smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY
01.20.22
Volume 21 Issue 55

Crime Watch
Take your keys when delivering food.
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Holiday season brings visitors but no certainty on recovery

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Dec. 31 marked the end of another challenging year for Santa Monica's retail and restaurant industries, but with visitorship up and the Super Bowl on the horizon, early indicators provide reasons for optimism going into 2022.

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT) reported local hotel occupancy in December was an average of 65.4 percent — a more than three-fold increase over December 2020's rate, but still below the 72 percent occupancy seen in December 2019. The average daily hotel room rate for December was $346, up from 2020's average which was in the $200s, SMTT reported.

Sensors located along the Third Street Promenade that help the local business district measure foot traffic on the pedestrian thoroughfare showed promising numbers in December, despite it being one of the rainiest holiday seasons on record. The automated system includes an algorithm to avoid one pedestrian being counted multiple times, according to Downtown Santa Monica's (DTSM) Mackenzie Carter, but even so, the numbers are used more as a general indicator than a rock-solid metric measuring economic success.

"It's really giving us a general idea of how many people are walking on the street at any given time," Carter, DTSM Director of Marketing & Communication, recently told the



Clara Harter

DTSM: People are visiting Downtown and other areas of the city but their spending is still uncertain.

SEE **BUSINESS** PAGE 6

City releases comprehensive report on homeless services

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

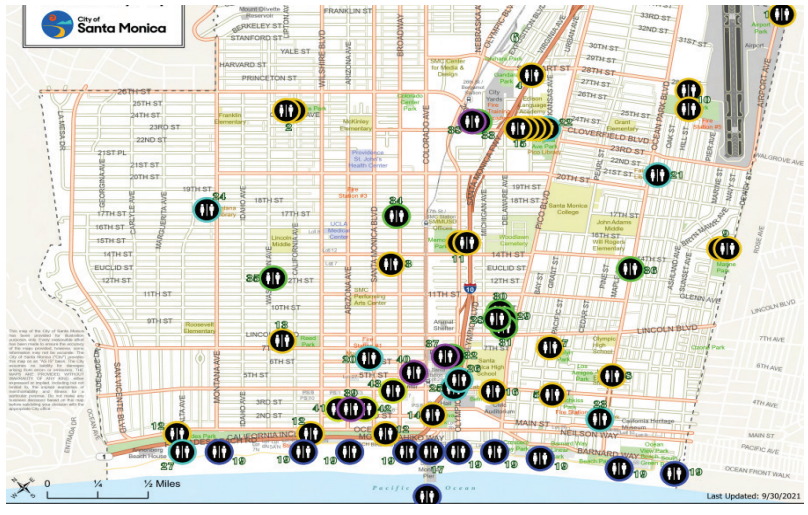
The City may be investing millions into homeless services, but it can be difficult for residents to see where those dollars are going, which was part of the impetus for a comprehensive report on Santa Monica's response to homelessness.

This information was pulled together at the behest of City Councilmembers, who wished to ensure accountability in funding, create a centralized source of information on homeless resources and identify any gaps in services.

Readers hoping to find a simple overview of homeless services will be disappointed. The clearest thing the report demonstrates is the inherent complexity of responding to homelessness, which requires a multifaceted web of services.

In Santa Monica these include street outreach teams, mental health support, legal aid against evictions, substance use treatment, street medicine, interim shelters, affordable housing, assistance matching federal housing vouchers to placements, job training, food aid, childcare, street sanitation services, public restroom maintenance, bus transportation home and more.

These services are made



Clara Harter

BATHROOM: The service information includes bathroom locations.

SEE **SERVICE** PAGE 11

Bonin recall fails as tensions rise over homelessness

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Despite collecting over 39,000 signatures, an effort to recall CD-11 City Councilman Mike Bonin was rejected by the City Clerk as only 25,965 signatures were deemed valid.

This falls 1,352 short of the required 27,317 signatures to trigger a recall and was an announcement met with joy by Bonin and renewed determination by recall proponents, who seek to oust Bonin as he faces reelection in 2022.

The recall was fueled by discontent over Bonin's approach to homelessness, which supporters of the recall say has gotten considerably worse during his tenure and become particularly egregious in Venice.

Community tensions boiled over in summer 2021 as over 250 individuals camped out on Boardwalk, flared up over Bonin's proposal to house homeless individuals in beach parking lots, and were recently reignited by his proposal to open a homeless decompression center next to an elementary school. Plans for the decompression center were put on hold the same day that the recall results were announced.

"Today we learned that at least 26,000 CD-11 residents are ready for an immediate change in leadership at City Hall. This may be just short of those needed to trigger an immediate recall of Mike Bonin, but it's just a fraction of the voters who will vote him out on June 7," said CD-11 candidate Traci Park in a statement on the recall results.

SEE **BONIN** PAGE 3

NICK THE GREEK
SOUVLAKI & GYRO HOUSE
@NICKTHEGREEK

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City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361**

SUBJECT: **Recommendation to the City Council on Adoption of Amendments to the Land Use and Circulation Element of the General Plan, the Bergamot Area Plan, the Downtown Community Plan, and the City of Santa Monica Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapters 9.01 to 9.52, for Consistency With the 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element of the City's General Plan**

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider adoption of resolutions recommending to the City Council that the City Council adopt amendments to the Land Use and Circulation Element of the General Plan, the Bergamot Area Plan, the Downtown Community Plan, and the City of Santa Monica Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapters 9.01 to 9.52, for consistency with the goals, policies and programs set forth in the 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element of the City's General Plan

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 AT 5:30PM**

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/wzfyhtvq or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 8568177 #)

California State law requires that communities prepare and update the Housing Element of the General Plan every eight years. The Housing Element serves as the City's guide for addressing the housing needs of all segments of Santa Monica's population. Housing needs are determined by the California Housing and Community Department (HCD), which decide the numerical housing targets for each regional council of governments. Each council of government across the State then further allocates the regional housing number (known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation – or RHNA) to every city and county within its jurisdiction. The RHNA is a targeted housing number - cities and counties must plan for the RHNA and show that under current land use and development standards, there is capacity to accommodate for this number of housing. For the proposed 6th Cycle 2021-2029 Housing Element, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) determined that the City's draft RHNA allocation is 8,895 units, more than 5 times than the last cycle. The significant increase in the City's RHNA housing number is indicative of the severity of the current housing crisis. As part of the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element, Santa Monica must demonstrate to the State that there is available capacity within its jurisdictional boundaries to meet its targeted RHNA number.

On October 12, 2021, per State requirements, the City Council adopted its 2021-2029 Housing Element, which is available online at www.santamonica.gov/housing-element-update. The adopted Housing Element sets forth a series of goals, policies and programs to be implemented over the next 8 years of the 6th Cycle. For consistency with these goals, policies and programs, the City proposes this first phase of amendments to the Land Use and Circulation Element of the General Plan, the Bergamot Area Plan, the Downtown Community Plan, and the City's Zoning Ordinance. This first phase includes implementation of the following Housing Element Programs:

- 1A - By-Right Approvals for Housing Projects
- 1B - Streamline the Architectural Review Process and Ensure Design Review Objectivity for Housing Projects
- 1D - Reduce Minimum Parking Requirements for Housing Projects
- 1F - Revise the Downtown Community Plan Development Standards to Support Housing Projects
- 1J - Rezoning by Revising Development Standards to Ensure that Housing Projects are Feasible and Incentivized Over Commercial Development
- 2C - Update the City's Affordable Housing Production Program to Increase the Number of Affordable Housing Units at all Income Levels
- 4A - Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Permit Multiple-Unit Housing in Non-Residential Zones Where Not Currently Permitted

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 calling 1-408-740-7256 (Meeting ID: 602163510 and Passcode: 4215 followed by #) when the caller queue opens for the item on which you wish to comment. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Jing Yeo, Planning Manager**
Re: Housing Element Phase 1 Zoning Amendments

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about the 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element, please see the City's website: https://santamonica.gov/housing-element-update, or email housingupdate@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.

Celeb-heavy Los Angeles suburb gets tough on water wasters

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

In a wealthy enclave nestled in the Santa Monica Mountains that is a haven for celebrities, residents now face more aggressive consequences for wasting water — including the threat of having their water flows slowed to a trickle if they repeatedly flout conservation rules.

The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District northwest of Los Angeles offers a bold example of how local authorities across drought-stricken California are trying to get people to use less water, voluntarily if possible but with the threat of punishment if they don't comply.

Before restricting water flows, the district hopes to spur savings by giving households a real-time look at their water use and stepping up fines for those homeowners who exceed their allotted "water budgets."

District officials hope their approach will be a wakeup call for residents of the affluent neighborhoods, where most water is used outdoors use to keep expansive yards looking verdant and pretty and for pools.

Flow restrictors are rarely-used tool primarily reserved for people who repeatedly fail to pay bills. Now, the Las Virgenes district is warning that they could be installed on the water connections to homes that have been fined for overuse for three months. In the past, flow restrictors were a possibility after five months of fines, but the district never used them.

"What we're trying to do is conserve water now so that we can stretch the limited supplies we have available," said Dave Pederson, the district's general manager.

California is experiencing the effects of climate change, with drought conditions present for most of the last decade. After two exceptionally dry years left the state's reservoirs at or near record lows, a string of recent winter storms improved conditions. But most of the state is still in severe drought.

In July, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom asked residents to voluntarily cut 15% of their water use, but usage had declined only 6% as of November. The state water board last month imposed a series of mild homeowner water use restrictions, such as waiting two days after storms to water lawns. The board could take more significant steps later in the year if the drought intensifies.

California's local districts provide water service, regulate use and enforce penalties. The Las Virgenes district serves about 75,000 people communities of Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Calabasas and Hidden Hills — an area that in recent years has attracted a growing number of celebrities, including Kim Kardashian and Will Smith.

Like much of inland Southern California, the region rarely gets any rain outside the winter months. It's wealthier than most other parts of the state, with a typical Calabasas home selling for more than $1.5 million, according to the online real estate marketplace Zillow.

Despite calls for conservation, water customers in the area increased usage in August and September and then met the state's 15% reduction goal in October before again missing the target in November.

Collectively, customers greatly exceeded their water budgets last year and one of the biggest issues the district faces is "the ability for affluent customers to significantly exceed their water budgets consistently since money is not a deterrent," said Michael McNutt, the district's spokesman. He declined to provide names of the district's biggest water users.

"It appears there has been a lackluster response to the water emergency," said Calabasas Mayor Mary Sue Maurer, who thinks restricting water flows could provide a needed conservation wakeup call.

Due to dry conditions, California regulators said in December they would not provide any water from state supplies beyond what was needed for essentials like drinking and bathing. That could change in the coming months, but allocations likely won't go up significantly unless it's a very wet winter. The uncertainty is particularly stressful for Las Virgenes, which gets about 80% of its water from state supplies.

The district's conservation approach is part carrot and part stick.

A new advanced water metering system for all homes in the district will show customers in real time how much water they're using. The meters, which will all be in place by April except for people who opt out, are designed to help users spot when they are exceeding limits and adjust their behavior, rather than waiting until monthly bills arrive.

Every household has a "water budget," something used by many water districts. Budget are based on the number of residents in a household and the property size.

Starting this month, customers will face fines if they go 150% over their monthly budgets. Previously, the fine threshold kicked in at 200%, and about 15% of the district's customers were fined, Pederson said. People get a warning the first time.

Las Virgenes' approach of advanced metering, fines and the threat of flow restrictors, stands out among the state's more than 400 medium to large water agencies, said Mehdi Nemati, an assistant professor at the University of California, Riverside who works with water agencies on conservation programs but not with Las Virgenes.

Only a few dozen districts have the advanced metering systems because they are expensive to install, and few use penalties against residents who overuse. Instead, many districts increase the cost of water as customers use more. But richer Californians did not conserve as much as others during the last drought even when the state mandated it, Nemati said.

It's even rarer for a district to threaten flow restrictors for people who use too much water and Nemati speculated that the Las Virgenes' policy could invite lawsuits.

"The agency's pretty brave if they really want to do that," he said.

The Las Virgenes district doesn't want to be heavy-handed with fines or restrictors, said Pederson, the general manager. Fines start at $2.50 and go as high as $10 for every 748 gallons over the 150% threshold.

The average house in the district uses 19,448 gallons of water per month, the majority of it outside, and district officials said many customers stay within their water budgets.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 302 CALLS ON JANUARY 18

Battery 100Blk Broadway 12:00 a.m.
Drunk Driving Cloverfield Blvd / 26th St 12:25 a.m.
Person Down 2300Blk 33rd St 12:42 a.m.
Bike Theft 2800Blk Neilson Way 1:24 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor 16th St / Broadway 1:32 a.m.
Grand Theft 700Blk Strand St 2:51 a.m.
Drunk Driving 500Blk Ashland Ave 4:19 a.m.
Encampment 2800Blk The Beach 6:51 a.m.
Panic Alarm 3000Blk Main St 7:20 a.m.
Burglary 300Blk California Ave 7:22 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:10 a.m.
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 8:10 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2800Blk The Beach 8:33 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1100Blk Ocean Ave 8:37 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600Blk The Beach 8:37 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200Blk Georgina Ave 8:54 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 200Blk Bay St 8:58 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:01 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1900Blk Pico Blvd 9:07 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 200Blk Beach St 9:09 a.m.
Person With A Gun 2500Blk San Vicente Blvd 9:09 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 1400Blk 2nd St 9:14 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2300Blk Pearl St 9:19 a.m.
Encampment 600Blk Palisades Park 9:20 a.m.
Grand Theft 1200Blk Ocean Ave 9:21 a.m.
Fraud 1400Blk 6th St 9:48 a.m.
Petty Theft 2400Blk Ocean Front Walk 10:00 a.m.
Missing Person 2100Blk Ocean Ave 10:11 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2400Blk 28th St 10:16 a.m.
Person Down 1500Blk Berkeley St 11:22 a.m.
Petty Theft 600Blk Grant St 11:32 a.m.
Encampment 2900Blk The Beach 11:45 a.m.
Trash Dumping 800Blk 20th St 11:48 a.m.
Person Down Ocean Way / Bay St 11:59 a.m.
Battery 100Blk California Ave 12:14 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 3300Blk Pico Blvd 12:18 p.m.
Stalking 1800Blk 10th St 12:18 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Urban Ave / Pico Blvd 12:25 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1100Blk Chelsea Ave 12:33 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 17th St / Olympic Blvd 12:34 p.m.
Encampment 1200Blk 10th St 12:41 p.m.
Overdose 1600Blk Ocean Ave 12:41 p.m.
Person Down 800Blk Pico Blvd 12:49 p.m.
Drinking In Public 2400Blk Ocean Front Walk 1:05 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 2000Blk 20th St 1:29 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto In Progress 2300Blk Ocean Ave 1:39 p.m.
Person Down 800Blk Bay St 1:44 p.m.
Encampment 1000Blk Grant St 2:06 p.m.
Burglary 1500Blk 6th St 2:10 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 1400Blk 5th St 2:11 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600Blk Barnard Way 2:17 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:18 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900Blk Washington Ave 2:31 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600Blk 34th St 2:34 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public Stewart St / Pico Blvd 2:40 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 17th St / Ocean Park Blvd 2:42 p.m.
Grand Theft 1200Blk Yale St 2:43 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000Blk 3rd St 3:00 p.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Olympic Dr 3:01 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 500Blk Pacific St 3:01 p.m.
Injured Person Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 3:05 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1400Blk Oak St 3:07 p.m.
Encampment 2600Blk Main St 3:19 p.m.
Speeding Ocean Ave / California Incline 3:23 p.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:26 p.m.
Fraud 300Blk Olympic Dr 3:27 p.m.
Fraud 1000Blk 21st St 3:28 p.m.
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 3:47 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Franklin St 3:55 p.m.
Grand Theft 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:00 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 4:19 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony 1800Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:37 p.m.
Loitering 1200Blk 12th St 4:49 p.m.
Burglary 2900Blk 31st St 4:57 p.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Olympic Dr 4:58 p.m.
Encampment 2600Blk Main St 5:15 p.m.
Battery 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:28 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 3200Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:46 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 4th St / Colorado Ave 5:52 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 4th St / Broadway 5:52 p.m.
Loitering 1500Blk Stanford St 5:58 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 700Blk Broadway 6:04 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 6:27 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk 17th St 6:30 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 500Blk Pacific St 6:52 p.m.
Battery 1400Blk Euclid St 6:54 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:16 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor 16th St / Broadway 7:26 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Main St / Pacific St 7:33 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 3000Blk Main St 7:43 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:51 p.m.
Burglary 1200Blk Berkeley St 7:55 p.m.
Battery 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:00 p.m.
Grand Theft 1300Blk 2nd St 8:16 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 17th St / San Vicente Blvd 9:03 p.m.
Overdose 1600Blk Ocean Ave 9:28 p.m.
Person With A Gun 15th St / Alta Ave 9:49 p.m.
Animal Related Incident Steiner Ave / Marine St 10:10 p.m.
Loud Music 1300Blk 2nd St 10:47 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 1600Blk California Ave 11:25 p.m.
Burglary 1500Blk 7th St 11:54 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 42 CALLS ON JANUARY 18

EMS 100Blk Broadway 12:14 a.m.
EMS 2300Blk 33rd St 12:42 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 16th St / Broadway 1:32 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 2:38 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk 34th St 3:53 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk Pine St 6:21 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 12th St 8:26 a.m.
EMS 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:21 a.m.
EMS 200Blk Georgina Ave 9:38 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:42 a.m.
EMS 2100Blk Ocean Ave 10:42 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 600Blk Pico Blvd 10:52 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:14 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:14 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk Berkeley St 11:22 a.m.
EMS 2800Blk Neilson Way 11:36 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 3300Blk Pico Blvd 12:18 p.m.
EMS 3000Blk Barnard Way 12:39 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 12:45 p.m.
EMS 800Blk Pico Blvd 12:49 p.m.
EMS 3100Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:23 p.m.
EMS 3000Blk Broadway 1:30 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk Ocean Ave 2:12 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 2:20 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk Grant St 2:40 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 3:46 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1800Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:37 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Colorado Ave 5:52 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 400Blk Pier Ave 6:37 p.m.
EMS 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:10 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk 29th St 7:43 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 7:57 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Cedar St 8:01 p.m.
EMS 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:02 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Bicknell Ave 8:15 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk Franklin St 8:18 p.m.
EMS 2100Blk Oak St 8:40 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 17th St / San Vicente Blvd 9:03 p.m.
EMS 1600Blk Ocean Ave 9:28 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 900Blk 18th St 9:46 p.m.
EMS Neilson Way / Pico Blvd 11:08 p.m.
EMS 2nd St / Colorado Ave 11:41 p.m.

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 JANUARY 3 AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 P.M.

Officers responded to a stolen vehicle call near 25th and Broadway. A food delivery driver left his vehicle running and unattended while attempting to make a delivery. Upon return, the victim saw someone driving away in his car. The vehicle was equipped with a tracking device and ultimately recovered by LAPD near the 9000 block of Bellanca Avenue.

BONIN

FROM PAGE 1

Park was referring to the June 7 primary elections where candidates can win their City Council seat if they receive a majority of votes. Park launched her campaign in July 2021 and is the primary candidate running against Bonin, who was first elected in 2013 and won reelection in 2017.

"Every day I talk to residents who are fed up with the worsening situation on our streets and in our neighborhoods," said Park. "Mike Bonin's failures have made our community less safe, hurt local businesses, and damaged our wetlands and beaches."

Bonin reacted to the recall news with glee and a promise to double down on his services and not enforcement based approach.

"Great news! The effort to recall me from office has failed," tweeted Bonin on Jan. 18. "Today is the end of a wasteful, distracting abuse of the electoral process. But it's nowhere near the end of attacks on our progressive values and solutions to homelessness."

On Jan. 18 it was announced that one of Bonin's proposed solutions to homelessness in Venice was put on hold due to a cease and desist letter from a resident organization called Venice Kids Count.

Bonin sought to open a "decompression center" at the Westminster Senior Center, which would provide unhoused individuals with services and a location to recover from mental health crises or substance use. Bonin also shared plans to potentially use the site as a winter homeless shelter.

Venice Kids Count opposed using this site for such purposes as it is directly next to the Westminster Elementary School and three preschools that care for over 400 children. It is also adjacent to a highly utilized community dog park and an early education center that serves low-income families.

In 2016, Venice Kids Count filed a lawsuit to prevent a former plan by Bonin to utilize the senior center to provide showers, property storage and mail facilities to unhoused individuals. As part of the lawsuit's settlement, the City is required to give the organization 60 days notice of plans to utilize the center as a homeless facility, which legal representatives for Venice Kids Count say the City failed to do for the proposed decompression center.

At a Jan. 18 meeting, representatives for the City of LA. said plans for the decompression shelter are on pause while the City Attorney's Office responds to the cease and desist letter.

The Westside Current contributed to this story.
Clara@smdp.com

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ALSO AVAILABLE ON



Noteworthy

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Check Before You Go: Cancellations!

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - LA PHIL with Michael Tilson Thomas, Symphonic ELLINGTON, "New World A-Comin"with GERALD CLAYTON – I am really excited about this one. And it demonstrates that a truly exceptional Philharmonic Orchestra group reaches beyond its usual parameters, with knowledge, insight, expertise and an eye to history and the community, to push boundaries in the right directions, 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 Clayton's musical upbringing in LA he is the perfect one to both re-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. Clayton's own genius is matched only by his knowledge of and respect for his music forebears. Thurs, Fri 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA, $63-214.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - HAMILTON — Still with us, thank goodness. I think I can only go wrong by not recommending it, from what I've heard and read. Tonight - Thurs, Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed, next Thurs 8 p.m., Sun 1 p.m., 6:30 p.m., also Sat 2 p.m., Pantages Theater, Hollywood, $49-3000+, depending on time.

PONCHO SANCHEZ – What is a leading conguero, Latin jazz band leader, and salsa singer doing with a new album ("Trane's Delight") of John Coltrane songs, ones the tenor sax giant composed and made famous, and new ones Sanchez wrote in his honor? Well kids, this is why you must go hear live music whenever you can, and why LA is the best live music town there is. Cross pollination. Willingness to experiment and break rules. A treasure trove of local musicians who inspire each other and try weird stuff that sometimes turns out wonderful. Sanchez is considered one of the most influential percussionists in jazz, jazz not just Latin jazz, worth a listen for his "usual stuff," but this show may be a rare and memorable treat. Sat 9 p.m.,Venice West, $45.

FOUR FRESHMEN – Wait, is that a typo, a time warp? Haven't those Freshmen graduated decades ago, and passed on? Formed in college in 1948, they have toured constantly ever since, behind 75 albums and four Grammy nominations and universal recognition as one of the best vocal harmony groups ever. I used to be more skeptical of lingering groups with only one or two original members (or none), but I have also learned that you don't continue to sell tickets if you are not delivering what people have come to expect. From the photos, none of these four are in their 90s, but if you've got the rights to the name and the talent and done the hard rehearsal work, you are in a unique position. When I was doing an interview of Brian Wilson as he was finishing recording his first solo album, I was shown around the studio and there in a notebook, open on a stool, was his list of his favorite albums of all time. The Beach Boy got a few entries, but I think the Four Freshmen got an equal number. And Bian is the Master of Vocal Harmonies, the final authority. I'll take all bets that he will be there that night. Taken together with Pepperdine's recent concert by Take 6, I think this makes Smothers Theatre the absolute center of vocal harmonizing in the universe. Sun 2 p.m., Pepperdine, Malibu, $10-25.

COLIN BLUNSTONE, Sat 8 p.m. Downtown Palace Theatre, nevermind the ticket price because another one bites the dust. Canceled (not postponed). Dang. I was really looking forward to seeing him again. About 10 years ago he was back fronting The Zombies on a tour that hit the Knitting Factory in Hollywood. Outstanding show. I think they had all the original members, including great keyboardist Rod Argent. So maybe a couple dozen other fans are crestfallen about this cancellation? That's a slight exaggeration, because in LA the fans of anyone good and different, no matter how obscure, will come out of the woodwork, even come in from other cities if the appearance is rare enough (Paul McC at Amoeba a few years back saw fans fly in on two days notice from Japan, South Africa, Siberia, lining up with locals standing in line for two days. Of course – not obscure. But illustrative of the passionate LA music scene.)

Blunstone was the lead voice for The Zombies in their heyday – the four hits. After the excellent "Odessey and Oracle" album they broke up over management issues in '68. He briefly worked as a clerk in the insurance business before resuming his musical career the next year. His recordings under a pseudonym didn't do anything but by '72 his "Say You Don't Mind" hit 15 on the British charts, his best showing, but he continued to have modest success and a following. In Britain. Hardly any US music fans can claim to have all his solo albums… as I do. If you need help getting over the finish line on a home date, pick one of his first five albums. Sweet, supremely romantic. Yes, you can thank me. And I probably should warn you: his solo albums drive some out of the room, put others to sleep. Choose your music and your friends and lovers carefully.

SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends, Largo at the Coronet 1/22 – rescheduled to 1/29.

LA PHIL with ITZAK PERLMAN, Wed 8 p.m. Walt Disney Concert Hall – also vanished. (I'm sorry! Don't shoot the messenger!)

And on a final note, I guess I should

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

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WINNER

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Airlines cancel some flights after reduced 5G rollout in US

JON GAMBRELL AND DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

Some flights to and from the U.S. were canceled on Wednesday even after AT&T and Verizon scaled back the rollout of high-speed wireless service that could interfere with aircraft technology that measures altitude.

Carriers that rely heavily on the wide-body Boeing 777 canceled flights or switched to different planes following warnings from the Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing.

But airlines that solely or mostly fly Airbus jets, including Air France and Ireland's Aer Lingus, seemed unaffected by 5G service.

By midafternoon Wednesday, airlines had canceled more than 250 flights, according to FlightAware. That was a small percentage of total U.S. flights, however, and far fewer than cancellations during the Christmas and New Year's travel season, which peaked at more than 3,000 a day when airlines were hobbled by winter storms and workers calling in sick because of COVID-19.

Airlines for America, a trade group, said cancellations were limited because telecom providers agreed to temporarily reduce the rollout of 5G near airports while industry and the government work out a solution.

U.S. officials had said that even with the concession, there could be some cancellations and delays because of the way 5G affected equipment on certain planes.

At O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Sudeep Bhabad said his father-in-law's flight to India was canceled.

"They have to resolve this problem," Bhabad said. "It would have been a lot better if they had resolved it way before and we knew this in advance, instead of, like, finding out when we are here at the airport."

Similar mobile networks have been deployed in more than three dozen countries, but there are key differences in how the U.S. networks are designed that raised concern of potential problems for airlines.

The Verizon and AT&T networks use a segment of the radio spectrum that is close to the one used by radio altimeters, devices that measure the height of aircraft above the ground to help pilots land in low visibility. The telecoms and the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, which set a buffer between the frequencies used by 5G and altimeters, said the wireless service posed no risk to aviation.

But FAA officials saw a potential problem, and the telecom companies agreed to a pause Tuesday while it is addressed.

The FAA has said it will allow planes with accurate, reliable altimeters to operate around high-power 5G. But planes with other altimeters will not be allowed to make landings under low-visibility conditions.

Among the problems that may make the 5G rollout an issue in the U.S. and not other countries, according to the FAA, are that American towers use a more powerful signal strength than those elsewhere, the network operates on a frequency closer to the one altimeters use, and tower antennae point up at a higher angle.

In France, telecom providers reduce the power of their high-speed wireless networks near airports.

On Wednesday, Emirates announced it would halt flights to several American cities because of concerns about 5G but would continue flights to Los Angeles, New York and Washington.

"We are working closely with aircraft manufacturers and the relevant authorities to alleviate operational concerns, and we hope to resume our U.S. services as soon as possible," the state-owned airline said.

Tim Clark, president of Emirates, pulled no punches when discussing the issue. He told CNN it was "one of the most delinquent, utterly irresponsible" situations he'd ever seen as it involved a failure by government, science and industry.

Japan's All Nippon Airways said that the FAA "has indicated that radio waves from the 5G wireless service may interfere with aircraft altimeters." It added that Boeing announced restrictions on airlines flying its 777s, and said it canceled 20 flights over the issue.

Japan Airlines said it will stop using the 777 in the continental U.S. for now. Eight of its flights were affected Wednesday.

But Air France said it planned to continue flying its 777s into American airports. It did not explain why it didn't change its aircraft as many other carriers have.

In a statement, Chicago-based Boeing Co. said it would work with airlines, the FAA and others to find a solution that would allow all planes to fly safely as 5G is rolled out. It did not respond questions about its 777.

Air India announced on Twitter it would cancel flights to Chicago, Newark, New York and San Francisco because of the 5G issue. But it also said it would try to use other aircraft on U.S. routes — a course several other airlines took.

Korean Air, Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific and Austrian Airlines said they substituted different planes for flights that were scheduled to use 777s. Korean Air spokeswoman Jill Chung said the airline was also avoiding operating some kinds of 747s. Germany's Lufthansa also swapped out one kind of 747 for another on some U.S.-bound flights.

British Airways canceled several planned U.S.-bound Boeing 777 flights and changed aircraft on others.

Choi Jong-yun, a spokeswoman of Asiana Airlines, said the company hasn't been affected so far because it uses Airbus planes for passenger flights to the U.S.

However, Choi said airlines have also been instructed by the FAA to avoid autopilot landings at affected U.S. airports during bad weather conditions, regardless of plane type. Asiana will redirect its planes to nearby airports during those conditions, she said.

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel said in a statement that the 5G "deployment can safely co-exist with aviation technologies in the United States, just as it does in other countries around the world." However, she urged the FAA to conduct its safety checks with "both care and speed."

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency said it was "not aware of any in-service incidents caused by 5G interference."

AT&T and Verizon spent tens of billions of dollars for the 5G spectrum known as C-Band in a government auction last year.

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BUSINESS

FROM PAGE 1

Daily Press. "Now that we've had it for a few years, that allows us to compare year-over-year."

Recent numbers showed that about 288,000 pedestrians visited the Promenade from the week of Dec. 27-Jan. 2 — a 189 percent increase over 2020's dismal numbers for the same stretch. The New Years holiday weekend of Dec. 31-Jan. 2 saw 88,768 pedestrians counted, which was over 7,000 more than had visited that same weekend in December 2019, before COVID-19 struck.

In fact, December's daily average of 59,697 pedestrians was a fraction higher than numbers counted in December 2019 (when 56,883 pedestrians were counted each day, on average); according to information provided by DTSM, it was the first month that pedestrian count averages have been higher than a pre-covid month.

"We did have a lot of rain, but despite that, we had really great pedestrian numbers," Carter said.

How those numbers translate to business revenue is a bit tricker to quantify.

While an increase in pedestrian traffic usually correlates with a similar increase in business traffic, COVID-19's lifestyle changes made that correlation less reliable.

"For example, during COVID, a lot of people were just out taking walks, and so we didn't really see that correlation — but in non-pandemic times, we definitely saw a correlation between the number of people on the street and the sales tax dollars that covers the city," Carter explained.

Carter and Santa Monica Economic Development Manager Jennifer Taylor both said that, while pedestrian count measures were a helpful metric, sales tax data is needed to measure the true health of the local economy. Those numbers were not expected for several weeks.

Taylor anticipated a "slow but steady road" that would see the city budget "back on track" in the next three to five years; current trends indicate the City has remained on track, even despite virus and weather related obstacles.

Both Taylor and Carter pointed to the City's interim zoning ordinance, passed in 2020, that has helped bars and restaurants stay open even amid three major COVID-19 surges seen in the past 12 months.

"It's allowed, in some cases, many of our restaurants to double their capacity in terms of the number of customers they can potentially serve, and continue to serve those who wish to be outside as much as possible," Taylor said, adding that it was not just restaurants but salons, studios and fitness centers that were able to move outdoors, as well.

"It's amazing to see the variety of businesses that use the Santa Monica Outdoors Program," Taylor continued. "So, I think that's been really key. The fact, too, our city leadership, the Council, has supported expansion of fee waivers to Santa Monica Outdoors, has really been very important. Basically, it means that their temporary use permit has no permit fee."

Programs like that have provided a lifeline to businesses along Main Street, according to Main Street Santa Monica Executive Director Hunter Hall.

In addition to the expansion of outdoor services, Hall cited California's Alcohol Beverage Control (ABV) offering flexibility for outdoor alcohol service as a major factor helping with restaurant revenue.

"When you get an ABC license, or liquor license, you have to submit a floor plan and you're only allowed to serve alcohol in that area. So, you know, pre-COVID, a normal restaurant couldn't just decide to take over their parking lot and start serving alcohol," Hall described. "So, the ABC changing that rule temporarily did allow them that, and they've been expanding, which is great."

Another adaptation, Hall said, was the expansion of catering offerings, with restaurants pivoting to large-scale take-out operations.

Those changes, combined with government loan programs and the eviction moratorium, helped keep Santa Monica's service economy from collapsing over the past two years, Hall said — but the situation was far from stable.

"That doesn't really tell the whole story," Hall said. "And the whole story really is, that despite the fact a lot of these restaurants are still open, technically, they're on life support. You know, they're probably one bill away from closing."

Carter said that, while downtown had seen its share of closures in the past two years, vacancies on the Promenade, which peaked at about 45 percent, were down to 25 percent with recent rental agreements, including a new food hall that opened in December and a new tattoo parlor — the Promenade's first — expected to open soon.

But with restaurant owners continuing to take on debt, Hall predicted more local restaurants on Main Street may be declaring bankruptcy into 2022, even as the economy was picking back up.

Added to those stresses was the tight labor market, which both Hall and Carter noted as an obstacle for local businesses.

"Right now, one of the biggest issues everywhere in the United States is, you know, people calling out sick or the 'Great Resignation.' People are just operating on really lean staff," Carter said. "I think that could really affect business operations going forward, if we don't see people coming back to work."

Hall said he empathized with workers who resigned during the pandemic, remarking that "let's be honest, the public is kind of the worst sometimes," especially given the current political divide happening in the country.

Hall said the labor market upheaval was happening in every industry, not just food and retail, but referred to it as a "Great Reshuffling," rather than a "Great Resignation." He added that Santa Monica's restaurants have stayed competitive in the labor market by offering benefits like paid sick leave to employees that restaurants in other cities do not provide.

While the ongoing virus surge due to the omicron variant of COVID-19 has had visitors and locals alike second-guessing outings, the winter surge correlated with Santa Monica's slowest retail season, Hall said. Taylor and Carter both added that outdoor dining meant there were options for people who otherwise would not feel safe dining due to the highly transmissible new variant.

While the first quarter of the calendar year may be a slow period for the local economy, this year's Q1 has a bright spot for business owners: the Super Bowl, which was set to take place in Inglewood in February.

Though SMTT was not able to provide booking stats or a projected hotel occupancy rate for Super Bowl weekend, Carter and Taylor predicted the game and associated events would draw visitors to help boost the local economy.

During the week of the big game, Santa Monica is set to play host to a number of events, including a carnival-type "tailgate" on the Promenade, a charity fashion show and the official NBC pregame show broadcast, set to take place on the Pier. And even those visitors not attending a ticketed local event will be more likely to spend money.

"Not only will people be attending events, but they'll also be staying in Santa Monica while they're here for the Super Bowl," Carter said. "And so, we'll just have that foot traffic and then people wanting to go out and grab a bite to eat or hang out in the park or go down to the beach. I think we're just going to see just general foot traffic for those reasons."

SMTT provided a guide to watch the Super Bowl in town, available at santamonica.com/super-bowl.

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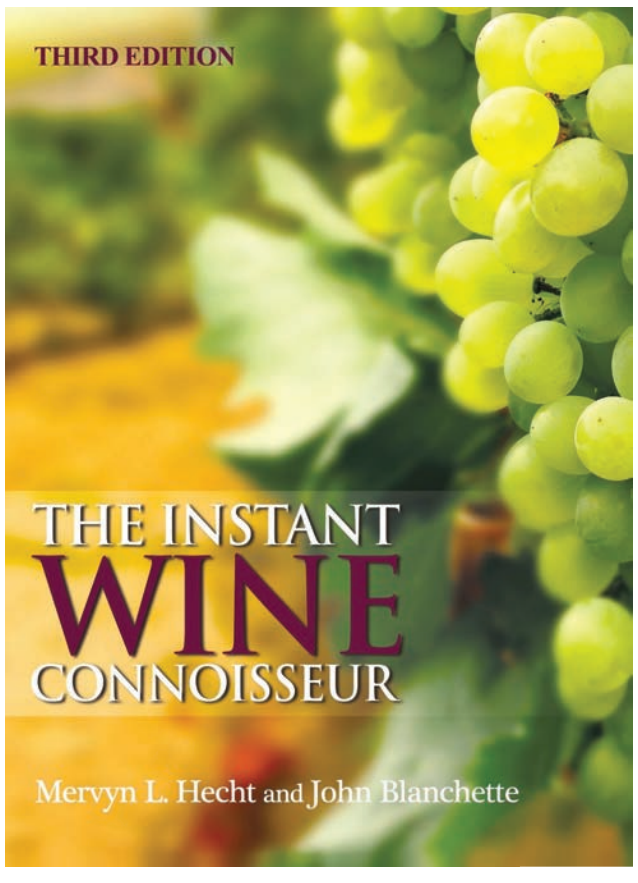


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US begins offering 1B free COVID tests, but many more needed

MATTHEW PERRONE AND KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

For the first time, people across the U.S. can log on to a government website and order free, at-home COVID-19 tests. But the White House push may do little to ease the omicron surge, and experts say Washington will have to do a lot more to fix the country's long-troubled testing system.

The website, COVIDTests.gov, allows people to order four at-home tests per household, regardless of citizenship status, and have them delivered by mail. But the tests won't arrive for seven to 12 days, after omicron cases are expected to peak in many parts of the country.

The White House also announced Wednesday that it will begin making 400 million N95 masks available for free at pharmacies and community health centers. Both initiatives represent the kind of mass government investments long seen in parts of Europe and Asia, but delayed in the U.S.

Experts say the plan to distribute 1 billion tests is a good first step, but it must become a regular part of the pandemic response. In the same way that it has made vaccines free and plentiful, the government must use its purchasing power to assure a steady test supply, they say.

"The playbook for rapid tests should look exactly like the playbook for vaccines," said Zoe McLaren, a health economist at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. "They're both things that help keep cases down and help keep COVID under control."

A home test two-pack commonly sells for more than $20 at the store — if you can find one, amid the omicron-triggered rush to get tested. Since last week, insurance companies have been required to cover the cost of up to eight at-home rapid tests bought at drugstores or online retailers.

The government website's limit of four tests may not go very far in some households.

Kristen Keymont, 30, is a voice and piano teacher who teaches online and shares a house in Ipswich, Massachusetts, with her partner and two other people. When one of her housemates tested positive just before Christmas, she and her partner spent $275 buying more than a dozen tests.

"One test each is nice, I guess," she said. "I'm glad we have them, but we're still going to need to buy more if one of us gets exposed."

It would be better, she said, if requests were linked to each person rather than each residential address.

Also, some people who live in buildings with multiple units had their requests for tests rejected, with the website saying tests had already been ordered for that address. As those complaints surfaced on social media, people began sharing advice on how to enter apartment or unit numbers in a way that the website would accept them.

The U.S. bungled its initial rollout of government-made COVID-19 tests in the early days of the outbreak and has never really gotten back on track. While private companies are now producing more than 250 million at-home tests per month, that is still not enough to allow most Americans to frequently test themselves.

The Biden administration focused most of its early COVID-19 efforts on rolling out vaccines. As infections fell last spring, demand for testing plummeted and many manufacturers began shutting down plants. Only in September — after the delta surge was in full swing — did the Biden administration announce its first federal contracts designed to jump-start home test production.

Countries like Britain and Germany purchased and distributed billions of the tests soon after they became available last year.

"If you leave the manufacturers to their own devices, they're just going to respond to what's happening right now," said Dr. Amy Karger, a testing specialist at the University of Minnesota Medical School. "And then there's not a lot of bandwidth if something surprising happens, as it did with omicron."

Even with government intervention, the U.S. faces a massive testing load because of its population.

The U.S. would need 2.3 billion tests per month for all teens and adults to test themselves twice per week. That's more than double the number of at-home tests the administration plans to distribute over several months.

Dr. David Michaels, a former member of President Joe Biden's COVID-19 advisory board, said the administration will probably need to request more federal money to fund testing for years to come.

"Congress was willing to put trillions of dollars into infrastructure primarily to improve transportation. This is infrastructure," said Michaels, a public health professor at George Washington University. "We need billions more in testing to save lives and maintain the economy."

For now, testing will probably continue to be strained. And even the most bullish proponents say the U.S. will have to carefully weigh where home tests can have the greatest benefit — for instance, by dispensing them to those most vulnerable to the virus.

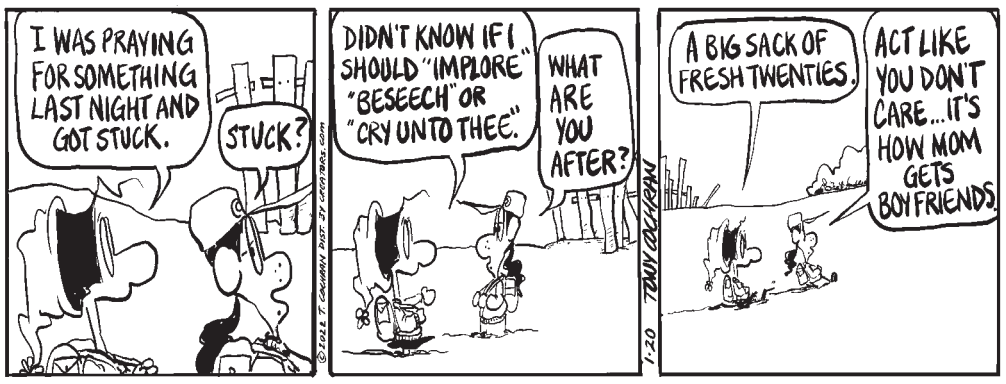
"The fact is we just don't have that kind of mass testing capacity in the U.S." said Dr. Michael Mina, chief science officer for home testing service eMed, who once called for using billions of tests per month to crush the pandemic. "We should now be thinking about how to use these tests in a strategic way. We don't want to just dilute them out across the population."

More than 2 million test results a day are being reported to U.S. health officials, but nearly all of them come from laboratory-processed tests. Some researchers estimate the real number of daily tests is roughly 5 million, when accounting for at-home ones.



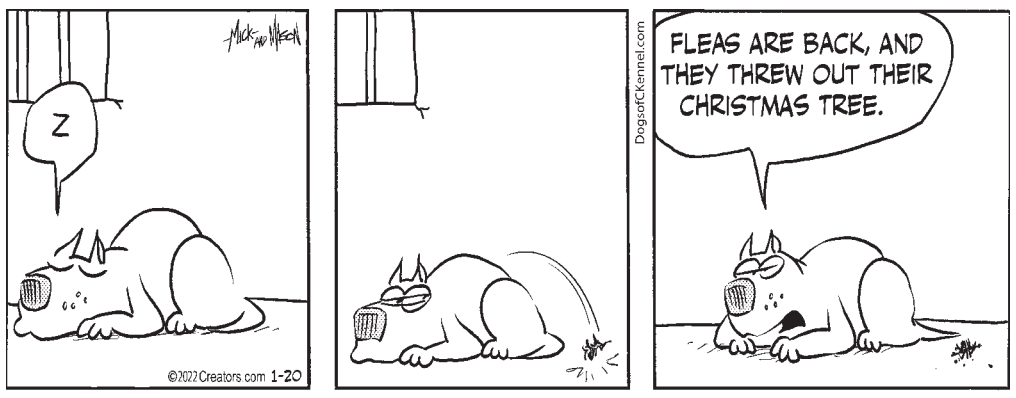
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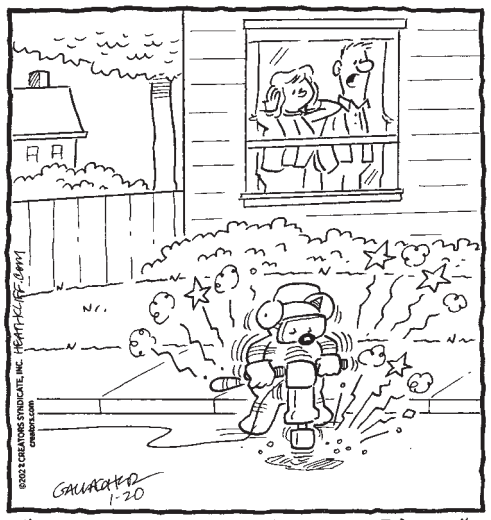
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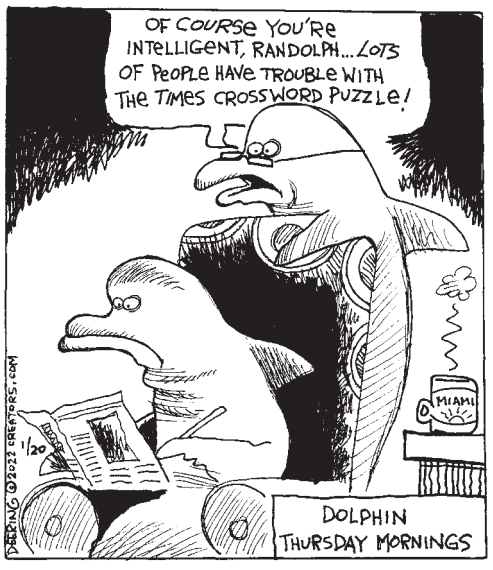
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE FOUND OUT I'M A DOG PERSON."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.0°

THURSDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 0.5-1ft Shin to knee high
WNW swell drops off further through the day. Clean but shutdown for most through the AM high tide.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Old WNW swell bottoms out. New, longer period WNW swell gradually creeps up – mainly through the afternoon. Nice potential for offshore flow in the morning.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 69. East northeast wind around 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 68. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/01/20	Thu	03:51 AM	2.13	L
2022/01/20	Thu	09:56 AM	5.63	H
2022/01/20	Thu	5:10 PM	-0.53	L
2022/01/20	Thu	11:45 PM	3.79	H
2022/01/21	Fri	04:35 AM	2.13	L
2022/01/21	Fri	10:33 AM	5.24	H
2022/01/21	Fri	5:39 PM	-0.22	L
2022/01/22	Sat	12:19 AM	3.93	H
2022/01/22	Sat	05:26 AM	2.13	L
2022/01/22	Sat	11:15 AM	4.68	H
2022/01/22	Sat	6:09 PM	0.20	L
2022/01/23	Sun	12:57 AM	4.12	H
2022/01/23	Sun	06:31 AM	2.08	L
2022/01/23	Sun	12:06 PM	3.98	H
2022/01/23	Sun	6:41 PM	0.70	L
2022/01/24	Mon	01:40 AM	4.36	H
2022/01/24	Mon	08:00 AM	1.89	L
2022/01/24	Mon	1:20 PM	3.25	H
2022/01/24	Mon	7:18 PM	1.25	L
2022/01/25	Tue	02:32 AM	4.66	H
2022/01/25	Tue	09:49 AM	1.37	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/17
9 24 35 46 65
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 62 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/18
4 19 39 42 52
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 376 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/15
1 26 34 42 45
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/18
24 33 35 37 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/18
EVENING: 6 2 7
Draw Date: 1/18
MIDDAY: 3 4 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/18
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:46.88

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"Somos Amigos" (we are friends) is our Spanish Language Program offering mental stimulation, exercise-strength training and recreation.

Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds

A Veterans Benefit!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 20)

You'll prioritize, focus and dedicate yourself to the task until it's finished. You have the same work ethic as your heroes. In your personal life, a source of pain from the past heals up and a new source of joy opens. You'll be the glue that keeps a tight team together. You'll all earn a top honor before the year is up. Sagittarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 49, 1, 8 and 30.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Chilly people gravitate to your fiery spirit and warm right up. Like the sun, you have plenty of energy and will lose nothing by letting others soak you in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You need to keep your guard up around certain people. It doesn't mean the individuals in question are bad people; they are just bad for you. For optimum well-being, maintain a defensive buffer zone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). To give your heart to another when you feel the impulse is the right choice. That doesn't mean it will work out. Reciprocity is not guaranteed, and joy is fickle. But regardless of what happens next, you'll be better for it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The featured delights are like a carnival, just passing through. Play the games, ride the rides, lose some money, gain some memories, and enjoy it while it lasts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You so freely give your love to those who need it. What about you? You need it too, possibly more urgently than anyone else around you today. Give yourself attention and affection.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some paths can be cleared, but then there are those obstacles that are best accepted as part of life's landscape. Go around them. Any attempt to control the uncontrollable is a waste of time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The bleak eventually gives way to sparkling interests — or does it create them? Enthusiasms born of restlessness will give color to your world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A situation that once erupted in passion and chaos is now calm and will remain that way for good. It's not going to blow again. You can consider this volcano extinct.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The damage we do over the course of a relationship can't always be put back how it was at the start, but often this is a blessing in disguise. The new build will be better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Most problems with others are caused inside the relationship with the self — a relationship that will be healed, nurtured and well-tended in the weeks to come. Turn your care inward.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). "Love is 20/20 vision," said no one ever. Love will continue to uphold its illusory reputation, making people look at each other with heavy, half-drawn eyelids, sure to block out essential visual information.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Delicious distractions abound. Maybe it's hard to stay on track because all the opportunities are off track. Stay open. Unexpected fun happens when you refuse to prejudge anyone.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

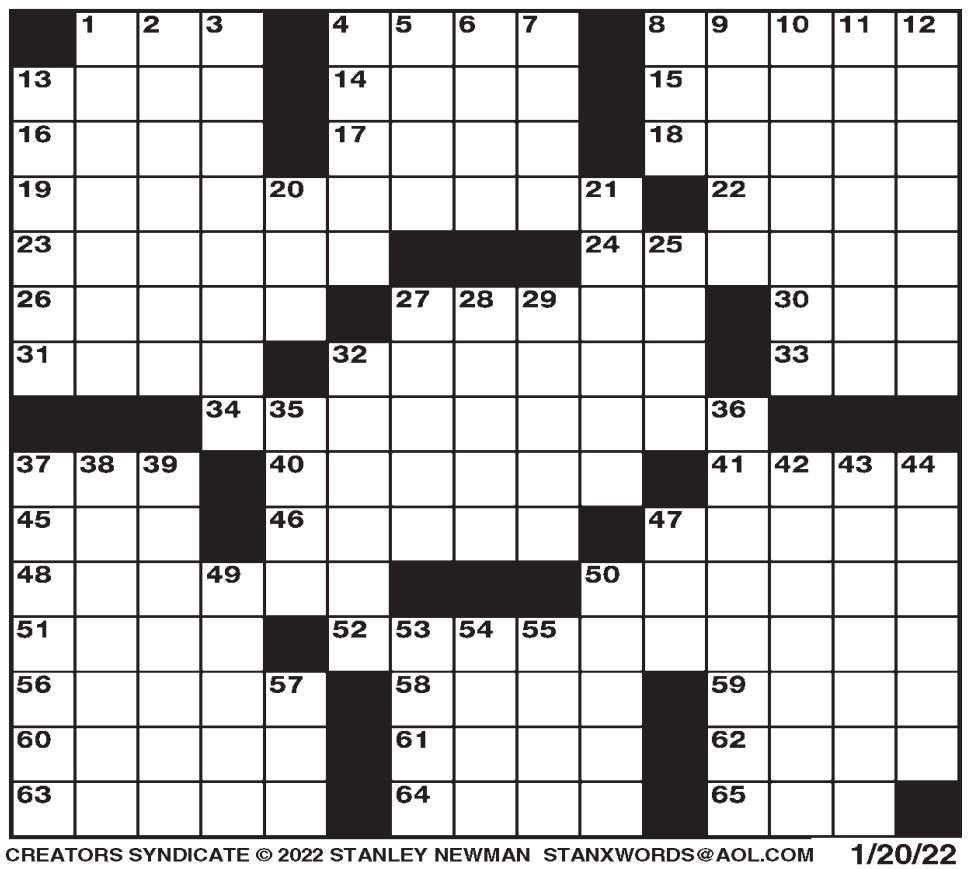
8		3	7	4			9	
	9				2	8		5
		5		9			2	
9	1							4
	5		9	7	4		1	
7							5	6
	7			5		1		
4		8	1				7	
	3			2	7	4		9

Newsday Crossword

SAVING FACE by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Solidify
4 Big lug
8 How some prefer their coffee
13 Glass in a lantern
14 First-family member
15 Ribs, for instance
16 Rms. for rent
17 Induce
18 Strawberry package
19 Keep your __
22 Utter unclearly
23 Pea cousin
24 Autocrat's order
26 Bat-making machine
27 Weaselike mammal
30 Make sure (that)
31 Purview
32 Induce to buy more
33 Blaster's buy
34 Keep your __
37 Female whale
40 "Brr!"
41 Follower of sign or show
45 Pass easily
46 Loathsome
47 *Oliver Twist* fare
48 Japanese drama
50 Counteract
51 Galway's land
52 Keep your __
56 Burrito bean
58 Tesla, by birth
59 First-century despot
60 Broadcasting live
61 Common table topper
62 Take much too long
63 Arch city of song
64 Former couples
65 High fashion monogram

DOWN
1 Student's sabbatical
2 International accord
3 Not as much as
4 Brunch selection
5 Orchestral reed
6 Great eagerness
7 Venerable, quaintly
8 Cookout, for short
9 Loathsome one
10 Statistics specialist
11 Earwax
12 DC lobbyists, figuratively
13 Jambalaya cousin
20 Custardy creation
21 Dressed (up)
25 Composer Bartók
27 Technical data
28 Ornate neckwear
29 Gut
32 Letterbox inscription
35 Barnyard sound
36 Land beside the Channel
37 Dessert on a stick
38 Egg-shaped instrument
39 Online lecture
42 Gas station attendants
43 The __ City (what Washington called Washington)
44 Rascal
47 4 Down's center
49 Let loose, in a way
50 Answers an invite
53 Seagirt spot
54 Dental rinse brand
55 Aforementioned
57 Underground resource



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | JAN 20

THE SANTA MONICA COLLEGE JOURNEY
Want to save money while exploring careers and majors and gaining opportunities to transfer to schools you've only dreamed of? Community College might be the right option for you! Find out why Santa Monica College (SMC) is the # 1 in transfers to the UC's and beyond. Register for this workshop at: shorturl.at/rxEK3. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

ONLINE OPENING RECEPTION FOR "PAINTING OVER THE PANDEMIC"
The Santa Monica College (SMC) Emeritus Art Gallery will present "Painting Over the Pandemic," a special exhibition of works by Emeritus painters organized in collaboration with drawing and painting instructor Adam Harrison. A free, live Zoom Virtual Launch Event will be held online from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A link at smc.edu/emeritusgallery – available shortly before the event begins – takes guests directly to the exhibition's opening reception.

WESTSIDE LAUGH PARTY (STAND UP)
Westside's Laugh Party is a monthly standup show produced by Dennis Gubbins featuring the best comics from around the country with surprise drop-ins by the likes of Tig Notaro, Zach Galifianakis, Ali Wong, Demetri Martin, Damons Wayans and many others! The proceeds for each show are donated to a local charity... so there is that too! Come on out and laugh! Who knows who will show up this month.... party! Tickets only available for purchase online at www.westsidecomedy.com. 8 p.m. $20. The show is 21 and over.

FRIDAY | JAN 21

"ART + TRANSFORMATION"
The Santa Monica College (SMC) Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery will host the "Art + Transformation" through March 1. The exhibition – presented in conjunction with the Prison Arts Collective (PAC) – is part of a collaborative, multidisciplinary project involving students and faculty in the SMC Art Department and SMC Dance Department. The exhibition features a free walkthrough and dance performance, and the project also includes weekly discussions, programs, and activities. Details about the walkthrough, dance performance, and other activities are listed under the exhibition name at smc.edu/Barrett.

THE FRIDAY SHOW (STAND-UP)
Start your weekend right with The Friday Show! Featuring national headliners, comics from TV and Film, and some of The Westside's favorite locals. Tickets only available for purchase online at www.westsidecomedy.com. 8 p.m. $25. The show is 21 and over.

THE FRIDAY LATE NIGHT SHOW AT M.I. WESTSIDE COMEDY THEATER
End your evening right with The Friday Late Night Show! Featuring national headliners, comics from TV and Film, and some of The Westside's favorite locals. Tickets only available for purchase online at www.westsidecomedy.com. $20. The show is 21 and over.

SATURDAY | JAN 22

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

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

SUNDAY | JAN 23

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

POSTPONED | SNOWY PLOVER BEACH WALK
Due to the surge in COVID cases the Snowy Plover Beach Walk will not take place January 23, and will be rescheduled for a later date. Follow the Beach House on social media or sign up for our newsletter for updates.

SUSPENDED | TOURS OF THE MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE
Due to the current surge in COVID-19 cases, the Guest House will remain closed to the public. Tours will resume at a later date. Sign up for their newsletters or follow them on social media for the latest updates.

Submit your events for What's Up Westside

editor@smdp.com

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5365

Your shout

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

Ales
Band
Beer
Club
Cola
Drunk
Empty
Gaiety
Garden
Glass
Home
Inns
Kegs
Laugh
Lemon
Lime
Loud
Madeira
Mates
Middy
Muscat
New
Noisy
Olives
Open
Ouzo
Pies
Pleasant
Pool
Popular
Relax
Retsina
Rose
Round
Sake
Salad
Smorgasbord
Sport
Swig
Table
Taste
Tequila
Till
Tooheys
Uproar
Vino
Vodka
Wedges
Wine

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Cooling off and having fun

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Santa Monica Daily Press
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SERVICE

FROM PAGE 1

available through a network of partnerships with local emergency service providers, non-profit organizations and resources from the County of LA.

The report provided a detailed breakdown of each service provider and their coverage area, but did not go into depth on gaps in current resources. However, recommendations for new investments will be included in staff's annual update on homelessness following the 2022 Santa Monica Homeless Count.

The last homeless count in 2020 identified 907 people experiencing homelessness of which 601 were identified as unsheltered. Across Los Angeles County these numbers were 66,000 and 48,041.

The 2021 count was canceled due to COVID and the 2022 count was recently pushed from Jan. 26 to Feb. 23 due to the Omicron surge.

Findings from this count will help guide strategies and budget for addressing homelessness in the next fiscal year.

The report did indicate a need for investment into housing resources at both a City and County level to ensure that outreach efforts can be matched with interim and permanent housing placements.

"Without adequate places to move from the streets into housing, unbalanced investments in street-based engagement, however well-intentioned, will reach a saturation point, where downline services can no longer accept outreach referrals. This leads to decreased efficacy of outreach, fewer housing placements, and a re-traumatization of people who will then lose trust in anyone offering to assist them in the future," said Margaret Willis, Housing and Human Services Administrator.

Santa Monica has put significant investment into street outreach and currently has a variety of teams with different expertises working across the city. The report breaks them down into generalist teams, multidisciplinary teams and first responder teams.

The generalist teams make contact with people experiencing homelessness and provide basic resources such as food, water and hygiene supplies as well as referrals to other services available in the community. Generalist teams include the Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. ambassadors, who work in Downtown, Tongva Park and Palisades Park; and nonprofit organization West Coast Care, which operates on the Pier and beaches.

Multidisciplinary teams include trained specialists that can provide both the traditional homeless services of generalist teams as well as housing-related case management and medical and behavioral health treatment directly on the street.

City Hall funds a Homeless Multidisciplinary Street Team, operated by The People Concern and composed of mental health professionals, housing case managers, substance use specialists, medical providers, a psychiatrist and a peer with lived experience of homelessness. The HMST focuses on the 25 chronically homeless individuals who have been identified as the highest utilizers of 911 services in Santa Monica.

There are two C3 multidisciplinary teams that proactively outreach to homeless individuals in the Downtown area and adjacent parks. This team is operated in partnership with The People Concern and the LA. County Department of Mental Health.

There are also several multidisciplinary outreach teams that operate in Santa Monica without City funding. These include LA. County E6 Multidisciplinary Teams, LA. County Department of Mental Health Field-Based Teams and Venice Family Clinic Street Medicine Teams.

When it comes to first responder teams, both the Santa Monica Police Department and Fire Department have specialized units dedicated to addressing homelessness.

SMPD staffs a Homeless Liaison Program, where officers respond to 911 calls related to homelessness with a team that can connect the individual at hand to resources. This team includes SMPD officers and mental health clinicians from the County Department of Mental Health.

SMFD launched a Community Response Unit pilot program last year. This team is deployed to less urgent incidents with a focus on serving people experiencing homelessness, seniors and other vulnerable populations. Instead of rushing back to the station, this unit is able to remain on scene and connect individuals to services that can ideally address the underlying issue at hand and break the cycle of repeat 911 calling.

In addition to all the above outreach programs, the City is launching a new partnership with the Department of Mental Health in early 2022 to operate a 24/7 therapeutic transport van. This van will be staffed by behavioral health professionals and deployed to 911 calls for individuals that are better suited for connection to mental health services than entrance into the criminal justice system.

More information can be accessed at https://www.smgov.net/departments/council/infoitems.aspx

Clara@smdp.com

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

apologize to Vilray, Rachael Price's singing partner for their duo act. I went off on him as not being worthy, and I stand by the musical assessment, but I charged ahead on an incorrect piece of information for the rest of my humorously-intended rant. (They aren't married.) I don't think he'll be hurt. He's still making the bucks and getting to hear her sing every show. Don't envy the lottery winners, just count your own blessings.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BJORK, Shrine Auditorium, 1/ 29, 2/1; 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; SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends, Largo at the Coronet, 1/29, 2/19; JOHN MAYALL, Venice West, 1/30, 2/27; BJORK, Shrine Auditorium, 1/26, 29, 2/2; NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS, Venice West, 2/2; SPARKS, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 2/7,8; 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

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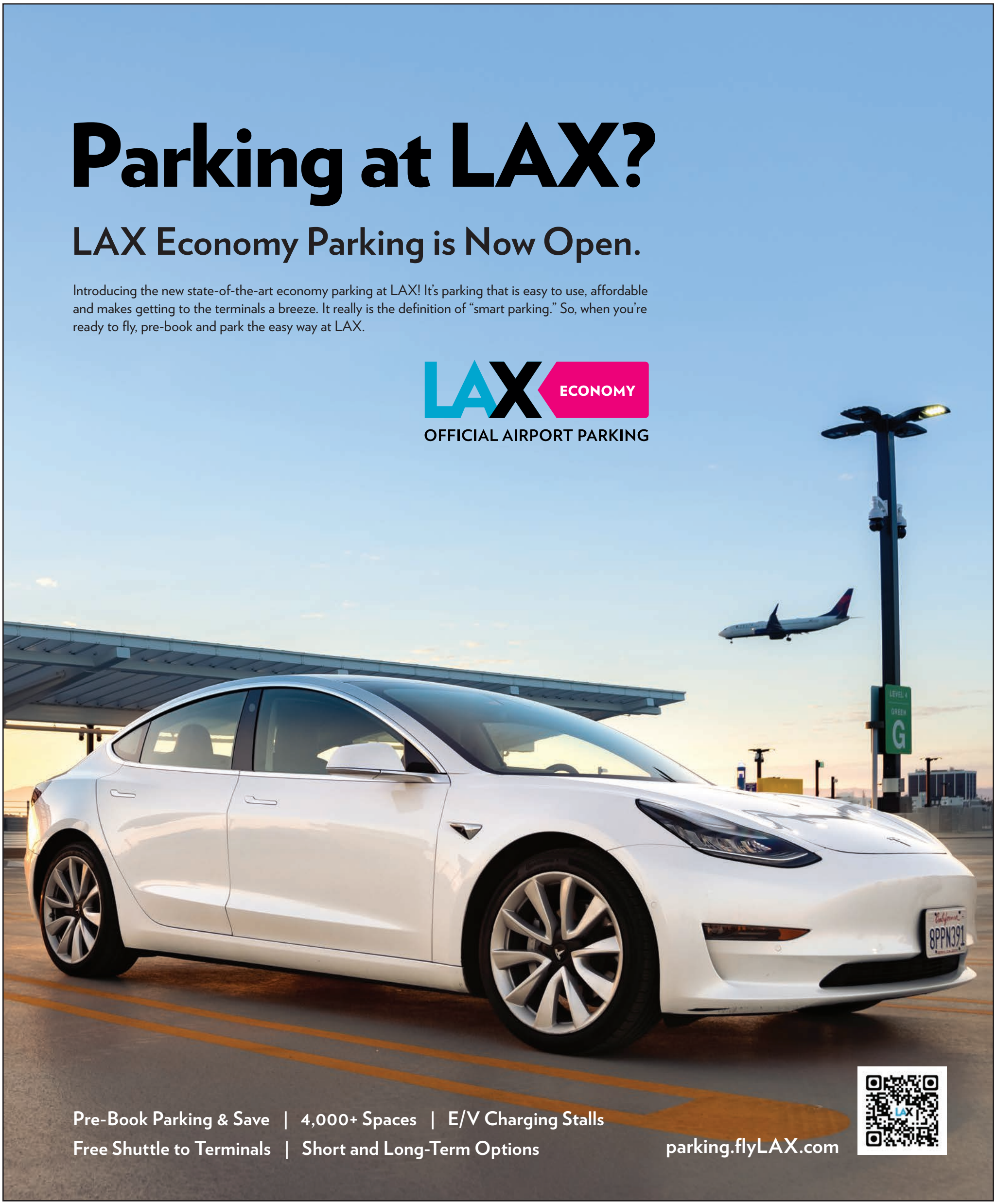
[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about 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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