smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

TUESDAY
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Santa Monica loses a legend

Jerry Rosenblum died at age 100

JACK NEWORTH
Special to the Daily Press



Courtesy photo

100: Jerry Rosenblum, 1922-2022.

Jerry Rosenblum, who lived in Santa Monica for nearly 60 years and was one of the city's most beloved citizens, was a remarkably goal oriented person. This began when he was 12 and his father had died suddenly of a heart attack, this at the height of the Great Depression. With his family facing eviction, Jerry set a goal to get enough part time jobs to help support his mother and younger brother.

Seventy-six years later, at 88, Jerry set another goal, that being to write his memoir though he had no writing experience. So it was, five days a week he walked to the library with pen and pad and wrote eight hours a day . In a year he had completed a first draft and, never giving up, ten years later, with my help which was my honor, his book, "An Angel On My Shoulder," was published and available at Amazon.

On his 90th birthday, Jerry set another goal, to live to be 100. Sure enough, on January 8th, he celebrated becoming a centenarian. Having reached that monumental goal, Jerry was delighted to be honored by Al Roker on "The Today Show." But, as the saying goes, time waits for no man. So it was on Friday, the 21st, Jerry passed away leaving in mourning his friends and family. But fittingly, they're also celebrating Jerry's amazing life.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, in 1922, Jerry came to learn during the depression that it was a mistake to feel sorry for himself because he could see how many others had it even worse. He also realized it was far better to be grateful for what he had, than dwelling on what he didn't. And in the Navy during W.W. II, he also learned about courage and sacrifice as he was stationed at Pearl Harbor not long after the Japanese attack.

Because of his family's dire economic circumstances, Jerry developed a strong work ethic that would ultimately sustain his successful 50-year sales and store manager career in the men's clothing business. (There he also became a meticulously dapper dresser and, as a salesman, utilized his wonderful lifelong sense of humor.)

From the age of 12 until 70, when Jerry retired, he was unemployed for a total of two weeks! So, on his 95th birthday, when friends asked what life was like compared to his nearly six decades of hard work, Jerry responded, "Every day feels like a vacation."

SEE **LEGEND** PAGE 7

Rams on brink of Super Bowl despite struggling to close wins

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

For the third straight week, the Los Angeles Rams took a huge early lead.

For the second time in those three weeks, they subsequently gave it all away.

The Rams (14-5) got away with it in the divisional playoff round in Tampa Bay, thanks to Matthew Stafford and Cooper Kupp impressively setting up Matt Gay's winning field goal as time expired on their 30-27 victory.

"What an interesting game," coach Sean McVay said. "What an amazing sign of resilience. A lot of things didn't go our way in the second half, but we just kept battling and found a way."

But two weeks before that, the Rams paid for their profligacy in yet another loss to the San Francisco 49ers, who just happen to be their opponent in the NFC championship game this weekend.

The Rams are on the brink of a Super Bowl berth in their home stadium because they've won seven of their past eight games with a

SEE **RAMS** PAGE 4

Police reform commissioners concerned over roadblocks to performing their duties



Holden Gering

POLICE: The Oversight Commission is supposed to be a check on police.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Members of the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission (PSROC) called a special meeting to discuss what several members feel are barriers to the commission's ability to carry out its responsibilities.

While commissioners held differing viewpoints on how well the City has supported its mission, it is the view of Chair George Brown and several other commissioners that a lack of resources and slow action from the City is holding back the commission's work.

SEE **POLICE REFORM** PAGE 11

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 26 CALLS ON JANUARY 23

Automatic Alarm 1400Blk Pearl St 7:58 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1300Blk 2nd St 9:14 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 9:33 p.m.
EMS 3100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:50 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Broadway 12:46 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 7th St 2:54 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:04 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 17th St 5:34 a.m.
EMS 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:18 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 2200Blk Olympic Blvd 6:51 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200Blk 5th St 9:22 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 4th St 10:01 a.m.
EMS 500Blk Colorado Ave 10:22 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 2600Blk 32nd St 10:30 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Broadway 12:03 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Broadway 12:09 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Broadway 12:11 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 12:17 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 11th St 1:58 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100Blk 12th St 2:14 p.m.
Public Assist 1300Blk Yale St 2:41 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:39 p.m.
Odor Investigation 10th St / Ocean Park Blvd 4:03 p.m.
Flooded Condition 2400Blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:26 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1800Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:55 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk Pearl St 6:31 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

Michael Sieverts and Kim Baer — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

Since 1996 we have been homeowners in Sunset Park, a block from the proposed new development at Lincoln and Ocean Park. Kim has lived in Santa Monica since 1977, first as a renter, and then as a previous homeowner in Ocean Park.

We love the neighborhood and our neighbors. Kim has been an active member of Santa Monica's CERT team as a way of demonstrating our commitment to the community's wellbeing.

We understand the city is navigating intense pressures as it considers land use. As residents and voters, we work hard to avoid a NIMBY point of view so we can review development proposals considering the larger community's long-term needs.

With that in mind, we attempted to log into the developer's Zoom presentation on Tuesday January 11 to review the plans for Lincoln and Ocean Park. It was an immediate red flag that attendance was limited to 100 people. (We sent a follow up email re: access to the recording, but never got a response.)

The lack of transparency and the limits on constructive debate are woeful, given the city's claim to be sensitive to community input.

Here are some specific concerns:

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS:

We understand the developer plans to apply for an Administrative Approval to avoid a public hearing. What's being proposed should be aired in public to allow for community input re: land use considering the city's larger planning issues, as well as to allow for discussions on the specifics of the proposed project.

TRAFFIC AND POLLUTION:

We share the concerns of the neighborhood regarding the effects of additional traffic and pollution on this part of the city. We support having an independent traffic impact study done. At some point if the city is over-developed, quality of life here will be permanently altered, with great consequence for the whole community.

WATER:

If one assumes 100 gallons/day/per resident, that's 36,500 gallons per year per person. With 500 units, assuming single occupancy— that's 20 million gallons consumed per year— just in this proposed project. We'd like to see the developer's proposals for grey water systems, rainwater harvesting, and cooling tower water recovery so the city can demonstrate true leadership re: water use, vs. just speaking to it abstractly.

Michael Sieverts and Kim Baer, Santa Monica

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Deputy shoots man who fired gun from LA area rooftop

A Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy shot a man who fired at deputies and a law enforcement helicopter from the roof of a house in a Los Angeles suburb early Monday, authorities said.

Deputies responded around 4 a.m. after residents reported a man who had climbed onto a rooftop in the Walnut Park area south of downtown Los Angeles, the sheriff's department said in a statement.

Deputies couldn't locate the man. But an hour later, residents called 911 again, reporting gunshots on the same residential block.

When a sheriff's department helicopter arrived, the man began shooting at the aircraft and at deputies on the ground, officials said. After a deputy shot the suspect at around 6 a.m., the gunman remained on the roof for at least another hour, the sheriff's statement said.

Los Angeles County sheriff's Special Enforcement Bureau deputies were a short distance away behind an armored vehicle.

The man eventually surrendered and was transported to a hospital in serious condition with a gunshot wound to the torso, the statement said. The suspect, described as a man in his 20s, wasn't immediately identified.

No other injuries were reported. There was no information about a possible motive.

A handgun was recovered at the scene, sheriff's officials said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 259 CALLS ON JANUARY 23

Grand Theft Just Occurred 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 12:03 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600Blk Euclid St 12:13 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600Blk Montana Ave 12:22 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 17th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:51 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 400Blk Georgina Ave 12:51 a.m.
Party Complaint 1500Blk 6th St 2:09 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Main St / Pico Blvd 2:11 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 3100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:58 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 400Blk Broadway 4:11 a.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 1800Blk 12th St 6:10 a.m.
Armed Robbery/Auto Theft Just Occurred 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:12 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1700Blk Dewey St 7:22 a.m.
Burglary Report 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 7:26 a.m.
Loitering 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:49 a.m.
Encampment 500Blk Colorado Ave 8:01 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 500Blk Hollister Ave 8:05 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1700Blk 21st St 8:16 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200Blk Georgina Ave 8:20 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1100Blk 22nd St 8:21 a.m.
Burglary Report 1100Blk 23rd St 9:07 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 900Blk 2nd St 9:13 a.m.
Burglary Report 2200Blk Delaware Ave 9:20 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2400Blk 16th St 9:25 a.m.
Burglary Report 1000Blk 11th St 9:36 a.m.
Burglary Report 2900Blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:37 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200Blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:01 a.m.
Burglary Report 1200Blk 14th St 10:06 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 10:14 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:19 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1300Blk Euclid St 10:21 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 600Blk Arizona Ave 10:34 a.m.
Panic Alarm 100Blk Hart Ave 10:52 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1000Blk 2nd St 10:56 a.m.
Loud Music 2700Blk Barnard Way 11:05 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1000Blk Ocean Ave 11:18 a.m.
General Parking Problem 100Blk Strand St 11:21 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:30 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1000Blk 26th St 11:35 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:48 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600Blk 11th St 11:54 a.m.
Loud Music 2000Blk Ocean Front Walk 11:55 a.m.
Loud Music 2900Blk 4th St 11:58 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1100Blk Bay St 12:08 p.m.
Missing Person Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 12:09 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 400Blk Broadway 12:20 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 600Blk 22nd St 12:42 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 3300Blk Barnard Way 12:45 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1200Blk 4th St 12:50 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1300Blk Princeton St 12:53 p.m.
Loud Music 100Blk Bicknell Ave 12:55 p.m.
Burglary Report 1000Blk 11th St 1:03 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:23 p.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 1200Blk Ashland Ave 1:32 p.m.
Burglary Report 900Blk 12th St 1:38 p.m.
Public Intoxication 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 1:51 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 1:53 p.m.
Person With A Gun Franklin St / Broadway 1:53 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1400Blk 7th St 1:56 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:56 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1400Blk Ocean Ave 2:00 p.m.
Person With A Gun 23rd St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:07 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2600Blk 5th St 2:10 p.m.
Encampment 2600Blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:26 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1400Blk 7th St 2:31 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1400Blk Berkeley St 2:46 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:55 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 19th St / San Vicente Blvd 3:02 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300Blk Barnard Way 3:09 p.m.
Burglary Report 1200Blk 11th St 3:26 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 3:35 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 100Blk Arizona Ave 3:35 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 400Blk Pico Blvd 4:18 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 4:21 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 200Blk Santa Monica Pier 4:43 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1100Blk 6th St 4:54 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2600Blk Barnard Way 4:58 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300Blk Barnard Way 5:12 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Berkeley St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:30 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:43 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1800Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:56 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1400Blk Franklin St 5:57 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1400Blk Marine St 6:10 p.m.

SEE **POLICE LOG** PAGE 4

Hope seen once the omicron wave increases global immunity

CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP Medical Writer

World health officials are offering hope that the ebbing of the omicron wave could give way to a new, more manageable phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, even as they warn of difficult weeks ahead and the possibility of another, more dangerous variant arising.

In the U.S., cases have crested and are dropping rapidly, following a pattern seen in Britain and South Africa, with researchers projecting a period of low spread in many countries by the end of March. Though U.S. deaths — now at 2,000 each day — are still rising, new hospital admissions have started to fall, and a drop in deaths is expected to follow.

The encouraging trends after two years of coronavirus misery have brought a noticeably hopeful tone from health experts. Rosy predictions have crumbled before, but this time they are backed by what could be called omicron's silver lining: The highly contagious variant will leave behind extremely high levels of immunity.

On Sunday, Dr. Anthony Fauci talked on ABC "This Week" about a "best-case scenario" where COVID-19 would fall to manageable levels so the United States could get "back to a degree of normality."

And on Monday, the World Health Organization issued a statement anticipating an end to the "emergency phase" of the pandemic this year and saying that the omicron variant "offers plausible hope for stabilization and normalization."

Both Fauci and the WHO's Europe regional director, Dr. Hans Kluge, cautioned that new variants are likely to emerge, but with vaccination, new drug therapies and — during surges — testing and masks, the world could reach a less disruptive level of disease in which the virus is, as Fauci put it, "essentially integrated into the general respiratory infections that we have learned to live with."

In the U.S., new cases are averaging a still extraordinarily high 680,000 a day, down from an all-time peak of over 800,000 a little more than a week ago.

The places in the U.S. where omicron struck first are seeing the sharpest declines. New cases in the Northeast are nose-diving, while other states — Arizona, Texas, Oregon, Kansas and North Dakota among them — are still waiting for relief.

Falling, too, are new U.S. hospital admissions of patients with confirmed COVID-19. They are averaging nearly 20,000 per day, down about 7% from the previous week, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Those numbers include patients who went to the hospital for other reasons and tested positive. But even after accounting for these incidental infections, the trend is hopeful.

One influential model projects that nearly all nations will be past the omicron wave by mid-March, including China and other countries with "zero COVID" policies. The wave will leave behind high levels of immunity — both from infection and vaccination — that could lead to low levels of transmission for many weeks or months.

"What do we end up with at the end of this?" said Dr. Christopher Murray of the University of Washington, who developed the closely watched Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation model. "We end up with the highest levels of global immunity that we've seen in the pandemic."

The model estimates that 57% of the world's population already has been infected with the virus at least once.

Another research group, which combines several models and shares the projections with the White House, predicts a strong decline in U.S. infections by April, unless a new variant emerges that can sidestep the growing levels of immunity.

"It would be dangerous to forget that possibility, as it has caught us before," said Katriona Shea of Pennsylvania State University, a leader of the team that pulls together the models.

She noted, too, that the projections show 16,000 to 98,000 more Americans dying before the omicron wave is through. The U.S. death toll stands at close to 870,000.

"Even if we project a more optimistic future, right now we still have a lot of COVID spreading, a lot of strain in our hospital systems, and our deaths have not yet peaked," said Lauren Ancel Meyers, director of the University of Texas COVID-19 Modeling Consortium.

"There's still a lot of pain before omicron has run its course," she said, but added: "It's very plausible that omicron will be a turning point in terms of our relationship with this virus."

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 3:50 P.M.

Santa Monica Dispatchers received a call regarding an elderly man that was pushed down to the ground near 4th and Santa Monica Blvd. The victim, a 72 year old male stated he was approached by an individual, later identified as Brett Newsom, a 28-year-old male from Bakersfield. Newsom is accused of pushing the victim while making incoherent statements. Newsom was issued a citation with a court date of March 2, 2022.

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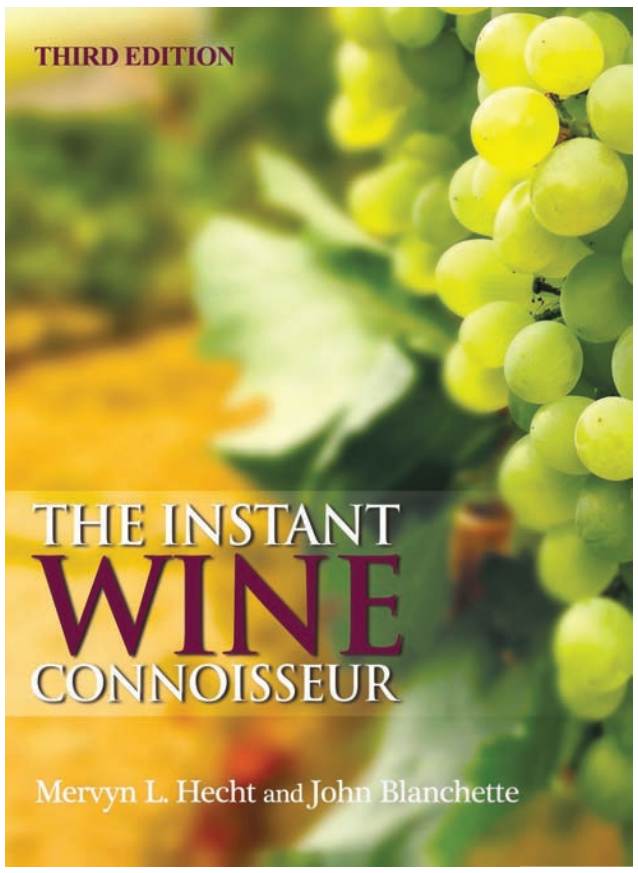
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★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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

available at amazon

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AWARD WINNER

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

RAMS

FROM PAGE 1

comprehensively strong offense and a rapidly improving defense.

Their biggest remaining issue is closing out wins: They've allowed 18.7 points per game in the second halves of their past three games, with the offense's turnovers and the defense's slippage playing roughly equivalent roles.

"If we play our best game, we feel like we can go in there and win any game we play," said left tackle Joseph Noteboom, who was excellent against the Buccaneers. "It's just we have to go in there and play our best game."

The remainder of the Rams' path to a championship does not leave Inglewood: They'll become the first team to host a conference title game in that year's Super Bowl stadium when the 49ers visit on Sunday, and the big game is Feb. 13.

If the Rams can figure out how to play 60 minutes of solid ball, they could have a chance against the 49ers. Los Angeles hopes the drama of its experience in Tampa Bay and against the Niners earlier this month will be motivation to avoid all that excitement in the Rams' second conference title game in four years.

WHAT'S WORKING

Stafford is the upgrade that the Rams sought when they traded Jared Goff to get him nearly a year ago. After a near-perfect performance in the wild-card round against Arizona, Stafford put on a clinic in clutch football in Tampa highlighted by his majestic 44-yard completion to Kupp in the waning seconds. Stafford has completed 74.5% of his passes in the postseason for 568 yards and four touchdowns without an interception. His passer rating is 131.5, nearly even with Patrick Mahomes' 131.7.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The Rams were not a fumble-prone team in 2021, with their five lost fumbles tied for the second fewest in the NFL. Their four giveaways in Tampa are a worrying aberration, but no sign of a significant trend yet, even though Cam Akers and Kupp both lost the ball at crucial moments and helped to give away that big early lead.

Ball security — and synchronization between Stafford and center Brian Allen — will be an emphasis in practice yet again.

STOCK UP

The Rams' offensive tackles were outstanding. Noteboom might have played his way out of the Rams' price range as a free agent this spring after he filled in for injured Andrew Whitworth and gave a dominant performance at left tackle. Noteboom and right tackle Rob Havenstein allowed one pressure apiece while blocking Jason Pierre-Paul and Shaq Barrett. If Whitworth isn't ready to return from his knee injury Sunday, the Rams won't be worried.

STOCK DOWN

The Rams' depleted secondary continues to hang on by its fingernails. Tom Brady passed for 329 yards, with 135 yards of that coming on nine completions to receivers guarded by cornerback Darious Williams. Safety Nick Scott came up with a huge interception, but the Rams' pass rush deserves ample credit for Brady's 24 incompletions — and Jimmy Garoppolo is likely to be much harder to pressure than Brady.

INJURED

Gay said he didn't injure himself during pregame warmups, contrary to a suggestion on the NBC television broadcast. He was short on a 47-yard field-goal attempt that left him puzzled, but he attributed it to a particularly gusty crosswind at exactly the wrong time.

KEY NUMBER

1 — The number of teams in NFL history to win a game after losing four fumbles and blowing a 20-point lead. The Rams were up 27-3 with four minutes left in the third quarter, and they were up 27-13 and had the ball with four minutes left in the fourth.

NEXT STEPS

Breaking the hex held by the Niners and Kyle Shanahan over McVay. The Rams' season comes down to a showdown with a division rival that has beaten them six straight times and seven of 10 in their head coaches' concurrent careers.

POLICE LOG

FROM PAGE 2

Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 6:17 p.m.
Fight 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 6:56 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900Blk Broadway 7:11 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1300Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:20 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 7:27 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 7:52 p.m.
Loud Music 2700Blk Colorado Ave 7:55 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300Blk Ocean Front Walk 8:08 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1700Blk Ocean Ave 8:11 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 6th St / Broadway 8:28 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 8:48 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2500Blk Main St 8:55 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2400Blk 6th St 9:07 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400Blk 16th St 9:11 p.m.
Death Investigation 800Blk 6th St 10:10 p.m.
Construction Noise 7th St / Adelaide Dr 10:45 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2100Blk La Mesa Dr 11:01 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 3000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:07 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2100Blk La Mesa Dr 11:16 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 900Blk Palisades Beach rd 11:29 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 11:38 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2000Blk Ocean Ave 11:59 p.m.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marina Del Rey

Financial Elder Abuse & Fraud

In December 2020, Santa Rosa Police officers responded to the report of a possible fraud investigation, involving an elderly victim. The victim, a 73-year-old Santa Rosa resident, reported to officers that over the course of several years, she entrusted a significant amount of funds to an acquaintance. The acquaintance agreed to invest those funds on the victim's behalf. The victim met the suspect in 2012, through a mutual friend. Based on the initial report, the Property Crimes Investigations Team suspected the victim had been defrauded of a significant amount of money and took over the criminal investigation.

In January of 2021, members of the Property Crimes Investigations Team served search warrants in Marina Del Rey at the suspect's residence, and at the suspect's place of business located in Los Angeles. During those warrant services, detectives located boxes of financial documents and correspondence and seized them as evidence. Over the next 12 months, detectives authored multiple search warrants, combed through electronic communications and financial documents, and completed several victim interviews. Detectives thoroughly audited numerous bank accounts and thousands of banking transactions over the course of several years for the victim and suspect.

Detectives confirmed their suspicions and learned the victim had lost more than $1 million to the suspect over a seven-year period. The victim believed she was investing in lucrative high-yielding investment opportunities. When the victim no longer had any funds to invest and asked for her investments to be liquidated, the suspect's demeanor and communications raised suspicions.

The suspect was identified as 77-year-old Marina Del Rey resident, Elana Cohen-Roth. Cohen-Roth is a former IRS Field Agent and IRS Tax Auditor, currently working as an enrolled agent and tax return practitioner in Los Angeles.

In early January 2022, detectives worked with the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office and secured a No Bail arrest warrant for Cohen-Roth. The warrant for Cohen-Roth included the following charges:

368(d) PC - (Felony) Financial Elder Abuse (22 counts)

186.10(a) PC - (Felony) Money Laundering (3 counts)

On January 18, at approximately 12:45 p.m. Detectives from the SRPD Property Crimes Team with assistance from the Los Angeles Police Department, arrested Cohen-Roth for the outstanding warrant at her residence in the 100-block of Northstar Mall, Marina Del Rey, CA. Cohen-Roth was booked into the LA Metropolitan Detention Center Jail and is expected to be transferred to the Sonoma County jail this week.

SRPD detectives believe there are other victims of Cohen-Roth's Ponzi scheme, in California, who have also invested significant funds through Cohen-Roth, for high yield investments. Cohen-Roth's Ponzi scheme patterns consisted of making interest payments to her investors/victims, while using incoming "investment" funds to allow for her lavish lifestyle. If you believe you have been a victim of Cohen-Roth, please make a criminal report with the local jurisdiction you live in.

SUBMITTED BY SRPD

Citywide

25,784 New Positive Cases and 27 New Deaths Due to COVID-19 in Los Angeles County

As the Feb. 1 deadline approaches for all healthcare workers to get boosted, Public Health data shows that COVID cases among skilled nursing facility residents and staff are dropping due in part to the high numbers of staff and residents who have been vaccinated and boosted.

Vaccination rates among those eligible remain very high with 91% of residents and 97% of staff fully vaccinated. Over the past month, the numbers of residents that have been boosted has remained steady at around 82% of eligible residents as of January 9th. Among staff, rates are lower, with only 54% of staff boosted at the end of December to 65% boosted as of January 9th.

With more residents and staff fully vaccinated and boosted, new cases have declined by 14% among residents and 30% among staff for the week ending January 23rd compared to the previous seven days.

The data supports other evidence that has been shared nationally by the CDC on the importance of booster doses in reducing rates of infection, hospitalizations and deaths. A recently released study by the Centers for Disease and Control found that adults who were unvaccinated were 5-times more likely to get infected when compared with adults who were fully vaccinated and boosted. Another report from the CDC also found that additional or booster doses were 90% effective at preventing hospitalization.

The powerful protection offered by boosters is the reason that all booster -eligible healthcare personnel in Los Angeles County are required, under the revised Health Officer Order issued December 23rd, to receive their booster dose by February 1st, 2022.

"The most tragic consequence of this surge is the increase in those dying from COVID. I extend my deepest condolences to everyone who has lost someone to this virus," said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "The recent increase in deaths has, sadly, included a small number of our most vulnerable residents living in nursing homes. Fortunately, with more than 80% of residents up to date on their vaccinations, while this surge has resulted in terrifying increases in cases at nursing homes, most residents who are infected are fully vaccinated and experiencing milder illness. Given the evidence of waning protection from our vaccines over time, efforts need to continue with urgency on making sure that all eligible residents and staff are boosted as soon as possible."

On Monday, Public Health confirmed 27 additional deaths and 25,784 new cases of COVID-19. Of the 27 new deaths reported today, one person was between the ages of 18 and 29, one person

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 6

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pasjoli is French Perfection

Life is pretty much back to normal for most of us these days, judging by the crowd at Pasjoli this past Saturday. I was surprised that I was able to get a reservation on short notice but was happy they squeezed us in for the early seating.

It was a bit surreal for me to have dinner in what is the former Omelette Parlor, a place where I had breakfast at least once a week for years. I loved the 'Old Timey' décor of the best breakfast joint in town. But alas, time and rental increases took that away from us.

Today however, Pasjoli has brought a new life to an old building. The menu is French cuisine and I feel safe saying that it was one of the best French meals I've ever had, and that includes fine dining in Paris. The joy of French cuisine is in both flavor and presentation. Pasjoli has a décor that is steeped in deep colors, bright art and makes great use of the high open ceilings.

I knew I was in for a treat from the moment we sat down and rather than being assaulted by a deafening soundtrack, there was ambient music that allowed for the space in our conversation to be filled but not overpowered. As I looked up from my seat I was facing a vibrant painting of tigers that was reminiscent of a Rousseau, I didn't check to see who the artist was, as I didn't want to intrude on the table in front of it.

Moments after we were seated, our server for the evening came over and introduced herself – Haley – who was obviously well trained in the art of service, the menu, and the operations of the restaurant. She was a delight the entire evening, always seeming to be present just when we needed her, yet never intruding on our conversation or experience.

We started our dining experience with a caviar set-up. In fine dining establishments this is a signature test of the kitchen and its attention to detail. The traditional accompaniments of egg yolk, egg white, chives, red onion, and sour cream, were done to perfection here. In place of boring sour cream was a pickled fish and cream, which added a tang and a texture to the mouthfeel and taste. Here the chives were chopped so finely that it was as if they could melt on your tongue, the egg yolk had been perfectly cooked and then pressed through a screen for a consistency that was beautiful to look at, let alone eat. For me, it's the blinis that are set a chef apart. Frequently, the blinis are fairly dense, stiff and flavorless. Not so here. The plate of six perfectly browned blinis had the lightness of a Japanese pancake, the type whose structure but seems to be all air. The slight sweetness of the cake was a balance to the saltiness of the caviar and a unique contrast.

For our main we had the pressed duck for two. An enormous duck breast, with a center of perfect pink was floating on a sea of pressed juices and the crispy skin was scored and seared to a light gold so that the unctuous fat was rendered but left enough to still be savored. This was accompanied by a salad of greens and fried duck skin cracklings.

No proper French dining experience is ever complete without a chocolate soufflé, and Pasjoli delivers theirs in a copper soufflé pan that is as pretty to see, as the chocolate is to eat. We split one for the two of us, which was a wise decision given the richness of the duck and the caviar, but had we simply had smaller mains, I would definitely want my own – it's that fantastic.

Pasjoli did not have cappuccino or espresso, which was a bit of a letdown for me, though they did offer a French Press coffee that was light and flavorful. If I could suggest one area for improvement it would be to add a cappuccino to the menu, but seriously, if that's my biggest complaint? They're doing a lot of things right.

While I wont be eating there weekly like I did for the Omelette parlor, I'll definitely be back and I will highly recommend it to friends for special occasions (they have that back patio for small private parties – come spring this is an ideal spot for an engagement party or a pre-wedding rehearsal dinner.)

David Pisarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @ davidpisarra

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 5

was between the ages of 30 and 49, five were between the ages of 50 and 64, 11 were between the ages of 65-79, and nine were over the age of 80 years old. Of the 27 newly reported deaths, 19 had underlying conditions. To date, the total number of deaths in L.A. County is 28,507.

Public Health has identified a total 2,519,778 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County. Today's positivity rate is 13.5%.

There are 4,573 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized. Testing results are available for more than 10,910,500 individuals, with 21% of people testing positive.

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

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

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

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

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

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Bill axes 'belief' exemption to school COVID-19 vaccination

California legislation proposed Monday would eliminate a personal belief exemption in school-based COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

Sen. Richard Pan introduced the Keep Schools Open and Safe Act during a news conference at a Los Angeles school.

Pan, a pediatrician, said the law is needed to ensure that children are educated.

"Families across the state and country have faced disruption, anxiety and trauma from this pandemic for now almost two years. Confidence and certainty are things we all long for," said Pan, a Democrat who represents a Sacramento-area district.

The legislation would build on a 2015 law that eliminated the personal belief exemption for all other childhood vaccinations required for schoolchildren.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom in October announced the nation's first coronavirus vaccine mandate for schoolchildren. But it likely won't take effect until later this year and allows exemptions for medical reasons and personal beliefs.

According to Pan, only the Legislature may remove the personal belief exemption.

Assemblyman James Gallagher immediately announced he will oppose Pan's bill.

"The government doesn't want your family to have a choice. Government is in control. Either get vaccinated or get kicked out of school," the Yuba City Republican said in a statement.

Pan's proposal follows legislation proposed Friday that would allow California children age 12 and up to be vaccinated without their parents' consent.

California minors ages 12 to 17 cannot be vaccinated without permission from their parents or guardians, unless the vaccine is specifically to prevent a sexually transmitted disease.

Pan was joined in his announcement by officials of the big Los Angeles and San Diego school districts and the president of the California Medical Association.

"Vaccinations are an integral part of keeping our school communities safe and our commitment to health and safety remains a top priority," said Megan K. Reilly, interim superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEGEND

FROM PAGE 1

Due to his many passions and intellectual curiosity, Jerry was never bored. Among his interests were reading, writing and adult education. This explained Jerry's love of Santa Monica's Emeritus College where, without fail, he took courses every semester in Current Events, Film Appreciation, and Music/Voice Training. Because of his infectious enthusiasm, Jerry was among the most beloved and admired students.

After he retired, singing in senior contests and entertaining others became Jerry's most gratifying passion. But so was seeing the world via cruise ships. Once aboard, fearlessly Jerry entered more amateur singing contests. Despite being in his late 70's, he frequently won and, in so doing, befriended many of his shipmates. Even in his 90's, Jerry still had dozens of songs memorized. Also he wrote and recorded campaign songs for Hillary Clinton and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, both of whom he was thrilled to meet in person. The photos of Jerry and AOC are simply heartwarming.

In addition to constantly learning, what seemingly kept Jerry full of zest was his relationships with young people. He met Katie Miller, who would become his best friend, when she was 23 and volunteering at Jerry's senior living apartment house. Jerry loved to say of Katie, "She's added years to my life and life to my years."

Katie not only planned Jerry's last six birthday parties, she created and then managed his Instagram account. Amazingly, Jerry would amass 26,500 followers and seemingly became the Internet's unofficial adopted grandfather to Millennial and Gen Z generations.

In the last year of his life, though ever humble, Jerry enjoyed tributes paid to him. In April, 2021, Emeritus College scheduled a program hosted by Dr. Scott Silverman, Dean, Non Credit and External Programs. During the ceremony, Jerry's fellow students and professors expressed their appreciation for his being such a positive and inspiring force. And on his 100th birthday, at his bedside, Council member Phil Brock presented Jerry with a Commendation from the Santa Monica City Council.

It's said you can judge the character of a person by the quality of his or her friends. Jerry's legion of admirers, far too many to mention, are a group so diverse in age and background, but whose common ground is integrity, empathy and their love for Jerry Rosenblum who will forever be in their hearts. May he R.I.P.

To hear Jerry be interviewed Google: Emeritus College a Tribute to Jerry. Jack is at: jackdailypress@aol.com

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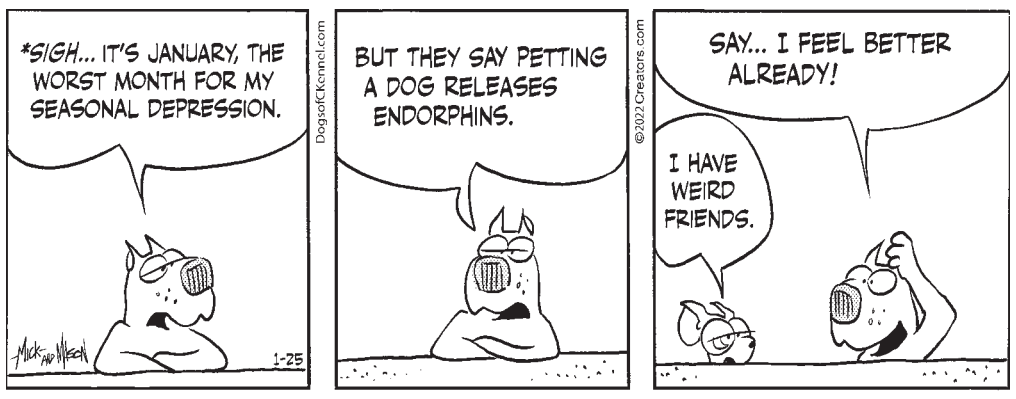
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



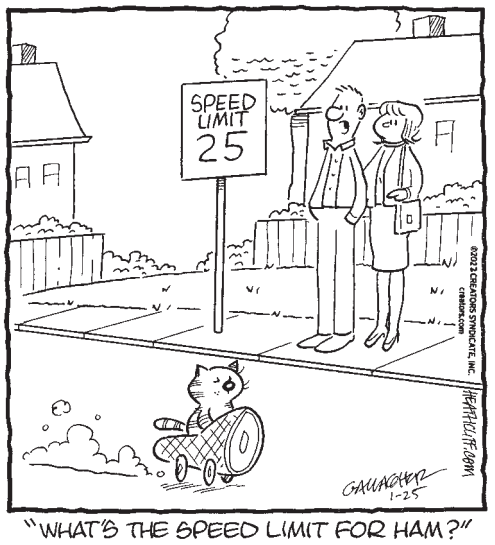
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

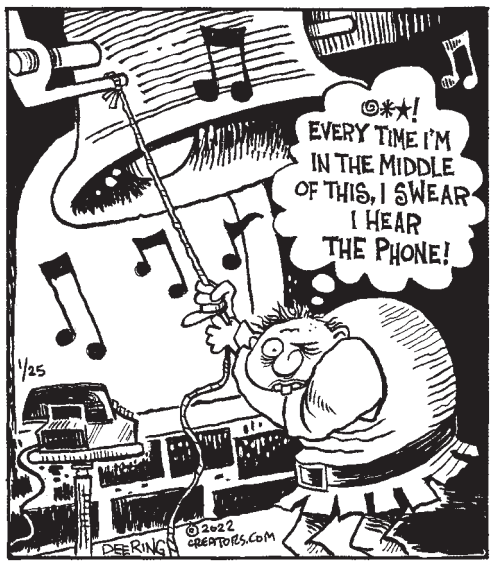
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WHAT'S THE SPEED LIMIT FOR HAM?"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.5°

TUESDAY - **FAIR TO GOOD** - SURF: 3-5ft Waist to head high
Another fun day. Healthy WNW swell tops out -- just a touch of SSW swell mixing in as well. Light winds and tide is pretty favorable all day.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Refresh of WNW swell shows, down a notch from Tuesday. Just a touch of SSW swell too. Should be another favorable morning for conditions and the afternoon looks pretty good too.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 63.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2022/01/27	Thu	12:15 PM	-0.24	L
2022/01/27	Thu	6:54 PM	3.06	H
2022/01/27	Thu	10:46 PM	2.33	L
2022/01/28	Fri	05:29 AM	5.95	H
2022/01/28	Fri	1:06 PM	-0.97	L
2022/01/28	Fri	7:46 PM	3.41	H
2022/01/28	Fri	11:55 PM	2.27	L
2022/01/29	Sat	06:24 AM	6.39	H
2022/01/29	Sat	1:52 PM	-1.51	L
2022/01/29	Sat	8:26 PM	3.71	H
2022/01/30	Sun	12:54 AM	2.07	L
2022/01/30	Sun	07:15 AM	6.73	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/22
8 14 33 36 67
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 82 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/21
38 45 46 55 67
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 396 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/22
25 36 43 44 46
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/23
6 7 19 24 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/23
EVENING: 3 6 2
Draw Date: 1/23
MIDDAY: 4 9 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/23
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:41.44

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 25)

In the adventurous journey of self-discovery ahead, you'll pass through many phases to find what's best for you. Small investments, trial runs, rentals and the like allow you to experiment before you're too far into a commitment. Then, suddenly, you'll know what to go for with all your might, and you'll go all in for the victory. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 10, 4, 44 and 2.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The honors and awards you've earned will provide a shortcut if you dare to draw a little attention to them. People will like the success story and they won't make you work so hard to prove yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Every journey has a point of no return -- a marker from which it's easier to move forward than turn back. Your heart will sense the point of no return much better than the map does.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Do it once and it's an action; thrice makes it a tendency. Do it a hundred times and it's a habit; a thousand times and it's in your personality. You want that golden characteristic to be your own. Repetition is the way.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your mind is going in poetic directions. Everything seems like a symbol. The meaning you're after is not always deeper or heavier; sometimes it's the opposite. Things mean less. Your heart gets lighter.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Before the day is through, you'll have been helped by hundreds of great machines. For what can be fulfilled without the use of a machine, you'll find benefit in doing it the old-school, natural way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your defenses will be triggered. What exactly made you feel the need for self-protection? Understanding this information is key to further development. These are the challenges that make you mighty.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). "More done, less said" is the motto of progress. With self-control and forethought, you'll cut your verbiage down to a minimum. With keen social tactics, you'll cut theirs down, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's hard to predict your best method for gaining self-control. It can be as straightforward as telling yourself what to do and then doing it, or as complicated as putting together a marching band of cats.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You make a habit of celebrating people, which is why you're so good at it. You'll get the slightest hint that there's something to celebrate, then you'll be on the job.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Before you risk rejection, do some research. Find out what it typically takes to get to "yes." Sure, atypical things often work, but you'll do well to get a little more information on the matter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're ready to take the next step, though if you plan on taking it with someone else, you'll need to give them a few beats to catch up. Keep in mind, it's easier to follow someone who is not too far ahead.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may not see the big picture clearly right now, but magic is coming together that you wouldn't have planned. Just fulfill the obligations of the moment. Later, they'll link together in wondrous ways.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

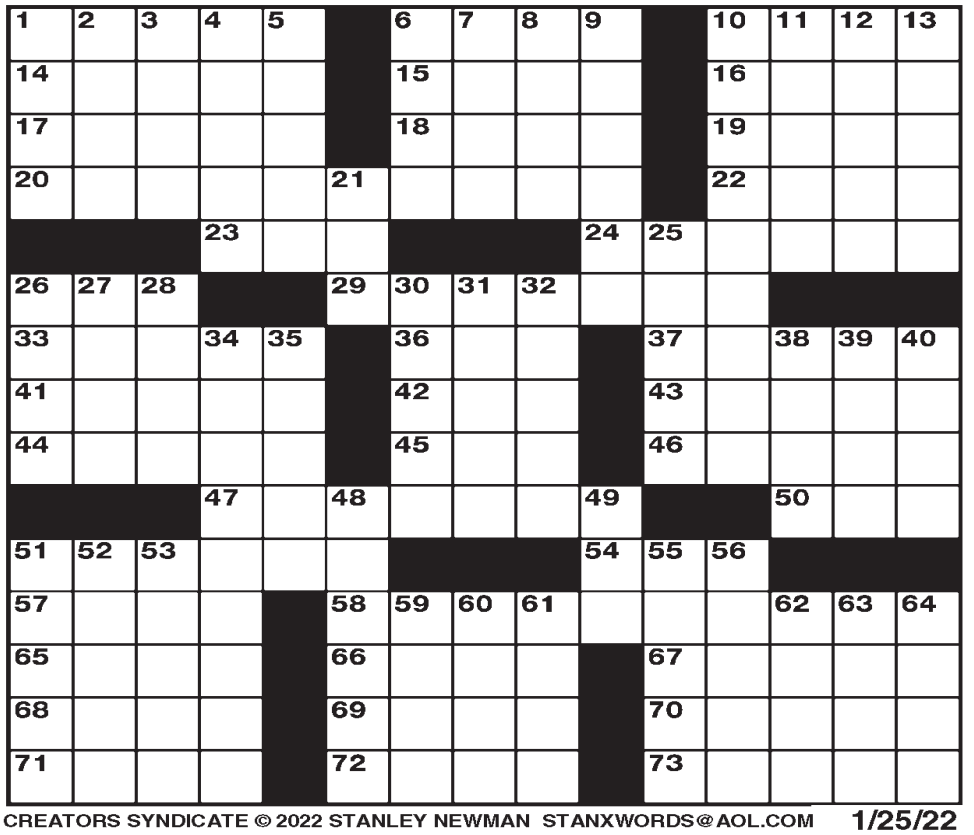
	2		7				1	
	6			4		9		2
		1	6		5		4	
		2			7			1
	1			3			6	
3			4			5		
	5		2		1	3		
1		9		7			5	
	7				4		9	

Newsday Crossword

STRAIGHT-LINE SHAPES by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Relinquishes legally
6 Feeling anxious
10 Letters after B
14 In plain sight
15 List of choices
16 Strongly suggest
17 Photocopier's predecessor, for short
18 What cowboys call women
19 With no decoration
20 Neighborhood's outdoor get-together
22 __ out a living (just got by)
23 Beverage brewed in bags
24 Unexpected sports results
26 Spaniel or setter
29 Surface for meditative exercise
33 Most Saudis
36 Yak and yak
37 Lawful, informally
41 Hawk's claw
42 Massage
43 Stately home
44 Amazon's speaker voice
45 Self-esteem
46 Glide on ice
47 Helpful for
50 Polish, as a car
51 "You'll enjoy this!"
54 "Eureka!"
57 Piece of lettuce
58 Honest transaction
65 Prefix meaning "all"
66 Mysterious glow
67 Major blood vessel
68 Blueprint detail, briefly
69 Sardine or salmon
70 Three-person bands
71 Made a rip in
72 Approx. landing times
73 Appears to be

DOWN
1 Hair tool with teeth
2 Villainous
3 Showroom sample, for short
4 Standing up straight
5 Stir up, as a fire
6 Actress Thompson or Stone
7 "__ Sir or Madam . . ." (letter starter)
8 Small pesky fly
9 "Delicious!"
10 Cut of tenderized beef
11 Male duck
12 "Snowy" heron
13 Nourishes
21 Settle a debt
25 Coconut trees
26 Facts and figures
27 Of the mouth
28 Strong wind
30 Folklore brutes
31 Odometer or speedometer
32 Monastery leader
34 Theater's ticket booth
35 Major malfunction
38 Munch like a mouse
39 Tiny bit
40 Ferocious dinosaur, familiarly
48 Risky and dangerous
49 Rowboat implement
51 "You defeated me"
52 Musical pace
53 More sensible
55 Warms up, as dinner
56 Like very much
59 Resign
60 __ Major (Big Dipper constellation)
61 Oohs and __
62 One of the Great Lakes
63 Molecule part
64 Young girl



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

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.

THE JUMP OFF!
The Jump Off is a monthly comedy showcase where the Westside Comedy Theater picks the best up-and-coming performers in LA and pairs them with popular headliners from around the country who have performed on Netflix, Comedy Central, HBO, Showtime, and more! Recent headliners have included Nikki Glaser, Megan Gailey, and Erik Griffin. 1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. $20. https://www.westsidecomedy.com. Show is 21 and over.

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.

SATURDAY | JAN 29

MANOS A LA OBRA POP-UP ARTISAN MARKET
A community celebration of craft and art at the Manos a la Obra pop-up Artisan Market. The market will feature different products produced and/or sourced by local artisans who have been collaborating with artists Cog•nate Collective to establish a community-led public market in Santa Monica. Purchase handmade artisanal crafts and view the exhibition Manos a la Obra in 18th Street Arts Center's Propeller Gallery. 3026 Airport Avenue, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THE SHOWCASE AT ST. MONICA
Inviting the greater Westside community to St. Monica's kickoff to Catholic Schools Week. The arts appreciation night will feature food trucks, refreshments and performances direct from its innovative TK-12 classrooms. St. Monica elementary and high school student hosts will introduce classmates' song and dance numbers from solos to quartets and from tap to jazz to liturgical dance. On stage there will be improv comedy and even some drama in skits and a special poem/rap – plus a violin performance you won't want to miss. An Art Walk display will Showcase selections from the TK class through advanced high school art classes. Food trucks start serving at 5 pm and the show premieres at 6:30 pm. St. Monica Catholic Schools, 1039 7th St., Santa Monica (enter Hilton Schoolyard via parking driveway on California Ave.)

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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By the seaside

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

Alva	Cooee	Ocean	Sailboard
Apollo	Corio	Beach	Sale
Avalon	Eden	Palm	Sand
Avoca	Fremantle	Perth	Swim
Bega	Lorne	Pialba	Tide
Bluff	Lucinda	Play	Tugun
Boil	Main	Port	Tully Heads
Bondi	Marlo	Macquarie	Wave
Cable	Miami	Queenscliff	Wineglass
Capes	Noosa	Rest	Bay
Chelsea	Onslow	Rockingham	Yamba

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
A rite of passage

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POLICE REFORM

FROM PAGE 1

"We call this special meeting to alert our community, our city leaders that the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission is at risk of failure," said Brown. "The reasons the commission may fail include that it has an inadequate support structure, it has got inadequate city staffing, a lack of expert input and advice from a trusted and independent source."

The PSROC was formed in the wake of the 2020 Black Lives Matter protest movement and the police department's failures in responding to the May 31 riots in Downtown Santa Monica. In January 2021, City Council passed an ordinance establishing the Commission and charging it with a wide reaching list of duties.

These include making recommendations regarding the SMPD's policies, practices and budget; making recommendations for implementing best practices in community-oriented policing; collaborating with the SMPD to promote restorative justice and build trust between SMPD and community members; and providing recommendations on violations relating to disciplinary investigations.

To support its work, the Commission was given a City staff liaison and an Inspector General (IG). The IG's role is to provide the commission with information needed to conduct investigations and develop recommendations. The IG is able to review confidential police documents and data and relay information back to the Commission as appropriate.

The City issued a Request for Proposal to fill the position and in October 2021 awarded a five year $700,000 contract to the OIR Group. The OIR Group was the sole applicant for the contract and the organization that prepared an after action report on the May 31 riots.

Since its establishment in January 2021, the PSROC has been off to a bumpy start.

It took four months for commissioners to be appointed and then a year until the promised IG appeared at a commission meeting. In the interim, an unfair labor practice charge by the Santa Monica Police Officers Association resulted in a temporary freeze on many of the commission's powers.

When the Inspector General Michael Gennaco appeared in a Jan. 13 meeting, some commissioners were surprised to hear that he was opposed to completing the commission's proposed assignment to prepare a study analyzing the best practices in managing protests in other cities.

Frustration with this discovery on top of the previous roadblocks led to the calling of a special meeting.

At the special meeting on Jan. 20, Gennaco provided a more detailed explanation of what duties were given to him in his contract and where he felt his expertise could be of most use.

"The only way that an oversight the group of entities can learn whether or not the policies are being practiced as expected in the field is for somebody to be able to access use of force reports, internal investigation, body camera footage relating to a response of police department officers to certain critical incidents, and see whether practice in the field matches up with the policy in play," said Gennaco. "I think that is something that the most extensive reading on policy development can never get at."

Gennaco said the review of other departments' policies would be difficult for two reasons. Firstly, there is no independent metrics or simple manner to identify what agencies are currently practicing model policies. Secondly, in his experience most agencies keep their internal documents confidential and are reticent about sharing them with outsiders.

Gennaco emphasized his commitment to the commission and belief that reviewing internal SMPD documents, body camera footage, data and disciplinary investigations would be the most effective use of his time. He said if the commission insisted on the policy study he could assign it to one of his researchers.

Interim City Attorney Joseph Lawrence responded to the other key complaint that the commission is under-resourced.

"And this observation, as somebody who has been around the City of Santa Monica for quite a long time, is that the level of support that the commission is seeking is or would be unprecedented at the level of support that boards and commissions generally receive," said Lawrence, adding that the economic chaos of the pandemic has unfortunately limited the funding the City is able to dedicate to its boards and commissions.

Commissioner Craig Miller said that he expects the commission to receive an unprecedented level of support given the trauma of May 31 and the difficulty of the task of police oversight and reform.

Brown also said that he believes the PSROC deserves more resources and that while he understands Gennaco's logic, he is still interested in having the comparative policy research be completed.

"They (City Council) need to allocate financial resources sufficient for us to get the job done that we need to get done," said Brown. "Otherwise, I fear that this commission will go nowhere, spin our wheels just like we've been spun the entire time of our existence."

Vice Chairman Manju Raman pushed back on this viewpoint. He said the commission's accountability subcommittee has already made a lot of progress and that Gennaco's willingness to comply with commission instructions, even if he personally feels it is unwise, signifies that the commission is empowered.

Clara@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
or email cindy@smdp.com

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