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WEEKEND EDITION
01.23.21 - 1.24.21
Volume 20 Issue 60

Weapons arrest
SMPD arrested a man downtown
Page 2.

Education awards
Seven students receive a prize.
Page 7

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2021 community calendar celebrates black contributions in Venice

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The 2021 Venice Community Calendar honors the longstanding contributions of Venice's black residents, from the workers who built Abbot Kinney's canals in the early 1900s to community leaders living in the neighborhood today.

The history of black residents' contributions to Venice is rich and multifaceted but not widely known by the broader community. The creators of this year's calendar want to change that.

"The mission of the calendar is to celebrate and enlighten the residents of Venice about where they live," said co-creator Stephen Pouliot. "Venice's history is rich in the gifts that the black community has given."

The first community calendar was created by history enthusiasts

SEE **COMMUNITY** PAGE 11



Courtesy image

VENICE: The calendar raises funds.

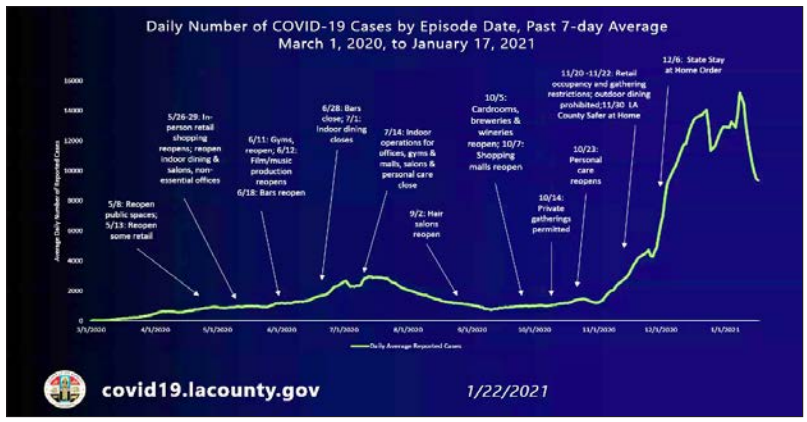
L.A. County bending the curve in ongoing surge

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Statistics released by the LA County Department of Public Health suggest the County is turning the corner in the current COVID-19 surge with the seven day case average down 30 percent from last week.

On Friday, LACDPH reported that testing positivity rates had

SEE **COVID-19** PAGE 4



City considers 'Right to Return' for historically displaced residents

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Like many cities across the country, the City of Santa Monica is attempting to right the wrongs of the past and it's looking for local residents to help determine how by completing an online survey.

City leaders are calling on the community to give their input about the possibility of adding a new "Right to Return" criteria to the city's Below Market Housing program, which is a local initiative that provides Santa Monica residents and workers with apartments in the private sector at a rent that is lower than market rate.

SEE **CITIES** PAGE 11

Donation



Photos by Elise Knebel.

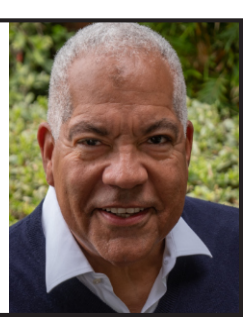
ELKS: Santa Monica Elks Lodge 906 donated $3,000 to NourishLA Foodbank with the help of the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant. The monies are designated for COVID-19 relief in the local community. Natalie Flores, founder, and Demetrios Mavromichalis, co-founder, have started two drive through sites to help the community with food and organic plants. The foodbank currently has 600+volunteers between both hub sights since they started in March of 2020. They have donated over 1.3 million lbs of food, 350,000+ bags of food, and 20,000+ organic plants. They have contacts with local farmers and local community citizens that grow fruit in their backyards. Pictured from Left to right: District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler R.A. Pickett- Santa Monica Elks Exalted Ruler Jaynee Roszhart, PER- Nourish LA President Demetrios Mavromichalis - Santa Monica Elks Food Bank Liaison Ilene Knebel.



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Editorial

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Spend now to avoid paying later

The City is about to enter its mid-year budget process and while Council will debate priorities for the limited resources available, the single best return on investment would be a massive increase in efforts to fight homelessness.

Covid-induced evictions haven't even begun yet due to various moratoriums but they're coming and we know that the vast majority of Santa Monica's homeless population began their decline somewhere else. We'd be foolish to pretend we're not going to bear the brunt of the coming eviction wave, even if it starts somewhere else. If we wait and try to react when the surge is upon is, it will be too late but by investing time and resources now, we might be able to head it off at the pass.

The city is making a good start by cutting five vacant positions from SMPD to fund a variety of services including homeless outreach, code enforcement, a 311 service and tenant protections.

However, the city should take all of those resources and center them in a new department dedicated to homeless services and prevention. The reality is a bulk of the work from some of these ideas are going to be homeless centric anyway.

How many of those 311 calls are going to be about homelessness? 50 percent? 70 percent? 90 percent? It's going to be the vast majority. How much code enforcement time will be spent on blocking a doorway or trash in the public right of way? It was a very poor decision to eliminate the homeless advisor position during our initial round of budget cuts but now we can undo some of that damage by recentering our efforts in a dedicated pool of people who will develop skills and expertise in the area.

It's literally impossible to arrest your way out of our homeless crisis and Santa Monica is in no position to actually fund housing. But we can connect people with existing services offered by the county and state. We can get people into the system to facilitate their VA benefits, Medicare, family reconciliation or other service that will get them off the streets.

There's enough moral authority for this idea based purely on alleviating human suffering but there's also an economic incentive. Every person that comes out of the cold is one more person that won't die behind a dumpster but they're also one less person blocking access to already struggling local businesses. By diverting resources to better connect them to existing services we can provide dignity to those most in need of care and help keep our local economy moving forward which is vital to stem the tides of future homelessness.

Much like Santa Monica's City Attorney's office has developed expertise in consumer protections that have become recognized statewide, a dedicated homeless services division could help nearby cities access services that keeps their residents housed and off the streets. Preemptively keeping people housed, even in cities outside our borders, would be of huge benefit to us because it's vastly easier to keep someone housed rather than rehouse them once they've set up camp on the beach. Perhaps those cities could be enticed to kick in some operating funds and/or state resources could funnel through the office with the vast reserve of local knowledge.

Homelessness is going to get worse in this city and complaining about the causes isn't going to do anything to help. We have to realize it's going to cost us as residents something to fix this and if we don't pony up the money now, the costs — fiscal, economic, cultural and emotional — will only get worse.

SMDP Editorial Board

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Countywide

First in series of storms moves through California

Rain and snow showers fell Friday as the first in a series of storms moved through California, marking a major change to real winter weather after weeks of scattershot precipitation that has done little to ease drought.

"Winter has returned!" the San Francisco Bay Area office of the National Weather Service tweeted.

Snow in lower elevations of the Sierra Nevada led to spinouts and crashes on Interstate 80, prompting authorities to temporarily shut a 55-mile stretch of the highway from Alta to the Nevada state line and turn traffic around.

High winds and poor visibility prompted the Kirkwood, Heavenly, and Northstar mountain resorts to close, postpone or operate their lift chairs at reduced speed Friday morning.

The California Highway Patrol, anticipating increased traffic to Lake Tahoe this weekend, warned that cars will be towed if they illegally park along the roadway for snow play.

"Plan ahead and find a snow park to safely play in," the CHP tweeted.

A gale warning was posted off the coast and the storm unleashed an occasional downpour in the Bay Area. To the south, weather service technicians working on a radar installation atop Mount Umunhum in the Santa Cruz Mountains reported snow.

More than 95% of California has been experiencing drought conditions and the remainder is abnormally dry, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported in its weekly update Thursday.

In Southern California, where January has had summerlike temperatures, the Los Angeles-area weather office also tweeted a greeting to winter: "Are you ready to say goodbye (for now, at least) to the never ending heat? Well it's nearly time because today will be our last 70+ degree day for at least the next week, likely longer."

Drivers were advised to bring chains while traveling in Southern California's mountains, where weekend snowfall was expected to begin lightly, become more significant Sunday and Monday, and then see an even stronger and colder storm on Wednesday and Thursday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 29 CALLS ON JANUARY 21

EMS 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 3:38 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 3100blk Broadway 6:03 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 6:26 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 9:10 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk 4th St 9:46 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Franklin St 9:46 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Delaware Ave 9:54 a.m.
EMS 800blk 10th St 10:12 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 10:56 a.m.
EMS 100blk Wilshire Blvd 11:08 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 17th St 12:04 p.m.
EMS 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:22 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:25 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 1:21 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:51 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk 2nd St 2:04 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:30 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Ocean Ave 2:40 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 11th St / Olympic Blvd E 4:54 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Pico Blvd 6:16 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 15th St 6:29 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 7:43 p.m.
EMS 7th St / Arizona Ave 7:54 p.m.
EMS 2000blk 21st St 8:41 p.m.
EMS 600blk Marine St 8:45 p.m.
EMS 800blk 4th St 9:18 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 9:49 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 2000blk Euclid St 10:56 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Delaware Ave 11:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Downtown

Brandishing a Deadly Weapon

On January 17, 2021 at about 9:07 p.m., officers from the Santa Monica Police Department responded to an unknown trouble call at The Gateway Hotel (1920 Santa Monica Blvd). Details of the call indicated a couple ran into the hotel trying to seek shelter; while, claiming they were being chased by an unknown male subject. Responding officers quickly arrived on scene and came across the male that had armed himself with a kitchen-style knife, while standing in an aggressive manner.

The subject, later identified as Damien Dontae Emory, a 29-year-old black male from Gordon Ga., appeared unstable and refused several police commands to drop the knife. Officers attempted several de-escalation techniques; however, the suspect continued to ignore their commands and attempted to move away from them placing other bystanders at great risk.

At this point officers attempted multiple less-lethal options which subsequently caused Emory to fall to the ground, allowing officers to take him into custody without further incident. Emory was initially treated on scene by the Santa Monica Fire Department Paramedics, then transported to a local hospital where he was treated and discharged. Emory was issued a citation for Brandishing a Deadly Weapon - 417 P.C.; Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Arrest - 148 PC; and later transported to a nearby hospital for a psychiatric evaluation.

SUBMITTED BY RUDY FLORES, LIEUTENANT

Citywide

Santa Monica Extends Eviction Moratoriums for Residential and Commercial Tenants and Emergency Orders to March 31

The City of Santa Monica's thirty-second emergency supplement signed yesterday extends the timeline for eviction protections for residential tenants and commercial tenant 1s unable to pay rent due to financial impacts of COVID-19 to March 31, 2021, aligning with the extension of the moratorium on evictions of residential tenants for reasons other than nonpayment of rent adopted in the thirty-first supplement in December. The thirty-second supplement also extends the expiration of the City's local emergency and associated supplements to March 31, 2021, given the continued community spread and economic impacts of COVID-19.

"As many of our residents and businesses continue to struggle with the devastating economic toll caused by the pandemic, we are committed to helping our community members to stay housed," said Interim City Manager Lane Dilg. "Every vaccine provided and every decrease in hospitalizations provides hope, but we know we still have a long road to travel to full economic recovery. As a City, we intend to walk alongside our community members each step of the way."

The thirty-second supplement specifically addresses the following:

Extends the City's moratorium on evictions of residential tenants for non-payment of rent to cover rent due and unpaid because of financial impacts related to COVID-19 between January 31, 2021 and March 31, 2021.

Extends the City's moratorium on evictions of commercial tenant 1s to cover rent due and unpaid because of financial impacts related to COVID-19 through March 31, 2021, and extends by 90 days, from June 30 to September 30, 2021, the period in which commercial tenant 1s may repay unpaid rent.

Subject to previously specified exceptions (in the Nineteenth and Thirty-First Supplements), extends the expiration of prior supplements that remain in place through March 31, 2021. Later expiration dates stated in specific supplements remain unchanged.

Authorizes BBB to modify its contract with the entity that solicits bus advertising to account for the COVID-19 downturn in the market for such advertising.

For the latest information, please visit santamonica.gov/coronavirus, or call the City's Coronavirus Hotline at (310) 458-8400.

CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 232 CALLS ON JANUARY 21

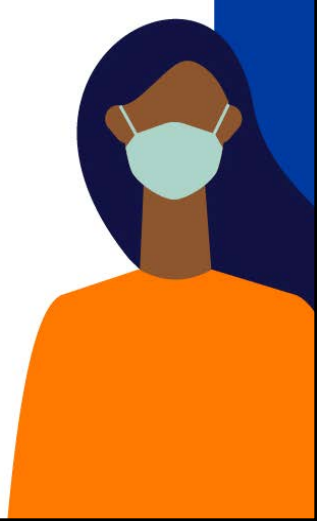
Audible Burglar Alarm 2000blk Pico Blvd 1:54 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 2:12 a.m.
Fight 900blk Ocean Ave 3:36 a.m.
Petty Theft 300blk Bicknell Ave 3:41 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 3000blk Pearl St 6:31 a.m.
Loitering 3100blk Main St 6:59 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 8:01 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1800blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:28 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:32 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 700blk Kensington Rd 8:54 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 3100blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:56 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 500blk San Vicente Blvd 8:56 a.m.
Petty Theft 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 9:18 a.m.
Loud Music 1000blk 3rd St 9:21 a.m.
Burglary Report 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:22 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk 6th St 9:25 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 900blk 21st St 9:26 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk Pearl St 9:36 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2400blk 4th St 9:37 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk 34th St 9:38 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 500blk Georgina Ave 9:39 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk Montana Ave 9:41 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 2nd St 9:52 a.m.
Fraud Report 2400blk Virginia Ave 9:56 a.m.
Petty Theft 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:56 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 10th St / Arizona Ave 9:58 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 2nd St 10:08 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1300blk 26th St 10:41 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 10th St / Marguerita Ave 10:53 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:04 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100blk Bay St 11:22 a.m.
Burglary 900blk 17th St 11:29 a.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:49 a.m.
Identity Theft 700blk 15th St 11:54 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk Washington Ave 12:10 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 12:24 p.m.
Identity Theft 900blk 4th St 12:29 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:29 p.m.
Loud Music 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 12:49 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2200blk Marine St 12:51 p.m.
Fight 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 1:02 p.m.
Fight 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 1:02 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2300blk 32nd St 1:26 p.m.
Assault 1400blk Park Dr 1:29 p.m.
Petty Theft 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 1:36 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Civic Center Dr 1:46 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 800blk Pearl St 1:48 p.m.
Petty Theft 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 1:55 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk Olympic Blvd E 1:59 p.m.
Fire Alarm 1200blk 2nd St 2:10 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:24 p.m.
Found Person Venice Beach 2:26 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 400blk San Vicente Blvd 2:30 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:04 p.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 3:08 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 3:28 p.m.
Burglary Report 400blk Idaho Ave 3:55 p.m.
Assault 1300blk 2nd St 3:57 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1800blk Stewart St 3:59 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2600blk 33rd St 4:29 p.m.
Fire 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 4:34 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 11th St / Olympic Blvd E 4:54 p.m.
Fraud Report 1800blk 9th St 5:12 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk Montana Ave 5:17 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 9th St 5:28 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400blk Ocean Ave 5:33 p.m.
Construction Noise 2500blk 29th St 5:47 p.m.
Battery Report 100blk California Ave 6:14 p.m.
Construction Noise 2600blk 3rd St 6:31 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1200blk 4th St 6:39 p.m.
Child Abuse 1400blk 10th St 7:17 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 7:53 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 8:01 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 8:08 p.m.
Petty Theft 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 8:29 p.m.
Encampment 1200blk 2nd St 8:42 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 9:13 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:27 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 9:41 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 6th St 9:45 p.m.
Party Complaint 00blk Vicente Ter 9:49 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 9:52 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:01 p.m.
Death Investigation 1700blk Delaware Ave 11:03 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:17 p.m.
Grand Theft 500blk California Ave 11:25 p.m.
Public Intoxication 00blk Vicente Ter 11:29 p.m.

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- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES
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WEEKLY ARRESTS

THERE WERE 16 ARRESTS DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF JANUARY.

Date	Sex	Age	Charged With
1/15/21	M	31	Forgery
1/15/21	M	28	Driving without a valid license
1/15/21	M	47	Burglary
1/15/21	M	44	Possession of Methamphetamines
1/16/21	M	24	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
1/16/21	M	38	Drunk in Public
1/16/21	M	51	Drunk in Public
1/17/21	M	48	Parole Violation
1/18/21	M	34	Possession of Methamphetamines
1/18/21	M	32	Assault & Battery
1/19/21	M	44	Burglary
1/19/21	M	41	Possession of Methamphetamines
1/20/21	M	37	Battery Causing Serious Bodily Injury
1/21/21	M	59	Drunk in Public
1/21/21	M	61	Larceny
1/21/21	F	47	Vandalism

COVID-19

FROM PAGE 1

dropped to 12.7 compared to 20.8 percent on Jan. 1. This is still much higher than the 3.8 positivity rate reported on Nov. 1 prior to the start of the surge.

"Despite these promising trends I want to emphasize that the numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths remain far too high," said LACDPH Chief Science Officer Paul Simon. "So while there is reason to be hopeful, we all must remain vigilant and continue to be disciplined."

The County reported 9299 new cases and 256 additional deaths on Friday, bringing total case and death counts to 1,054,802 and 14,894 respectively.

Vaccination efforts ramped up significantly this week with eligible groups being expanded to include all adults 65 and over and five "mega pod" vaccination sites opening in the County.

More than 441,000 vaccines doses have been administered so far, including more than 352,000 first doses and more than 88,000 second doses. This currently reflects a 52 percent delivery rate of alloted doses, which has drawn some criticism of the County's efficiency, while officials say the true percentage is likely higher.

"Regarding the unused vaccine, what you see in the statistics is a very large number of vaccines that have been allotted, but what appears to be a surprisingly low number of doses that have been administered," said Simon. "As I looked at our data today, using the worst case scenario, it looks like 52 percent, but if you factor in the length of the delay in reporting it's likely higher. It could be 60 or 65 percent."

Simon confirmed that some unused doses are being delivered to people without appointments at the end of the day, but said this is only occurring in very small quantities and is being prioritized for individuals in eligible groups.

At this time the limited supply of vaccines remains the biggest constraint to the County's rollout.

Los Angeles is currently receiving approximately 150,000 doses a week, representing an ability to inoculate 1 in 4 eligible people. If this pace were to continue it would take over a year to vaccinate all adults in LA County, however officials say they are optimistic about the supply expanding.

"We have a new federal administration that has pledged to make this happen. We are also hopeful that several other vaccine manufacturers will receive federal authorization for emergency use of their vaccines in the coming months and that should help to increase supplies to California, and ultimately to Los Angeles County," said Simon.

If weekly deliveries reach 500,000 doses, officials estimate the County would be able to vaccinate 75 percent of the adult population by mid summer.

As supplies increase more vaccination will begin happening at a local level in pharmacies, community clinics, and by primary healthcare providers. Officials recommend consulting http://www.vaccinatelacounty.com/ for the latest information and guidance on receiving a vaccine.

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

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California keeps key virus data out of public sight

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has from the start said his coronavirus policy decisions would be driven by data shared with the public to provide maximum transparency.

But with the state starting to emerge from its worst surge, his administration won't disclose key information that will help determine when his latest stay-at-home order is lifted.

State health officials said they rely on a very complex set of measurements that would confuse and potentially mislead the public if they were made public.

Dr. Lee Riley, chairman of the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health infectious disease division, disagreed.

"There is more uncertainty created by NOT releasing the data that only the state has access to," he said in an email. Its release would allow outside experts to assess its value for projecting trends and the resulting decisions on lifting restrictions, he wrote.

Newsom, a Democrat, imposed the nation's first statewide shutdown in March. His administration developed reopening plans that included benchmarks for virus data such as per capita infection rates that counties needed to meet to relax restrictions.

It released data models state officials use to project whether infections, hospitalizations and deaths are likely to rise or fall.

As cases surged after Thanksgiving, Newsom tore up his playbook. Rather than a county-by-county approach, he created five regions and established a single measurement — ICU capacity — as the determination for whether a region was placed under a stay-at-home order.

In short order, four regions — about 98% of the state's population — were under the restrictions after their capacity fell below the 15% threshold. A map updated daily tracks each region's capacity.

At the start of last week, no regions appeared likely to have the stay-at-home order lifted soon because their capacity was well below 15%. But within a day, the state announced it was lifting the order for the 13-county Greater Sacramento area.

Suddenly, outdoor dining and worship services were OK again, hair and nail salons and other businesses could reopen, and retailers were allowed more shoppers inside.

Local officials and businesses were caught off guard. State officials did not describe their reasoning other than to say it was based on a projection for ICU capacity.

State health officials relied on a complex formula to project that while the Sacramento region's intensive care capacity was below 10%, it would climb above 15% within four weeks. On Friday, it was 9%, roughly the same as when the order was lifted.

"What happened to the 15%? What was that all about?" asked Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist and infectious-diseases control expert at University of California, San Francisco. "I was surprised. I assume they know something I don't know."

State officials projected future capacity using a combination of models. "At the moment the projections are not being shared publicly," Department of Public Health spokeswoman Ali Bay said in an email to The Associated Press.

California Health and Human Services Agency spokeswoman Kate Folmar said officials are committed to transparency, providing twice-weekly updates on whether regions can relax restrictions. But she said projected ICU capacity is based on multiple variables, including available beds and staffing that change regularly.

"These fluid, on-the-ground conditions cannot be boiled down to a single data point — and to do so would mislead and create greater uncertainty for Californians," she said in a statement.

First Amendment Coalition Executive Director David Snyder urged the state to change course.

"The state is wielding extraordinary power these days — power to close businesses, to directly impact people's livelihoods and even lives — and so it owes it to Californians to disclose how and why it makes those decisions," said Snyder, whose California public interest organization fights for greater government openness.

"Secrecy," he said, "is exactly the wrong approach here and will only breed further mistrust, confusion and contempt for the crucial role of government in bringing us out of this crisis."

Restaurants, among other businesses, would benefit by being able to watch trends toward reopening so they could start ordering supplies and rehiring workers, California Restaurant Association president and CEO Jot Condie said.

Last week's sudden easing of restrictions "was a good surprise, but we just didn't see it coming," Condie said. "We just don't know what happens behind the curtain."

San Bernardino County spokesman David Wert said officials there aren't aware of the models the state is using. "If they do exist, the county would find them helpful," he said.

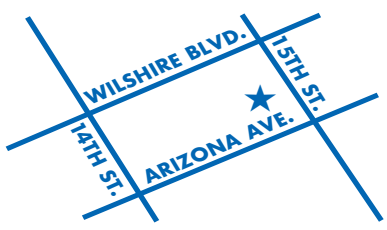
Riley said he would base reopening decisions on current coronavirus cases rather than ICU projections, partially because most people who are hospitalized never require intensive care.

California became the nation's epicenter for the virus in December, but it has fared better in the new year. The 23,024 new cases reported Friday are less than half the mid-December peak of nearly 54,000.

California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly this week cited slowing hospital and skilled nursing home admissions and lower positivity and transmission rates as "rays of hope" for overburdened hospitals.

Yet the data model that he has repeatedly

SEE **VIRUS** PAGE 6

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMC Bond Refinance Saves Taxpayers $26.8 Million

Savings to be Passed on to District Property Owners through Lower Tax Bills

This past December 2020, the Santa Monica Community College District successfully refinanced a portion of its general obligation bonds, saving the community more than $26.8 million in interest costs that will be passed on to district property owners through lower tax bills.

The District availed itself of the favorable interest rate environment and issued new bonds at a rate of 2.4% to refinance previously issued bonds, which carried interest rates between 4% and 5%. There was no prepayment penalty or extension of the repayment period on the bonds.

"At Santa Monica College, we felt that it was imperative to take advantage of the low interest rates so that our community might benefit," said SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery. "We are pleased with the outcome, and remain tremendously grateful to those who have supported the college and its mission of providing the highest-quality, most accessible education possible to our communities."

Rob Rader, current SMC Board Chair, stated that "the Board takes its fiduciary obligation as the College's fiscal steward very seriously. When interest rates move favorably, the Board has consistently taken advantage to create savings for Santa Monica and Malibu ratepayers. Much thanks are due for the hard work of President Kathryn Jeffery's team, Vice President Chris Bonvenuto, John Greenlee and their outside underwriters, resulting in strong fiscal management and the favorable bond rating we've achieved at the College."

Proceeds of the original bonds have been used to fund such major projects as the new Student Services Center on the Main Campus; the upgrading and expansion of the Center for Media and Design campus; and the acquisition and retrofit of the Bundy Campus in support of SMC's nursing, health occupations, and early childhood education programs. Additional safety and modernization improvements have been completed thanks to these voter-approved bond election authorizations in 2002 and 2008.

"The SMC fiscal team is a highly fiscally responsible group of individuals," said Christopher Bonvenuto, SMC's Vice President of Business and Administration, "and they have delivered on the institutional priority of saving our taxpayers and community supporters vital dollars."

The refinancing bond sale was well received by investors, with more orders for bonds than the amount available to sell. The strong demand was driven primarily by the District's high-quality credit ratings of "AA+" (S&P Global Ratings) and "Aa2" (Moody's), which reflect the District's prudent fiscal management and the robust local economy.

The District's action to refinance the bonds was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees in November 2020. In all, the sale of the District's new 2020 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, 2002 Election and 2008 Election, resulted in an aggregate principal amount of $201,495,000. The District's 2020 Refunding Bonds were sold via negotiated sale, with RBC, Piper Sandler & Co. and Ramirez as underwriters.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

VIRUS

FROM PAGE 5

pointed to as key to planning still shows hospitalizations bumping up over the next month, though projections flatten more each day.

The model is based on historical infection data that follows a pattern where about 12% of those with the virus get hospitalized and 12% of them end up in the ICU. The model's projections do not account for changes in conditions, such as more vaccinations or a lifted stay-at-home order.

It is one of 16 forecasting models listed on a "technical notes" page of the state's website, with links for more information to help the public understand projections that can sometimes show contradictory trends. Another 12 models assess transmission rates.

Computer models must take into account so many factors that they may be valuable only on a much smaller scale, experts said, perhaps to allow local officials to spot outbreaks or target vaccination campaigns.

The computer model Ghaly has been citing seems to be accurate "only afterwards, like Monday morning football," Riley said, "so I don't take the modeling that seriously."

For example, Riley expects holiday-related cases to continue plaguing hard-hit Southern California for at least a couple more weeks and keep ICU space extremely tight.

Yet the state's public model shows a roughly 30% decline in Southern California ICU patients over the next month even as hospitalizations flatten and deaths climb. The model shows a smaller but still significant decline in the equally hard-hit San Joaquin Valley.

"My reading of the tea leaves," Rutherford said, "is that we're at the very cusp of entering a period of falling case numbers."

Associated Press writers Kathleen Ronayne and Amy Taxin contributed. Taxin reported from Orange County.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Students Receive 2021 Education Awards

Seven area students were presented Education Awards by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition at the first-ever online virtual ceremony held January 18 to commemorate the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's awards recipients are:

• Crossroads High School student Nora Cazenave received a 2021 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Award. She loves being involved with activities at her school, swimming, reading, hiking, and spending time with family and friends. She organized a Black Lives Matter protest this past summer, is the co-president of an affinity group of multiracial students at Crossroads, and is part of a student group working with admissions to increase the school's diversity. Nora is passionate about social and environmental justice, educational equity, writing, and marine biology, and is excited about attending college next fall.

• Culver City High School student Brenden Evans received the 2021 Sue Scheuerman Award. The four-year honor roll senior is an avid baseball player and a member of the Black Student Union. Brenden has volunteered at the Ride to Fly Horse Therapy Program for the last three years. He attends University Christian Church, where he assists with the children's ministry and Vacation Bible School. Brenden enjoys playing the trumpet and spending time with friends. He plans to attend a four-year college after graduation, where he will major in engineering and continue playing baseball. Brenden ultimately aspires to become a civil engineer.

• Santa Monica High School senior Alejandra Hernandez was presented the 2021 Sally Mendelsohn Award. She is a talented and passionate dancer. Her family and her faith are the two most important things in her life. From her family, she has learned the power of love, which holds her family together. Faith, justice, and mercy are the three things she learned from her church. She applies the four values of faith, justice, mercy, and love to her daily life, which she says makes her a better person and contributes to her enjoying a happy life.

• South High School student Alexander Korinth received a 2021 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Award. He grew up abroad, living his first 12 years in Luxembourg, Venezuela, and Panama, attending English-speaking international schools. When he returned to the United States in 2016, he skipped a grade and is currently a senior at South High School. He is a well-rounded, science minded individual. He speaks English natively and Spanish fluently. Alexander fences sabre competitively on a national level. He qualified and competed in the 2020 Junior Olympics, held this past February. This year, he worked hard to earn an invitation to his second Summer National Championship, open only to top-ranking fencers who qualify in the United States. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was canceled. Alexander diligently continues to train hard five times a week, determined and primed to qualify for 2021. Alexander plans to study engineering and biotechnology at UC San Diego or Colorado School of the Mines, as he aspires to cure aging.

• Crossroads High School senior Taj-Jamaal "TJ" Dugar Muhammad was presented the 2021 Lillie Bell Blakley Award. He grew up in Inglewood, California. He has played sports most of his life and is best at basketball and football. Since Crossroads does not have a football team, he had to give up one of the sports he loved. At Crossroads, TJ discovered a new passion, his voice. After experiencing his father's near-death motorcycle accident, the loss of his uncle, and the divorce of his parents, he had trouble expressing his feelings. Crossroads taught him different ways to convey his feelings: one was writing. He started off with storytelling about growing up not seeing his mother since his parents' divorce, but it did not seem that he could really express how he truly felt about things in his life. He gravitated to poetry, which changed his life. Yet, it was not until he discovered spoken word that he felt that he was moving toward becoming the best man that he could be. The award for a work that 'demonstrates an awareness of tradition, legacy, and history' is given in honor of Lillie Bell Blakley, whose passion to "keep moving forward" is apparent in her family's multigenerational commitment to education and service, which includes son and former Mayor of Santa Monica Nathaniel Trives, as well as granddaughter Dr. Toni Trives, formerly chair of the SMC Modern Languages and Cultures Department.

• Venice High School senior Jacob Scranton-Belgarde received the 2021 Clyde Smith Award. He enjoys math and science, and his goal is to attend college and study engineering and/or architecture. He enjoys community service and sports, mainly baseball and hockey. He often provides peer tutoring to younger students on various subjects. He assists older adults with developing their computer skills, and provides them with caregiving support as needed. Jacob loves traveling domestically and internationally. He intends on applying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Six Principles of Nonviolence to his daily life and to his future educational goals. The award for 'artistic effort and service to making our world a better place' is given to celebrate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and honor Westside Coalition co-founder, director of the former Neighborhood Development Corporation (NRDC), and revered community leader Clyde Smith.

• West Los Angeles College student Isaiah Walker was presented the 2021 Saul Morrison Award. He is a 17-year-old photographer who enjoys and appreciates the simple things in life. When he is not pursuing his goal as a photographer, he enjoys riding his bike at the beach. Isaiah enjoys art and chose photography after realizing that he could not draw. To be precise, he cannot stand creating a piece of art that takes so long. When viewing painters, sculptors, sketch artists, you name it, he was thrilled at what they could conjure. Of course, this made him quite envious, so he decided to give photography a chance. The award for an essay that 'demonstrates a passion for bridge-building, community, and leadership' is presented to honor the memory and efforts of social activist Saul Morrison to secure equal opportunities for everyone.

Each year, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition invites schools, churches, and youth groups to encourage their college freshmen and high school seniors to submit an essay, poem, or other creative work that exemplifies the "Six Principles of Nonviolence" in Dr. King's Stride Toward Freedom. The awards are supported by endowments established in memory of local community activists and managed by the Santa Monica College Foundation.

More information about the Education Awards, as well as details on how to help support the awards, is available by calling the SMC Foundation at 310-434-4215.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

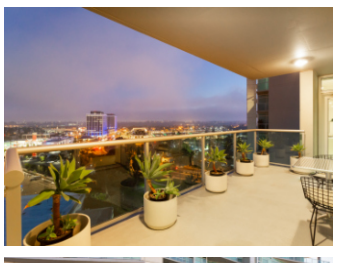
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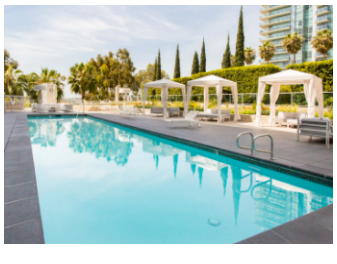
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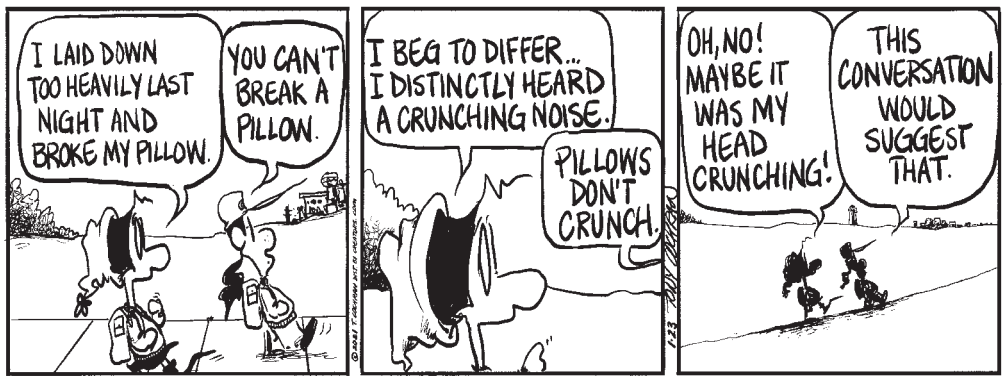




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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



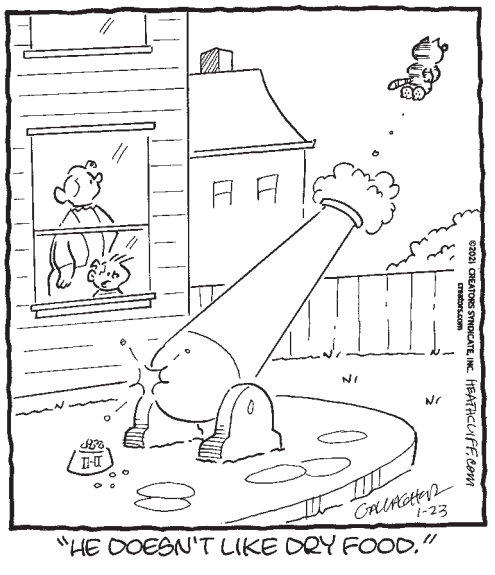
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



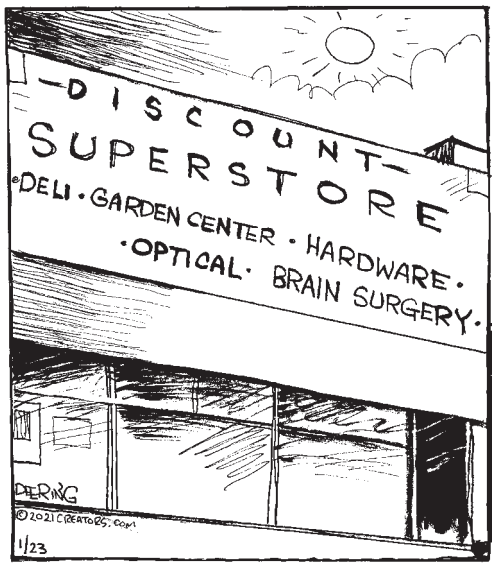
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.2°

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
WNW/NW swell blend should be up a notch. Likely on the jumbled side from elevated NW winds overnight but could see a lighter window with manageable conditions through mid-morning.

SUNDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Small WNW/NW swell blend that could pick up in the afternoon as NW wind builds.

WEATHER

Saturday: Showers likely, mainly between 10am and 4pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 57.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly clear, with a low around 45.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/01/23	Sat	05:17 AM	4.87	H
2021/01/23	Sat	1:00 PM	0.32	L
2021/01/23	Sat	7:44 PM	3.08	H
2021/01/23	Sat	11:29 PM	2.51	L
2021/01/24	Sun	05:58 AM	5.19	H
2021/01/24	Sun	1:33 PM	-0.15	L
2021/01/24	Sun	8:15 PM	3.28	H
2021/01/25	Mon	12:16 AM	2.46	L
2021/01/25	Mon	06:37 AM	5.53	H
2021/01/25	Mon	2:05 PM	-0.55	L
2021/01/25	Mon	8:42 PM	3.45	H
2021/01/26	Tue	12:57 AM	2.33	L
2021/01/26	Tue	07:14 AM	5.85	H
2021/01/26	Tue	2:36 PM	-0.87	L
2021/01/26	Tue	9:08 PM	3.59	H
2021/01/27	Wed	01:35 AM	2.16	L
2021/01/27	Wed	07:50 AM	6.12	H
2021/01/27	Wed	3:07 PM	-1.09	L
2021/01/27	Wed	9:36 PM	3.71	H
2021/01/28	Thu	02:13 AM	1.98	L
2021/01/28	Thu	08:25 AM	6.28	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/20
40 53 60 68 69
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/19
10 19 26 28 50
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 1 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 1/20
5 8 15 21 37
Mega#: 27
Jackpot: 14 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/21
5 6 15 38 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/21
EVENING: 7 5 1
Draw Date: 1/21
MIDDAY: 5 8 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/21
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:48.78

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 23)

You are well aware that anything worth accomplishing is done through blood, sweat and tears, and you're not averse to the investment. The adventure your restless soul has not been able to take will now call you forward – better even are the funds that show up to aid in this. Best of all is the company you'll keep in this journey. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 15, 1, 24 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will take confident action that affects every area of your life. Being strong, decisive and outspoken in one situation makes it easier to be the same the next time and the next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll see the overall picture that others are losing sight of. Speak up about it! By nature, you are an executive who will manage others and delegate masterfully.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today, your expertise centers around balancing. Mostly it is a matter of core strength and quick reflexes, plus being ready to make adjustments necessary to maintain equilibrium.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The question of the day: Should you save or invest? Unless you're absolutely so passionate about the prospects that you don't mind losing money to them, opt for saving.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). One person's treat is another person's punishment. Getting to know what others like is a pursuit that has the potential to, ultimately, bring pleasure to all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The way you see things will affect how others see them. You're like a lighting director applying the colored gel to diffuse the scene in just the right tones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're not one to grind away at a futile task, but if you have the slightest indication that it matters to a few people, then you'll give it your absolute all. This you'll do whether paid, unpaid, ignored or celebrated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). While busily doing what it takes to survive within the context of an environment you have landed in, it's easy to forget where your choices lie. You'll wake up to a circumstance and see your options anew.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Shy people intrigue you. You also feel a degree of social anxiety but will not let that deter you from getting to know people and letting them know you, which is among the most pleasurable experiences of life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In the coaching community, the question is worded, "How are you showing up?" If posed this question, your own community would probably answer, "Super strong."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There is absolutely no use in wishing you were anywhere else. Your current location and state of being as a good a place to start from as any, and much better than most.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The downtime isn't really downtime at all. It's a chance for you to get better acquainted with your surroundings and the cast of characters who will be with you on the next adventure. Take advantage.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

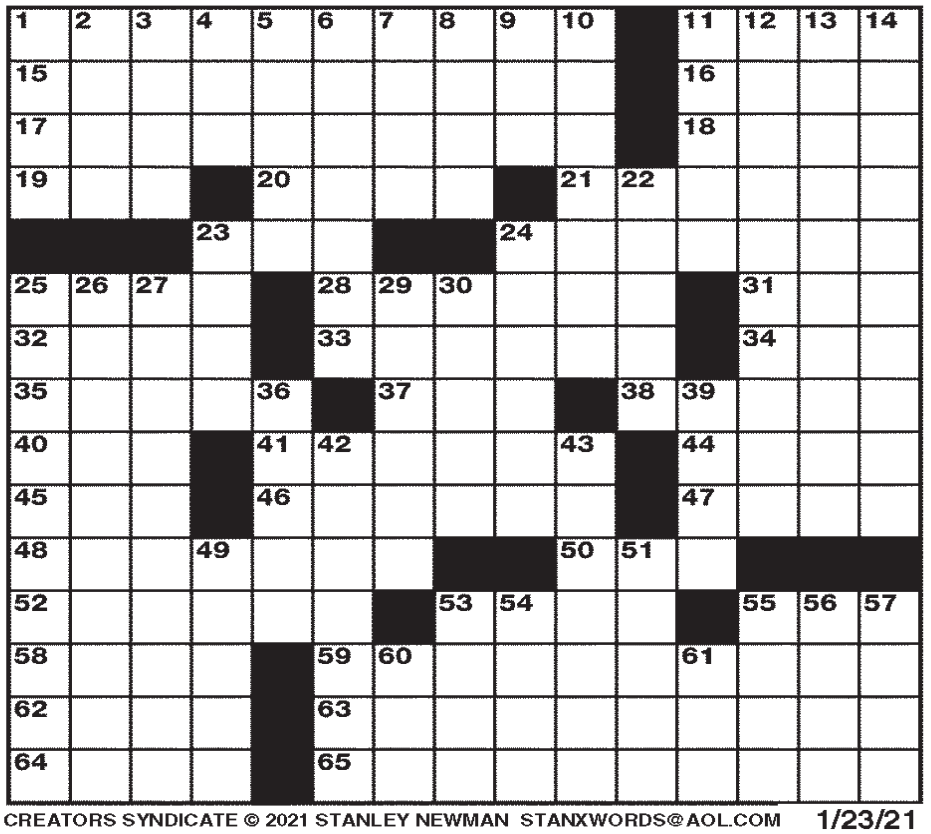
			3	6		1		
6		8		5		3		
5			4				6	
	2				6			
1	8			4			5	6
			9				2	
	6				3			2
		2		8		6		3
		4		2	9			

Newsday Crossword

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

ACROSS
1 Improper running down
11 "Pass it on" preceder
15 Bound to happen
16 It may be nursed in a nursery
17 Bottoms of channels
18 __ suit
19 Gull or rook
20 Group of problems
21 Guilty feeling
23 BUZZR's cable competitor
24 Instrument with punched paper
25 Unfulfilled fancy
28 Volcanic creation
31 USN designation
32 "Science is based . . . __ openness to see the universe as it really is": Carl Sagan
33 Not much
34 Ending like -ette
35 Left, to *cartógrafos*
37 2020 retiree with his own "nomics"
38 Bat over
40 Target of a trimming
41 "To be specific . . ."
44 Teeming
45 "Notes from the Backpack" podcast grp.
46 Foreshadowing phrase
47 Foreshadowed day of long ago
48 Bowl for crème brûlée
50 Store to improve
52 *Patria di Pavarotti*
53 Sound off
55 Quick hit
58 Greek counterpart of Victoria
59 Fiery-sounding sushi
62 Some forensic accountants, for short
63 What those who have had it have
64 Microbiologist's creations
65 "Dinner is served" sight

DOWN
1 BMW logo, e.g.
2 "Inner" starter
3 Green Crayola color
4 Hacker's need
5 Venerable defensive devices
6 It's south of Georgia
7 Close watch
8 "Puh-leeze!"
9 __ hat
10 Up-a-tree activity
11 Eat whole, as a dumpling
12 Greenhouse plant with neck-shaped flowers
13 Free state?
14 Sit-downs
22 Wetlands visitor
23 Certain proper party
24 Quilt components
25 Roof proof of a Santa visit
26 Separation exhortation
27 It's cranked in kitchens
29 Ultimate source of hay fever symptoms
30 Particular type of 1 Across
36 Korean soup ingredient
39 Ohio's Lake __ College
42 Cretan princess of myth
43 Passing remark?
49 High Court name
51 Recent spirited role for Will Smith
53 Fully absorbed
54 Vegan's gelatin alternative
55 Name related to Ivana
56 Fall semifinal
57 "Ew-w-w!"
60 '80s First Son
61 Zin, for instance



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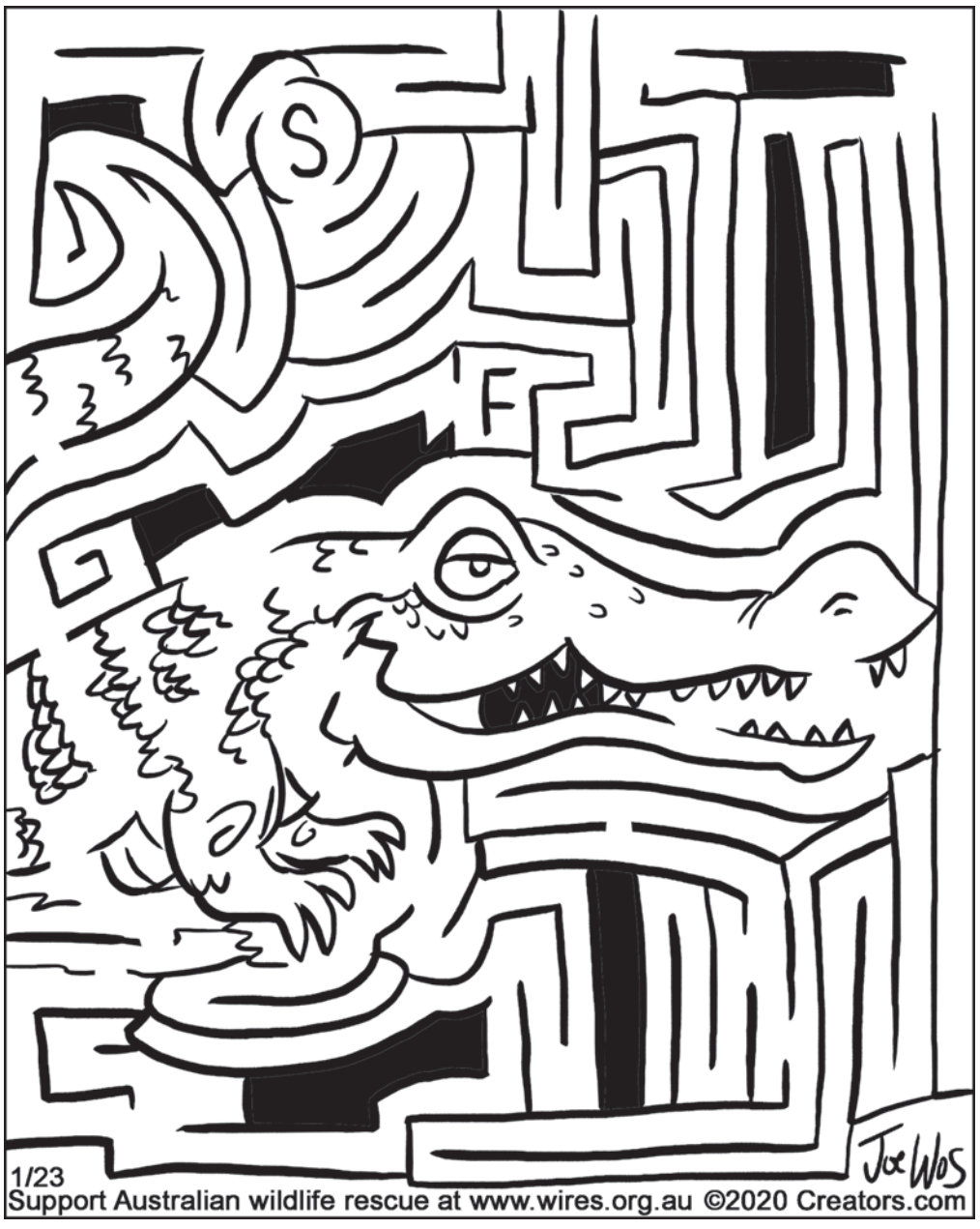
Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0

							0				
						1		0		1	1
		1		1							
				1		1				1	1
							0			1	
0				1							
				1		1	1		1		
						1					1
		1		1			1		0		
										1	
	0	0			1		1		0		
		1		0				0	0		



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

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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 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5002

Dining out

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

Alcohol
Artichoke
Beer
Bill
Candles
Casserole
Cocoa
Corn
Crab
Crowd
Dates
Day spa
Dear
Dips
Dish
Drink at the bar
Duck
Eggs
Event
Gift
Goose
Heat
Host
Jigs
Mango
Mints
Music
Nougat
Nuts
Olives
Omelet
Opera
Peas
Pies
Play
Port
Rage
Raisin
Rice
Salt
Satay
Sauna
Sleeping in
Steak
Suit
Syrup
Tapas
Taxi
Thai
Wine

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
They were the best of times

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COMMUNITY

FROM PAGE 1

Stephen Pouliot and Paul Tanck to mark Venice's centennial in 2005. Two years later local real estate agent Betsy Goldman offered to sponsor the calendar and it became an annual tradition with each edition focusing on a different facet of Venice's history.

This year's calendar begins by honoring Arthur Reese, the first black resident in Venice who came to the area in 1902. Reese was hired to perform janitorial services by Abbot Kinney, but knew he was capable of much more.

Kinney recognized Reese's natural artistic talents and hired him to renovate the Venice Dance Hall, which Reese transformed into a visual spectacle that serves as the calendar's cover image.

Reese later became Kinney's Chief Decorator and brought many of his family members to Venice including Irving Tabor. Tabor worked as Kinney's personal assistant and chauffeur and went on to found Tabor's Bay City Maintenance Company, the first African American-owned maintenance company in the area.

"The two major people shown in the introduction, Arthur Reese and Irving Tabor, showed that black residents were the backbone of early Venice and I think that holds true today, even though Oakwood has become very gentrified," said Tanck.

Many black residents have historically lived in the 1.1 square mile of Oakwood, which used to be the only area of Venice they could buy property in.

The calendar honors several Oakwood community leaders who worked on many social issues including affordable housing, access to health care, voter registration, and LGBTQ rights.

"Pearl White and Vera Davis, these ladies were irreplaceable in the community," said Goldman, referring to two such leaders featured in the calendar. "They were unique among themselves and to me they represent the essence of Rosa Parks. They wouldn't listen to 'no'; it was not in their vocabulary."

Gentrification has caused a number of black residents to leave Venice. According to census records the proportion of black residents in the community has nearly halved since 1980, dropping from 9.6 percent to 5.4 percent.

Although smaller in number, Black residents remain an essential part of Venice today and the calendar honors many living leaders including Naomi Nightingale, Pastor Marvis Davis, Sr., Traci Nichols-Thrasher, and Joe Wheatley.

"We have had a tremendous response to this year's calendar," said Pouliot. "It takes a lot for people to sit down and write a note saying 'I read your calendar, It enlightened me, I did not know these people, thank you.'"

Clara@smdp.com

CITIES

FROM PAGE 1

"There are about six questions on the survey but the key question that's driving this policy is the first question, and that question is how do you think historically displaced residents, their parents, legal guardians, or grandparents should be prioritized in the current setup," said Natasha Guest Kingscote, a Human Services Administrator who is overseeing the survey efforts.

If approved by council in the future, Kingscote added, a new Right to Return criteria would give prioritization to former Santa Monica residents who were displaced from the Bel Mar and 10 Freeway-Pico Corridor areas in the 1950s and 1960s.

From the 1880s to post-World War II, many African Americans came from southern states to Santa Monica in an effort to escape Jim Crow-era racial restrictions. Lured by advertisements promoting the benefits of Southern California: employment, good climate, health, beautiful landscapes and a more liberated lifestyle, some migrated west and found themselves in the Westside, specifically Santa Monica's Belmar Triangle.

The area is believed to have been the oldest African-American settlement of any seaside community in the region, according to local historians, and it was a haven of fun since the heart of the community was just blocks away from the Bay Street Beach, which is where Black people could enjoy the sand and sun with minimal racial harassment.

"The African-American neighborhood thrived in the Belmar Triangle until the 1950s when it literally went up in smoke in the name of urban renewal," the Santa Monica Conversancy's website states, adding: "The land was taken away by eminent domain to make way for the City's new Civic Center and auditorium. The City burned down this once vibrant community of black-owned businesses and homes, many of them shotgun houses."

In the decades since, Santa Monica and surrounding Westside communities have grappled with racial inequities. Recently, Santa Monica City Council passed a Black Agenda that includes a number of recommendations related to racial justice, but Kingscote said the right to return efforts began back in 2017.

Since 2017, the City of Santa Monica has been a member of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, a national network of government entities working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. Last year, City Council considered a staff report that included the Government Alliance on Race and Equity's Operational Plan.

"That was part of how the first flag was placed in the sand. Council said it was something to consider, so we have since picked up this community input process that we're in the middle of now to get feedback and to see what residents would like us to do," said Kingscote, who noted the city's current BHM priorities are listed online with the survey information at https://www.santamonica.gov/righttoreturn so residents can see where other BHM applicants would fall in the prioritization efforts.

The Community Input Period is expected to remain open until Feb. 6 and a presentation to City Council is expected to occur Feb. 23.

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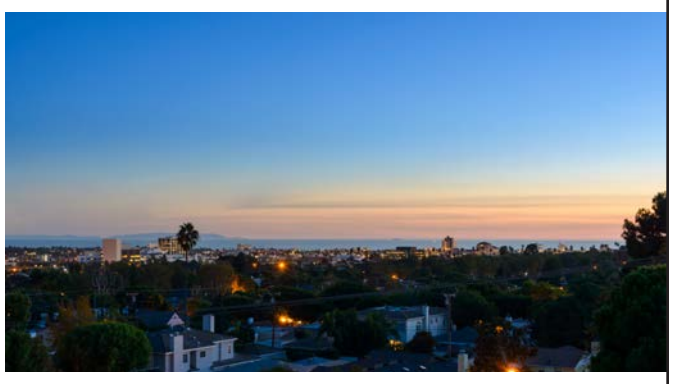
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