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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Letter to the Editor
Wear your mask right.
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Changes to city services.
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Property owner takes issue with homelessness on Promenade





Courtesy photo

SHELTER: Parking garages, garbage stalls and elevators have become makeshift shelters downtown.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Local property owner John Alles is calling on the city to curb the increasing number of individuals who camp out in public elevators and garages, but city and police department leaders say their hands are tied in the matter.

Alles, who is suing the city over maintenance of the Promenade, has been documenting the increasing number of people who regularly smoke, defecate and erect tents to sleep in the public elevators and garages that are scattered throughout the downtown area and Third Street Promenade.

"It's been going on for a couple of months every day from night to morning, and without pictures nobody else would ever believe me so I've been documenting it," Alles said in a recent interview where he took issue with Downtown Santa Monica Inc., an organization that acts as the business district's advocate.

Alles believes the organization should be able to address the homeless problem, which he said has gotten out of hand.

DTSM Inc., CEO Kathleen Rawson said last week that it is currently doing everything it can to keep the area tidy thanks to the help of its ambassador program.

"If you're on the Promenade, you've seen them in their bright teal T-shirts. They act as the eyes and ears of downtown and certainly for the police department," Rawson said. "We are constantly interfacing with businesses to help address issues related to homelessness or helping property owners register their property for things like no-trespass authorizations."

DTSM Inc. also continues to work with city partners in the Health and Human Services Department and the Santa Monica Police Department to help homeless and mentally ill individuals find resources and, at the same time, deter anti-social and criminal behavior.

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 11

First Baptist Church seeks letters of support in fight for historic designation



Courtesy photo

CHURCH: The church has a long history in Venice and a despite bouncing back from a recent fire, the organization worries about its future.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The First Baptist Church of Venice is fighting to preserve the 110 year legacy of its historically black congregation and is seeking public letters to support its designation as a historic cultural monument.

The stakes to save the church building are high. It was sold into private ownership in 2017 and without a historic designation it is likely to be demolished and transformed into private residences.

To many residents this epitomizes the gentrification and erasure of history in the historically black

SEE **CHURCH** PAGE 11

County Residents Aged 65 And Older Can Now Receive Vaccines

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles County residents who are 65-years-old and older can now register for COVID-19 vaccination appointments beginning Thursday thanks to an executive order signed by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis.

Solis signed the executive order that mandated COVID-19 vaccines be available to members of the County's most susceptible age group Monday before she joined Los Angeles County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer to discuss the matter Tuesday, which is also when the County opened five large capacity vaccination sites across the region.

"This is about equity," Solis said as she discussed how older adults have been unfairly impacted by the virus and had to stay home for months isolated. "But the COVID-19 vaccine is here. Hope is here. Our residents will soon be able to return to a life where they can visit their grandchildren, go on walks with friends, volunteer at local soup kitchens, and even come to the L.A. County Fair."

Solis added she has been contemplating making the vaccine available to residents aged 65 and older for a couple of weeks.

"And obviously with the governor's pronouncement this past week," Solis said, "I think that really got us all together to focus on how we could expedite this… and I'm glad that the Board of Supervisors and our county team — everyone — came together

SEE **VACCINES** PAGE 11


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

SUBJECT: 20ENT-0261 (Appeal of Architecture Review Board Approval 20ARB-0204)
2425 20th Street
APPELLANT: Thomas C. Malayil
APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER: Scott Myers, Empire Associates

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

Appeal of the Architectural Review Board approval (20ARB-0204) of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of a new two-story, three-unit condominium development totaling 5,464 square feet with one subterranean level of parking.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021 AT 5:30 PM**
LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Planning Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal but participants may also join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/ypbryfkv or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 3459584 #).

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@smgov.net. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Additionally, public comment can be made by telephone by pre-registering on the link provided on the posted online agenda no later than 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item.

Address your comments to: Ross Fehrman, AICP, Associate Planner
Re: 20ENT-0261

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Ross Fehrman at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at ross.fehrman@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. 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.



'Shameful': US virus deaths top 400K as Trump leaves office

ADAM GELLER AND JANIE HAR
Associated Press

As President Donald Trump entered the final year of his term last January, the U.S. recorded its first confirmed case of COVID-19. Not to worry, Trump insisted, his administration had the virus "totally under control."

Now, in his final hours in office, after a year of presidential denials of reality and responsibility, the pandemic's U.S. death toll has eclipsed 400,000. And the loss of lives is accelerating.

"This is just one step on an ominous path of fatalities," said Dr. Irwin Redlener, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University and one of many public health experts who contend the Trump administration's handling of the crisis led to thousands of avoidable deaths.

"Everything about how it's been managed has been infused with incompetence and dishonesty, and we're paying a heavy price," he said.

The 400,000-death toll, reported Tuesday by Johns Hopkins University, is greater than the population of New Orleans, Cleveland or Tampa, Florida. It's nearly equal to the number of American lives lost annually to strokes, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, flu and pneumonia combined.

With more than 4,000 deaths recorded on some recent days — the most since the pandemic began — the toll by week's end will probably surpass the number of Americans killed in World War II.

"We need to follow the science and the 400,000th death is shameful," said Cliff Daniels, chief strategy officer for Methodist Hospital of Southern California, near Los Angeles. With its morgue full, the hospital has parked a refrigerated truck outside to hold the bodies of COVID-19 victims until funeral homes can retrieve them.

"It's so incredibly, unimaginably sad that so many people have died that could have been avoided," he said.

President-elect Joe Biden, who will be sworn in Wednesday, planned to take part in an evening ceremony Tuesday near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington to honor the 400,000 dead. The bell at the Washington National Cathedral was set to toll 400 times.

Other cities around the U.S. planned tributes as well. The Empire State Building was lit in "heartbeat" red — the same lighting used last year as a show of support for emergency workers at the height of the virus surge in New York City. The red lights pulsed as a visual heartbeat. In Salt Lake City, the bells at the Utah Capitol were to ring 15 times in honor of the more than 1,500 lives lost to COVID-19 in the state.

The U.S. accounts for nearly 1 of every 5 virus deaths reported worldwide, far more than any other country despite its great wealth and medical resources.

The coronavirus would almost certainly have posed a grave crisis for any president given its rapid spread and power to kill, experts on public health and government said.

But Trump seemed to invest as much in battling public perceptions as he did in fighting the virus itself, repeatedly downplaying the threat and rejecting scientific expertise while fanning conflicts ignited by the outbreak.

As president he was singularly positioned to counsel Americans. Instead, he used his pulpit to spout theories — refuted by doctors — that taking unproven medicines or even injecting household disinfectant might save people from the virus.

The White House defended the administration this week.

"We grieve every single life lost to this pandemic, and thanks to the president's leadership, Operation Warp Speed has led to the development of multiple safe and effective vaccines in record time, something many said would never happen," said White House spokesman Judd Deere.

With deaths spiraling in the New York City area last spring, Trump declared "war" on the virus. But he was slow to invoke the Defense Production Act to secure desperately needed medical equipment. Then he sought to avoid responsibility for shortfalls, saying that the federal government was "merely a backup" for governors and legislatures.

"I think it is the first time in history that a president has declared a war and we have experienced a true national crisis and then dumped responsibility for it on the states," said Drew Altman, president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, a health care policy think tank.

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tried to issue guidelines for reopening in May, Trump administration officials held them up and watered them down. As the months passed, Trump claimed he was smarter than the scientists and belittled experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top authority on infectious diseases.

"Why would you bench the CDC, the greatest fighting force of infectious disease in the world? Why would you call Tony Fauci a disaster?" asked Dr. Howard Markel, a medical historian at the University of Michigan. "It just doesn't make sense."

As governors came under pressure to reopen state economies, Trump pushed them to move faster, asserting falsely that the virus was fading. "LIBERATE MINNESOTA!" he tweeted in April as angry protesters gathered at the state Capitol to oppose the Democratic governor's stay-at-home restrictions. "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!"

In Republican-led states like Arizona that allowed businesses to reopen, hospitals and morgues filled with virus victims.

"It led to the tragically sharp partisan divide we've seen in the country on COVID, and that has fundamental implications for where we are now, because it means the Biden administration can't start over," Altman said. "They can't put the genie back in the bottle."

In early October, when Trump himself contracted COVID-19, he ignored safety protocols, ordering up a motorcade so

SEE **SHAMEFUL** PAGE 5

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 219 CALLS ON JANUARY 18

Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 12:30 a.m.
Overdose 1500blk Stanford St 12:44 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100blk Esparta Way 4:32 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 2600blk 34th St 5:35 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1600blk The Beach 5:44 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 400blk Pico Blvd 6:07 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk 5th St 7:27 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1700blk 12th St 7:36 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:42 a.m.
Construction Noise 800blk 18th St 8:03 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1000blk 2nd St 8:08 a.m.
Burglary Report 1700blk 12th St 8:08 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk Euclid St 8:09 a.m.
Construction Noise 3100blk 4th St 8:14 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:21 a.m.
Burglary Report 1700blk 12th St 8:23 a.m.
Assault Just Occurred 1200blk Yale St 8:24 a.m.
Construction Noise 2200blk 20th St 8:27 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk Euclid St 8:39 a.m.
Burglary Report 1700blk 12th St 8:39 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100blk Grant St 8:41 a.m.
Construction Noise 1600blk Oak St 8:44 a.m.
Construction Noise 800blk 18th St 8:58 a.m.
Construction Noise 1700blk Pico Blvd 9:02 a.m.
Encampment 2400blk The Beach 9:05 a.m.
Encampment 2500blk The Beach 9:23 a.m.
Construction Noise 400blk San Vicente Blvd 9:31 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2800blk Pico Blvd 9:41 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600blk Idaho Ave 9:43 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1900blk 20th St 9:45 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk 6th St 9:47 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1400blk Yale St 9:49 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 3300blk Pearl St 9:52 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 500blk Adelaide Dr 10:02 a.m.
Construction Noise 500blk 21st St 10:10 a.m.
Sexual Assault Ocean Ave / California Ave 10:42 a.m.
Construction Noise 900blk 2nd St 10:58 a.m.
Burglary Report 1300blk Princeton St 11:01 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:03 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2800blk Pico Blvd 11:04 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 20th St 11:18 a.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk 26th St 11:33 a.m.
Construction Noise 1300blk Carlyle Ave 11:33 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1700blk Appian Way 11:33 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1400blk Ocean Ave 11:39 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 11:44 a.m.
Found Senile Person 300blk Santa Monica Pl 12:02 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 800blk Idaho Ave 12:07 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1700blk Ocean Ave 12:13 p.m.
Stalking Suspect Just Left 200blk 20th St 12:20 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:21 p.m.
Burglary Report 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 12:36 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 9th St 12:56 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2500blk 4th St 1:04 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 11th St 1:05 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 400blk Hill St 1:17 p.m.
Battery Report 800blk Broadway 1:32 p.m.
Encampment 1000blk Interstate 10 1:37 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred Main St / Bay St 1:54 p.m.
Construction Noise 1300blk Carlyle Ave 1:58 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1400blk 5th St 2:08 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1500blk Stanford St 2:18 p.m.
Construction Noise 400blk San Vicente Blvd 2:35 p.m.
Grand Theft Report Stanford St / Broadway 2:42 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2500blk 25th St 2:44 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 1200blk Colorado Ave 3:21 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2500blk Main St 3:24 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1900blk Ocean Way 3:32 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 00blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:39 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 200blk San Vicente Blvd 3:54 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2500blk 6th St 3:55 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2500blk Washington Ave 3:55 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1600blk Stanford St 3:57 p.m.
Panhandling 1500blk 4th St 4:21 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 2000blk Ocean Ave 4:22 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1500blk Stanford St 4:35 p.m.
Lost Property 1000blk Palisades Park 4:38 p.m.
Burglary Report 2000blk Main St 4:39 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred Main St / Olympic Dr 4:46 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 9th St / Montana Ave 4:47 p.m.
Identity Theft 1400blk 26th St 5:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 5:18 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 300blk Santa Monica Pl 5:28 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk 2nd St 5:32 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 5:51 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 25th St 5:58 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1900blk Pico Blvd 6:52 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1000blk Pearl St 8:16 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:27 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Main St / Marine St 9:31 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2300blk Main St 11:26 p.m.
Burglary Report 3200blk Pico Blvd 11:36 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:55 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 18 CALLS ON JANUARY 18

Automatic Alarm 1600blk 11th St 12:34 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Stanford St 12:44 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 4:02 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Ave 5:45 a.m.
EMS 600blk Pico Blvd 6:37 a.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 10:21 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:55 a.m.
EMS 1600blk 9th St 1:01 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 11th St 1:05 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 1:34 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 1:41 p.m.
EMS 200blk San Vicente Blvd 3:22 p.m.
EMS Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 3:26 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200blk Colorado Ave 4:33 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 11th St 5:56 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 14th St 6:43 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 9:53 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Arizona Ave 10:07 p.m.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

SUBJECT: 20ENT-0314 (Vesting Tentative Parcel Map No. 83173)
1311-1313 3rd Street
302 Arizona Avenue
APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER: SVF Criterion Santa Monica Corporation

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

The applicant is requesting an approval of a Vesting Tentative Parcel Map to create an air-space subdivision to allow the residential and commercial components of the existing development at 1311-1313 3rd Street to be separately leased or financed. The property is located in the BC (Bayside Conservation) District of the Downtown Community Plan (DCP) and the proposed subdivision includes three airspaces: the residential units, the office area, and the retail space.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021 AT 5:30 PM**
LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Planning Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal but participants may also join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/ypbryfkv or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 3459584#).

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Additionally, public comment can be made by telephone by pre-registering on the link provided on the posted online agenda no later than 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item. Address your comments to: Steve Mizokami, Senior Planner, Re: 19ENT-0235, 19ENT-0236

Address your comments to: Tiffany Lin, Associate Planner
Re: 20ENT-0314

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Tiffany Lin by e-mail at tiffany.lin@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. 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.

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WINNER

Letter to the Editor

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wear your mask right!

Editor:

"1 in 3 L.A. County residents have been infected by coronavirus, new estimate shows." reads a January 14 LA Times headline, so it is time to add another element to the message, "Wear a mask properly to protect others as well as yourself."

As a long time skin diver, I know the difference between a mask that provides a snug fit and one that leaks. With medical masks worn to reduce community Covid transmission, the difference is equally obvious to me. To function properly, the mask has to provide a reasonably leak proof seal around the nose and mouth of the wearer. I want to address the fit around the nose.

It is a simple matter to carefully form the thin metal strip to closely fit facial contours when wearing the mask properly with the top edge at the bridge of the nose — not hovering near the nostrils. Doing this keeps dangerous aerosols and droplets out, protecting the wearer. It also protects those near by from an infected wearer's exhalations, coughs, laughter or whatever else comes out of their face. It also helps keep the mask in place, rather than slipping down below the nostrils as we saw with so many of the Congressmen testifying at the impeachment hearing last Wednesday.

Wearing a mask is a community responsibility. Wearing a mask in a stupid manner that leaks between nostrils and the surrounding air is, well, just plain stupid.

Be responsible and wear your mask properly!

Tim Tunks, Ocean Park Resident since 1976

Netflix's big 4Q lifts video service above 200M subscribers

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

Netflix's video streaming service has surpassed 200 million subscribers for the first time as its expanding line-up of TV series and movies continues to captivate people stuck at home during the ongoing battle against the pandemic.

The subscriber milestone highlighted Netflix's fourth-quarter results released Tuesday. The service added another 8.5 million subscribers during the October-December period, capping Netflix's biggest year since its inception as a DVD-by-mail service in 1997. Netflix ended the year with nearly 204 million worldwide subscribers.

The fourth-quarter gains easily topped the projections of the roughly 6 million additional subscribers projected by Netflix's own management and Wall Street analysts. Netflix's stock surged by more than 13% extended trading after the latest subscriber numbers came out.

After its upending of the DVD-rental industry, Netflix introduced the then-revolutionary concept of streaming TV shows and films 14 years ago. At that time, its service had a mere 6 million subscribers.

The streaming service began to grow rapidly seven years ago when Netflix started producing its own shows and accelerated a worldwide expansion that now spans more than 190 countries. Since the February 2013 debut of its first original series, "House of Cards," Netflix has attracted more than 170 million additional subscribers.

Netflix gained another 37 million subscribers last year, a 22% increase from 2019. Its stock fared even better, rising by 67% last year. The Los Gatos, California, company now boasts a market value of more than $220 billion.

For all its success, Netflix still faces challenges in the coming years from bevy of deep-pocketed rivals, with perhaps the most formidable posed by a more experienced and even larger entertainment company: Walt Disney Co.

After deciding to stop licensing its library to Netflix, Disney introduced its own video streaming service 14 months ago. The service, Disney Plus, has proved far more popular than anyone imagined, accumulating nearly 90 million subscribers in its first year, emboldening the company's management to predict that it will boast as many as 260 million subscribers at some point in 2024.

"Our strategy is simple: if we can continue to improve Netflix every day to better delight our members, we can be their first choice for streaming entertainment," the company wrote Tuesday in its quarterly update to shareholders. "This past year is a testament to this approach."

To retain and attract subscribers, Netflix has been spending so much money on original programming that the company usually ends up shoveling out more cash than its video services brings in from its subscribers, although it has remained profitable under the accounting standards allowed in the entertainment industry.

The company earned $542.2 million on revenue of $6.64 billion in the fourth quarter, a relatively thin profit margin.

But Netflix finally stopped burning through cash last year, largely because government restrictions imposed during the pandemic curtailed the production of programming. Netflix posted a positive cash flow of $1.9 billion during 2020, the first time that has the company hasn't had a negative cash flow for an entire year since 2011.

In another breakthrough, Netflix predicted it will no longer need to raise additional cash from lenders to help finance its original-programming budget. The company said it doesn't expect to experience the same drain on its cash as it has for most of the past decade, even as it ramps up production of its original programming again and gears up to release at least one original film per week on its service throughout this year.

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica Adjusts Service Hours as Nation Celebrates Inauguration Day

On Wednesday, January 20, the City of Santa Monica will adjust service hours as the nation celebrates Inauguration Day. Service changes include:

The Santa Monica Pier will be closed.

The Downtown Farmers Market hours will be adjusted to 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Santa Monica Public Library curbside service will be suspended for the day at all locations.

Planning Commission will air live on YouTube and not City TV, Channel 16. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 the following day, Thursday, January 21.

Any other changes or adjustments to City service hours will be shared directly with community members who use those services.

Interim Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks shared a video with the community about the Santa Monica Police Department's precautionary preparations and increased staffing for the Inauguration period, which is now underway.

The City thanks the community for their understanding and flexibility as we proceed prudently in light of recent events in our nation's Capitol. For emergency updates sent directly to your phone, please sign up for SM Alerts at www.santamonica.gov/alerts.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

LOS ANGELES

Capitol photos, videos lead to California doctor's arrest

A Beverly Hills doctor who has criticized the coronavirus vaccine was arrested Monday in connection with her alleged role storming the U.S. Capitol earlier this month, authorities said.

Simone Gold, 55, is facing charges of entering a restricted building or grounds, violent entry and disorderly conduct, records show. She is expected to appear in court in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Attempts to reach her attorney to speak on her behalf were unsuccessful.

Gold, an outspoken advocate for the use of hydroxychloroquine to treat the coronavirus, told The Washington Post she had gone to the Capitol and is the person depicted in police bulletins carrying a bullhorn on the Capitol grounds.

She claimed she did not witness any violence during the Capitol's siege, in an attack where dozens were hurt and one Capitol police officer later died of his injuries. Gold told the newspaper she was concerned that the photos of her inside the Capitol would distract from her health advocacy work.

"I do regret being there," Gold said.

Investigators received tips about Gold's presence at the Capitol on Jan. 6, including photographs and videos, according to court filings. A CNN video shows a woman who appears to be Gold walking through the Capitol's National Statuary Hall, while another recording shows her giving a speech to a small group of people, court documents allege.

Gold wrote an open letter in May to President Donald Trump, calling the coronavirus shutdowns "a mass casualty incident." She has touted hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malaria drug that Trump said he took because he believes it can prevent COVID-19 even though his own administration has warned it can have deadly side effects. Gold has said she has prescribed the drug to some of her patients with good results.

America's Frontline Doctors, a group she founded, in July spoke outside U.S. Supreme Court to criticize the pandemic lockdowns. The group has been widely discredited for spreading disinformation about the coronavirus and unproven treatments, and social media platforms have removed its content.

John Strand, the group's communications director, was also arrested Monday on federal charges relating to the insurrection, as was Gina Bisignano, a pro-Trump activist who has been organizing weekly protests in Beverly Hills in support of the president.

STEFANIE DAZIO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHAMEFUL

FROM PAGE 2

he could wave to supporters outside his hospital. Once released, he appeared on the White House balcony to take off his mask for the cameras, making light of health officials' pleas for people to cover their faces.

"We're rounding the corner," Trump said of the battle with the virus during a debate with Biden in late October. "It's going away."

It isn't. U.S. deaths from COVID-19 surpassed 100,000 in late May, then tripled by mid-December. Experts at the University of Washington project deaths will reach nearly 567,000 by May 1.

More than 120,000 patients with the virus are in the hospital in the U.S., according to the COVID Tracking Project, twice the number who filled wards during previous peaks. On a single day last week, the U.S. recorded more than 4,400 deaths.

While vaccine research funded by the administration as part of Warp Speed has proved successful, the campaign trumpeted by the White House to rapidly distribute and administer millions of shots has fallen well short of the early goals officials set.

"Young people are dying, young people who have their whole lives ahead of them," said Mawata Kamara, a nurse at California's San Leandro Hospital who is furious over the surging COVID-19 cases that have overwhelmed health care workers. "We could have done so much more."

Many voters considered the federal government's response to the pandemic a key factor in their vote: 39% said it was the single most important factor, and they overwhelmingly backed Biden over Trump, according to AP VoteCast.

But millions of others stood with him.

"Here you have a pandemic," said Eric Dezenhall, a Washington crisis management consultant, "yet you have a massive percent of the population that doesn't believe it exists."

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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Happy Inauguration Day!

I'M GETTING TIRED

Of trying to figure things out, in a world that's changing faster than sleep-deprived parents can change a newborn. It often involves the same material, too.

Although I feel there is plenty of reason for hope, recent events have left me wishing a little more optimism could sneak in, and a shorter timeline.

It's a danged long tunnel and that distant light at the end of it so many are hailing is still a long way off. I've thought that from the beginning, grimacing when someone would glibly declare, say last spring, that they'd have to put off their trip to Jamaica until fall. Fall 2021 if you're lucky, I would think to myself, and now even that seems bullish.

I was a big fan of the TV political thriller "24," and it seems like this year 2021 came in and announced, ominously, "Previously — on 2020..." I know, "24" was way too violent, and some felt racially insensitive for portraying too many bad guys as Middle Eastern, but the writing was brilliant. And every time you heard "Previously..." you knew things were going to get much worse than you could have imagined from last week's episode.

BUT I'LL BE PATIENT

It's coming. I think Uncle Joe is spot on in leveling with us that things are going to get worse before they get better but my gosh, what a welcome change — even if it isn't good news, just gimme some truth, as John Lennon wrote in 1971.

"I've had enough of watching scenes
Of schizophrenic, ego-centric, paranoiac, prima-donnas
All I want is the truth now
Just gimme some truth."

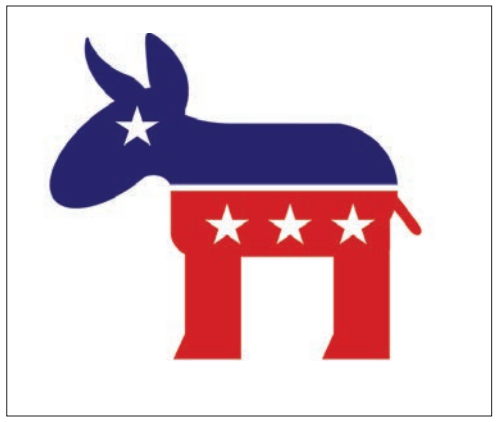
I think we're all with you on that, John. Unfortunately, truth has become a quantity more rare than rhodium in the 2020s. Or, maybe it's the cheapest, because everyone has their own. Lennon's cynical assessment of all politicians may have been dismissed at the time by many as radical and over the top, but... maybe he just had a crystal ball looking half a century ahead to 2020. Egocentric, paranoiac, prima donna...

Truth would be a return to some normalcy, some sanity. Sadly, in four years, tens of millions of Americans have turned their backs on the truth, and facts, and science.

President Biden will be giving his inaugural address the day you read this. It will be the most important speech of his life, as he attempts the seemingly impossible task of trying to heal the terrible divisions in our nation today, or at least start the process. We all wish him well. But, I think we all have to pitch in. How? Man, that's the million dollar question.

DR. KING

But we've just celebrated the birth (and life) of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and he had a few simple but powerful ideas about that.



Courtesy image

ELECTION: It's a new day in Washington, D.C.

"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude."

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

So I'm tired. Sometimes feeling overwhelmed and powerless in the face of recent events and the last four (or 12) years. (The racism really erupted when we elected a black president.)

SO WHAT? GET A GRIP

I'm a privileged white guy who barely knows even the meaning of oppression or long, fruitless struggle. It was a wait of nearly 250 years before kidnapped Africans got the chains of slavery undone, and that was just the beginning of their struggle to this day, 155 years later. Dr. King and millions of other Americans were born into that awful, bloody history, and they marched on, non-violently, with love. And they brought change.

So, reconciling with Fox patriots who are understandably a little weak on their U.S. history (though absolutely certain of what they know), seems a lesser effort. I mean, what are they going to do, try to overthrow democracy and hang our elected leaders? C'mon.

How about this? The next time you encounter your squirrelly cousins' delusions on social media, pick up the phone and give them a call. "Hey Rudy, I saw what you wrote, can we talk about it? Nicely? Because you know I love you, and I want to understand." And then — ask, don't argue. Inform but don't insist. Don't lose patience. Respect their beliefs, while trying to get at the basis for them. Don't try to change their mind, but maybe give them something to think about. Above all, listen, with open mind and heart.

Will this work? Heck if I know. But it

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 7

Fire Pits & Glass

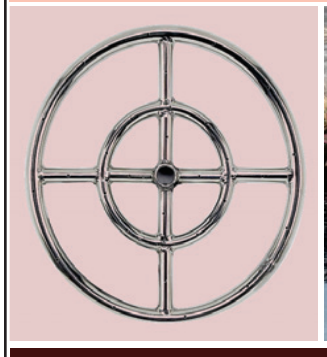


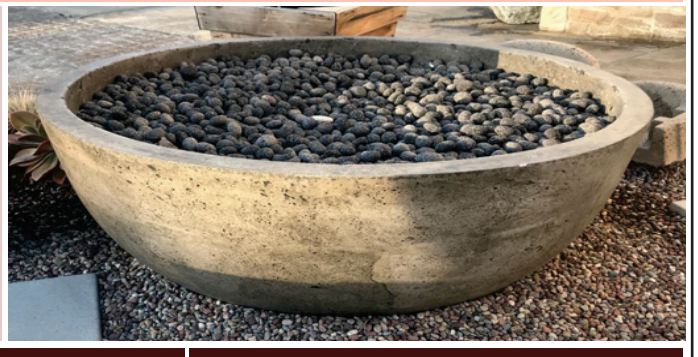






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Newsom sets new tone for California, White House partnership

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

After four years of sparring with President Donald Trump, California is ready for a more productive, friendlier chapter with Democratic President-elect Joe Biden.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom outlined his areas of agreement and places where he hopes to collaborate with the new administration Tuesday in a letter to Biden. Among his requests are federal support for California's efforts to house homeless people in hotel and motel rooms and a restoration of money for the state's troubled high-speed rail project, which Trump revoked.

"I offer you my full partnership and support as you take office and inherit the tremendous responsibility to restore our nation's economy and place of leadership on the global stage — all while working to bring the COVID-19 pandemic to an end," Newsom wrote.

It's a notably friendlier tone than Newsom often took with Trump, particularly during the first year of his governorship in 2019, when the two sparred over wildfire management, immigration and climate change. California, the nation's most populous state, was often an easy punching bag for Trump. His administration tried to revoke California's authority to set its own auto emissions standards, took away $1 billion for the high-speed rail project and adopted a slew of policies detrimental to the state's millions of immigrants.

Newsom's tone was more muted in 2020 as he sought not to anger, and even occasionally praised, Trump amid a scramble for federal help to contain the coronavirus. The federal government fulfilled many of his requests for assistance.

But a Democrat in the White House will automatically improve the relationship. California will have extra clout with Kamala Harris as vice president and potentially Xavier Becerra, the state's current attorney general, as head of the federal health and human services agency.

Newsom's letter outlines his support for initiatives Biden has already announced, including more federal resources for vaccinating people and reopening schools. Newsom also supports a proposed a $1,400 relief payment for people. California is using state money to provide a one-time check of $600 to low-income individuals.

His letter further requests the federal government boost California's efforts to house homeless people in hotels and motels, a new program during the pandemic. Biden has proposed $5 billion in aid nationally to purchase and convert hotels and motels. Newsom requested Biden support efforts to make the programs permanent and expand the use of housing vouchers.

Elsewhere, Newsom highlights funding for the high-speed rail project as a top priority. The state has been working to build a high-speed rail line between Los Angeles and San Francisco for more than a decade, but the project has been beset by delays and cost overruns. Most recently, one of the project's main contractors blasted the pace of work, and even some Democratic lawmakers oppose continuing it. Newsom made no mention of the challenges in his letter.

Newsom further requested Biden restore California's ability to set its own vehicle emissions standards, a power the Trump administration revoked as it dismantled climate change regulations. On immigration, he's asking the administration to reverse rules aimed at denying green cards to immigrants likely to access public benefits and eliminate religion-based travel bans. Biden has already indicated plans to undo Trump's travel ban on majority-Muslim nations and to outline a pathway to citizenship for people living in the country illegally.

"Having a true partner in the White House — and an Administration aligned with so many of our values — is a game changer for Californians," Newsom wrote.

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 6

seems better than the way most of us have been handling it (block, unfriend), and it just might chip away while maintaining friendship and respect. (Mike Bone, you've got a lot of work to do with your Peach State posse.)

FOR ME?

A thornier path, perhaps. As a political commentator it's my job description to point out the things, especially in local government, that I think are not being done right. (And sometimes, the good stuff.) To give voice to the outrage I hear from our community on certain issues. To try to untwist the complicated, hidden agendas and facts.

I regularly become unhappy with those officials I see as intentional perpetrators of ruinous policies, especially when it seems done for personal benefit, for greed and power. But I must always remember to condemn the actions but not the person, and sometimes... I forget. If there is a consistent record of it, I feel obligated to call for that person's removal from office, as I did for the incumbents on City Council and the School Board in our last election (well, our last several elections). That may require questioning not only their actions but their motives, and then it becomes tricky. But I'm trying.

It's a stretch but I'm going to try to always remember that we're all Americans, all Santa Monicans, all on this ride together, and all good guys who love our country and city.

If, as I believe, the biggest disasters present the biggest opportunities, hoo boy, are we ever lucky. Buckle up.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 35 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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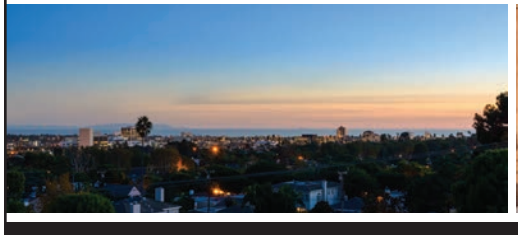
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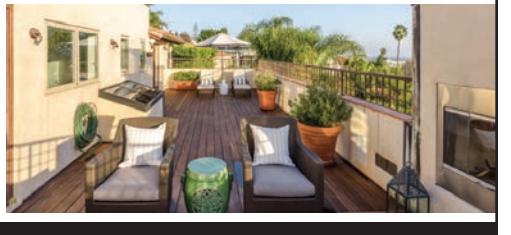
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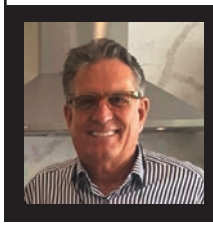


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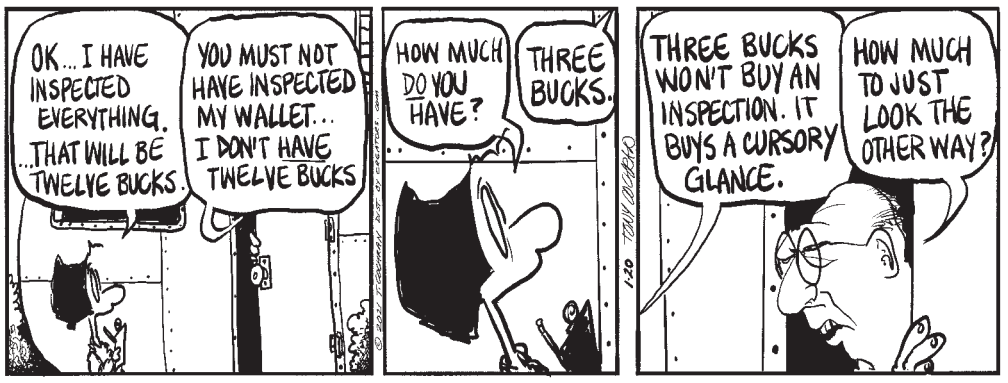


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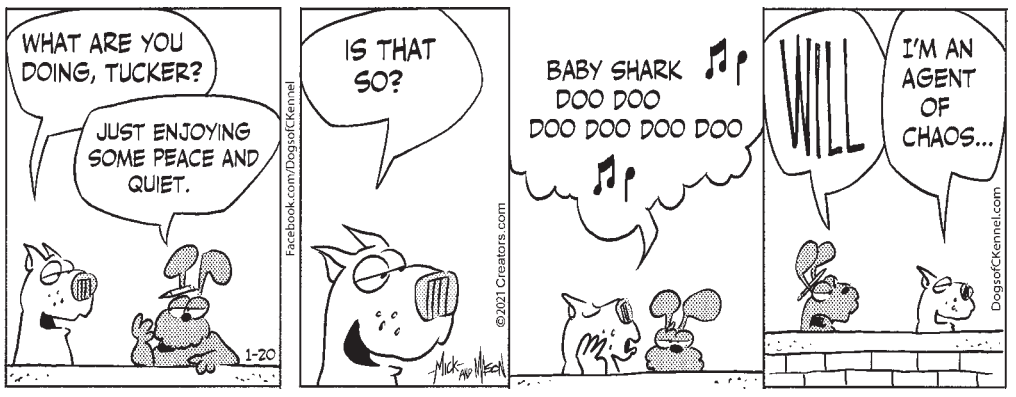
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



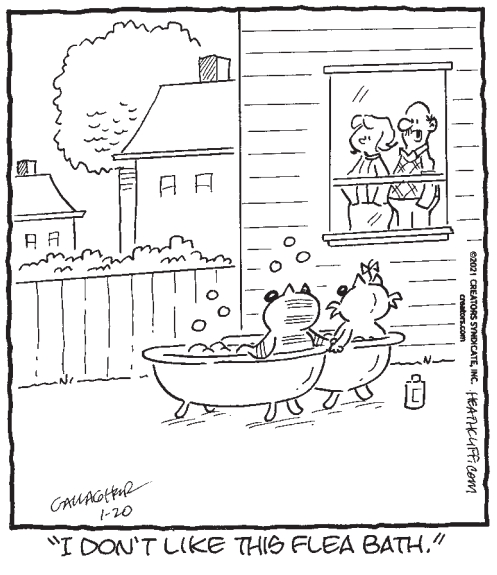
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"I DON'T LIKE THIS FLEA BATH."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.8°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Old WNW swell trending down. May have a reinforcing new WNW swell creep in through the second half of the day.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Small new WNW swell. Could have more size from some shorter period NW swell from nearby low.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 66.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/01/20	Wed	02:54 AM	4.19	H
2021/01/20	Wed	10:00 AM	1.99	L
2021/01/20	Wed	3:05 PM	2.73	H
2021/01/20	Wed	8:25 PM	1.83	L
2021/01/21	Thu	03:45 AM	4.36	H
2021/01/21	Thu	11:26 AM	1.45	L
2021/01/21	Thu	5:20 PM	2.62	H
2021/01/21	Thu	9:28 PM	2.22	L
2021/01/22	Fri	04:33 AM	4.59	H
2021/01/22	Fri	12:20 PM	0.86	L
2021/01/22	Fri	6:57 PM	2.83	H
2021/01/22	Fri	10:33 PM	2.44	L
2021/01/23	Sat	05:17 AM	4.87	H
2021/01/23	Sat	1:00 PM	0.32	L
2021/01/23	Sat	7:44 PM	3.08	H
2021/01/23	Sat	11:29 PM	2.51	L
2021/01/24	Sun	05:58 AM	5.19	H
2021/01/24	Sun	1:33 PM	-0.15	L
2021/01/24	Sun	8:15 PM	3.28	H
2021/01/25	Mon	12:16 AM	2.46	L
2021/01/25	Mon	06:37 AM	5.53	H

DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 1/16
14 20 39 65 67
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 730 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 1/15
3 11 12 38 43
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 865 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/16
4 13 15 23 31
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 13 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/18
2 18 32 34 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/18
EVENING: 2 4 5

Draw Date: 1/18
MIDDAY: 2 7 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/18
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:40.07

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 20)

You'll enjoy the perks and rewards coming to you in 2021. And while you're given many opportunities, the ones you like best are self-initiated. You'll get creative and put diligent effort into making something that matters to you. You'll scale it up with an elegant system to make your vision go live. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 44, 48, 18 and 39.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People pass every day; transactions occur — pleasantries and less. But a meeting of the minds such as the one you'll have today is not a thing to take lightly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Devotion comes at a cost. Whenever you say yes to one thing, you are saying no to other things. It cannot be any other way. If you are not conscious of what you are saying yes and no to, it becomes clear now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). How often a thing happens is a significant and defining characteristic of its nature. Establishing a rhythm matters; otherwise, no one can dance to the song.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's clicking for you. When you throw the dice in front of a movie crew and your character needs to win, the numbers are irrelevant. You're a winner if you act like one. Take it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Conflict is healthy. People are animals. Animals need to establish territory. Feel good that people around you express themselves. Listen and communicate your way to peace.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Fate has spoken, and quite favorably. So don't question and wonder whether you're working hard enough. Accept the bounty of a perfect plan coming together, even if it wasn't yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Who do you think you are? It's an impertinent question from a stranger and a relevant and enlightening question from you to you. The answer is not one thing. You are becoming.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What keeps you from following your own advice? Likely, it's a conflict between what the head and body want. To communicate your wishes to the body, you must translate them into the body's language.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a dynamic playing out. Give it time. Try not to judge anything or make decisions while you're in the thick of it. Let things settle, and then see where you're at.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You want to measure your progress, though today, it's unclear what the most relevant metric would be. How do you measure a feeling? Maybe in what you're willing to do to experience or avoid it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Document what happens today, because later, you will find the evidence reassuring and probably entertaining. Furthermore, you might be able to take something about this to the bank.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As a rule, most things you chase are going to run from you. Seduction works best in a variety of instances. For instance, it's the ones who don't seek validation who tend to get it, a principle that also works in reverse.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

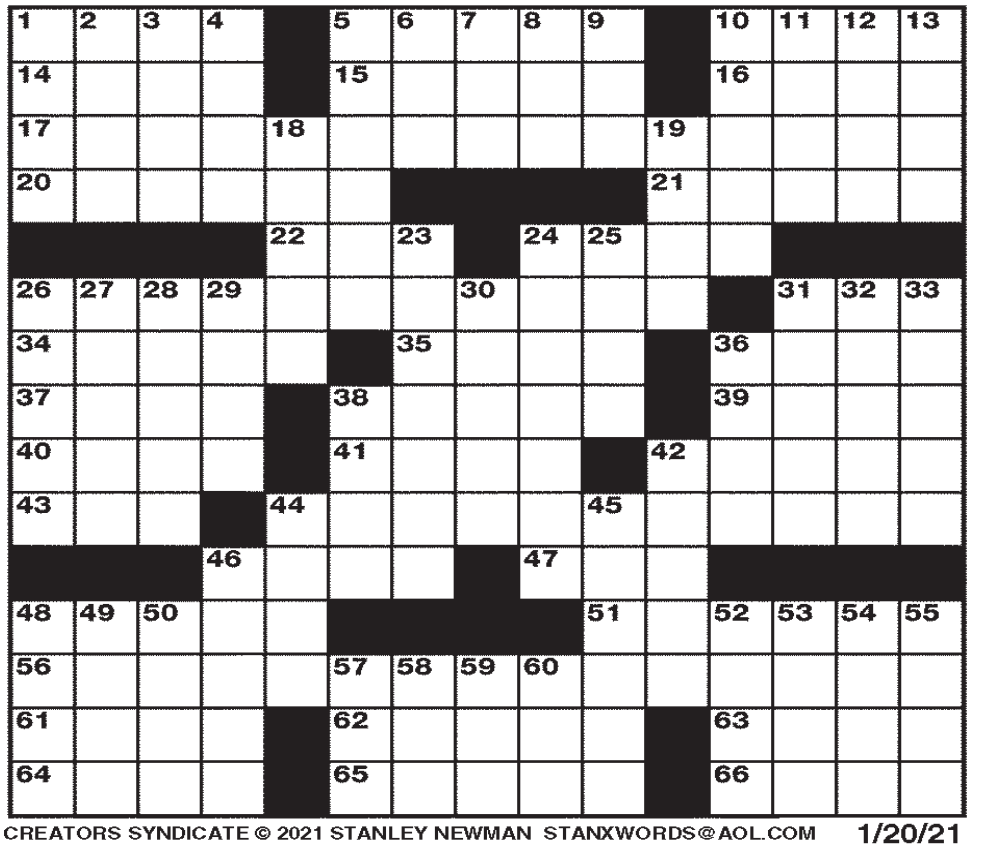
3			2			9		
2			9		1	5		8
		4		7				
			5				9	
7	4			2			6	3
	9				3			
				5		3		
5		6	1		8			7
		9			2			6

Newsday Crossword

ALPHABETICAL ENDERS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Remainder
5 Smart-alecky
10 Unexpected obstacle
14 Brainstorm
15 Loosen, as one's laces
16 Phrase on a chore list
17 Paying for everyone's meal
20 Go to an event
21 Foe
22 Shout from Scrooge
24 Italian farewell
26 S&L's medium-term offering
31 Furious
34 18 holes of golf
35 Run ___ (go wild)
36 Charge for a cab ride
37 Part of a group of
38 No longer a threat
39 Grand-scale story
40 Family rooms
41 What stuffs socks
42 Model airplane wood
43 One of three in 5 Across
44 "Great" Australian coral attraction
46 The Red Planet
47 Physicians' org.
48 Iberian nation
51 Lion or leopard
56 Well short of what's needed
61 Very much
62 How improvisers "play it"
63 Region
64 Bursts. as balloons
65 Looks to be
66 Try out

DOWN
1 Kelly of morning TV
2 Modify, as prose
3 Religious offshoot
4 Confiscate
5 Time for a large crossword
6 With 59 Down, director from Taiwan
7 Nickname that's three consecutive letters
8 Taste, as of tea
9 Up to now
10 Court reporter, for short
11 Take heed of
12 Eden resident
13 Elapse
18 Still asleep
19 One end of a pin
23 Radiators, for example
24 Nation on the Adriatic
25 Unpleasant, informally
26 One-for-one deal
27 Real estate listings
28 Attractions in Athens
29 Remnants
30 Middle traffic light
31 Breakfast syrup flavor
32 Stand up
33 Coffee order
36 Be worried about
38 Miles away
42 Smart one
44 Cause of ruin
45 Campfire remnants
46 Produces, as pennies
48 Breaking-off sound
49 Equestrian sport
50 Perched upon
52 Bearded barnyard beast
53 Remedy
54 Very long time
55 The thing there
57 Tummy muscles
58 Sandwich bread
59 See 6 Down
60 Thanksgiving veggie



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Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



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

Locally owned, and committed to local news reporting since 2001.

smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4999

At the vet's

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

Afghan
Alpaca
Anxious
Bark
Bird
Boxer
Bunny
Cage
Cavy
Chase
Check-up
Clean
Coat
Dingo
Dish
Domesticated
Drink
Duck
Ears
Eyes
Finch
Frog
Groom
Guppy
Heeler
Hens
Howl
Kennel
Lady
Legs
Meals
Nurse
Ointment
Oscar
Paws
Pills
Purr
Romp
Rules
Sleepy
Spider
Tail
Tame
Terrier
Timid
Tiny
Tortoise
Treats
Turtle
Warm
Yelp

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Wish I was there right now!

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HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 1

"These teams consistently connect with people experiencing homelessness, even during the pandemic, which every Los Angeles County resident understands as having only made our regional homelessness crisis all the more severe," City Spokeswoman Constance Farrell in a statement that mentioned SMPD officials conduct early morning checks in the public parking garages and a scheduled City Council meeting on February 23 that will include a study session on homelessness.

"As we look to that Council session, City staff appreciate community members and property owners drawing attention to areas of concern, so that we can enhance efforts to address those concerns," Farrell added.

Alles said he has alerted leaders to no avail.

After speaking to several members of SMPD's Homeless Outreach unit while he was out taking pictures of the situation one day, they indicated there are many restrictions on how they interact with the homeless and they can only react if all of the elevators and dumpster rooms are locked at night, Alles said. "And I've asked Kathleen and (Interim City Manager Lane Dilg) to walk the Promenade with me… but they don't want to. I said, 'You know, you've got tremendous power. You closed Palisades Park back in the summer; you've closed the pier on the weekends; you have a mandate for facial coverings — surely you can close the elevators overnight.' Because that'll go a long way to eliminating the problem."

Officials said they are limited in their ability to have direct contact with Alles due to his ongoing lawsuit. However, DTSM Inc., has also advocated many times over the years to close the elevators and bin rooms and replace trash bins with locked compactors, Rawson said, but no action has been taken.

"We'll take on as much as we can but that stops short of enforcement. We don't have an enforcement capacity at all; that's not how we're set up… The police have enforcement capabilities but their capabilities are substantially diminished in COVID," Rawson said, noting how minor infractions no longer warrant an arrest because jails are not holding anybody — and shelters are at capacity so there's little alternative for those without housing to go.

"I will contend that we are doing absolutely everything that we can to make sure that we are addressing problem areas quickly and doing everything within our capacity," Rawson said.

However, Santa Monica owns the parking structures and manages the parking garages. And since it is a public space, the enforcement of law falls on the Santa Monica Police Department, which said people sleeping in the elevators is not a new phenomenon but COVID has worsened the crisis.

"The problem of the homeless sleeping in the elevators is typically a cyclical problem," Lt. Rudy Flores said. "During the winter season and during cold weather, they move over from the beach, and they start to sleep in the elevators. I think there was talk about potentially closing them off but, unfortunately, the city cannot because residents and merchants have to be able to use the elevators during late night hours. And it touches on ADA rights so the elevators have to stay open."

Alles feels it's pointless to steam-clean the rails and streets because what's left behind by the individuals in the tents is worse.

"How can we as owners and brokers attract good tenants and entice shoppers and walkers who see and smell these conditions as they come to the Promenade and other events, including the Farmers Market?" Alles asked. "This is such a basic day-to-day management issue that has gotten way out of hand. I can send you worse pictures of people having sex in the elevators, and in the parking lot. I sent those (Wednesday) and there was no response."

Brennon@smdp.com

VACCINES

FROM PAGE 1

to make this happen."

However, with the vaccine supply still extremely limited, some members of the public wondered if the County has enough vaccines to address the needs of seniors before health care workers are finished receiving vaccinations.

Solis and Ferrer urged residents to have patience while they touted their robust strategy.

"I think it's always hard when you're operating in scarcity, but I do appreciate the need for us to be mindful of moving forward as quickly as we can to get those at high risk and I think that's what this strategy allowed us to do," Ferrer said.

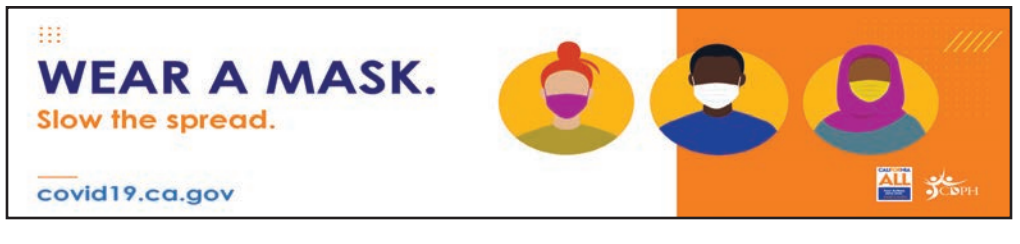
"We're going to be watching history again with the new incoming administration," Solis said shortly after. "And, as you and I know, there is an urgency to get 100 million people vaccinated, so I'm hoping now that we'll have that coordination that was lacking in terms of the federal government's involvement."

Residents in this high-priority age group should visit VaccinateLACounty.com to schedule their appointments, which will begin Wednesday, January 20th. Residents who don't have computer access may call (833) 540-0473 between 8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. for assistance with reservations. Vaccinations are free, and available to all, regardless of immigration status or insurance coverage.

City Manager Lane Dilg recently said the City is working closely with the County's Department of Public Health and state leaders to bring a vaccination site to Santa Monica so it can efficiently facilitate vaccines to local community members, but the closest current vaccination site to Santa Monica in the County's appointment system is the One Medical clinic located at 10000 W. Washington Blvd. in Culver City.

Locals are encouraged VaccinateLACounty.com for up-to-date information on LA County's vaccine program.

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CHURCH

FROM PAGE 1

neighborhood of Oakwood, where African American laborers who dug the Venice canals first built a community in the 1910s and 1920s.

Over the following decades black residents faced redlining, police harassment, unconstitutional gang injunctions, exclusion from local political groups, predatory real estate, and rising gentrification, according to fifth generation Venetian and Oakwood native Mike Bravo.

Through all these challenges the church served as a spiritual refuge for the community.

"First Baptist Church in Venice is the living symbol of this struggle, resilience, love, vision, and transformation. It is and has always been a spiritual beacon at the crossroads of the historic African American community in Venice and must be preserved as such," said Oakwood native Naomi Nightingale.

A coalition of community members called Save Venice have submitted the building for consideration by Los Angeles City Planning's Office of Historic Resources for Historic Designation Process.

The church's hearing is scheduled to occur before the end of the month and organizers are asking community members to send letters on why they feel the building should be preserved to savevenice.me@gmail.com by the end of the day on Thursday.

The First Baptist Church of Venice was founded in 1910 and the building in question, located at 685 Westminster Ave, served as the congregation's place of worship since 1968.

In 2015, unbeknown to many community members, the church was put up for sale as it had fallen into financial trouble under what many residents say was corrupt leadership of Bishop Horace Allen. It was purchased by Jay Penske, CEO of Penske Media Corporation in 2017 who sought to use the land to build a private house.

After years of sustained community backlash, development plans on the site have stalled and the future of the property is uncertain.

In 2018, LA City Planning denied historic designation for the church. Given the growth of the Black Lives Matter movement and increased awareness of injustices faced by the black community, organizers are hoping that this time around they will be successful.

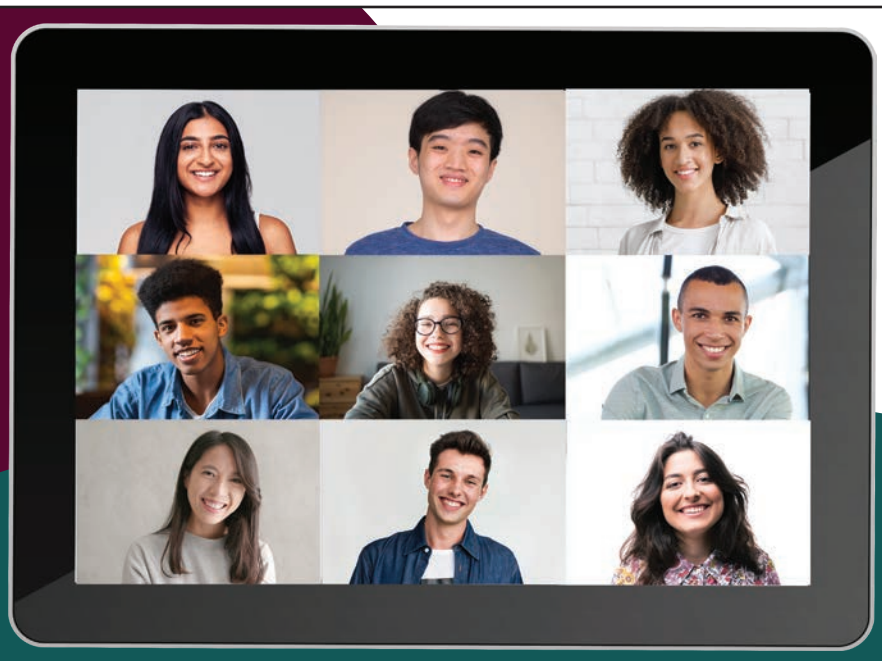
"By acknowledging it this will help reinforce trends that will lift up a lot of non white histories," said Bravo. "You can't love anybody that you don't know or understand. If you learn black and brown histories you understand today's issues more. If there's more love and there's more progress that is a better situation to create solutions."

If the church is recognized as a historic cultural monument the group plans to raise enough money to buy back the space. Bravo said they want to renovate the building, create a library, museum, garden and open it as a spiritual gathering place for all Venetians and all people.

"For the last 100 years it's been a space for the community, by the community, so we want to keep it as an investment in the community and respecting our history, especially at a time when gentrification is out of control," said Bravo. "It was centered in the black spiritual tradition but really everybody used that space and it was welcome for anybody to use and enjoy."

Clara@smdp.com





California Youth Leadership Summit

Peace, Kindness & Cooperation

Free Online Event

Hosted by
Sister Cities International Southern California Chapter

Live stream on
Sat. Feb 6, 2021
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm PST

Panel Moderators include:
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Former NFL Quarterback &
ESPN College Football Analyst



Marin Minamiya
Guinness World Record Holder:
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