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Omicron cases
Deaths increase following case surge.
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Crime Watch
Undone by a t-shirt.
Page 7

Newsom's proposed budget brings more local funding to address homelessness



Matthew Hall

SERVICES: The state budget could pay for local homeless services.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

With a $286.4 billion state budget proposal on the table, Santa Monica could soon see new funds to support interim and permanent housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Governor Newsom unveiled the upcoming fiscal year budget proposal on Jan. 10, which focuses on what he calls the state's five "greatest existential threats" — homelessness, public safety, climate change, the cost of living and the pandemic. It was met with a positive response from Democratic legislators, but will still undergo several months of tweaking in

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 7

Malibu cuts offer in school split

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Malibu City leadership is back at the negotiating table with a new offer to break off from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District: $40 million in an endowment fund focused on closing the achievement gap at six Santa Monica school sites.

The officer is actually a reduction of about 20 percent from Malibu's previous offer.

The last "best and final" offer, submitted by Malibu in March, included a stipulation that Malibu "transfer additional property taxes for up to 10 years from the date of the school district separation if Santa Monica per-pupil funding falls below the current per-pupil funding level in order to maintain the per-pupil funding that Santa Monica students would have otherwise had from the combined district." That amount was estimated to come to just under $50 million over the decade following the split.

This week's amended "best and final" offer isn't too big a leap from that, according to Malibu's Assistant City Attorney Christine Wood, the legal adviser for Malibu's separation efforts.

"It's very similar in dollars.

SEE **OFFER** PAGE 11

Santa Monica vaccine order proposal proves contentious

City Council voted to delay a final decision on a proposed COVID-19 mandate.



Matthew Hall

PROTEST: Protesters gathered outside the home of Mayor Himmelrich to oppose a vaccine mandate.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Will Santa Monica's restaurants, gyms and salons begin requiring COVID-19 vaccines for employees and indoor customers? The question was left unresolved after a 3 a.m. City Council decision that was struck in the early hours of Wednesday, Jan. 12.

At the tail end of a nearly 10-hour marathon meeting, council members voted unanimously, 7-0, to allow an urgency ordinance that would mandate vaccinations for certain indoor spaces in Santa Monica to be drawn up by City Manager David White — should he and emergency staff see fit — that would then need to be approved by a two-thirds majority of council members at an upcoming meeting.

Despite the ongoing spike in COVID-19 cases, driven in large part by the virus's new omicron variant, council members agreed that there was no need for a new vaccine policy to go into effect immediately.

"I would be, I think, more comfortable with this coming back to us as an emergency ordinance than I would be moving forward as a sort of emergency order," Council Member Kristin McCowan said. "We're super late to the game on this idea of expanding to restaurants, anyway; I think a lot of our businesses do this — a lot of the places I go to already do this."

McCowan also pointed out the late hour.

"It is 2:30 in the morning," McCowan said. "I would love to

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 3

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Dems switch strategy on voting bill as Biden pushes action

BRIAN SLODYSKO
Associated Press

Lacking the votes to change filibuster rules, Senate Democrats are pushing ahead with a new strategy on their sweeping voting and elections legislation: launching debate short of assurance of a vote in order to force a public showdown over the key party priority.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer outlined the plan in a memo obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, on the eve of President Joe Biden's visit to meet privately with Senate Democrats about the path forward. It still leaves the Democrats in need of a way to force a vote on the legislation, now blocked by the Republican filibuster.

"We will finally have an opportunity to debate voting rights legislation — something that Republicans have thus far denied," Schumer wrote in the memo to his Democratic colleagues. "Senators can finally make clear to the American people where they stand on protecting our democracy and preserving the right of every eligible American to cast a ballot."

The strategy does little to resolve the central problem that Democrats face — they lack Republican support to pass the elections legislation on a bipartisan basis, but also don't have support from all 50 Democrats for changing the Senate rules to allow passage on their own. But the latest tactic could create an off-ramp from their initial approach, which was to force a vote by Monday on Senate filibuster changes as a way to pressure Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona to go along.

By setting up a debate, Schumer will achieve the Democrats' goal of shining a spotlight that spurs senators to say where they stand. The floor debate could stretch for days and carry echoes of civil rights battles a generation ago that led to some of the most famous filibusters in Senate history.

"I wouldn't want to delude anybody into thinking this is easy," Schumer told reporters Wednesday. He called the push an "uphill fight."

Democrats have vowed to counteract a wave of new state laws inspired by Donald Trump's false claims of a stolen election that have made it harder to vote. But after an initial flurry of activity, the Democrats" efforts have stalled in the narrowly divided Senate, where they lack the 60 votes to overcome a Republican filibuster, leading to their calls for a rule change.

Recently they have tried to breathe new life into the effort. Biden gave a fiery speech in Atlanta on Tuesday, where he told senators they would each be "judged by history" if they failed to act. He is to meet with Democratic senators at the Capitol on Thursday in a bid to jolt the effort forward.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell gave a scathing rebuttal to Biden's speech Wednesday, objecting to his comparison of opponents of the voting bills to racist historical figures, including George Wallace, the segregationist Alabama governor who ran for the presidency, and Jefferson Davis, who was the president of the Confederacy.

"You could not invent a better advertisement for the legislative filibuster than what we've just seen: a president abandoning rational persuasion for pure demagoguery," McConnell, R-Ky. said from the Senate floor Wednesday. "A president shouting that 52 senators and millions of Americans are racist unless he gets whatever he wants is proving exactly why the framers built the Senate to check his power. "

Asked as he walked by Wednesday for a response to McConnell's comments, Biden turned, removed his black mask and said, "I like Mitch McConnell. He's a friend." That response came during Biden's trip to Capitol to pay his respects to former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who died last week and was lying in state in the Rotunda.

Republicans are nearly unanimous in opposing the voting legislation, viewing it as federal overreach that would infringe on states' abilities to conduct their own elections. And they've pointed out that Democrats opposed changes to the filibuster that Trump sought when he was president.

For Democrats and Biden, the legislation is a political imperative. Failure to pass it would break a major campaign promise to Black voters, who helped hand Democrats control of the White House and Congress, and would come just before midterm elections when slim Democratic majorities will be on the line. It would also be the second major setback for Biden's agenda in a month, after Manchin halted work on the president's $2 trillion package of social and environmental initiatives shortly before Christmas.

The current package of voting and ethics legislation would usher in the biggest overhaul of U.S. elections in a generation, striking down hurdles to voting enacted in the name of election security, reducing the influence of big money in politics and limiting partisan influence over the drawing of congressional districts. The package would create national election standards that would trump the state-level GOP laws. It would also restore the ability of the Justice Department to police election laws in states with a history of discrimination.

Many civil rights activists think Biden's push on voting rights is too-little-too-late in aggressively going after GOP-backed changes in state voting laws, which they view as a subtler form of ballot restrictions like literacy tests and poll taxes once used to disenfranchise Black voters. Some boycotted Biden's speech in Atlanta on Tuesday.

The New Georgia Project, a group founded by Georgia Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, was among those who called on Biden to skip the speech.

"We've heard rhetoric like this before," the group said in a statement. "A goal without a plan is just a wish."

Schumer had set the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, on Jan. 17, as a deadline to either pass the voting legislation or consider revising the filibuster rules. It's unclear if a vote on rule changes will still happen.

Possibilities include setting a requirement that 41 senators be present in the chamber to sustain a filibuster.

Manchin threw cold water on the hopes Tuesday, saying he believes any changes should be made with substantial Republican buy-in. And there aren't any Republican senators willing to sign on.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed.

Partisan divide on COVID policy widens in state legislatures

DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

In Democratic-led Washington state, just four lawmakers were present in the 98-member House this week as they convened a mostly remote session with an abundance of caution. Anyone working there is required to be tested for COVID-19 three days a week and show proof of vaccination — including a booster shot — to step onto the House floor.

By contrast, Missouri's Republican-led Legislature began a fully in-person session with no COVID-19 screening at the Capitol and no requirement to be vaccinated or wear masks. One week into their session, lawmakers already have filed nearly three dozen bills banning, discouraging or providing exemptions from vaccination requirements.

The differing approaches highlight a persistent partisan gap in pandemic policy as states begin a third year of legislative sessions amid a virus outbreak that many had assumed would be waning but is instead surging to near peak levels of hospitalizations because of the omicron variant.

As lawmakers in some Democratic-led states meet remotely because of renewed COVID-19 concerns, their counterparts in many Republican-led legislatures are beginning their 2022 sessions on a quest to outlaw vaccine mandates and roll back pandemic precautions.

"We have in effect pulled into two different camps with two different views of reality," said Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, who described the "intellectual schism" as "very disturbing."

"In many ways, the data around vaccines, masks and all these things is kind of bearing out as a proxy for the role of government," Benjamin said.

The political divisions that began over government-ordered shutdowns, social distancing and mask mandates in the early stages of the pandemic have progressed as governments have shifted to vaccinations as a primary means of a combating a virus that has killed more than 835,000 in the U.S.

Republican legislation opposing vaccine mandates has been spurred largely by rules from President Joe Biden's administration requiring COVID-19 vaccinations or regular testing for large and medium-sized employers, health care providers and federal contractors. Many Democratic governors also have issued vaccine or testing requirements for government workers, heath care facilities, schools or child-care providers.

Though not always preventing illness, vaccines have proved effective at decreasing severe COVID-19 cases leading to hospitalization or death. Republican objections are rooted largely in libertarian ideology.

"To have something injected into your body as a condition of employment lest you be fired or not hired, well it's not American," said Missouri state Rep. Brian Seitz, a Republican from Branson. "It tends toward socialism, communism and whatever other -ism you want to talk about."

Seitz has filed bills barring vaccine mandates for health workers, prohibiting governments from doing business with entities requiring vaccinations and creating an individual right to refuse to be vaccinated and wear masks. Other Missouri bills would bar COVID-19 vaccine mandates in schools and hold employers liable for any injuries arising from their vaccination requirements.

Similar bills are pending elsewhere. After passing legislation last November making it easier for employees to refuse to comply with vaccine mandates, some conservative Republicans in the Kansas Legislature now want to go further and prohibit employers from imposing such mandates.

Vaccine legislation has sparked internal divisions in some Republican-led states.

Legislation on a fast-track in the Indiana House would sharply limit COVID-19 vaccination requirements in workplaces, though Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb and GOP Senate leaders have opposed the bill as wrongly interfering with private business decisions. Some Republican lawmakers in Ohio also have continued pushing for a ban on vaccine mandates, despite a warning from fellow GOP Gov. Mike DeWine that he would veto the legislation.

The question of whether to prohibit businesses from mandating vaccines also is expected to be a hot topic when the Oklahoma Legislature convenes next month.

"The issue is a hard one to balance for people," said Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat, an Oklahoma City Republican. "I believe very much in the right of the individual, and I also believe very much in the right of businesses to conduct business as they see fit."

Though it received a hearing Tuesday, legislation from a Maine Republican to prohibit mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for five years faces steep odds in that state's Democratic-led Legislature. The hearing was held via video conference — a practice that appears more common this year in Democratic-led states than Republican ones.

The 400-member New Hampshire House convened last week in a hotel expo center instead of its chamber to spread out lawmakers, but the Republican majority refused to allow remote participation. At least two lawmakers tested positive for COVID-19 after the first days of session.

Former New Hampshire House Speaker Dick Hinch was among eight lawmakers in various states to die from COVID-19 since the pandemic began. More than 500 state lawmakers have been sickened by the virus, according to an Associated Press tally, though the actual number almost certainly is higher because some legislatures haven't publicly confirmed cases.

In Democratic-led Massachusetts, the capitol has yet to reopen to the public after legislative leaders shuttered the building to all but lawmakers, some staff and the press at the beginning of the pandemic. Since then, the Legislature has largely gone online. Legislative leaders have announced plans to inch toward a reopening by requiring proof of vaccination — or show a medical or religious exemption — to work in the building.

SEE **POLICY** PAGE 7

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 227 CALLS ON JANUARY 11

Panic Alarm 1300Blk 2nd St 12:13 a.m.
Party Complaint 2200Blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:32 a.m.
Loud Music 1800Blk 7th St 2:22 a.m.
Loud Music 2500Blk The Beach 2:30 a.m.
Domestic Violence 2200Blk Colorado Ave 2:44 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk Montana Ave 5:11 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:38 a.m.
Loud Music 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:15 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2300Blk La Mesa Dr 6:53 a.m.
Person With A Gun 800Blk 11th St 7:07 a.m.
Construction Noise 400Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:10 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1900Blk Olympic Blvd 7:25 a.m.
Burglary 300Blk California Ave 7:27 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2300Blk La Mesa Dr 7:34 a.m.
Drinking In Public 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:53 a.m.
Death Investigation 1100Blk Euclid St 8:04 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 17th St / Colorado Ave 8:07 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Neilson Way / Barnard Way 8:33 a.m.
Drinking In Public 500Blk Broadway 8:41 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400Blk The Beach 8:46 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 7th St / Montana Ave 9:01 a.m.
Burglary 2100Blk Main St 9:08 a.m.
Overdose 400Blk Expo Line 9:09 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1300Blk 18th St 9:11 a.m.
Found Senile Person 1900Blk Ocean Ave 9:20 a.m.
Battery 1700Blk Ocean Ave 9:20 a.m.
Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:29 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 500Blk Ocean Ave 9:35 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk 15th St 9:42 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 2900Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:43 a.m.
Burglary 1400Blk 5th St 9:45 a.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 17th St / California Ave 9:54 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2900Blk Pico Blvd 10:01 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2700Blk Arizona Ave 10:01 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 10:17 a.m.
Auto Burglary Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 10:19 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1500Blk 18th St 10:23 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1500Blk 6th St 11:02 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2000Blk Main St 11:03 a.m.
Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 11:19 a.m.
Burglary 1500Blk 6th St 11:22 a.m.
Panic Alarm 900Blk Harvard St 11:33 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:43 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1000Blk 23rd St 11:53 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2500Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:53 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 400Blk Marguerita Ave 11:57 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 12:02 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1400Blk Ocean Ave 12:12 p.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2000Blk 19th St 12:14 p.m.
Loud Music 2200Blk 4th St 12:30 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery 2900Blk Main St 12:32 p.m.
Identity Theft 1000Blk Pearl St 12:49 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 12:56 p.m.
Loud Music 2200Blk 28th St 1:01 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 2200Blk 20th St 1:23 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1100Blk 18th St 1:26 p.m.
Petty Theft 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:45 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 100Blk California Ave 2:30 p.m.
Encampment 900Blk Palisades Park 2:40 p.m.
Petty Theft 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:52 p.m.
Battery 1100Blk 3rd St 3:07 p.m.
Burglary 1200Blk 6th St 3:07 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:13 p.m.
Animal Related Incident Ocean Ave / Palisades Ave 3:15 p.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:36 p.m.
Encampment 1700Blk The Beach 3:39 p.m.
Battery 1500Blk Euclid St 3:48 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1400Blk 4th St 3:58 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 400Blk Broadway 3:59 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 3000Blk Goldsmith St 4:02 p.m.
Expired Registration 1100Blk Oak St 4:04 p.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:22 p.m.
Lewd Activity Euclid St / Alta Ave 4:36 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 800Blk 7th St 4:48 p.m.
Found Property 1100Blk 4th St 5:08 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2900Blk Virginia Ave 5:49 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Stewart St / Olympic Blvd 6:15 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1200Blk Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:18 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100Blk Santa Monica Pl 6:28 p.m.
Death Investigation 2500Blk Kansas Ave 6:39 p.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 4th St 6:40 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 1000Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:43 p.m.
Rape 2600Blk Ocean Front Walk 6:53 p.m.
Battery 1300Blk Sunset Ave 7:16 p.m.
Petty Theft 1000Blk Bay St 7:18 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 200Blk Broadway 7:56 p.m.
Battery 1000Blk Ocean Ave 8:23 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1200Blk Pico Blvd 8:27 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 00Blk Pico Blvd 8:34 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 600Blk 11th St 9:21 p.m.
Petty Theft 2800Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:24 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1300Blk 18th St 9:38 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 3000Blk 3rd St 10:22 p.m.
Domestic Violence 1200Blk 11th St 10:38 p.m.
Assault Ocean Ave / Palisades Ave 10:44 p.m.
Overdose 1100Blk 12th St 11:12 p.m.
Loud Music 1700Blk Ocean Ave 11:28 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 600Blk 11th St 11:42 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 39 CALLS ON JANUARY 11

EMS 1100Blk 16th St 12:07 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400Blk 4th St 12:48 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:31 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Franklin St 4:04 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk 12th St 5:50 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 6th St 7:44 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk Euclid St 7:59 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Expo Line 9:09 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 17th St / California Ave 9:54 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 26th St 10:28 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 25th St 11:02 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 1100Blk 6th St 11:26 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 11:30 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 900Blk Harvard St 11:33 a.m.
EMS 500Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:24 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Colorado Ave 12:49 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200Blk Washington Ave 1:12 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400Blk 16th St 1:18 p.m.
EMS 1600Blk Arizona Ave 1:24 p.m.
EMS 600Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:29 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 1:32 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk 20th St 1:52 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:22 p.m.
EMS 1800Blk 17th St 3:50 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Kansas Ave 4:22 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 4:28 p.m.
Wires Down 2600Blk Pico Blvd 5:08 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 6:05 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Kansas Ave 6:20 p.m.
EMS 1700Blk Ocean Ave 6:33 p.m.
EMS 2900Blk Pennsylvania Ave 6:40 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1000Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:43 p.m.
EMS 2600Blk 26th St 7:22 p.m.
EMS 3000Blk 3rd St 7:41 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:53 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Pico Blvd 8:50 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 2nd St 9:29 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 17th St 9:32 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 12th St 11:12 p.m.

VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1

just have a little bit more time with this for council then to make a more final decision, but that's just kind of where my head's at, at 3 in the morning."

The proposed order would require proof of full COVID-19 vaccination for employees and patrons ages 18 and up in indoor areas of Santa Monica gyms, restaurants, theaters, personal care facilities and certain government buildings, where possible. It was modeled after a similar ordinance that has been in effect in Los Angeles since the fall of 2021.

Enforcement for the mandate would be complaint-based, White said.

"When it comes to the issue of enforcement, very similar to how we do the mask mandate," White said. "Everything's going to be based on outreach and education. We will take enforcement from a complaint-based model. We will not be deploying police officers into the community to be proactively enforcing this; we'll receive calls from the public and follow up."

Council's final vote came after a 90-minute hearing that included numerous public speakers urging against the proposed vaccine mandate. Public commenters who stayed up until the wee hours of the morning to share their concerns cited a wide range of factors — from demographic data that showed marginalized communities were less likely to be vaccinated, to allegations that vaccines contain nanomagnets pre-programmed to spread socialism — that made them oppose a vaccine order.

Some opponents took their protestations a step further, rallying outside the home of Mayor Sue Himmelrich. A small but vocal group of about a dozen people gathered outside her private residence earlier in the evening with a bullhorn to voice their opposition to the proposal. Santa Monica Police Department call logs show a disturbance call went out at around 7 p.m.; protesters remained outside Himmelrich's home until after 9 p.m., when they moved to City Hall to continue their rally. Himmelrich and fellow council members Phil Brock and Christine Parra presented the proposal for the mandate.

The unanimous vote asking White to consider the urgency ordinance was not an indication of unanimity among Santa Monica's civic leadership, with council members Oscar de la Torre and Lana Negrete each questioning the motivation and effectiveness of a potential order.

"I feel that this is a big mistake — that we're down a path that is creating more division in our community," de la Torre said. "Just in the short amount of time that people have heard about this proposal, we've had protests, you know, at people's homes. The amount of people that are speaking, even at two in the morning right now, I mean, it's an indication that people are very passionate about this issue. I just feel that we need to pull together."

Brock said the move was popular among residents he had spoken to, including some restaurant owners.

"Two restaurants I went to — one in the Palisades, one in Santa Monica Canyon, since Jan. 1 — both said they're not losing business. In fact, they felt they were gaining business because people felt safe," Brock said. "When I talked to people here in Santa Monica, they felt they weren't feeling safe, and in some cases, were going elsewhere to eat. So I'm trying to help our community be safe.

"I'm not trying to ask the city manager to put anything onerous on [business owners]," Brock continued. "And the city manager may come back and say, 'You know what, there's nothing that needs to be done.' ... two weeks from now or three weeks from now, we may be in a different situation."

Should White and his staff determine a vaccine mandate should be considered, it would appear again before Santa Monica City Council no later than Feb. 8. It would then need a supermajority — two-thirds majority — to pass and become a city ordinance.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

Countywide

Public Health Reports Increase in Deaths Due to COVID-19

As the Omicron variant continues to spread across the county, Public Health is reporting a total of 39 deaths, the highest number of new deaths since Sept. 22 when Public Health reported 41 new deaths. Of the 36 deaths for which Public Health has full data, 78% were in among those 65 years of age and older. All deaths occurred in January, likely reflecting an increase in deaths associated with the higher December case and hospitalization numbers.

As more students and staff returned to in-person learning this week, amid the surge in cases, routine testing at schools across many districts identified thousands of students and staff infected with COVID-19. For the week of Jan. 3 through Jan. 9, 547,466 tests were administered across school districts, with most testing occurring for LAUSD students and staff. Last week, 80,424 positive cases were identified, including 68,560 cases among LAUSD staff and students, resulting in a test positivity rate of 14.6%. A total of three outbreaks among youth sports teams were also identified with an additional 26 school related outbreaks still being monitored.

In response to this latest surge, Public Health is working closely with LACOE and school districts to implement additional layers of protection for staff and students. This includes delivering over 1.4 million test kits, which were provided by the state, to 84 school districts and charter schools, as well as, expanding contracted testing capacity at parochial and private schools. Additionally, exposure management and testing resources have been aligned to support safely allowing as many students and staff to remain in school during the surge.

"As schools reopen countywide, we are seeing a high number of students and staff testing positive reflecting the explosive rate of community spread," said Dr. Barbara Ferrer Director of Public Health. "Given the importance of ensuring that our schools remain safe for in-person learning, layering in protections is a most sensible approach. Masking indoors and in crowded outdoor spaces reduces transmission opportunities; testing those who are close contacts of infected students or school staff can quickly identify others who may now be infected, and limit continued spread; and, making it easy for those eligible to get their booster doses helps ensure that immune systems are best primed to repel the virus. We are grateful for the hard work of school superintendents, labor partners and staff, parents and students to implement strategies that promote safety at schools."

Public Health confirmed 39 additional deaths and 40,452 new cases of COVID-19. Of the 39 new deaths reported today, one was between the ages of 30-49, seven people were between the ages of 50 and 64, 12 were between the ages of 65-79, and 16 were over the age of 80 years old. Of the 39 newly reported deaths, 33 had underlying conditions. To date, the total number of deaths in L.A. County is 27,850.

Public Health has identified a total 2,086,581 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County. The positivity rate is 20.4%.

There are 3,912 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized. Testing results are available for more than 10,442,400 individuals, with 18% of people testing positive.

To keep workplaces and schools open, residents and workers are asked to:

Adhere to masking requirements when indoors or at crowded outdoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status.

Remain home when sick, isolate if positive and quarantine when in close contact.

Residents are legally required to be isolated if they have a positive COVID test result and vaccinated close contacts with symptoms and unvaccinated close contacts need to be quarantined.

For updated isolation and quarantine guidance, please visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH

Inflation at 40-year high pressures consumers, Fed and Biden

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

Inflation jumped at its fastest pace in nearly 40 years last month, a 7% spike from a year earlier that is increasing household expenses, eating into wage gains and heaping pressure on President Joe Biden and the Federal Reserve to address what has become the biggest threat to the U.S. economy.

Prices rose sharply in 2021 for cars, gas, food and furniture as part of a rapid recovery from the pandemic recession. Vast infusions of government aid and ultra-low interest rates helped spur demand for goods, while vaccinations gave people confidence to dine out and travel.

As Americans ramped up spending, supply chains remained squeezed by shortages of workers and raw materials and this magnified price pressures.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that a measure of inflation that excludes volatile food and gas prices jumped 5.5% in December, also the highest in decades. Overall inflation rose 0.5% from November, down from 0.8% the previous month.

Price gains could slow further as snags in supply chains ease, but most economists say inflation won't fall back to pre-pandemic levels anytime soon.

"U.S. inflation pressures show no sign of easing," said James Knightley, chief international economist at the financial services company ING. "It hasn't been this high since the days of Thatcher and Reagan. We could be close to the peak, but the risk is that inflation stays higher for longer."

High inflation isn't only a problem for the U.S. In the 19 European countries that use the euro currency, inflation rose 5% in December compared with a year earlier, the biggest increase on record.

Companies large and small are adapting as best they can.

Nicole Pomije, a bakery owner in the Minneapolis area, said she plans to raise prices for cookies because of surging ingredient costs.

Her basic cookies were priced at 99 cents each, while premium versions were selling for $1.50 each. But Pomije said she will have to jack up the prices of her basic cookies to the premium price.

"We have to make money," she said. "We don't want to lose our customers. But I think we might."

Businesses struggling to hire have hiked pay, but rising prices for goods and services have eroded those income gains for many Americans. Lower-income families have felt it the most, and polls show that inflation has started displacing even the coronavirus as a public concern.

The United States hasn't seen anything like it since the early 1980s. Back then, Fed Chair Paul Volcker responded by pushing interest rates to painful levels — the prime rate for banks' best customers hit 20% in 1980 — and sent the economy into a deep recession. But Volcker succeeded in taming inflation that had been running at double-digit year-over-year levels for much of 1979-1981.

High inflation has put President Biden on the defensive. His administration, echoing officials at the Fed, initially suggested that price increases would be temporary. Now that inflation has persisted, Biden and some congressional Democrats have begun to blame large corporations. They say meat producers and other industries are taking advantage of pandemic-induced shortages to drive up prices and profits. But even some left-of-center economists disagree with that diagnosis.

On Wednesday, the president issued a statement arguing that the drop in gas prices in December and a smaller increase in food costs showed progress.

One trend experts fear is a wage-price spiral. That happens when workers seek more pay to offset higher costs, and then companies raise costs further to cover that higher pay. On Tuesday, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell told a Senate panel that he has yet to see evidence that wages are broadly driving up prices across the economy.

The biggest driver of inflation, according to economists, are mismatches between supply and demand. Used car prices have soared more than 37% over the past year because a shortage of semiconductors has prevented auto companies from making enough new cars. Supply-chain constraints have driven furniture prices nearly 14% higher over the past year.

Shoppers are feeling the pinch all around them, from the gas station to the grocery store.

Vicki Bernardo Hill, 65, an occupational therapist in Gaithersburg, Maryland, says she no longer throws extra canned food, boxes of cereal or bakery items into her shopping cart at the Giant Food store.

"I am trying to stick to my list and buying things that are on sale, " said Hill.

Because she couldn't find a good deal on a used car, Hill recently bought a new Mazda, spending $5,000 more than she had planned.

Inflation could ease as the omicron wave fades and as Americans shift more of their spending to services such as travel, eating out and movie-going. That would reduce the demand for goods and help clear supply chains.

But some higher prices, such as rents, could prove to be stickier. Rental costs, which have accelerated since summer, rose 0.4% in December, the third consecutive monthly increase. That's significant because housing costs make up one-third of the government's consumer price index.

Powell told Congress that if it becomes necessary to fight high inflation more aggressively, the Federal Reserve is prepared to accelerate the interest rate hikes it plans to begin this year. The Fed's benchmark short-term rate, now pegged near zero, is expected to be bumped up at least three times this year.

Rate increases would make borrowing for

SEE **INFLATION** PAGE 11

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Kids' low COVID-19 vaccination rates called a 'gut punch'

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

Distrust, misinformation and delays because of the holidays and bad weather have combined to produce what authorities say are alarmingly low COVID-19 vaccination rates in U.S. children ages 5 to 11.

As of Tuesday, just over 17% were fully vaccinated, more than two months after shots became available to the age group. While Vermont is at 48%, California is just shy of 19% and Mississippi is at only 5%.

Vaccinations among the elementary school set surged after the shots were introduced in the fall, but the numbers have crept up slowly since then, and omicron's explosive spread appears to have had little effect.

The low rates are "very disturbing," said Dr. Robert Murphy, executive director for the Institute for Global Health at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. "It's just amazing."

Parents who hesitate "are taking an enormous risk and continuing to fuel the pandemic," Murphy said.

Hospitalizations of children under 18 with COVID-19 in the U.S. have climbed to their highest levels on record in the past few weeks. Many have other conditions made worse by COVID-19, though many aren't sick enough to require intensive care.

The low vaccination rates and rising hospitalizations are "a gut punch, especially when we've been working so hard to keep these kids well," said Dr. Natasha Burgert, a pediatrician in Overland Park, Kansas.

The vaccines have proved highly safe and effective at reducing the risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death.

Overall, 63% of Americans are fully vaccinated. Among children 12 to 17, the rate is 54%.

COVID-19 shots for young children have been authorized in at least 12 countries. In Canada, where Pfizer shots were cleared for ages 5 to 11 in November, just 2% are fully vaccinated.

Snowstorms, tornadoes and other heavy weather in December are believed to have slowed the pace of vaccination in the U.S., along with the busy holiday season. Also, some parents are distrustful because the vaccine is so new, and many have other concerns.

Chicago mother Kendra Shaw has resisted shots for her two school-age children, saying she worries about possible risks and isn't convinced the benefits are worth it.

But this week, her 10-year-old daughter pleaded to get vaccinated so she wouldn't miss school, and her soon-to-be 7-year-old son asked for his shots so he could have a big birthday party.

Shaw scheduled their first doses for Wednesday but said: "I'm really on the fence."

Daniel Kotzin, of Denver, said he is convinced he made the right decision not to vaccinate his 5-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son because most omicron cases seem to be mild.

"They are essentially at no risk of harm, so I really don't understand the reason to vaccinate them," he said.

Doctors say that kind of thinking is misguided and part of the problem.

"It's true, kids in general do better than adults with COVID," said Dr. Elizabeth Murray, a pediatric emergency medicine physician in Rochester, New York, and a spokeswoman for the American Academy of Pediatrics, "but 'not too sick' still can mean miserable with fevers and muscle aches for a week. It can also mean MIS-C or long COVID."

MIS-C, or multisystem inflammatory syndrome, is a rare but serious condition linked to COVID-19 that can affect many organs and typically requires hospitalization.

Authorities don't think omicron is making children and adults more seriously ill than other variants, and say hospitalization rates are up partly because it is so much more contagious.

Some children have been admitted for conditions such as lung disease, diabetes and sickle cell disease that have worsened because of an omicron infection, doctors say.

Dr. Jesse Hackell, a pediatrician in Pomona, New York, said that at least 25% of his patients ages 5 to 11 are vaccinated, but that after an initial rush in the fall, the numbers have dwindled.

"It's a tough sell," he said. "We're not ready" is a common comment, Hackell said. "When I ask, 'What are you waiting for?' I get kind of a shrug. I've had a few say, 'We're not going to be the first million. We'll wait to see what happens.'"

A frustrated Hackell said the government's vaccination campaign is clearly struggling against misinformation and "pseudoscience," the likes of which he has never seen before in his 40-plus years as a pediatrician.

He said the government needs to get tough and mandate the shots.

"If we could get every kid vaccinated across the board, it would go a long way. It wouldn't end the pandemic, but it would end the severe disease," Hackell said. "It could help turn the virus into nothing more serious than the common cold, and we can deal with that."

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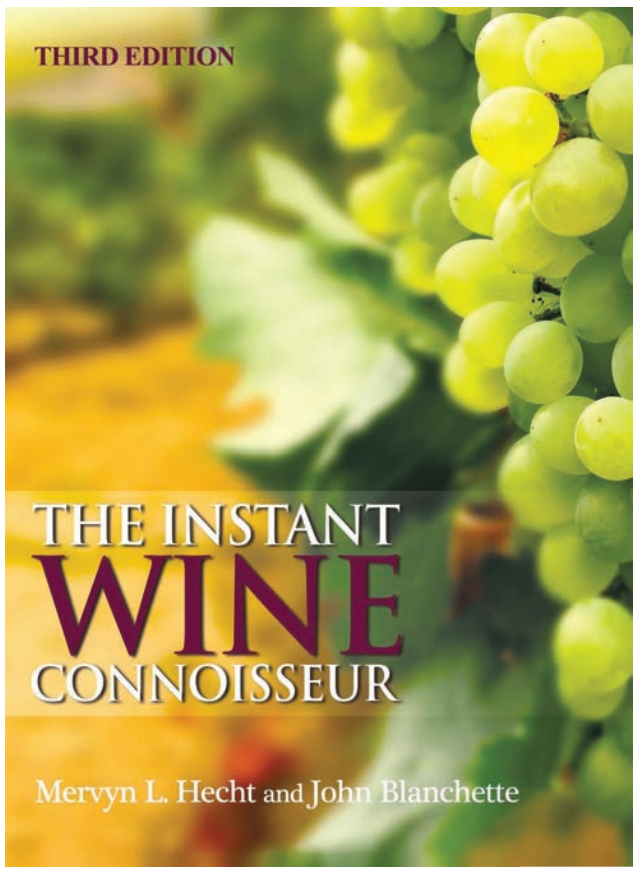
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★★★★★ **...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste**



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

available at amazon



Noteworthy

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why Vilify Vilray?

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! LA PHIL with MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS, EMANUEL AX plays BRAHMS – I know we've all fallen deeply in love with The Dude(amel), but many remember fondly how local-born prodigy MTT led our great orchestra in the '80s, and LA Times music critic Mark Swed praised the "transcendent"return last week of "an eternal LA prodigal son," especially poignant following his surgery late last summer for a brain tumor. Emanuel Ax is one of the best classical pianists on the planet, and the Brahms' epic "Piano concerto No. 1" will follow the intermission, with the treat of opening number "Blumine" by Mahler, a movement from his tone poem First Symphony. MTT loves him some Mahler – except when there are helicopters. Also in the opening round, Thomas leads one of his all-time favorite works, Alban Berg's "Three Pieces for Orchestra," which he describes as "a musical journey to the "borderline of sanity." Sounds like quite a program. Thurs, Fri 8 p.m, Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA, $71-229.

LA PHIL with Michael Tilson Thomas, GERALD CLAYTON plays Symphonic ELLINGTON – I am really excited about this one. And it demonstrates that a truly exceptional Philharmonic group reaches beyond its usual parameters, with caution, intent, knowledge and skill, to push boundaries in the right way, not just for the sake of experimentation, and without sacrificing artistry and their reputation. My two favorite jazz pianists on the planet are Benny Green and Gerald Clayton and with his musical upbringing in LA Clayton is the perfect one to both expose the grandeur of Ellington's orchestral work, and reveal things we may not have heard before. When you want to grapple with the genius of a giant past, call in a giant of the present. Next Thurs, Fri 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA, $63-214.

RECOMMENDED:

15th Annual SoCal SLACK KEY FESTIVAL – This is definitely where I would be if I weren't at Disney Hall at that same time, with MTT and The Ax, Mahler, Berg and Brahms. As much as I love Hawaiian music, and have been to slack key festivals in the islands, somehow I've never made it to this one, just down the block, in 15 years. But I am familiar with the lineup of performers and I know they will have island dancers and special food and drinks and other cultural foo-faw so it will be like taking an afternoon trip to Hawaii, with a great live soundtrack. You will probably be grinning the whole time you're there. Sun 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., concert at 2 p.m., Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, $20-135.

BEYOND BAROQUE, a famous spoken word institution in nearby Venice, has decided to remain closed through the end of February, because of omicron.

RACHAEL & VILRAY – Don't recognize the names? I have no idea where Vilray came from or if he even has a second name, I could look it up, if I cared, he's probably some wannabe producer, or musician or songwriter or hanger-on who managed to meet Rachael Price, the very talented vocalist for the band Lake Street Dive, and somehow X-ray, for all his lack of good looks and a workout ethic, bespectacled and balding, talked her into, well, marrying him. So now they tour as a duo doing romantic pop songs of the '30s and '40s. I caught them a couple years ago playing in an abandoned church in some unlikely part of town and it was packed and the crowd loved them, went nuts after every song. I enjoyed it but kept thinking two things, that she is holding way back to not make him sound like a last – minute third-choice fill-in, and, I have heard so many people do these songs better than this. I think the young crowd just never heard that material before. For all that Lake Street Dive goes on about how democratic the band is and everyone contributes equally, they would be nowhere without Price. The Australian-born, Tennessee-raised singer can sell the bejeezus out of any song, any style, and the video cam loves her. But the duo vocalizing doesn't give her the opportunity to cut loose. If it sounds like I have a crush, it does not take into account the marital status of both of us but, isn't that really what rock and roll is all about, kids? Show of hands: how many picked up the guitar for the art, or for the chicks/dudes? Some might not consider Rachael a classic beauty but, we all have our types, don't we? I still don't forgive that wimpy, homely little Jimmy Taylor for taking Carly Simon off the market. Oh, by the way, the R&B show Sunday at the Troubadour just got canceled. But I wanted to write about Rachael anyway, and it's a slow concert week. Not that what I wrote above, dissing all her musical friends and lovers, will get me anywhere with her except barred from concerts. Maybe a restraining order. We'll have to wait until October to catch Lake Street Dive at the Hollywood Bowl. Look for me. In disguise.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: PONCHO SANCHEZ, Venice West, 1/22; COLIN BLUNSTONE, Joe Wong, The Downtown Palace Theatre, 1/22; SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends, Largo at the Coronet 1/22; ITZAK PERLMAN, Rohan De Silva, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/26; BJORK, Shrine Auditorium, 1/26, 29, 2/2; NATHANIEL RATELIFF & The Night Sweats The Novo, 1/28; THE ENGLISH BEAT, The Bourbon Room, 1/28, 29; RAUL MALO, The Canyon Agoura Hills 1/28, The Canyon Santa Clarita 1/30; MUSICARES honors JONI MITCHELL, LA Convention Center, 1/29; FEE WAYBILL, Troubadour, 1/29; JOHN MAYALL, Venice West, 1/30; NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALL STARS, Venice West, 2/2; BARBARA MORRISON, Vibrato, 2/13; PETE ESCOVEDO, Vibrato, 2/20.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 36 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 1

Sacramento prior to the June 15 deadline for approval.

Of key interest to Santa Monica is the Governor's continued commitment to addressing homelessness in light of last year's history investment of $12 billion, which he seeks to bolster this year with additional funding for increasing shelter capacity, building supportive and affordable housing and clearing encampments.

"I applaud California's budget surplus and Governor Newsom's commitment to allotting increased dollars to the fight against homelessness and its root causes," said City Councilmember Phil Brock. "In Santa Monica, we anxiously await for some of the promised dollars to trickle down from Sacramento."

Newsom's proposed budget includes $2 billion in funding to build on Project Homekey, an initiative launched during the pandemic where the state provides funding for local governments to convert vacant hotels, motels and other buildings into permanent supportive housing for unhoused individuals.

The plan also calls for $1.5 billion over the next two years to build more interim housing such as tiny homes or shelters. Additionally, he seeks to give $500,000 to local officials to assist in clearing street encampments.

Assemblymember Richard Bloom, who represents Santa Monica in the state's 50th District, praised the focused funding on homelessness, but emphasized a need to ensure the funding is applied effectively.

"I applaud Governor Newsom for his focused priorities, particularly in regard to California's mounting humanitarian crisis," said Bloom. "I do hope to see more transparency and accountability surrounding the use of these dollars to ensure that the funds are being best utilized to help as many people as possible."

Bloom's concerns are shared by other legislators including members of the GOP who called for a special legislative session on homelessness to increase accountability and look closely at how and where funds have been spent.

Part of Newsom's plan for addressing this is to require that all local governments submit a "homelessness action plan" detailing how they intend on utilizing the funds.

Another budget item of note for Santa Monica is new investment in local public safety. Newsom proposes spending $255 million on local law enforcement and establishing a smash and grab enforcement unit to address the statewide rise in organized retail crime.

While Santa Monica has not experienced such an incident since the May 31 riots in 2020, both The Grove and the Beverly Center have been targets and SMPD is on high alert for coordinated robberies.

The proposed budget also contains plenty of environmental investments, including $10 million for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to complete a wildlife crossing over the 101 freeway.

Clara@smdp.com

POLICY

FROM PAGE 2

In Vermont's Democratic-led Legislature, one of the first acts of 2022 was to authorize remote sessions because of spiking COVID-19 cases. Lawmakers also quickly passed a measure allowing municipal governments and school districts to pass budgets without in-person meetings.

In Washington state, Republicans voted against the COVID-19 protocols adopted by Democratic-led legislative committees. While allowing more members on the floor than the House, the Senate policy caps in-person attendance at 15 of the 49 senators. The rest are relegated to participating remotely. Senators and staff must test negative for COVID-19 before entering Senate rooms, regardless of whether they are vaccinated. Since Friday, at least five senators have tested positive.

The goal of the restrictions "is to make the operation of the Senate as safe as possible," said Washington Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig.

Associated Press writers Tom Davies in Indianapolis; John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas; Steve LeBlanc in Boston; Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington; Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City; Holly Ramer in Concord, New Hampshire; Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont; Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio; and Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine, contributed.

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 MONDAY, JAN. 10

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office filed one count of burglary and one count of providing false information to a peace officer against Mynor Calderon aka: Jose Manuel Rojas, a 23-year-old homeless male. On Jan. 6, SMPD took a report of a burglary where it was reported a safe was taken. A Forensics Specialist responded to take photos and lift latent prints. When the Forensics Specialist was talking with the victim outside of the residence, Calderon walked by. The victim immediately noticed that Calderon was wearing a shirt that belonged to him. The victim and Forensics Specialist walked back to the unit and discovered his front door was now closed and locked. SMPD Officers responded, searched the residence and located Calderon inside a bedroom. He was taken into custody without incident. Calderon was carrying a backpack and holding property belonging to the victim. He also initially provided police officers a fictitious name. At the station, SMPD officers learned his true identity and discovered that he had a No Bail warrant for Assault with a Deadly Weapon out of Los Angeles.

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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
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Clean and Dry Bottles and Cans
Clean and Dry Paper
Clean Aluminum Foil
Clean and Dry Plastics #1, #2, #5



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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.

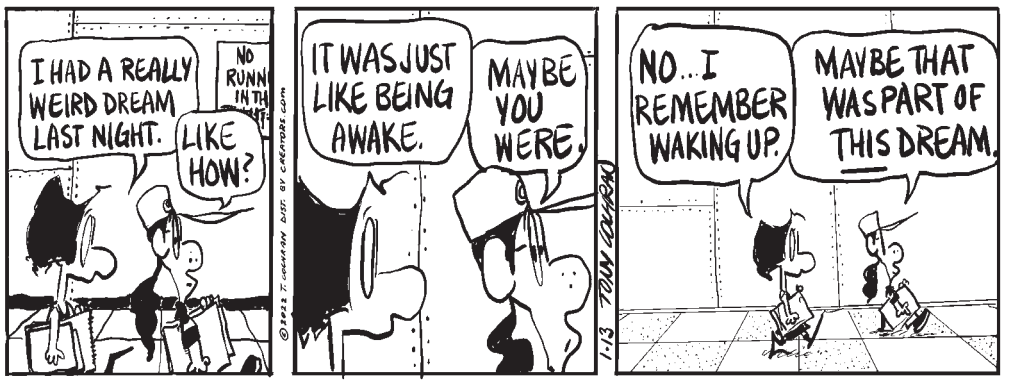
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*Must be requested by the City utility account holder – please have your account number ready.

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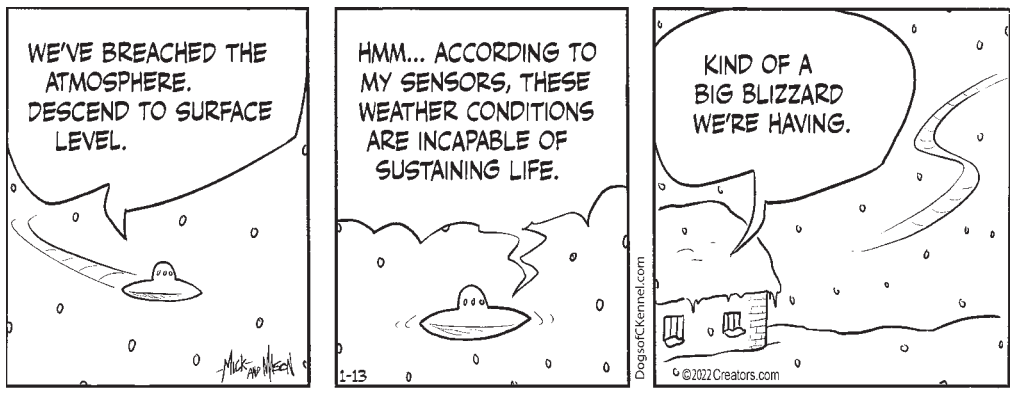
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



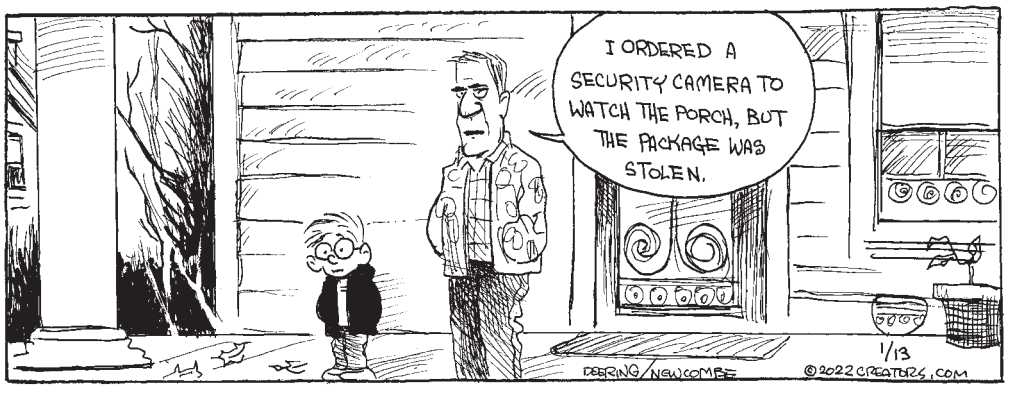
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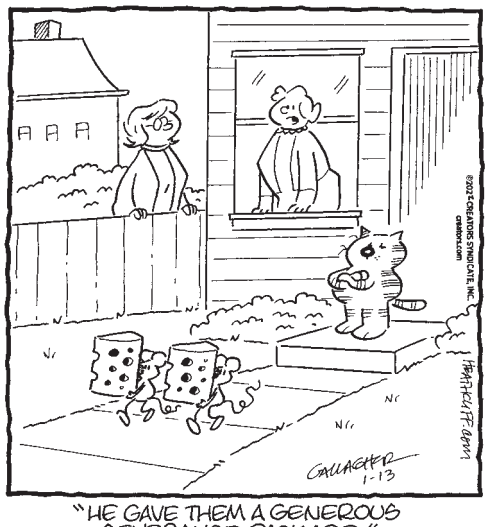
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

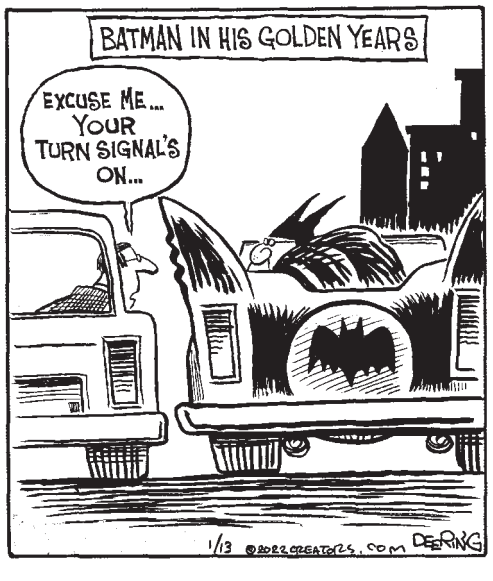
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE GAVE THEM A GENEROUS SEVERANCE PACKAGE."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.7°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Nice run of WNW swell continues with size to hold steady -- watching conditions closely. Early high tide will slow many breaks with improving shape as it drops.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
More WNW swell to fill in through the day with surf pulsing back up some. Pretty good potential for light wind. Stay tuned, the fun should continue.

WEATHER

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66. North northeast wind around 5 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph.
Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 66. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/01/13	Thu	06:03 AM	5.32	H
2022/01/13	Thu	1:38 PM	-0.13	L
2022/01/13	Thu	8:18 PM	3.29	H
2022/01/14	Fri	12:17 AM	2.49	L
2022/01/14	Fri	06:39 AM	5.52	H
2022/01/14	Fri	2:10 PM	-0.43	L
2022/01/14	Fri	8:49 PM	3.40	H
2022/01/15	Sat	12:56 AM	2.47	L
2022/01/15	Sat	07:13 AM	5.71	H
2022/01/15	Sat	2:40 PM	-0.64	L
2022/01/15	Sat	9:17 PM	3.48	H
2022/01/16	Sun	01:31 AM	2.39	L
2022/01/16	Sun	07:46 AM	5.87	H
2022/01/16	Sun	3:10 PM	-0.77	L
2022/01/16	Sun	9:44 PM	3.53	H
2022/01/17	Mon	02:04 AM	2.29	L
2022/01/17	Mon	08:18 AM	5.97	H
2022/01/17	Mon	3:40 PM	-0.83	L
2022/01/17	Mon	10:12 PM	3.58	H
2022/01/18	Tue	02:37 AM	2.21	L
2022/01/18	Tue	08:50 AM	5.98	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/10
14 17 18 21 27
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 38 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/11
2 3 19 52 58
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 325 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/8
2 13 25 41 42
Mega#: 27
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/11
8 13 15 22 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/11
EVENING: 3 6 4
Draw Date: 1/11
MIDDAY: 5 1 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/11
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:45.83

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

WISE & Healthy Aging
(310) 394-9871

Adult Day Service Center
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.

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A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds

A Veterans Benefit!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 13)

Youth is a non-renewable resource, but vitality can and will be cultivated through this solar journey. A special relationship will be constant motivation to do the things that make you feel most alive. There's a change-up of property and possessions that will reflect your evolving values. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 33, 25, 4 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't know how interesting you are, and that is a hefty part of your appeal. You'll like the kind of attention you draw today from a smart, subtle admirer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone would appreciate if your likes and dislikes were the same as theirs, but you're no conformist. Instead of expressing differences, steer clear of certain subjects altogether as you head toward common ground.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Shopping isn't necessarily buying. Perhaps the only way to accomplish the former without the latter today is to leave your wallet at home while you go deeper in the investigation of your options.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Take your work to a new environment. Being able to focus without distraction will make you twice as productive as you would be in the hubbub of familiar surroundings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's one of those high-energy days when you know what you want and you go for it in a big way. Your object of desire has a glittery appeal, yet it will quickly wash out against the brightness of the journey itself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Stand back, take a breath and see your situation anew. Are you handing your power over to someone else? Self-respect is a renewable resource, but if you don't give it away, you'll still have it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't forget that over your lifetime, you've changed in all kinds of ways. The song says to "pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again." Today it's as easy to sing as it is to accomplish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Remember when these rules you abide by were brand-new to you? Now it's second nature to drive inside the lines. Enjoy your current mastery. You'll soon be in a different situation where you'll learn anew.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You may feel that you know all there is to know about a certain situation. Is it true? Put yourself to the test. Teach others. If you have holes in your knowledge, they'll show you where they are so you can patch them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you could only do one thing to make your life more enjoyable, less stressful and better all around, the top contender is this: sleep. What would you have to do to get excellent and plentiful z's?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). An idea is forming. It's not quite in the frame yet, but thoughts and feelings are coming together. By Monday you'll have a clear picture of what you want to do next.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Temptation abounds. Deprivation makes things worse. Buy the small portion. Treat yourself to a little. A treat, by definition, is something you don't get very often.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

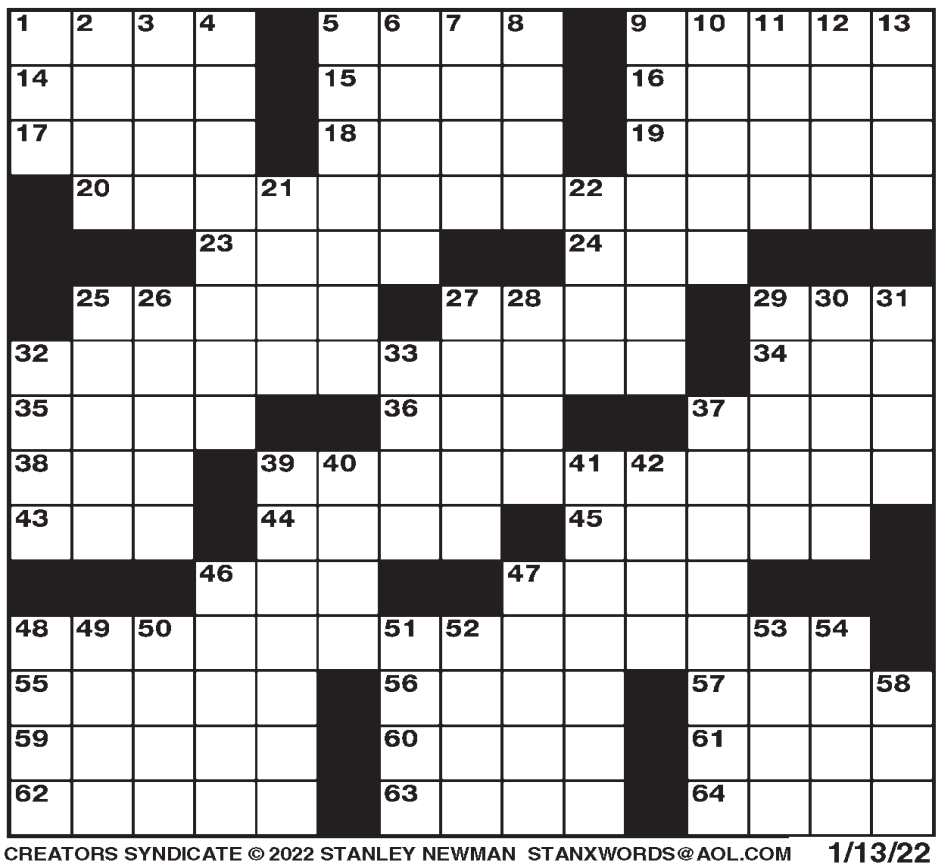
7		1	4				5	
				5		4		1
4			8		1		9	
	4		5		9		6	3
		3		1		9		
9	2		7		3		1	
	1		9		5			6
2		5		8				
	9				2	3		5

Newsday Crossword

SOLID FOOD by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Rudiments
5 One just getting started
9 Crane cousin
14 Like-minded group
15 Lay waste to
16 Savory taste
17 Item on a fast-food menu
18 No. on a bill
19 Potter's skill
20 Milky Way, for example
23 World Cup org.
24 Modern address
25 Rial spender
27 Maltreat
29 Mooer's mouthful
32 Product of Wisconsin
34 Low *número*
35 Fit to do it
36 Misspeak, say
37 Much of Mongolia
38 Curtain holder
39 Delivery to a diner
43 Farm area
44 Hyacinth holders
45 Tableware brand
46 Former CNN owner
47 Belt out something
48 Sandwich staple
55 Big name in motorcycles
56 "Doggone it!"
57 Crook, for short
59 British-born Pulitzer poet
60 Spot near many a campground
61 Porpoise kin
62 Plain speaking
63 Gazed at
64 Way too interested

DOWN
1 What some gym reps work
2 Amorphous mass
3 Certain fugue finale
4 Pacino mob film
5 What Waze monitors
6 New Mexico state flower
7 High-calorie
8 Clued in about
9 "Just go along"
10 Online shopping venue
11 Sitar melody
12 Leave off
13 "Great shot!"
21 Sound on MacDonald's farm
22 Scoundrels
25 Circle of friends
26 Cyrus of song
27 Chef's selections
28 Starter for space
29 Kaley of *The Big Bang Theory*
30 Remove from a package
31 Ruin utterly
32 Halloween decorations
33 Warm up
37 Ally to attack
39 Eastern Washington city
40 Goof off
41 Moved erratically
42 Penchant
46 Condor habitat
47 Shampoo bottle direction
48 Roughen from the cold
49 Appointed time
50 Corrective computer command
51 Goofing off
52 Neutral shade
53 Marc Antony's despotic descendant
54 Flight paths
58 Be worthwhile to do



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | JAN 13

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

UNFINISHED WORK (VIRTUAL PROGRAM)
Advancing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's legacy of racial equity. Hosted by New Roads School featuring young orators, filmmakers, musicians and artists. For more information visit www.newroads.org/MLK

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.

DRAG SHOW
A Night with the stars drag show. Weary Livers located at 2819 Pico Blvd. Doors open at 8 p.m. show at 9 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.

MLK INTERFAITH FREEDOM CELEBRATION (VIRTUAL PROGRAM)
For information and registration, contact the Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council: office@mtolivelutheranchurch.org or minister@ciop4justice.org. To be held at Mt. Olive Lutheran.

SATURDAY | JAN 15

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.

NOTABLE BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP
A community-led book club, focusing on books which have won major prizes or are otherwise notable. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

ANNUAL MLK HOLIDAY CONCERT
John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, 1630 Pearl Street, 2 - 3:30 p.m. https://www.mlkjrwestside.org/ or www.smsymphony.org

SUNDAY | JAN 16

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

MONDAY | JAN 17

37TH ANNUAL REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION
Come join the 37th annual celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The festivities will include music by the Linda Alvarez Trio and spoken word by Get Lit: Words Ignite, who will also receive a Community Light Award. Education awards will be presented to local students and a Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to longtime community activist, LaVerne Ross. 9 a.m. Free. Visit https://www.mlkjrwestside.org for more information.

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of books selected by the group. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

CANCELED: Architectural Review Board Meeting is canceled.

TUESDAY | JAN 18

SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING
The Architectural Review Board established in 1974, acts "to preserve existing areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and assure that buildings, structures, signs or other developments are in good taste, good design, harmonious with surrounding developments, and in general contribute to the preservation of Santa Monica's reputation as a place of beauty, spaciousness and quality."

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 25 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5358

Roll up, Roll up!

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

Action
Arena
Birds
Broke
Cakes
Cats
Cows
Dog trials
Dust
Exhibits
Fairy floss
Fish
Fruit
Funny
Ghost train
Grand parade
Hall
Horticulture
Music
Needlework
Noise
Order
Performance
Pigs
Queen
Rams
Ribbons
Rides
Ring
Rodeo
Rope
Scary
Sheep
Smells
Sore
Spectacle

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Melbourne Cup or The Everest?

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

OFFER

FROM PAGE 1

It's just that the new offer would differ in approach — but it's very similar in dollars," Wood said.

The new negotiation amount was approved in a closed-door item at the Monday, Jan. 10, Malibu City Council meeting.

While the new offer amends the previous "best and final" offer, Wood said the previous offer "has already been on the table for the District … that offer has remained in place and continues to be our 'best and final' offer."

Interim Malibu City Attorney John Cotti, in announcing the amended offer on Monday, stated that the money was earmarked to go toward Title I schools located in Santa Monica.

"The council authorized the school separation committee to make a counteroffer to the Santa Monica Unified School District amounting to $40 million over 10 years in targeted funds to six Title I schools and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and to continue to work with the district to identify acceptable mediators in the hopes of mediating before the county committee votes in March," Cotti announced at the end of the closed-session item on Monday.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, "Schools in which children from low-income families make up at least 40 percent of enrollment are eligible to use Title I funds to operate schoolwide programs that serve all children in the school in order to raise the achievement of the lowest-achieving students."

On Wednesday morning, Malibu representatives shared a copy of the letter with the Daily Press.

"The City [of Malibu] offers to place, over a ten-year period, $40 million in an endowment for the six District schools listed below," according to the offer letter. "The endowment will be equally shared by these schools and administered by the school site councils at each respective school."

The schools named were McKinley Elementary, Edison Language Academy, John Muir Elementary, Will Rogers Learning Community, John Adams Middle School and Samohi.

"This offer is made with the confidence that the City can partner with the District in its efforts to close the achievement gap at these schools," the letter states. "The City recognizes and respects the District's mission to achieve 'Extraordinary achievements for all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap.' It is in this spirit that the City hopes the parties can reach an agreement to provide an extraordinary resource to the students at these schools and empower their school communities to seek interventions to help close the achievement gap."

SMMUSD officials said the new offer fell short.

"The latest offer by the City of Malibu only serves to reinforce their inability to grasp the concepts of equity and how our schools are funded," said School Board Member Jon Kean. "The implication that all at-promise students are housed at 6 schools further perpetuates the have vs have not mentality that they are actively embracing. Over 30% of students in SMMUSD receive free or reduced lunch and that number will only rise if one removes Malibu schools from the equation. There are students at every school site who depend on the spirit of equity embodied by district wide fundraising and other educational initiatives. The ultimate irony is that all students in Santa Monica, not just those at our Title I schools, will receive LESS funding under the City of Malibu proposal than they do today. This offer still leaves students in Santa Monica with decreased funding and decreased opportunities. To the City of Malibu, you have a standing offer from SMMUSD that you agreed to before walking away. It embraces equity and opportunity for all students in both communities. That is the path we all must walk."

The offer was just the latest in a drawn-out and often bitter negotiation that began in earnest in 2015, although parents in Malibu have been organizing efforts to separate their schools from the larger Santa Monica-based school district for longer.

According to the district, offers so far have fallen short, especially when it comes to the 10-year sunset on Malibu funding. With Malibu taxpayers supplying a disproportionate amount of funding to Santa Monica students — making up about 15 percent of the district's student body, Malibu's vast tax base ends up funding about 30 percent of the district's budget — the District has expressed concern that cuts to school programs, particularly at Title I schools, will be needed immediately to ease the transition over the 10 years until Malibu funding is cut off.

While negotiations remain ongoing, there is a simultaneous petition for separation currently before the LA County Office of Education (LACOE). The next LACOE hearing is set to take place in March 2022; if board members approve Malibu's petition, it will then go before the State Board of Education, in a process expected to take several months or years to complete.

Each side has accused the other of not acting in good faith when it came to the negotiations.

When asked on Tuesday whether she believed district leadership would seriously consider this newest offer, Farrer said she "could not predict" their response.

"I do very much hope they will consider it seriously," Farrer said, "and understand that we want school district independence, we want local control and we acknowledge Santa Monica's position, but it doesn't negate our position. I really hope the district will read this offer and respond to it in a timely manner."

emily@smdp.com

INFLATION

FROM PAGE 4

a home or car more expensive, and therefore help to cool off the economy.

Some economists and members of Congress fear the Fed has acted too slowly to head off inflation and that this could eventually force even sharper rate increases that could damage the economy.

Republicans in Congress and even some liberal economists say Biden deserves at least some of the blame for high inflation, arguing that the financial rescue package he pushed through Congress last March added significant stimulus to an already strengthening economy.

DENTAL
Insurance
Get the dental care you deserve.

Medicare does not cover dental care[1]. That means if you need dental work done, it can cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars out of your own pocket.

Get Dental Insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It helps cover over 350 procedures – from cleanings and fillings to crowns and dentures. Call today to get help paying big dental bills.

- **See any dentist you want**, but save more with one in our network
- No deductible, **no annual maximum**
- **Immediate coverage** for preventive care

Call to get your FREE Information Kit
1-855-323-7468
dental50plus.com/santamonica



[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).
6255


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