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New outreach to LA's homeless population

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The newly launched Inside Safe program from Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has reached Venice with new outreach programs to get people off the streets and into housing.

On her first day as mayor of Los Angeles, Bass declared a state of emergency on homelessness. She vowed to get people housed and more housing built so that residents can see a real difference, which she said hasn't been visible despite billions spent on programs to curb homelessness, including $1.2 billion in the current city budget.

Bass, a Democrat and former congresswoman, has said she intends to get over 17,000 homeless people into housing in her first year through a mix of interim and permanent facilities.

An estimated 40,000 people are homeless in the city of Los Angeles, a city of nearly 4 million. Homelessness is hugely visible throughout California with people living in tents and cars and sleeping outdoors on sidewalks and under highway overpasses.

She said people are homeless for a variety of reasons, including mental illness, addiction and job loss so outreach workers will try to coax people indoors.

The program officially launched in December of last year.

"We are shifting the way the city approaches homelessness, and the Inside Safe initiative represents a change in how we help and house people living in tents and encampments," Mayor Bass said in a statement. "The new strategy on homelessness I am bringing to City Hall replaces quick fixes with real solutions. People should not be left to live and die on the streets because the city isn't giving them someplace

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 7

Big Blue Bus suffers from shortage of drivers resulting in a reduced service for 2023

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's municipal transportation system Big Blue Bus (BBB) will begin a reduced service schedule in January as a result of "persistent challenges" in recruiting qualified drivers, or Motor Coach Operators (MCO).

In spite of efforts to attract and retain MCOs, attempts to maintain the workforce levels needed to maintain an extensive service and meet increasing customer demand have had limited success.

"Despite the restoration of training classes in 2021 and 2022 and aggressive recruitment and retention efforts, labor market shifts accelerated by the pandemic have contributed to the current shortfall of 45 MCOs from the Department's 317 budgeted positions," Edward F. King, Director, Department of Transportation, said in a statement.



Matthew Hall

JOBS: A lack of drivers has made it difficult to keep the system running.

BBB operates in the city of Santa Monica and the greater Westside region of Los Angeles County but despite a rise in ridership of 26%

SEE **BIG BLUE BUS** PAGE 8

Santa Monica emerges drenched but undamaged



Grace Adams

RAIN: Another winter storm came through town yesterday.

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

As a huge storm hit California on Wednesday, officials ordered evacuations in a high-risk coastal area where mudslides killed 23 people in 2018, while residents elsewhere in the state scrambled to find sandbags, and braced themselves for flooding and power outages.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency to allow for a quick response and to aid in cleanup from another powerful storm just days earlier. Dozens of flights were cancelled at the San Francisco International Airport, and South San Francisco schools preemptively cancelled Thursday classes. As the storm intensified, state officials warned residents in Northern California to stay off the roads.

The first evacuations were ordered for those living in the burn scar areas of three recent wildfires in Santa Barbara County, where heavy rain is expected overnight, and could cause widespread flooding and unleash debris flows in several areas. Among them is the tony town of Montecito, home to many celebrities, including Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan Markle.

"We anticipate that this may be one of the most challenging and impactful series of storms to touch down in California in the last five years," said Nancy Ward, the new director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Officials asked drivers to stay off the roads unless absolutely necessary — and to stay informed by signing up for updates from emergency officials about downed trees and power lines, and flooding. In Northern California, a 25-mile stretch of Highway 101 was closed between the towns of Trinidad and

SEE **RAIN** PAGE 7

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Medi-Cal will keep more insurance plans after pushback

KRISTEN HWANG AND ANA B. IBARRA
Special to the Daily Press

In a significant course change, the California Department of Health Care Services announced that it has negotiated with five commercial health plans to provide Medi-Cal services in 2024, scratching a two-year-long bidding process for the coveted state contracts.

This upends the state's previous plans of awarding contracts to only three health plans. It means more Medi-Cal enrollees will likely get to keep their current insurer and doctors, averting a confusing re-enrollment process for most members and preventing disruption to patient care. It also means that the state will avoid a protracted legal battle amid lawsuit threats from insurers who had previously been left out.

The big winners: Blue Shield and Community Health Group will get a contract after initially having lost bids, and Health Net will get to keep at least some of its Los Angeles enrollees.

"To bring certainty for members, providers and plans, the State used its authority to work directly with the plans to re-chart our partnership and move with confidence and speed toward the implementation of the changes we want to see," the department wrote in a statement released Friday afternoon. The department did not provide answers to follow-up questions before publication.

"At some level it makes the transition easier, but we want to do better than the status quo," said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access, a consumer advocacy group. "Less disruption is good, but we don't want to lose the reason for the change, which is to have more accountability on these plans going forward."



Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters

INSURANCE: Nurse practitioner Surani Hayre-Kwan, right, speaks with patient Mary Valesano, left, and her caregiver Georgia Fraley, far left, about Valesano's sleep habits during an office visit at the Russian River Health Center.

Medi-Cal provides health coverage to more than 14 million low-income Californians, more than a third of the state's population. In 2021, the Department of Health Care Services, which oversees the Medi-Cal program, embarked on a bidding process that would allow it to rework contracts with commercial Medi-Cal health plans. The state's goal was to reduce the number of participating health plans from the current nine and move forward with only the most qualified plans, which would be held to higher standards related to patient outcomes, wait times and satisfaction, as well as improving health disparities.

In August of last year, the state announced that it would tentatively award $14 billion worth of Medi-Cal contracts to three companies — Health Net, Molina and Anthem Blue Cross. This proposed decision would force close to 2 million Medi-Cal enrollees to switch insurance and likely find new providers. Some health providers decried the department's original contract decision, claiming it would have caused "immeasurable" disruption to care.

Kaiser Permanente negotiated a special contract with the state early last year, bypassing the bidding process. And most nonprofit community-based health plans did not have to compete for a contract.

The state's summer announcement quickly became controversial as health plans that were left out questioned the state's process for choosing the three insurers, appealed the decision and sued the state.

This change of course calls into question the power that insurance companies can have in pressuring state action with legal threats. Health advocates say they hope it does not set a precedent. Wright at Health Access said he'd like for the department to make clear that the state is not backing away from the competitive contract process in the future, as he considers it is a key tool for accountability.

Blue Shield, one of the insurance

SEE **INSURANCE** PAGE 8

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Supply chain woes caused US auto sales to fall 8% last year

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

Shortages of computer chips and other parts continued to hobble the U.S. auto industry last year, contributing to vehicle sales dropping 8% from 2021 to their lowest level in more than a decade.

But there's good news for consumers in the gloomy numbers: Vehicle supplies on dealer lots are growing, albeit slowly, and automakers expect at least a small easing in prices this year as inventories grow.

Automakers reported Wednesday that they sold 13.9 million cars, trucks, SUVs and vans last year as the parts shortage limited factory output amid high demand for new vehicles. It was the lowest sales number since 2011 when the economy was recovering from the Great Recession.

But sales were up slightly in the fourth quarter and inventories grew as parts supplies improved enough to increase production a little. Analysts are now expecting sales to grow by roughly 1 million to around 14.8 million this year as demand remains strong. But they'll still be far short of the normal 17 million per year before the pandemic.

With many models still in short supply, though, the average new vehicle price rose 2.5% in December to a record of just over $46,000, according to J.D Power.

There are signs, however, that prices may be starting to ebb a little as inventories expand.

Toyota, for instance, finished the year with just under 24,000 vehicles on Toyota and Lexus brand dealer lots nationwide. That's up from about 19,000 at the end of 2021, but still far short of the 300,000 during normal years before the pandemic.

The improvement, although small, is allowing consumers to haggle a little on some slower-selling vehicles such as sedans, and even some luxury vehicles. But they're still getting top dollar for gas-electric hybrids and other more popular vehicles that are sold before they arrive on lots, said David Christ, general manager of the Toyota Division.

For most of last year, people who wanted new vehicles had to pay sticker price or above and take whatever models and colors dealers could get. But dealers have told Christ that changed a bit in the past two or three months for models that aren't as popular. Plus, he said more people are interested in lower-cost vehicles because inflation and higher interest rates are taking a bite out of their budgets.

"They're coming in and saying, 'Hey, can I get a deal here?'" Christ said. "I do think that on some vehicles, not just in our brand, and across the industry, there has become a little more of a buyer's market where the customer can negotiate."

Whether that holds up all year remains to be seen. If demand stays strong and people are willing to pay sticker price, then dealers will get that, Christ said. But if demand wanes or supplies increase dramatically, discounts could rise and prices could drop a bit.

Jessica Caldwell, executive director of insights at Edmunds.com, said Toyota's experience is likely to repeat itself through the industry with small price decreases on some models.

"There isn't as much disposable income to be put into a vehicle," she said. "We've seen prices high before, but we've never really seen higher prices with the (higher) interest rates."

> "There isn't as much disposable income to be put into a vehicle - Jessica Caldwell"

But electric vehicles and other hot sellers will remain expensive because people want to buy them now, she added.

Caldwell doesn't see vehicle supplies or prices returning to pre-pandemic levels this year, and she's not sure if we'll ever get back to 2019 levels.

The computer chip shortage dates to the spring of 2020, when automakers were forced to shut down factories due to rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases. Chip makers shifted production to consumer electronics to feed a computer and gaming sales boom when people were stuck at home. When the auto plants restarted earlier than expected, chip makers weren't making as many semiconductors for automobiles, which must be made to withstand vibration and huge temperature extremes.

Auto chip production has improved, but still isn't back to pre-pandemic levels, so auto plants still aren't back to their full output.

As a result, the 13.9 million vehicles that automakers sold last year was about 1.2 million below 2021 numbers, according to Motorintelligence.com.

General Motors, with full-year sales up 2.5%, retook its traditional spot as the nation's top selling automaker. Toyota, which won the crown in 2021, saw its sales fall 9.6% last year. Ford reports sales on Thursday.

Sales at Stellantis, formerly Fiat Chrysler, dropped 13%, while Honda sales plummeted 32.9%. Hyundai posted just under a 1% increase to outsell Nissan, whose sales tumbled 25.4%. Kia sales fell 1.1% for the year, while Subaru was down 4.7%.

Electric vehicle sales hit more than 807,000 last year, up almost 65% from 2021.

Pickups and SUVs were 77.3% of sales while cars dropped to 22.7%.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LOS ANGELES

Police: man shot by LA officers was armed with sharp object

Los Angeles police officers shot and killed a man who approached them with a sharp object, officials said.

The officers responded Tuesday in South LA and encountered the man clutching a metal object about a foot long, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

"After telling the suspect to drop the metal object several times, he did not and approached the officers, at which time an officer involved shooting occurred," the department said in a statement.

The unidentified man was struck by gunfire and taken to a hospital, where he later died, the statement said.

No officers were hurt and the shooting is under investigation.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Twitter says it will relax ban on political advertising

Twitter says it will ease up on its 3-year-old ban on political advertising, the latest change by Elon Musk as he tries to pump up revenue after purchasing the social media platform last year.

The company tweeted late Tuesday that "we're relaxing our ads policy for cause-based ads in the US."

"We also plan to expand the political advertising we permit in the coming weeks," the company said from its Twitter Safety account.

Twitter banned all political advertising in 2019, reacting to growing concern about misinformation spreading on social media.

At the time, then-CEO Jack Dorsey said that while Internet ads are powerful and effective for commercial advertisers, "that power brings significant risks to politics, where it can be used to influence votes to affect the lives of millions."

The latest move appears to represent a break from that policy, which had banned ads by candidates, political parties, or elected or appointed government officials.

Political advertising made up a sliver of Twitter's overall revenue, accounting for less than $3 million of total spending for the 2018 U.S. midterm election.

In reversing the ban, Twitter said that "cause-based advertising can facilitate public conversation around important topics" and that the change will align the platform's advertising policy with those of "TV and other media outlets," without providing further details.

Facebook in March 2021 lifted its ban on political and social issue ads that was put in place after the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Musk bills himself as a free-speech warrior and bought Twitter because he apparently believed it wasn't living up to its potential as a free speech platform. But the billionaire Tesla CEO has been forced to make huge cost cuts and scramble to find more sources of revenue to justify the $44 billion purchase.

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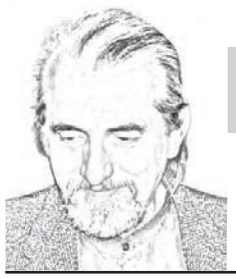
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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

HOLY TOLEDO! NOW'S THE TIME!

IF YOU'VE NEVER

Heard these three groups, now is the perfect time, while we are still in the holiday lull for live shows. And two are right here in downtown Santa Monica, at the oldest blues bar in LA, Harvelle's, the other just over the border on Sepulveda, just south of Venice, at the cool Cinema Bar. All three great shows will cost you $22 – total. Note: tonight only is the first one, the donkey-kicking blues duo Celso & Darryl. You just might see me there. (Go anyway.)

FRAUD ALERT!

Maybe that's a little harsh. A guy's got to make a living, right? But Three Dog Night was a special band for me. I saw them seven times, and I rarely go back for seconds even for the best bands. The hit against them was that they were "too commercial," whatever the heck that means. I get some funny looks when I occasionally, boldly, declare that Three Dog Night was one of the best live bands ever. The four-piece band was outstanding all around, but no knockouts among them really. The magic was in the three lead singers, and each of them was a knockout. Chuck Negron won Amateur Night at the Apollo – all three singers were white but often didn't sound it – but a heroin habit drove him out of the group. Cory Wells died a few years ago. So original founder Danny Hutton seems to now be the lone singer. They had a slew of great songs, showing they were terrific at spotting a great tune: Nilsson, Randy Newman, John Hiatt, Hoyt Axton, Laura Nyro, and were early on gifted with "It's For You" from none other than Sir Paul. They sold 60 million records. From 1969-74, no other group had more Top 10 hits, sold more records or more concert tickets. But to keep things honest, I think Hutton should be touring as "One Dog Night," and he could add, "All the Hits!"

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - CELSO & DARRYL – Am I getting tired of writing about these guys? No, because they are the real deal, an under-recognized LA treasure, and until Harvelle's is packed every time they play, with blues fans coming from near and far, my job is not done. My world travels have shown me that with the exception of our UK cousins, the rest of the world's musician's have difficulty "getting" American music. DNA, maybe. Jazz, blues, country. Some years ago I received an album of "country music" by a Swedish band, led by a black Swede vocalist. The players knew all the notes to play, but – it just wasn't country. The best Scandinavian jazz artists are superb, an exception to my "rule." But country, blues – no. Except – one great blues guitarist I heard in central Italy, Paolo Ventura. Turns out he booked passage to Mississippi, the Crossroads, and spent a long time ensconced in obscure libraries reading about the blues, and listening. Recordings, and local juke joints. When I heard him in Italy I was floored. His pilgrimage paid off. Celso Salim was born in Brazil but, no problem, he breathes American blues, in his bottleneck guitar assault and his vocals. Darryl Carriere probably had a small harmonica instead of a pacifier as a baby, because he is now a master of the kind of blues harp blowing that knocks you back in your chair. He sings pretty good too. 10 bucks for this show? Ridiculous. A steal. Tonight, Thurs 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $10.



Courtesy photo

TOLEDO DIAMOND: Performs on Sunday at Harvelle's.

THE HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – It's just outside Santa Monica, street parking is easy, it's a friendly little neighborhood bar where you can see and hear everywhere in the tiny room, the sound is great, the stage is maybe a foot high and right next to the patrons, drinks are reasonable and there is no cover. Hot Club's brand of virtuoso, breakneck Django-style 1930s gypsy swing jazz is found nowhere else and even if it was, it couldn't possibly be this good. It's a show worth 50 bucks cover, and worth waiting a year for. These guys are masters, individually and collectively. You will find it hard to stop smiling all night. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. Just trot your procrastinating carcass down this Sunday night and see what you've been missing. Choreographer to the biggest stars, his stage show is funky but finely crafted. His persona is unique; octaves-low growl vocalizing that is '50s hipster poet meshed with ghetto cool. His band just keeps getting better and are worth the show themselves. And The Dames? – well I remember back when he was on Sunset Strip that we were still taken by surprise when a young woman seemed so moved by the moment that she slid to the dance floor to gyrate to the groove, progressing (by Diamond design of course) to a featured dance number, even incorporating chairs, table and bar tops, and unsuspecting patrons as props. With Toledo barely noticing and never skipping a beat. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great fun, and he's been doing it at Harvelle's every dang Sunday night for more than two decades, no misses, even when he had to fly back from making a film in France. Rarely is degeneracy so well disciplined. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BEETHOVEN'S NINTH, LA PHIL, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS, Disney Concert Hall, 1/13, 14, 15; JACK WHITE, MUSE, RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS, FALL OUT BOY, PHOENIX, Kia Forum, 1/14; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 1/15, 22, 29; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 1/16, 23, 30; EM, Harvelle's, 1/17. 24, 31; , MONTEREY JAZZ FEST on Tour, Disney concert Hall, 1/20; AX – MA – KAVAKOS, Disney Concert Hall, 1/28; P-22 CELEBRATION OF LIFE, Greek Theater, 2/4.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dear Editor:

re "New Year rings in new laws" by Matthew Hall

The first rule listed is a "Prohibition against sitting or lying in doorways at night." Glad to see we're beginning 2023 with compassion, Santa Monica. The same *Daily Press* ran "New Year's resolutions from" community members. One-third said they were resolute about affordable housing, including Mayor Gleam Davis, who said homelessness is "most important [issue] to the City." Our mayor should call Karen Bass in L.A., because their mayor is actually doing something about it, instead of continuing to punish the poor among us.

Happy New(s) Year to all!

Henry Rosenfeld, Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What California can learn from wave of storms

DAN WALTERS

California, particularly Northern California, was walloped by a major winter rain and snow storm last week and meteorologists expect that high levels of precipitation will continue for at least another week.

Despite some damage and at least one death from local flooding and tree-toppling high winds, the storm and the predictions of more to come are welcome relief from what had appeared to be a prolonged drought.

There are lessons to be learned from this watery wave, if Californians and the politicians they have elected pay attention, to wit:

— Despite great advances in technology and data collection, weather forecasting is still an imperfect science. Until the storm hit, meteorologists had expected that a phenomenon known as La Niña would continue to block Pacific fronts from reaching the state and thus continue the drought.

That said, there's no guarantee that the 2022-23 season will be a wet one. A year ago we had a similar spurt of precipitation, but it did not continue into the spring.

— Erratic precipitation makes it very difficult for reservoir managers to decide how much water to release and how much to retain for future use. For example, Folsom Lake near Sacramento was scarcely a third full when the storm hit, but the Bureau of Reclamation tripled releases to 24,000 cubic feet a second, worried about the reservoir's ability to absorb runoff in the American River's Sierra watershed.

— Folsom's increased releases are another indication that California lacks enough water storage to cope with precipitation cycles that are becoming less predictable due to climate change. If we had built the additional storage that water managers had long proposed – Auburn Dam upstream from Folsom, for example – it would have meant less guesswork when opportunities arose to capture water from heavy storms.

Preliminary construction had begun on Auburn Dam when, during the 1970s, it was abruptly halted. Other storage projects have been on the drawing board for decades, such as Sites Reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley. Were Sites a reality today, it would be absorbing excess flow from the Sacramento River, banking water for when it would be needed in the future.

— The "atmospheric river" now watering California underscores the state's vulnerability to catastrophic flooding.

Last year, a massive study was released, suggesting that climate change creates an ever-increasing risk of megafloods that would cause untold death and destruction.

It is the latest update to studies that originated from the historic flooding that struck California during the winter of 1861-62, when California had been a state for scarcely a decade.

As the study noted: "This event, which was characterized by weeks-long sequences of winter storms, produced widespread catastrophic flooding across virtually all of California's lowlands – transforming the interior Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys into a temporary but vast inland sea nearly 300 miles in length and inundating much of the now densely populated coastal plain in present-day Los Angeles and Orange counties."

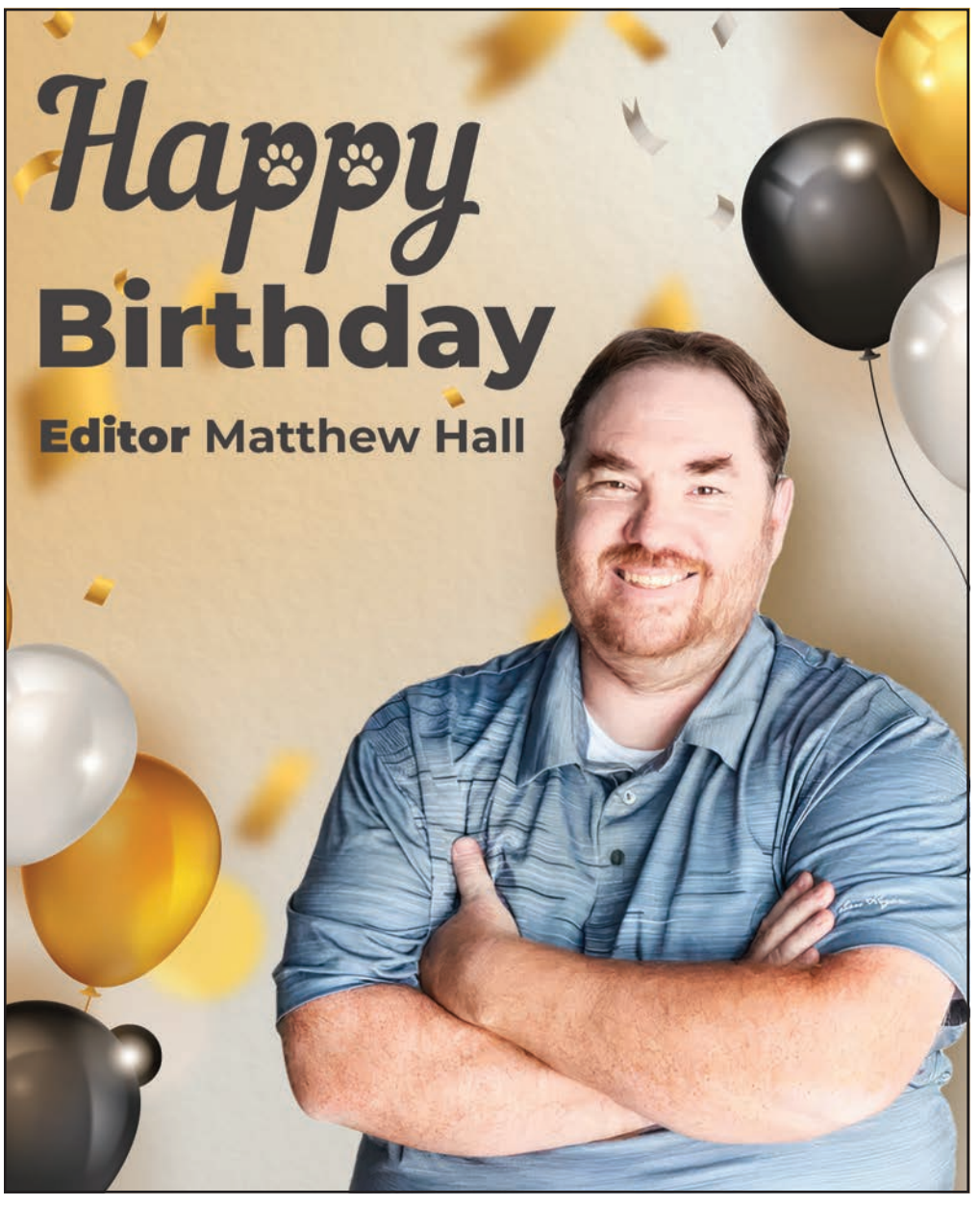
If such a prolonged deluge occurred again, researchers Xingying Huang and Daniel Swain, wrote, it "would likely produce widespread, catastrophic flooding and subsequently lead to the displacement of millions of people, the long-term closure of critical transportation corridors and ultimately to nearly $1 trillion in overall economic losses."

Again, the American River's situation illustrates the threat. Officials say that Folsom Lake's capacity, nearly one million acre-feet, is too small to protect Sacramento from such a disaster. One rationale for Auburn Dam had been to provide another layer of flood protection.

Will politicians heed the lessons from the current period of prolonged precipitation or continue disengaged business as usual?

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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FDA finalizes rule expanding availability of abortion pills

MATTHEW PERRONE
AP Health Writer

The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday finalized a rule change that broadens availability of abortion pills to many more pharmacies, including large chains and mail-order companies.

The Biden administration partially implemented the change last year, announcing it would no longer enforce a long-standing requirement that women pick up the medicine in person. Tuesday's action formally updates the drug's labeling to allow many more retail pharmacies to dispense the pills, so long as they complete a certification process.

The change could expand access at both brick-and-mortar stores and online pharmacies. Women can get a prescription via telehealth consultation with a health professional, and then receive the pills through the mail, where permitted by law.

Still, the rule change's impact has been blunted by numerous state laws limiting abortion broadly and the pills specifically. Legal experts foresee years of court battles over access to the pills, as abortion-rights proponents bring test cases to challenge state restrictions.

For more than 20 years, the FDA labeling had limited dispensing to a subset of specialty offices and clinics, due to safety concerns. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA temporarily suspended the in-person requirement. The agency later said a new scientific review by agency staff supported easing access, concurring with numerous medical societies that had long said the restriction wasn't necessary.

Two drugmakers that make brand-name and generic versions of abortion pills requested the latest FDA label update. Agency rules require a company to file an application before modifying dispensing restrictions on drugs.

Danco Laboratories, which sells branded Mifeprex, said in a statement the change "is critically important to expanding access to medication abortion services and will provide healthcare providers" with another option for prescribing the drug.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists called the update an "important step" forward.

"Although the FDA's announcement today will not solve access issues for every person seeking abortion care, it will allow more patients who need mifepristone for medication abortion additional options to secure this vital drug," the group said in a statement.

More than half of U.S. abortions are now done with pills rather than surgery, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights.

The FDA in 2000 approved mifepristone to terminate pregnancies of up to 10 weeks, when used with a second drug, misoprostol. Mifepristone is taken first to dilate the cervix and block the hormone progesterone, which is needed to sustain a pregnancy. Misoprostol is taken 24 to 48 hours later, causing the uterus to contract and expel pregnancy tissue.

Bleeding is a common side effect, though serious complications are very rare. The FDA says more than 3.7 million U.S. women have used mifepristone since its approval.

Several FDA-mandated safety requirements remain in effect, including training requirements to certify that prescribers can provide emergency care in the case of excessive bleeding. Pharmacies that dispense the pills also need a certification.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LAS VEGAS

Best of CES 2023: An OLED TV that streams content wirelessly

Tech companies of all sizes are showing off their latest products at CES, formerly known as the Consumer Electronics show.

The show is getting back to normal after going completely virtual in 2021 and seeing a significant drop in 2022 attendance because of the pandemic.

On Wednesday, big names like LG and Samsung were showcasing their latest products for the media in Las Vegas. Smaller startups were due to exhibit at an event later Wednesday.

Here are some highlights:

NO MESSY WIRES

LG Electronics unveiled a 97-inch OLED TV with what it calls a Zero Connect Box that streams content wirelessly. The box, which still needs to be plugged in, just needs to be within 30 feet (nine meters) of the display.

But why would anyone want a wireless 4K television?

David M. Park, senior marketing manager at the South Korean tech company, says it means owners can place a TV in the center of the room without all the messy wires, or maybe mount it above a fireplace or perhaps on a hard-to-drill concrete wall.

LG says the 97-inch LG Signature OLED M (model M3) will be available in the second half of 2023. Pricing has not yet been announced.

SUBMITTED BY JAMES BROOKS ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

RAIN

FROM PAGE 1

Orick due to several downed trees.

Before the storm arrived late Wednesday, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said people should evacuate the areas impacted by the Alisal Fire last year, the Cave Fire in 2019 and the devastating Thomas Fire in 2017, one of the largest in California history.

On Jan. 9, 2018, massive torrents carrying huge boulders, mud and debris roared down coastal mountains, and through the town of Montecito to the shoreline, killing 23 people and destroying more than 100 homes. Among those killed were two children whose bodies were never found.

Montecito Fire Department Chief Kevin Taylor said Wednesday that homes near waterways are at the greatest risk.

"What we're talking about here is a lot of water coming off the top of the hills, coming down into the creeks and streams and as it comes down, it gains momentum and that's what the initial danger is," he said.

Storms in the last 30 days have produced between 8 to 13 inches of rain, soaking coastal hills in Santa Barbara County. The current storm is projected to drop up to 10 inches of rain in the area, Taylor said.

"This cumulative rain ... is what causes our risk," he said.

The storm is one of three so-called atmospheric river storms in the last week to reach the drought-stricken state. Because the states' major reservoirs are at a record low from a dry three-year period, they have plenty of room to fill with more water from the impending storm, officials said.

Still, trees are already stressed from years of limited rain. Now that the grounds are suddenly saturated and winds are heavy, trees are more likely to fall. That could cause widespread power outages or create flood hazards, said Karla Nemeth, director of the state's Department of Water Resources.

"We are in the middle of a flood emergency and also in the middle of a drought emergency," she said during an emergency briefing.

While Santa Monica had little to no damage during the day Wednesday, officials did send out a warning that flooding and power outages were a possibility as the storm moved through overnight.

The storm comes days after a New Year's Eve downpour led to the evacuations of people in rural Northern California communities and the rescue of several motorists from flooded roads. A few levees south of Sacramento were damaged.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, 8,500 sandbags distributed by officials weren't enough to reach demand Wednesday as forecasters warned of imminent flooding. The South San Francisco Unified School District announced classes for its 8,000 students would be canceled Thursday "out of an abundance of caution."

Heavy downpours accompanied by winds with gusts of up to 60 mph were expected through Thursday, making driving conditions difficult, the National Weather Service said. In Southern California, the storm was expected to peak in intensity overnight, with Santa Barbara and Ventura counties likely to see the most rain, forecasters said.

Aaron Johnson, Pacific Gas & Electric regional vice president for the Bay Area, said the company has more than 3,000 employees working in crews of three to five people to assess damages to their equipment and restore power as soon as possible.

Robert O'Neill, an insurance broker who lives and works just south of San Francisco, said he lined up to get sandbags for his garage and for a co-worker's home to prepare for the storm.

As president of Town & Country Insurance Services, he gave employees the option of working from home Wednesday, which many did, he said. He plans to leave the office early and head home where he has go-bags packed with clothes, medicine, electronic chargers and important papers. He has sleeping bags and three days' worth of water, nuts and protein bars.

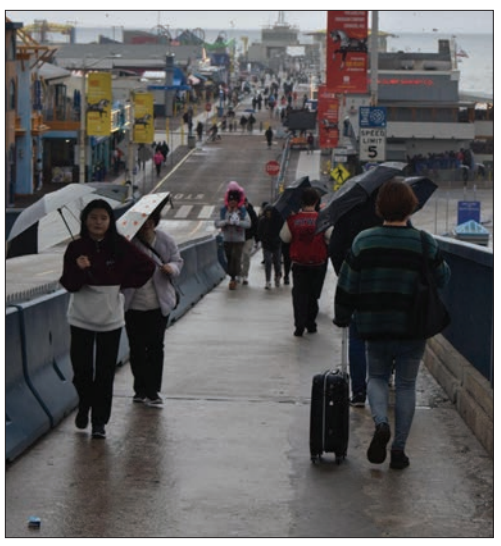
"We're in a big city, so we wouldn't be too stranded too long, but you never know," he said.

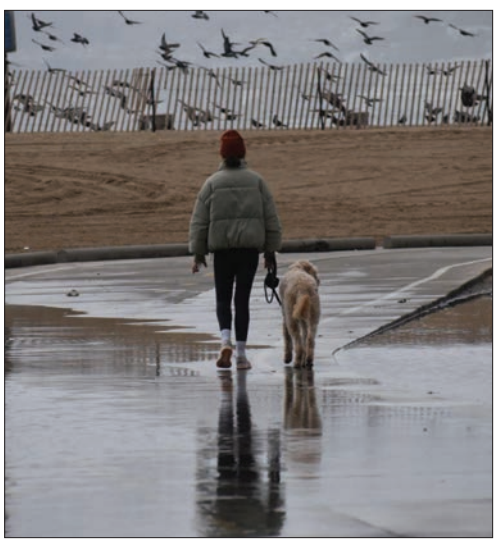
The storms in California still aren't enough to officially end the drought, now entering its fourth year. The U.S. Drought Monitor showed that most of the state is in severe to extreme drought.

Elsewhere, in the Midwest, ice and heavy snow has taken a toll this week, closing down schools in Minnesota and western Wisconsin — and causing a jet to go off an icy taxiway after landing in a snowstorm in Minneapolis. No passengers were injured, Delta airlines said.

To the south, a possible tornado damaged homes, downed trees and flipped a vehicle on its side in Montgomery, Alabama, early Wednesday. Christina Thornton, director of the Montgomery Emergency Management Agency, said radar indicated a possible, but unconfirmed, tornado. The storm had extremely high winds and moved through the area before dawn, she said.

Staff from the National Weather Service's Chicago office planned to survey storm damage on Wednesday following at least six tornados, the largest number of rare January tornadoes recorded in the state since 1989.





Grace Adams

WEATHER: The storm caused minor flooding during the day and more rain is on the way.

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

to go. Under my administration, we are giving people safe places to move inside, and we will ensure people can stay inside and safe for good."

Councilwoman Traci Park announced the Mayor's initiative had reached Venice on Tuesday. Outreach began to people living in encampments surrounding the A Bridge Home site at the intersection of Sunset Avenue and Pacific Avenue with some accepting housing right away.

"I'm proud to be locking arms with Councilwoman Park to change the way we approach homelessness in Los Angeles to bring people inside in a strategic and lasting way," said Mayor Bass. "Councilwoman Park and I spent yesterday morning conducting outreach with encampment residents and meeting with service providers and local residents about how Inside Safe replaces quick fixes with real solutions. It's important that the policy solutions developed are informed by the people most directly affected. Through Inside Safe, we will save lives and restore our neighborhoods."

The program has five goals. Reduce the loss of life on the streets. Increase access to mental health and substance abuse treatment for those living in encampments. Eliminate street encampments. Promote long-term housing stability for people experiencing homelessness. Enhance the safety and hygiene of neighborhoods for all residents, businesses, and neighbors

"During my campaign, I pledged to pursue a comprehensive approach to working with service providers and city leaders to compassionately get encampments like those surrounding the bridge home the support they need," said Park. "Putting people in rooms without the care they need doesn't work. We need to ensure that they have adequate access to services they need including mental health, trauma, and substance use services for the unhoused."

Last year's federally required homeless count estimated there were more than 69,000 unhoused people in Los Angeles County. Nearly 1,500 people had died on the streets between Jan. 1 and Nov. 30, according to the county coroner.

"It may be impossible to fully understand the depths of despair and trauma associated with long-term encampments unless you're living in them as an unhoused person or living beside them as a housed neighbor," said Venice resident Connie Brooks. "Watching fellow humans disintegrating before your eyes nearly every single day for years – while rarely being able to get them help – is indelibly scarring to everyone involved."

According to the joint statement, Inside Safe is assessing street homelessness across Los Angeles and proactively engaging with people living in tents and encampments based on which locations are most chronic and where people are most in crisis. Inside Safe is housing based – people are offered immediate quality housing and a commitment of services and permanent housing so they can stay inside safe for good.

"This intensive housing intervention will help some of our most vulnerable unhoused neighbors get off the street for good and the support of Mayor Bass, Councilwoman Park and City and County elected leaders is vital to our success," said Dr. Va Lecia Adams of Saint Joseph's Center.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



BIG BLUE BUS

FROM PAGE 1

in the fiscal year 2021-22, the service has struggled to bounce back to pre-pandemic numbers.

According to the statement, the staffing shortage had not significantly impacted daily service until recently because the service had continued to operate at 70-85% of pre-pandemic levels. However, daily vacancies and unscheduled absences are consistently high, resulting in service cancellations due to a lack of operators. Moreover, traffic congestion has worsened.

Many customers have returned to riding the system as economic conditions have improved and schools have once again begun in-classroom teaching. The surge of customers has required an increase in bus frequency and restoring Rapid services (which had been suspended during the pandemic) on the Pico, Lincoln and Wilshire corridors to address overcrowding and buses operating late due to heavier traffic.

Since 2021, a number of initiatives to address the staffing shortfall have been introduced, including increasing the annual number of training classes, reducing the time required to recruit trainees and increasing the training pay rate. However, BBB's performance has suffered and the customer experience has been eroded. Despite focused efforts to increase recruitment, candidate quality and the inability to swiftly train and certify drivers in large numbers, means that filling the current empty positions will likely take an additional one to two years.

For the January 2023 change, service will be reduced on some routes to reallocate resources to where the demand is greatest, as such the cuts will incorporate the following:

- Saturday service will be changed to match Sunday service.
- Eliminating route 41 on weekends.
- Eliminating early morning and late-night trips on routes 1, 2, 7, Rapid 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 41 and 43.
- Significant trip eliminations on Rapid 3.
- Delaying the restoration of service to pre-Covid levels on lines 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 42 and 44.

Staff said that if labor market challenges continue and any of these service changes have to be maintained for longer than six months, the Department will engage in a public hearing and stakeholder engagement process and will return to Council with recommendations.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds
FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
or email cindy@smdp.com

Summons

SUMMONS Case Number: 22CV000180 Case Type: 30301 State of Wisconsin Circuit Court, Pierce County RED WING AEROPLANE, LLC,W7141 148th Ave.Bay City, WI 54723Plaintiff, VsBRENTON NIXON

717 Cedar St.Santa Monica, CA 90405 Defendant. THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, to each person named above as a defendant:You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action. Within 20 days of receiving this Summons, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an Answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The Answer must be sent or delivered to the Court whose address is Clerk of Circuit Court, 414 West Main Street, Ellsworth, Wisconsin 54011, and to FITZPATRICK, SKEMP & BUTLER, LLC, plaintiff's attorneys whose address is 1123 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650. You may have an attorney help or represent you. I f you do not provide a proper Answer within 20 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.Dated this 10th day of November, 2022.

FITZPATRICK, SKEMP & BUTLER, LLCAttorneys for Red Wing Aeroplane, LLC

Electronically signed by Timothy S. Jacobson

Timothy S. Jacobson, State Bar No. 10181621123 Riders Club RdOnalaska, WI 54650(608) 784-4370

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

INSURANCE

FROM PAGE 2

companies initially left out, filed a complaint against the Department of Health Care Services, requesting that the department release all documents used in the selection process.

The insurance giant even launched a campaign in the fall asking Californians to speak out against the state's decision. The company argued that the state failed to sufficiently engage Medi-Cal enrollees and doctors in the process. "The message of this campaign is that it's not too late for the state to change course and make choices that will advance innovation and health equity for everyone," Kristen Cerf, president and CEO of Blue Shield's Medi-Cal plan, said in a statement in October.

Under the revised agreement, Blue Shield will get to keep serving the San Diego area. Blue Shield declined a request for an interview, instead referring reporters to a statement released Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Health Net, which in the summer was tentatively awarded contracts in nine counties but lost its previous and largest contract in Los Angeles, also sued the state. Under the new agreement, Health Net will get to stay in Los Angeles and will divide its share of Medi-Cal enrollees evenly with its commercial counterpart, Molina Healthcare. Health Net will also keep its Sacramento membership but lose the San Diego market.

Centene, the parent company of Health Net, said in a Tuesday statement that it would end its legal actions against the state's health services department.

The splitting of members evenly between Molina and Health Net through a subcontracting agreement is a "step in the right direction," said Jim Mangia, president and CEO of St. John's Community Health, which serves low-income patients in south LA, but much remains uncertain.

"Who's the 50 percent that are going to be able to stay with Health Net and who are the 50 percent that are going to have to move?" Mangia said. "We don't have answers to that, so I think it's problematic in that it still displaces a significant number of patients."

Currently, Health Net manages more than 1 million Medi-Cal patients in Los Angeles County. Nearly a quarter of St. John's Community Health patients have Health Net, with the publicly run L.A. Care Health Plan accounting for the rest. (Most Angelenos with Medi-Cal are enrolled in and will be able to continue with L.A. Care, a publicly operated plan.)

Mangia said the latest decision will still disrupt services for the 12,500 patients at St. John's alone who will be forced to switch to Molina. He anticipates the clinic needing to hire more staff to help with patient navigation, but there's no money for that.

"It was obviously an attempt to rectify the initial decision, but I'm not sure the impact on patients is going to be all that different. That's my concern," Mangia said. "It's essentially an unfunded mandate."

Health Net and Molina Healthcare did not reply to requests for comment, but in an early Tuesday morning call with investors, Molina CEO Joseph Zubretsky characterized the state's final decision as "taking three steps forward, taking one step back" for the company, which had originally hoped to triple its Medi-Cal membership under the tentative award announced in August.

In discussing the decision, Zubretsky and CFO Mark Keim alluded to closed-door negotiations between Molina, the state health care services department and the appealing insurers. When asked whether the state ever considered restarting the bidding process, Zubretsky said California regulators had "broad discretionary authority" to award contracts and new bids could have taken a significant amount of time.

"With that as the understanding, we thought it best for the company, for membership and for investors to participate in the negotiation," Zubretsky said.

Molina has agreed not to protest the final contract award and will subcontract with Health Net in Los Angeles County in the "negotiated settlement," Zubretsky said. Molina will double its Medi-Cal membership — from 600,000 to 1.2 million — by 2024 as a result of this latest contract.

"We've agreed to the membership allocations that the state has now articulated in addition to waiving other types of legal rights that one would normally have," Zubretsky told investors.

Community Health Group, the largest Medi-Cal provider in San Diego County, will also get a new contract in 2024. The insurer was excluded in the original summer announcement, but appealed the state's decision.

Community Health Group declined an interview request, but over the summer, the company's chief operating officer, Joseph Garcia, told CalMatters that the state's decision had been shocking because his company routinely outperformed other insurers.

Zara Marselian, CEO of La Maestra Community Health Centers in San Diego, said the state's new decision was a welcome surprise. La Maestra's clinics serve low-income patients throughout the county and have worked with Community Health Group for nearly three decades. About 26% of its patients rely on Community Health Group for Medi-Cal, the most of any single patient group. Previously, Marselian had also predicted having to hire more staff to help patients navigate the transition.

"It's really better for the Medi-Cal recipients that will not now have to transfer to another health plan and have their whole continuity of care disrupted," Marselian said. "I'm really grateful however this happened. I'm really grateful on behalf of our patients."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 5)

The year is marked by successful relationships. You find the right balance of togetherness and develop healthy, fun routines. Your big dreams will add an element of challenge to your life. When it gets hard, take it in smaller steps. In six months, you'll look back, astounded at what you've accomplished. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 4, 21, 38 and 13.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some experiences are so exciting that it's hard to know what they feel like in real time, though the moments leading up can be vividly felt and remembered. There's a chance that anticipation is the sweetest part, so enjoy it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To share opinions and pass judgment is the low-hanging fruit of social interaction -- easy and obvious but does require more energy than it seems to. You'll take a pass and move on to more interesting uses of your time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No matter where you point your love, it will do the job. If you direct love toward yourself, it will hit the crystal of your heart and radiate outward, and if you direct it to others, it will bounce back to warm your heart.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People want to be around you. Though you hope for only good conditions for your group, the adverse conditions like weather, logistical issues or having to fend for the team will be the experiences of bonding.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Disagreement causes stress. One of the most common things people disagree about is money. Whatever you can do to take money completely out of the equation will also take the stress out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some people talk excessively when they are nervous. Others clam up and say very little. You'll avoid either extreme by choosing to be around comfortable, easygoing types who help you feel free to be yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Things get hectic. Remind yourself to slow down and tend to what is truly important, which is to say your piece and your experience of the moment. Make the adjustments that help you stay inside the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today is like a reality game show, all hype and edgy music. You've a talent for keeping your cool. Be methodical, stay in good communication with your team and respect the clock. You're favored for the win!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your bravery is an invitation to the world to open its doors to you. You decide to look confident even when you don't feel it. People assume you can handle the big adventures and you will be given opportunities to prove it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are slow to commit yourself, as you know that when you give your word you also give your all. So, you're really better off taking on one project at a time and making very few advance agreements.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Even though this situation you're in may not officially be known as a game, you can still apply a strategy to win it. You'll keep your cards close to the vest and wait your turn, then make a move that counts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being in nature helps you get perspective. Standing under the stars you simultaneously feel like a speck of dust and the center of the universe. A case can be made for either. Go with the scale that empowers you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

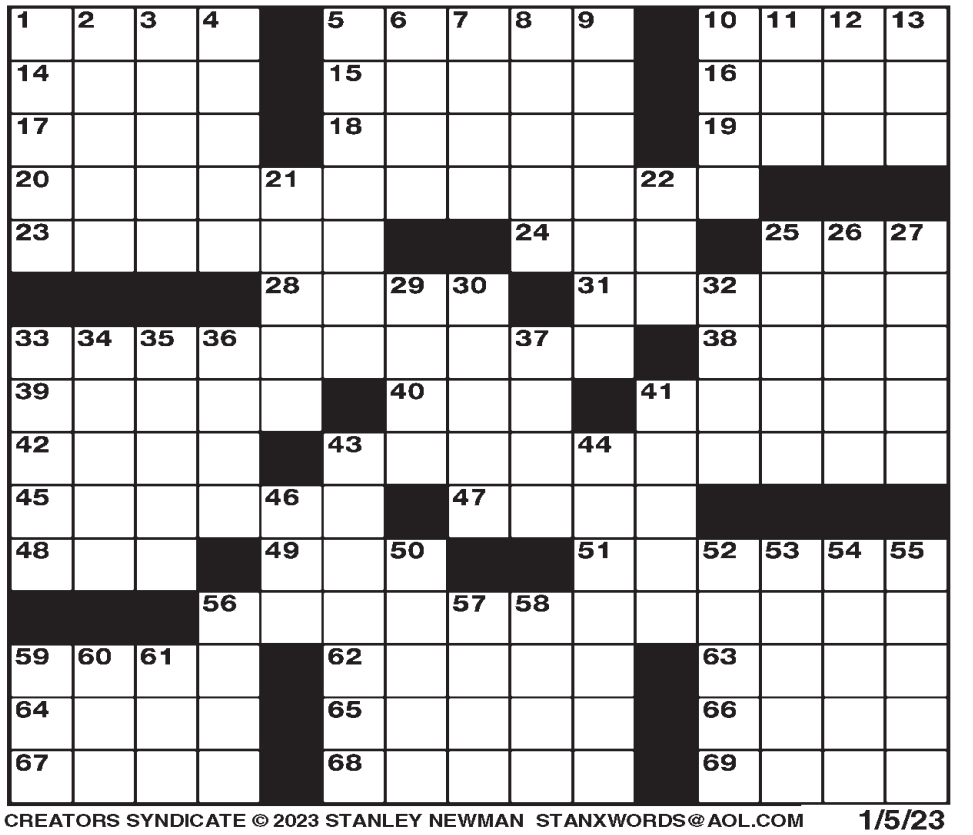
	3		5		8	2		
		1					3	
8	4		7		3	5		1
		2		8		7		3
	7			6			2	
3		4		5		1		
9		5	1		6		7	2
	6					3		
		3	9		5		1	

Newsday Crossword

EASY ENDINGS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Gift box attachment
5 Certain police squad
10 "Are you serious?"
14 Tech-support caller
15 Saint Joan ___
16 Rail-riding wanderer
17 Teutonic two
18 Hebrew matriarch
19 News piece
20 Cappuccino consequence
23 GM navigation subsidiary
24 ___-mo
25 Pekoe pouch
28 Bring in
31 El Greco's city
33 Skater's leap
38 "Sorry to interrupt . . ."
39 Yuletide greenery
40 Old hand
41 Cover with cloth
42 *Peter and the Wolf* duck
43 Pink stone
45 Elmo's street
47 Cabinet dept. since 1980
48 Phila. winter clock setting
49 Batter's stat.
51 "You are not!" comeback
56 Filled pancake
59 Dominican currency
62 Get-well program
63 Qatar's capital
64 The gamut
65 Tangle
66 Slow-cooker creation
67 Like polished floors
68 Postal Service symbol
69 "Trillion" prefix

DOWN
1 Incan Empire capital
2 Egyptian city on the Nile
3 Snorkeling areas
4 Wander aimlessly
5 Emphatic refusal
6 *The Lady with* ___ (Velázquez portrait)
7 Steak order
8 Grumps
9 Starbucks exec Howard
10 Flashy expert
11 Fresh from the oven
12 Penny profile
13 Male turkey
21 Too soon
22 Chaotic place
25 Longtime cohost of *The View*
26 Masterful
27 Addams Family husband
29 Purina rival
30 Place for change
32 Zhivago's love
33 That and that
34 Choir wear
35 Admission of defeat
36 Cry for help
37 Web-___ salamander
41 Fit for a particular nobleman
43 Turn back
44 Split hairs
46 ___-jongg
50 Oscar actress Davis
52 Core
53 Govt. debt security
54 None of the above
55 Former Boston Symphony conductor
56 Comfy
57 Type of carpet
58 Countess' spouse
59 Furry foot
60 Frat letter
61 Chicago cap letters

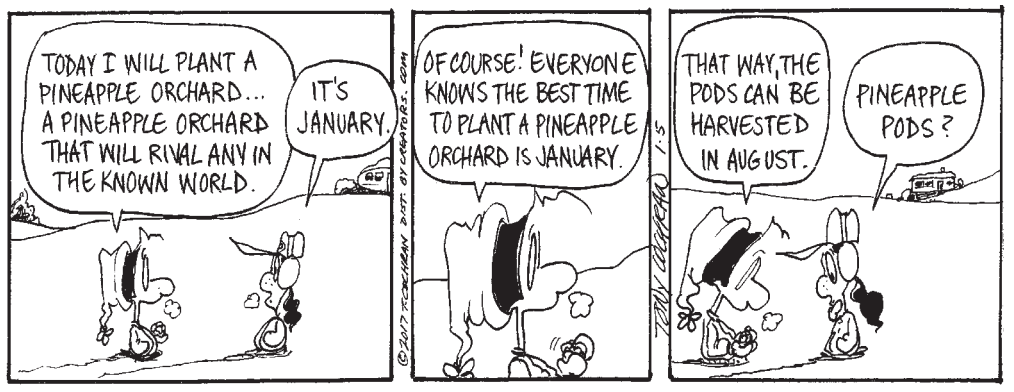


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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

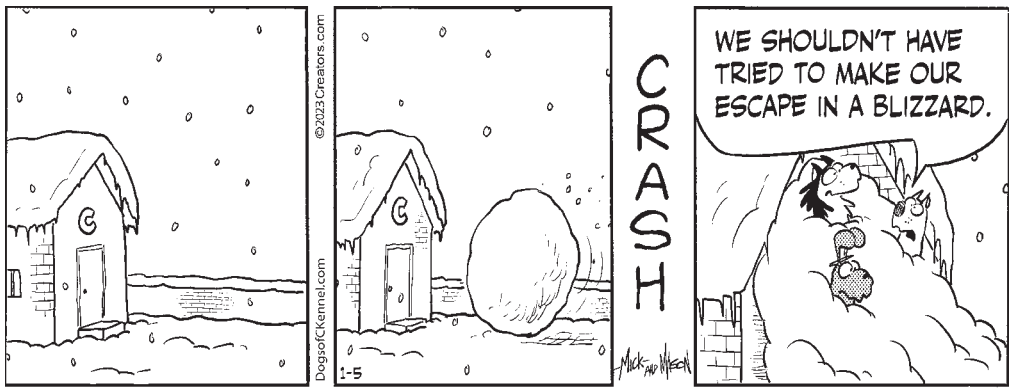
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



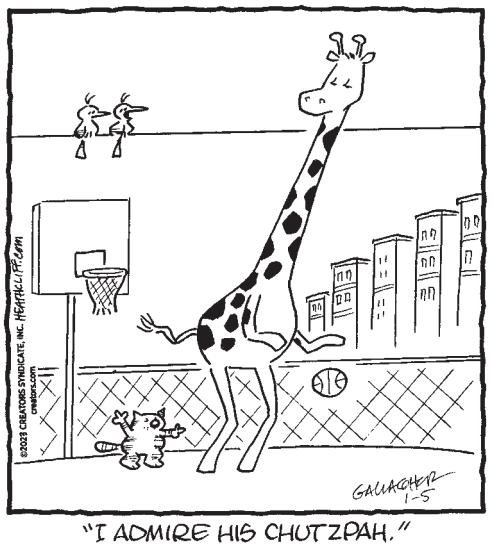
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I ADMIRE HIS CHUTZPAH."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



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 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 5715

Enzed

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

Albert Town	Kiwi	Picturesque
Best	Lakes	Sheep
Bluff	Levin	Snow
Bungy jumping	Maori	South
Chatham Islands	Milton	Taupo
Fauna	Mud pool	Thoroughbreds
Fiord	Napier	Tidy
Flora	Nikau	Tiki
Gold	Oamaru	Tourism
Gore	Otira	Travel
Invercargill	Paeroa	Whare
Kakapo	Patea	Wine

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THURSDAY | JANUARY 5

HOUSING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
The Housing Commission works to improve the quality of life of residents and the City by supporting and helping to guide the production and preservation of affordable housing. 6 p.m. https://www.santamonica.gov/housing-commission

WALK-IN TUTORING
Location is Main Library, 2nd floor Tutoring Center. Friendly volunteer tutors provide help with basic reading and writing skills, using the Internet, filling out online forms, using email, resume writing, and job searches. 1 - 3 p.m.

NOMA MEETING
The status of projects under "Builder's Remedy," the State penalty for the City not submitting its housing plan on time, will be the main topic of discussion with David Martin, our Director of Community Development, at the North of Montana Avenue Association's monthly meeting this Thursday, January 5. Newly-elected Council member Caroline Torosis will also be a featured guest. Candidates for Board will continue the agenda, and SM's Animal Shelter director will wrap things up talking about, but not to, pets. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Zoom, details available at www.smnoma.org and all are invited.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 6

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL), LOW
Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Contact Olga Saucedo at (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 or osaucedo@smmusd.org to enroll. 10 a.m.

SATURDAY | JANUARY 7

OCEAN PARK BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of books chosen by the group. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. Main Library, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, HIGH
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. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Contact Olga Saucedo at (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 or osaucedo@smmusd.org to enroll. 12 - 3 p.m.

BYOB (BRING YOUR BABY/BOOB/BOTTLE/BUGGY): A COMEDY SHOW
Have a baby? Date nights non-existent? We have a mid-day, raunchy comedy show for parents – by parents – that you can bring your baby to! The BYOB Comedy Show: bring your baby, boob, bottle, buggy! (Stroller parking included.) Enjoy a comedy show in the middle of the day instead of crying in the corner while your baby doesn't nap. Bring the baby to the show because they don't understand it yet! The Crow, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Unit F4, 1 - 2:30 p.m. https://www.crowcomedy.com/family-shows

DRAG BRUNCH AT LANEA
Join Lanea for delicious margaritas, savory street tacos and an amazing drag show the first Saturday of every month! No RSVP required and enjoy live music by DJ Daunkos. 2 - 5 p.m. Lanea, 217 Broadway. https://www.gotolanea.com/events

SUNDAY | JANUARY 8

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers – you can't get more local than that! 2640 Main Street. https://www.santamonica.gov/places/farmers-markets/main-street-farmers-market

MONDAY | JANUARY 9

KARAOKE NIGHT PARTY AT TAVERN ON MAIN
Sing a song, sing it loud and sing it strong at Tavern on Main's Karaoke Night Party, every Monday and Wednesday night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St

TUESDAY | JANUARY 10

FRIDAY NIGHT JAMS AT TAVERN ON MAIN
Start those weekend vibes buzzing with hot tunes by a roster of rotating DJs at Tavern on Main. This is a 21+ event with no cover charge. Enjoy lively music, great drinks and the best food. Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St. 9 p.m. https://www.tavernonmainsm.com/events/friday-night-jams

For help submitting an event, contact us at
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SURF REPORT
WATER TEMP: **58.5**

THURSDAY *POOR*	**SURF:**	3-5ft Waist to head	Small W swell best served west of Dume in the morning before a solid dose of WNW swell arrives late. S winds ahead of an approaching front for poor conditions in the morning, swinging WNW into the end of the day.
FRIDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	4-5ft Chest to head	Healthy round of WNW swell and much lighter/settled winds. Allow the morning high tide to drop out for most breaks. Wind is lightest through the morning, then the tucked away points are in play as WNW builds in the PM.

WEATHER

Thursday: Rain, mainly before 4pm. The rain could be heavy at times. High near 60. Windy.
Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain before 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/01/05	Thu	01:23 AM	2.46	L
2023/01/05	Thu	07:40 AM	5.98	H
2023/01/05	Thu	3:08 PM	-0.81	L
2023/01/05	Thu	9:46 PM	3.52	H
2023/01/06	Fri	01:57 AM	2.44	L
2023/01/06	Fri	08:13 AM	5.99	H
2023/01/06	Fri	3:39 PM	-0.80	L
2023/01/06	Fri	10:17 PM	3.52	H
2023/01/07	Sat	02:30 AM	2.40	L
2023/01/07	Sat	08:45 AM	5.94	H
2023/01/07	Sat	4:10 PM	-0.73	L
2023/01/07	Sat	10:48 PM	3.52	H
2023/01/08	Sun	03:03 AM	2.38	L
2023/01/08	Sun	09:16 AM	5.81	H
2023/01/08	Sun	4:41 PM	-0.59	L
2023/01/08	Sun	11:20 PM	3.53	H
2023/01/09	Mon	03:39 AM	2.38	L
2023/01/09	Mon	09:48 AM	5.58	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/2
7 9 12 31 62
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 291 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/3
25 29 33 41 44
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 940 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/31
6 9 20 22 42
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 21 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/3
2 12 14 17 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/3
EVENING: 0 2 2
Draw Date: 1/3
MIDDAY: 7 9 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/3
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:49.24

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