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Jerry's First 100 Years.
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CRJ Meeting this week.
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Homeless count organizers ask volunteers to step up

Would-be helpers have until Jan. 17 to register for the annual count, which is back after a one-year hiatus



Matthew Hall

COUNT: The annual event physically counts the number of individuals sleeping outside.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Calling all civic-minded night owls: The City of Santa Monica is looking for additional volunteers for the 2022 homeless count.

Santa Monica's count is happening in concert with homeless counts all over the country and is overseen by LAHSA, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

"In addition to being required by the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Count results measure how local & regional strategies are working and help inform how and where resources are deployed," information from the City detailed.

The annual count, which is set to take place from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. overnight from Jan. 26-27, is back after a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic, making this year's tally as important as ever.

Those interested in volunteering have until Monday, Jan. 17, to sign up at surveymonkey.com/r/smhcount2022.

Volunteers for past counts will notice some changes due to the ongoing pandemic. Training is being moved online and data collection will take place on personal smartphones. Deployment times will be staggered, with volunteer teams given instructions on when to arrive.

Though individuals are

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 11

Testing program hits snag as COVID-19 surge continues

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

If you ordered one of LA County's free at-home COVID-19 test kits in the last week or so, you may be waiting a long time to receive it via mail. That's because the county quietly paused the program on Wednesday, leaving residents unsure whether tests they ordered would ever arrive.

"That program is paused," LA County Director of Public Health Barbara Ferrer said during a Thursday COVID-19 briefing in response to a reporter's question, "because they were running into some serious challenges with the vendor around ... getting those deliveries on time to people's homes."

SEE **COVID-19** PAGE 11

Second dispensary approved for Wilshire Boulevard



Matthew Hall

STORE: The newly approved dispensary will occupy a former nail salon.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

At its Wednesday meeting, the Santa Monica Planning Commission voted to approve conditional use permits for a new cannabis dispensary to be located on Wilshire between 14th and 15th Streets.

The approval is just the latest in a series of hoops the dispensary, Harvest of Santa Monica, must jump through before it can open at 1416 Wilshire Blvd., which includes securing numerous permits and licenses both local and statewide.

A staff presentation from Santa Monica Principal Planner Tony Kim — the lead planner for the project — detailed why the business was located just nine blocks from the only other permitted dispensary, CPC Compassion, Inc.,

SEE **DISPENSARY** PAGE 7



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Reparations & Why It Matters

Reparation measures are intended to be acts of justice that not only address harm but also recognize that recipients' rights were violated. It's an effort to create Reparative Justice. This can happen in many different forms and arenas of community life. The Jan. 9 workshop of the Committee For Racial Justice is entitled "The 'R-Word'; Reparations & Why It Matters" because they anticipate that this new year is going to bring some opportunities to repair past injustices to communities of color in the United States.

Timothy Lee Conley, a Los Angeles-based filmmaker, Department Chair of Cinema and Film at Columbia College Hollywood, and a board member with the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council will kick off the panel discussion with an overview of what reparations might look like locally & globally and what effects they could have on communities and the country.

California has recently formed a state-wide task force to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans who are descendants of people who were enslaved in the U.S. This task force is under the jurisdiction of the CA Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. Its stated purpose is: (1) to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans; (2) to recommend appropriate ways to educate the California public of the task force's findings; and (3) to recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the Task Force's findings.

So far, this group has heard testimony about how institutional racism has impacted the racial wealth gap, the environmental degradation of communities of color, the educational inequities experienced, the access to good-paying jobs & housing, and the health disparities – to name a few of the many areas of life that are impacted by racism in our history and today.

Two members of this task force will be part of this month's CRJ workshop about Reparations on Jan. 9 to inform participants of their progress and plans. Kamilah Moore, a reparatory justice scholar and attorney, is chair of this working group. Her master thesis explored the intersections between international law and reparatory justice for the trans-Atlantic slave trade, chattel slavery, and their legacies.

The other panel member from the CA Reparations Task Force is Dr. Cheryl Grills, a Clinical Psychologist with an emphasis in Community Psychology, who has been a Professor on the faculty of Loyola Marymount University for 34 years and is Director of their Psychology Applied Research Center.

Later this month, Santa Monica will roll out the "Right to Return" policy to allow homeowners (and their descendants), who were displaced by the 10 Highway construction and the Belmar triangle neighborhood destruction, to be priorities for access to affordable housing in Santa Monica.

Mayor Pro Tem Kristin McCowan, the first Black woman to serve as a Councilmember, will also be joining the panel. Her stated priorities on the Council are economic recovery & justice, reimagining public safety that protects everyone in their homes & out in the community, and increased opportunities for historically disenfranchised & vulnerable communities. She returned to her hometown after serving in the Obama administration as a Presidential Appointee in the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Executive Office of the President. She is currently the Executive Director for Getty House Foundation.

Another of our panel members on January 9th will be Nichelle Monroe, an accomplished vocal artist, whose grandparents lost their family home when the 10 freeway was built. She currently works at Santa Monica College and was featured in a recent article in the LA Times about Black people seeking to return to Santa Monica to live under the new Right to Return Policy.

Join them at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 on Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88947830395 for a broader understanding of reparations and how you might get involved to ensure a deeper impact.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN



Biden decries Trump backers' 'dagger at throat' of democracy

MARY CLARE JALONICK, LISA MASCARO AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

President Joe Biden accused Donald Trump and his supporters of holding a "dagger at the throat of democracy" in a forceful speech Thursday marking the anniversary of the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol. He warned that though it didn't succeed, the insurrection remains a serious threat to America's system of government.

Biden's criticism was blistering of the defeated president whom he blamed for the assault that has fundamentally changed Congress and the nation, and raised global concerns about the future of American democracy.

"For the first time in our history, a president not just lost an election, he tried to prevent the peaceful transfer of power as a violent mob breached the Capitol," Biden said. "You can't love your country only when you win."

His voice booming at times, filling the ornate Statuary Hall where rioters had laid siege, the president called on Americans to remember what they saw Jan. 6 with their own eyes: the mob attacking police, breaking windows, a Confederate flag inside the Capitol, gallows erected outside threatening to hang the vice president — all while Trump sat at the White House watching it on TV.

"The former president's supporters are trying to rewrite history. They want you to see Election Day as the day of insurrection and the riot that took place here on January 6 as a true expression of the will of the people. Can you think of a more twisted way to look at this country, to look at America? I cannot."

The president's remarks launched the start of daylong remembrance, drawing a contrast between the truth of what happened and the false narratives that persist about the Capitol assault, including the continued refusal by many Republicans to affirm that Biden won the 2020 election.

"We must be absolutely clear about what is true and what is a lie," Biden said. "The former president of the United States of America has spread a web of lies about the 2020 election."

He said: "We are in a battle for the soul of America."

"I did not seek this fight, brought to this Capitol one year from today. But I will not shrink from it either. I will stand in this breach, I will defend this nation. I will allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of this democracy."

Republican leaders and lawmakers largely stayed away from the day's events, dismissing them as overly politicized — some continuing to spread false claims about the election.

From Florida, Trump showed no signs of letting go, and in fact revived his unfounded attack on the elections. He accepted no responsibility for egging on the crowd that day. Instead, in one of several statements Thursday, he said Biden was trying to "further divide America. This political theater is all just a distraction."

Even among congressional Republicans who condemned the attack in the days afterward, most have stayed loyal to the former president.

"What brazen politicization of January 6 by President Biden," tweeted Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a sometimes Trump confidant. Others, including Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, were absent, with a contingent attending the funeral for a former colleague Sen. Johnny Isakson in Georgia. Far-right Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Matt Gaetz stood by their refusal to certify Biden's election that day — "We're ashamed of nothing," Gaetz said on a podcast.

The division is a stark reminder of the rupture between the two parties, worsening since hundreds of Trump's supporters violently pushed past police, used their fists and flagpoles to break through the windows of the Capitol and interrupted the certification of Biden's victory.

Rep. Liz Cheney, chair of the House committee investigating the attack and one of the few GOP lawmakers attending the Capitol ceremonies, warned that "the threat continues." Trump, she said, "continues to make the same claims that he knows caused violence on January 6."

"Unfortunately, too many in my own party are embracing the former president, are looking the other way or minimizing the danger," she told NBC's "Today." "That's how democracies die. We simply cannot let that happen."

She was joined by her father Dick Cheney, the former vice president and now a respected Republican Party elder, who was greeted warmly by several Democrats. He stood with her, the only Republicans seen, for a moment of silence on the House floor.

He said in a statement: "I am deeply disappointed at the failure of many members of my party to recognize the grave nature of the January 6 attacks and the ongoing threat to our nation."

The Senate also convened a moment of silence.

Democrats investigating the insurrection plan to spend the coming months telling the American people exactly what happened last Jan. 6 with a series of public hearings.

Biden and his administration have come under criticism from some in his party for not forcibly explaining to Americans the ways democracy is at risk, or pushing Congress hard enough to pass election and voting rights legislation that is stalled by a filibuster in the Senate.

Barack Obama, the former president, said "nothing is more important" on the anniversary than ensuring the right to vote.

"While the broken windows have been repaired and many of the rioters have been brought to justice, the truth is that our democracy is at greater risk today than it was back then," Obama said in a statement.

Biden's address, and that of Vice President Kamala Harris who is leading the administration's efforts on the voting and elections legislation, appeared as a direct response to critics.

"We must pass voting rights bills," said Harris, addressing those gathered. "We cannot sit on the sidelines. We must unite in

SEE **BIDEN** PAGE 5

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 276 CALLS ON JANUARY 5

Audible Burglar Alarm 3000Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:28 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 5:55 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 5:57 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2600Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:15 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 700Blk Raymond Ave 7:35 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 700Blk Broadway 7:43 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2800Blk 23rd St 7:43 a.m.
Fraud 900Blk Pico Blvd 7:49 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk Ocean Ave 7:53 a.m.
Fight 2900Blk 4th St 8:00 a.m.
Found Property 1600Blk 6th St 8:08 a.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 400Blk 22nd St 8:23 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200Blk 6th St 8:30 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2400Blk Beverley Ave 8:44 a.m.
General Parking Problem 17th St / Michigan Ave 9:02 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:04 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2400Blk Chelsea Pl 9:09 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2700Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:10 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2700Blk 3rd St 9:12 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400Blk 6th St 9:13 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:37 a.m.
Burglary 1300Blk 4th St 9:45 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:48 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2000Blk 19th St 10:02 a.m.
Panic Alarm 300Blk 22nd St 10:04 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1300Blk Ocean Ave 10:11 a.m.
Burglary 2900Blk Main St 10:16 a.m.
Loitering 400Blk Bay St 10:27 a.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 600Blk Kensington rd 10:29 a.m.
Encampment 800Blk Olympic Blvd W 10:33 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1000Blk 14th St 10:42 a.m.
Burglary 1300Blk 4th St 10:45 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 3000Blk 3rd St 11:12 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800Blk Cedar St 11:13 a.m.
Speeding 2200Blk Main St 11:14 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900Blk 12th St 11:23 a.m.
Person With A Gun 2700Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:24 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd E 11:47 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 200Blk Montana Ave 11:52 a.m.
Petty Theft 600Blk San Vicente Blvd 11:59 a.m.
Petty Theft 3100Blk Broadway 12:02 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100Blk 11th St 12:06 p.m.
Petty Theft 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:11 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:19 p.m.
Fraud 1000Blk Pearl St 12:35 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1000Blk Berkeley St 12:40 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1100Blk 11th St 12:55 p.m.
Fraud 400Blk San Vicente Blvd 12:56 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1600Blk 9th St 12:57 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1100Blk 9th St 1:33 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:34 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1300Blk 16th St 1:42 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 200Blk Bay St 1:47 p.m.
Fraud 2300Blk 5th St 1:50 p.m.
Found Property 700Blk Palisades Park 1:59 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 1300Blk 17th St 2:05 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100Blk Wadsworth Ave 2:09 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2600Blk 26th St 2:13 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1000Blk 11th St 2:17 p.m.
Burglary 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:25 p.m.
Injured Person 1000Blk 2nd St 2:29 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1100Blk 20th St 2:46 p.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 800Blk 19th St 3:09 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900Blk Broadway 3:12 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1800Blk 7th St 3:16 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 700Blk Euclid St 3:21 p.m.
Grand Theft 900Blk Marine St 3:24 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 17th St / San Vicente Blvd 3:25 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1000Blk 17th St 3:40 p.m.
Petty Theft 400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:47 p.m.
General Parking Problem 800Blk California Ave 3:47 p.m.
Speeding 11th St / Georgina Ave 3:50 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 200Blk Broadway 4:03 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2200Blk Virginia Ave 4:16 p.m.
Petty Theft 1700Blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:18 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Montana Ave 4:21 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100Blk Wadsworth Ave 4:35 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1600Blk Main St 4:47 p.m.
Encampment 1000Blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:52 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 6th St / Pico Blvd 5:05 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1400Blk 4th St 5:10 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 600Blk Euclid St 5:17 p.m.
Fraud 1400Blk 6th St 6:01 p.m.
Encampment Main St / Ashland Ave 6:25 p.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 6:33 p.m.
Speeding 7th St / San Vicente Blvd 6:40 p.m.
Fight 500Blk Colorado Ave 7:04 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600Blk 20th St 7:16 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2000Blk Stewart St 7:30 p.m.
Speeding 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:22 p.m.
Attempt Strongarm Robbery Neilson Way / Bicknell Ave 9:17 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 9:39 p.m.
Loud Music 2400Blk 6th St 10:02 p.m.
Loud Music 2400Blk Arizona Ave 10:28 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1900Blk Pico Blvd 11:05 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery 1600Blk Ocean Ave 11:09 p.m.
Loud Music 1100Blk 12th St 11:10 p.m.
Encampment 800Blk 4th St 11:29 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 44 CALLS ON JANUARY 5

EMS 1600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:11 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 9th St 12:28 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 1:32 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 2nd St 1:36 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1800Blk Pier Ave 2:05 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 4th St 5:18 a.m.
EMS 2800Blk Exposition Blvd 6:06 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 25th St 6:36 a.m.
EMS 2300Blk Oak St 7:49 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 6th St / Colorado Ave 7:56 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 5th St 8:14 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:29 a.m.
EMS 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:31 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 12th St 9:53 a.m.
EMS 2200Blk Broadway 10:09 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 6th St 10:16 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk Ocean Ave 10:17 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk Oak St 10:19 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk Ocean Ave 10:25 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 3rd St 10:53 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 300Blk 15th St 11:05 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 6th St 12:03 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 9th St 12:10 p.m.
EMS 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:06 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 17th St 1:31 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk 16th St 2:17 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 2nd St 2:28 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200Blk Main St 2:44 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1000Blk 12th St 2:53 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 18th St 3:42 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 3:51 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk 4th St 5:12 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 6:26 p.m.
Vehicle Fire 500Blk Ocean Ave 6:34 p.m.
Structure Fire 200Blk 26th St 6:43 p.m.
EMS 700Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:53 p.m.
EMS 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:58 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk California Ave 7:09 p.m.
Structure Fire 2600Blk 5th St 7:16 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Olympic Blvd 7:30 p.m.
EMS 400Blk Colorado Ave 8:26 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:41 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk 3rd St 9:55 p.m.
EMS 700Blk Pico Blvd 11:07 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

County to resume homeless count after 2021 postponement

Los Angeles County will resume its annual homeless count in full a year after it was limited over concerns that it couldn't be done safely or accurately during the coronavirus pandemic, officials said Thursday.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority is seeking volunteers to help during the tally's main component, the unsheltered street count. It will take place Jan. 25-27.

"We are excited to conduct the 2022 unsheltered count. It is an essential component in getting vital information that helps us provide an accurate picture of the state of homelessness in Los Angeles and deliver services where they are most needed," LAHSA Executive Director Heidi Marston said in a statement.

Congress requires such counts every two years and uses the information to distribute resources for homeless services.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development granted an exemption in 2021 because of the coronavirus outbreak and kept federal funding in place.

The count will proceed this year with COVID-19 precautions, including outdoor distribution of materials and requirements that volunteers wear masks and maintain social distance, LAHSA said.

LAHSA, a joint city and county authority, is the lead agency in coordinating federal, state and local funding to help the homeless. In recent years, as homelessness has grown, the agency has done the count nearly every year over several days each January. Thousands of volunteers fan out to count tents, RVs and cars housing people throughout the region.

The 2020 count estimated the county's homeless population at more than 66,000. Nearly three-quarters were living in makeshift shelters such as tents or cars.

Visit https://www.lahsa.org/ for more information.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

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

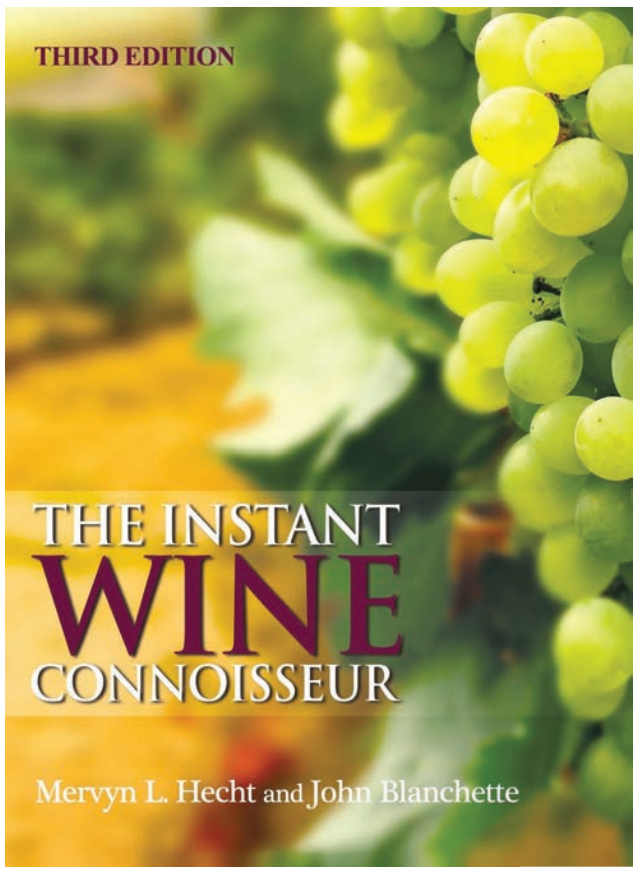
RFP: # 307 USER EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Submission Deadline is January 17, 2022 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.



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



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

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Pandemic sidelines 800 police, firefighters in Los Angeles

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

A dramatic surge in coronavirus cases has sidelined more than 800 Los Angeles city police and fire personnel and led to slightly longer ambulance and fire response times, adding to concerns about shortages of critical staff including health care workers.

Mayor Eric Garcetti said Thursday that more than 500 LAPD officers and other police employees and nearly 300 firefighters were off-duty after testing positive for COVID-19, though he said measures were being taken to ensure the safety of the public.

"This is an incredibly tough moment," Garcetti said. "The omicron variant has taken off like wildfire."

The surge of cases in the country's most populous state is threatening to overwhelm hospitals. State officials on Wednesday extended an indoor mask mandate into mid-February as the omicron variant also sidelines health care workers, leading to hospital staffing shortages that could become a bigger problem.

"We are and continue to be concerned about our hospitals," Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said. "Some facilities are going to be strapped."

Public Health officials across the state have advised residents to avoid visiting emergency rooms for COVID-19 tests or treatment that could be handled by a family doctor, telemedicine or at urgent care clinics.

California's confirmed cases have shot up nearly 500% in the last two weeks and hospitalizations have doubled since Christmas to more than 8,000. State models forecast hospitalizations could top 20,000 by early next month, a level nearly as high as last January, when California experienced its deadliest surge.

California had the lowest per-capita case rate in the U.S. in September, but like the rest of the country it's now experiencing a dramatic rise from the new variant. It now ranks 29th in new cases per capita over the past two weeks.

Los Angeles city firefighters were working voluntary overtime shifts and others were being forced to stay on duty after their shifts ended to maintain staffing, Chief Ralph Terrazas said. He also planned to cancel approved vacations.

The absences were forcing some fire engines and ambulances to be out of service for 24 hours but all firehouses remained open, Terrazas said. Ambulance response times have slowed 13 seconds from a year ago and fire calls are six seconds slower.

Police Chief Michel Moore said it was taking an average of three weeks for officers struck with COVID-19 to return to work, but they have not yet forced others to stay on the job to meet the demand.

"That lever is still before us," he said. "I will not suggest to you that we would want to endure the current shortages of personnel for months on end. ... We do see this as a surge that will be, it is our hope and belief, short lived."

The Los Angeles County Fire Department, which is separate from the city department, has 450 firefighters absent after testing positive, acting Assistant Chief Brian Bennett told the Carson City Council on Tuesday, according the Los Angeles Daily News.

In Fresno County, more than 300 workers at area hospitals were out recovering from COVID-19 or isolating because of exposure to the virus, said Dan Lynch, the county's emergency medical services director. Ambulance personnel will likely be asked to assess patients and only transport people with true emergencies to ER departments.

The Grammy Awards, scheduled for Jan. 31 in Los Angeles, were postponed indefinitely Wednesday because of health and safety concerns and the NFL said it was looking into alternative sites for next month's Super Bowl scheduled in LA.

While the league finds back-up venues every year, it could come into play if there are attendance restrictions, though Garcetti said he doubted it would be moved.

"I'm confident that will happen here and that we'll be able to have a great Super Bowl celebration," he said.

Ghaly encouraged unvaccinated people to get inoculated and others to get booster shots if they haven't already received one to either prevent or lessen the impact of an infection. He said the vaccines and therapeutics to treat COVID-19 are all part of an approach largely absent a year ago and there is no discussion of further restrictions.

Los Angeles said it would begin requiring employers to equip workers in close quarters indoors with medical grade masks by Jan. 17.

Associated Press journalists Jocelyn Gecker and Janie Har in San Francisco contributed to this report.

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AWARD WINNER

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California Democrats revive universal health care bill

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

Democrats in the California Legislature on Thursday revived a plan for what could be the nation's first universal health care system — prompting strong opposition from doctors and health insurers overtax increases for businesses and individuals that would pay for the plan and only if voters approved the tax hikes.

State Assemblyman Ash Kalra, a Democrat from San Jose, introduced a bill last year to create a universal health care system in California. But the bill stalled in part because it did not include a way to pay for it.

Kalra on Thursday revealed a second bill that would amend the state Constitution to raise taxes on some businesses and individuals. The personal income tax increase would only apply to people who earn about $150,000 per year or more. That bill would require a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature and must be approved by voters before it could become law.

Democratic leaders then scheduled a hearing for Kalra's original bill — the one that would create the universal health care system and set its rules — for next week. Assemblyman Jim Wood, the influential chair of the Assembly Health Committee, also announced he would vote for it.

Kalra's first bill faces a tight deadline. It must pass the state Assembly by the end of the month to have a chance at passing this year. The deadline for the second bill — the one that would pay for everything — is months away.

"I think it's absolutely doable," Kalra told reporters. "It's about political will."

But businesses and the California Medical Association are already working to stop both bills. Project Health Care, a coalition that includes the California Medical Association and the California Hospital Association, warned the plan would "take away any choice for anyone who might want to select private coverage or opt out."

"Californians need and deserve a stable health care system they can rely on at all times, especially now," spokesman Ned Wigglesworth said.

Kalra said employers in California currently pay more than 9% of their payroll on average for employee health care costs. He said that would drop to 1.25% under his plan.

"We know that is where the opposition is going to hinge their energy on: 'Oh look, a tax,'" he said. "What they don't want to tell you is how much they are charging you right now for health care."

Some health care advocates have long called for a universal health care system to replace the country's system that relies on private insurance companies.

But the proposal has never come close to passing in Congress. State lawmakers in Vermont have tried and failed to implement a universal health care system. Kalra said the New York state Legislature is also considering a similar plan.

BIDEN

FROM PAGE 2

defense of our democracy."

On the House floor, where many members were evacuated and some were trapped as the rioters tried to break in, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi drew on history with a hope that Americans would turn to their "better angels" to resolve differences. She delivered private remarks to Hill staff who, as she told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday, had stayed a year ago to "protect our democracy."

Biden's sharp message and the Republicans' distance from it come as lawmakers are adjusting to the new normal on Capitol Hill — the growing tensions that many worry will result in more violence or, someday, a legitimate election being overturned. Democrats and a handful of Republicans feel a desperate urgency to connect to a public in which some have come to believe Trump's lies that the election was stolen from him and that the attack wasn't violent at all.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed that 3 in 10 Republicans say the attack was not violent, and about another 3 in 10 say it was somewhat violent. Around two-thirds of Americans described the day as very or extremely violent, including about 9 in 10 Democrats.

As Biden directed blame toward the former president, the percentage of Americans who blame Trump for the Jan. 6 riot has grown slightly over the past year, with 57% saying he bears significant responsibility for what took place.

In an AP-NORC poll taken in the days after the attack, 50% said that.

Trump's claims of widespread election fraud were rejected by the courts and refuted by his own Justice Department.

An investigation by the AP found fewer than 475 cases of voter fraud among 25.5 million ballots cast in the six battleground states disputed by Trump, a minuscule number in percentage terms.

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville, Kevin Freking, Jill Colvin Alexandra Jaffe and Farnoush Amiri contributed to this report.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Jerry's First 100 Years



Courtesy image

100!: Jerry may not have given consent for his risque baby photo but he did for his latest.

On Saturday my dear friend, Jerry Rosenblum, a Santa Monica resident for almost 60 years, turns 100! So many congratulations are swirling in my head but I'm going to start with ... Mazel Tov!

Jerry's late mother, Nettie, lived to 102 so his myriad of close friends, and 20,600 Instagram followers who might be singing "Happy Birthday" should add to the song's ending "And many more!" (On Instagram, Jerry is seemingly the unofficial adopted grandfather for the Millennial and Gen Z generations.)

Sadly, because of the recent Covid surges, there won't be a big birthday party as there has been since he turned 95 thanks to Katie Miller, his 30-year-old BFF who moved from Santa Monica to Denver a few years back. In addition to handling Jerry's Instagram account, Katie always organized terrific Jerry birthday bashes at a local karaoke bar. Jerry would entertain his friends by singing a few of the amazing number of songs he has memorized. So, with no party this year, Jerry has been receiving birthday cards from all over the U.S. and even from foreign countries.

And given this milestone birthday it's only fitting Jerry will receive something special from the city. (And I don't mean a parking ticket.) The idea of Councilman Phil Brock, the Santa Monica City Council has issued a special Commendation honoring Jerry for inspiring so many with his wonderful sense of humor, positive outlook and passionate love of life. I was proud to be asked to write the copy for the Commendation. (I only hope there are no grammatical errors or typos that could be viewed for posterity.)

Phil Brock will bring the Commendation to Jerry's apartment at 11 am on his birthday and read it to him. The "ceremony" attendees will be Jerry's wonderful caretaker, Manny Colorado, and his devoted cousin, Jo, who flew in from Florida. Jo will video the event on her phone and we'll put it on the Internet for Jerry's many friends and followers so they can feel a part of his centennial birthday.

How I came to first meet Jerry, or rather, how I almost missed that golden opportunity, I hope is amusing or, at a minimum, a life lesson. Twelve years ago, when Jerry was 88, he had gotten my phone number from a mutual friend and called saying he was a big admirer of my writing. (To which I joked, "You're the one!") Despite the joke, Jerry wanted to meet and, if possible, have me look at his memoir in manuscript form.

I'm embarrassed to admit it but that Jerry had no writing experience and a 300 page manuscript, well, I vividly remember trying to think of a kind way to pass on his request. But when Jerry told me he had spent 50 years in the men's clothing business and given my late father had been in the men's clothing business 30 years, I couldn't say no. And I'm eternally grateful I didn't.

So I drove over to Jerry's at the beautifully maintained Silvercrest Apartments owned by the Salvation Army on 5th street, and the moment I saw him in the lobby I was reminded of my dad. Ever dapper, Jerry was neat as a pin as was my father. And though he was ten years younger than my dad, from then on I saw Jerry as a father figure.

So I agreed to read his huge manuscript that weekend and quickly discovered his memoir needed much work. How do you tell an 88-year-old his life story has to be redone? I nervously confessed to Jerry that his manuscript wasn't a book yet but rather a collection of unrelated stories that needed considerable rewriting to tie it all together.

Instead of being mad or even disappointed, Jerry responded enthusiastically, "Well, back to the drawing board." Ten years later we got out the drawing board so to speak and co-wrote his memoir, "An Angel on My Shoulder." It's the story of how a very young

SEE **LAUGHING MATTERS** PAGE 11



DISPENSARY

FROM PAGE 1

which received its conditional use permits in October and was working to open its doors at 925 Wilshire Blvd.

"I don't believe location was really factored in [to staff's recommendation for approval], given that our ordinance already specifically defined where these potential dispensaries could be located … east of Lincoln Boulevard along Wilshire or along two stretches of Santa Monica Boulevard, between Lincoln and 20th and 23rd and Centinela," Kim said, adding that even in those stretches they must also adhere to a 600-foot buffer zone around "sensitive uses" such as churches, schools and daycares.

"Those two limitations really, really limit the number of potential places that these two dispensaries could be located," he said.

Kim said that, because the location fit the legal requirements of the Santa Monica Municipal Code, commissioners were limited in their ability to reject it based on location.

Still, Commissioner Shawn Landres began raising concerns over the proximity of the two dispensaries, suggesting that selecting a location on Santa Monica Boulevard east of 23rd Street would extend service to another neighborhood that was "far, far away — within the context of what 'far' means in Santa Monica."

Landres suggested that grouping the two dispensaries so closely together could cause a "geographic inequity," since city codes dictate there can be only two dispensaries licensed to operate at any time.

Deputy City Attorney Heidi von Tongeln reiterated that commissioners were limited in their grounds for denying the CUP.

"There are certain objective standards that are set forth in that IZO (interim zoning ordinance) … like the minimum distance from the sensitive uses and the minimum distance from the other dispensaries. Beyond that, it is a CUP like any other CUP," von Tongeln said.

"Just to distill this, do we have, given our code, in this process, the legal authority to tell these people they have to be somewhere else?" Commissioner Leslie Lambert asked.

"What staff has presented to you has met the minimum requirements by code under the IZO for distancing. [If] you have another reason to believe that you are unable to prove the CUP based on neighborhood compatibility, for instance, which is one of the findings, you need to base that on substantial evidence and deny it that way," the attorney replied.

Later in the meeting, Landres said he was still planning to vote against the dispensary's permits.

"I am just not comfortable with loading up one part of town with both dispensaries for a wide variety of reasons," he said.

But fellow commissioner Mario Fonda-Bonardi pointed out that last-minute complaint was akin to moving the goalposts for the business, which has spent years working on its application since it was chosen as one of Santa Monica's two approved medicinal cannabis dispensaries in 2018.

"We didn't tell them they had to be far apart. We didn't say that they have to be evenly distributed," Fonda-Bonardi said. "But in some ways, it's almost like an ambush. You get all the way to the finish line and then someone says, 'Oh, the goalposts are over here.'"

"That's a fair point," Landres replied, adding he would abstain rather than vote against the permit issuance.

There was a proponent of the proximity of the two shops — estimated to be about an eight-minute walk apart — in Commissioner Nina Fresco.

"If I personally ever needed some medicinal cannabis," Fresco said, "I might want to check out both places and compare and see what they have and see what I liked. I wouldn't want to have to drive all over town to do that."

But proximity between the two dispensaries was not the only locational concern. Numerous complaints submitted by community members addressed the proposed dispensary's proximity to Lincoln Middle School, located on California Avenue between 14th and 16th streets.

Kim estimated the distance between the dispensary and Lincoln to be about 800 feet, outside the buffer of 600 feet mandated in the Santa Monica Municipal Code.

In response to concerns, commissioners agreed to have Harvest reach out to the school community to answer questions.

The board voted that, prior to commencement of operations, Harvest should make good faith efforts to coordinate with the Lincoln Middle School community to provide education regarding the facility and address concerns and questions of the community.

A representative from Harvest, Ben Kimbro, described the company, which has retail and cultivation locations around the country, is headquartered in Tempe, Ariz.

"In every community we operate, we're really not looking to be the best cannabis company in town — we're looking to be one of the best businesses, period, in the way that we partner with community," Kimbro. "We do that by engendering the personality of the city, by being better listeners than talkers, and we take a lot of pride in hosting a lot of educational events, a lot of support groups, and we give generously of our time and money with local philanthropic partners."

Kimbro said the company's other major focus was security, with measures including a locked back door with a security camera and an all-hours security guard at the front door, who checked IDs before patrons could enter. Upon entering the building, patrons would have their IDs and medical marijuana cards validated before being buzzed through a locked door into the retail area, which is not visible from the street.

"We take youth cannabis abuse very, very seriously," Kimbro added. "We're very proud to say that we've never had a single instance of an underage sale. We simply have too much at risk for that to happen."

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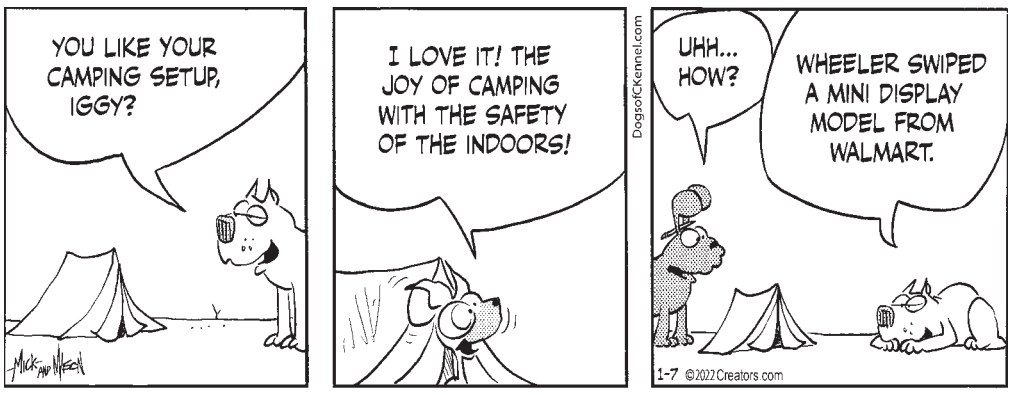
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



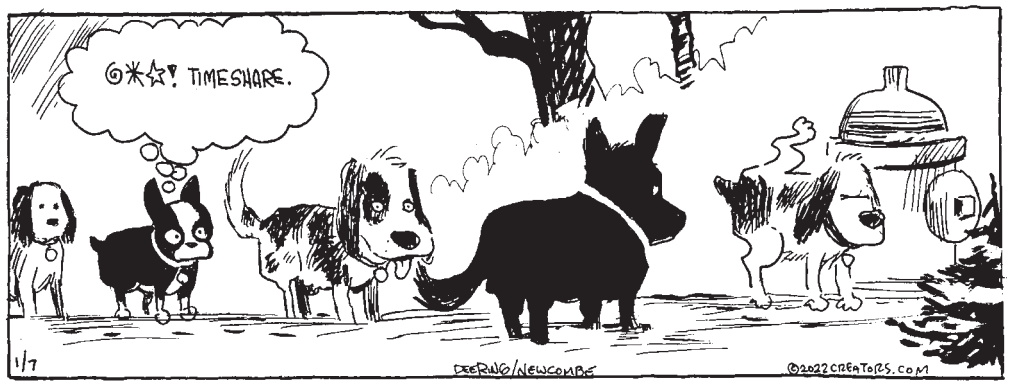
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I'VE NEVER SEEN A WHISPER FIGHT."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 56.8°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Midweek NW swell eases but could have a more favorably angled WNW swell move in through the afternoon. Will want to keep an eye on the weekend ahead. Stay tuned.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
More NW and WNW swell due, along with favorable AM winds.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 58.
Friday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/01/07	Fri	01:18 AM	4.20	H
2022/01/07	Fri	06:27 AM	2.27	L
2022/01/07	Fri	12:15 PM	4.68	H
2022/01/07	Fri	7:14 PM	0.10	L
2022/01/08	Sat	02:12 AM	4.33	H
2022/01/08	Sat	07:56 AM	2.26	L
2022/01/08	Sat	1:22 PM	3.84	H
2022/01/08	Sat	8:01 PM	0.76	L
2022/01/09	Sun	03:06 AM	4.51	H
2022/01/09	Sun	09:45 AM	1.96	L
2022/01/09	Sun	2:56 PM	3.16	H
2022/01/09	Sun	8:54 PM	1.36	L
2022/01/10	Mon	03:57 AM	4.71	H
2022/01/10	Mon	11:13 AM	1.40	L
2022/01/10	Mon	4:49 PM	2.86	H
2022/01/10	Mon	9:49 PM	1.85	L
2022/01/11	Tue	04:43 AM	4.91	H
2022/01/11	Tue	12:16 PM	0.80	L
2022/01/11	Tue	6:30 PM	2.92	H
2022/01/11	Tue	10:43 PM	2.21	L
2022/01/12	Wed	05:25 AM	5.12	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball calottery
Draw Date: 1/5
6 14 25 33 46
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 1/4
4 6 16 21 22
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 278 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 1/5
2 9 17 20 25
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 13 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 1/5
1 6 8 18 38

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 1/5
EVENING: 6 7 5
Draw Date: 1/5
MIDDAY: 8 0 3

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 1/5
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:45.23

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 (JANUARY 7)

You're a romantic realist. You'll believe in a fairy tale, but it's a modern one, updated for your current circumstances and sensibility. Truly magical things happen when you go all-in with plans, feet firmly planted in what's real. A major accomplishment will have you living pretty in May. The excellence of family boosts all. Libra and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 14, 30, 38 and 1.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You take pride in doing a fine job with the maintenance of your life. This sends a signal to the universe that you're happy for what you have. You'll soon find yourself with even more of it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The uncomfortable rub between you and another person is an external manifestation of an argument inside your mind. Sort out your thoughts and the problem goes away.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When learning to communicate, children go from using one style in every situation to developing different modes — formal, professional, informal, intimate, etc. You've a knack for using just the right tone for the time to great success.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You solved a problem in the way you could at the time. Now you're wondering if it was really the best way. You now have the luxury of giving it another look and experimenting with different solutions and approaches.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Modern life often gives the sensation of flying above human physicality, but the reality is that you are an animal, physically expressed, alive in motion. Your mind works best when you tend to the needs of the body.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). While it's easy to tell when you're progressing inside of a game or even at work, social advancement is a trickier equation. Much relies on your ability to correctly read subtle cues. You'll be brilliant at this now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll find the intersection of what you want to give and what they want to pay for. Success depends on doing what people care about, talking about what people are interested in and generally thinking of others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Moods come and go. You prefer to make decisions based on your overall vision of your life, not the moment-to-moment minutiae of feelings. You refuse to give a mood too much sway over your schedule.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Children can spot a phony from a mile away. You'll be gifted with similar instincts about people. The less you know about a person, the more spot-on your initial impressions will be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You signed up for something a long time ago and now that the moment has arrived, you simply aren't that into it. However, it will be very fortunate indeed to honor your original commitments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're no stranger to compromise — you do it almost every day. That's why today is so special. No need to serve the pleasure of others. The most responsible thing you can do is whatever you please.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Familiarity comes with its own kind of blindness. It's better to know a little about people than to know too much. The more you learn about your heroes, the less heroic they may seem.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

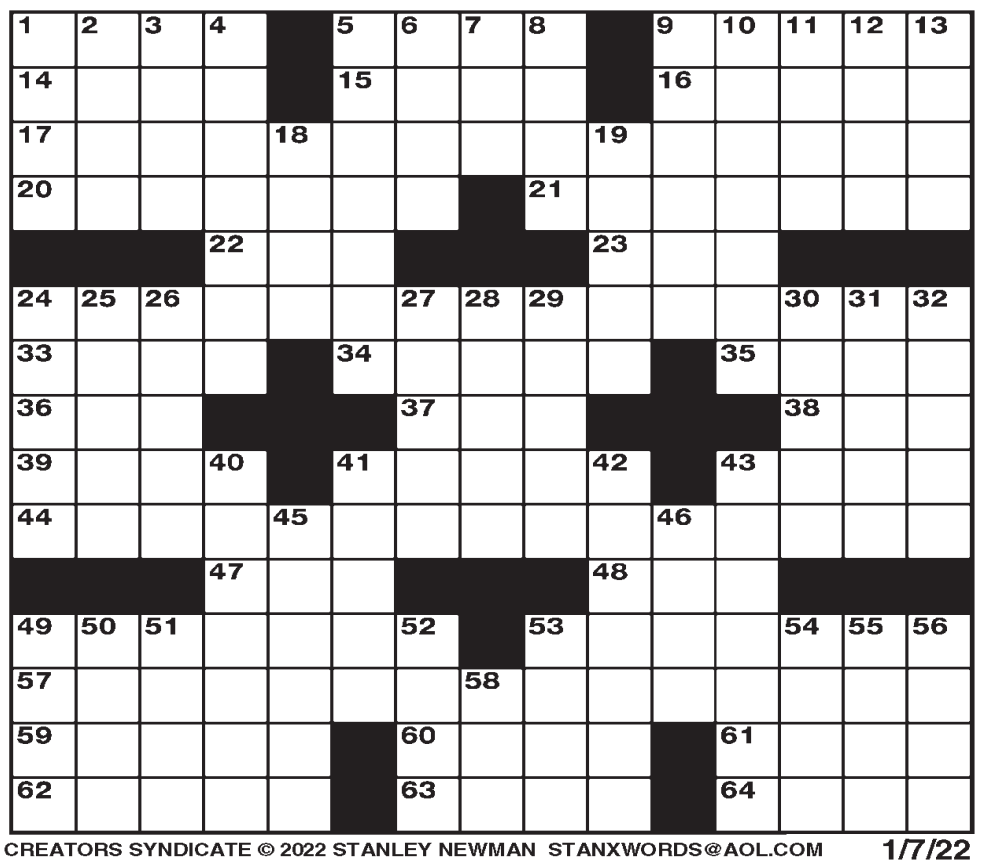
			9		5		4	
7		9		1		3		5
		8		2				
	8				1			
2		5	3	9	8	6		4
			6				5	
				6		4		
9		1		4		2		7
	2		7		9			

Newsday Crossword

GOING TO SLEEP by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Wide mouths
5 Fortitude, so to speak
9 Five Pillars belief
14 Vocal showcase
15 "Flight" starter
16 Micronesian nation
17 GOING, __ . . .
20 Metallic IDs
21 Speculations
22 Ending like -oid
23 GPS reading
24 17 Across, continued
33 Man, in Milan
34 Aegean island
35 All, at first
36 Alphabetic trio
37 Arborist's woe
38 "You stink!"
39 Frozen fruit-flavored treat
41 Host mail or email
43 Director's decisions
44 17 Across, continued
47 Music box
48 Tap choice
49 "We gotta go"
53 Patch plaster
57 . . . __, SLEEP
59 Do not exist
60 Disk-shaped snack
61 Abbey area
62 Heats up in a hurry
63 Amalgamates
64 Web presence

DOWN
1 "Designate a Driver" org.
2 Buck ender
3 Star of the *Ghostbusters* remake
4 __ "Sonny" Corleone
5 Small conveniences
6 Auto reversals
7 Quarter of dodeca-
8 Performance done in bars
9 Key concept in criminal law
10 "Oh yeah?"
11 San __ Obispo, CA
12 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
13 Vessels in bars
18 Circle of friends
19 Sticky residues
24 Long blouse
25 Bootlegger's product
26 NASCAR Hall of Fame designer
27 Unduly cruel
28 Chess player's "It's my turn"
29 Potentially objectionable
30 Saturate (with)
31 Grand fraction
32 Stand at a fair
40 Triangle descriptor
41 What 46 Down suggest you save
42 Certain resort teachers
43 Does a Cuban dance
45 Disappearing department stores
46 Many paid preparers
49 Offer to assist
50 NO __ TRAFFIC
51 Dig for
52 Instructional website
53 Open slot
54 Foreign Legion hat
55 Out of concern that
56 Sporting weapon
58 Poor Richard preposition



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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | JAN 7

MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE OPEN
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. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. Please note masks are required while indoors. Schedule subject to change, call Guest Services at 310-458-4904 to confirm dates and hours. Annenberg Community Beach House.

SATURDAY | JAN 8

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. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LUCE PUPPET COMPANY PRESENTS: WACKY WINTER ADVENTURE
Luce Puppet Company presents the story of Pepe the Dog and Freezey the Snow Girl as they travel to the North Pole to find the Gingerbread Princess who can grant them a special wish. For families. Space is limited. To register, email ann.wilson@santamonica.gov. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Arizona Ave. (between 2nd & 4th)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PICO FARMERS MARKET
Pico Blvd. & Cloverfield Blvd.
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SUNDAY | JAN 9

4TH ANNUAL POLAR BEAR SWIM
The City of Santa Monica's Polar Bear Swim at the Annenberg Community Beach House was postponed to Sunday, January 9. While online registration for the event is full, registration for the ocean swim portion of the event is not required. Availability of walk-up passes to the pool and pool deck is anticipated the morning of the event, in limited capacity. Please contact the Beach House with any questions at (310) 458-4904 or beach.house@santamonica.gov.

MAIN ST. FARMERS MARKET
2640 Main St. (In The Victorian Parking Lot) 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY | JAN 10

LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING
The mission of the Commission is "To protect improvements and areas which represent the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the City's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people." 7 p.m.
https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/zuzkvghg or DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1 (415) 466-7000 (US), PIN 2157110 #

TUESDAY | JAN 11

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
The Zoning Administrator issues land use permits that are minor in nature and may adopt specific findings of fact to support the resulting decision, or require specific conditions. Some Zoning Administrator permits are administrative determinations, while others require a noticed public hearing. 10:30 a.m.
https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/erjtkjhz
DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1 (415) 466-7000 (US), PIN: 7933565 #

WEDNESDAY | JAN 12

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Arizona Ave. (between 4th & Ocean)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

THURSDAY | JAN 13

SMMUSD MEETING
Regular Meeting of the SMMUSD Board 5:30 p.m.

RENT CONTROL REGULAR BOARD MEETING
The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. 7 p.m.

STORYTIME AT CAYTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
Join organizers for fun stories, songs, and fingerplays and, after storytime, enjoy the museum for free. Babies to Preschool. Registration is required: visit https://bit.ly/SMPLCayton. 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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

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

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Learner driver

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

Alcohol
Amps
Anger
Axle
Bikes
Bush
Caps
Close
Cope
Exhaust
Expect
Fail
Fear
Fees
Flat
Free
Fuel
Garage
Hesitation
Hill
Horn
Idle
Jams
Keen
Lift
Lights
Lines
Oil
Pass
Pins
Plug
Points
Practice
Radiator
Rest
Rims
Road
Roof
Runner
Safety belt
Sedans
Shaft
Signal
Slow
Spare
Speed
Start
Stop
Tank
Tram
Trial
Turn
Tyre
Utes
Valve
View

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Cross country road train

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

COVID-19

FROM PAGE 1

According to Ferrer, the Department of Health Services — a separate county department from DPH — was working to get take-home test kits distributed to county testing sites.

"My understanding is the Department of Health Services that runs that program is rapidly switching to making those in-home test kits available at the department's and the county's testing sites," Ferrer said, mentioning that they could be available as early as Friday — but she wasn't sure.

"My understanding is, that should be available tomorrow, but go to the testing website to get both the locations where that's happening, and also information to just verify that those kits will be there by tomorrow," Ferrer said. "I'm pretty sure they are."

As of Thursday afternoon, the county's testing website did not indicate if or when in-home test kits would be distributed at any of its sites.

As for residents who requested tests before the pause, Ferrer said she did not know whether those tests would ever be mailed.

DPH had been advertising the program on its social media pages and press releases as recently as Monday and did not make a formal announcement of the program's "temporary pause" outside of Ferrer's statements on Thursday.

Ferrer's advice to symptomatic people who are unable to secure test appointments and who have not, and perhaps will not, receive at-home test kits: behave as if you have COVID.

"Go ahead, try to get a test. But if you can't get that test, please don't decide [that] because you didn't get tested, you don't have COVID and you don't have to stay home," Ferrer said. "If you've got symptoms, we do ask, while we're trying to increase testing capacity and make it much easier for everyone who needs a test to get a test, you please stay home while you're symptomatic. And hopefully, now over the next few days, you're going to see better access to testing in the county."

When it comes to new COVID-19 statistics, hospitalizations are up, deaths are up and new cases are way, way up. But there are indications this winter's surge may not be as devastating as last year's, according to Ferrer.

During the Thursday briefing, Ferrer detailed the latest statistics in the county's prolonged fight against the coronavirus pandemic, including the fact that 37,000 county residents tested positive for the virus on Wednesday.

Multiple news agencies have reported this week that a large proportion of the total number of COVID-19 cases reported in area hospitals were detected once patients were admitted to the hospital, meaning they were not admitted due to COVID symptoms.

"In early November, pre Omicron, you can see about 75 percent of hospitalized patients who were testing positive for COVID were hospitalized for medical problems that were related to their COVID diagnosis, leaving about a quarter of the hospitalized patients with a positive COVID test and having their COVID diagnosis really incidental to their hospitalization," Ferrer said during the Thursday briefing. "Now, however, in December — late December — we're estimating that the percent of people hospitalized for COVID illnesses declined to about 45 percent, meaning that more than half of the COVID-positive hospitalized patients are in the hospital for non-COVID-related illness, and would likely have been hospitalized regardless of their COVID status."

The proportion of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients remained less than 10 percent, compared to more than 50 percent used during last winter's surge before vaccines were widely available.

That was one piece of good news in an overall dire press briefing in which Ferrer predicted an ongoing surge that would trend upward for "at least the next two weeks." Ferrer also acknowledged that hospitalizations and deaths were lagging indicators, meaning they tended to go up days or weeks after case rates began to rise.

The most important factor in limiting the spread of the virus and keeping hospital beds open is vaccinating and getting booster shots, Ferrer said.

"As you can see, daily cases have risen steeply from about 27,000 cases a day on New Year's Eve to now, today, 37,215," Ferrer said. "Meanwhile, reported daily deaths, which dipped over the weekend due to the lag of weekend reporting, have now increased from about 12 on Dec. 31 to 30 being reported today."

In the face of rising case rates, Ferrer said the county had taken some steps to stem further spread, including requiring employers to provide surgical or medical masks to any employees who work in proximity to other people (either members of the public or fellow employees) and limiting indoor "mega events" to a maximum of 500 people.

When asked by a reporter about the upcoming Super Bowl, scheduled to take place at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood on Sunday, Feb. 13 — with a slew of events scheduled here in Santa Monica — Ferrer said she was confident that organizers were taking the necessary precautions to allow the game to proceed.

"We've had an amazingly successful partnership with SoFi Stadium. I think they're one of the leaders around the country in providing safety solutions during a pandemic," Ferrer said. "It will be challenging if the surge continues into February, but I do think we're working closely with both the NFL and SoFi Stadium to have a wonderful Super Bowl here, with the appropriate safety precautions that will keep fans safe and our community safe."

LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, who was also on the call, stressed the importance of following health orders.

"My plea is to all of those locals and those who will travel to Inglewood to SoFi Stadium for the Super Bowl that you follow our health orders, and that you mask," Mitchell said. "I would encourage people to get vaccinated and boosted before they come. We shouldn't assume that individual decisions don't have the greatest impact in the spread of this virus."

Up-to-date information on COVID-19 testing is available at covid19.lacounty.gov/testing.

emily@smdp.com

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

welcome to sign up, organizers wrote that they prefer volunteers form their own teams of 3-4 people "who are already part of your 'pandemic bubble' or that you would otherwise feel comfortable riding with in one car." Teams may be assigned to walk two to three miles; anyone who is not able to walk that distance may notify organizers prior to the event.

Vaccinations are required for all volunteers except those who qualify for a medical/disability or religious exemption (who must notify organizers no later than Jan. 10)— anyone whose exemption is approved must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours before the count begins.

Speaking to the Daily Press in November, Maggie Willis, Human Services Administrator, Community Services, emphasized safety measures put in place for volunteers.

"We just want to assure people that we're going to take all the steps we can to make sure that we do this in a way that's safe and adheres to the best public health standards," Willis said at the time.

Organizers also emphasized that no particular skills or previous experience was required and anyone ages 18 and up was welcome to join, or teens ages 16-17 accompanied by a parent/guardian.

"Volunteer training will be provided in advance on a virtual platform and count materials will be distributed at the deployment site on the night of the Count," a description provided by the city stated. "This is a visual count only. You will not be asked to engage with or interact with persons that appear to be homeless."

Because there was no count last year, Willis explained in an email, the 2020 numbers helped inform the city's approach to addressing homelessness. Demands created by the pandemic also made having specific numbers less pivotal, Willis added.

"Due to the critical need to help vulnerable unsheltered people stay safe and healthy, efforts in 2020 were less informed by numbers and more focused on getting people basic needs like food and water, hygiene supplies, PPE, and temporary restrooms and wash stations, as well as securing motel rooms for people at high-risk of COVID," Willis wrote.

The most recent homeless count, which took place on Jan. 22, 2020, tallied 907 people experiencing homelessness in Santa Monica, according to data provided by the City. That was an eight percent decrease over the previous year's count, when 985 individuals were counted.

In contrast, LAHSA's overall count in 2020 (encompassing all of LA County except Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach) registered 63,706 individuals, a 13 percent increase from 2019. LAHSA is also seeking volunteers for its county-wide count this year.

This year's results, which are to be released alongside LAHSA's regional count, are expected in the late spring or early summer.

In 2020, about 350 volunteers came aboard to help out, and Willis said this year they were looking for 300 volunteers to step up and participate in the event.

More information on the count is available at santamonica.gov/santa-monica-homeless-count.

emily@smdp.com

LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 6

Jerry turned his life's terrible tragedies into valuable life lessons that molded his character.

Not only was I fortunate to be a friend of Jerry's, I was also lucky to get to know his friends many of whom he met as a student at our renowned Emeritus College. It's said you can judge a person's life by the quality of friends they have cultivated. Locally and in Colorado, Washington and New York, Jerry's are a diverse group of extraordinary people with big hearts, and a profound admiration and love for the soon-to-be centenarian and proud recipient of the Santa Monica City Council Commendation, Jerome Rosenblum.

Jerry's memoir, "An Angel On My Shoulder," is available on Amazon but also in our library. (I just hope, like the Commendation, there aren't any typos in posterity in that either.)

Due to a management decision, starting March 12, Laughing Matters has been cut back to every other Friday. Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

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