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Santa Monica Daily Press

WEEKEND EDITION
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Volume 21 Issue 57

Homeless man arrested for assaulting two women on Friday.
See Page 3

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A well intentioned state law kick-started chaos on the Pier

This legislation has taken out the ability to hold people accountable for following the existing laws around safe and lawful vending — Councilwoman Lana Negrete



Holden Gering

VENDORS: The heat sources used to cook food by the unlicensed vendors are a fire hazard but a state law caps enforcement options for individuals who sell food or goods on the street.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

When Santa Monica's State Senator Ben Allen voted in favor of a popular Democratic bill to decriminalize street vending he had no idea of the chaos it would contribute to on the Pier.

At the time that S.B. 946 passed in 2018, it was lauded for preventing low income and immigrant workers from becoming trapped in cycles of fines and criminal sentences. The bill came on the heels of a Trump Administration Executive Order that prioritized illegal immigrants with a record for deportation and was seen as imperative for protecting the state's most vulnerable street vendors.

However, by removing any criminal enforcement related to sidewalk vending, the bill limited local governments' ability to ensure that food is safely prepared, fuel is safely used, waste is safely disposed of and that vending is practiced in safe locations.

In many places across the state this has not been an issue and the bill has successfully supported economic mobility for vendors. On the Santa Monica Pier, however, chaos broke out.

Vendors began to set up shop on and around the Pier shortly after the bill passed, but the number of vendors snowballed dramatically starting in the summer of 2020 and continuing through 2021. The crowds of vendors have led to a range of health, safety and environmental problems.

These include the mass dumping of trash and liquid waste by the beach and ocean, unsanitary food preparation, the unregulated use of combustible fuels on the wooden pier deck, the blocking of emergency vehicles' access to the Pier, and inter-vendor fights and harassment.

"This legislation has taken out the ability to hold people accountable for following the existing laws around safe and lawful vending," said City Councilwoman Lana Negrete. "(S.B. 946) has created a real danger to our citizens' health and safety. It has also impacted greatly those who have legally set up businesses and whom are also minorities who are often completely ignored and not seen as victims."

S.B. 946 does allow cities to establish their own ordinances to govern street vending, so long as regulations are in place for health and safety reasons.

In 2019 Santa Monica established a permitting program that requires street vendors to undergo health, hygiene and fire safety training and is designed to prevent the kind of problems seen around the Pier. Additionally, Santa Monica's vending ordinance prevents street vendors from setting up shop within a 100 foot radius of the Pier.

The majority of vendors have chosen to ignore these regulations and bypass the permitting program because S.B. 946 prevents any criminal enforcement of rules related to street vending.

"The City has what many people in the City would say is a generous program to allow people to comply with the law, but at the end of the day if they choose not to comply with the law, there's really no consequences," said Interim City Attorney Joe Lawrence.

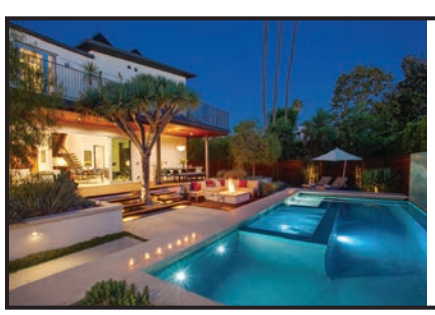
Due to S.B. 946 Santa Monica's vending regulations can only be enforced by an administrative citation, which amounts to a fine. Vendors cannot be compelled to hand in an ID when they are being cited and are allowed to argue down their fine to minimal amounts on the basis of economic necessity.

In order to address the problems on the Pier, in August City Council passed criminally enforceable ordinances banning specific bad practices: unpermitted combustible fuel use on the Pier and the dumping of solid and liquid waste by the Pier and beaches. This gives the City the authority to issue a misdemeanor citation, which officers are instructed to use as last resort and only after repeated education efforts and warnings. So far the new ordinances have helped rein in, but not solve, the issues on the Pier.

The problems with S.B. 946 are not unique to the Santa Monica Pier, however it is certainly an outlier when compared to other tourist destinations statewide.

Some of the unique factors of the Pier are its sheer popularity—

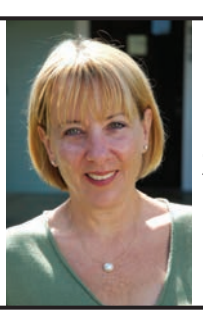
SEE **PIER** PAGE 6



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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, AT APPROXIMATELY 5:30 P.M.

While conducting a foot patrol in Parking Lot #1, located at 1550 Pacific Coast Highway officers observed individuals becoming verbally aggressive with Code Enforcement Officers assigned to educate vendors on local laws related to the Pier and surrounding beach areas. SMPD Officers approached the agitated crowd and observed a male, later identified as Israel Hernando, push another male causing the victim to lose his balance. Prior to being pushed, the victim placed himself between officers and the crowd in an attempt to calm the situation. Hernando was transported to the Santa Monica Jail and booked for battery.

City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2686 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.50 THAT ESTABLISHED A PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2686 (the "Ordinance") prepared by the Office of the City Attorney.

The Ordinance amends certain provisions of the Santa Monica Municipal Code ("SMMC") Chapter 2.50 which established an 11-member Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission ("Commission"), whose powers and duties are set forth in SMMC Section 2.50.040. The amendments clarify the scope of powers and duties of the Commission and Inspector General and modify the composition of the Commission.

The Ordinance amends the following: Section 2.50.020(d) to allow for the addition of one non-voting ex officio Commission member selected jointly by Sant Monica Police Association and the Police Chief who must satisfy certain criteria; Section 2.50.020(f) to require new appointees to the Commission to complete mandatory training within 6 months of appointment; Section 2.50.030(a)(2) to clarify that the Inspector General may gather information from ongoing disciplinary investigations or actions, but will not participate in those investigations or actions; Section 2.50.030(a)(4) to clarify that the Inspector General may not disclose to the Commission or third parties SMPD disciplinary or personnel records except as permitted by State and Federal law; Section 2.05.040(b) to clarify that the Commission cannot participate in individual disciplinary investigations, proceedings, or actions or make recommendations regarding the initiation of any individual disciplinary investigation, impose discipline in any individual disciplinary action or individual promotion but allows the Commission to refer individuals to SMPD to submit complaints through established procedures.

The Ordinance also amends: Section 2.05.040(d) to clarify that, to extent consistent with State and Federal law, the Commission can promote transparency and availability to the public of SMPD data and records and make recommendations to Council regarding potential changes to State and Federal law to promote transparency; Section 2.50.050(a) to provide that the City's budget will fund the Inspector General; Section 2.50.070 to require all written reports by the Commission to the Council be provided to the City Manager, Police Chief, and SMPOA at least 72 hours before the Commission meets to consider such report's adoption and submission to Council; and Section 2.50.080(b) to require, within eighty days after the first official meeting of the Commission, that the Commission's initial report of recommendations regarding reforms for complaint and disciplinary procedures be provided to the City Manager, Police Chief, and SMPOA at least 72 hours before the Commission meets to consider adoption of such report.

The Ordinance was adopted on January 11, 2022 and will become effective thirty days after adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 217 CALLS ON JANUARY 20

Family Disturbance 2200Blk Colorado Ave 12:17 a.m.
Grand Theft Now 1000Blk 2nd St 12:46 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Euclid St / Wilshire Blvd 1:37 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 2300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:58 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 2700Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:46 a.m.
Party Complaint 2900Blk 2nd St 3:58 a.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 20th St / Broadway 6:07 a.m.
Auto Burglary 300Blk 22nd St 7:32 a.m.
Municipal Code Violation 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:43 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2800Blk The Beach 8:17 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2700Blk Barnard Way 9:06 a.m.
Fraud 1100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:10 a.m.
Loitering 600Blk Arizona Ave 9:24 a.m.
Auto Burglary 300Blk 22nd St 9:35 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400Blk 10th St 9:41 a.m.
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:42 a.m.
Death Investigation 500Blk Palisades Beach rd 10:07 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1300Blk 18th St 10:21 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Cloverfield Blvd / Broadway 11:03 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700Blk Pico Blvd 11:16 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1500Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:16 a.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 4th St 11:17 a.m.
Public Intoxication 1100Blk 4th St 11:21 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle 1300Blk 2nd St 11:24 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2100Blk 3rd St 11:46 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100Blk 6th St 11:59 a.m.
Loitering 20th St / Wilshire Blvd 12:06 p.m.
Found Property 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:17 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1300Blk 18th St 12:20 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Main St / Pacific St 12:25 p.m.
Fraud 2600Blk 3rd St 12:37 p.m.
Petty Theft 1500Blk 6th St 12:53 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2700Blk Donald Douglas Loop N 1:01 p.m.
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 1:03 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 2800Blk 3rd St 1:28 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200Blk 9th St 1:34 p.m.
Death Investigation 1700Blk Delaware Ave 1:37 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 600Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:42 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800Blk Cedar St 1:59 p.m.
Battery 1200Blk 16th St 2:03 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2000Blk Ocean Front Walk 2:10 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 2600Blk 5th St 2:27 p.m.
Battery 1500Blk Yale St 2:27 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1600Blk Ocean Ave 2:36 p.m.
Petty Theft 2600Blk 23rd St 2:49 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1500Blk California Ave 2:53 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1300Blk 16th St 3:07 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 20th St / Pico Blvd 3:12 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 200Blk 26th St 3:34 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 15th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:45 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200Blk Yale St 4:10 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200Blk Harvard St 4:24 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 600Blk 11th St 4:41 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:41 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 200Blk Santa Monica Pier 5:05 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1500Blk Montana Ave 5:09 p.m.
Petty Theft 400Blk Broadway 5:11 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:26 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 300Blk Pico Blvd 5:36 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000Blk California Ave 5:37 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1000Blk Chelsea Ave 5:54 p.m.
Grand Theft 1300Blk 14th St 6:11 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2000Blk Olympic Blvd 6:18 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:38 p.m.
Fight 600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:57 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 36 CALLS ON JANUARY 20

EMS 2200Blk Colorado Ave 1:51 a.m.
EMS 800Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:53 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 5th St 9:03 a.m.
Wires Down 2200Blk Delaware Ave 9:43 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk 5th St 10:17 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Ocean Ave 10:30 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 9th St 10:52 a.m.
EMS 500Blk Colorado Ave 11:28 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 15th St 11:35 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:52 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:28 p.m.
EMS Yale St / Wilshire Blvd 12:48 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 6th St 12:54 p.m.
EMS 1700Blk Delaware Ave 1:25 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk Colorado Ave 2:06 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:16 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 3rd St 2:52 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 12th St 3:03 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 3:12 p.m.
EMS Stanford St / Wilshire Blvd 3:39 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 3rd St 3:56 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 9th St 4:20 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1700Blk Pico Blvd 4:39 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 4:40 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 5:03 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 500Blk 12th St 5:47 p.m.
Alert 2 - Serious 3300Blk Donald Douglas Loop N 6:05 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:15 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:28 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 2100Blk 20th St 8:01 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Colorado Ave 9:06 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 4th St 9:16 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1200Blk California Ave 9:45 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Wilshire Blvd 10:06 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Washington Ave 10:19 p.m.

Homeless man arrested for attacking two women near 20th and Santa Monica

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A transient has been arrested after attempting to assault a female retail employee at a local store and subsequently attacking an elderly woman on the street.

The suspect was arrested Friday afternoon for assault with a deadly weapon and elder abuse in a situation that is reminding residents of the tragic murder of Brianna Kupfer by a homeless man last week.

In the Santa Monica case, the suspect entered the Santa Monica Music Center on the 1900 block of Santa Monica Blvd. without a mask and a female employee went behind the counter to retrieve a mask for him. At that point, he followed her, yelled sexually inappropriate comments and attempted to grab her.

"He was trying to attack her," said Councilwoman Lana Negrete who owns and works at the store. "So I had to get a music stand and use it to physically try to push him out while he was swinging."

SMPD responded to the store but the suspect had left the property by the time officers arrived. However, at about the same time, officers received a call for a suspect with a similar description attacking an elderly woman at 20th and Arizona.

"A homeless male threw an unknown liquid at an 83-year-old female who was standing on the corner," said Lt. Rudy Flores. "When the victim asked the suspect what he was doing the suspect kicked the victim knocking her down onto the street."

According to Flores, three witnesses saw the assault and detained Ward until officers arrived. The elderly woman complained of soreness to her hip/back and also said she struck the back of her head on the ground when she fell. She was taken to a medical facility by family. The suspect provided a name upon his arrest but SMPD said they had not yet verified his identity.

Negrete said the incident was frighteningly similar to the tragic murder of Brianna Kupfer who was killed while working alone in a Los Angeles furniture store last week.

"It's just the issue of what's going on with mental health beds and all of that stuff and we think a lot of times that we're just dealing with a woman who sits in front of our store or the guy who throws urine at our window or I actually just got into a conflict yesterday because they're mad that we asked people to sanitize their hands and wear masks and somebody threw feces at us," she said. "You know, we're constantly dealing with stuff like that but you never know now if it's going to turn into being bludgeoned to death or something."

Kupfer was killed on Jan. 13 when transient Shawn Laval Smith entered a furniture store in the 300 block of North La Brea Avenue where Kupfer was working alone. He is accused of fatally stabbing her and fleeing the scene. Smith was arrested on Wednesday in Pasadena and has been charged with murder.

Negrete said she has been frustrated by a lack of tools to keep homeless people from repeatedly harassing individuals or vandalizing property and she's concerned that without additional local mental health facilities, something even more disturbing than Friday's assault may occur.

She said businesses on her block have had three separate incidents in the past week involving a mentally ill homeless person.

"I don't know what it is, it's just that since December, we've had a heightened experience with mentally ill people that are aggressive, throwing stuff at our windows or coming in and slamming the door, throwing something on the floor, that type of stuff," she said. "It's gotten scary and scary just in light of what happened with the young girl Brianna."

She said while some private organizations have discussed long-term strategies to try to prevent people from reaching the streets, she wants to see more local agencies step up with proposals to cover the kind of individuals who are unwilling or unable to access existing housing programs.

Negrete's business has been repeatedly robbed in recent years.

"What are we doing about the problem at hand, literally the people who are sitting outside my store are not going to go into housing," she said. "That's not for them. I gotta have something in between that to then get them eligible to have a roof over their head."

editor@smdp.com

Letter to the Editor

Philip A. Iadevaia Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

Re: January 19, 2022 article by Ms. Sawicki on candidate for LA County Supervisor, 3rd District, Robert Hertzberg:

"I grew up in the Valley and loved it. I don't like what it's become. I don't know Mr. Hertzberg, but his campaign statement that his goal as Supervisor, if quoted correctly "...will be to bring people together, build coalitions, and solve problems for our uniquely diverse and dynamic county. The people deserve nothing less..." says nothing. It is the kind of banal, routine, boilerplate and empty statement typical of so many candidates that has absolutely no meaning or context. It suggests mediocrity and expresses nothing promising enough to earn a vote. Our elected officials need to stop insulting us with word salads like this. I wish Mr. Hertzberg would have stated something like "I will bring to the people the rewards their hard work, dedication and tax dollars have earned. I will develop means by which the people of the 3rd District can voice their concerns and test solutions to problems so that needed reforms are effective and don't create more problems than they are meant to solve." THAT is a mission statement worthy of consideration."

Philip A. Iadevaia, Simi Valley

City of Santa Monica

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of January 13, 2022, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board repealed regulation 3001 to be consistent with current state law.

These changes will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2687 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2687 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2687 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") amends the text of the City of Santa Monica Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Divisions 1 through 5 of Article 9 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code, to remove the Minor Use Permit requirement for Tattoo and Body Modification Parlors in the City's Downtown (LT, NV, BC, TA, OT and WT) and Mixed-Use and Commercial (MUBL, MUB, GC, and NC) districts. Tattoo and Body Modification Parlors remain subject to the specific requirements set forth in Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.31.230. The Ordinance was adopted on January 11, 2022 and will become effective thirty days from its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO
ARTS COMMISSION
URBAN FOREST TASK FORCE
ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

Arts Commission:
Two seats available for terms ending June 30, 2025.
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident or work in Santa Monica.

Urban Forest Task Force:
Seven seats available for terms ending June 30, 2023.
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident or persons who do business or are employed in the City of Santa Monica.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, March 1, 2022.
Appointments to be made by City Council, Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

All appointments are conditional on providing evidence of COVID-19 vaccination.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/boards
All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

WEEKLY ARRESTS

SMPD MADE 25 ARRESTS FROM JANUARY 10 TO JANUARY 16

Date	Sex	Age	Charged With
Mon, Jan 10	M	39	Vandalism
Mon, Jan 10	M	34	Prohibition against camping in public places
Mon, Jan 10	M	40	Battery Against a Custodial Officer
Mon, Jan 10	M	71	Loitering to Commit a Crime
Tue, Jan 11	M	57	Drunk in Public
Tue, Jan 11	M	38	Battery Against a Custodial Officer
Tue, Jan 11	F	37	Drunk in Public
Tue, Jan 11	M	31	Corporal Injury To Spouse
Wed, Jan 12	F	32	Shoplifting
Thu, Jan 13	M	37	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Thu, Jan 13	M	49	Corporal Injury To Spouse
Thu, Jan 13	M	40	Public Nudity
Thu, Jan 13	M	37	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Fri, Jan 14	M	56	Burglary
Fri, Jan 14	F	44	Arson
Fri, Jan 14	M	32	Burglary
Sat, Jan 15	M	40	Illegal Possession of Tear Gas
Sat, Jan 15	M	25	Resisting an Executive Officer
Sat, Jan 15	M	49	Domestic Battery
Sun, Jan 16	M	43	Possession of Burglary Tools
Sun, Jan 16	F	26	Public Nudity
Sun, Jan 16	M	35	Assault & Battery
Sun, Jan 16	M	25	Burglary
Sun, Jan 16	M	28	Assault on a Peace Officer

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Omicron surge is undermining care for other health problems

BEN FINLEY AND KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

Roger Strukhoff was being treated for intestinal bleeding at a hospital outside Chicago this month when he suffered a mild heart attack.

Normally, the 67-year-old would have been sent to the intensive care unit. But Strukhoff said it was overrun with COVID-19 patients, and the staff instead had to wheel a heart monitor into his room and quickly administer nitroglycerin and morphine.

"A doctor I know pretty well said, 'Roger, we're going to have to improvise right here,'" said Strukhoff, who lives in DeKalb, Illinois.

The omicron surge this winter has not only swamped U.S. hospitals with record numbers of patients with COVID-19, it has also caused frightening moments and major headaches for people trying to get treatment for other ailments.

Less-urgent procedures have been put on hold around the country, such as cochlear implant surgeries and steroid injections for rheumatoid arthritis. And people with all sorts of medical complaints have had to wait in emergency rooms for hours longer than usual.

Mat Gleason said he wheeled his 92-year-old father, Eugene Gleason, into a Los Angeles-area emergency room last week for a transfusion to treat a blood disorder. It should have taken about seven to 10 hours, Gleason said, but his dad was there for 48 hours.

He said his father called him after 10 hours, asking for a blanket.

"He told me later, 'I just assumed they forgot about me," said Gleason, 57, who works as an art critic. "And yet he wasn't the only person in that room. There were dozens of people" But Gleason added: "I'm not begrudging the hospital at all. They did a great job."

An average of almost 144,000 people were in the hospital in the U.S. with COVID-19 as of Tuesday, the highest level on record, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hospitals in a few states such as New York and Connecticut that experienced early omicron surges are starting to see an easing of the patient load, but many other places are overwhelmed.

Hospitals say the COVID-19 patients aren't as sick as those during the last surge. And many of them are being admitted for reasons other than COVID-19 and only incidentally testing positive for the virus.

Rick Pollack, CEO and president of the American Hospital Association, said the surge has had a widespread effect on the availability of care for people who have non-COVID-19 health problems. He said a number of factors are at play: More people are in the hospital, and a high number of health care workers are out with COVID-19, worsening staffing shortages that existed well before the pandemic.

As of Wednesday, roughly 23% of hospitals nationwide were reporting critical staff shortages, Pollack said.

Many people are also unable or unwilling to seek care for symptoms that do not seem like emergencies, he said. Pollack said that has led to delays in diagnosing conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure that get worse the longer they go untreated.

Dr. Claudia Fegan, chief medical officer for Cook County Health in Chicago, said some people, particularly older patients, have been avoiding checkups and other routine care during the pandemic out of fear of COVID-19.

And as a result, "the patients we're seeing now are much sicker," she said, citing cases of advanced heart failure and cancer that might have been diagnosed earlier.

Mike Bawden, a 59-year-old marketing consultant with a history of blood clots in his lungs, said he couldn't get an appointment to see his doctor in Davenport, Iowa, because his coughing symptoms were too similar to COVID-19. The doctor's office was concerned about the virus spreading to others.

After nearly two weeks, Bawden went to a walk-in clinic, which sent him to the emergency room at Genesis Medical Center-East in Davenport. He said he waited almost six hours in an overflowing ER before he was seen. A scan showed clots in his lungs, as he suspected, and he was prescribed blood thinners.

If not for the surge, Bawden said, he would have gotten a scan much earlier at a doctor's office.

"It's always so easy to Monday morning quarterback the ER, but everyone was really nice — even the other patients," Bawden said. "I think it's important for folks to realize that nobody's the villain."

Craig Cooper, a Genesis spokesman, declined to comment on any individual cases. But he said in an email: "We are not exempt from the challenges medical centers across the United States are experiencing because of significant impact from COVID. We urge individuals to get vaccinated."

Strukhoff, who is a researcher for tech startups, said he arrived at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb for what he suspected was internal bleeding.

He was diagnosed and given a bed in the emergency room. He waited there for six hours, feeling dizzy, before he was wheeled to his own room through hallways where people lay on stretchers.

"I was in no distress at that point," Strukhoff said. "I was worried about clogging up the works in the emergency room and taking up a spot for other people."

Christopher King, a spokesman for Northwestern Medicine, declined to comment on Strukhoff's care because of privacy laws. But he confirmed that wait times were higher than normal throughout the hospital system, as they are across the country.

Strukhoff said that once he got his own hospital room, a colonoscopy revealed the bleeding. Doctors treated it by cauterizing a vein. He then suffered the heart attack while he was recovering. He said it took five hours for him to get into the ICU.

"It's not something they were set up to do, but they did it," Strukhoff said of the doctors and nurses who rose to the challenge. "These people are heroes."

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AWARD WINNER

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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WINNER

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Los Angeles weighs phasing out oil and gas drilling

DREW COSTLEY
AP Science Writer

The University Park neighborhood of Los Angeles has a lot in common with urban areas across the U.S.: A dense population with lots of businesses and housing. A cluster of car dealerships. A row of restaurants. Schools and a community center.

But nestled in the predominantly Latino community is something rarely found in urban areas outside California: an oil field.

Pat Diaz, a 65-year old activist and University Park resident who grew up near a busy intersection, has felt the presence of the field since she was a child.

She remembers the basement of her family home that she now owns smelled like tar and her mother used to get spontaneous nosebleeds and persistent headaches.

When Diaz moved back to the neighborhood as an adult in 2009, she says she developed a chronic cough and lost her sense of taste. After comparing notes with neighbors in 2011, she realized such ailments were a widespread problem that residents blame on living near oil fields most recently operated by AllenCo Energy.

"It has been the bane of my existence since I was young," she said.

After a decade of complaints from residents like Diaz, the Los Angeles City Council is expected to vote as soon as next week on a measure that would ban new oil and gas wells in the nation's second most populous city and phase out existing wells over a five-year period.

HUNDREDS OF WELLS

The AllenCo Energy oil wells there are just a few among hundreds located in Los Angeles, which has the country's largest concentration of urban oil fields. There are approximately 1,000 active or idle wells in the city, according to a city controller's report citing data from the state Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources.

Los Angeles doesn't have pumpjacks dotting a desolate desert like western Texas. Its oil and gas operations are near places where people live and gather. The AllenCo Energy facility is less than a 10-minute drive from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the Shrine Auditorium.

While these landmarks reflect L.A.'s glitz, glamor and history, University Park is a diverse working-class neighborhood in the oil field's shadows.

Air pollution from oil fields in Los Angeles disproportionately affects areas that are predominantly Latino or Black, said Martha Dina Argüello, executive director of the Los Angeles chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

"We got involved because we were hearing from communities that were experiencing health impacts because they were living next to these oil fields. And what we were finding was that in low-income communities and communities of color, we had less protections," Argüello said. Her public health nonprofit is part of a coalition pushing for tighter regulation or elimination of oil and gas wells in the city.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COMPLAINTS

Pollution from these facilities is associated with chronic health impacts, according to a study last year in the journal Environmental Research. USC researchers found people living near wells in Diaz's neighborhood and nearby Jefferson Park reported significantly higher rates of wheezing, eye and nose irritation, sore throat and dizziness than neighbors living farther away. The researchers likened the respiratory harm caused by living near the oil fields to daily exposure to secondhand smoke or exhaust from a busy highway.

While it's difficult to prove a direct connection, lead author Jill Johnston said the findings provide some validation of longstanding community complaints about health woes they attributed to the oil fields.

Diaz and her neighbors had been lobbying the city council, local agencies and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to do something about the oil wells.

The Los Angeles measure was introduced by council members Nury Martinez and Paul Krekorian in December 2020 after years of complaints from residents about the impact of oil wells on their communities.

The effort to shut down the city's wells is part of a region-wide movement to push oil and gas drilling out of Los Angeles County. In 2021, similar measures were passed to ban drilling in Culver City and unincorporated parts of the county.

INDUSTRY WARNINGS ABOUT BANS

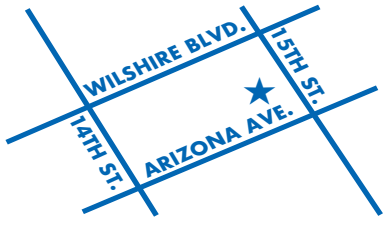
The oil and gas industry opposes moves to rid the region of drilling, saying that would raise gas prices, eliminate jobs and make the area more dependent on foreign oil.

Rock Zierman, chief executive officer of the California Independent Petroleum Association, an industry group that represents nearly 400 oil and gas companies, said there will likely be a legal challenge if the measure passes, saying it would constitute an "unlawful and uncompensated taking of private property."

"We're an energy island," said Ray Watson, an industry worker who spoke at a recent city council meeting. "There aren't any magic pipelines that run anywhere else in the United States to California to supply oil. It's going to come on dirty supertankers from despotic regimes like Saudi Arabia if we don't produce it here."

There's a statewide push to more tightly

SEE **OIL** PAGE 11

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PIER

FROM PAGE 1

it attracts several million visitors a year—and the fact that it was the only game in town for vendors for much of the pandemic as the majority of other tourist attractions were closed.

Additionally, while the problem of trash dumping or open flames might be a headache in the parking lot of an event venue, they pose more serious dangers on a 114-year-old wooden structure next to sensitive marine habitat.

One agency that has taken an interest in issues stemming from S.B. 946 is the California Travel Association, which advocates for the interests of the state's travel and tourism industry.

"What we're seeing with S.B. 946 is there's really just no incentive on either side for people to get permitted or for law enforcement to go after unpermitted people," said Emellia Zamani, Cal Travel Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy. "They (unpermitted vendors) get a fine, but it's not deterring anyone from some of the bad actions that we're seeing in Santa Monica, in Santa Cruz, in San Francisco, which is leaving food waste that attracts rats, not properly refrigerating the foods that you're serving customers… having open flames on wooden piers that could cause fires and dumping grease into the water."

Cal Travel has convened a task force for destinations to discuss the issues they are facing and what they would need from the state to ensure vending is practiced in a safe and respectful manner. The City of Santa Monica is also working on potential legislative solutions as is Senator Ben Allen, who hopes to introduce new legislation reforming the State's street vending laws this session.

"The City is working with our state representatives in Sacramento to advance legislative changes that could assist in addressing the impacts that unpermitted vending on and around the Pier have on public safety, public health, and the environment. These include potential minor modifications to the restrictions imposed by S.B. 946 that would increase the effectiveness of our enforcement work," said City Public Information Officer Constance Farrell.

Senator Ben Allen said he sees the problem with S.B. 946 as two-fold — local governments have little enforcement power against repeated bad behavior of unpermitted vendors and at the same time the existing laws make it extremely difficult for street food vendors to gain a permit.

Every local government is able to establish its own permitting program for street vendors, however all street food vendors are required to have a County health permit, which is governed by the California Retail Food Code and contains provisions that are very difficult for street food vendors to comply with.

These include a requirement for a three compartment sink, a ban on slicing food on site, a ban on heating previously cooked food and a requirement that food is prepared in an approved restaurant or commissary space.

"The Retail Food Code was written before S.B. 946," said Public Counsel attorney Doug Smith. "The law never had to account for or contemplate street vendors, because there was this other set of local regulations that were prohibiting street vending and effectively making it illegal."

Smith believes that reforming the Retail Food Code will motivate more vendors to gain permits and come into compliance with local vending ordinances.

"It's possible that there may be some vendors who would perhaps rather not have the headache of an additional set of rules and regulations and procedures, but there are a lot of vendors that want to participate in something as long as it is oriented towards helping them succeed and not, like we currently have, a system that is geared towards excluding," said Smith.

Santa Monica City Councilmembers support changing the Retail Food Code to make it more sensitive to the context of street vendors and voted in a Jan. 11 meeting to incorporate this into the City's 2022 state legislative agenda.

Senator Ben Allen is seeking to craft a new piece of legislation that would both remove legal barriers to gaining a permit and create new enforcement measures against unpermitted vendors. New enforcement measures could potentially include penalties for repeat offenders or giving cities the ability to temporarily impound carts if vendors refuse to provide identification when being issued an administrative citation.

"In making it difficult to get a permit you actually open up space for the major players in the vending world to be the folks who are more comfortable skating on the edge of the law," said Allen. "So what you need to do is make it easier for folks to operate legally and then also give more tools to local governments to go after those who don't operate legally."

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Scooter crash



Holden Gering

PIER: On Jan. 20 at about 6 p.m. a man in his 20's traveling down the pier ramp on an electric scooter collided with a man in his 50's. Both sustained moderate, but non-life-threatening injuries. Paramedics treated and transported both patients to local hospitals.

California jobless rate dips half-percentage point to 6.5%

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California's unemployment rate dipped a half-percentage point in December as the most populous state added 50,700 nonfarm jobs, accounting for more than a quarter of the nation's 199,000 job growth for the month, according to new data released Friday.

The state has now regained nearly 72% of the 2.7 million jobs it lost in the early months of the pandemic when Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom imposed the nation's first statewide stay-at-home order in the spring of 2020 to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

"In a tug-of-war between the positive economic momentum of the state's economy and the headwind from COVID, California's economy is making slow but steady progress forward," said Sung Won Sohn, a finance and economics professor at Loyola Marymount University.

But he noted that the full impact of the omicron wave had not been felt when the mid-month jobless survey was conducted.

Among other impacts, that forced airlines to cancel holiday flights, businesses to keep employees working from home and schools to revert to online teaching. It also prompted more parents to remain home and added to what has become known as the "great resignation" phenomenon.

California's 6.5% jobless rate is down from 9.3% a year ago as the state added nearly a million jobs since December 2020, the state's Employment Development Department reported. The hiring boost last month still trails an October surge that added nearly 97,000 new jobs.

The hard-hit leisure and hospitality sector led last month's increase by adding more than 15,000 jobs, with significant gains in food services and drinking places, the department said, despite pressures from the latest omicron wave.

Ten of California's 11 industry sectors gained jobs in December and the professional and business services sector has now regained all the jobs it lost at the start of the pandemic.

A 6% increase in nonfarm jobs in 2021 represented the largest calendar-year increase for the state since 1990, the department said.

Officials revised the state's November's unemployment rate up 0.1 percentage points to 7% by adding 3,500 unemployed to its previous tally.

"As we go forward this year, we'll continue taking action to get more folks back to work and support our businesses hit hardest by the pandemic," Newsom said in a statement.

Classifieds

DBA

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

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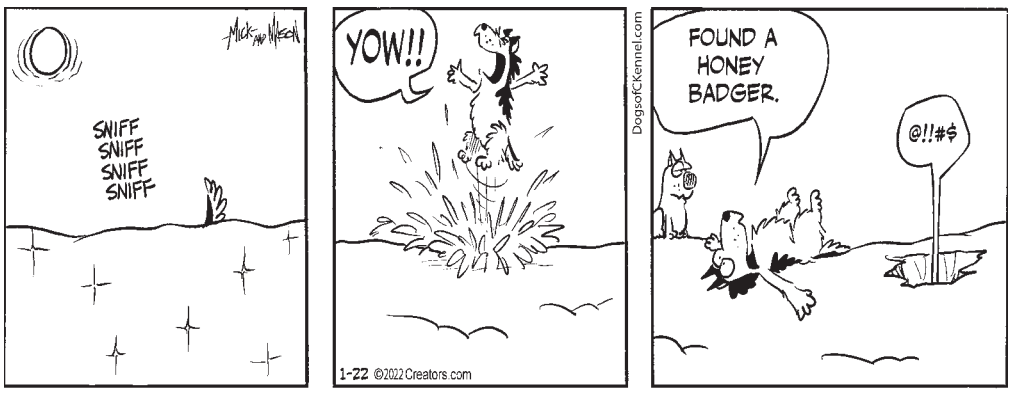
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



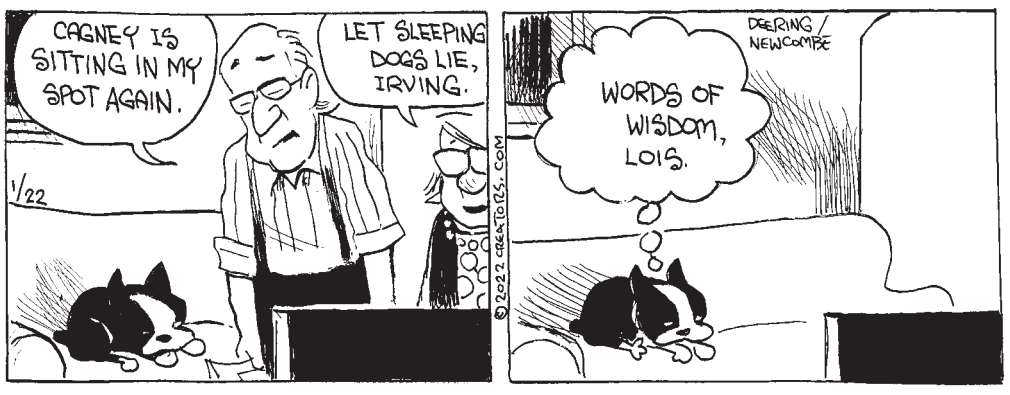
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



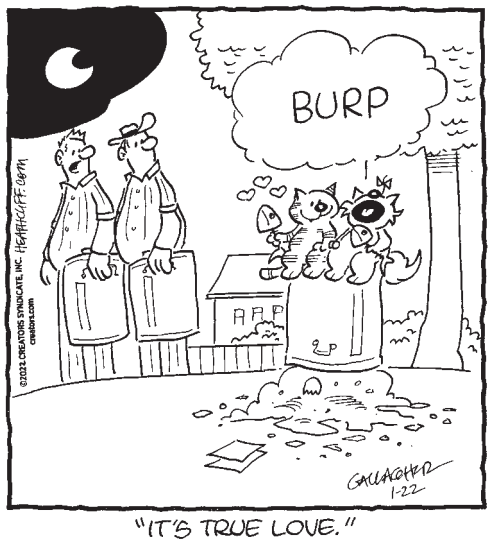
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S TRUE LOVE."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.6°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Small new round of WNW swell tops out -- most size for winter exposures west of Pt Dume - many of the points like Malibu very small. Strong offshore flow all day increasingly likely.

SUNDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Lingering WNW swell in the morning. Will be best early before the tide gets too full. New, long period WNW swell creeping up late in the day but won't do much for size.

WEATHER

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 73. Breezy, with a north northeast wind 15 to 20 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. North wind around 15 mph.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 69. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2022/01/25	Tue	3:19 PM	2.73	H
2022/01/25	Tue	8:11 PM	1.78	L
2022/01/26	Wed	03:31 AM	5.04	H
2022/01/26	Wed	11:12 AM	0.58	L
2022/01/26	Wed	5:27 PM	2.73	H
2022/01/26	Wed	9:27 PM	2.17	L
2022/01/27	Thu	04:30 AM	5.47	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/19
11 15 43 55 61
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 76 M

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

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/19
8 25 27 46 47
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 10 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/20
1 8 14 31 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/20
EVENING: 7 2 3
Draw Date: 1/20
MIDDAY: 1 8 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/20
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:41.48

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 22)

Your positive, upbeat and honest attitude turns situations to your favor. Your curious mind will keep finding opportunity. You'll travel to accomplish a mission. You'll feel like you have more knowledge of a person than your time together would add up to -- it's your sixth sense pointing to a lovely, fated connection. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 44, 31, 9 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Establish boundaries in a developing relationship. Envision the direction you'd like this to go. You're thinking hopefully and focusing yourself with optimism. The best is yet to come.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your powers of observation are keen, and you'll put together a puzzle that's been mystifying you for some time. No spoilers. If you tell the others, you'll diminish the pleasure of their discovery.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Someone admires you. You've known it on a subconscious level, but now it's too obvious to subvert. Enjoy the attention. It's well-earned.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It will take a bit of coaxing to get your mind flowing in the direction of gratitude, but when you really think about it, there's enough good stuff in your current life to make you feel like the luckiest person on the planet Earth.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The problem with putting your work to the test is that you would be hard-pressed to find a harsher judge than yourself. Show your work to at least 12 other people. There's accuracy in the average of those opinions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't have to look at the clock to know if you are hungry. You ask your body, and it tells you. As you get still inside, you'll be increasingly aware of other silent rhythms within you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's an imperfect world and you'll see mistakes all around you: your own and other people's. Even when it's not your fault or your business, you'll do what you can to help make things right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Take action to benefit your future. This is different from trying to escape into the future. By endeavoring to make the future you more comfortable, healthy and happy, your present improves markedly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's dangerous to drive while reading or eating a sandwich. In some way you are trying to simultaneously take on incompatible tasks, but the fix is easy. Put something down. One thing at a time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll return a kindness paid to you long ago. Your actions will remind you of the way you felt back then, when the good deed was freshly bestowed on you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Part of the appeal of travel is that you don't know what to expect. You can choose your destination, but you can't choose your adventure because much of it is out of your control. Plan your next trip.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Like the boss that you are, you're managing a scenario that is not so easily managed. The skills you need to be successful cannot be acquired overnight, so make a commitment to keep working at it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

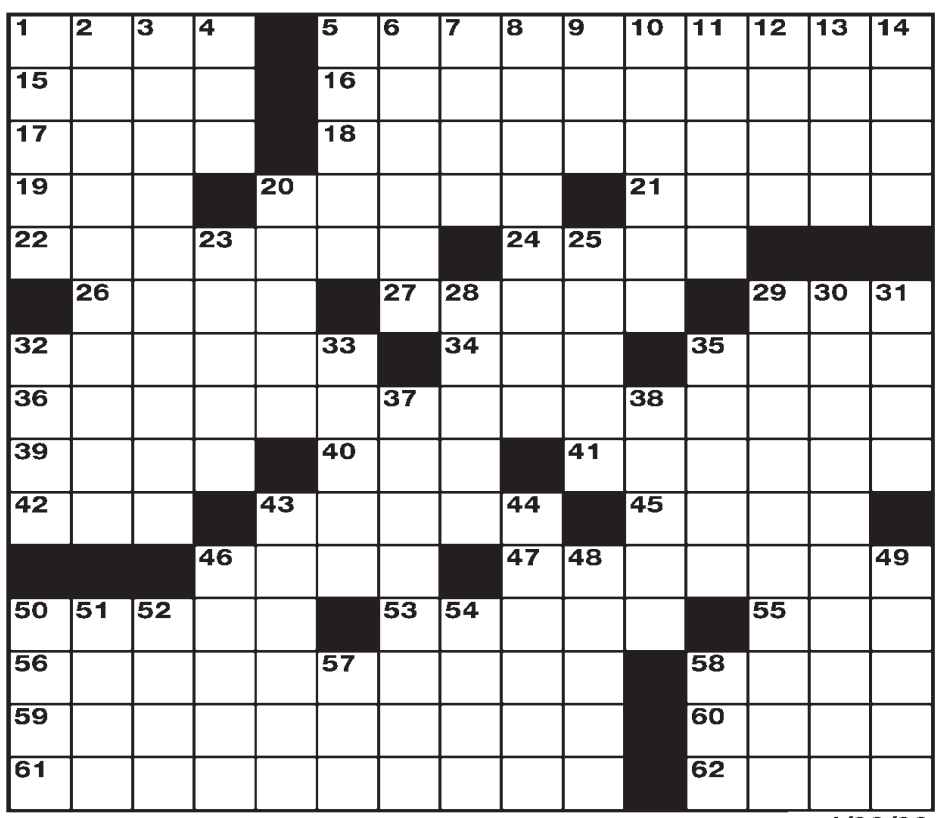
					9	5	2	
	5			1				9
		7	2				1	6
	2	8			4			
3				5				8
			8			6	7	
4	8				1	7		
2				9			6	
	9	5	6					

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Stella Zawistowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Touring org.
5 Safari wear
15 They make waves in water
16 Question at a Q&A
17 No easy jaunt
18 Test for a hunting dog
19 Great Basin people
20 L.A. museum benefactor
21 Protection from winding
22 Pretenseless
24 Favored specialties
26 What some seams are made of
27 Catania cathedral
29 GSUSA divisions
32 Word related to "poultry"
34 *"Absolument pas!"*
35 Most Azerbaijani
36 Still very much with us
39 Work on, as a street
40 Carb served with kalua pig
41 "Kapeesh!"
42 Have breath
43 Hairstyling enhancements
45 Hairstyling device
46 Major function
47 Stately shade-thrower
50 Interns for airings
53 Contemporary of Ravel
55 __ service
56 Summery sweets
58 Designations requiring defenses
59 Hoops move requiring digital dexterity
60 Big bundle
61 Refuses to stand for it
62 Sanctified shes, for short

DOWN
1 Pose with folded legs
2 Highly selective
3 Fruit picked while unripe
4 Don't wonder in silence
5 Not so touchy
6 With friction resolved
7 Federal Assembly vote
8 Guru Granth Sahib, for Sikhs
9 Hindmost
10 "Time's a-wastin'!"
11 Fighters for hire
12 Marlon's three-time director
13 Bridegroom in a Rimsky-Korsakov opera
14 "A friend is . . . a second __": Aristotle
20 Hairstyling substance
23 Ignore a *Simpsons* suggestion
25 Certain DNA test
28 Nullified
29 Party game of choices
30 Sharp leaf
31 Brown rice flavoring
32 Family guy
33 Rolls for repairs
35 Get around
37 Couples-cruise venue
38 Be harmonious
43 Puts together, as pattern pieces
44 Pay off
46 Originally, the natural color of wool
48 What many gloves are made of
49 Removes, as rigor
50 Deflation indication
51 Big number to render
52 Engine accumulation
54 *Moses und __* (Schoenberg opera)
57 What a lazy lyricist might use
58 Only 50-state TV network



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

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.

MONDAY | JAN 24

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, HIGH
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA,90405. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY | JAN 25

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

WEDNESDAY | JAN 26

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning.

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

LIVE BAND KARAOKE AT HARVELLE'S
Come Sing With The Band. The famous "Live Band Karaoke" show comes to Harvelle's every Wednesday at 9 p.m. $2 Tacos $4 PBR Beers $6 Well Drinks. Harvelle's Blues Club, 1432 4th Street

THURSDAY | JAN 27

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

FRIDAY | JAN 28

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, LOW
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

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All creatures great and small

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

Armadillo	Bugs	Emus	Howl	Sheep
Bark	Call	English	Lion	Sing
Bass	Coral	pointer	Meow	Soft
Bear	Coyote	Euro	Monkey	Toads
Bilby	Crab	Feed	Neigh	Tweet
Bird	Crow	Gnus	Oxen	Wombat
Bison	Dogs	Goat	Pouch	Yaks
Black	Dook	Grey	Puma	Yelp
panther	Dragon	Grunt	Purr	Zebu
Boom	Eagle	Hair	Roar	
Bray	Eels	Hiss	Rumble	
Budgerigar	Elks	Hoot	Seal	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Queenstown in winter

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

OIL

FROM PAGE 5

regulate fossil fuel production. In October, the California Geologic Energy Management Division, the state's oil and gas regulator, proposed a ban on new oil and gas wells within 3,200 feet (975 meters) of schools, homes and hospitals.

If those proposed rules become state policy, existing wells would be required to enact new pollution controls, not shut down. The measure before the Los Angeles City Council, however, would phase out oil and gas drilling entirely.

Javier Martinez, who lives three blocks from the AllenCo Energy oil field, applauds efforts by Gov. Gavin Newsom and others to phase out and ban oil and gas extraction.

When the AllenCo Energy site was active, fumes from the pump jacks would make nearby streets "smell really bad, ... like something had been burnt," Martinez said, adding that he and neighbors would complain of nose irritation. "The problem here is that it is affecting people's health and that people live close to the wells."

Attorneys for AllenCo Energy say they don't think the wells are causing health issues for residents. "Not one gallon of oil has come out of that site since 2013, yet the neighbors complain of headaches and nosebleeds," said Carmen Trutanich, one of the company's attorneys. "Strikes me as perhaps there may be another reason for what's going on out there."

FIGHT OVER FUTURE WITHOUT WELLS

Still, advocates for phasing out oil drilling in L.A. say residents don't want to live near wells.

Diaz said she is trying to decide whether to sell her childhood home and move. It would be "wonderful" if the city shut down oil and gas drilling, she said, noting that the neighborhood has already tasted life without the oil wells operating.

The AllenCo Energy wells have been idle since Environmental Protection Agency inspectors were sickened by fumes at the property in 2013. Diaz said the air has improved, her coughing stopped and her sense of taste returned. AllenCo Energy attorneys said they no longer have interest in extracting oil from the site.

Despite the closure, the USC study found people in neighborhoods near oil wells reported experiencing negative health impacts as recently as 2019. And the city brought criminal charges against the company in 2020 for allegedly failing to properly abandon its wells. Attorneys for AllenCo Energy maintain the city and the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, which owns the land, are responsible for properly shutting down the site.

City officials say the Los Angeles oil and gas sites will likely need years of remediation to avoid contaminating the community. And even though only a few hundred jobs are connected to the sites, people like Diaz, a former labor organizer, want to see those jobs replaced.

"I really believe that if they do transitional education, that they'll find jobs," Diaz said. And while she's worried about gas prices rising from a ban, she said it's a temporary inconvenience.

"We have to stop using fossil fuel. We're hurting the Earth," she said. "We have to sacrifice today for the kids of tomorrow."

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Real Estate
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