smdp
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Supervisors making plans to become 'haven county' for abortion access

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

LA County's five-member Board of Supervisors recently announced its unanimous desire to see Los Angeles become a "haven county" for abortion access in the event other states begin to restrict access to reproductive healthcare. County staff are now beginning the process of determining what that could look like.

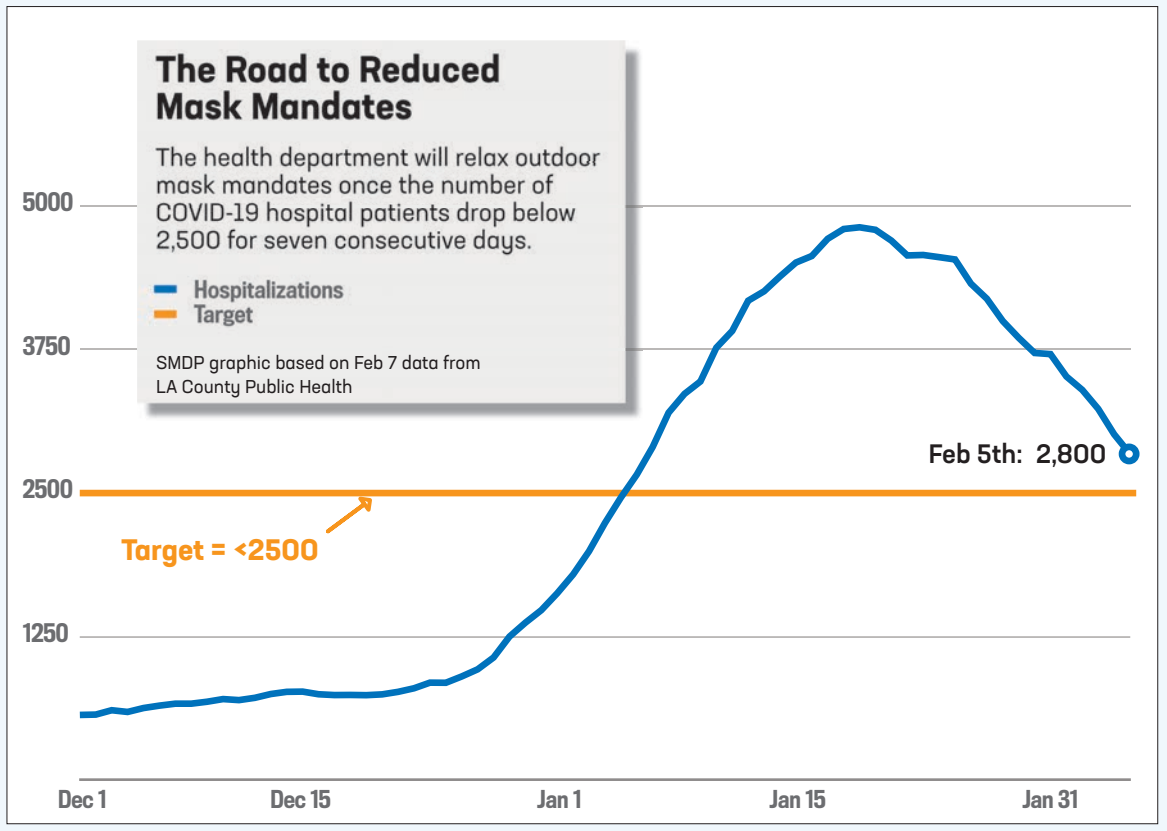
Mere weeks into the 2022 legislative sessions, battles over the future of abortion already are setting up around the U.S. Republican lawmakers are proposing new restrictions modeled after laws in Texas and Mississippi that present a direct challenge to the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, while some Democratic-led states are working to preserve or expand access.

The activity in state legislatures was anticipated after the U.S. Supreme Court, with its conservative majority, signaled it was ready to make seismic changes to the nationwide right to abortion that has stood for nearly half a century. If the court overturns Roe v. Wade entirely, the decision on whether to keep abortion legal would fall to the states.

More than 20 states already have laws on the books to ban or dramatically restrict abortion if Roe

SEE **ABORTIONS** PAGE 11

Life after omicron



SMDP graphic

MASKS: The state of California will lift its indoor mask mandate after Feb. 15, but L.A. County is following a separate timeline. In Los Angeles outdoor mask mandates will be relaxed after 7 days of less than 2,500 hospitalizations and indoor mask mandates will be relaxed after case rates remain below 50 cases per 100,000 residents for two weeks.

SWIP nears completion



Photo by Emily Sawicki

WATER: The $95 million project is big step toward City's sustainability goals

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

A massive new infrastructure project is set to come online in Santa Monica this fall — whether you notice it or not. City of Santa Monica Public Works Department staff hope you won't.

"That's actually our motto: Out of sight, out of mind," Water Resources Manager Sunny Wang said during a recent tour of the project site. "If somebody notices, that means we've got a problem." Wang, with project engineers Jason Hoang and Selim

SEE **SWIP** PAGE 6

City pays more money for fewer workers' comp claims

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The cost of settling workers' compensation claims is increasing even as workers are filing less claims.

In Fiscal Year 2020-21, workers filed 261 claims with the City, which reflects a 21 percent decrease from the 330 claims filed in FY 2019-20. However, claims cost the City $31.6 million in FY 20-21 compared to $31 million in FY 19-20.

These trends can be attributed to the shift in staff composition, assignments and numbers due to the pandemic. The increase in cost per claim poses the potential to become a more severe financial stressor as the pandemic subsides and the City continues to rehire staff.

In 2020 when the City restructured its budget due to COVID-related revenue losses, it eliminated about 337 permanent and 144 temporary employees.

The significant reduction in staff and scaled-down City operations can explain why the number of claims filed in the last fiscal year dropped to a ten-year low.

The report attributes the increase in costs per claim to several factors including an older

SEE **WORKERS** PAGE 7

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 267 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 6

72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 900Blk 3rd St 12:09 a.m.
Public Intoxication 100Blk Broadway 12:15 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 100Blk Interstate 10 12:16 a.m.
Loud Music 2100Blk 4th St 12:26 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 12:42 a.m.
Loud Music 1500Blk Olympic Blvd 1:21 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Now Dorchester Ave / Urban Ave 1:27 a.m.
Person With A Gun 800Blk Broadway 1:48 a.m.
Family Disturbance 1900Blk 11th St 2:02 a.m.
Fight 1200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:10 a.m.
Fight 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:10 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 2:14 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400Blk 16th St 2:35 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1700Blk Franklin St 3:04 a.m.
Loud Music 1000Blk 7th St 3:26 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2100Blk Dorchester Ave 7:01 a.m.
Encampment 1200Blk Palisades Park 7:25 a.m.
Found Senile Person Lincoln Blvd / California Ave 7:36 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1900Blk 6th St 9:03 a.m.
Encampment 2100Blk The Beach 9:07 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1000Blk The Beach 9:43 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:50 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:54 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 10:08 a.m.
Domestic Violence Just Occurred 2600Blk Kansas Ave 10:18 a.m.
Critical Missing Person 900Blk The Beach 10:33 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:37 a.m.
Fire Request Police 1400Blk 4th St 10:46 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800Blk 11th St 10:53 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd E 11:03 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2600Blk Ocean Front Walk 11:07 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1600Blk Hill St 11:18 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 7th St / Pico Blvd 11:58 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2700Blk Main St 12:12 p.m.
Burglary Report 2200Blk 3rd St 12:20 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 6th St / Arizona Ave 12:36 p.m.
Periodic Check Downtown Structures 12:54 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 700Blk 12th St 12:58 p.m.
Medical Emergency 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 1:04 p.m.
Found Person 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 1:15 p.m.
Sexual Assault 1900Blk Pico Blvd 1:36 p.m.
Medical Aid Alarm 900Blk 15th St 1:44 p.m.
Forensics Request - Miscellaneous 300Blk Olympic Dr 1:53 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:01 p.m.
Attempt Auto Theft Report 300Blk Palisades Ave 2:05 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200Blk 9th St 2:13 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:29 p.m.
Identity Theft 1200Blk 9th St 2:32 p.m.
Burglary Report 2200Blk 3rd St 2:36 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:47 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 2:49 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 500Blk Ocean Ave 3:02 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1300Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:18 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2600Blk Centinela Ave 3:19 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1000Blk 14th St 3:30 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300Blk 14th St 3:47 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1100Blk 26th St 3:59 p.m.
Fire Request Police 200Blk 26th St 4:15 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1100Blk 26th St 4:16 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 5:29 p.m.
Loud Music 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 5:29 p.m.
Party Complaint 2400Blk 4th St 5:30 p.m.
Missing Person 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 5:39 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 500Blk Ocean Ave 5:40 p.m.
Medical Aid Alarm 400Blk 19th St 5:52 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800Blk 5th St 6:07 p.m.
Injured Person 1400Blk 4th St 6:15 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 6:19 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1400Blk 2nd St 6:26 p.m.
Civil Dispute 2600Blk Kansas Ave 6:29 p.m.
Transport Prisoner 300Blk Olympic Dr 6:46 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1600Blk The Beach 7:18 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2300Blk 4th St 7:38 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 1300Blk 17th St 7:47 p.m.
Attempt Burglary Just Occurred 3100Blk 4th St 8:31 p.m.
Rape Report 1200Blk 16th St 8:49 p.m.
Suspicious Circumstances 1200Blk 9th St 9:08 p.m.
Fight 1300Blk 2nd St 9:24 p.m.
Found Property 2nd St / Arizona Ave 9:25 p.m.
Death Investigation 300Blk 25th St 9:41 p.m.
Death Investigation 1900Blk Pico Blvd 9:54 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1800Blk 20th St 10:02 p.m.
Stalking Suspect There Now 1300Blk 16th St 10:18 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 6th St / Colorado Ave 11:14 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1500Blk Princeton St 11:19 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 400Blk Georgina Ave 11:24 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 36 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 6

Automatic Alarm 1500Blk 5th St 12:02 a.m.
EMS 100Blk Larkin Pl 12:52 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk 20th St 2:23 a.m.
EMS 1800Blk Ocean Ave 8:47 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:49 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire Interstate 10 / 20th St 9:48 a.m.
EMS 3rd St / Pico Blvd 10:27 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 4th St 10:43 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 10:56 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 10:58 a.m.
EMS 2200Blk 29th St 11:22 a.m.
EMS 1000Blk 24th St 12:28 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 2:17 p.m.
EMS 3200Blk Pico Blvd 2:25 p.m.
EMS 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:52 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 3:15 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:33 p.m.
Transformer Fire 200Blk 26th St 4:00 p.m.
Request Fire 200Blk 26th St 4:14 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Ashland Ave 4:23 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 4:38 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 800Blk 3rd St 5:34 p.m.
EMS 18th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:50 p.m.
EMS 400Blk 19th St 5:52 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 4th St 6:16 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1100Blk 6th St 6:18 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 4th St 6:19 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 2nd St 6:24 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400Blk 16th St 7:01 p.m.
EMS 800Blk San Vicente Blvd 8:37 p.m.
EMS 300Blk 25th St 9:00 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 9th St 9:10 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Pico Blvd 9:44 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 9:46 p.m.
EMS 17th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:10 p.m.
EMS 800Blk Broadway 11:28 p.m.

After abrupt OU exit, Grinch focused on fixing USC's defense

DAN GREENSPAN
Associated Press

If Alex Grinch's Oklahoma defense had been able to make a few more stops, he might not be the new coordinator at Southern California under ex-Sooners coach Lincoln Riley.

Oklahoma couldn't hold onto a nine-point lead going into the fourth quarter against Oklahoma State, allowing 14 points in the fourth quarter and losing 37-33 on Nov. 27. That defeat created the opening that allowed the Trojans to lure Riley away less than 24 hours later.

The irony of the situation isn't lost on Grinch, who went from lamenting a rivalry loss he is "still not over" to expressing his delight at teaming up with Riley once again.

"To be under elite leadership at elite institutions, now all of a sudden that's an opportunity that you don't want to pass up," Grinch said. "So having the opportunity to work for coach Riley at the University of Oklahoma, now another tremendous opportunity at another elite place in USC, so very excited to do it."

For all the focus on Riley's high-scoring offense, especially now that he has quarterback Caleb Williams again after a dynamic freshman season working together at Oklahoma, Grinch's efforts to address a flailing defense should have a bigger say on whether the Trojans return to their traditional spot in the top echelon of college football.

USC was tied for 103rd nationally in points allowed, giving up at least 31 in eight games. The pass defense surrendered 8.8 yards per attempt, ninth-worst in the FBS, making a run defense that allowed 4.55 yards per carry seem resolute in comparison.

Grinch got a look at what he's inheriting during the week of preparations leading up to USC's 24-14 loss to California in a game that was postponed to Dec. 4 because of COVID-19. Grinch insists it was "a minimal evaluation" created by "a unique opportunity just from a timing standpoint."

However, subsequent activity in the transfer portal might reflect how that initial impression went, bolstering the defense with six players from other Power 5 schools — two each on the defensive line, at linebacker, and at cornerback.

"Sometimes it's easy to identify those things," Grinch said. "But most importantly, we got to enhance those individuals in our program right now. And so there's a lot to be done in a short period of time. ... A lot of guys are looking to compete, which is a good starting point."

In his first job as a defensive coordinator at Washington State in 2015, Grinch shaved off nearly 11 points per game allowed compared to the previous season. By his third year, the Cougars were tied for the Pac-12 lead in takeaways.

There were similar improvements during his three seasons at Oklahoma.

Outside linebackers and slot cornerbacks coach Roy Manning is paired with Grinch for the third time at USC. Manning cites Grinch's ability to connect with players as one of his main strengths.

"He is wired, what I would say, the right way in terms of a person that players would want to be led by or gravitate toward," Manning said.

Defensive line coach Shaun Nua, who is collaborating with Grinch for the first time after spending three seasons at Michigan, said it helps that the 41-year-old's energy carries over into his approach to the game.

"It's an attack scheme, and attack, attack, attack. Rip and run, so it's a great scheme," Nua said. "We love it. The players are gonna learn to love it. What better way to do it than just attacking, so simple as that."

AP investigation: Women's prison fostered culture of abuse

MICHAEL BALSAMO AND MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

Inside one of the only federal women's prisons in the United States, inmates say they have been subjected to rampant sexual abuse by correctional officers and even the warden, and were often threatened or punished when they tried to speak up.

Prisoners and workers at the federal correctional institution in Dublin, California, even have a name for it: "The rape club."

An Associated Press investigation has found a permissive and toxic culture at the Bay Area lockup, enabling years of sexual misconduct by predatory employees and cover-ups that have largely kept the abuse out of the public eye.

The AP obtained internal Bureau of Prisons documents, statements and recordings from inmates, interviewed current and former prison employees and reviewed thousands of pages of court records from criminal and civil cases involving Dublin prison staff.

Together, they detail how inmates' allegations against members of the mostly male staff were ignored or set aside, how prisoners could be sent to solitary confinement for reporting abuse and how officials in charge of preventing and investigating sexual misconduct were themselves accused of abusing inmates or neglecting their concerns.

In one instance, a female inmate said a man, who was her prison work supervisor, taunted her by remarking "let the games begin" when he assigned her to work with a maintenance foreman she accused of rape. Another worker claimed he wanted to get inmates pregnant. The warden kept nude photos on his government-issued cellphone of a woman he is accused of assaulting, prosecutors say.

One inmate said she was "overwhelmed with fear, anxiety, and anger, and cried uncontrollably" after enduring abuse and retaliation. Another said she contemplated suicide when her cries for help went unheeded and now suffers from severe anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

All sexual activity between a prison worker and an inmate is illegal. Correctional employees enjoy substantial power over inmates, controlling every aspect of their lives from mealtime to lights out, and there is no scenario in which an inmate can give consent.

The allegations at Dublin, which so far have resulted in four arrests, are endemic of a larger problem within the beleaguered federal Bureau of Prisons. In 2020, there were 422 complaints of staff-on-inmate sexual abuse across the system of 122 prisons and 153,000 inmates. The agency said it substantiated only four of them and that 290 are still being investigated.

The Associated Press contacted lawyers for every Dublin prison employee charged with sexual abuse or named as a defendant in a lawsuit alleging abuse, and tried reaching the men directly through available phone numbers and email addresses. None responded to interview requests.

Thahesha Jusino, taking over as Dublin's warden later this month, promised to "work tirelessly to reaffirm the Bureau of Prisons' zero tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment."

She said the agency is fully cooperating with the Justice Department's inspector general on active investigations and noted that a "vast majority" of these cases were referred for investigation by the Bureau of Prisons itself.

"I am committed to ensuring the safety of our inmates, staff, and the public," Jusino said a statement to the AP. "A culture of misconduct, or actions not representative of the BOP's Core Values will not be tolerated."

FCI Dublin, about 21 miles (34 kilometers) east of Oakland, is one of six women-only facilities in the federal prison system. As of Feb. 1, it had about 750 inmates, many of them serving sentences for drug crimes.

Women made the first internal complaints to staff members about five years ago, court records and internal agency documents show, but it is unclear whether those complaints ever went anywhere. The women say they were largely ignored, and the abuse continued.

One who reported a 2017 sexual assault said she was told nothing would be done about her complaint because it was a "he said-she said." The woman, who is suing the Bureau of Prisons over her treatment, said she was fired from her prison commissary job as retaliation.

In 2019, another Dublin inmate alleged in a suit that a maintenance foreman repeatedly raped her and that other workers facilitated the abuse and mocked her for it. When an internal prison investigator finally caught wind of what was happening, the woman said she was the one who got punished with three months in solitary confinement and a transfer to a federal prison in Alabama.

Then, in 2020, an inmate's report that two Dublin workers were abusing inmates made its way to the Justice Department's inspector general and the FBI, triggering a criminal investigation that has led to the arrest of four employees, including former warden Ray J. Garcia, in the past seven months. They each face up to 15 years in prison, though in other recent cases, sentences have ranged from three months to two years.

Two are expected to plead guilty in the coming weeks in federal court to charges of sexual abuse of a ward. Several other Dublin workers are under investigation.

Garcia is accused of molesting an inmate in the months before the pandemic began. Then the associate warden, Garcia made her and another inmate strip naked as did rounds and took pictures that were found on his government-issued cell phone and computer when the FBI raided his office and home last summer, prosecutors said. He would later be promoted.

"If they're undressing, I've already looked," Garcia, 54, told the FBI in July 2021, according to court records. "I don't, like, schedule a time like 'you be undressed, and I'll be there.'"

SEE **PRISON** PAGE 11

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361

SUBJECT: Appeal 20ENT-0275 of Planning Commission approval of Conditional Use Permit 19ENT-0250 and Minor Modification 20ENT-0066 to allow a 7,259 sf expansion to Carlthorp School addition and 9.142 sf new rooftop playcourt.
438 San Vicente Boulevard
APPLICANT: Carlthorp School/ Ken Parr
APPELLANT: Steven Salsberg
PROPERTY OWNER: Carlthorp School

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Appeal 20ENT-0275 of the Planning Commission approval of Conditional Use Permit 19ENT-0250 and Minor Modification 20ENT-0066 to allow a 7,259 sf expansion of Carlthorp School adding two elevators, a 5,575 sf below grade multipurpose room, enclosing an 843 sf open lunch area and adding 840 sf of administrative offices. The subject property is located in the R2 (Low Density Residential) zoning district. The Conditional Use Permit is being requested as an amendment to existing Conditional Use Permit 95-003 allowing a school use in the R2 zone. The minor modification is being requested for the proposed expansion to increase ground floor parcel coverage by 0.29% above the R2 maximum allowable parcel coverage of 45%. The applicant is also requesting a five-year term for the entitlements. The Planning Commission approved the project on November 4, 2020.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022 AT 6:30 PM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), only members of the City Council and City Staff will participate in person at City Hall. Members of the public may participate via telephone. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal at https://www.youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica or https://www.smgov.net/video. Members of the public may also dial in at 1.800.520.9950 and the participant pin is 6703608 #.

HOW TO COMMENT:
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Written public comment can be submitted via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov. Written public comment submitted before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

If you want to speak on a particular agenda item, please call (310) 312-8173 once the caller queue for the agenda item opens. Please note that the caller queue for each agenda item will not open until just before the item is called and will close after the first five public comments (from other callers) are heard.

Please see the February 22, 2022 City Council Agenda for more detailed instructions.

Address your comments to: **City Clerk**
Re: Carlthorp School Appeal

MORE INFORMATION:
If you want more information about this project, please contact Gina Szilak at (310) 458-2200 ext. 5216, or by e-mail at Regina.Szilak@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL:
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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California will lift mask mandate as omicron cases fall

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California will end its indoor masking requirement for vaccinated people next week but masks still are the rule for schoolchildren, state health officials announced Monday amid rapidly falling coronavirus cases.

After Feb. 15, unvaccinated people still will be required to be masked indoors, and everyone — vaccinated or not — will have to wear masks in higher-risk areas like public transit and nursing homes and other congregate living facilities, officials said. Local governments can continue their own indoor masking requirements and last week Los Angeles County's health officials said they intend to keep theirs in place beyond the state deadline.

State officials also announced that Indoor "mega events" with more than 1,000 people will have to require vaccinations or negative tests for those attending and those who are unvaccinated will be required to wear masks. For outdoor events with more than 10,000 people, there is no vaccination requirement but masks or negative tests are recommended.

Those thresholds increase from the current 500 attendees for indoor and 5,000 attendees for outdoor events. The increased threshold comes after Sunday's Super Bowl that will draw as many as 100,000 football fans to SoFi Stadium outside Los Angeles.

With coronavirus cases falling fast, California also is lifting a requirement that people produce a negative coronavirus test before visiting hospitals and nursing homes, effective immediately.

"Omicron has loosened its hold on California, vaccines for children under 5 are around the corner, and access to COVID-19 treatments is improving," said state Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás J. Aragón. "With things moving in the right direction, we are making responsible modifications to COVID-19 prevention measures, while also continuing to develop a longer-term action plan for the state."

California has seen a 65% drop in case rates since the peak during the wintertime omicron surge.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration brought back the masking mandate in mid-December as omicron gained momentum and last month extended the requirement through Feb. 15. California passed 80,000 pandemic deaths and 8 million confirmed positive cases last week but new cases, hospitalizations and ICU admissions all continued falling Monday and are projected to keep declining at a rapid clip.

Before resuming the masking requirement in December, California had lifted the requirement for people who were vaccinated as of June 15, a date that Newsom had described then as the state's grand reopening. However, many counties soon reinstituted local mask orders as the summer delta surge took hold.

Newsom, a Democrat, has come under pressure from Republicans and other critics to ease the mandates. He recently has said the state is preparing for the day when the coronavirus can be considered endemic, with rules that accept that it is here to stay but can be managed with caution.

Health officials said Monday that more changes to the state's policies will be released in the coming week.

The developments in California come as New Jersey and Delaware announced plans Monday to lift the statewide COVID-19 mask requirement in schools next month. They are among a dozen states with mask mandates in schools.

California health officials said Monday that

SEE **MASK** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica Democrats Prepare for Busy Primary Season

Looking ahead to the June 7th primary, the Santa Monica Democratic Club rolled out its schedule for the next four months, when the Club Membership will be considering Democratic candidates in contested primaries at both the state and regional levels.

Kicking off the series of events will be a one-hour Q&A event with state Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara on Sunday, February 20. Lara,

California's first openly gay statewide elected official, is running for his second term in the position. The event with Lara, like all of the meetings planned through the primary endorsement process, will be held electronically via Zoom.

The following Wednesday, February 23, the Club will host its first debate of the season when candidates running for Los Angeles County Sheriff join the Club. Incumbent Alex Villanueva faces competition from four Democrats, all of whom will be vying for the support of the Democratic Club members. Also joining on February 23 will be LA Controller Ron Galperin, candidate for state Controller, as well as Secretary of State Shirley Weber, who is running for her first full term this year.

On March 30, the Club will host a debate for the hotly contested County Supervisor District 3 race. Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Senator Bob Hertzberg, West Hollywood City Councilmember Lindsey Horvath, and Senator Henry Stern will face off for the seat currently held by retiring Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. Also speaking at this meeting will be Monterey Park Mayor Yvonne Yiu, our second candidate for state Controller, as well as Asm. Marc Levine, who is challenging Lara for Insurance Commissioner.

The Club's final debate of the primary season will be held on April 13, when activists Louie Abramson and Rick Zbur face off head to head in the race to succeed Richard Bloom in the State Assembly, District 51. Our third candidate for state Controller, Board of Equalization Member Malia Cohen, will also join this evening.

Finally, the Club will meet on April 27 to hear from candidates running for LA Superior Judge, and then they will vote on all Club endorsements in advance of the June primary. This will include all of the aforementioned races - Controller, Insurance Commissioner, State Assembly, County Supervisor, County Sheriff - as well as Governor, US Senator, and all other races on the June 7th primary ballot. Any candidate who receives 55% of the Membership vote will receive the endorsement of the Club.

"We have several races here that are likely going to be resolved in the primary," said Club President Jon Katz, who was re-elected last month to the sixth year leading the club, "and in more than one case, Santa Monica is going to be the swing region that determines who wins and gets elected to serve our community. It's crucial that we really vet these candidates, and this robust endorsement process we've put together for this spring really allows us to meet each candidate for more than just a few minutes and make educated decisions about our vote."

For more information about the Club and to RSVP for the above meetings, visit www.santamonicademocrats.com.

SUBMITTED BY: KYMBERLI MILES LAWSON, VP OF COMMUNICATIONS SANTA MONICA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Citywide

$158,769 Raised for Santa Monica Public Schools During Santa Monica Education Foundation's January Fundraising Campaign

Thanks to an inspiring $25,000 match from the Miramar Hotel & Bungalows and MSD Partners, 360 donors contributed a total of $158,769 to the Santa Monica Education Foundation during the final 12 days of the Foundation's January fundraising campaign. The money raised will fund arts programs, classroom aides, STEM and social-emotional programs at Santa Monica public schools in the 2022-2023 school year.

"The $25,000 match from the Miramar Hotel & Bungalows and MSD Partners was a sensational way to end our January campaign," said Alison Havel, President of the Ed Foundation's Board of Directors. "We never cease to be amazed by the generosity of our Corporate Heroes, and the motivation they give individuals to contribute to the Ed Foundation. We are truly humbled by their continued support."

The match from the Miramar Hotel & Bungalows and MSD Partners ran from January 20 to January 31. During the match, two local realtors offered one-day Flash Matches to encourage donations. Diane Dorin, Compass matched up to $2,500 in donations on January 27 and Janet Heinzle matched donations up to $2,500 on January 31.

"The Miramar Hotel and MSD Partners are thrilled with the community's response to our annual matching gift," said Ellis O'Connor of MSD Partners. "We are proud to continue our partnership with the Ed Foundation and help further its mission to ensure equity and access for all students. It's exciting to see that so many Santa Monicans were inspired to donate."

Over the last six years, the Miramar Hotel and MSD Partners annual donation matches have helped to raise over $1,000,000 for the Santa Monica Education Foundation!

While the Ed Foundation's January campaign is now over, fundraising for the 2022-2023 programs will continue through June 30, 2022. This includes their 7th annual Wine Auction scheduled to take place at the Miramar Hotel on Sunday, May 15.

For more information or to donate to support Santa Monica students, go to smedfoundation.org.

SUBMITTED BY: LINDA GREENBERG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANTA MONICA ED FOUNDATION

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AWARD WINNER
AWARD WINNER
WINNER

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California votes to require paid sick leave for virus cases

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

When Crystal Orozco got sick with the coronavirus last month, she missed nearly two weeks' worth of her salary as a shift leader at a fast food restaurant and had to ask family members for a loan to help pay her rent.

"My check was literally $86," she said. "I was like, 'Oh my god.'"

Now, Orozco is likely to get that money back. The California Legislature passed a bill Monday requiring many companies to give workers up to two weeks of paid time off if they get sick from the coronavirus. The bill is retroactive to Jan. 1, so Orozco could be eligible for backpay for the days she missed when she was sick.

At the start of the pandemic, state and federal laws required most employers to give workers paid time off for the coronavirus. But many of those laws expired as more people got vaccinated and case numbers declined. California's law expired in September.

Since then, omicron — a more contagious version of the coronavirus — has spread rapidly throughout the world. The variant set a record in California for the average number of new cases and contributed to an increase in hospitalizations, mostly among the unvaccinated population.

Labor unions have been pressuring their Democratic allies in the Legislature to renew the state's sick leave law — culminating in a deal reached last month between Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders. Lawmakers approved the bill Monday and sent it to Newsom, who is expected to sign it into law.

When he does, it will make California the fourth state to require paid time off for workers who get sick with the coronavirus. Similar mandates are still in effect in Massachusetts, Colorado and New York, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Five other states — Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington — have paid sick leave laws that, while not COVID-specific, can be used cover time off from the coronavirus.

Orozco is a member of Fight for $15, a group advocating for a $15 minimum wage and union rights for fast food worker. She said she wasn't offered paid time off when she got sick.

At least six of the 16 people who work at her restaurant — more than one-third of the workforce — had coronavirus symptoms or missed work because of the virus, according to a complaint filed by the workers with state and local officials. The complaint is still pending, Orozco said.

Orozco said she and her husband had to skip their car insurance payment and used borrowed money to help pay rent. She said the new bill, once signed into law, will allow her to "know I'm able to pay back my family that let me borrow that money."

"It's going to help everybody in the same industry (that are) tight on money," she said.

Many Republicans voted against the proposal because of how much it would cost business owners who are already struggling with a pandemic-fueled labor shortage, inflation and disruptions to the supply chain.

Republican Assemblymember Vince Fong from Bakersfield said the bill is a "financial burden that could bankrupt a local store, a local restaurant or a nonprofit that's barely holding on."

But Monday's action wasn't all bad news for businesses. In 2020, when the pandemic threatened to upend the California's economy, the Legislature raised taxes on businesses to help avoid a deficit. Those tax increases were scheduled to expire next year. But Monday, lawmakers voted to end them one year early, saving businesses roughly $5.5 billion this year.

The tax cuts and other moves, including letting business owners deduct federal coronavirus grants from their state tax obligations, were key to getting business groups to support the new paid sick leave law. California Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jennifer Barrera said her organization supports the paid sick leave law because it is a "balanced approach to protect both workers and our economy."

"In some respects this feels like an important turning point in our battle against the COVID-19 pandemic," Democratic Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris said about ending the tax cuts early.

Still, some Republicans noted the tax cuts won't benefit all businesses. Sen. Andreas Borgeas, a Republican from Fresno, said lawmakers should have offered to reimburse businesses for the cost of the paid sick leave — something he says they could afford to do given the state has an estimated $29 billion surplus, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

Assemblymember Phil Ting, a Democrat from San Francisco and chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, said he would "love to see" lawmakers approve money later this year to help businesses pay for their employees' sick leave.

California's sick leave measure gives workers up to one week of paid time off if they get the coronavirus or are caring for a sick family member. They can get a second week off only if they or their family members test positive. Employers must pay for and provide the test. The proposal applies only to companies with 26 or more employees, and it expires Sept. 30.

Also Monday, lawmakers agreed to spend another $1.9 billion on things like coronavirus testing, vaccine distribution and increasing staffing at hospitals. The Newsom administration expects most of that money to be reimbursed by the federal government.

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #310 VENDING SERVICES

- **Submission Deadline Is February 22, 2022 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

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SWIP

FROM PAGE 1

Eren, spent an hour walking through the construction site detailing the project on a sunny afternoon in early February.

When it's completed, which City officials anticipate will happen in September 2022, the site near the intersection of Pico Boulevard and Main Street will look like a newly repaved parking lot with concrete planters and a bike lane linking Pico Boulevard to Civic Center Drive. The site also includes a new sports field that has already opened across 4th Street from Samohi and the Early Childhood Education Center.

But 45 feet below the surface — underneath a three-foot-thick slab of concrete — the $95 million Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project, nicknamed SWIP, will be converting millions of gallons of stormwater and sewage into purified water to be used for irrigation, pumped into dual-piped buildings and injected into the groundwater basin to prepare it for purification into potable water.

The project, which broke ground in January 2020, will draw raw sewage from the Ocean Ave Sanitary Sewer — to the tune of about 1.5 million gallons per day, or a little under 10 percent of the daily sewage output in the city of Santa Monica. It will also collect stormwater runoff otherwise destined for the Pico-Kenter storm drain. Project engineers anticipate SWIP will improve water quality in the Santa Monica Bay, which is always adversely affected on rainy days, by collecting and treating up to 85 percent of the urban runoff that otherwise flows directly from Los Angeles' street corners onto Santa Monica Beach via Pico-Kenter.

The blending of the two water sources will help dilute the sludgy urban runoff to make it easier to treat, Wang detailed. The plant includes a 1.5-million-gallon basin to collect stormwater runoff, allowing a mix of up to 30 percent stormwater and 70 percent sewage at any time.

"We're actually using wastewater to dilute down stormwater," Wang said. "Stormwater, it's actually harder to treat than wastewater because of the heavy metals, the stuff that people put on the street and that gets flushed down the streets. There's a lot of stuff that's really difficult to remove and treat."

Water treatment at SWIP involves a six-step process that begins with the removal of solids and includes cartridge filtration, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet light treatment and chlorine contact. The steps help to remove not only solid waste but pharmaceuticals, personal care products like shampoo and conditioner, and viruses and bacteria.

"We're required to provide 12-log removal of virus," Wang described. "One-log is 90 percent. Two-log is 99 percent. So, you can imagine what 12-log is: 99.9999 — 12 nines — removal of viruses. When you think about what is actually left in that water, it's not much."

According to Wang, the Hyperion water treatment plant that filters much of LA's sewage and releases it into the ocean simply filters out solid waste, processes the water through sedimentation (allowing it to settle and remove sediment) and then releases it into the ocean. SWIP does much, much more. The resulting treated water far exceeds the standards for drinking water put forth by the State of California, but it won't be flowing out of your kitchen faucet — at least not yet.

"To make it into drinking water quality, it goes through the cartridge filters, the reverse osmosis, and then the UVA mass oxidation and the chlorine disinfection, so, several more steps to get it to that water quality," Wang said. "Those are things you typically don't see at a wastewater treatment plant — some of these technologies you typically don't even see at a drinking water treatment plant. So, it really depends on what's in your source water, what you're trying to remove." Wang said the treatment process included multiple redundancies in a six to seven-step process, whereas many treatment plants use a four-step process.

Currently, treated sewer water cannot be converted into drinking water without first entering a groundwater basin, but City engineers said they expect state regulations may change in coming years as more plants like SWIP come online. If so, Santa Monica is poised to add recycled water into the drinking water mix.

"I think all we need is a booster pump and a pipeline to connect into the Olympic pipeline, so we could be the first in California to do that as well. We're ready," Wang said. As a resident of Santa Monica, Wang said he and his family would be comfortable drinking the treated water from the new facility.

"I live in the city; I drink this water," Wang said. "It would be really cool to make this happen and drink this water. It's very rare that an engineer can actually say they designed the plant they drink the water from every day, and I'm very proud of that. So, if you were to ask us, 'Is it safe?' Well, I'd drink it. My son drinks it. My wife drinks it. So, hopefully, that would be some level of comfort for you."

The project's total cost is estimated at $95.9 million, of which a little more than $20 million comes from grants including Prop 1, LA County Measure W stormwater grants and state revolving funds green infrastructure grants. Another $20 million comes from city cash, specifically Measure V Clean Beaches and Oceans Parcel Tax fund and the local City Wastewater Fund. The remaining $55.6 million comes out of a City loan.

The costly project's benefits include moving Santa Monica toward water self-sufficiency, but will not trickle down to lessening water bills, Wang said. However, it puts those rates into the hands of the City of Santa Monica.

Whereas imported water rates were expected to rise from five to seven percent in the near future, Wang said SWIP could keep that rise down to three to four percent, at least on the water production side.

"There's a lot of other factors that go into rates that we have to look at: materials, manpower, equipment, like our vehicles," Wang said. "About 65 percent of our operation cost is fixed, meaning whether you use one gallon or 1,000 gallons, we still have to expend that 65 percent of the cost on staff to operate the facility, having a standby fleet of vehicles, conduct repairs, maintenance, all of that staff time — that's all fixed."

The costly project would not result in rate increases, Wang said; it had already been worked into the budget and was paid for by other means.

But there's one key question that remains: With all that sewage flowing in, will the Santa Monica Civic Center parking lot start smelling stinky?

No, Wang said.

Two large pipes collect odor that accumulates in the below-ground treatment facility, "scrub it clean" through filtration and release it via the planters next to the parking lot.

"When that air releases out, there should not be any odors," Wang said, adding that the plant would "be a good neighbor."

emily@smdp.com

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.

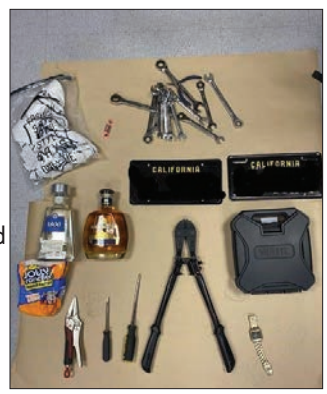
SMPD MAKE BURGLARY ARRESTS FOR SUSPECTED MAIL THEFT

On February 4, 2022, at about 11:40 PM, Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Officers were dispatched to the 500 block of Idaho Avenue, regarding a theft that just occurred. The reporting party provided a description of the suspects, and said one was carrying a large amount of mail, as they were last seen walking southbound on 5th Street.

When SMPD officers arrived on scene they learned that several mailboxes in a multi-unit complex had been broken into. A witness informed them that two suspicious persons were seen walking in between buildings in the 900 block of 5th Street. Officers located discarded mail and packages thrown about on that block. While searching the area, officers contacted two individuals in the 1000 block of Alley 4, that matched the description of the suspects.

During the course of their investigation, officers found multiple pieces of mail addressed to several nearby addresses inside the backpack of Sam Michael Davis, a 25-year-old male of Los Angeles. Also, inside his bag, officers located multiple tools commonly used during the commission of a burglary (bolt-cutters, pliers, and screwdrivers). Officers discovered what appeared to be methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, and additional tools on the second subject's person. He was later identified as Anthony Lucas Noles, a 30-year-old male of Los Angeles. Both suspects were arrested and transported to the Santa Monica Police Jail.





SMPD photos

ARREST: Confiscated tools

• Davis was booked for 459 PC - Burglary, 466 PC - Possession of Burglary Tools, 496 PC - Receiving Stolen Property and 530.5€ PC - Theft of Mail

• Noles was booked for 459 PC - Burglary, 466 PC - Possession of Burglary Tools, 11377(a) H&S - Possession of Methamphetamine, 11364(a)(1) H&S - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Anyone with any additional information pertaining to this incident is strongly encouraged to contact Detective Holloway at 310-458-8934 or the Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458-8426.

Submitted by: Rudy Flores, Lieutenant

WORKERS

FROM PAGE 1

workforce, less availability of light duty assignments, a rise in litigation and limited access to non-urgent medical care during the pandemic.

Disability payments grew by 17 percent from FY 19-20 to FY 20-21 and were especially high for sworn public safety employees, for whom they increased by 31 percent. The costs these claims incur are significant as sworn employees receive 100 percent of their pay while off-work recovering from injuries, whereas non-sworn personnel receive 66 percent of their pay after salary continuation ends. Absence of sworn personnel is also costly as police and fire staffing levels need to remain near constant, which results in expensive overtime pay.

Rising rates of litigation further drove the increased cost per claim as litigation climbed from 46 percent of open claims at the end of FY 2019-20 to 50 percent at the end of this year. Simultaneously, reduced staffing levels in the Risk Management Division reduced the speed at which claims could be resolved, at times increasing costs.

Looking ahead the report predicts that unresolved claims filed during FY 20-21 will be more costly than those filed during previous years. This is due to an increase in the percentage of claims that include lost time and/or litigation and the number of filings for cumulative trauma claims.

The City is looking at ways to address the uptick in costs of claims. The Risk Management Division is requesting a restoration of the Senior Risk Management Analyst position to oversee efforts to control the workers compensation costs as part of the FY 21-22 mid-year budget revisions.

Efforts to reduce costs include the 'Wow, that's Fast Program," which provides sworn personnel with a comprehensive case management services in an effort to avoid litigation; the "Return-to-Work" program, which offers employees recovering from work-related injuries temporary light duty assignments; and the use of a third-party administration to settle claims from the Department of Transportation.

The full report can be found at https://www.smgov.net/departments/council/infoitems.aspx

Clara@smdp.com

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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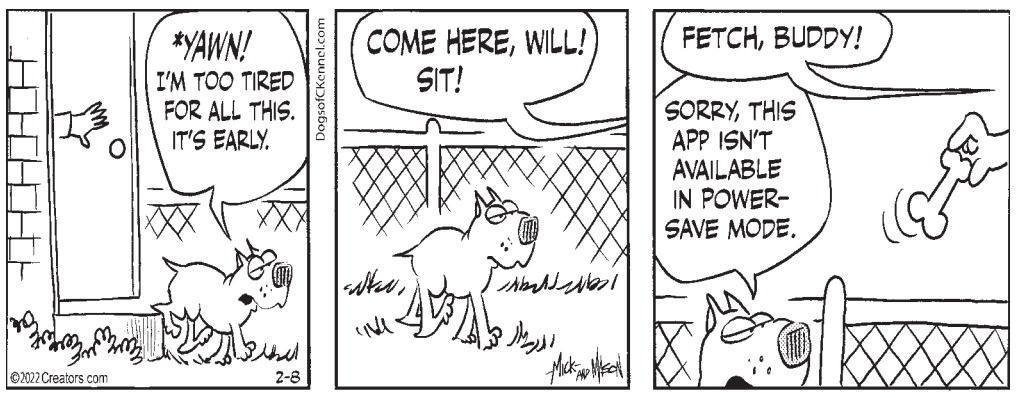
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

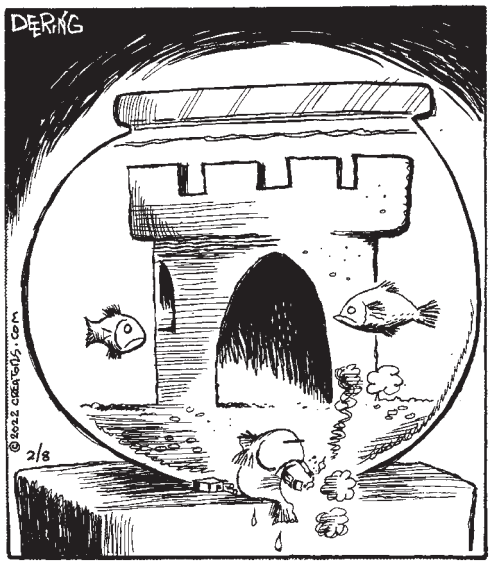
By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S AN EMPTY BOX OF WHITENING STRIPS."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.5°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Small mix of NW and SW swell. Somewhat rideable on the small wave gear. Again, mellow tide swings and cranking offshores in the morning.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Continued NW swell and some more SW swell in the water. Should be enough for summer spots to have a rideable wave. Wind looking light and favorable. Decent tide situation, highest early though.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 76. North northeast wind around 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 82. North northeast wind around 15 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/02/08	Tue	02:33 AM	4.39	H
2022/02/08	Tue	10:35 AM	1.25	L
2022/02/08	Tue	5:09 PM	2.50	H
2022/02/08	Tue	7:49 PM	2.42	L
2022/02/09	Wed	03:37 AM	4.42	H
2022/02/09	Wed	11:53 AM	0.76	L
2022/02/09	Wed	7:29 PM	2.85	H
2022/02/09	Wed	9:53 PM	2.76	L
2022/02/10	Thu	04:41 AM	4.56	H
2022/02/10	Thu	12:43 PM	0.28	L
2022/02/10	Thu	7:57 PM	3.14	H
2022/02/10	Thu	11:20 PM	2.78	L
2022/02/11	Fri	05:36 AM	4.80	H
2022/02/11	Fri	1:20 PM	-0.11	L
2022/02/11	Fri	8:16 PM	3.35	H
2022/02/12	Sat	12:15 AM	2.63	L
2022/02/12	Sat	06:22 AM	5.10	H
2022/02/12	Sat	1:51 PM	-0.42	L
2022/02/12	Sat	8:34 PM	3.49	H
2022/02/13	Sun	12:54 AM	2.39	L
2022/02/13	Sun	07:01 AM	5.41	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/5
5 16 27 39 61
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 147 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/4
7 16 34 44 61
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 31 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/5
7 10 15 28 34
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/6
6 20 28 31 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/6
EVENING: 1 3 7

Draw Date: 2/6
MIDDAY: 2 0 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/6
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:42.25

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 8)

Structures of beauty are manifest in your world, though not by coincidence. There's study and experimentation that goes into this. Projects that make your day-to-day life more lovely will also bring you unexpected new income. But the best part will be the friends you meet along the way. Sagittarius and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 10, 3, 11 and 4.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Maybe you could have chosen another path, but the one you picked brought you here, which is exactly where you need to be. This idea helps you relax, and relaxation inspires your best work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People are cheering you on: friends, family, strangers ... most anyone you share your journey with, really. People get the feeling that when you win, they'll win.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have objectivity, wisdom, emotional intelligence and a talent for gentle communication. This skill set will be put to work today, to the benefit of many.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Because you're always changing, growing and immersing yourself in the world, one of the easiest things to forget is who you are. Write 10 things you like about yourself and put it in your wallet; this is more valuable than money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Even though there's no particular reason to expect something good to happen, you believe your ship is about to come in, and your intuition is right, as usual.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some people forgive and forget, but you may find it's better to process what happened so you can frame the events that ultimately contribute to your success story.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Most people are too focused on themselves to give you the praise and encouragement you so deserve now. Imagine what they would they say if they were more perceptive and tuned in to you, then say it to yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Like tastefully arranged furniture in a handsome room, your daily activities are both worthy unto themselves and contributing to the overall harmony of the day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you're helping others, usually it means you are making excellent use of your time. Check your mood, though. If it's less than sunny, the best use of your time is to give more to yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your friendships need some love and attention. It's the extra bits of kindness that will make a difference. Your connections will take you to interesting places. First, grease the wheels.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The world will slow down, giving you room to think. Actually, this pace change occurred precisely (SET ITAL) because (END ITAL) you needed to think. You're more in control of the world's tempo than you know.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you love a process, the results of that process don't matter as much as enjoying the action of it. What would you commit to even if you knew it wouldn't bring you success in the end?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

G	A	L	A			S	E	C		P	O	P	P	Y
A	R	A	B		S	T	A	R		A	R	G	U	E
R	E	P	S		T	A	R	A		S	E	A	T	S
B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	B	A	T				
	S	E	N	A	T	E			P	A	C	T	S	
			T	R	I		S	I	P		H	U	L	A
A	H	A		B	O	A	T	S		S	I	R	E	N
B	A	D	M	I	N	T	O	N	R	A	C	K	E	T
I	N	D	I	E		M	O	T	E	L		S	K	I
T	O	O	L		T	S	P		L	O	G			
	I	N	L	A	W			P	A	N	E	L	S	
				H	O	C	K	E	Y	S	T	I	C	K
G	I	J	O	E		A	N	T	E		O	B	O	E
A	R	E	N	A		S	E	E	D		F	R	O	G
S	E	W	E	D		H	E	R			F	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	9	7	5	8	1	4	3	6
6	3	5	7	4	9	2	8	1
4	8	1	2	3	6	7	9	5
9	5	3	8	1	2	6	4	7
8	4	2	6	7	3	1	5	9
1	7	6	4	9	5	8	2	3
3	6	9	1	2	4	5	7	8
7	1	4	3	5	8	9	6	2
5	2	8	9	6	7	3	1	4

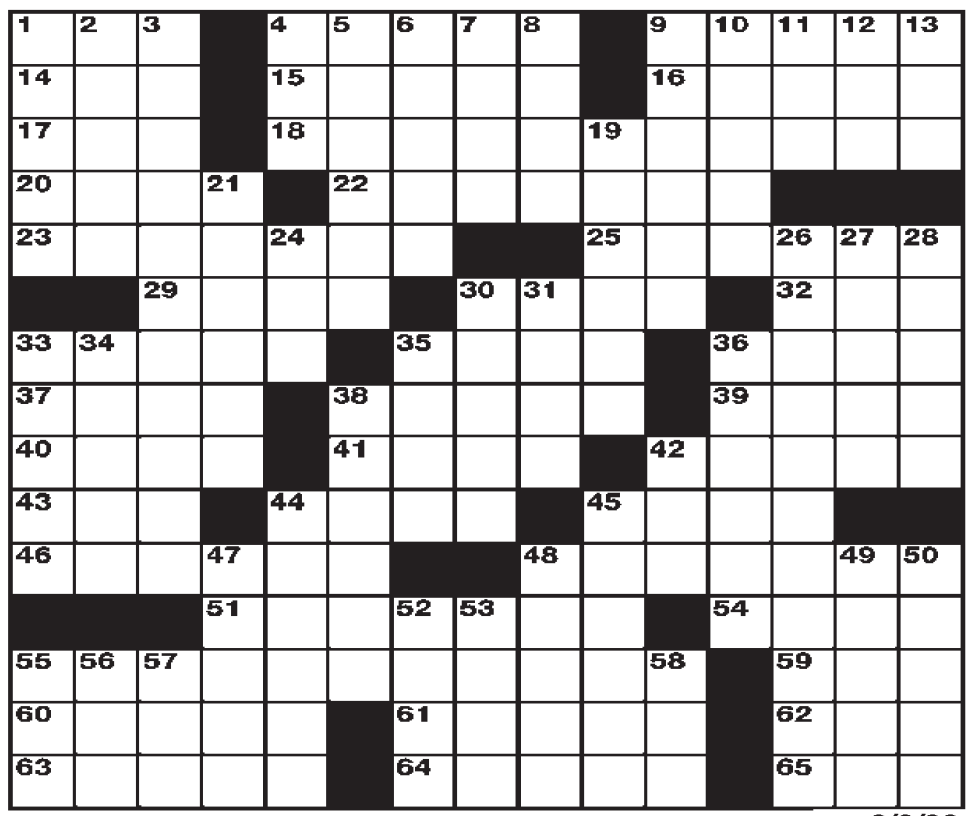
	6		4		3			5
	4	5	8					2
1			5		9			
	9	6				7		
			6		1			
		2				5	9	
			9		2			4
2					8	6	5	
4			1		6		3	

Newsday Crossword

SEEING RED by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Calculate a sum
4 Flashes of lightning
9 EXPRESS: 10 __ OR LESS
14 Prefix for cycle or pod
15 Become accustomed (to)
16 Schoolyard retort
17 "Help!" at sea
18 Source of regulatory RED tape
20 Worldwide: Abbr.
22 California's "High" mountains
23 Photocopied
25 Window-shop
29 High cards in poker
30 Dressed (in)
32 Get __ for effort
33 Lowest face cards
35 Vanish into __ air
36 Swimsuit tops
37 Play's first part
38 Woman on a wedding cake
39 Regarding, on a memo
40 Place for a goatee
41 Yours and mine
42 Special ability
43 Winning tic-tac-toe line
44 Profound
45 Related (to)
46 Miniature tree
48 Don't let go of
51 Twenty Questions category
54 "Help __ the way!"
55 In the RED
59 '50s presidential nickname
60 Watchful and ready
61 Common practice
62 OB-__ (women's physician)
63 Nerdish
64 Retail transactions
65 Head-moving assent

DOWN
1 When dinner might be served
2 Pilotless plane
3 RED herring
4 Baby's dinner wear
5 Difficult burdens
6 Overly vivid
7 Oak or elm
8 Char on a grill
9 Proof of membership
10 Upper body
11 When a train is due in: Abbr.
12 Slip-on shoe, for short
13 __ sauce (Asian condiment)
19 Polished in manner
21 Guarantee, as a loan rate
24 Crosses (out)
26 RED flag
27 Hair tangle
28 Flip-chart stand
30 Sound of a cricket
31 Jar tops
33 Biblical son of Isaac
34 Sound of a sneeze
35 Factual
36 Two-piece bathing suit
38 Maker of 747s
42 Compete in a slalom
44 Small and delicate
45 Make an accusation
47 Smug smile
48 Artificial waterway
49 Capital of Japan
50 For days __ (nonstop)
52 Ostrich-like birds
53 Civil rights icon Parks
55 Fall behind
56 Hispanic cheer
57 Get a look at
58 "Of course!"



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

TUESDAY | FEB 8

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
The Santa Monica City Council is made up of seven members elected by the community. As the legislative authority, City Council sets the policies, priorities, and budget for the local government. The City Council provides leadership through policy development regarding the current practices and future direction of the City as well as the adoption and oversight of the City budget. The regular meeting of Santa Monica City Council will be live streamed at youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica starting with closed session at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY | FEB 9

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Arizona Ave & 2nd St.

SOMATIC SOUL INTEGRATION
Experience an embodiment practice that explores the living moving parts of our body through the art of breath work, mindful movement, and dance. This 90-minute stress-relieving workshop is designed to make you feel safe in your body and connected to the source of wellness. The workshop will be led by Misty Powell, a psychologist, Wholistic Reiki Healer and certified yoga instructor. 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. RSVP at: tinyurl.com/SomaticSoulIntegration

LIVE BAND KARAOKE AT HARVELLE'S
Come Sing With The Band. The famous "Live Band Karaoke" show comes to Harvelle's every Wednesday night. $2 Tacos $4 PBR Beers $6 Well Drinks. 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. 1432 4th St.

THURSDAY | FEB 10

FOOTBALL FESTIVAL
The Los Angeles Rams and The Los Angeles Chargers are bringing a Football Festival (Super Week) to the Santa Monica Promenade to commemorate the big game coming to LA. The event will feature live broadcasts hosted by some of LA's most famous announcers as well as a host of family friendly experiences where fans can compete in throwing the ball, kicking field goals, Corn Hole, Blocking & Tackling skills challenges and special Sport art walls themed for the weekend plus special experience from The LA Rams as well as the newly created LA Chargers "Bolt City." 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1351 3rd Street Promenade.

ROCK N COMEDY
Carefully Curated Comedy Show at Rock N Pies in Santa Monica on the second Thursday of every month. 8:30pm doors open and the show starts at 9pm. $10 online $15 at door. 1120 Wilshire Blvd.

FRIDAY | FEB 11

OFF THE FIELD NFL WIVES ASSOCIATION CHARITY FASHION SHOW

Off The Field NFL Wives Association presents Fashion On A Spectrum: The 21st Annual Off The Field NFL Wives Association Super Bowl Charity Fashion Show ... where fashion, football, & philanthropy collide. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the HollyRod Foundation, a501c3 founded by actress, Holly Robinson Peete and husband, former NFL player, Rodney Peete. Tickets are $100 to $350. 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. 395 Santa Monica Place.

SATURDAY | FEB 12

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA WALKING TOUR
Discover downtown Santa Monica's architecture, history and culture with one of our highly engaging docents. See where Jim Morrison played his first show and visit the lavish Art Deco hotel that housed a speakeasy during Prohibition. The walking tour covers about 6 blocks in 2 hours and begins at the city's first landmark, the 1875 Rapp Saloon. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1436 2nd St.

SUNDAY | FEB 13

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers - you can't get more local than that! 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 2460 Main St.

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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5384

NSW or bust

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

Albury	Cowra	Leura	Snowy Mountains
Appin	Eden	Maitland	
Baan Baa	Edith	Menindee	Taree
Bega	Eungai	Mudgee	Terrigal
Bell	Forbes	Oberon	Umina
Boro	Glebe	Opals	Wagga
Bourke	Gold	Orange	Waratah
Calga	Guyra	Port Stephens	Wyong
Coal	Katoomba	Raleigh	Yass
Competitive	Kiama	Ryde	
Cook	Largs		

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Prize winning bull

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ABORTIONS

FROM PAGE 1

v. Wade is overturned. As legislative sessions begin, several are considering new bans.

If Roe v. Wade is overturned, California — a state where abortion access is enshrined in state law — could become a popular destination for those who live in states where abortion could be limited or all-out banned. In preparation for that potential wave in people seeking abortions, LA County Supervisors are asking their staff — The County CEO, the directors of the Department of Health Services and Department of Public Health, and County Counsel," — to coordinate with Planned Parenthood and other reproductive health care advocates develop plans for how the County could respond.

"Make no mistake: Women in LA County will continue to have the right to quality reproductive health care services, including comprehensive quality reproductive health care services and abortions," LA County Board of Supervisors Chair Holly Mitchell, who authored the Jan. 25 motion, said. "The elimination of this right in other states, however, could lead to an increased demand for contraceptives and abortion services by women from those states at our county's public and private hospitals and clinics.

"The elimination of abortion rights and other states could also result in delayed access to reproductive health care and increased medical complications and morbidity," Mitchell continued.

Third District Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who represents Santa Monica, pointed out that she penned the 2002 California Senate bill (SB 1301) that codified abortion rights statewide.

"The Legislature finds and declares that every individual possesses a fundamental right of privacy with respect to personal reproductive decisions," the bill's text reads. "Accordingly, it is the public policy of the State of California that: (a) Every individual has the fundamental right to choose or refuse birth control. (b) Every woman has the fundamental right to choose to bear a child or to choose and to obtain an abortion, except as specifically limited by this article. (c) The state shall not deny or interfere with a woman's fundamental right to choose to bear a child or to choose to obtain an abortion, except as specifically permitted by this article."

Kuehl said that she did not want to suggest the Supervisors were expecting the County would be "inundated with people from other states kind of using up our resources."

"I would like to think of us as a welcoming county for those seeking to exercise their Constitutional rights if they're denied by other states," Kuehl, who co-sponsored the motion with Mitchell, said. "We're doing that, and looking to plan for that is a really, really good thing. I think we should be very proud that we could be a welcoming community."

Among supervisors' requests were an analysis of the potential budget impact associated with the State's proposals to open up abortion access to nonresidents. They also asked for opportunities to enhance medical training in the County, including training to assist victims of botched or complicated non-hospital abortions in other states.

Supervisors also asked staff to identify "opportunities to reduce and address health disparities by expanding reproductive and sexual health services, supplies and education, for marginalized communities and those who might be harder to reach."

Staff were given 30 days from the Jan. 25 meeting to gather the requested info.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger pointed out that, with a population around 10 million, approximately one out of every 35 Americans resides in LA County.

"I think that an action like this coming from a county of this size speaks volumes — represented by five women who understand this issue very well," Barger said. "So, I am happy to support this."

None of the dozens of residents who called in to comment at the meeting expressed an opinion on the motion, but 23 Angelenos supplied written public comment about the proposal prior to the meeting: 11 in favor; 12 opposed.

"The County ought not embrace a culture of death and plan strategies to undermine other state laws if Roe vs. Wade is overturned," one letter-writer, Darren Verrette, stated. "The County ought to immediately develop plans that foster behavior to reduce unplanned pregnancies such as abstinence programs, combat human trafficking, and support institutions such as crisis pregnancy centers that provide support and options like adoption. These strategies should be embraced regardless of the Supreme Courts decision."

California lawmakers in Sacramento will consider plans this year to make the State a "sanctuary" for those seeking reproductive care. That could include paying for travel, lodging and procedures for people coming from other states.

"We are confronting an all-out assault on reproductive freedom in America. There are powerful forces working tirelessly to drag us backwards. But here in California, we are not going back," said Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, as state lawmakers proposed eight bills on Thursday. "We will continue to fight for reproductive freedom."

Lindsay Whitehurst and Don Thompson of the Associated Press contributed to this report.

emily@smdp.com

PRISON

FROM PAGE 3

Garcia, the highest-ranking federal prison official arrested in more than 10 years, had an outsize influence as warden over how Dublin handling of employee sexual misconduct. He led staff and inmate training on reporting abuse and complying with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act.

He was also in charge of the legally required "rape elimination" compliance audit, first scheduled for early 2020 but not completed until last September — about the time he was arrested. The Bureau of Prisons blamed the pandemic for the delay and said the audit, Dublin's first since 2017, is not yet finalized and can't be made public.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission.

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MASK

FROM PAGE 4

they are "continuing to work with education, public health and community leaders to update masking requirements at schools to adapt to changing conditions and ensure the safety of kids, teachers, and staff."

Last week, Los Angeles County public health director Barbara Ferrer said the winter surge will be considered over in the nation's most populous county when hospitalizations fall below 2,500 for seven days in a row. The county will then end its mask requirement for large outdoor events such as concerts and sporting events and for outdoor spaces at schools and child-care facilities.

It plans to keep indoor mask requirements in place until the county has two straight weeks at or below a "moderate" rate of 50 new cases per 100,000 people and there aren't any reports of a new, troubling variant circulating, Ferrer said. The current rate is 117 cases per 100,000 people.

Health officials continue emphasizing that those most at risk for the virus are the unvaccinated, and that booster shots in particular provide significant protection from serious illness, hospitalization and death.

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Help Wanted

Tech MentorFounder of 3-person Santa Monica startup needs advice from knowledgeable CTO-ish type person for its 2-sided Network Effects platform (which is set to fill a huge market void that, currently, no one has conceptualized or identified). I have a resourceful and committed engineer, and we're 75% to completion of MVP, yet I am constantly concerned about long term security issues! This is where I need expert guidance! Please call me, Stephanie, at 310-351-9976 or email at stephanieroberts@lovetoair.com if you are interested and available for sharing your knowledge and experience. Thank you.

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