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TUESDAY
02.02.21
Volume 20 Issue 68

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Letter to the Editor
Unfortunate ad hominem attacks.
Page 4

Burning Through Bond Money
SMMUSD is wasting taxpayer cash.
Page 6

Two new drive-in cinemas cruise into town





Courtesy photos

MOVIES: Two new companies are coming to town to continue the drive-in movie experience.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Local cinephiles will rejoice to learn that there are two new drive-ins arriving in Santa Monica: the Street Food Cinema playing well loved classics and the WE Drive-In screening first run films.

Drive-in movies have had a huge resurgence during the pandemic and the two new local venues have a wide range of offerings and timings set to satisfy movie-goers of all ages and dispositions.

WE DRIVE-IN AT 302 COLORADO

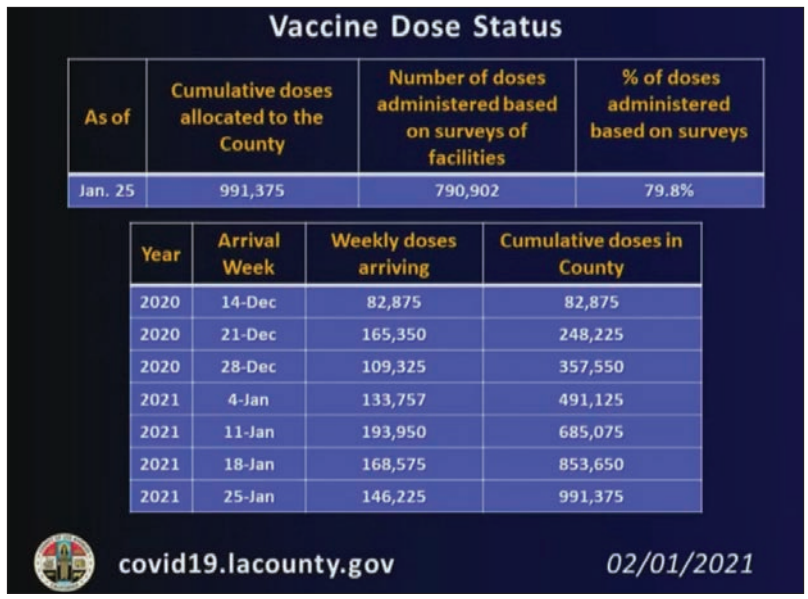
The WE Drive-In will be a source of great relief for film fanatics who miss the thrill of watching a new movie in cinemas.

The intimate 50 car drive-in will exclusively play new releases, starting with Minari — a Korean American film that won the 2020 Sundance U.S. Dramatic Grand Jury Prize.

"We want to treat everyone like they are at a movie premiere experience," said Founder and CEO of WE Drive-Ins Ben Chou. "You're greeted by our masked and gloved staff and every vehicle receives the We Experience Pack, which includes two bottles of premium beverage, as well as popcorn and vouchers from local businesses

SEE **CINEMAS** PAGE 7

Average daily Covid cases drop by almost 70 percent in three weeks



Courtesy image

CASES: Los Angeles County is seeing a significant decline in COVID-19 cases.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

L.A. County has turned a corner in the ongoing Covid-19 surge with the seven day average daily case count dropping by 67 percent from over 15,000 on Jan. 8 to 5,093 on Jan. 27.

On Monday, the Department of Public Health reported 4,223 new cases and Director Barbara Ferrer said the County was in a "critical moment" in its fight against the pandemic.

"Some restrictions have been lifted, although it is not time to relax," said Ferrer. "It is time to remain super vigilant against this deadly virus and continue to stay home as much as possible."

In order to keep case counts decreasing and mitigate the risk posed by new potentially more

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11

Lack of tourism hurts hospitality and retail sectors in Santa Monica

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

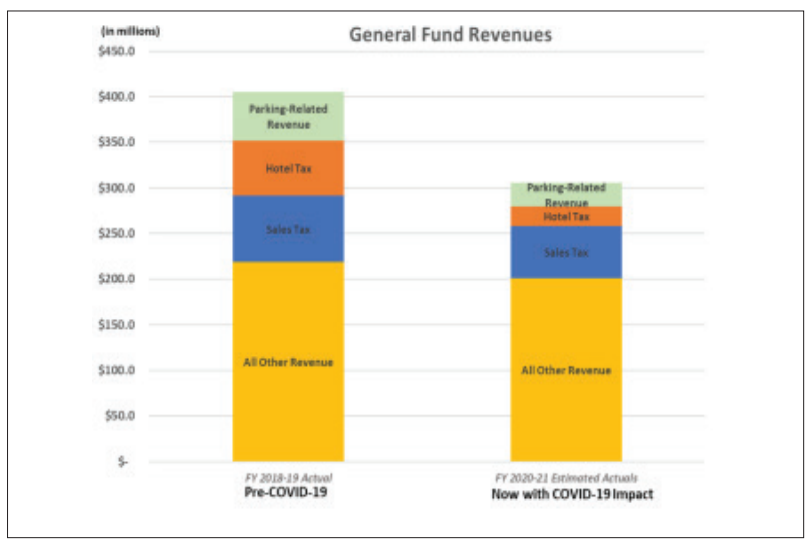
COVID-19 has decimated economies around the country, but officials said cities like Santa Monica, which typically relies on tourism to generate a large part of its revenues, have been forced to bear the brunt of the pandemic and resulting safer-at-home orders.

When governments halted all non-essential travel in early 2020, tourists and consumers were forced to stay away from Westside shopping areas like the Third Street Promenade and Main Street. As a result, city leaders said last week they witnessed a dramatic drop-off in hotel, motel and short-term rental taxes, as well as parking-related revenues and sales taxes.

Finance Department Director Gigi Decavalles-Hughes attributed the "huge declines" in Santa Monica's hospitality and retail sectors to a lack of international and domestic travel and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In years prior to 2020, the money generated from the Transient Occupancy Taxes, parking-related revenues and sales taxes were responsible for nearly 50% of the city's annual

SEE **TOURISM** PAGE 11



Courtesy image

BUDGET: The pandemic has left a massive hole in tourism incomes.

Judge calls for meeting at LA shelter on homeless crisis

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

A fed up federal judge in California has said last week's rain storm created "extraordinarily harsh" conditions for homeless residents of Los Angeles and ordered city officials to meet with him this week at a Skid Row shelter to discuss how to address the worsening crisis of people living on the streets.

"These conditions cannot be allowed to continue!" U.S. District Judge David Carter wrote in a harshly-worded order on Sunday. The action involves a lawsuit filed last March by the LA Alliance for Human Rights, which accused officials in greater Los Angeles of failing to comprehensively address the homelessness problem.

Carter calls out the city for making promises but ultimately doing "nothing substantial" to address the "appalling and dangerous" situation facing people living on Skid Row, the notorious epicenter of homelessness in downtown LA.

"The storms last week, and the lack of preparation, seems to have pushed Judge Carter over the top," said Daniel Conway, a policy advisor for the alliance, a coalition of service providers, small-business owners, residents and community leaders.

Representatives for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilman Kevin de Leon, whose district includes Skid Row, didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

During a visit to Skid Row on Friday, Carter witnessed the impact of the wet, cold weather on homeless residents, "particularly elderly women and victims of mental illness, at least one of whom was naked and suffering from hypothermia," he wrote.

Andy Bales, the CEO of Union Rescue Mission who was with the judge during the tour, said what they saw was "despicable."

"These ladies were suffering out there in the rain, in the cold. Some didn't have shoes," Bales said Monday.

Combined with the COVID-19 pandemic and soaring mental health and substance abuse issues among those living on the streets, the judge compared homelessness in the region to "a significant natural disaster in Southern California with no end in sight."

A January 2020 count by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority reported that there were more than 66,400 homeless people living in Los Angeles County — by far the largest single concentration in the state. That included more than 41,000 within the city limits. Both figures were up more than 12% from the previous year.

Carter noted that 1,383 homeless people died in the city and county of Los Angeles last year, a 32% increase from 2019.

The judge slammed local officials for their "apparent abdication of responsibility" to keep the streets safe, adding that the court "cannot allow the paralysis of the political process" to continue to endanger lives.

The meeting Carter called Thursday at the Downtown Women's Center will address whether the court should deploy "any and all equitable remedies" to address the crisis, he wrote.

Conway said possible remedies include a consent decree, which would effectively end the lawsuit with a settlement giving the judge ultimate power to order the city and county to build shelters and provide services.

"There's a real possibility that Los Angeles' new Homeless Czar could be a federal judge," Conway said.

Bales said he hopes Carter will use the full power of the court to address the crisis.

"Absolutely he should act," he said. "We need immediate shelter and safety. And politicians aren't getting the job done."

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4405 PRE-MIXED COOLANT

Submission Deadline is February 16, 2021 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

CORRECTION

A quote in the Jan. 30 edition of the Daily Press was incorrectly attributed to Scott Francis. The quote "It is important for the State, County, and City to continue to allow for expanded outdoor dining for the foreseeable future. Assuming that we will be able to open indoor dining by the end of the year, we will still need our expanded outdoor spaces to be able to safely serve up to our original, pre-pandemic, occupancy. It's important for the city and the ABC to continue to allow us to serve alcohol for customer pick-up and delivery. If the state and local governments work with the restaurants, it will be a promising year for everyone," was provided by Joel Dixon.

AP sources: Lions trade Stafford to LA for Goff, draft picks

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

The Detroit Lions are trading quarterback Matthew Stafford to the Los Angeles Rams in exchange for quarterback Jared Goff, two future first-round draft picks and a third-round pick, a person with knowledge of the deal tells The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Saturday night because the deal has not been completed and will not become official until the start of the new league year March 17. ESPN first reported the swap, which will include the Rams' first-round picks in 2022 and 2023 along with their third-round pick this year.

The blockbuster trade of two former No. 1 overall draft picks will provide a fresh start for two durable starting quarterbacks who probably need a change of scenery.

Stafford asked to be traded shortly after the current season ended with the Lions' third straight campaign with at least 10 losses. He has been one of the NFL's most prolific passers during his 12-year career spent entirely in Detroit, but has never won a playoff game.

Meanwhile, the Rams' coaching staff and front office have publicly expressed a clear loss of confidence in Goff in recent weeks, even after Los Angeles earned its third playoff berth and posted its fourth straight winning record during Goff's four years under coach Sean McVay. Goff also led the Rams to the Super Bowl after the 2018 season.

Stafford, who turns 33 in February, has two years left on a $135 million, five-year contract. After a career spent attempting to escape from the weight of the Lions' lamentable history, Detroit's franchise leader in almost every statistical passing category is headed to California to join McVay's consistent winner.

Goff is about to start a four-year, $134 million contract with $110 million guaranteed. Just like longtime teammate Todd Gurley, he is leaving the Rams before his huge contract extension even begins. Los Angeles likely had to pay a premium in draft picks to persuade the Lions to take on Goff's deal.

The Lions had several offers for Stafford, and they all included first-round picks, according to another person with direct knowledge of the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity because those details were not announced.

Stafford was made aware of the teams that wanted to acquire him, and the Rams were one of the franchises he was excited about potentially joining, according to the person.

Stafford already has friends and a place to stay on the West Coast: Stafford owns an estate in Newport Coast, southeast of Los Angeles in Orange County, and he is a childhood friend and former high school teammate of longtime Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw.

Although the Rams didn't confirm the trade, their official Twitter account tweeted at Kershaw, asking him: "Have you heard from an old friend today?"

The familiarity of these two franchises' front offices likely helped the difficult deal: New Detroit general manager Brad Holmes just left his job as the Rams' director of college scouting under general manager Les Snead earlier this month.

Goff was the most recent first-round pick made by the Rams back in 2016. Snead has now traded away his top pick or moved back in seven consecutive drafts to acquire top talent including Goff, receiver Brandin Cooks, All-Pro cornerback Jalen Ramsey — and now Stafford.

The Rams went 10-6 this season and beat NFC West champion Seattle in the playoffs before losing at Green Bay despite a second straight mediocre season from Goff, who hasn't emerged as an elite quarterback after five seasons in the league. Goff passed for 3,952 yards and 20 touchdowns — his lowest total since his rookie year — with 13 interceptions and six lost fumbles over 15 games.

Stafford appears to be a clear upgrade at the most important position for McVay, whose reputation as an offensive mastermind has taken several hits over the past two years while Goff and a stagnant skill-position talent pool struggled to execute his schemes effectively.

Goff, the fourth-leading passer in Rams history with 18,171 career yards, frequently appeared to be a budding star in his first two seasons under McVay when the Rams ranked first (2017) and second (2018) in the NFL in points scored. He hasn't built on that success: Goff's 38 turnovers over the past two seasons are the second-most in the NFL, and the Rams' inconsistent offense was largely carried this season by its defense.

During the 2020 finale, Stafford surpassed the 45,000-yard mark in the 165th game of his career — the fewest games an NFL player needed to reach that total. He threw three touchdown passes in that game against Minnesota, raising his career total to 282.

Like many of Stafford's accomplishments in Detroit, they were marred by a loss as the Lions fell to 5-11 for their third straight double-digit loss season and his career record dropped to 74-90-1 in the regular season.

Shortly after last season, Stafford asked to be traded and spared from another rebuilding project. The Lions asked him to wait until they hired a new general manager and coach, but luring Holmes from the Rams to run Detroit's front office and giving New Orleans Saints tight ends coach Brad Campbell a shot to be a head coach again didn't change his mind.

Detroit drafted the strong-armed Stafford out of Georgia with the hopes he could end the Lions' drought of just one playoff victory since winning the 1957 NFL title.

Stafford became one of the NFL's most productive quarterbacks, but went 0-3 in the 2011, 2014 and 2016 postseasons.

Indianapolis, Washington, New England

SEE **DRAFT PICKS** PAGE 4

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 195 CALLS ON JANUARY 31

Person Down 600blk Broadway 12:17 a.m.
Battery Report 00blk The Beach 12:51 a.m.
Public Intoxication 200blk Arizona Ave 1:59 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2000blk Pico Blvd 3:07 a.m.
Prowler 1000blk 11th St 4:15 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 900blk Ocean Ave 4:55 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk Main St 5:51 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Report 2500blk Pico Blvd 5:52 a.m.
Arson 2500blk Pico Blvd 6:18 a.m.
Death Investigation 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 6:38 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Colorado Ave 7:03 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 12th St / Olympic Blvd 7:20 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1000blk Euclid St 8:10 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 900blk Colorado Ave 8:28 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:37 a.m.
Burglary Report 600blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:49 a.m.
Fight 600blk Wilshire Blvd 8:51 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk Georgina Ave 9:11 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 200blk 9th St 9:12 a.m.
Burglary Report 300blk California Ave 9:37 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2000blk 14th St 10:06 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2500blk Michigan Ave 10:19 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2200blk 29th St 10:42 a.m.
Encampment 3100blk 2nd St 10:53 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk 6th St 11:00 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 11:05 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1000blk Broadway 11:55 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 12:01 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk Idaho Ave 12:20 p.m.
Encampment 800blk Pico Blvd 1:18 p.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk 6th St 1:20 p.m.
Encampment Centinela Ave / Interstate 10 1:27 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 1000blk 19th St 1:32 p.m.
Encampment 9th St / Pico Blvd 1:42 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 19th St 2:08 p.m.
Burglary Report 300blk California Ave 2:24 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk 15th St 2:28 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2000blk Arizona Ave 2:43 p.m.
Person With A Gun 10th St / Broadway 2:54 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 20th St / Pico Blvd 3:13 p.m.
Encampment 2nd St / Marine St 3:19 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:58 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1100blk 11th St 3:59 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 4:16 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400blk 14th St 4:16 p.m.
Encampment Centinela Ave / Interstate 10 4:20 p.m.
Public Intoxication 400blk Broadway 4:22 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Cloverfield Blvd / Broadway 4:26 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 400blk Wilshire Blvd 4:30 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 100blk Hart Ave 4:32 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 33rd St / Pearl St 5:03 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2300blk 3rd St 5:29 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 800blk 7th St 5:31 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 2000blk Olympic Blvd 5:52 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1800blk 7th St 5:56 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2300blk Pico Blvd 5:59 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:26 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Ocean Ave / Broadway 6:45 p.m.
Battery Report 400blk Santa Monica Pier 6:53 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1300blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:12 p.m.
Public Intoxication Main St / Bay St 7:20 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 20th St 7:26 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 7:26 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2400blk 18th St 7:42 p.m.
Fire 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 7:57 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 4th St / Pico Blvd 7:59 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk Euclid St 8:24 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk Euclid St 8:26 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1400blk 4th St 8:49 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:10 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 9:13 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 9:28 p.m.
Sexual Assault 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:50 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 10:11 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Ave 10:36 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 10:53 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:12 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 4th St / Colorado Ave 11:21 p.m.

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 32 CALLS ON JANUARY 31

EMS 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 12:07 a.m.
EMS 600blk Broadway 12:18 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 12:25 a.m.
EMS 11th St / Bay St 12:35 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 25th St 12:57 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:25 a.m.
EMS 500blk Pico Blvd 3:45 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 6th St 4:23 a.m.
Smoke Investigation 2400blk 20th St 6:19 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk 6th St 7:17 a.m.
EMS 12th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:17 a.m.
EMS 1700blk 18th St 8:08 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 26th St 10:04 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 5th St 11:12 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 11:13 a.m.
Flooded Condition Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 11:28 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 1:06 p.m.
EMS 400blk 21st St 1:12 p.m.
EMS 3400blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:22 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 3100blk Neilson Way 1:31 p.m.
EMS 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:22 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 4:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200blk Ocean Ave 4:57 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Marine St 5:39 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:08 p.m.
EMS 800blk 7th St 7:23 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:57 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 4th St / Pico Blvd 7:59 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:41 p.m.
EMS 9th St / Wilshire Blvd 8:47 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 9:22 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 11:39 p.m.

SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"C-7"** license, on the following: **Bid #21.12.SMS – DSA #03-121198 – John Adams Middle School – Low Voltage Project at John Adams Middle School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between $750,000 - $900,000 and includes the demolition and replacement of existing PA/Clock and Intrusion Alarm systems and the installation of a new Security Camera system and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be submitted electronically as per the instructions included in the bidding documents on or before 3/9/2021 no later than 2:00 PM. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 2/16/21 at 10:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 2/23/21 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at https://www.smmusd.org/domain/4172.

Mandatory Job Walk: 2/16/21 at 10:30 AM

Job Walk location: John Adams Middle School located in Santa Monica, CA – **All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the main entrance to the school at 2425 16th Street. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location.**

Due to COVID-19 all attending contractors must bring and wear face masks/coverings at all times while on the site and adhere to social distancing safety requirements during the meeting or they will be asked to leave the property. In addition, only one person from each firm will be allowed to attend as groups can't be larger than 6 people, when the walk starts. Temperature checks will be taken and all attending must not have a temperature or they will be asked to leave.

Electronic Bid Submittal Deadline: 3/9/21 at 2:00pm

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop-Griego at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

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WINNER

Letter to the Editor

By Joan Krenik and Craig Hamilton
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor

We both joined the SMMUSD Facilities District Advisory Committee at its inception in April 2016, and collectively served as chairs for the committee during the development of the Samohi Master Plan. We have observed Carey Upton's conduct and performance regularly and we find the insinuations put forth by Charles Andrews in his January 27, 2021 "Curious City" column to be uninformed and an unfortunate ad hominem attack on Mr. Upton.

Mr. Andrews claims that he has never seen a plan for SMMUSD facilities construction. Had he bothered to review the documents that he encouraged his readers to study in his November 1, 2017 column, he would know very well that the Samohi Campus Plan was developed with community and campus input in an open public process. Incidentally, SMDP published 5 articles on the Samohi Campus Plan between March 2016 and September 2017. Had Mr. Andrews bothered to attend any of the community meetings (there were 18) with regard to the elementary and middle school assessments and campus plans, he would be aware that these plans are under development and available for review on-line. Additionally, these master plans build on a district wide educational plan (also publicly available) that articulates educational goals and related space needs for 21st century learning. The implication that these plans may not exist simply because Mr. Andrews hasn't seen them is absurd. The plans he is criticizing were developed through consensus in a public process, and the outcome reflects public input, not the exclusive vision of Mr. Upton or any single person.

Mr. Andrews goes on to imply that Mr. Upton is unqualified for his position because his previous work involved taking struggling departments or companies and improving them. He innocently qualifies this implication with "I swear, I am not making fun of any of this." This is petty, and should be beneath a purportedly respected columnist. Neither the facts nor Mr. Upton's conduct warrant these attacks. We have witnessed the work of Carey Upton and the entire Facilities Improvement Projects department first-hand and we stand in strong support of the work of Mr. Upton and the FIP department.

Joan Krenik, Co-Chair 2016-Present. Craig Hamilton, Co-Chair 2016-19

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.

INCIDENT# 210004791

On January 18 at 2 p.m. officers were dispatched to a "Battery Just Occurred" call near Main and Bay Street. Upon arrival officers spoke with a female victim that expressed a desire for prosecution after being spat on by a male engaged in a verbal altercation was another man.. The victim stated she stepped in between the two men in an effort to keep the peace when the suspect angered by her involvement used racial and ethnic slurs before intentionally spitting on her. A suspect description was broadcast over the radio and a gentleman matching the description was detained by officers a few blocks over. The victim signed the Private Person's Arrest and officers took Mr. Matthew Berman into custody. Later, witness statements confirmed the victim's account. Mr. Berman was issued a citation with a March court date.

DRAFT PICKS

FROM PAGE 2

and San Francisco were among several teams believed to have expressed serious interest in acquiring Stafford, who earned his only Pro Bowl selection in 2014. Goff is a two-time Pro Bowl selection.

Stafford was AP's Comeback Player of the Year in 2011 after bouncing back from an injury-stunted start to his career. He is No. 16 on the league's career list with 45,109 yards passing and 282 passing touchdowns while playing on just four winning teams and no division champions.

Playing for a team that was often trailing, he led 31 fourth-quarter comebacks in his career and earned 38 victories with game-winning drives.

Detroit drafted Ohio State cornerback Jeff Okudah last year No. 3 overall, passing on quarterbacks Tua Tagovailoa and Justin Herbert.

The Lions have the No. 7 overall pick this year, and now that they have a veteran quarterback, they may draft a player to improve an awful defense. Detroit's defense set franchise records by allowing 519 points and 6,716 yards last season, breaking marks set by its winless team in 2008 and ranking among the worst ever in the league.

The Lions will face the Rams next season at SoFi Stadium.

AP Sports Writer Larry Lage in Detroit contributed to this report.

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.

California governor and unions clash over school openings

JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

An effort to reopen California schools is foundering, stoking frustrations across America's most populous state from parents eager to get their children back in classrooms and a governor who wants them there.

Parents and behavioral experts say many schoolchildren are feeling helpless or depressed and need a classroom setting to improve their mental health. An exasperated Gov. Gavin Newsom told school officials last week to "pack it up" if they fail to resume in-person classes soon.

Teacher unions say they won't send their members into an unsafe environment. They want all teachers vaccinated before returning to the classroom.

While Texas, Florida and New York are among states that have resumed some classroom instruction, California's 10,000 public schools have for the most part been closed since March. As most of the state's 6 million public school students approach a one-year anniversary of distance learning, parents are grappling more than ever with the toll of isolation and intense screen time on their kids' well-being.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control Prevention said in a recent study that there is little evidence of spreading the infection at schools when proper precautions are taken, such as masks, physical distancing and proper ventilation.

Like elsewhere in the country, many California families have abandoned public schools if they can afford private schools that are running regular classes. Among them is Susan Ortega, a mother of two and a Democrat who voted for Newsom but is so fed up with his handling of the pandemic school situation that she has joined an effort to recall him.

"It's been horrendous," she said about distance learning. "These kids have given up hope. They can't get out of bed. They see no point in anything because there is nothing to strive for."

The resident of the Northern California city of Folsom sent her son to private school last spring but kept her 14-year-old daughter in public school until last week. The girl's emotional state had deteriorated but after just a few days back in the classroom at a private school she was "almost who she was before all this," said Ortega, who hopes to eventually return her children to public school.

Newsom has said he will not force public schools to reopen but instead wants to "incentivize" them and has proposed a $2 billion plan that has met criticism from superintendents, unions and lawmakers. Clearly frustrated, Newsom last week implored them to find a solution to reopen.

"If we wait for the perfect, we might as well just pack it up," Newsom said during a video meeting of the Association of California School Administrators.

The plan Newsom unveiled Dec. 30 would give schools extra funding for COVID-19 testing and other safety measures if they reopen. Elementary schools that reopen to their youngest students by mid-February would get more funding than schools that reopen later, and schools that don't submit an application don't get to tap the fund.

The proposal, called "Safe Schools for All," sets no timeline for middle and high schools. The plan set a Feb. 1 deadline for districts to file COVID-19 safety plans to qualify for the funding, but that deadline will pass Monday without the legislative approval needed to start the program.

Newsom told educators in blunt terms that he is willing to negotiate but certain demands, including the call by unions to have all teachers vaccinated before school starts, were unrealistic given the shortage of vaccines.

"If everybody has to be vaccinated, we might as well just tell people the truth: There will be no in-person instruction in the state of California," Newsom said Thursday.

The same day, the California Teachers Association sent the governor a letter again criticizing his plan.

"The virus is in charge right now and it does not own a calendar," the letter said. "We cannot just pick an artificial calendar date and expect to flip a switch on reopening every school for in-person instruction."

The largest school districts — Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, Long Beach, San Francisco and others — say the plan sets unrealistic rules and timelines.

Under the plan, schools are only eligible to reopen once their daily new case rate falls below 25 per 100,000 residents, a level that most of California is far from reaching even though virus rates are dropping fast from precipitous highs.

"We do not need financial incentives to reopen, we need it to be safe," San Diego Unified School District Board President Richard Barrera said. "The idea that we're going to be anywhere near 25 is simply not going to happen by mid-February."

Newsom's plan requires rigorous COVID-19 testing of students and staff, which schools support but many say they can't afford.

Echoing those concerns, the state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, issued a plea Monday for more money to fund "robust COVID testing" at schools. Until vaccines are available, COVID-19 testing for students and staff can "create a pathway for schools to reopen," Thurmond told a Senate budget committee hearing on education funding.

Austin Beutner, superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District that is the second largest in the country, said his city remains an epicenter for the virus and conditions must improve before schools can reopen.

"I'm asked every day by hundreds of teachers, 'When do you think we can get the vaccine?' And all I say is, 'I don't know,'" said Beutner, noting that it is

SEE SCHOOL PAGE 6

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Your column here

By Esther Hickman

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In response to "Campus efforts detailed in study session" Dated 1/25.2021:

SMMUSD is burning through our bond money. Again.

Because SMMUSD plans to move forward with its wasteful Samohi Campus Plan, it stated that it doesn't have enough money to complete the projects promised in its bond campaigns, and will need more bond measures. Ballot measures for school bonds failed for California and Palos Verdes in 2020. If SMMUSD doesn't pause its fast-tracked new development at Samohi and study adaptive reuse, our elementary and middle schools could be left in disrepair.

SMMUSD has a track record of financial mismanagement. When the School Board chose demolition over a cheaper $7 million adaptive reuse plan, the cost of a new JAMS Auditorium was estimated at $19 million. It is now up to $44 million, 132% over budget. The Innovation building at Samohi that was supposed to cost $55 million is now up to $93 million, 69% over budget. These are just two of many examples of cost overruns buried in School Board agendas as change orders.

SMMUSD promised a master plan in 2006 that would modernize 16 campuses across the district for $1.2 billion. Since 2006, taxpayers have approved $1.138 billion in bond measures, based on SMMUSD's promises to modernize all campuses. The remaining $270 million is hardly enough to finish the promised projects based on SMMUSD's own projections. We can't afford to prioritize expensive and unnecessary new construction over essential projects.

Contrary to SMMUSD propaganda, stakeholders aren't trying to undermine SMMUSD's educational efforts. We are asking that SMMUSD consider the financial, environmental, and educational benefits of studying adaptive reuse of the historical cluster of buildings at Samohi before they squander the remaining bond funds in one place and come back to the public ATM for another half a billion dollars or more.

And let's set the record straight about the last School Board meeting. Since the Samohi Campus Plan wasn't up for a vote, speaking at the meeting seemed redundant when over 5400 people had for months expressed opposition to the demolition of the History Building because adaptive reuse preserves our history, saves time and money, and is the most environmental option. Meanwhile, the Board called in favors to get speakers and only acknowledged the in-person comments (most of which expressed the need for upgrades) from this one meeting. The Board then falsely characterized the public comments as representative community support for demolition, when in fact the statements were a commentary on SMMUSD's ongoing failure to update and maintain older buildings.

There is no evidence that students learn better in new development over adaptive reuse. No authority ever said that project-based learning requires new buildings. Superior learning institutions engage in adaptive reuse all over the world, all the time. Older buildings can be retrofitted and reconfigured into state-of-the-art, green conversions.

On the other hand, there is evidence that students need safe, comfortable and clean learning environments. Maybe SMMUSD could prioritize getting the bathroom count/conditions and HVAC (including air filtration systems) up to 21st century standards. This has been promised since 2006. We'd like them to stop wasting time and resources on unnecessary development and focus on getting campuses ready for students to return to school safely.

The biggest surprise of the evening was learning that our public education system in Santa Monica is promoting a throwaway society, an ignorance of what adaptive reuse is, a disregard for the environmental consequences of choosing demolition over rehabilitation, and a rejection of heritage education. Because SMMUSD was and remains unwilling to consider adaptive reuse for the History Building, it gave teachers, students, alumni and community members the false choice between an unrenovated History Building or a new building. They were forced to choose a culture of consumerism as their guiding light. According to SMMUSD, education can only be accomplished through new development, with demolition as the only solution. This is where imagination and possibility stopped, as if they had never witnessed a historic conversion. It seems that SMMUSD just wants new at any cost to taxpayers, the environment, and our society as an ethic.

It's not too late for SMMUSD to shift direction, and do the right thing. If you think they should finish their capital improvements utilizing a less expensive adaptive reuse with the remaining bond funds, let them know, send them a letter, and make a public comment at the next School Board meeting on Feb 4.

Esther Hickman is a Resident, Parent, and SMMUSD Alumni.

SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 5

impractical to negotiate with teachers on a reopening plan that was still under debate in the Legislature and is likely to change.

Many smaller school districts have the same complaints, state Sen. Connie Leyva, chair of the Senate Education Committee, told a recent hearing on the proposal.

"I would like to know that there is actually a school district out there that thinks this plan is workable, because I have not found one," said Leyva, a Democrat who represents parts of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

Christine Atha, who lives near Sacramento, initially supported distance learning for safety reasons but now wants it to end.

"These kids don't need any more videos to watch from behind their desk sitting alone in their rooms. The only thing they need is to return to in-person school," said Atha, who has two teenagers in high school, both showing signs of depression and anxiety. "The science says you go back to school when it's time. And it is high time."

CINEMAS

FROM PAGE 1

worth an excess of $30."

Chou came up with the idea for the WE Drive-In during the initial Covid-19 quarantine, when he was missing live entertainment and felt badly for all the industries impacted by the shutdown.

The mission of WE Drive-In is threefold: to restore the arts, to re-employ those impacted by the pandemic, and to give back to the local community.

WE prioritizes hiring furloughed workers and donates 5 percent of its proceeds to local charities including Heal the Bay, Meals on Wheels, the American Cancer Foundation, and CPAF domestic abuse shelter. WE is also partnering food vendors Tiato Kitchen + Market, Tocaya Organica, and Mendocino Farms.

"If we can help the entertainment industry, if we can help people that are not working, if we can help the local community, that's something I can feel good about and everyone can feel good about," said Chou.

Screenings of Minari begin on Feb. 11 and future films will include No Man's Land and King Kong vs. Godzilla. Tickets are $30 per car and can be purchased at wedriveins.com

STREET FOOD CINEMA DRIVE-IN AT THE SANTA MONICA AIRPORT

Those looking for film comfort food will enjoy the range of beloved and time honored movies at the Street Food Cinema.

SFC is taking over the airport venue that was operated by the Rooftop Cinema Club for the last two months and seeks to bring its own special touch to the drive-in experience.

"The SFC team strives to bring a tiny bit of magic to all of our events," said SFC Owner Steve Allison. "Some movies we surprise the audience with Q&A's with the film's actors, directors or writers. Other events we have true set pieces from the movie or cosplay actors greeting guests as characters from the film."

From Feb. 11 through March 20., the Street Food Cinema will play family friendly flicks in the early evening followed by late-night screenings of classic comedies, rom coms, and thrillers.

The first week kicks off with Cinderella and 10 Things I Hate About You on Thursday; Mulan and 500 Days of Summer on Friday; Aladdin and Clueless on Saturday; and Lady and the Tramp and When Harry Met Sally on Sunday.

SFC is known for pairing outdoor movies with a variety of food vendors. They are currently working with the Department of Public Health to establish a Covid complaint partnership with local eatery The Cloverfield, so movie-goers can enjoy fresh food from the comfort of their cars.

"To heighten the communal experience of cinema with friends and family is what we are passionate about," said Allison. "Oh, and when we can get gourmet food trucks back… we can't wait. Outdoor cinema and amazing food are a match made in heaven."

Tickets can be purchased online at streetfoodcinema.com and are $20 per car and plus an additional $8 per person.

Clara@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

SCREENS: One company will show new releases downtown while the other will focus on family-friendly classics at the airport.



BRIEF

Citywide

Man arrested for attempted murder

On January 31, 2021 at about 11:21 p.m., officers from the Santa Monica Police Department responded to the intersection of 4th and Colorado regarding an "unknown trouble" call. When officers arrived on scene, they discovered a male victim who was bleeding profusely from his face. The victim told officers he was punched several times in the face by an unknown individual and strangled to the point that he lost consciousness.

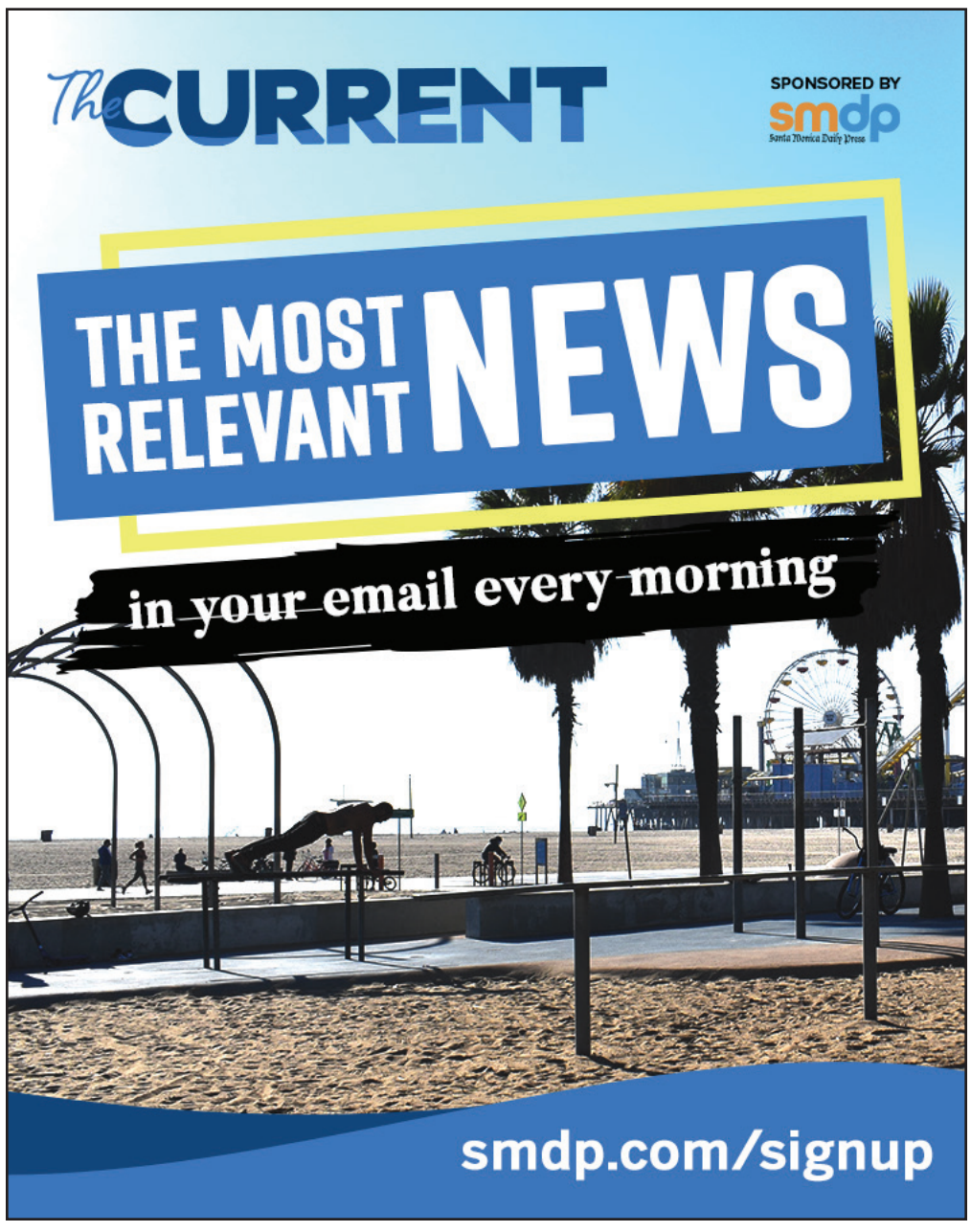
Officers located the described subject a short distance away, identified as Bobby Gerald Edwards, a 32-year-old black male from Los Angeles. Edwards made spontaneous statements tying him to the incident that had just occurred. The victim also identified Edwards as the suspect who assaulted him. The victim believed the attack to be unprovoked. He explained to officers that he was assaulted when he attempted to engage Edwards who was yelling and appeared to be emotionally distressed. During the assault, the suspect attempted to strangulate the victim and yelled, "I am going to kill you!" The victim was eventually able to yell for help and police, which caused Edwards to stop, not before grabbing the victim's phone and throwing it, preventing the victim from calling 9-1-1.

The victim was treated scene by Santa Monica Fire Paramedics then transported to a local hospital. Edwards was taken into custody and was booked for Attempted Murder - 664/187 P.C. and Preventing the use of a device to summon for help - 591.5 P.C.

Anyone with any information related to this incident is encouraged to contact Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Detective D. Larios at (310) 458-8937 or Police Dispatch at 310-458-8491.

SUBMITTED BY RUDY FLORES, LIEUTENANT

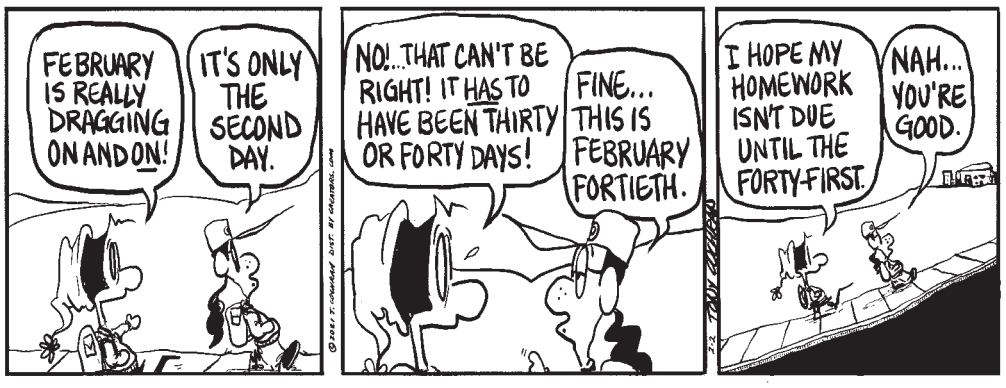




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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



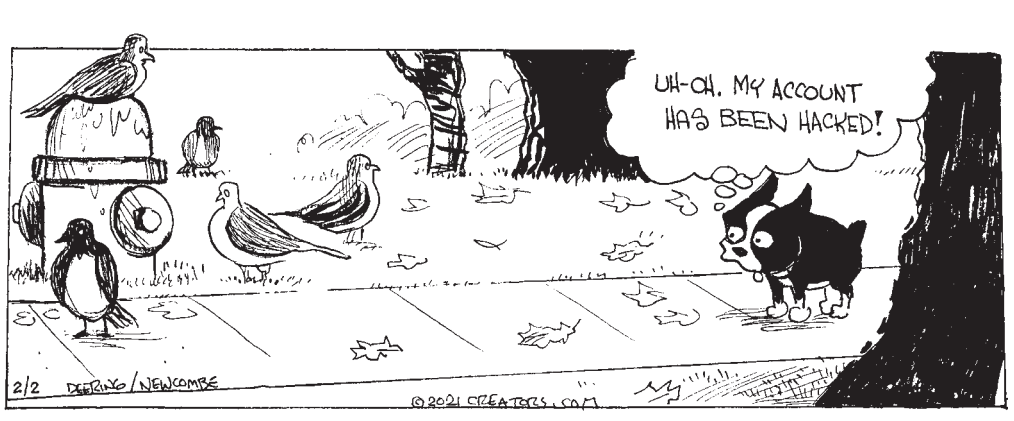
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



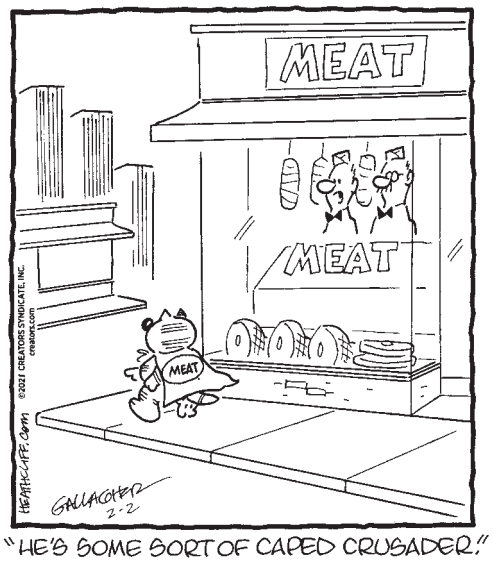
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S SOME SORT OF CAPED CRUSADER."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 56.8°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Small NW swell mix. Wind looks light in the morning and exposed spots to the west of Pt Dume should be rideable.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Small WNW swell mix should continue, potentially coming up a bit in the afternoon. Stronger WNW wind increasingly likely for generally low quality surf.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63.
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 60.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/02/02	Tue	12:31 AM	4.48	H
2021/02/02	Tue	06:19 AM	1.55	L
2021/02/02	Tue	12:05 PM	4.23	H
2021/02/02	Tue	6:29 PM	0.48	L
2021/02/03	Wed	01:17 AM	4.67	H
2021/02/03	Wed	07:42 AM	1.44	L
2021/02/03	Wed	1:19 PM	3.40	H
2021/02/03	Wed	7:10 PM	1.14	L
2021/02/04	Thu	02:13 AM	4.86	H
2021/02/04	Thu	09:28 AM	1.07	L
2021/02/04	Thu	3:13 PM	2.82	H
2021/02/04	Thu	8:05 PM	1.76	L
2021/02/05	Fri	03:18 AM	5.10	H
2021/02/05	Fri	11:00 AM	0.42	L
2021/02/05	Fri	5:23 PM	2.80	H
2021/02/05	Fri	9:28 PM	2.21	L
2021/02/06	Sat	04:24 AM	5.39	H
2021/02/06	Sat	12:08 PM	-0.28	L
2021/02/06	Sat	6:53 PM	3.13	H
2021/02/06	Sat	10:53 PM	2.36	L
2021/02/07	Sun	05:27 AM	5.72	H

DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 1/30
1 2 7 52 61
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 20 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 1/29
4 44 58 59 70
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 42 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/30
1 6 13 19 45
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 17 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/31
16 19 26 28 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/31
EVENING: 6 2 9
Draw Date: 1/31
MIDDAY: 5 5 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/31
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:43.41

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 02)

You're coming into a new comfort level within yourself, and it's an un-self-conscious manner of being. What a relief it is not to overthink things or let worries stop you from moving forward. New relationships form quickly. You'll bask in the acceptance and love from the outside that mirrors your inner attitude. Leo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 29, 14, 48 and 12.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are many ways to carry life. Going gracefully often means being willing to make awkward adjustments until you figure out exactly how to arrange your various responsibilities to play to your strengths.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Widen the circle of influence. A business problem is solved with a connection to another industry entirely; a love problem is solved following the advice of an outsider.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're uniquely equipped to solve a mystery. Caution, though: This could get addictive. Nancy Drew kept on solving for 56 books, and uncoincidentally, there are the same number of Sherlock Holmes short stories.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). To the outsider, your actions might seem illogical, but you have solid reasons for behaving as you do -- some known only to you and others not even known to you, as your subconscious has locked them away.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Stellar communication allows the team to rely on one another and do what no individual could do alone. When the means and mechanisms for stellar communication fail, the appropriate stand-in is trust. Trust will save the day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's as though the magnitude of love you feel for one person has widened the channels for love in general and, in certain moments, your heart overflows for the whole of existence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're looking forward to big moments, even though you've known the pressurized nature of such events to leave blurs where memories should be. Most of the fun is the anticipation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are so focused on what you want that distractions and drama will not break into your field of vision. If you sense the futility of engaging with a thing, you will willfully ignore it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even as you acknowledge your history and all you've been through, you can see how it's only one way to look at that story. Consider tinkering with the narrative so it supports your new, improved attitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You strive to be the most attractive version of yourself, though you don't want the whole world's attention -- that would be overwhelming. Your lure is specifically catered toward catching the eye of a particular interest.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A focus on the early hours of your day will have a disproportionately favorable impact on the rest. Whatever you can do to make your morning routine nice will set you up for success in general.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your talent of the day is making overtures. The opening move is always a gamble. Whether in business, friendship or love, it takes confidence to initiate, and the rewards reflect the risk factor.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

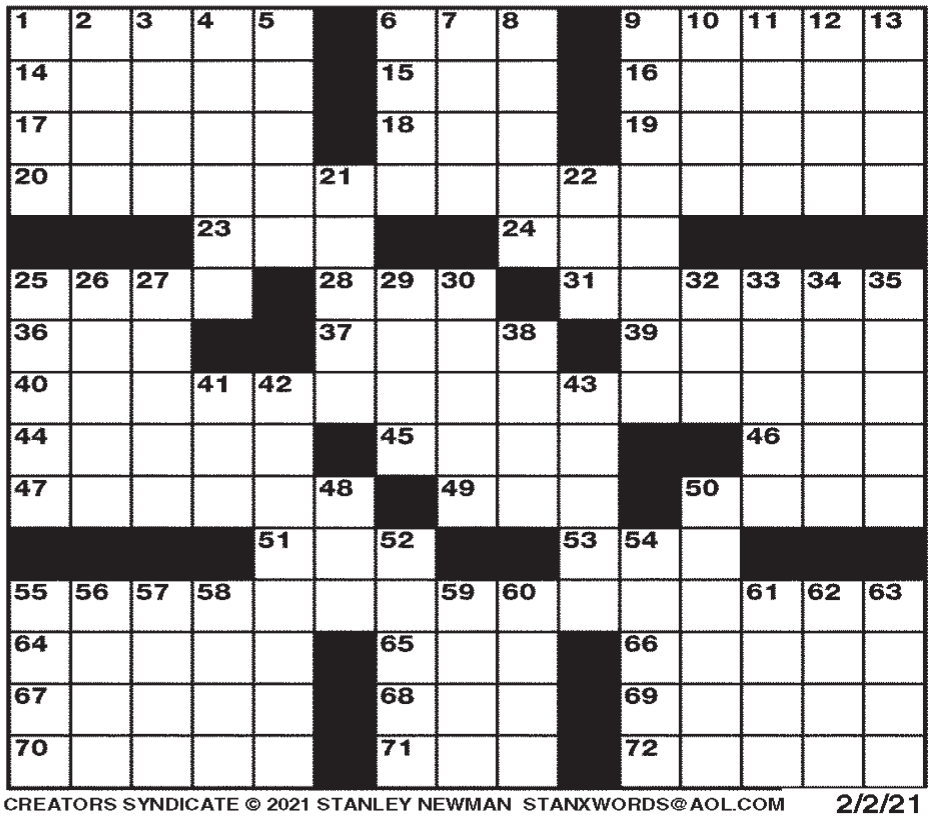
	7	1	6			9		5
2				1		8		
	6					2		4
4					1			
5		3		7		4		2
			3					7
1		5					8	
		8		3				9
9		6			8	7	2	

Newsday Crossword

TOO MUCH INFO by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 __ as a rock (well-built)
6 Lincoln nickname
9 Open-handed hits
14 Language of a novel
15 Jazz horn, for short
16 Heart's main line
17 Counting everything
18 "Sunset" prefix for light
19 Best possible
20 "Too much information!"
23 Paving goo
24 Golfer's peg
25 Back talk
28 Maze runner in a lab
31 Changes with the times
36 Castaway's dwelling
37 Metal-bearing rocks
39 Big family, informally
40 "Too much information!"
44 The Mississippi, for one
45 "Polar" beast
46 Most important "numero"
47 Dancer's shoe-clicking sound
49 Prefix for cycle or angle
50 Unlock
51 Partner of vigor
53 Metal in bronze
55 "Too much information!"
64 Makes less difficult
65 Athlete who's paid
66 Capital of Vietnam
67 Bread grain
68 On, as a bulb
69 Playful aquatic mammal
70 Bad-tempered
71 Point opposite WNW
72 The ones there

DOWN
1 Twirl around
2 Of little __ benefit (unhelpful)
3 Fill with cargo
4 Specks of land in the sea
5 River mouth formation
6 __ spumante wine
7 Weep loudly
8 Aren't imaginary
9 Reached by ship
10 Rich vein of ore
11 General vicinity
12 School support orgs.
13 Reduced-price event
21 Archer's missile
22 Small soup veggie
25 Garment behind a necktie
26 Sound portion of a movie
27 Kitchen range
29 Typical Saudi
30 Core principle
32 Noah's construction
33 Celebrity poster
34 Variety of steak
35 Stitch into place
38 Hollywood celebrity
41 Tennis court divider
42 Distorted imitation
43 Overused, as a saying
48 __ *for Peril* (Grafton novel)
50 Having been sworn in
52 Tree used for pancake syrup
54 __ water (facing trouble)
55 Trees used for archery bows
56 Island near Maui
57 Person downloading apps
58 Calf meat for cutlets
59 Part of the eye
60 __ on (be overfond of)
61 Golden Rule's second word
62 Departs
63 Add new employees



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/2/21

Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

	O										I
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I	O	O				O		I			I



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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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5012

Office job

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

Admin
Al desko
Ballpark
Bean-counter
Boss
Break
Busy
Buzz
Clerk
Colleague
Confrontation
Copy
Craft
Diary
Director
Dispute
Email
File
Index
Items
Laptop
Lunch
Mates
Morning tea
Mouse
Noisy
Paper
Payday
Pens
Quarto
Reply
Scanner
Stress
Trainee
Type

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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COVID

FROM PAGE 1

contagious variants of Covid-19, County officials urged everyone to follow the latest health orders as closely as possible.

For outdoor dining this means maintaining tables of no more than six people spaced eight feet apart, keeping TVs turned off and having customer facing staff wear both a face shield and a mask.

Ferrer said that residents can report non-compliant restaurants to the Public Health Department by calling their tip line at 888-700-9995 or filing a complaint at publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Officials urged residents to not let the relaxing of restrictions cause them to relax their behavior.

"With our new health officer order now in place there's an opportunity to return to some limited activities that you missed, but that doesn't mean that we can't continue to sacrifice," said County Supervisor Hilda Solis. "For example, only go to restaurants with those in your household, wear a mask when a server comes to your table, and please do not gather for the Super Bowl."

While the deadly heights of the ongoing surge appear to be behind the County, community transmission remains widespread with daily new case counts hovering between 4,000 and 5,000 compared to less than 1000 last September.

Ferrer said that the drop in cases can be directly attributed to the public abiding by health orders over the past month. She also suggested that growing levels of community immunity may be contributing to lower infection rates.

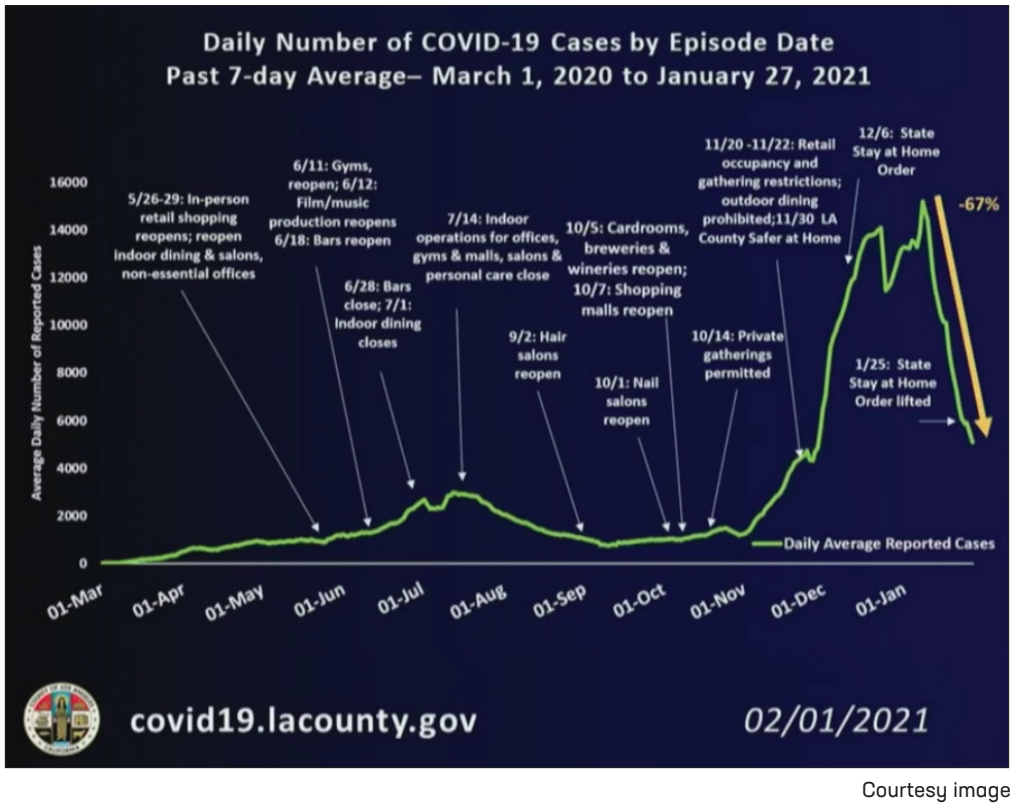
"We probably by this week have a million people who were vaccinated with their first dose. That's 10 percent of people who live here in L.A. County... and the estimates are as high as 30 percent of people in L.A. County have at one point or another during this pandemic been infected," said Ferrer. "That translates to a lot of people here who are not as susceptible, as the virus continues to circulate."

As of Jan. 25 nearly 800,000 vaccine doses had been administered and 7.9 percent of County residents had received a first dose including 75 percent of all eligible people at skilled nursing facilities.

L.A. County is the most populous county in America and has vaccinated a higher percentage of the population than Cook County and Harris County — the second and third most populous counties, according to Solis.

Officials said the limited vaccine supply continues to be the largest restriction on their ability to immunize the population. The number of weekly doses shipped to L.A. County has not significantly increased since Dec. 28.

Clara@smdp.com



Courtesy image

DECLINE: Officials said a decline in cases was due to the public following health rules.



TOURISM

FROM PAGE 1

general fund revenues, but the City is now anticipating a 44% reduction in these revenue streams alone, Decavalles-Hughes said.

"We now know that multiple surges resulted in pulling back reopening (and) ultimately resulted in the shutdown we're in now... This is felt especially, as I mentioned before, on hotel tax and operating revenues and also in lease revenues. But the good news is that our sales taxes have not been impacted quite as much as we thought," Decavalles-Hughes added. "They've gone down but not as much as we thought, and this is thanks to strong online shopping and a better collection of sales tax from online sales since the Supreme Court's Wayfair decision has taken effect."

The Wayfair decision allows cities to collect sales tax from companies that make online sales in a state, regardless of their physical presence.

She said a lack of stimulus funds, curtailed operations in the City's youth programs and a decreasing number of inspections have all resulted in less revenues than usual,

She said things will get better but continued uncertainty, including widespread vaccine rollouts, failing businesses and changes in how people live, work and travel, make it very important to keep in mind that the adopted budget could look very different from last week's Mid-Year Budget Report.

In June 2020, city officials anticipated that Stay at Home Orders would lift by July 1, 2020, and that the economy would have already begun a recovery process by January 2021. Instead, restrictions and closures have persisted and Santa Monica's finance department has been forced to adapt.

The city's adopted budget eliminated almost 300 permanent positions and 122 temporary positions last June to handle the crisis.

"These significant actions have allowed the City to maintain essential operations and services in the midst of what we project to be the worst part of the economic crisis through June 30, 2022," staff said in a report, which also addressed the more recent projections of negative fund balances in the Pier Fund and Beach Fund.

The City will use $20 million in shutdown reserves to cover the two funds' negative balances as well as the $14.6 million in unrealized revenue the City is projecting this year, Decavalles-Hughes said.

"As I mentioned, we'll come back with these decisions as part of the biannual process when we have better information," she said.

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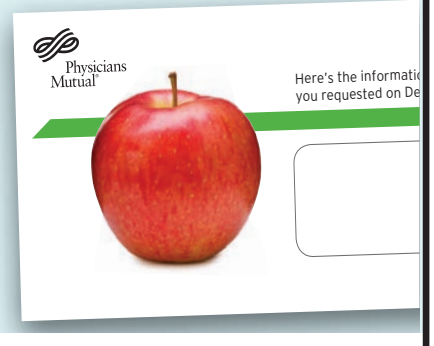
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