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Santa Monica is poised for a strange and significant 2022 election season

CLARA HARTER & EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writers

With nine months until voting day 2022, Santa Monica is gearing up for an unusual election season with its redistricted County Supervisor, State Assembly, State Senate and House of Representatives seats all up for election.

At the local level a lot is also up in the air, including the question of whether Santa Monica will have at-large or district-based elections as a California Voting Rights Act lawsuit is still awaiting final judgment in the California Supreme Court.

The case was filed by Maria Loya, wife of current City Councilman Oscar de la Torre, and the Pico Neighborhood Association in 2016 and seeks to move the City to a district-based election system on the basis that the current at-large system discriminates against Latino candidates.

However, it is not clear yet how the court will rule, when changes might be made or what impact it would have on the 2022 election.

If the CVRA case is ruled in favor of the City, at-large elections will continue as normal and the seats of Councilmembers Sue Himmelrich, Kristin McCowan and Lana Negrete will be up for election in November. Additionally, there are four SMMUSD School Board seats, four College Board seats and three Rent Control Board seats up for election.

Santa Monica Democratic Club President Jon Katz said he thought the 2022 City Council election would serve as a referendum on the City Council's decisions made in the past year or year-and-a-half since a batch of new members came to city leadership positions.

"Some of the big issues that I've been paying attention to in Santa Monica has been response to the police oversight commission and how that's being received," Katz elaborated. "Then, some of the ordinances that have been proposed last year pertaining to freedom of speech and the right to protest in Santa Monica. And then there have been some decisions relating to hotels, hotel development. And in general, obviously, there's the evergreen issue of scope of development in the city."



SMDP Image

BALLOT: New districts will be a big factor in the election.

At the County level, current State Assemblymember Richard Bloom is running for Supervisor in L.A. County's Third District, as current Supervisor Sheila Kuehl is not running for reelection.

Bloom is a Santa Monica resident who served on City Council for 13 years and has been Assemblymember for California's 50th District for the last nine years.

Several other notable politicians have also tossed their hats in the ring for Kuehl's seat, including State Senator Henry Stern of Calabasas, West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath and L.A. City Controller Ron Galperin.

While the Third District retained most of its territory during redistricting, it did absorb several conservative neighborhoods in the north San Fernando Valley like Chatsworth, Porter Ranch and Granada Hills, which will shift the voting dynamics in this traditionally very liberal district.

Santa Monica's State Assembly District changed dramatically. Instead of encompassing all the beach communities from Santa Monica to the Ventura border, it now consists of just 2.75 miles of coastline and stretches inland to Griffith Park.

This change removes Santa Monica from the 50th Assembly District and places it in the newly drawn 51st Assembly District.

Speaking to the Daily Press in December, Bloom — who is giving up his assembly seat to run for county office — called the new 51st Assembly District lines a "net loss" for Santa Monica.

Katz said he agreed with Bloom's take on Santa Monica's new assembly district and added that the communities on Hollywood and West Hollywood would have a large influence on who is selected as the new assemblymember representing District 41.

"It just means that there's other types of communities

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 6


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CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28 AT 12:58 P.M.

Officers responded to the 400 block on Santa Monica Blvd regarding an Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Upon arrival, the victim relayed she had been walking down the street when was suddenly struck in the back of the heard with a walking cane and showed the officers a picture of a potential subject. Officers were unable to immediately locate the subject. Later that evening, the victim's partner called Dispatch and stated he'd spotted the assailant. Officers responded to the location and arrested Biniam Abraha for Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361**

SUBJECT: **Proposed Amendment of Interim Zoning Regulations Allowing Automobile Dealer Showrooms in the City's BC (Promenade) District and Those Portions of the BC (2nd and 4th Street) District Bounded by Second Street to the West, Broadway to the South, 4th Street to the East, and Wilshire Boulevard to the North**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to introduce and adopt an Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance to amend interim zoning regulations established by Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Number 2636 (CCS), extended by Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Number 2658 (CCS), and amended by Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Numbers 2667 and 2682 (CCS) allowing automobile dealer showrooms in the Third Street Promenade area where previously only alternative fuel automobile dealer showrooms were permitted.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M.**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), only members of the City Council and City Staff will participate in person at City Hall. Members of the public may participate via telephone. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal at https://www.youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica or https://www.smgov.net/video. Members of the public may also dial in to listen to the meeting per the phone number that will be published on the meeting agenda.

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Written public comment can be submitted via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov. Written public comment submitted before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

If you want to speak on a particular agenda item, please call (310) 312-8173 once the caller queue for the agenda item opens. Please note that the caller queue for each agenda item will not open until just before the item is called and will close after the first five public comments (from other callers) are heard.

Please see the January 25, 2022 City Council Agenda for more detailed instructions.

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: Promenade IZO Amendments

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Tony Kim by e-mail at tony.kim@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

In omicron outbreak, US governors lose appetite for mandates

JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

Governors took sweeping actions during earlier surges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many closed schools and ordered businesses shut down. They issued mask mandates, vaccine requirements and even quarantines in some places for people who had traveled to out-of-state hot spots.

Not this time, even as the exponential spread of the super-contagious omicron variant shatters COVID-19 infection records. While governors are sending help to hospitals, they are displaying little appetite for widespread public orders or shutdowns.

Even Democratic governors who passed strict mandates early on are now relying more on persuasion than dictates. They largely are leaving it up to local officials to make the tough calls on decisions such as whether to limit capacity in restaurants and theaters or keep schools open.

South Carolina set a record for positive tests over the New Year's weekend and COVID-19 hospitalizations are up 67% from the week before. But Gov. Henry McMaster, a Republican, urged everyone to carry on as if everything's fine. "If you get real sick, there will be room in the hospitals," he promised this week.

"There's no need to panic. Be calm. Be happy," McMaster said. "We just had a great Christmas season. Business is booming."

McMaster has consistently urged people to get vaccinated and in the earliest days of the pandemic, he directed K-12 schools and colleges to move to distance learning. But students are back in classrooms across the state, and he continues to resist imposing any statewide business shutdowns.

California is grappling with an astonishing spike in infections, and the state health department extended an indoor mask mandate to Feb. 15, but the state's Democratic leaders included no mechanism to enforce it. "I think a lot of people will self-enforce and do the right thing," Gov. Gavin Newsom told reporters last month.

The sentiment seems familiar to Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan. The Republican announced a 30-day state of emergency to fight the omicron variant surge, but it doesn't include the same statewide mask mandate ordered earlier in the pandemic.

"I'm not sure the people that are refusing to wear a mask are going to wear one anyway, and we don't have the ability to enforce it," Hogan said. "So we're just strongly encouraging people to wear the damn mask."

New Jersey has had the second-largest U.S. caseload during this surge, after New York, and Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy asked the legislature to renew his emergency powers so he can continue a mask mandate in schools. But renewed business shutdowns and near universal mask mandates appear to be off the table, and instead of issuing new executive orders, he's urging people to follow public health recommendations.

"Here is what we need everyone to really take to heart — the need to mask up, to get boosted, and to just practice common sense," Murphy said.

Even governors who pushed the hardest for restrictions during earlier outbreaks have settled on appealing for people to take personal responsibility. Oregon removed its mask requirement from outdoor crowds in November and hasn't reinstated it. Schools and businesses remain open, and Democratic Gov. Kate Brown has urged booster shots as the best way to combat the virus.

"Our focus right now is on making sure our most vulnerable Oregonians have access to booster shots and ensuring we are ready to support our hospital systems," the governor's spokesman, Charles Boyle, said in an email.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, a Republican, was one of the first to close schools in March 2020 as the virus began spreading rapidly through the U.S. But his desire to take aggressive measures has waned, and since the summer he has focused on voluntary mask wearing and vaccinations.

"We don't have the practical ability to really put on a statewide mask order at this point," DeWine said in late December. "I don't think it's appropriate at this point. We have the vaccine. We have the tools."

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte, while listing his accomplishments during his first year in office Tuesday, said that through previous COVID-19 surges there was little differences in case counts between states run by Republicans that tended to take fewer precautions and those run by Democrats, which generally took stronger actions.

"Heavy-handed, one-size-fits-all mandates don't work," Gianforte said.

In North Carolina, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper is still leaving it to local governments to decide whether masks should be required in stores or government buildings rather than ordering them statewide, and encouraging but not requiring local school boards to retain mask mandates for students and staff.

Cooper has taken this tack even though the Republican-controlled legislature has lacked veto-proof majorities necessary to overturn his previous statewide COVID-19 mandates.

"We're going to have to learn how to live with it, and continue to keep our kids in school and our businesses open and all of our government operations running effectively and efficiently," Cooper said.

Pandemic fatigue among the public has led Utah Gov. Spencer Cox to suggest COVID-19 and its variants could be treated more like the flu or any other contagious disease. The focus, he said, should be on reducing the effects of the illness through vaccines and medicines, not government mandates. On Thursday, he encouraged people to wear masks as cases hit record levels and the state was running out of monoclonal antibody treatments, but stopped short of calling for new rules.

"We have lots of illnesses that spread very quickly," he said last month. "But if they're not filling up hospitals and killing people, you know, we go about our business. If they are filling up hospitals and killing people, then obviously it becomes much more concerning."

Associated Press writers Mike Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey; Amy Hanson in Helena, Montana; Gary D. Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina; Andrew Selsky in Salem, Oregon; Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio; Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City; and Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland, contributed to this report.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 207 CALLS ON JANUARY 6

Audible Burglar Alarm 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 12:12 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2700Blk Main St 1:28 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 4th St / Colorado Ave 5:14 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Marine St 6:22 a.m.
Encampment Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 6:29 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Ocean Ave 6:32 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 2700Blk Barnard Way 6:55 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1800Blk 16th St 8:05 a.m.
Death Investigation 1400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:21 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1000Blk 22nd St 8:27 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1600Blk Berkeley St 8:37 a.m.
Domestic Violence 800Blk 4th St 8:44 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300Blk Barnard Way 9:00 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 1500Blk Ocean Ave 9:07 a.m.
Auto Burglary 500Blk Broadway 9:13 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 500Blk Ashland Ave 9:28 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600Blk Main St 9:43 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600Blk The Beach 9:49 a.m.
General Parking Problem 17th St / Michigan Ave 10:03 a.m.
Identity Theft 1300Blk Stanford St 10:16 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2700Blk 11th St 10:52 a.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2700Blk 11th St 10:56 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1600Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:02 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1100Blk Palisades Park 11:04 a.m.
Burglary 200Blk California Ave 11:11 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 400Blk Montana Ave 11:28 a.m.
Burglary 300Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:34 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / San Vicente Blvd 11:40 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600Blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:45 a.m.
Armed Robbery 1200Blk 4th St 11:55 a.m.
Grand Theft 1400Blk 4th St 12:00 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Stanford St / Wilshire Blvd 12:02 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1200Blk 14th St 12:05 p.m.
Fraud 200Blk Washington Ave 12:16 p.m.
Burglary 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 12:18 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1500Blk 2nd St 12:22 p.m.
Fraud 1800Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:40 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500Blk Lincoln Blvd 1:17 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1100Blk 4th St 1:20 p.m.
Petty Theft 1700Blk 21st St 1:37 p.m.
Grand Theft 2700Blk 11th St 2:07 p.m.
Fraud 300Blk Olympic Dr 2:15 p.m.
Bike Theft 3100Blk 3rd St 2:35 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2200Blk Main St 2:36 p.m.
Encampment 2600Blk 32nd St 2:38 p.m.
Petty Theft 2200Blk Colorado Ave 2:38 p.m.
Burglary 1400Blk 7th St 2:51 p.m.
Vandalism 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:53 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1400Blk Montana Ave 3:23 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1400Blk Montana Ave 3:24 p.m.
Speeding 20th St / Pico Blvd 3:32 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1200Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:34 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200Blk 12th St 3:46 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1000Blk Palisades Park 3:48 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 900Blk Harvard St 3:58 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:05 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1100Blk 15th St 4:22 p.m.
Domestic Violence 1600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:22 p.m.
Fight 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 4:28 p.m.
Burglary Report 1200Blk 24th St 4:57 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:57 p.m.
Vandalism 800Blk 2nd St 5:05 p.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 200Blk Bay St 5:11 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 5:35 p.m.
Arson Lincoln Blvd / Pier Ave 5:37 p.m.
Petty Theft 1200Blk 4th St 5:47 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2400Blk Beverley Ave 5:50 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500Blk 4th St 5:58 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1500Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:29 p.m.
Vandalism 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 6:50 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 5th St 6:55 p.m.
Speeding 11th St / Pico Blvd 6:58 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 19th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:02 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:07 p.m.
Person With A Gun Ocean Ave / Palisades Ave 7:16 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 27 CALLS ON JANUARY 6

Bluff Rescue 1000Blk Palisades Park 3:47 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 5th St 12:04 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 6th St 2:29 a.m.
EMS 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:05 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 4:08 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 4:29 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 11th St 4:37 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 15th St 4:40 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:26 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk Arizona Ave 9:22 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 9th St 10:38 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 11:17 a.m.
Flooded Condition 1400Blk 14th St 12:58 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 2:09 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 6th St 2:19 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:04 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:17 p.m.
EMS 3100Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:50 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:42 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 21st St 5:06 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire Lincoln Blvd / Pier Ave 5:34 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 5th St 5:50 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 3rd St 6:27 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk Grant St 6:40 p.m.
EMS 700Blk Pico Blvd 8:11 p.m.
EMS 7th St / Broadway 8:53 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 9th St 9:01 p.m.

Official: California COVID surge could ease next month

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

The California surge in coronavirus cases has shut down schools and sidelined thousands of police, firefighters, teachers and health care workers but officials are hoping it will be short-lived.

"My hope is that, you know, by the time we get to February, we're on the downside of seeing that massive amount of community transmission," Los Angeles County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Thursday.

California's number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has soared five-fold in two weeks and hospitalizations have doubled. LA County, the state's largest with 10 million residents, reported more than 37,000 new cases on Thursday, which was the highest level since the pandemic started.

The jump is driven by the omicron variant, first detected in California in late November. Health officials say close contact during holiday gatherings, especially among unvaccinated people, has helped spread the highly infectious mutation.

But vaccinations and booster shots were protecting many people from severe illness, health officials said. Fewer than half of hospital patients with COVID-19 were there because of the infection. Most were hospitalized with unrelated illnesses, the county said.

"We do see this as a surge that will be, it is our hope and belief, short-lived," Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said Thursday as the city announced that the virus had sidelined more than 800 police and fire personnel.

Moore said it was taking an average of three weeks for officers struck with COVID-19 to return to work.

San Francisco reported on Tuesday that 167 officers were quarantined and 135 firefighters — both representing about 8% of their forces — were absent due to COVID-19. San Diego had nearly 200 officers and other personnel out Tuesday, reflecting a similar percentage of the department.

The surge also has led to hourslong waits for COVID tests as parents prepared to send their children back to school after the winter break. While millions of test kits have been distributed to counties, Gov. Gavin Newsom and state health officials have been criticized for backlogs.

Hundreds waited in line Thursday morning, some coughing and sneezing, at a test site in Long Beach.

"I think it's very much going out of control," said Salvador Barragan after self-administering his nasal swab. "I hope it calms down."

Not only are lab tests harder to get amid record demand, officials say they're taking longer to process because COVID-19 also has depleted the ranks of technicians.

One processing lab used by Santa Clara County has been sending samples to Texas due to staff shortages, Dr. Jennifer Tong, associate chief medical officer at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, told the Bay Area News Group.

Off-the shelf home tests also are in short supply.

The virus surge has been straining school systems. District officials said all 54 schools in West Contra Costa County, east of San Francisco, will be closed Friday and Monday.

More than 5,000 students have been absent each day this week, or almost a quarter of those enrolled in the district of 28,000 students and the district believes the coronavirus is to blame, spokesman Ryan Phillips said.

One in six of San Francisco's 3,600 teachers were out Thursday. Even with administrators, substitutes and others stepping in there weren't enough teachers for every classroom, Superintendent Vince Matthews.

"This is the most challenging time in my 36 years as an educator," Matthews said during a break from filling in as a sixth-grade science teacher. "We're trying to educate students in the middle of a pandemic while the sands around us are consistently shifting."

Nearly 900 teachers and aides in San Francisco called in sick Thursday. A group of educators had called for a sickout, arguing that the school district hadn't done enough to protect them during the surge. They are asking for more testing and for all students to wear medical-grade masks.

It wasn't clear how many educators who

SEE **SURGE** PAGE 11

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WEEKLY ARRESTS

SMPD MADE 43 ARRESTS FROM DECEMBER 19 TO JANUARY 2.

Date	Sex	Age	Charged With
Sun, Dec 19	M	25	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Sun, Dec 19	M	54	Elder Abuse
Mon, Dec 20	M	45	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Mon, Dec 20	F	21	Domestic Battery
Mon, Dec 20	M	26	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Mon, Dec 20	M	42	Brandishing a Deadly Weapon
Mon, Dec 20	M	38	Corporal Injury To Spouse
Tue, Dec 21	M	20	Lewd Conduct
Tue, Dec 21	M	40	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Wed, Dec 22	M	24	Resisting an Executive Officer
Thu, Dec 23	M	21	Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance
Thu, Dec 23	M	25	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Thu, Dec 23	M	31	Obstructing a Business Establishment
Thu, Dec 23	M	29	Parole Violation
Thu, Dec 23	M	25	Drunk in Public
Fri, Dec 24	M	27	Drunk in Public
Fri, Dec 24	M	33	Loitering to Commit a Crime
Sat, Dec 25	M	61	Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance
Sat, Dec 25	M	27	Drunk in Public
Sat, Dec 25	M	28	Burglary
Sun, Dec 26	M	54	Domestic Battery
Sun, Dec 26	M	36	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Sun, Dec 26	M	36	Robbery
Mon, Dec 27	M	42	Burglary
Tue, Dec 28	M	29	Contempt of Court
Tue, Dec 28	M	39	Arson
Tue, Dec 28	M	49	Aggravated Assault
Tue, Dec 28	M	49	Parole Violation
Wed, Dec 29	M	30	Loitering to Commit a Crime
Wed, Dec 29	M	30	Criminal Threat
Wed, Dec 29	M	24	Robbery
Thu, Dec 30	M	46	Vandalism
Thu, Dec 30	M	62	Criminal Threat
Fri, Dec 31	M	39	Vandalism
Fri, Dec 31	M	39	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
Fri, Dec 31	F	31	Burglary
Fri, Dec 31	M	32	Vandalism
Fri, Dec 31	M	37	Rape
Sat, Jan 1	M	26	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Sat, Jan 1	M	35	Shoplifting
Sat, Jan 1	M	59	Battery Against a Custodial Officer
Sat, Jan 1	M	25	Larceny
Sun, Jan 2	M	26	Corporal Injury To Spouse

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

US unemployment sinks to 3.9% as many more people find jobs

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

The nation's unemployment rate fell in December to a healthy 3.9% — a pandemic low — even as employers added a modest 199,000 jobs, evidence that they are struggling to fill jobs with many Americans reluctant to return to the workforce.

The drop in the jobless rate, from 4.2% in November, indicated that many more people found work last month. Indeed, despite the slight hiring gain reported by businesses, 651,000 more workers said they were employed in December compared with November.

Still, the data reported Friday by the Labor Department reflected the state of the job market in early December — before the spike in COVID-19 infections began to disrupt the economy. Economists have cautioned that job growth may slow in January and possibly February because of omicron cases, which have forced millions of newly infected workers to stay home and quarantine. The economy is still about 3.6 million jobs short of its pre-pandemic level.

For now, steady hiring is being driven by strong consumer demand that has remained resilient despite chronic supply shortages. Consumer spending and business purchases of equipment are likely propelling the economy to a robust annual growth rate of roughly 7% in the final three months of 2021. Americans' confidence in the economy rose slightly in December, according to the Conference Board, suggesting that spending was probably healthy for much of last month.

Wages also rose sharply in December, with average hourly pay jumping 4.7% compared with a year ago. That pay increase is a sign that companies are competing fiercely to fill their open jobs. A record-high wave of quitting, as many workers seek better jobs, is helping fuel pay raises.

Low unemployment and rapid wage gains, though, could further heighten inflation as companies raise prices to cover rising labor costs. Price increases have already surged to a four-decade high, prompting a sharp pivot by the Federal Reserve, from keeping rates low to support hiring to moving toward raising interest rates to combat inflation. Most economists expect the Fed to raise its benchmark short-term rate, now pegged near zero, in March and to do so two or three additional times this year.

"Companies are paying up for workers," said Neil Dutta, an economist at Renaissance Macro Research. "This is consistent with inflation well above 2%, which keeps the pressure on the Fed to raise interest rates."

Among those benefiting from the intense competition for workers is Patrick Freeman, a custodian at a furniture factory in Hickory, North Carolina. In late November, Freeman, 57, was given a permanent job after having spent two years as a temp. Freeman got the good news at a time when many of his colleagues have found other jobs elsewhere, leaving the company short-staffed.

"They've scattered," he said, referring to his fellow employees. "They're really short in a lot of areas. I'm sticking around."

Having come on board permanently, Freeman enjoyed a pay jump from $12 to $16 an hour. After a 60-day probation period, he will also receive health, dental, and vision benefits. And he's eligible for the company's employee stock ownership program.

Becky Frankiewicz, president of the staffing giant ManpowerGroup North America, said that many of Manpower's clients are shifting employees from temporary to permanent status, because with workers scarce, they want to "lock people up."

Frankiewicz said Manpower has calculated that because of omicron, absenteeism is running at three times its peak in 2021. Yet there has been "no slowdown in demand" for workers, she said.

More broadly through the economy, though, job growth will likely take a big hit this month from the omicron variant, which has sickened millions of Americans, forced airlines to cancel thousands of flights, reduced traffic at restaurants and bars, and caused some major school systems to close, potentially keeping some parents at home with children and unable to work.

That could make it even harder for companies to remain fully staffed and could slow the economy, too. Michael Pearce, an economist at Capital Economics, notes that millions of workers will likely be quarantining at home next week. For those who aren't paid — about one-fifth of the U.S. workforce lacks sick leave — their jobs won't be counted by the government. That would lower the employment gain reported by businesses for January.

Omicron has forced so many workers to call in sick, it's disrupting businesses ranging from ski resorts to airlines to hospitals. Alaska Airlines said it's cutting 10% of its flights in January because of an "unprecedented" number of employees calling in sick.

The wave of infections is also likely weighing on jobs at restaurants and bars. The number of Americans willing to eat at restaurants started to slip in late December, according to the reservations website OpenTable. Restaurant traffic was nearly at pre-pandemic levels for much of November but had fallen nearly 25% below those levels by Dec. 30, based on a weekly average of OpenTable data.

But because omicron is less virulent than previous COVID-19 variants and few states or localities have moved to limit business operations, economists say they believe its economic impact will be short-lived.

Omicron might have had some impact on December's data, with the 199,000 added jobs having fallen well short of what economists had expected. A category that includes restaurants, bars, hotels and casinos gained just 53,000 positions, down from the several hundred thousand a month that were added earlier this year.

SEE **JOBS** PAGE 11

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

Hospitalizations skyrocket in kids too young for COVID shots

LINDSEY TANNER AND MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writers

Hospitalizations of U.S. children under 5 with COVID-19 soared in recent weeks to their highest level since the pandemic began, according to government data released Friday on the only age group not yet eligible for the vaccine.

The worrisome trend in children too young to be vaccinated underscores the need for older kids and adults to get their shots to help protect those around them, said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Since mid-December, with the highly contagious omicron variant spreading furiously around the country, the hospitalization rate in these youngest kids has surged to more than 4 in 100,000 children, up from 2.5 per 100,000.

The rate among children ages 5 to 17 is about 1 per 100,000, according to the CDC data, which is drawn from over 250 hospitals in 14 states.

Overall, "pediatric hospitalizations are at their highest rate compared to any prior point in the pandemic," Walensky said.

The overall hospitalization rate among children and teens under 18 is still lower than that of any other age group. And they account for less than 5% of average new daily hospital admissions, according to the CDC.

As of Tuesday, the average number of under-18 patients admitted to the hospital per day with COVID-19 was 766, double the figure reported just two weeks ago.

The trend among the very youngest kids is being driven by high hospitalization rates in five states: Georgia, Connecticut, Tennessee, California and Oregon, with the steepest increases in Georgia, the CDC said.

At a briefing, Walensky said the numbers include children hospitalized because of COVID-19 and those admitted for other reasons but found to be infected.

The CDC also said the surge could be partially attributable to how COVID-19 hospitalizations in this age group are defined: a positive virus test within 14 days of hospitalization for any reason.

The severity of illness among children during the omicron wave seems lower than it was with the delta variant, said Seattle Children's Hospital critical care chief Dr. John McGuire.

"Most of the COVID+ kids in the hospital are actually not here for COVID-19 disease," McGuire said in an email. "They are here for other issues but happen to have tested positive."

The nation's top infectious-disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said earlier this week that omicron appears to cause less-severe disease across the board, but that the sheer number of infections because of its extreme contagiousness will mean that many more children will get infected, and a certain share of them will wind up in the hospital.

Fauci also said many children hospitalized with COVID-19 have other health conditions that make them more susceptible to complications from the virus. That includes obesity, diabetes and lung disease.

Fauci and Walensky have emphasized that one of the best ways to protect the youngest children is to vaccinate everyone else.

The surge in hospitalizations only heightens some parents' worries.

Emily Hojara and Eli Zilke of Sawyer, Michigan, are being extra protective of their daughter Flora, who turns 2 in May. They limit her contact with other children, and no visitors are allowed in the house unless masked, not even grandparents.

"It's been a struggle, and now with this new variant, I feel it's knocked us back," Hojara said.

"It's scary that she can't be vaccinated," she said of her daughter.

Dr. Jennifer Kusma, a pediatrician with Chicago's Lurie Children's Hospital, said she has seen increasing numbers of kids hospitalized with omicron, and while most aren't severely ill, she understands parents' worries.

"I really wish we already had that vaccine for these young kids," Kusma said. But she added that what may seem like a long wait should reassure parents that vaccine testing is not being rushed.

Many had hoped the new year might bring a vaccine for young children, but Pfizer announced last month that two doses didn't offer as much protection as hoped for in youngsters 2 to 4.

Pfizer's study has been updated to give everyone under 5 a third dose, and data is expected in early spring.

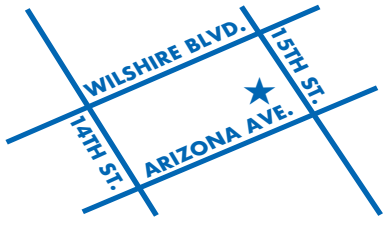
Also on Friday, the CDC issued a report showing Pfizer shots seem to protect older children who develop a serious but rare COVID-19-linked condition that involves inflammation of multiple organs.

Among 102 kids ages 12 to 18 who were hospitalized with the condition, none who had received two Pfizer shots at least 28 days earlier needed ventilators or other advanced life support. By contrast, 40% of unvaccinated children required such treatment.

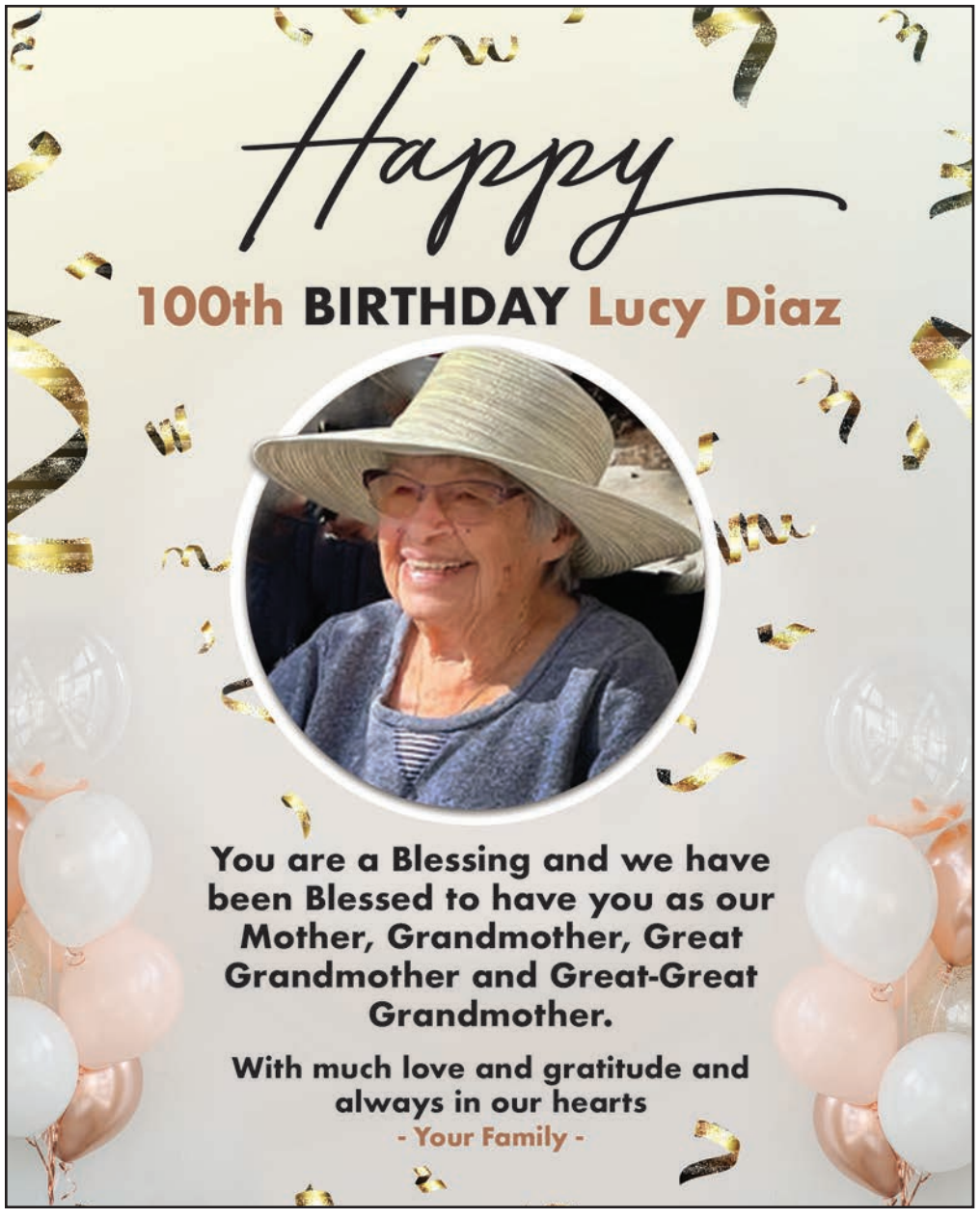
The condition, multisystem inflammatory syndrome, causes symptoms that may include persistent fever, abdominal pain and rashes. Most children recover, but 55 deaths have been reported.

A separate CDC report found that children who had COVID-19 were more than twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes as youngsters who had not had the virus. Scientists are investigating why but say the virus seems to attack insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.

AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson contributed from Seattle.

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Covid case surge hits City Hall

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

While COVID-19 cases continue to surge across all of Los Angeles, Santa Monica's city services have been relatively unscathed despite cases across several departments.

City Hall has reported 69 cases across all departments in the last week with six in SMPD, 14 in SMFD and 16 in the Department of Transportation.

Officials said the City continues to strictly follow all LA County Department of Public Health (Public Health) workplace prevention protocols, both in worksites and when staff are working with the public.

"This has not impacted the City's ability to provide for the public's safety and services. Early in the pandemic, essential service City departments developed staff contingency plans to manage staff COVID-19 absenteeism," said Santa Monica Public Information Officer Constance Farrell. "These plans have not been activated during the current case increase."

Public Health has said cases have soared to the highest level since the start of the pandemic but vaccines continue to provide protection against severe illness. New rules have also been implemented requiring more protective measures for workers across all industries.

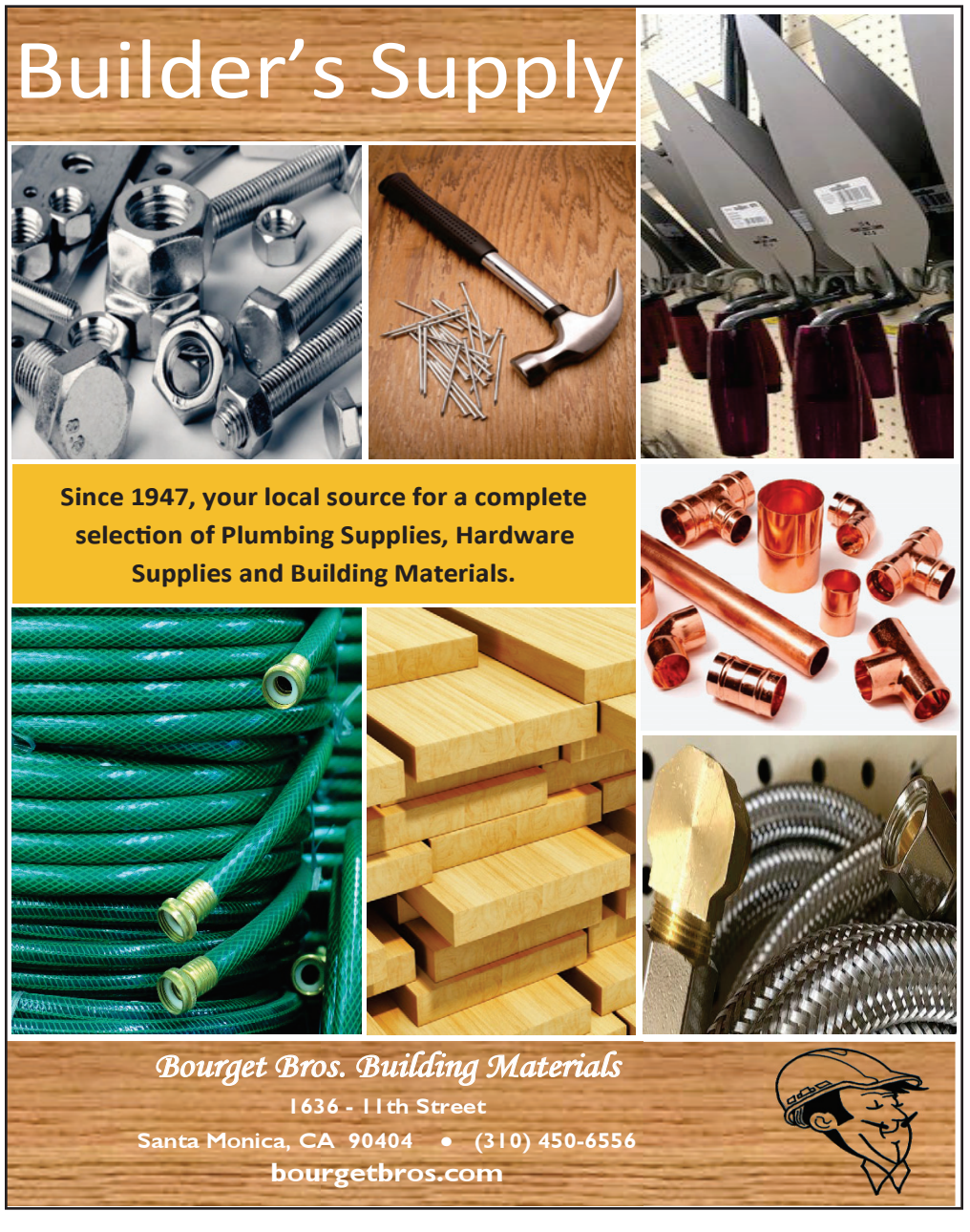
"Community spread of COVID-19 and the high contagiousness of the Omicron variant has caused some City staff to fall ill," said Farrell. "Modifications have been made to the City's already stringent infection control measures to proactively prevent COVID-19 spread in the workplace, such as upgrading masks to medical-grade personal protective equipment citywide and implementing physically distancing and augmented testing in impacted areas."

In roughly the same time frame, more than 500 LAPD officers and other police employees and nearly 300 firefighters were off-duty due to COVID exposures.

Countywide, although COVID hospitalizations have been rising rapidly, many of the COVID-positive patients hospitalized are seeking care for a non-COVID health issue according to County officials.

Data analyzed by Public Health showed that in early November, 75% of hospitalized patients who tested positive for COVID were hospitalized for medical problems related to the COVID diagnosis, the percentage of people hospitalized for COVID illness has declined now to 45%, meaning that more than half of COVID-positive hospitalized patients are in the hospital for non-COVID related illness. While any Covid patient might pose a strain to the system, the current surge suggests there may be fewer COVID-positive patients requiring ICU care and ventilators than last winter.

editor@smdp.com



ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

that are part of that [district] that are going to be speaking that maybe have different viewpoints on these issues, and that could lead to a loss of influence," Katz said. "Santa Monica is always going to be influential in any district it's in because of the percentage of people that come out to vote from Santa Monica. But I do think that when there's other large communities like West Hollywood and Hollywood, the Fairfax area, all of those areas are going to tend to also be very important for any assemblymember's backing."

Rick Chavez Zbur, the executive director of Equality California, a statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization, announced his candidacy for state assembly, pivoting from the District 50 to District 51 races when lines were redrawn.

Chavez Zbur, a progressive Democrat, has already lined up an impressive slate of endorsements including State Senators Ben Allen and Henry Stern, plus CA Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and multiple union chapters and other elected officials from around the state.

It was not immediately clear if other candidates had also thrown their hats into the ring for the 51st Assembly District.

For the State Senate, Santa Monica is moving into the newly drawn Senate District 24, where current Senator and Santa Monica native Allen is running for reelection. No challengers have announced plans to attempt to unseat the incumbent who is running for his third term.

At the federal level, Santa Monica is in the new Congressional District 36 where current member of the House of Representatives Ted Lieu is up for reelection. Lieu, who was first elected to the House in 2014, sits on the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs committees. So far, no other candidates have announced campaigns in the race for the 36th District.

On Dec. 27, the state's independent redistricting commission provided certified maps to the California Secretary of State's office. By Jan. 3, candidates for various offices with June 7, 2022, primaries were cleared to begin filing nomination signatures. Feb. 10 marks the final day maps can be challenged in court, followed by the candidate filing period, from Feb. 14 through March 11.

In California, the deadline to register to vote for any election is 15 days before Election Day, making the registration deadline for the general election Oct. 24, 2022. In order to cast a ballot in the June 7 primary, voters must postmark or electronically submit registration no later than May 23, 2022.

In 2021, California codified its pandemic-era rule of universal Vote By Mail, meaning every registered California voter will receive a mail-in ballot prior to the June and November elections. Ballot drop boxes and vote centers, which rolled out to replace precincts during the 2020 election, will continue to be instituted with a goal of increasing ease of voting.

The State also provides a method for same-day voter registration, also known as conditional voter registration, for those who miss the normal registration deadline. Those votes will be counted after the county elections office verifies their registration following the election.

More information on registering to vote can be found at sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration.

emily@smdp.com

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Sort your waste. Show your love.

NEW STATEWIDE RECYCLING LAW BEGINS NOW

All businesses and residents are required to separate organics from recyclables and landfill trash using a three-bin system: green for organics recycling, blue for non-organics recycling, and black for trash. Some large food-related businesses must also recover edible food for donation.

PROPERTY OWNERS: Sign up for a green bin – it's easy! You play a vital role by providing all three containers on property and educating new tenants on how to recycle properly.

BUSINESS TENANTS: Learn how to use each bin. Educate your employees and customers to help your business stay green!

RESIDENTS: Learn how to use each bin and make a big impact right here at home!

WHAT GOES WHERE?



ORGANICS
Fruits • Vegetables • Eggs
Dairy • Meat • Bones • Seafood
Leftover Food • Coffee Grounds
Food Soiled Paper and Napkins
Tea Bags • Paper Straws
Yard Trimmings



RECYCLABLES
Flattened Cardboard
(No Wax Coating)
Clean and Dry Bottles and Cans
Clean and Dry Paper
Clean Aluminum Foil
Clean and Dry Plastics #1, #2, #5



LANDFILL
Garbage • Chip Bags
Dirty Plastic Takeout Containers
Paper Cups • Plastic Cutlery
Plastic Bags • Styrofoam
Bioplastics • Plastic Wrap
Candy Wrappers

LARGE FOOD-RELATED BUSINESSES: Certain types of large food-generating businesses are required to collect edible food and donate to a food recovery charity. **Supermarkets and large grocery stores** must comply beginning January 1, 2022. **Larger hotels and restaurants, hospitals, and elder care facilities** must comply beginning January 1, 2024. Contact us to find out more.

Request a green bin* and learn more: santamonica.gov (keyword 'organics') | 311@santamonica.gov | (866) 311-7266

*Must be requested by the City utility account holder – please have your account number ready.

City of Santa Monica

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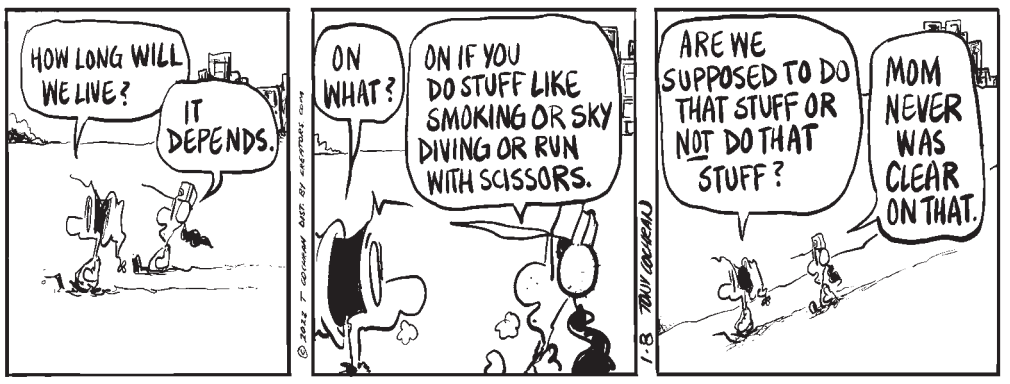
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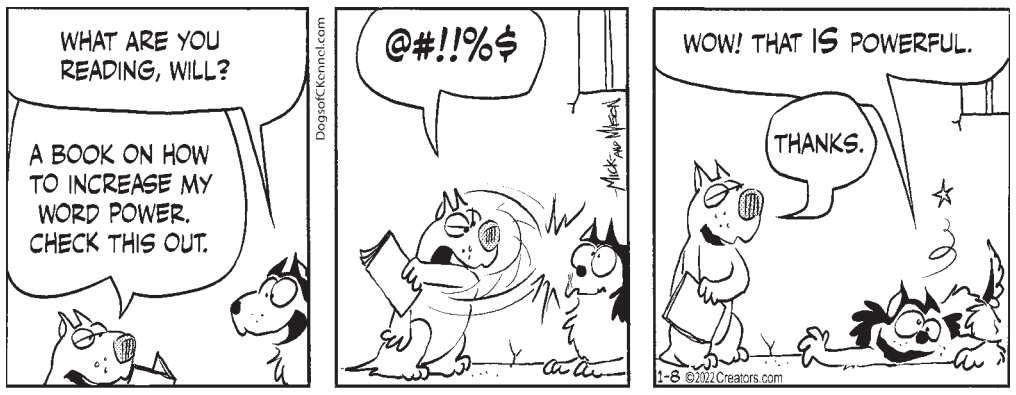
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



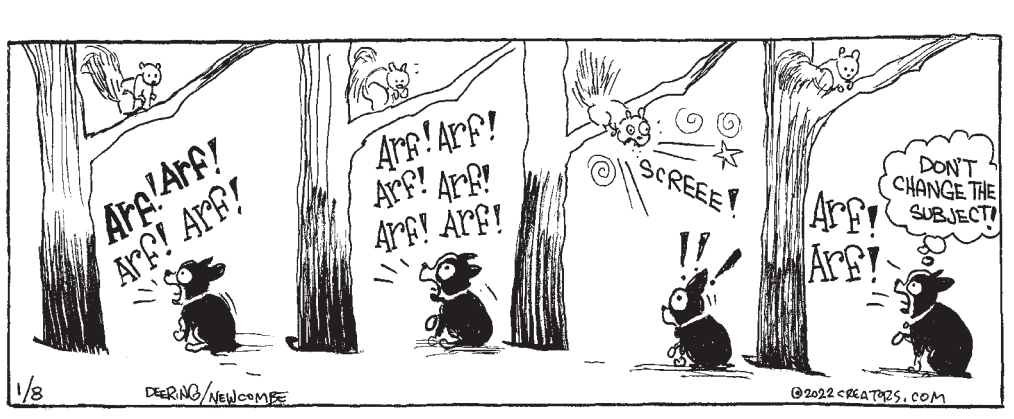
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



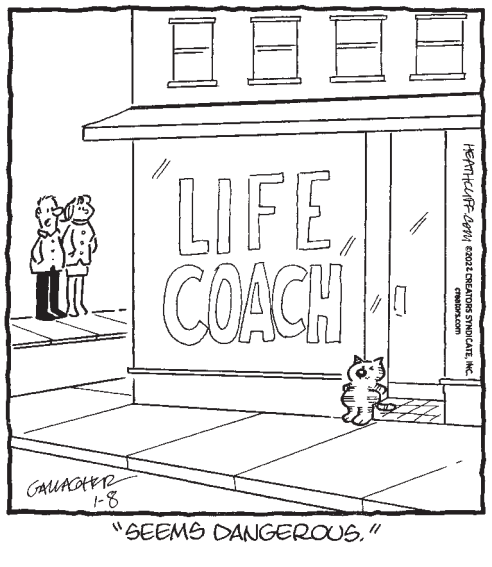
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.4°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
More NW and WNW swell due, along with favorable AM winds. Afternoon should be in play as well. Expect most of the south facing points to be pretty small.

SUNDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Continued blend of NW and WNW swell while AM winds look light. Expect most of the south facing points to be pretty small.

WEATHER

Saturday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 59.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 63.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2022/01/12	Wed	1:01 PM	0.28	L
2022/01/12	Wed	7:36 PM	3.11	H
2022/01/12	Wed	11:33 PM	2.41	L
2022/01/13	Thu	06:03 AM	5.32	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 1/4
4 6 16 21 22
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 278 M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/6
5 12 18 22 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/6
EVENING: 2 1 4
Draw Date: 1/6
MIDDAY: 9 3 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/6
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:46.37

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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Your trusted source for adult day care for your loved one. Let us give you the break you need.
Somos Amigos
"Somos Amigos" (we are friends) is our Spanish Language Program offering mental stimulation, exercise-strength training and recreation.
Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds
A Veterans Benefit!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 8)

The care you put into your environment will support many happy moments. Interesting work will allow you to beautify and revitalize your home life. Vibrant get-togethers and exciting projects will be a large part of the fun, though your domestic scene will also be a place of comfort and peaceful retreat. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 21, 24, 9 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You enjoy being part of a winning team and you'll do more than your share of the work to keep the group strong. If everyone contributes with a similar enthusiasm, you'll have an unstoppable unit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Until your first laugh, the day hasn't really started yet, and humor will keep pulling you through. You won't have to mine for it. If humor were diamonds, they would be gleaming from the cave's mouth, right out in the open.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There is no hurry. Slow down. This will prevent you from making mistakes — and because you don't have any time to lose, mistakes will be even more costly. Go fast by going slow.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's possible that the finished piece exists already in your higher consciousness and all you are really doing is getting it down. Inner silence allows you to hear the whispers about what to do next.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When things feel claustrophobic, there's a good reason. Tight clusters of people who believe the same thing are dangerous. Move to open spaces where a more balanced exchange of ideas will be possible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Charm eases the way. You'll cater to your people and take the time to figure out what pleases them. You're likely to strike the right tone and hit the main buttons. When in doubt, say less and do less, with a smile.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The day will have many moods. So when you slip into one, however euphoric or irritating it might be, keep the awareness that it's but a brief moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Putting yourself first doesn't come naturally but do it anyway. It's what your crew needs now. Your health and happiness are integral to the well-being of the entire group.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Strangely, taking on responsibility makes you feel lighter. The more people depend on you, the easier the work becomes to you because it simply must get done. You're gaining strength and becoming capable of more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't be afraid to leave the party early. After you've done what you set out to do, found what you were looking for and gotten what you came for, what you really want more than anything else is sleep.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sparkling interests are born out of restlessness or long, boring stretches of nothingness. So don't worry when things slow down. It's setting up the next adventure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The nature of fun is that it's somewhat unpredictable and can't be totally controlled. People will have fun around you because they're not quite sure how you're going to react or what you're going to do next.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

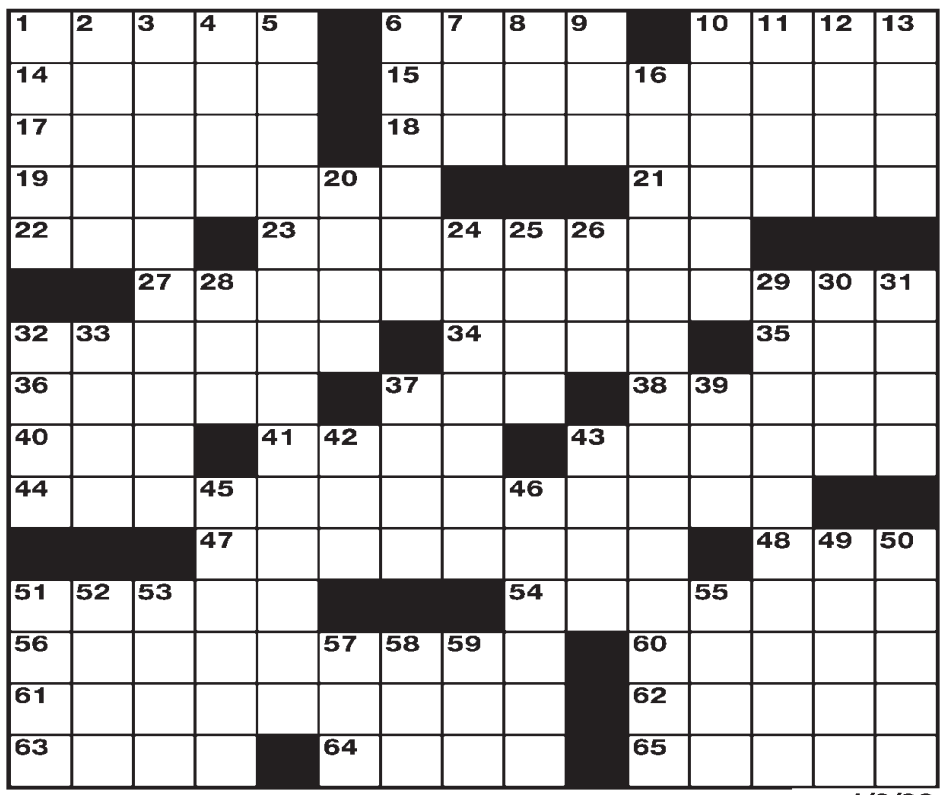
5	3			4			9	
9			6			2		
			8	2		3		
2			4					9
		5		9		4		
4					8			2
		8		7	4			
		9			5			4
	7			3			2	5

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Matthew Sewell
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Perfect vision
6 Pre-Columbian corn beer brewer
10 Drapery sample
14 Accordion cover material
15 Supernova by-products
17 With the group
18 Fictional foe of Richelieu
19 Topic in the history *Amber, Gold & Black*
21 Well fixed
22 Cancún kin
23 The first baba ghanoush preparers
27 Start taking things seriously
32 Colonial Williamsburg roles
34 Oppressed, with "upon"
35 Penn, e.g.
36 It's bound to confound
37 Express
38 Snowmelt collector
40 Catcher of many intruders at 10 Downing Street (1973-86)
41 Action __
43 Word on many South Carolina picture postcards
44 Means without constraint
47 "Sure"
48 End of many an art movement
51 Group sold as a set
54 Good reception
56 One in a cast with a cause
60 With feathers, as an arrow
61 Convincing
62 Option used by 94% of US individuals for 2020
63 Mined material
64 *Catorce de febrero sentimiento*
65 Results of rifts

DOWN
1 Ill-fitting?
2 Big name in Buddhism
3 Foresters, for instance
4 Eton-educated composer
5 Grisham creations
6 Having overcharged?
7 Presenter of Horace Mann Awards
8 Scoundrel
9 @__ (Twitter handle promoting connections)
10 Small seal
11 Second-in-line to the Windsor throne, c. 1955
12 Betray boisterousness
13 "It __ just one of your holiday games" (Eliot on naming cats)
16 Uncouth, metaphorically
20 Friendship rings of a sort
24 Not steadily
25 __-Pas-de-Calais (region close to Dover)
26 Snoot's surplus
28 When many celebrate Canada Day
29 Over the top
30 Really bad
31 Name related to Reginald
32 International org. with an Ambassadog
33 Old Testament kingdom
37 Bug-catching period
39 Word often elided in headlines
42 Wall calendar abbr.
43 Artistic expression
45 Abstain, say
46 Tony Award, in part
49 Work with, as wolframite
50 Iranian ancestors
51 Siphons off
52 Olympic Village locale (August 1984)
53 Emphasized, for short
55 Where Sam played it
57 Taking from a timetable
58 UPC symbol inventor
59 Long-lasting, in product names



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

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.

FRIDAY | JAN 14

COURTYARD & SPLASH PAD OPEN
The Annenberg Community Beach House gated area, including the courtyard and splash pad, are open to the public daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Please note, from September - May hours are subject to change with short notice. Check the Beach House website calendar or call (310) 458-4904 to confirm.

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

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Let's get physical

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

Aced	Daily	Hike	Relay	Swim
Achieve	Darts	Hits	Rink	Team
Aerobic	Fast	Hunt	Satisfaction	Tennis
Arena	Fault	Legs	Silver	Title
Arms	Final	Muscles	Skip	Toss
Avid	Fish	Offensive	Slide	Touch
Bats	Fitness	Pass	Solo	Train
Bowls	Gala	Plan	Spar	Trot
Club	Goal	Poker	Spiking	Walk
Crew	Grit	Pool	Squat	Winner
Cups	Heat	Referee	Stick	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Defensive driving

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JOBS

FROM PAGE 4

Even with December's modest gain, 2021 was one of the best years for American workers in decades, though one that followed 2020, the job market's worst year since records began in 1939, a consequence of the pandemic recession. Companies posted a record number of open jobs last year and offered sharply higher pay to try to find and keep workers.

The number of jobs rose 4.5% in 2021, the largest such gain since 1978. That partly reflected a bounce-back from the steep losses of 2020, when the nation shed 6.2% of its jobs.

Many companies are looking past the omicron wave and still adding workers. Angie Podolak, director of human capital at Beneficial State Bank based in Oakland, California, said the company, which employs about 195 people, is enjoying strong growth in auto lending and is seeking to fill 12 jobs.

Though some of its front-line workers have called in sick, Podolak said the bank hasn't had to reduce hours or lose business because of omicron. Nor has it had to slow its recruiting efforts. Beneficial already conducts job interviews by video.

"It's really just been business as usual for us," Podolak said. "I'm knocking on wood and crossing my fingers right now. But we haven't seen a significant impact on our recruiting."

The aftermath of the pandemic has made the government's survey of company payrolls more volatile, with one month's data often followed by a sharply different trend a month or two later. On Friday, for example, November's job gain of 210,000 was revised up to 249,000, and October's gain, originally reported at 531,000, was upgraded to a strong 648,000.

December's report also reflects a divergence in two surveys that the government conducts each month. The unemployment rate is calculated from a survey of households. For last month, this survey found that 651,000 more people reported that they were employed. A separate survey of employers, called the payroll survey, reported just 199,000 added jobs.

Though the results of the two surveys typically match up over the long run, they can differ sharply in any one month.

SURGE

FROM PAGE 3

called in sick took part or had the virus or were out caring for family members.

At Mission High School, student Jazmine Keel said more than 70 teachers joined the protest.

"There barely were even enough subs to take attendance," she told KTVU-TV, although district officials said classes weren't interrupted.

A similar sickout was planned for Friday in the Oakland Unified School District. In an online post cited by the San Francisco Chronicle, organizers said Oakland schools "are facing the greatest crisis in living memory."

"Staff and students sit in half-empty classrooms terrified that they will be the next to get infected and bring the disease home to their loved ones," the press release said.

Associated Press journalists Eugene Garcia in Long Beach, Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

"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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Santa Monica Daily Press

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER:File Number 2021268319 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/10/21. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Elephante 509 N Fairfax Ave 210 Los Angeles, CA 90036. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Benjamin Pollock 509 N Fairfax Ave 210 Los Angeles, CA 90036. If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization This Business is conducted by: An Individual The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) 11/2021 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Benjamin Pollock title: Owner Benjamin Pollock This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/10/21 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish, 01/08/21, 01/15/21, 01/22/21, 01/29/21

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