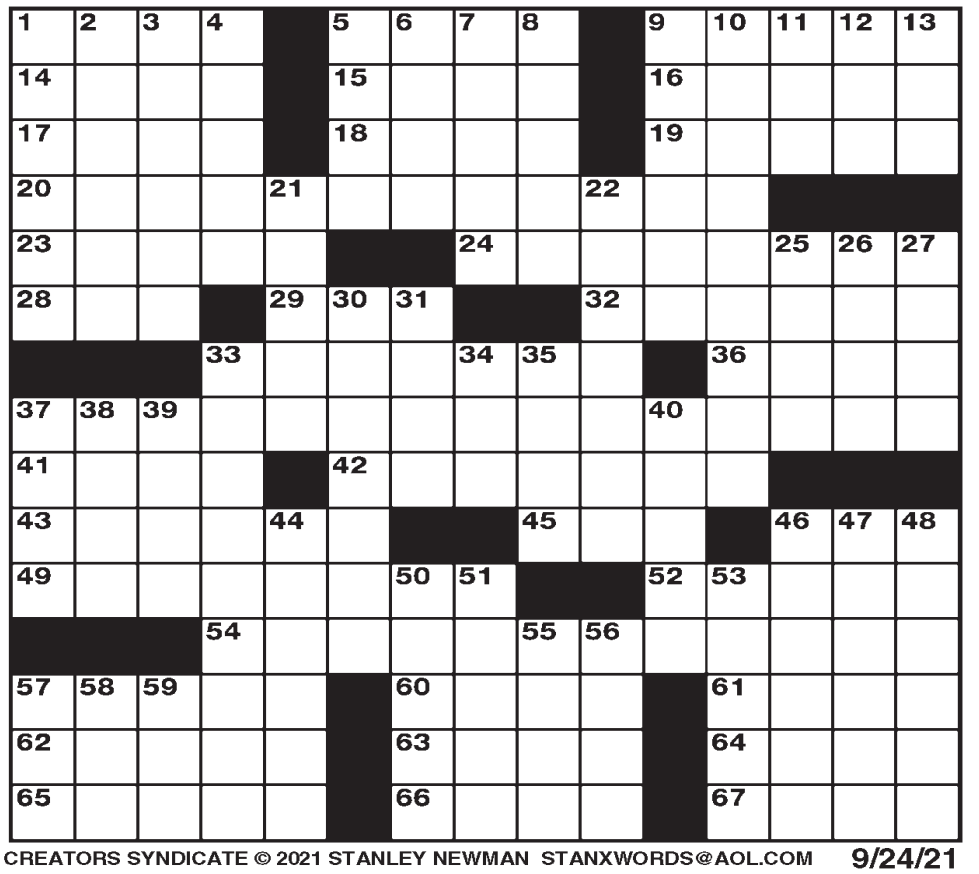
				8				1
	3	4		2		7		
	6				1			2
8		5					1	9
			5	1	2			
7	1					4		5
3			4				7	
		9		7		2	5	
4				5				

Newsday Crossword

FALL BEGINS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Quick flights
5 Austen's matchmaker
9 Word from the Inuit for "house"
14 One's field
15 Healthful
16 Proton part
17 Violinist Andre
18 It means "set against"
19 Single
20 Fall __
23 Crystalline
24 Fitting well
28 Word before red or reason
29 Unhealthful
32 Quite the brat
33 Played for customers
36 Hindmost
37 Fall __
41 Scottish philosopher
42 Of an urban official
43 Fighting fleet
45 Campus near Spokane: Abbr.
46 "Nonsense!"
49 Latter-day bonding
52 How some fries are made
54 Fall __
57 Voice-activated buzzer
60 Sheik's subject
61 Ramen relative
62 "Aw, Mom!" intonation
63 Stuff
64 The rain in Spain
65 Four-wheel device
66 Elusive
67 Taking off

DOWN
1 Almost half of Coca-Cola
2 Magpie cousin
3 Mini
4 Clubhouse amenity
5 Pulitzer novelist Jennifer
6 High point of Quebec
7 Flame followers
8 Parting word
9 "The exact words were . . ."
10 Tube with a chamber
11 Court concern
12 Cavity extraction
13 Ratified
21 Circle of friends
22 Butterflies
25 Tar, to Pilar
26 Potting soil
27 Is less than perfect
30 Immovable
31 Cloud contents
33 Heartthrob
34 Dirty digs
35 DIY website
37 Quaker captain of fiction
38 Run smoothly
39 Some ordnance
40 Fresh
44 Project's onset
46 Middle part of a pop song
47 Name on the cover of *Brave New World*
48 Wolflike scavengers
50 Cause friction
51 Chilling
53 Seen regularly
55 Seat of nursery rhymes
56 Well
57 UK weights
58 Indy's find
59 "Animal" ending



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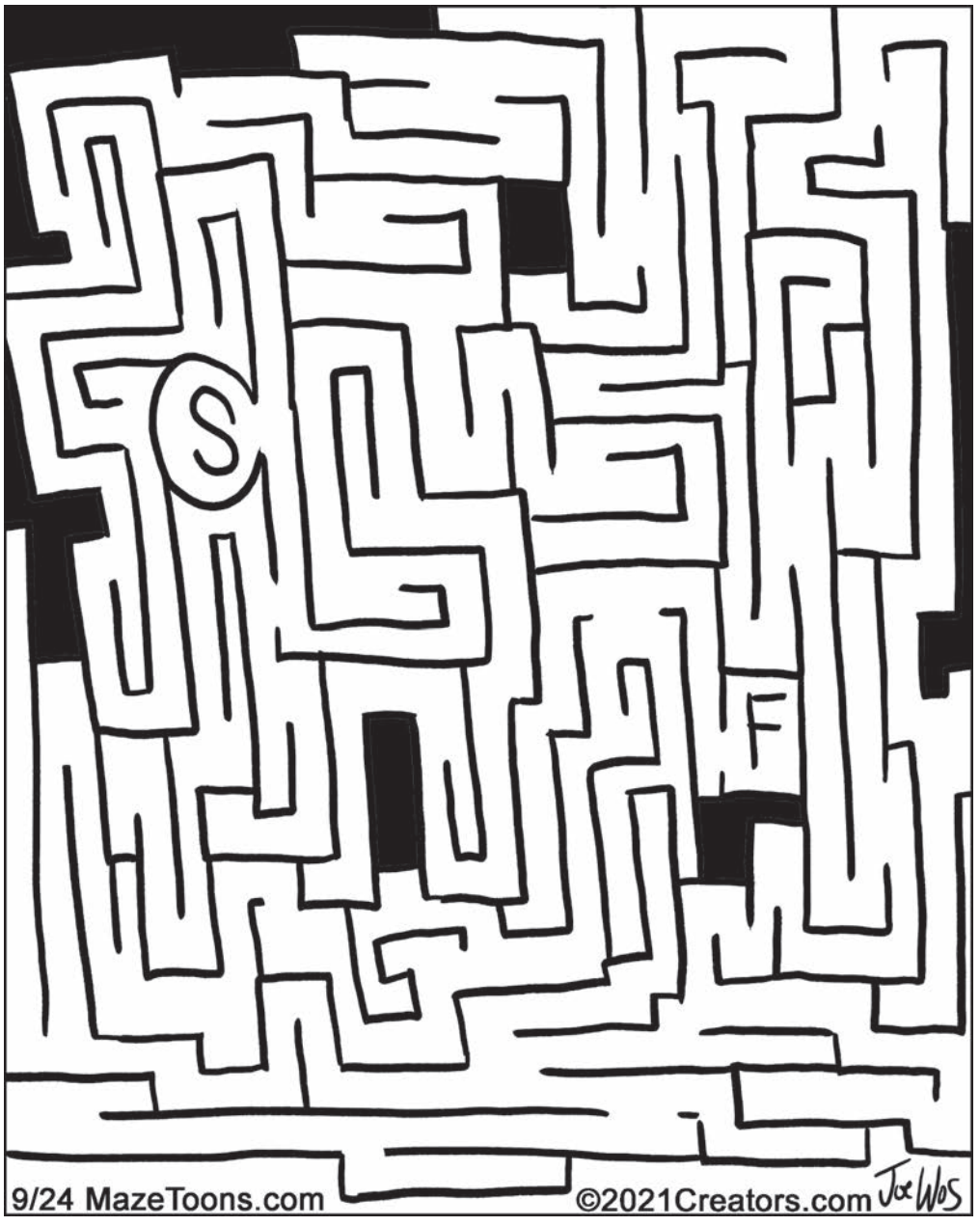
Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O
O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I
I	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O
I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I
O	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	I
I	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	O
O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I
O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O
I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	I
O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I
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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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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5247

Victorian towns

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

Anakie
Ararat
Ascot
Avoca
Bank
Bass
Bays
Bena
Boom
Braybrook
Brim
City
Capital Theatre
Craggy
Echuca
Euroa
Gold
Huon
Impressive
Iona
Koalas
Lima
Lurg
Morwell
Newport
Nyah
Omeo
Ouyen
Ovens
Peaks
Pira
Racing
Richmond
Rosebud
Rural
Sale
Scuba
Shamrock Hotel
Shepparton
St Kilda
Sunshine
Swan Hill
Toorak
Trams

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Rainy afternoon reading

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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

have an issue in the sense that it seems to be a precedent that there are different vaccine statuses in different districts in the state of California."

The board majority also said they feel the need to protect the entire community with the mandate and keep schools open. They pointed to other immunizations being required for students to attend school and said people must be vaccinated before new variants arise that jeopardize the effectiveness of the current vaccines.

"Vaccines, masking and testing will allow kids in classrooms, instead of wasting time outside of classrooms quarantining, being sick," School Board President Jon Kean said.

Foster, the lone opponent to a vaccine mandate explained that it should not be the school board's responsibility to mandate a permanent health decision on anyone. He said he personally supported vaccines but warned of government overreach in requiring them for students.

"And it just happens over and over and over again," Foster said. "Americans are willing to give up precious freedoms to try and prevent the fear of the day. I personally want absolutely no part of forcing anybody else to put a needle in their arm."

Much of the public comment was opposed to the COVID-19 mandate.

"A vaccine is intended to prevent severe illness. So, because children don't become severely ill with COVID I think we have to hold this vaccine to a much higher bar," parent, Heather Alfano said. "The Pfizer study that recently came out with the ages five to 11 with the lower dose of the vaccine had only 2,200 students involved or children involved in the study, which is not a lot of data to go on. I really don't think it's okay to mandate a vaccine if we're definitely still going to be collecting data for this first round. It must be a choice that parents are allowed to make on their own. It cannot be something that comes from you. This is not a public health agency."

The local discussion came as several districts mandated or considered mandates.

Oakland Unified became the first school district in Northern California to adopt a vaccine requirement on Wednesday. It came after Los Angeles Unified, the state's largest school district, and the smaller Southern California district of Culver City approved similar policies for their students earlier this month.

In Los Angeles, students who can't show proof of vaccination won't be permitted to have in-person learning following the end of winter break on Jan. 11 unless they have a medical or other exemption.

New York City's school system, the nation's largest, has only mandated vaccinations for 20,000 student athletes in certain sports considered at high risk of spreading the virus, including wrestling.

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ART

FROM PAGE 1

She said the event is an excellent opportunity for community members to celebrate fine art. At least 40 different artists will be displaying their artwork up and down the street along with art displayed inside businesses. There will also be nine or 10 musicians performing throughout the day. Some of the local businesses on Montana are inviting their own musicians to perform inside of their stores as well.

"We like to create events that bring people to the street. And we like our events to be visible. We like it to be, so that you see it as you're walking up and down the street. It's just an opportunity to do something different. There isn't another outdoor Arts Festival in Santa Monica. I don't think there is one anywhere anymore," Taub said.

The coronavirus pandemic has hit the arts very hard and also the local businesses in Santa Monica. The art walk is part of the economic recovery and it gives artists the opportunity to show their work outdoors in a safe environment.

"[The art walk] brings people to the street," Taub said. "We've had a lot of new businesses that have actually just opened over the past year, so we're really happy that we're able to do it this year. It was canceled last year because of the pandemic."

The Merchants Association puts together a list of artists that are interested in participating and in partnering with a business, or being outside on the street. The association distributes that list to businesses and helps find artists that would be a good fit.

"It just gives the businesses a kind of a focal point to bring more people into their store," Taub said. "They can say 'hey, we've got this really cool artist who is going to be here for the weekend' or whatever it is."

Not only are the artists displaying their work, but they are also selling their art as well. Some artists will be selling their artwork outdoors while others will be selling through the businesses that they are partnering with.

Taub said, "If they [the businesses] are taking a cut it would be 15 to 20 percent."

The Montana Art Walk is celebrating its sixth year of hosting this event and is sponsored by Santa Monica Travel and Tourism. It starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m. Admission is free and everyone is welcomed to enjoy the art, music and local businesses who desperately need help after the devastating pandemic that damaged so many American dreams.

On Nov. 27 Montana avenue will host "Small Business Saturday," and on Dec. 4 it will host its annual holiday walk. Unfortunately, the Halloween Hop that so many Santa Monica children enjoy will be canceled due to the ongoing pandemic.

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BOOSTER

FROM PAGE 3

rare, including heart inflammation that sometimes occurs in younger men. Data from Israel, which has given nearly 3 million people — mostly 60 and older — a third Pfizer dose, has uncovered no red flags.

The U.S. has already authorized third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for certain people with weakened immune systems, such as cancer patients and transplant recipients. Other Americans, healthy or not, have managed to get boosters, in some cases simply by asking.

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