smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Laughing Matters
Happy Birthday Jerry.
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Homeless deaths
Drugs fuel the increase.
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Christmas Candy



R.A. Pickett

CANDY: The Santa Monica Elks 906 and Venice American Legion 177 took candy wreaths to the nurses at the West LA VA hospital for Christmas. Pictured from left to right Legion Commander and Marine Corp Vet Frank Romleski and Elks Vet chairman and Navy Vet Frank H. Frazier.

County, City leaders call on public to take COVID-19 precautions

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

A dozen people died in Santa Monica last week as a result of COVID-19 and local leaders are calling on the public to take every precaution possible as the County nears 900,000 cases.

Ten months passed before L.A. County hit 400,000 recorded cases of COVID-19 on Nov. 30, 2020, but the caseload has since doubled in a little more than a month, according to Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer, who was one of the many voices expressing a need to avoid leaving home as much as possible in the coming weeks.

"Right now, the infection level in Santa Monica is out of control and our hospitals are overwhelmed. If you want to live to see the end of this — and it will end — you simply have to stay home now," councilmember Kevin McKeown said on social media this week with a serious tone, which took a few viewers off-guard.

"Apparently, my vehemence caught people by surprise, and I'm glad," McKeown added

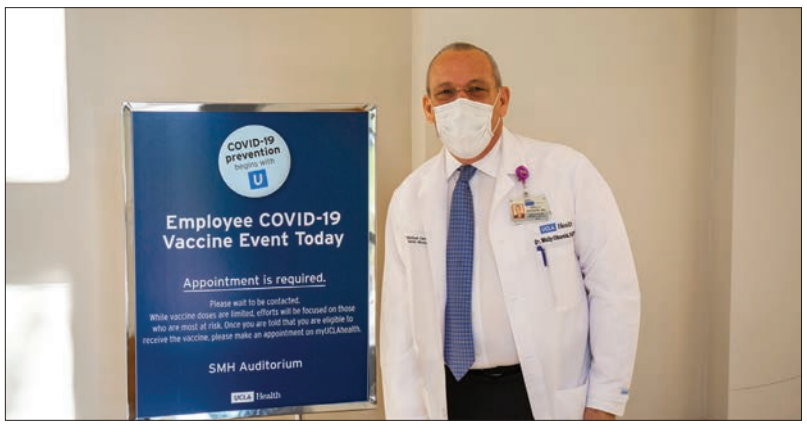
SEE **COUNTY** PAGE 7

HOSPITAL	% ALL HOSPITAL BEDS OCCUPIED	% ICU BEDS OCCUPIED
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	91%	124%
Providence Saint John's Health Center	93%	97%
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center	89%	93%
Santa Monica – UCLA Medical Center	83%	94%

Courtesy image

BEDS: Local intensive care units are at or near capacity.

Essential: Emergency Medicine Doctor Walid Ghurabi



Courtesy photo

DOCTOR: Dr. Walid Ghurabi works at UCLA in the emergency room.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Daily Press has launched a series of interviews with essential workers who are working bravely and diligently to keep the Santa Monica community functioning.

Walid Ghurabi is an emergency medicine doctor serving on the frontlines of the Covid pandemic at UCLA Health Santa Monica where

SEE **ESSENTIAL** PAGE 11

AD50 delegate slate seeks to bring Santa Monican progressivism to Sacramento



Courtesy image

ELECTION: Several Santa Monicans are running to represent locals in the State Democratic Party.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Fourteen local leaders organizing as the "Progressive Slate" want residents to know there's a California election on the horizon.

This group of community activists, including Mayor Sue Himmelrich, are urging all Santa Monicans to register and consider voting for them to represent Assembly District 50 in the Democratic party.

California voters will elect representatives from all Assembly districts this month and those individuals will shape the State party's priorities.

SEE **DELEGATE** PAGE 11


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California sees two-day record of coronavirus deaths

CHRISTOPHER WEBER AND DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California health authorities reported Thursday a record two-day total of 1,042 coronavirus deaths as many hospitals strain under unprecedented caseloads

The state Department of Public Health's website listed 583 new deaths, a day after 459 deaths. The previous two-day record total was 1,013 deaths at the end of December.

California's death toll since the start of the pandemic rose to 28,045.

The state's hospitals are trying to prepare for the possibility that they may have to ration care for lack of staff and beds — and hoping they don't have to make that choice.

California avoided surging cases for months, but now the virus is raging out of control there and across the nation in the wake of Thanksgiving holiday gatherings that authorities say vastly spread infections. Only Arizona tops California in cases per resident.

A travel advisory issued Wednesday "strongly discouraged" people from out of state from entering California. It also said Californians should avoid traveling more than 120 miles from home except for essential purposes.

The state's previous advisory, issued in November, encouraged people to stay home or within their region without giving a specific range in miles. It outlined quarantine guidelines for out-of-state travelers but did not explicitly discourage travel.

California this week ordered hospitals in the hardest-hit areas to delay many elective surgeries in order to free up space.

In Los Angeles County, Methodist Hospital of Southern California convened an in-house triage team that makes daily evaluations "about the severity of critically ill patients that allows us to distribute resources to those who need it the most," chief strategy officer Cliff Daniels said.

The hospital isn't rationing care "and we hope we don't get there," Daniels said.

However, guidelines posted on the hospital's website warn: "If a patient becomes extremely ill and very unlikely to survive their illness (even with life-saving treatment), then certain resources ... may be allocated to another patient who is more likely to survive."

Los Angeles County, the nation's most populous with 10 million residents, is one of nearly two dozen in Southern California and the agricultural Central Valley that have essentially run out of intensive care unit beds for COVID-19 patients.

Health officials warned Wednesday that hospitalizations will continue for at least the next three weeks as people who ignored social distancing rules to gather for Christmas and New Year's Eve fall ill.

Hospitals statewide with room have been told to accept patients from others that have exhausted their ICU beds but in fact most of the state is reporting struggling to provide ICU beds, with non-COVID-19 patients spilling into corridors, tents and cafeterias.

To the north, officials in Santa Clara County, with about 2 million residents, say 100 infected people a day are winding up in hospitals.

"And as awful as it is, it could get worse," said Dr. Ahmad Kamal, the county's director of Healthcare System Preparedness. "We haven't had a situation where two people are out of breath and one person gets a ventilator. We could get there."

More than a quarter-million new weekly cases portended a continued overwhelming crush.

Vaccinations being administered at what Gov. Gavin Newsom has said is too slow a pace will take weeks or months to slow the spread.

About 12% of people who test positive for COVID-19 eventually are likely to need hospital care, authorities have estimated.

"The numbers are extraordinary," said Carmela Coyle, president and CEO of the California Hospital Association. "We're not going to dodge this math. We need the state's help."

State officials also should override decisions by many county health officers that prevent recovering coronavirus patients from being released to skilled nursing facilities, despite fears that they could spread the virus, Coyle said.

"Focus on nothing other than saving lives for the next few weeks," Coyle said.

L.A. County, which is recording more than 200 deaths a day, has seen a rate of new COVID-19 cases nearly double that of December, health officials said.

More than 8,000 people are hospitalized with COVID-19 — with a fifth of them in intensive care — and more than a third of adult hospital beds are occupied by virus patients, said Barbara Ferrer, the county public health director.

"This is a health crisis of epic proportions," Ferrer said.

Thompson reported from Sacramento. Associated Press reporters Bob Jablon in Los Angeles, Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Olga Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed.



Social platforms flex their power, lock down Trump accounts

DAVID KLEPPER AND MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

After years of treating President Donald Trump's inflammatory rhetoric with a light touch, Facebook and Instagram are silencing his social media accounts for the rest of his presidency. The move, which many called long overdue following Wednesday's deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, is also a reminder of the enormous power that social-media platforms can wield when they choose.

Facebook and Instagram said Thursday they will bar Trump from posting at least until the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden. Twitter said that it's still evaluating whether to lift or extend what started as a 12-hour lockdown of Trump's account.

It remains unclear how the platforms will handle Trump once he leaves office and is no longer shielded from enforcement of most rules by his status as a world leader. And some critics saw the moves as cynical efforts by the companies to position themselves for a post-Trump future.

"They no longer have to fear Donald Trump," said Rashad Robinson of Color of Change, a group that has pushed tech companies to do more to rein in hate speech. He said Facebook's action was "in the best interest of Facebook" and a way to curry favor with the incoming Democratic president and Congress.

In announcing the unprecedented move, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said the risk of allowing Trump to use the platform is too great following the president's incitement of a mob on Wednesday. Zuckerberg said Trump's account will be locked "for at least the next two weeks" and possibly indefinitely.

"The shocking events of the last 24 hours clearly demonstrate that President Donald Trump intends to use his remaining time in office to undermine the peaceful and lawful transition of power to his elected successor, Joe Biden," Zuckerberg wrote.

Trump has repeatedly harnessed the power of social media to spread falsehoods about election integrity and the results of the presidential race. Platforms like Facebook have occasionally labeled or even removed some of his posts, but the overall response has failed to satisfy a growing number of critics who say the platforms have enabled the spread of dangerous misinformation.

In light of Wednesday's riot, however, Zuckerberg said a more aggressive approach is needed because of the "use of our platform to incite violent insurrection against a democratically elected government."

Instagram, which is owned by Facebook, will also block Trump's ability to post on its platform. YouTube, owned by Google, announced more general changes that will penalize accounts spreading misinformation about voter fraud in the 2020 election, with repeat offenders facing permanent removal.

Twitch, the live-streaming site owned by Amazon and used by Trump's campaign to stream speeches, disabled Trump's account until he leaves office, saying it didn't want to be used "to incite further violence." Companies outside the social media world also scrambled to take stock of how they'd been used by those who swarmed the Capitol. E-commerce company Shopify shut down two online Trump memorabilia stores for promoting people or organizations "that threaten or condone violence to further a cause."

But it was Twitter where Trump was likely to feel the effects most. The company locked his accounts for 12 hours after he repeatedly posted false accusations about the integrity of the election. Trump more than a decade ago embraced the platform's immediacy and scale to rally loyalists, castigate enemies and spread false rumors.

The suspension was set to expire sometime Thursday; the president had not yet resumed tweeting as of Thursday afternoon. A company spokesman said Twitter could take further action as it kept track of "activity on the ground and statements made off Twitter."

The platforms continued to face criticism from users who blamed them, in part, for creating an online environment that led to Wednesday's violence.

"Today is the result of allowing people with hate in their hearts to use platforms that should be used to bring people together," singer and actress Selena Gomez wrote on Twitter to her 64 million followers. "You have all failed the American people today, and I hope you're going to fix things moving forward."

Sen. Mark Warner, the incoming chair of the Senate intelligence committee, on Thursday called Facebook, Twitter and Google "collaborators" in Trump's assault on U.S. democracy. "And their 11th-hour conversion now to suddenly take down Trump's Facebook or Twitter feed is way too little too late," the Virginia Democrat said during an Aspen Digital online forum.

A message left with the White House on Thursday was not returned.

The platforms' actions followed years in which they hemmed and hawed over the dangerous misinformation and violent rhetoric Trump and his supporters have spread, contributing to Wednesday's violence.

On Wednesday, the companies focused on a video Trump posted more than two hours after protesters entered the Capitol, interrupting lawmakers meeting in an extraordinary joint session to confirm the Electoral College results and President-elect Joe Biden's victory. Republican lawmakers and previous administration officials had begged Trump to give a statement to his supporters to quell the violence.

While Trump told supporters that "you have to go home now," he also repeated false claims about voter fraud affecting the election. He then added: "We can't play into the hands of these people. We have to have peace. So go home. We love you. You're very special."

Twitter, Facebook and YouTube all said they removed the video Wednesday, citing its misinformation or dangerous rhetoric.

In a statement Thursday morning, Trump said there would be an "orderly transition on January 20th" and acknowledged defeat in the election for the first time. His aides posted the statement on Twitter because the president's account remained suspended.

Monica Stephens, a professor at the

SEE **SOCIAL** PAGE 11

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 207 CALLS ON JANUARY 6

72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2000blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:07 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pl 1:40 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:49 a.m.
Open Door 1600blk Wilshire Blvd 4:52 a.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 1300blk Idaho Ave 5:04 a.m.
Encampment 800blk Palisades Beach Rd 6:43 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2700blk Washington Ave 6:53 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk The Beach 6:57 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk The Beach 6:57 a.m.
Arson 4th St / Pico Blvd 7:07 a.m.
Encampment 2900blk The Beach 7:21 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 900blk Marine St 7:26 a.m.
Fraud Report 500blk Ocean Ave 7:35 a.m.
Found Property 1400blk Yale St 7:37 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk 17th St 7:59 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 700blk California Ave 8:15 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1000blk Ocean Ave 8:17 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 800blk 7th St 8:46 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk Euclid St 9:14 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:31 a.m.
Fraud Report 1000blk 5th St 9:48 a.m.
Burglary Report 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 9:57 a.m.
Encampment 800blk Bay St 10:28 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2200blk 20th St 10:38 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk Euclid St 10:48 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400blk Washington Ave 11:00 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 900blk Ocean Ave 11:13 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1500blk Ocean Ave 11:14 a.m.
Attempt Auto Theft Report 1700blk 14th St 11:25 a.m.
Rape Report 1300blk 2nd St 11:36 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 800blk 10th St 11:37 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 11:38 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 4th St / Arizona Ave 11:43 a.m.
Family Disturbance 1500blk Yale St 11:52 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Palisades Park 11:59 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:21 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1500blk The Beach 12:37 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:17 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2100blk Ocean Ave 1:17 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk Berkeley St 1:33 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1200blk Franklin St 2:06 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 600blk Bay St 2:07 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 200blk California Ave 2:21 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 2:37 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk Euclid St 2:40 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 500blk Colorado Ave 3:08 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800blk 7th St 3:24 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2100blk Ocean Ave 3:30 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 00blk Arcadia Ter 3:34 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 3100blk Lincoln Blvd 4:00 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 200blk Marguerita Ave 4:01 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1900blk Stewart St 4:16 p.m.
Public Intoxication 2000blk 20th St 4:27 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 4:28 p.m.
Panic Alarm 700blk San Vicente Blvd 5:06 p.m.
Encampment 500blk Wilshire Blvd 5:18 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 300blk Colorado Ave 5:24 p.m.
Burglary Report 1900blk 11th St 5:33 p.m.
Encampment 2100blk Dorchester Ave 5:35 p.m.
Found Property 200blk 20th St 6:29 p.m.
Domestic Violence Report 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 6:49 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 6:53 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:41 p.m.
Battery Report 1800blk Montana Ave 7:42 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 18th St / Ocean Park Blvd 8:55 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 18th St / Ocean Park Blvd 8:58 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 9:25 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 9:47 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400blk Wilshire Blvd 10:58 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1400blk 2nd St 11:53 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 21 CALLS ON JANUARY 6

EMS 500blk San Vicente Blvd 3:17 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100blk 4th St 4:34 a.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 6:41 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:37 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 1300blk 2nd St 8:26 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 9:56 a.m.
EMS 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:24 a.m.
EMS 3100blk Neilson Way 12:23 p.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 12:44 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 12:49 p.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 2:09 p.m.
EMS 200blk Montana Ave 2:59 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1100blk 10th St 3:51 p.m.
Wires Down 100blk California Ave 4:40 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 4:49 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 4:52 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Washington Ave 5:08 p.m.
EMS 900blk Wilshire Blvd 5:23 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Michigan Ave 7:21 p.m.
Wires Down 1000blk 2nd St 7:59 p.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:35 p.m.

Round 3: Seahawks host division rival Rams to open playoffs

TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

In the immediate aftermath of clinching a return to the playoffs, Aaron Donald made perfectly clear he was thrilled to be getting his wish.

The Los Angeles Rams defensive star wanted another shot at Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks.

"They got the division, and they were happy about that. And now they have to see us again, a third time," Donald said. "When you're playing a team that you see twice a year, you've kind of got a feel for each other. They know what you're going to do, we know what they are going to do. It's pretty much man on man, and the best team should win. So there's no better way than that to start it off."

For the second time in three weeks, the Rams and Seahawks will clash on Saturday, this time in the opening round of the NFC playoffs. It's a matchup overflowing with familiarity and a history of close games not decided until the fourth quarter.

But there is uncertainty this time around. The Rams (10-6) have not said whether starting quarterback Jared Goff or backup John Wolford will be under center to face the Seahawks.

Goff injured his thumb in the second half of Seattle's 20-9 win over the Rams in Week 16. Surgery to repair the injury left Goff a spectator last Sunday while Wolford directed an 18-7 win over Arizona to clinch the Rams' postseason berth.

And now? It's been a smoke screen of gamesmanship by Rams coach Sean McVay about which of his quarterbacks — or both, potentially — will be trying to solve a Seahawks defense that held Los Angeles to less than 10 points for only the sixth time in McVay's tenure less than 14 days ago.

"You talk to Jared and then you'd kind of just take it a day at a time," McVay said. "I know that he's in the mindset and the mentality of trying to prepare himself to get ready to play a game."

Seattle (12-4) will be hosting a playoff game for the first time since January 2017, the last time the Seahawks claimed the NFC West title. They were carried to the division title not by an otherworldly season from Russell Wilson, although he was very good. But it was Seattle's defense making a 180-degree flip from the beginning of the season that led the Seahawks' late charge.

Seattle allowed just 16 points per game over the final eight games, the best in the league. The Seahawks had 37 of their 46 sacks for the season over the final 10 games.

If Seattle is going to make a run in the postseason, Wilson will play his role. But how long the Seahawks stay around will be determined by Jamal Adams, Bobby Wagner and others.

"We've got to make it our mission to do the same thing," Seattle linebacker K.J. Wright said. "We had a great game against them two weeks ago and so we've got to make it our mission to repeat that and have another successful game."

GETTING BETTER

Whether or not Goff plays, the Rams should be getting even more help for their flagging offense, which hasn't scored a touchdown in two games. Left tackle Andrew Whitworth plans to return after being out since he tore ligaments in his knee during the Seahawks' visit two months ago. Cooper Kupp, the Rams' leader in receptions and yards receiving, also should be back in the lineup after missing last week's game on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Whitworth could provide a boost to an offensive line that struggled in the run game last week.

HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE?

Seattle has won 10 straight home playoff games. It's last home postseason loss came in 2004 when the Seahawks fell to the Rams 27-20 in a wild-card round game.

But this will be a playoff game unlike any of the rest, with Seattle's notorious home fans absent due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Seahawks have played the entire home slate without fans and went 7-1, their best home record since 2016. Seattle was a combined 14-10 at home between 2017-19.

"I miss the stadium shaking literally on the field while you're standing there," Wilson said.

GETTING DEFENSIVE

The Rams' defense was the best in the NFL by most statistical measures this season, finishing tops in both total yards allowed and points allowed while boasting the No. 1 pass defense as well. Those numbers aren't tremendous comfort against the Seahawks, who have already seen this defense twice. The Seahawks are averaging 27 points per game in the Rams' last three visits to Seattle.

CATCHING ON

While DK Metcalf and Tyler Lockett had a record-setting season for Seattle, neither has found much success against the Rams. The pair each had a combined eight catches over the two games against LA this season. Going back to last season after Jalen Ramsey was acquired, neither receiver has found the end zone in three games.

Wilson's only TD pass against the Rams since Ramsey's arrival came in the fourth quarter two weeks ago when he hit tight end Jacob Hollister for the clinching score.

AP Sports Writer Greg Beacham contributed to this report.

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Letter to the Editor

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Defund the police

Editor

We say "defund the police" in part because of unequal justice under the law.

National Public Radio reports Thursday morning that only 52 people were arrested of Trump's D.C. mob storming the Capitol, Wednesday.

Virtually all of the fascist thugs that broke into and ransacked the Capitol were allowed to freely exit and go on their way by the police.

In fact, videos show D.C. police opening gates to the terrorists to invade and ransack the Capitol: some taking selfies with the"protesters" in the process.

Compare this how lefty sit-ins and other peaceful protest is handled. These protesters are sometimes literally swept up in plastic nets, or grabbed and carted off brutally, to jail.

Defund the police, and put those enormous resources to good humanitarian use.

Sincerely, Andrew Liberman Santa Monica

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

Deaths Increase Among the Homelessness Population

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) announces deaths amongst people experiencing homelessness (PEH) increased to a record 1,267 in 2019 and drug overdose was the leading cause with the greatest Increase. In 2018, there were 1,114 deaths among people experiencing homelessness.

This is a second annual report on mortality among people experiencing homelessness in LA County and includes new data for 2019 and part of 2020. In 2020, the overall mortality rate increased only slightly due to an even greater increase in the total number of PEH. However, the drug overdose mortality rate increased substantially during the same period.

Drug overdoses have been the leading cause of death among PEH in LA County since 2017 and the overdose rate increased by 84% between 2016 and 2019. For the combined years of 2017 to 2019, PEH were 36 times more likely to die of drug overdose than people in the general population. For each of those years the overdose rate was highest among white PEH, but while the rate among whites has remained stable over time, the overdose death rate among Black and Latinx PEH has increased substantially.

Methamphetamine was the drug most frequently involved in overdose deaths in 2019, but fentanyl-related deaths increased significantly that year, and then doubled again during the first seven months of 2020. An early look at homeless mortality in 2020 revealed that COVID-19 had a smaller direct impact on the homeless population compared to the general population, but that overdose deaths, particularly those involving fentanyl, have increased significantly among PEH in LA County since the pandemic.

The top five leading causes of death among PEH also include coronary heart disease, traffic injuries, homicide and suicide. PEH are 4 to 17 more likely to die from these four causes compared to the general population.

"This report is tragic and reflects a true state of emergency on the streets of our community," said Supervisor Hilda Solis, co-author of the 2019 motion addressing rising homeless mortality. "Our number one duty as elected officials is to protect the health and well-being of the residents we serve, irrespective of their income and housing status. In a civil society, it is unacceptable for any of us – elected or otherwise – to ignore the shocking needs documented in this year's homeless mortality report."

"This alarming increase in homeless deaths, particularly those from drug overdoses, requires immediate action," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "As we work hard to secure housing for those experiencing homelessness, we have a civic and moral obligation to prevent unnecessary suffering and death. Public Health and our Division of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control are committed to doing everything we can to reduce drug-related deaths among people experiencing homelessness and all residents of our County."

Public Health is taking immediate steps to minimize drug-related mortality among PEH populations:

Expansion of harm reduction services such as syringe exchange programs and distribution of naloxone and fentanyl test strips.

Increasing access to supportive housing for PEH receiving SUD services.

Launch of Los Angeles County Methamphetamine Task Force to take a coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing the methamphetamine crisis.

Workforce training to promote the use of Medications for Addiction Treatment.

Development of a resource guide and mobile-friendly web application to facilitate access to substance use disorder treatment services.

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH

Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

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Lawmakers discuss ousting Trump, possible impeachment

ZEKE MILLER AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

Lawmakers of both parties raised the prospect Thursday of ousting President Donald Trump from office, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that if he wasn't removed, the House may move forward with a second impeachment.

Though Trump has less than two weeks in office, lawmakers and even some in his administration began discussing the issue Wednesday afternoon as Trump first refused to forcefully condemn the violent assault on the U.S. Capitol by a mob of his supporters, and then appeared to excuse it.

Senior Trump administration officials raised the long-shot possibility of invoking Section 4 of the 25th Amendment — the forceful removal of Trump from power by his own Cabinet.

Pelosi told a news conference she is waiting for a decision from Vice President Mike Pence and other Cabinet officials. She challenged several of them by name, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

"Do they stand by these actions?" Pelosi asked. "Are they ready to say that for the next 13 days this dangerous man can do further harm to our country?"

Most Democrats, and many Republicans, put the blame squarely on Trump after hundreds of protesters bearing Trump flags and clothing broke into the Capitol on Wednesday and caused destruction and mass evacuations. The president had urged his supporters to protest as Congress was counting the electoral votes that confirmed Joe Biden's win.

Pelosi said "a threshold was crossed of such magnitude" that Trump should not be allowed to make any decisions. And if the Cabinet doesn't act, the House might, she said.

There did not appear to be public support for the move, for now, among members of Trump's Cabinet, especially after Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao resigned in protest Thursday following the Capitol attack. But officials across the government went so far as to study up on the procedures for declaring Trump "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office."

According to two people involved in the administration talks, staff-level discussions on the matter took place across multiple departments and even parts of the White House. No member of the Cabinet has publicly expressed support for the move, which would make Pence the acting president. But several were believed to be sympathetic to the notion, believing Trump is too volatile in his waning days before Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20.

Under the 25th Amendment, Trump could dispute his Cabinet's finding, but the Cabinet could quickly reaffirm its position, keeping Pence in power while the question fell to lawmakers.

As lawmakers assessed damage in the ransacked Capitol, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer also called Thursday for the Cabinet to remove him.

Schumer said the attack on the Capitol "was an insurrection against the United States, incited by the president." He said Trump "should not hold office one day longer."

Schumer said Pence and the Cabinet should invoke the 25th Amendment and immediately remove Trump from office. Otherwise, he said, it's up to Congress.

"If the vice president and the Cabinet refuse to stand up, Congress should reconvene to impeach the president," Schumer said.

While the House could quickly vote to impeach Trump, it is extremely unlikely that Congress could remove the president in the next 13 days. The Senate would have to receive the articles and then hold a trial and vote on them.

And even if it did so, the Republican Senate would be unlikely to vote to convict. Democrats are set to narrowly take the Senate when Biden is inaugurated, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell holds the gavel until then.

But in one measure of the uncomfortable position that Trump's goading of the mob had placed Republican lawmakers, there was a noteworthy lack of GOP statements attacking Democrats' calls for his removal.

Biden distanced himself from his fellow Democrats' push to oust Trump with the 25th Amendment. Andrew Bates, a spokesman for the president-elect, said Biden was focused on taking office on Jan. 20 "and will leave it to Vice President Pence, the Cabinet and the Congress to act as they see fit."

As Pelosi suggested impeachment was a possibility, three Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee announced articles of impeachment. Reps. David Cicilline of Rhode Island, Jamie Raskin of Maryland and Ted Lieu of California wrote in the articles that Trump "willfully made statements that encouraged — and foreseeably resulted in — imminent lawless action at the Capitol."

The House impeached Trump in 2019, but the Republican-led Senate acquitted him in early 2020.

At least one House Republican also called for Trump's removal. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., a frequent Trump critic, said in a video on Twitter that Trump is "unfit" and "unwell."

Kinzinger said the president "must now relinquish control of the executive branch voluntarily or involuntarily."

Former Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who's clashed with Trump for years, said he doesn't think invoking the 25th Amendment is realistic because of the support it would need from Cabinet members and because of the short time left in Trump's term. But he said in an interview that he supported the decisions both by some White House and administration officials to quit and others who are remaining "to ensure that basically the guard rails stay where they should."

Flake added: "We've got two weeks here, and let's make sure we get to the inauguration."

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Alexandra Jaffe contributed to this report.

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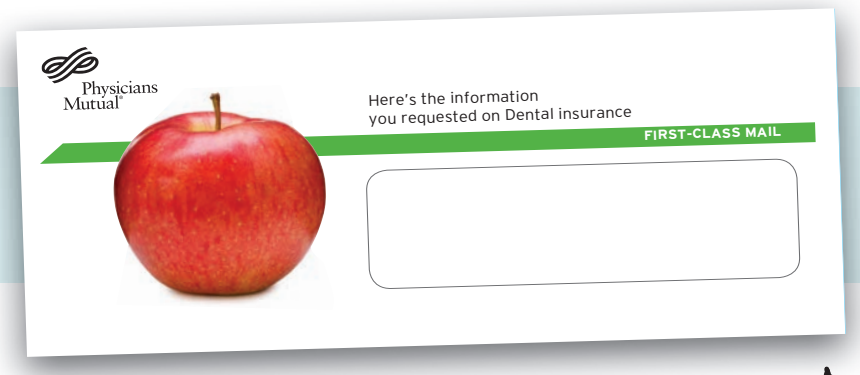
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6154-0120

Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Birthday Boy Jerry Turns 99!

On this day, ninety-nine years ago (one year short of a century!) Jerry Rosenblum, amateur singer and raconteur, was born in Brooklyn where he spent his first forty-one years before moving to Santa Monica. I've known Jerry for over a decade and he's the most optimistic person I've ever met. As he puts it, "At my age, any time above ground is gravy," adding, "I just bought 4 new tires and hope to live long enough to wear them out."

Being so sharp mentally, Jerry makes age 99 the new 66. Plus, having been in the men's clothing business for 50 years, he's always dapper. (Even his face mask matches his outfit!) Sharp of mind, sharp of dress, he's also energetic to the point he can wear me out.

For example, last summer I finally finished a year-long labor of love, co-writing Jerry's memoir, "An Angel on My Shoulder. (My First 100 years)." The story takes us all the way from his childhood memory of Charles Lindbergh's historic landing in Paris in 1927 to his 2018 special friendship with Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. On occasion I'd have Jerry over to my apartment to show him updates of what I'd written and, trust me, after three hours I'd be the one needing the nap.

Recently, a mutual friend suggested we should get his book into a local book store and Jerry was excited at the prospect. I called DIESEL a highly popular independent book store on 26th Street in the Brentwood Country Mart as I had written a review for an author who had a very successful book signing there. As I was "pitching" Jerry's book to the manager, he interrupted me, "Actually, Jerry was here when we opened and persuaded us into ordering his book. He's one special guy," he exclaimed.

Jerry's book was placed in DIESEL'S display window next to Barack Obama's "A Promised Land," which sold 890,000 copies in the first day. (Jerry's sold two but he was nonetheless beaming with pride to have his book to be next to Obama's.)

On the other side was a framed of a smiling Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez fondly holding Jerry's book. You see, in 2018 he'd written two campaign songs for her which led to a personal meeting in December 2019 in Venice at a packed "Bernie For President" rally. Like an exuberant teenager Jerry described meeting AOC as "One of the happiest days of my life!"

Jerry had big plans for promoting "Angel on My Shoulder." Though tentative, famed Strand Books in NYC was considering letting Jerry have a book signing with the slight possibility AOC would introduce him all being broadcast on CSPAN. Unfortunately, the pandemic quashed those dreams. While I was discouraged, not so Jerry, "We'll do it next year, Jack" he said in his typically upbeat way.

The pandemic also interfered with big plans for Jerry's birthday. For the past four years there had been a celebration at a Karaoke Club in Culver City coordinated by Jerry's best friend, kind-hearted Katie Miller, a beautiful millennial who met Jerry six years ago. As a volunteer, Katie was assisting seniors at Silvercrest, the Salvation Army apartment building on 5th Street, with their computers and cell phones. Jerry had neither but the two hit it off immediately. (On her Instagram page, Katie lists herself as "Jerry Rosenblum's adopted grand-daughter.")



Courtesy photo
99: Jerry Rosenblum is now 99 years old.

At the birthday bashes Jerry entertained the crowd by singing two of the fifty classic songs he knows by heart, Frank Sinatra's "That's Life" and, most appropriately for Jerry, "Young at Heart." Though Covid caused this year's party to be canceled, "glass half full" Jerry assures me "My 100th birthday will be all that much sweeter." (Years ago, Katie, set up an Instagram account for Jerry and he now has 22,000 followers so he's already received birthday cards from all over the world.)

That brings me back to "DIESEL A Bookstore," an invaluable asset to the community. Married couple Alison Reid and John Evans have owned DIESEL since 1989 but opened the Santa Monica store in 2008 where they've hosted book signings from authors including: Annie Leibovitz, John Dean, Chelsea Clinton, Katherine Schwarzenegger, John Sayles and Maryanne Williamson, to name but a few. DIESEL has been hit hard by Covid but with their Go Fund Me page and heart-warming community support, they've managed to keep staff employed and with continued health insurance.

As for Jerry's birthday, today he will be the virtual guest on a special live edition of the "Mastering Modern Midlife" video podcast hosted by Catherine Grace O'Connell. So, at this very moment Jerry's probably happily sharing stories and songs and enjoying his 99th birthday with the same joy he does every day. If you ask me, the DIESEL store manager got it right. Bless his soul, Jerry's one special guy.

For DIESEL's Go Fund Me page, Google "Help DIESEL A Bookstore keep open." "Angel on My Shoulder" is available at DIESEL, Amazon and, for Jerry's "personal curbside delivery" of a signed copy, call (310) 451-5383. With no curbside delivery, Jack is at: jackdailypress@aol.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Downtown

'Meet Me Under the Fig Tree' annual holiday donation drives benefits those in need

This holiday season has been difficult for everyone and at the Miramar it was no exception. The beloved annual Meet Me Under the Fig Tree event, with pictures with Santa, tastes of Santa Monica and snow, was canceled in order to comply with the State's Safer-at-Home order. While unable to host the in-person annual event , the Miramar team and Santa MoniCARES were determined to continue the tradition of giving that is always among the main reasons for the event.

From December 7 through December 24, the Miramar collected non-perishable food donations to benefit Westside Food Bank and partnered with Santa MoniCARES for a business clothing and blanket drive. The hotel's food drive received over 4,500 pounds of non-perishable food items, which will help provide food security to individuals and families in need. The Santa MoniCARES clothing drive resulted in over 250 pieces of clothing to be provided to Chrysalis and over 450 blankets to be provided to individuals in need in Santa Monica through People's Concern and West Coast Care.

"We really missed having the community gather under our Historic Tree this year, but we are proud that we were able to modify our annual tradition in a meaningful way and give back to those most in need in our community," said Ellis O'Connor of MSD Partners.

"With everything going on in the world and in Santa Monica, we are grateful for the Miramar's on-going support that will help hundreds of individuals and families in these most difficult times," said Genevieve Riutort, Deputy Director of Westside Food Bank. "Thank you to the Fairmont Miramar Hotel and MSD Partners for continuing this tradition despite the uncertain times that we all find ourselves in."

"Our community missed the magic of Meet Me Under the Fig Tree this year, but we are excited to continue our annual partnership with the Miramar and MSD Partners, giving back to those in need and supporting the work being done at Westside Food Bank, Chrysalis, People's Concern and West Coast Care during the holiday season," said Misti Kerns of Santa MoniCARES.

If you would still like to contribute to Westside Food Bank or Chrysalis, you can donate online at:

- https://www.wsfb.org/
- https://www.changelives.org/
- https://www.thepeopleconcern.org/give/
- https://westcoastcare.org/donate/

SUBMITTED BY ADAM ENGLANDER

COUNTY

FROM PAGE 1

Thursday. "We need to wake up to the deadly seriousness of the current phase of this pandemic. We can't further shut down our society — at least not without further legal authority from the Governor or the County Health Department — and we may never be able to get COVID-deniers to wear masks as common sense mandates. What we can each do is take personal responsibility for our actions, limit our contact with others, and, above all, don't share air."

Mayor Sue Himmelrich added in a video on Youtube that it's very important for Santa Monicans to follow the new quarantine orders.

"This is certainly not the way I had envisioned welcoming the New Year with COVID-19 continuing to infect my friends, my neighbors and anyone who crosses the virus' path," Himmelrich said as she asked all who traveled outside of Los Angeles County or participated in large gatherings to quarantine for 10 days from their return.

Ferrer discussed why it's so important for residents to adhere to the quarantine guidelines earlier this week when she met with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to discuss the progress on vaccines and the region's overloaded health care system.

Patients who are hospitalized spend an average of six to seven days, and when you have thousands and thousands of people entering the hospital each day — it's easy to understand the dangers of increased case counts, Ferrer said, noting this week's lower case counts result from a holiday weekend when most testing sites were closed but the county typically averages somewhere around 15,000 cases a day when all sites are up.

"Anywhere between 10 and 12 percent of people who test positive have ended up in our hospitals requiring hospitalization and hospital care," Ferrer added, so she and others at the county's public health department are worried cases will increase similarly to what was witnessed two to three weeks out from the Thanksgiving holiday.

"This is not a time for complacency," Santa Monica's Chief Resilience Officer and Emergency Operations Director Lindsay Call added Thursday. "This is a time for action, and the action we need is for everyone to stay home and limit all trips out of the home. Our hospitals are in crisis and we have yet to see the full impact of holiday gatherings. Please, stay home and do not invite or attend gatherings with others, even family. Please, always wear a mask when around others, even outdoors."

Ferrer said the only way to reduce case numbers significantly is to stop community transmission as much as possible. "The good news in front of us right now is we do have the tools. And we've always had the tools for the last many months that actually prevent a lot of the transmission of the virus. But everyone would have to be using them and using them all of the time."

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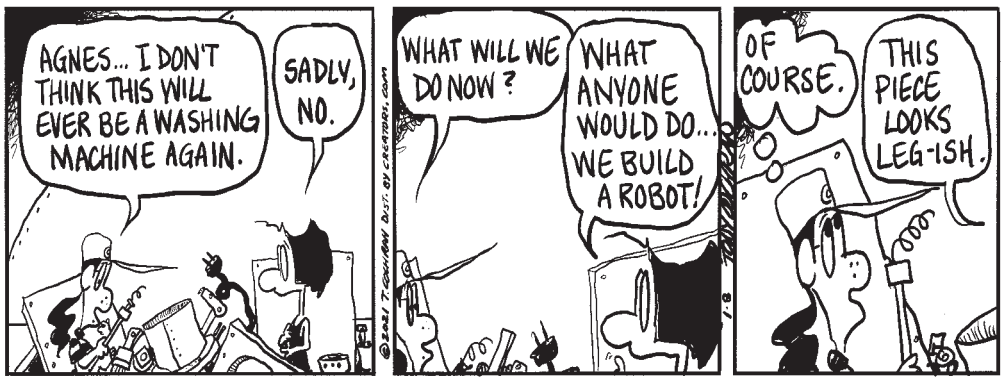
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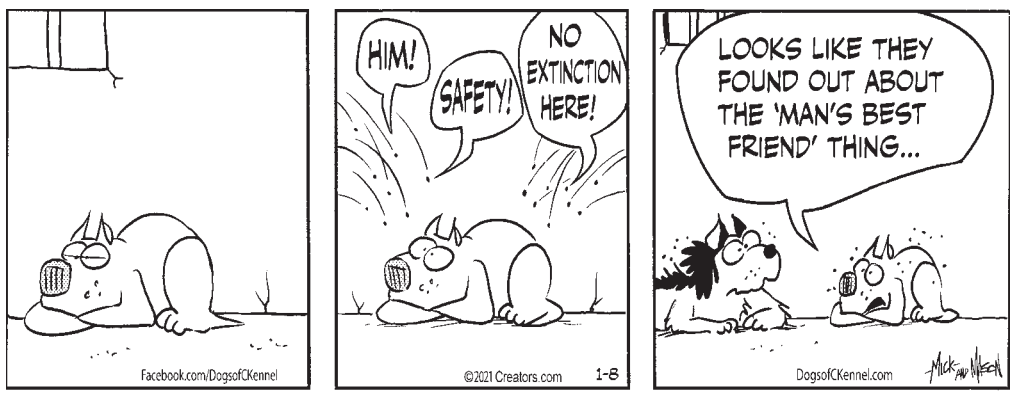
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



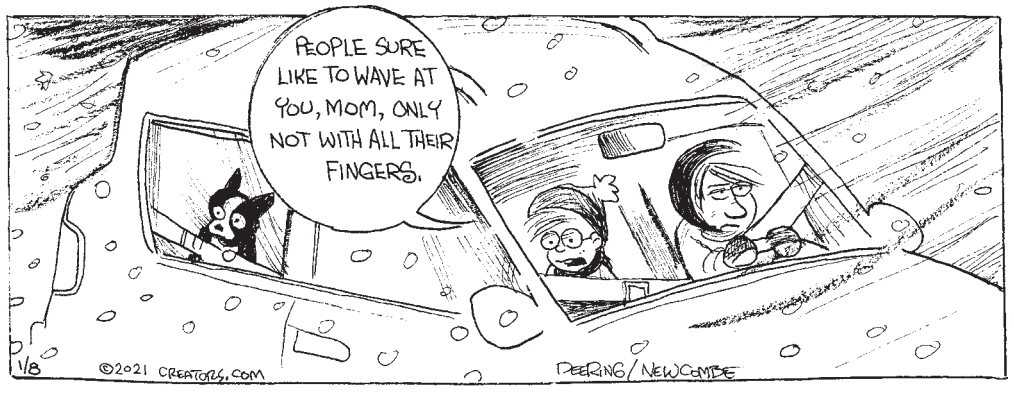
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



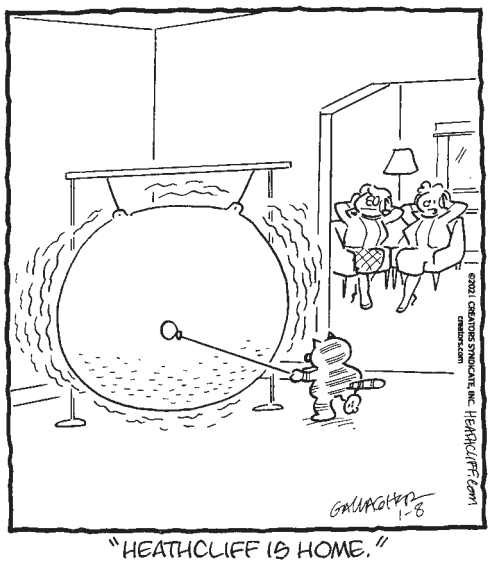
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

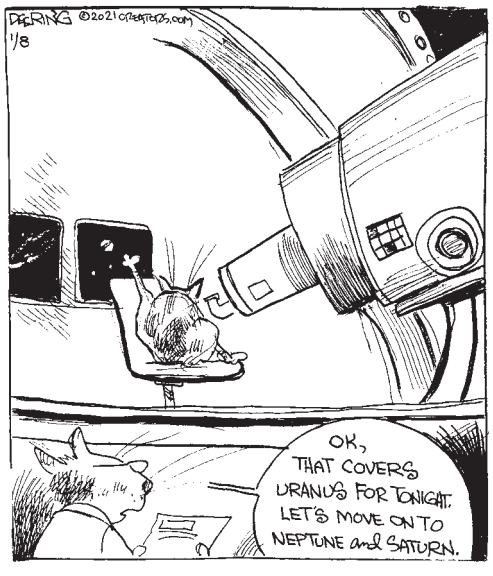
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HEATHCLIFF IS HOME."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.7°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-5ft Waist to head high
Another good size NW swell builds late in the day. Tide is a little full early then is favorable most of the day.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 4-5ft Chest to head high occ. 6 ft
Nice size NW swell tops out. Wind looking best in the morning. Slow to start the day but turning on as the tide drops through midday before onshore flow develops for the afternoon.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 66.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 69. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/01/08	Fri	04:54 AM	5.62	H
2021/01/08	Fri	12:12 PM	0.08	L
2021/01/08	Fri	6:21 PM	3.25	H
2021/01/08	Fri	11:02 PM	1.81	L
2021/01/09	Sat	05:42 AM	6.08	H
2021/01/09	Sat	1:05 PM	-0.68	L
2021/01/09	Sat	7:28 PM	3.48	H
2021/01/09	Sat	11:58 PM	1.97	L
2021/01/10	Sun	06:29 AM	6.46	H
2021/01/10	Sun	1:51 PM	-1.24	L
2021/01/10	Sun	8:20 PM	3.69	H
2021/01/11	Mon	12:50 AM	2.02	L
2021/01/11	Mon	07:15 AM	6.71	H
2021/01/11	Mon	2:35 PM	-1.57	L
2021/01/11	Mon	9:04 PM	3.84	H
2021/01/12	Tue	01:39 AM	2.00	L
2021/01/12	Tue	07:59 AM	6.79	H
2021/01/12	Tue	3:18 PM	-1.67	L
2021/01/12	Tue	9:47 PM	3.93	H
2021/01/13	Wed	02:26 AM	1.97	L
2021/01/13	Wed	08:41 AM	6.69	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 1/6
1 20 22 60 66
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 470 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 1/5
20 43 51 55 57
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 510 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 1/6
4 29 33 34 44
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 10 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 1/6
13 25 31 34 36

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 1/6
EVENING: 8 9 3
Draw Date: 1/6
MIDDAY: 1 6 6

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 1/6
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:43.51

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 08)

How are you putting your skills out there? This is the year that amplifies what you are good at, lifts your effervescent spirit into the ether and calls into the beauty of your kindreds. Together, you will be like a wave, providing a voyage, a ride, a mix-up of energies and processes. You're a proud pulse in the beautiful swell. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 22, 19 and 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What happens all of the sudden is exciting for several reasons, the foremost being that you don't have time to think. Your animal self takes over, and you do what you were designed to do.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When the student is ready, the master appears. You feel ready, and yet there is still a piece you haven't committed to yet. You'll read it, work it or do whatever needs doing. Then your teacher will arrive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Make a decision and stick with it for three days. There is no such thing as a perfect choice. Don't waste energy trying to find it. You don't know who is watching your bravery, but later, this will be significant.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Add heat or time and you'll notice that the reduction of things is unique to the object. Some things become more concentrated, some less, the universal principal being that everything changes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). They love you, but they don't know how to show you. This is a bittersweet theme that you can make all sweet by telling them what you want and need and making it easy for them to give it to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Asking for help when you need it isn't a sign of weakness; rather, it's the picture of effectiveness. Strength is the result of a willful force coming up against a worthy adversary.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Different forums have different structures. Sports favor the one with the most points. Entertainment favors the ones with the most followers. In the forum you're navigating today, charm wins, so you have the home-team advantage.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are so few people in the world who are actually funny. You discount the gift because you were born with it and it is common to you. You won't discount it today. Your humor helps people, and you'll share it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't need to reinvent the wheel here. Figure out what you did right back there, and just do more of that. It's not hard to spot. What's harder is taking the time to be with yourself, recognize and note it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your people are coming out of the woodwork. When you think about it, that is a slightly creepy concept, and yet it is the most fitting image. You're an organic creature calling to the same.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You thought you had the time to work things out, and maybe you misjudged that. It's a common problem. Things can be worked out. Just know that everything you do is being counted.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Test it. Go there. Something is going to happen — something uncomfortable, maybe even painful for a moment. But what if this is your one and only life? Whatcha got?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

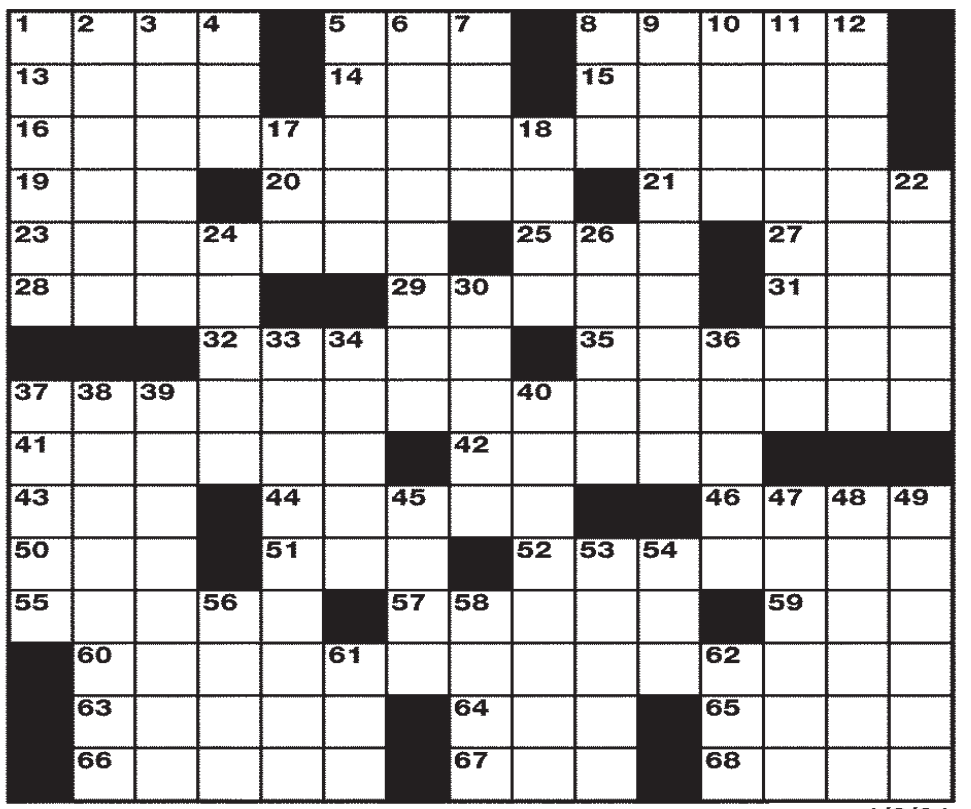
			8		4			
5		4	6		2		7	8
		2		9				
	3				1		6	
2		7		8		9		4
	4		2				8	
				2		6		
9	6		4		5	8		1
			3		8			

Newsday Crossword

SEVEN UP by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Muscle car roof
5 Focus of an Austin library
8 Street reps
13 It's blowing in the wind
14 Ex-NBAer Ming
15 ". . . sweet and __ you"
16 MAY 1961, JULY 1961
19 Not past, for short
20 Argentine soccer superstar
21 Dark brown
23 Throwback
25 Amt. that may be "level"
27 Major MO airport
28 Ready to eat
29 Obviously awed
31 Chocolate drink order
32 Chocolate in some ice cream
35 White weasel
37 MAY 1962, MAY 1963
41 Group with NYY and BOS
42 Alligator constructions
43 Tactful text intro
44 Pollster's discovery
46 Crafter's outlet
50 Hanger-outer, as at rinks
51 Perspective, initially
52 Ouzo alternative
55 *Oz* dog's "autobio"
57 *Place de l'education*
59 Sound of a sock
60 OCTOBER 1962, JULY 1975
63 Stretching, as a budget
64 Get to experience
65 Leave slowly, in a way
66 Rt. hands
67 Station dark on 12/25 and 7/4
68 It could be crying

DOWN
1 Frequent *Tonight Show* guest
2 Stop for the *Bounty*
3 2.5 miles at Indy
4 Vigor
5 Harp ancestors
6 Triple bogey on 1, e.g.
7 Prework rituals, perhaps
8 CBS smash debuting in 2000
9 Reform Party founder
10 Slacken
11 Send, factory-to-customer
12 E to F, to flautists
17 Introspective inquiry
18 Mrs. Tom Hanks
22 Refashion
24 Italian scooter
26 Proposal details
30 FEBRUARY 1962
33 Patton alma mater
34 First words
36 Scriptural mountain climber
37 Resort near Naples
38 Totally confused
39 Gets back to selling
40 Kentucky Derby prize
45 Ceaselessly
47 Go quietly
48 Metaphor for boredom
49 Betrayed boredom
53 Scarlett's mother
54 Sri Lanka harvest
56 To-day connector
58 Cotton/linen rectangles
61 NFL linemen
62 "Silent Night" adjective



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Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O
O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O
O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I
I	O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I
I	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O
O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	O
O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I
I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I
O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O
O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I
I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O
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		I				O					
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		I									
		I					O	O		O	O
					I		O	O		O	O



"The City of Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned, diligent news coverage." - Terry Francke, Journalist

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Setting up house

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

Abut	Enamel	Mortar	Soap
Batten	Fibro	Patio	Sofa
Beam	Flat	Real estate	Style
Brick	Highlight	Ridge	Tacks
Chair	Home	Rollers	Tidy
Column	House	Rooms	Tools
Contract	Inlay	Rugs	Trowel
Couch	Input	Runner	Truck
Deck	Jamb	Rural	Vase
Desk	Joint	Sash	Vendor
Dirty	Ladder	Semi	View
Door	Magnificent	Sheds	
Downpipe	Mitre	Sill	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Light and sound spectacular

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ESSENTIAL

FROM PAGE 1

he has worked since 1981. He is originally from Lebanon and worked exceedingly hard to gain his credentials, achieving a scholarship to study public health in Beirut, completing a US undergraduate degree, working in Michigan for two years to qualify for in-state tuition, and then entering medical school and completing residency. Most of Dr. Ghurabi and his wife's family members left Lebanon due to the civil war and several settled in the Santa Monica community, which the two of them love to call home.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO EMERGENCY MEDICINE?

When I was an undergraduate in Big Rapids Michigan I used to work as an orderly, which is basically a male helper in the hospital that changes bags, cleans old people, and does all the mundane things that the nurse is too busy to do. The farm accidents that we used to see there were horrendous. The blood and guts and the immediacy of doing something that saves lives is really what attracted me to emergency medicine. You can save a 40-year-old one afternoon and he can go back and be with his family providing for them and they will not lose a loved one.

WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE WORKING IN THE ER DURING THE PANDEMIC?

On the Westside in March and April the only thing we saw was less patients. Our volume dropped almost by half initially as people avoided coming to the ER because they were scared. But this past surge is very difficult to handle and emotionally it's dragging everybody down. We are basically at capacity. You see death every day and you see all varieties of age groups being sick. I also work with the City as an advisor for the fire department paramedics. I teach them all the things we are teaching folks about how to protect yourself when you are doing procedures on Covid patients.

WHAT DOES A DAY ON THE JOB LOOK LIKE RIGHT NOW?

I get up around 4:30 a.m. to be at work at 6 a.m. and I stay until 4 p.m. Yesterday seven Covid patients ended up either in the ICU or the emergency unit because all these people were not able to oxygenate.

I had to intubate (place a tube in a windpipe through mouth or nose to oxygenate lungs) a 91-year-old patient yesterday and I really felt that I wasn't doing him a great favor but the family wanted it, so I did it, and it kept me awake last night. We also use extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). We go in and put a big pipe in the seminal artery and seminal vein and put the patient on a heart lung machine. You can intubate, you can put them on high flow oxygen, and if all forms of oxygenation fail ECMO is used.

These are all things we learn from Covid, we are getting good at it, but I wish we didn't. I wish all this goes away and we go back to normal and be able to see our patients without our face masks, visors, shields, gloves and gowns on; it's really impersonal.

HOW HAS YOUR HOSPITAL ADAPTED TO COPE WITH THE CURRENT SURGE?

We were one of the earliest hospitals on the Westside that created an ER outside of our ER in our parking lot. We have patient rooms, x-rays and a waiting room all with tents, heaters and lights. We worked on it for a good six weeks way back in March, so we were ready. We have all of our Covid patients outside unless they are really sick.

WHAT DO YOU WISH PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The only thing, and I don't want to sound like a broken record, but the biggest favor you can do for all the ER doctors in Santa Monica is to please wear a mask, socially distance, wash your hands, and avoid gatherings. It gives me comfort when I go out and I see folks with masks on. I feel so happy when I see that; it's like someone is rewarding me.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING AGAIN WHEN THE PANDEMIC ENDS?

Being able to be with friends and family to enjoy a meal together. The immediate thing I am looking forward to is tomorrow, as I get my second vaccine tomorrow. I had no ill effects from the first vaccine. I did not even have a sore arm. I wish we can get it together and get everybody vaccinated as that will be the best thing we can do for our folks.

clara@smdp.com

SOCIAL

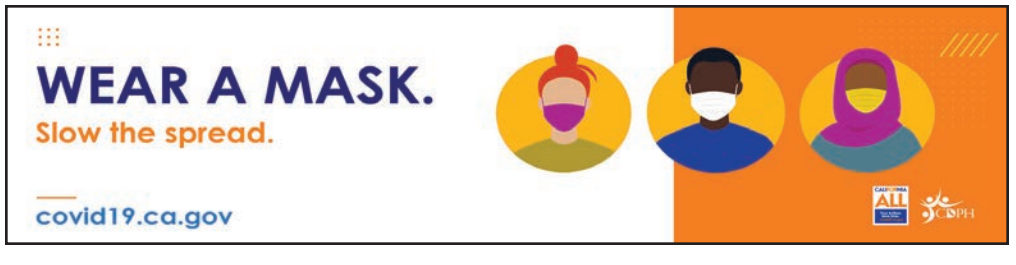
FROM PAGE 2

University of Buffalo who studies social media, said it made sense for Facebook and Twitter to try lighter forms of curbing misinformation in the months leading up to the election. "They're getting flak from both sides of the political aisle," she said.

Trump's ardent supporters have flocked to Parler, Gab and other "free speech" social media sites that cater to conservative voices. Some were used by the people who stormed the Capitol. If mainstream platforms drive discussion about violence and social protest to more marginal sites, Stephens said, "it is still going to happen; it is just going to happen where it isn't as read."

Now that platforms have imposed stiff restrictions on Trump, companies like Facebook and Twitter may find it harder to resist calls for banning other political figures who incite violence, said Shannon McGregor, an assistant professor of journalism and media at the University of North Carolina. "Because they resisted and resisted but now they've done it, it is hard to walk that back," she said.

AP writers Mae Anderson, Tali Arbel, Barbara Ortutay, Frank Bajak and Joseph Pisani contributed to this report.



DELEGATE

FROM PAGE 1

Due to the pandemic all delegate voting will be done by mail and voters must request a ballot at https://adem.cadem.org/ by Jan. 11. Though this is a lesser known election, assembly delegates play an influential role in the state Democratic Party by voting on its platform, endorsing candidates statewide, and serving on committees that guide the party's operations.

"We need strong leadership in the Democratic Party to withstand the sort of onslaughts on our democracy that we saw yesterday and to stand firm for the rights of those marginalized and left behind in our country," said Himmelrich, referring to the mob of Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol on Jan 6. "That is why I run, and why I run with this Progressive Slate of true activists."

The slate aligns itself with the progressive branch of the Democratic Party and advocates for healthcare for all, the Green New Deal, increasing affordable housing, divest/reinvest strategies in policing, strengthening public education, and ending homelessness.

Slate members include officials currently serving on Santa Monica City Council, Rent Control Board, and College Board as well as local healthcare, racial justice, and environmental activists.

"It would be beneficial for leaders from Santa Monica to bring their experience from our community and the issues we deal with on a daily basis to the state party," said SMC Board member Sion Roy. "This includes advocating for policies that help improve homelessness and housing insecurity—two major issues in Santa Monica."

Several slate members have been elected as AD50 delegates in the past, where they have served on the party finance and platform committees and pushed for affordable housing and education policies.

"My proudest accomplishment in my first term as a CDP delegate was advocating for a bill that made the second year of community college free in California. I personally got the California Democratic Party's endorsement for this bill," said slate member Isabel Storey.

This bill was later passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom, resulting in a free second year of education for Santa Monica College students and community college students across the state.

"I feel like we had an impact in the past two years. We testified on legislation and influenced the discussion on housing issues in a big way. That's our job as delegates," said Rent Control Board member Anastasia Foster.

Other slate members have experience advocating for and implementing progressive policies at a City and County level.

Angela Scott serves on the Santa Monica Black Agenda Committee and Public Safety Reform Advisory Committee. Scott supports demilitarizing the police department and relocating funds to "non-policing" forms of public safety and community support like social services, healthcare, and housing.

Slate member Paul Song is a physician, co-chair of the Campaign for a Healthy California, and has years of experience as a Medicare-For-All activist.

Domi Piturro and Sion Roy are involved in local implementation efforts of Green New Deal projects. They work with GRID Alternatives, an organization installing solar panels for low-income families, and are involved in SMC programs to train students with green technology skills.

Slate members believe that Santa Monica has often served as a bastion of progressivism by enacting strict environmental regulations, affordable housing projects, and most recently adopting the Black Agenda.

"Santa Monica has always been a national leader for progressive values, which is a mantle I take with me in my role as a delegate," said Jon Katz, President of the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail application is Jan. 11 at 11:59 pm PST at https://adem.cadem.org/. If a person does not have the ability to request a vote-by-mail ballot online, they can request a ballot by emailing adem@cadem.org or by calling the Sacramento CADEM HQ at (916) 442-5707.

Clara@smdp.com





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