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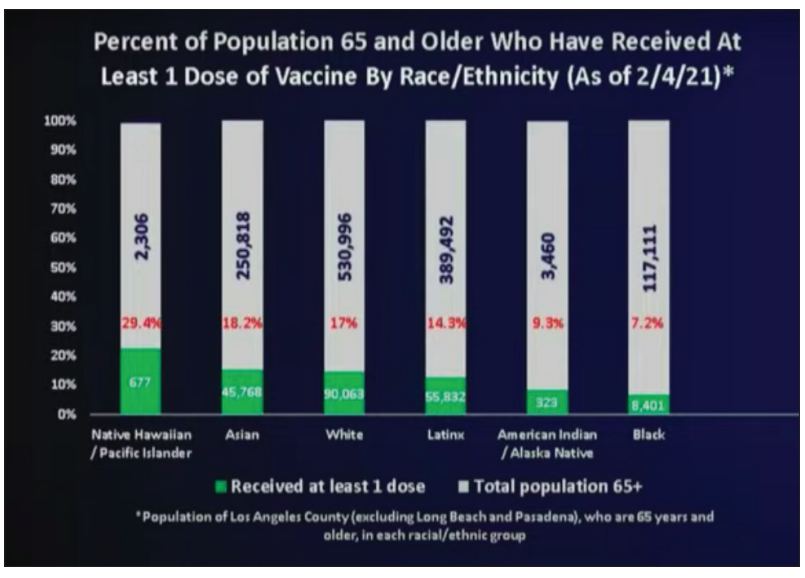
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A virtual treasure chest
At the Santa Monica Library.
Page 4

Community Input
Budget priorities up for discussion.
Page 5

L.A. County launches efforts to address inequities in vaccine distribution



Courtesy image

VACCINE: Racial disparities are being reflected in vaccine efforts.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

As Covid-19 cases continue to trend downwards and vaccination rates upwards, the Department of Public Health is working to combat "completely unacceptable" inequities in vaccine distribution.

Preliminary data on the County's vaccination rollout showed that Black residents are getting vaccinated at roughly half the rate of white and Asian residents.

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 11

World Surf League launches campaign to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer



Photos courtesy of WSL

SURF: The organization is working on a new conservation project.

Beginning on Main Street and extending to every corner of coastline across the globe, The World Surf League is launching its "30X30" campaign, calling on world leaders to take drastic and immediate action to preserve the ocean.

The goal is simple: protect 30 percent of the ocean by 2030. The solution is much harder — so the WSL team is tackling it on many fronts.

The campaign is partnering with over 60 non-governmental organizations and mobilizing a global community to sign the 'We Are One Ocean' petition urging United Nations members to adopt the 30x30 biodiversity targets at the upcoming UN Convention.

They are simultaneously pressuring US conservation departments to enact 30 percent protection policies on federal and state waters, which the Biden administration signed on to in a Jan. 27 executive order.

"The science says we need to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030 or we risk the loss of critical biodiversity that supports all life on this planet," said Reece Pacheco, SVP Ocean Responsibility, WSL. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect critical ocean habitat and biodiversity for generations to come."

New global conservation targets are scheduled to be set at the 2021

SEE **SURF** PAGE 11

City Manager search set to begin after Council meeting

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Council is set to begin the search for a new City Manager, according to Tuesday night's meeting agenda, which also includes a pair of new items pertaining to housing.

At the request of Mayor Sue Himmelrich, Councilmember Gleam Davis, and Councilmember Oscar de la Torre, staff could be directed to retain Lamont Ewell of Ralph Andersen & Associates to provide executive search services for the position of City Manager for the City of Santa Monica.

Ewell has more than 35 years of experience in the public sector after formerly managing the cities of Santa Monica, San Diego, and Durham, North Carolina, according to the biography on the company's website. Ewell has also been called upon to serve as Interim City Manager for the cities of Culver City, Oakland, and Compton.

If approved after Tuesday night's discussion, it's expected that Ewell will begin searching for the city's permanent manager since Rick Cole resigned in April 2020, right as the economic impacts of the pandemic were beginning to strain Santa Monica's revenues from sales, hotel and parking taxes.

SEE **CITY MANAGER** PAGE 6

Court blocks some of Los Angeles DA's progressive policies

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

Los Angeles County prosecutors took the progressive new district attorney to court and won a ruling Monday blocking some of his reforms that would reduce sentences for criminals.

Superior Court Judge James Chalfant issued a preliminary injunction blocking some directives District Attorney George Gascon issued to end enhancements that can add years to prison sentences.

Gascon took office in December

SEE **POLICIES** PAGE 6

Feds to name likely cause of Kobe Bryant helicopter crash

STEFANIE DAZIO AND BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

In the year since the helicopter carrying Kobe Bryant crashed into a hillside on a foggy morning, killing all nine aboard, there's been plenty of finger-pointing over the cause of the tragedy.

Bryant's widow blamed the pilot. She and families of other victims also faulted the companies that owned and operated the helicopter. The brother of the pilot didn't blame Bryant but said he knew the risks of flying. The helicopter companies said the weather was an act of God and blamed air traffic controllers.

On Tuesday, federal safety officials are expected to announce the long-awaited probable cause of the crash that unleashed worldwide grief for the retired basketball star, launched several lawsuits and prompted state and federal legislation.

"I think the whole world is watching because it's Kobe," said Ed Coleman, an Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University professor and safety science expert.

Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and six other passengers were flying from Orange County to a youth basketball tournament at his Mamba Sports Academy in Ventura County on Jan. 26, 2020, when the helicopter encountered thick fog in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles.

Pilot Ara Zobayan climbed sharply and had nearly broken through the clouds when the Sikorsky S-76 helicopter banked abruptly and plunged into the Calabasas hills below, killing all nine aboard instantly before flames engulfed the wreckage.

There was no sign of mechanical failure, and it was believed to be an accident, the National Transportation Safety Board has said.

The board is likely to make nonbinding recommendations to prevent future crashes when it meets remotely Tuesday.

The NTSB is an independent federal agency that investigates crashes but has no enforcement powers. It can only submit suggestions to bodies like the Federal Aviation Administration or the Coast Guard, which have repeatedly rejected some of the board's safety recommendations after other disasters.

One recommendation could be for helicopters to have a Terrain Awareness and Warning System, a device that signals when an aircraft is in danger of crashing. The helicopter didn't have the system, which the NTSB has recommended as mandatory for helicopters. The FAA only requires it for air ambulances.

Federal lawmakers have sponsored the Kobe Bryant and Gianna Bryant Helicopter Safety Act to mandate the devices on all helicopters carrying six or more passengers.

Former NTSB Chairman James Hall said he hopes the FAA will require the systems as a result of the crash.

"Historically, it has required high-profile tragedies to move the regulatory needle forward," he said.

The devices, known as TAWS, cost upward of $35,000 per helicopter and require training and maintenance.

Helicopter Association International discouraged what it called a "one solution fits all" method. President and CEO James Viola said in a statement that mandating specific equipment to the entire industry is "ineffective" and "potentially hazardous."

Even though Zobayan was flying at low altitude in a hilly area, the warning system may not have prevented the crash, Coleman said. The terrain could have triggered the alarm "constantly going off" and distracted the pilot or prompted him to lower its volume or ignore it, the Embry-Riddle safety science professor said.

Federal investigators said Zobayan, an experienced pilot who often flew Bryant, may have "misperceived" the angles at which he was descending and banking, which can occur when a pilot becomes disoriented in low visibility, according to NTSB documents.

The others killed were Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli, his wife, Keri, and their daughter Alyssa; Christina Mauser, who helped Bryant coach his daughter's basketball team; and Sarah Chester and her daughter Payton. Alyssa and Payton were Gianna's teammates.

The crash has spawned lawsuits and countersuits.

On the day a massive memorial service was held at the Staples Center, where Bryant played most of his career, Vanessa Bryant sued Zobayan and the companies that owned and operated the helicopter for negligence and the wrongful deaths of her husband and daughter. Families of other victims sued the helicopter companies but not the pilot.

Vanessa Bryant said Island Express Helicopters Inc., which operated the aircraft, and its owner, Island Express Holding Corp., did not properly train or supervise Zobayan. She said the pilot was careless and negligent to fly in fog and should have aborted the flight.

Zobayan's brother said Kobe Bryant knew the risks of flying in a helicopter and his survivors aren't entitled to damages from the pilot's estate. Island Express Helicopters Inc. denied responsibility and said the crash was "an act of God" it couldn't control.

It also countersued two FAA air traffic controllers, saying the crash was caused by their "series of erroneous acts and/or omissions."

The countersuit claims one controller improperly denied Zobayan's request for "flight following," or radar assistance as he proceeded in the fog. Officials have said the controller terminated service because radar couldn't be maintained at the altitude the aircraft was flying.

According to the lawsuit, the controller said he was going to lose radar and communications shortly, but radar contact was not lost. When a second controller took over, the lawsuit said the first controller failed to brief him about the helicopter, and because the radar services were not terminated correctly, the pilot was under the belief he was being tracked.

Vanessa Bryant also sued the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, accusing deputies of sharing unauthorized photos of the crash site. California now has a state law prohibiting such conduct.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 177 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 7

Armed Robbery 1300blk 23rd St 12:16 a.m.
Arson 300blk Santa Monica Pl 12:48 a.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Virginia Ave 1:09 a.m.
Arson 300blk Santa Monica Pl 1:48 a.m.
Domestic Violence 1900blk 3rd St 2:18 a.m.
Critical Missing Person 200blk 14th St 3:19 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk Main St 5:49 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2000blk Main St 6:03 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:29 a.m.
Malicious Mischief 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:48 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200blk 4th St 7:58 a.m.
Burglary 1500blk 6th St 8:01 a.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 1800blk 7th St 8:18 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1400blk 20th St 8:24 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:25 a.m.
Encampment Centinela Ave / Exposition Blvd 8:57 a.m.
Encampment 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:14 a.m.
Fraud 1700blk Berkeley St 9:54 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk The Beach 10:08 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk Main St 10:15 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 700blk Ozone St 10:20 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 10:23 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1100blk 10th St 10:27 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 34th St / Exposition Blvd 10:35 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 5th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:42 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:17 a.m.
Burglary 1500blk 15th St 11:22 a.m.
Grand Theft 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:29 a.m.
Petty Theft 2200blk Virginia Ave 11:32 a.m.
Malicious Mischief 1100blk 6th St 12:15 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1500blk 7th St 12:29 p.m.
Burglary 3100blk Colorado Ave 12:37 p.m.
Lost Property 1000blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:39 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100blk 17th St 1:08 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2200blk Colorado Ave 1:20 p.m.
Fraud 1700blk Berkeley St 1:43 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk 2nd St 1:54 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Lincoln Blvd / Pine St 2:10 p.m.
Petty Theft 2400blk Pico Blvd 2:18 p.m.
Malicious Mischief 2700blk Pico Blvd 2:31 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 500blk Hill St 2:54 p.m.
Battery 2300blk Main St 3:08 p.m.
Found Property 800blk Palisades Park 3:26 p.m.
Malicious Mischief 2300blk Main St 4:07 p.m.
Petty Theft 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:18 p.m.
Death Investigation 1000blk Yale St 4:23 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Neilson Way / Hollister Ave 4:42 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk 18th St 4:43 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 2600blk 34th St 4:48 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 5:04 p.m.
Grand Theft 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:08 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 26th St / Marguerita Ave 5:16 p.m.
Petty Theft 500blk Wilshire Blvd 5:19 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 5:22 p.m.
Missing Person Citywide 5:36 p.m.
Bike Theft 26th St / Olympic Blvd 5:39 p.m.
Party Complaint 3000blk Glenn Ave 6:03 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1400blk 4th St 6:05 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 900blk 21st St 6:10 p.m.
Lewd Activity 700blk Bay St 6:14 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Main St / Bay St 6:18 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 6:19 p.m.
Overdose 1700blk Ocean Ave 6:24 p.m.
Battery 800blk Colorado Ave 7:20 p.m.
Family Disturbance 800blk Colorado Ave 7:20 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 7:36 p.m.
Domestic Violence Now 2300blk Main St 7:47 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 8:02 p.m.
Lost Property 2600blk Pico Blvd 8:34 p.m.
Family Disturbance 2000blk Oak St 8:42 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1500blk Berkeley St 8:46 p.m.
Petty Theft 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 8:51 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:54 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600blk Stanford St 9:03 p.m.
Elder Abuse 2700blk Neilson Way 9:28 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 9:29 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Main St / Kinney St 9:54 p.m.
Party Complaint 800blk 9th St 10:54 p.m.
Loud Music 900blk Ocean Ave 11:03 p.m.
Party Complaint 1900blk 20th St 11:13 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 11:56 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 20 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 7

EMS 1100blk Pico Blvd 12:34 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Ocean Ave 2:42 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 1300blk 2nd St 2:53 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Pl 4:01 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Pico Blvd 5:23 a.m.
EMS 900blk 15th St 5:59 a.m.
EMS 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:31 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 2500blk Beverley Ave 6:49 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:06 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 9:37 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Wilshire Blvd 9:43 a.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 11:38 a.m.
EMS 900blk Yale St 2:13 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900blk 4th St 2:36 p.m.
EMS Main St / Pacific St 4:09 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 26th St / Marguerita Ave 5:16 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2900blk Olympic Blvd 5:34 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 6:06 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 6:24 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 7:35 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 9:21 p.m.

Schools plan for potential of remote learning into the fall

CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

Parents of schoolchildren learning from home shouldn't necessarily count on reclaiming the dining room table any time soon.

After seeing two academic years thrown off course by the pandemic, school leaders around the country are planning for the possibility of more distance learning next fall at the start of yet another school year.

"We have no illusions that COVID will be eradicated by the time the start of the school year comes up," said William "Chip" Sudderth III, a spokesperson for Durham, North Carolina schools, whose students have been out of school buildings since March.

President Joe Biden has made reopening schools a top priority, but administrators say there is much to consider as new strains of the coronavirus appear and teachers wait their turn for vaccinations.

And while many parents are demanding that schools fully reopen, others say they won't feel safe sending children back to classrooms until vaccines are available to even young students. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top public health expert, said late last month the Biden administration hopes to begin vaccinating children by late spring or early summer.

By then, districts will be deep into preparations for the next school year.

"As far as 2021-22, at least some part of that school year is likely still going to be pandemic response-related on the assumption that children won't have access to the vaccine, or at least many won't," said Superintendent Brian Woods, of Northside Independent School District, among the largest districts in Texas.

That could mean a more teacher-friendly version of the mix of in-person and remote learning happening now, one that doesn't require teachers to simultaneously instruct two groups. That could be accomplished either by splitting staffing or rearranging schedules, he said, adding longer term may see an all-remote option for students who have moved on permanently from traditional school.

"There's going to be some element of the genie not being able to be put back in the bottle," Woods said. "I think that there now will always be a group of families who want a virtual option. ... We know we're able to, but are we willing to do it?"

Faced with the same reality, California's West Contra Costa Unified School District is planning a new K-12 Virtual Academy for 2021-22.

"One thing that we have learned during the pandemic is that teaching and learning is now different, and it will not fully be what we used to think was `normal' ever again," read the January agenda item before the Board of Education.

The pivot to distance learning last march has proved a lifeline for the education system, but concerns have grown with each passing month about the effects on racial inequities, students' academic performance, attendance and their overall well being.

In Durham, North Carolina, schools — which has been fully remote since March — announced last month that it would remain that way through the end of the current academic year.

Beyond that, Sudderth said, "the prevalence of the disease will determine what we are able to do."

The guideline for whether the 32,000-student district could move from remote to hybrid learning in January was a testing positivity rate below 4%. But it's unclear whether that metric or others that until now have been set by states or districts will hold.

Biden, in an early executive order, directed his education secretary to provide "evidence-based guidance" and advice to schools to safely conduct in-person learning.

"I'm hoping that we don't have to do hybrid, but I don't want to be in a position where we haven't thought it all through," said Eva Moskowitz, whose 47 Success Academy Charter Schools enroll 20,000 students in New York City.

Success students have been signing in for full days of live remote instruction on school-provided laptops and tablets since the beginning of the school year, an exhausting undertaking that Moskowitz plans to end for the current school year on May 28. The 2021-22 school year will then begin Aug. 2, possibly in a hybrid format.

"I honestly don't know what the chances are" of continuing remote learning into the next school year, she said.

"Logic would tell me that we shouldn't have to, but my knowledge of government makes me a little more hesitant," she said, noting the sometimes conflicting guidance from the city and state and the slow start to the rollout of vaccines.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has vowed that schools in the nation's largest school district are "going to be back full-strength in September."

"Everyone wants to be back," he's said.

But the head of the powerful teachers' union, Michael Mulgrew, says it's too soon to commit. Schools currently are providing some in-person classes to elementary and pre-K students who want them. A plan announced Monday by De Blasio will reopen middle school buildings Feb. 25 but there is no plan yet for high schools.

"It's a goal of mine, but I can't say they're going to open" the United Federation of Teachers president said in an interview. His view of the mayor's pledge: "This is not about what you want. This is about what you can do safely."

Chancellor Richard Carranza acknowledged that while the goal is in-person school, distance learning "is going to stay with us" past the pandemic.

"We're looking at this being a component," he said during a news conference Monday with de Blasio.

Mulgrew said it will take more than teacher vaccines to open schools fully and safely.

He noted that scientists aren't yet clear on whether vaccinated people might still be able to spread the virus, even if they aren't sickened themselves. And he wonders how comfortable families will feel about having

SEE **SCHOOL** PAGE 5



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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What's the Point?

David Pisarra — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica Public Library is a virtual treasure chest

I've been listening to books on audio this past year. It's an amazing way to increase one's literature intake, improve business skills and dive deeper into the news than just listening to the radio while I'm driving. If you have a smartphone, like an iPhone or any late model phone I suppose, you can download a variety of apps that will support free audiobooks from the library.

My Santa Monica library card allows me to borrow both audio and ebooks using Hoopla, which is a free downloadable application. Once you download the app you input your library card, verify your account by email and wham-o you can download a huge variety of audiobooks, ebooks, and media.

Last calendar year I was able to "read" / listen to over 50 books by way of both Hoopla and the Libby app which I use for my Los Angeles Library account. Yes, I have two accounts so that I can consume that many more books. Hoopla limits your monthly borrows to 6 I believe, and I was going through them so quickly that I needed a second account. I prefer the Libby app because it seems that I can borrow more.

Audiobooks are a wonderful way to consume both educational content, and entertainment. For example, I've listened to a slew of real estate investing books, marketing books, and sales trainings over the past year. When that wore out and I was ready for some "brain candy" I found the joy of fiction books.

I was driving around the city as I like to do, so that I can keep an eye on the businesses; I had just finished a little light reading on mortgage financing when I wanted a change and the Libby app served up a suggestion of a romance novel. Now, in my 54 years on earth, and with all the reading I've done, I can honestly say that I had never entertained the idea of reading a romance novel. But there I was, tawdry cover design, one word title and me willing to try something new since it wasn't going to cost me anything but a few moments to decide if I liked it.

The book, Unforgiven, had a drawing of a shirtless man in repose. In a moment of literary weakness I read the description of the story - a tale of two best friends who fall in love – and immediately downloaded it. As the story unfolded, told by actors playing the various character, I was drawn in to the drama in a way that I had no idea was possible. It was like listening to old time radio, but better as the story was steamy, lustful and deliciously enticing.

When I finished listening to Unforgiven, I returned to my usual fare of educational / business books, but a craving for more of the fiction world had been awakened. I began looking around the virtual library for more interesting audiobooks. I didn't want to become an aficionado of the romance novel – it is enjoyable, but not the way that I want to spend my time. I'm more of a Jeffrey Archer, Trevanian, Carl Hiassen kinda guy for my fun reads.

The search made me think of the book Shibumi, it was a red hot novel in the early 80s. I loved it, and always thought it would be a great movie. Considering the other titles in the author's CV, it's no surprise. Trevanian was a pen name for Rodney Whitaker who wrote the screenplay for The Eiger Sanction, and novel The Loo Sanction, his storytelling was in a class of its own. When I went searching decades ago, no sequel had been written by Trevanian, the author, and unfortunately he passed away in the winter of 2005.

Luckily though, Trevanian's literary executor his daughter, heard the call for a sequel, or prequel, and found an author whom she trusted enough to pick up the pen and bring to life, Nicolai Hel, once more. I found the audiobook on Libby and for the past week I've been working my way through the 12 hour audiobook as the exploits of an international assassin are painted in words in my mind. It has been a glorious escape from the day to day boring repetitive news of COVID, the Trump impeachment redux and the tale of our city's economic implosion.

I truly wish to thank the Santa Monica Public Library system for opening my eyes to the wealth of literature, business writings and adventures that await by way of the Hoopla app. Having a library card opens the world to us, and with the addition of apps makes it all portable, virtual and a new experience. Plus, it's free. Best deal in town.

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

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

City of Santa Monica Invites Community Members to Share Input on Community Priorities by February 28

On March 13, the City Council will establish community priorities for development of the City budget for fiscal years 2021-2023 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023). As Santa Monica recovers from the economic and civic disruption caused by COVID-19, establishing community priorities will:

Prioritize reopening services and programs as funding becomes available

Inform City operations and policymaking

Ensure the City shares information on what matters most to the community

A survey available in English and Spanish is open to gather input from community members on the priorities. The results of the survey will be reviewed by City Council as they begin budget deliberations with adoption in June 2021.

"We want to hear from our entire community - Santa Monica residents, business owners, and workers - as we develop the City's budget for fiscal years 2021-2023. We urge everyone to participate in the Community Priorities Survey by February 28 to help shape our shared priorities," said Interim City Manager Lane Dilg. "As Santa Monica joins other communities in confronting the most significant economic crisis since the Great Depression, it is more important than ever for every voice to be heard."

In the Summer of 2020, the City Council took significant actions to safeguard the City's fiscal health and sustainability in the face of the severe economic impacts of COVID-19 on Santa Monica's heavily tourism-based economy and in the absence of meaningful federal stimulus support. The City's fiscal year 2020-2021 budget called for reductions in operating and capital costs of nearly 25% Citywide and restructured City operations in the pandemic to focus on responding to the public health emergency, delivering foundational services, supporting community-wide economic recovery, and advancing racial equity. As a result of these efforts and the setting aside of a $20 million Shutdown Reserve fund in advance to account for the second COVID surge and economic shutdown that the City experienced this Winter, the City's current budget remains balanced.

As part of the City's Mid-Year Budget, Council approved allocation of additional resources to respond to immediate needs, including addressing homelessness in our community, increasing code enforcement resources for response to public health and quality of life concerns, creating a 3-1-1 service line to improve resident response and services, supporting non-profit eviction counseling for residents at risk of losing their homes, funding additional Library page services, and securing an outside entity to serve as an Inspector General to support the work of the City's new Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission.

For more information and to complete the short survey, visit santamonica.gov/priorities. For assistance taking the survey, contact (310) 458-8400.

CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 3

unvaccinated children and young teens begin the new year unvaccinated.

"This is where it gets tough. So how do you say you're opening in September when we need to get these questions answered?" he asked.

A parent coalition in Evanston, Illinois, has asked Superintendent Eric Witherspoon what assurances he could give that Evanston Township High School will provide in-person learning in the 2021-22 academic year.

"We are witnessing a real crisis in our community," Laurel O'Sullivan, the parent of an Evanston high school junior, said by phone. "We are a coalition that includes medical and mental health experts who are, in their practices in the community, daily seeing kids experiencing a huge surge in mental and emotional health crises. ... It's a social, emotional and academic crisis that we're seeing."

The district did not respond to a request for comment.

Thompson reported from Buffalo, New York. Associated Press writer Jennifer Peltz in New York City contributed to this report.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

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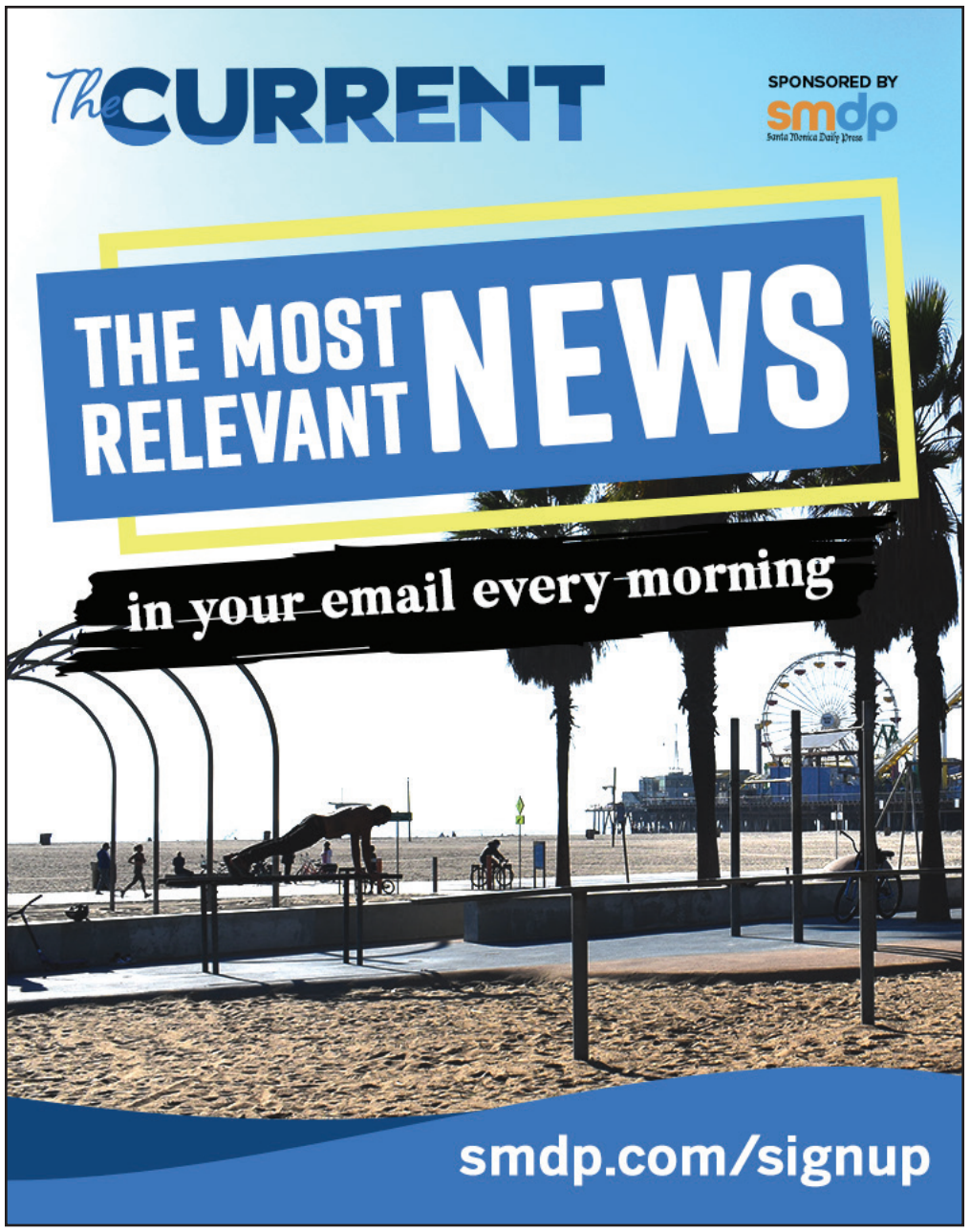
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CITY MANAGER

FROM PAGE 1

Current Interim City Manager Lane Dilg was hired shortly after Cole's departure, but she announced in December she will be leaving the city in Spring 2021 as her family relocates for public service outside of Santa Monica.

Dilg said in a previous interview she didn't know how long it will take to find a replacement but she does believe the process should be deliberate and thoughtful.

"When looking for a city manager, I think that we want a city manager for the long-term and we want that person to provide excellence for the community and continuity," Dilg said, mentioning a search could take as little as four months. "And I want to be sure they have the time they need to do that and do that well."

HOUSING BILLS

On Tuesday, City Councilmembers will discuss authorizing Himmelrich to sign a letter opposing a pair of housing bills that are currently being heard in the California Senate.

Councilmember Phil Brock declined to speak on the matter, citing potential Brown Act Violations, but the agenda states Councilmembers Brock, Christine Parra, and Oscar de la Torre wish to formally oppose SB 9 and SB 10.

SB 9 would override local control over zoning codes, requiring cities to approve, without public input or consideration, two residential units as well as lot splits on all single-family parcels that meet specified criteria.

The law is primarily designed to prevent the demolition of existing affordable housing or displacement of moderate, low, or very-low income families or historic properties but a staff report states the bill would eliminate any currently required community participation and input.

"As drafted, SB 10 would allow, but not require, cities to permit midrise, medium-density housing on sites that are within one-half mile of a major transit stop, on a high-quality bus corridor, or within a jobs-rich, high-opportunity neighborhood close to key job centers without affordability requirements or sensitivity to the character of existing neighborhoods," the report adds as it details how the bill will undermine local land use authority if enacted.

"Our experience in Santa Monica has been that an increase in market and median rate housing has intensified gentrification that is pushing out long term renters," de la Torre said Monday. "We are opposing these misguided bills because we want to protect our city's diversity and find a better path towards creating real affordable housing. SB 9 and SB 10 will create more problems than solutions."

A full copy of Tuesday's agenda is available online at http://santamonicacityca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=1260.

Brennon@smdp.com

POLICIES

FROM PAGE 1

and immediately put in place criminal reforms that he campaigned on, such as vowing not to seek the death penalty, not prosecute juveniles as adults and ending the use of sentencing enhancements that trigger stiffer sentences for certain elements of crimes, repeat offenses or being a gang member. Gascon has argued that enhancements don't make communities safer.

Gascon overcame opposition from law enforcement unions during his campaign to unseat two-term incumbent Jackie Lacey and quickly found himself facing stiff opposition from within his office.

Career prosecutors took the unusual step of suing their new boss. They claimed the directives violated state law, their oath of office and ethical and professional obligations.

"The court ruled as we expected in holding that the district attorney cannot order his prosecutors to ignore laws that protect the public from repeat offenders," the union said in a statement. "The court ruled that the district attorney's policy violated the law to benefit criminal defendants and ordered him to comply with the law. This ruling protects the communities which are disproportionately affected by higher crime rates and those who are victimized."

Gascon initially issued a blanket directive ending all sentencing enhancements. After blowback from crime victims and rank-and-file prosecutors, though, he revised the policy to allow enhancements in extraordinary circumstances in hate crimes, elder abuse, child abuse, sexual abuse, sex trafficking and financial crimes.

Enhancements run the gamut from so-called three strikes offenses, where a third serious or violent felony can lead to a life sentence, to special circumstances like use of a gun in a murder case that bring a life term without possibility of parole. Other enhancements can add years to a prison sentence if proven at trial.

Laurie Levenson, a criminal law professor at Loyola Law School, said the ruling is a setback for Gascon, but not the final word. He could appeal the ruling and he can further fine-tune the directives.

Levenson said it was unusual that the internal fight had spilled into the courts.

"Everything about this is unusual," she said. "But it's not a surprise that it's happening, given that Gascon is coming in as a progressive or reformer among DAs, many of whom don't want to reform."

The deputies union got support from the California District Attorneys Association, which filed a friend of the court brief opposing the policy change. Some former prosecutors and academics supported Gascon, as did the American Civil Liberties Union.

Gascon did not immediately comment on the ruling.

The judge said prosecutors can't dismiss enhancements that were filed in existing cases and they must seek third strike offenses when required by the law.

However, Chalfant said Gascon can prevent his deputies from filing enhancements in future cases that are not required under the three strikes law.

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New variants raise worry about COVID-19 virus reinfections

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

Evidence is mounting that having COVID-19 may not protect against getting infected again with some of the new variants. People also can get second infections with earlier versions of the coronavirus if they mounted a weak defense the first time, new research suggests.

How long immunity lasts from natural infection is one of the big questions in the pandemic. Scientists still think reinfections are fairly rare and usually less serious than initial ones, but recent developments around the world have raised concerns.

In South Africa, a vaccine study found new infections with a variant in 2% of people who previously had an earlier version of the virus.

In Brazil, several similar cases were documented with a new variant there. Researchers are exploring whether reinfections help explain a recent surge in the city of Manaus, where three-fourths of residents were thought to have been previously infected.

In the United States, a study found that 10% of Marine recruits who had evidence of prior infection and repeatedly tested negative before starting basic training were later infected again. That work was done before the new variants began to spread, said one study leader, Dr. Stuart Sealfon of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York.

"Previous infection does not give you a free pass," he said. "A substantial risk of reinfection remains."

Reinfections pose a public health concern, not just a personal one. Even in cases where reinfection causes no symptoms or just mild ones, people might still spread the virus. That's why health officials are urging vaccination as a longer-term solution and encouraging people to wear masks, keep physical distance and wash their hands frequently.

"It's an incentive to do what we have been saying all along: to vaccinate as many people as we can and to do so as quickly as we can," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert.

"My looking at the data suggests ... and I want to underline suggests ... the protection induced by a vaccine may even be a little better" than natural infection, Fauci said.

Doctors in South Africa began to worry when they saw a surge of cases late last year in areas where blood tests suggested many people had already had the virus.

Until recently, all indications were "that previous infection confers protection for at least nine months," so a second wave should have been "relatively subdued," said Dr. Shabir Madhi of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

Scientists discovered a new version of the virus that's more contagious and less susceptible to certain treatments. It now causes more than 90% of new cases in South Africa and has spread to 40 countries including the United States.

Madhi led a study testing Novavax's vaccine and found it less effective against the new variant. The study also revealed that infections with the new variant were just as common among people who had COVID-19 as those who had not.

"What this basically tells us, unfortunately, is that past infection with early variants of the virus in South Africa does not protect" against the new one, he said.

In Brazil, a spike in hospitalizations in Manaus in January caused similar worry and revealed a new variant that's also more contagious and less vulnerable to some treatments.

"Reinfection could be one of the drivers of these cases," said Dr. Ester Sabino of the University of Sao Paulo. She wrote an article in the journal Lancet on possible explanations. "We have not yet been able to define how frequently this is happening," she said.

California scientists also are investigating whether a recently identified variant may be causing reinfections or a surge of cases there.

"We're looking at that now," seeking blood samples from past cases, said Jasmine Plummer, a researcher at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Dr. Howard Bauchner, editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Medical Association, said it soon would report on what he called "the Los Angeles variant."

New variants were not responsible for the reinfections seen in the study of Marines — it was done before the mutated viruses emerged, said Sealfon, who led that work with the Naval Medical Research Center. Other findings from the study were published in the New England Journal of Medicine; the new ones on reinfection are posted on a research website.

The study involved several thousand Marine recruits who tested negative for the virus three times during a two-week supervised military quarantine before starting basic training.

Among the 189 whose blood tests indicated they had been infected in the past, 19 tested positive again during the six weeks of training. That's far less than those without previous infection — "almost half of them became infected at the basic training site," Sealfon said.

The amount and quality of antibodies that previously infected Marines had upon arrival was tied to their risk of getting the virus again. No reinfections caused serious illness, but that does not mean the recruits were not at risk of spreading infection to others, Sealfon said.

"It does look like reinfection is possible. I don't think we fully understand why that is and why immunity has not developed" in those cases, said an immunology expert with no role in the study, E. John Wherry of the University of Pennsylvania.

"Natural infections can leave you with a range of immunity" while vaccines consistently induce high levels of antibodies, Wherry said.

"I am optimistic that our vaccines are doing a little bit better."



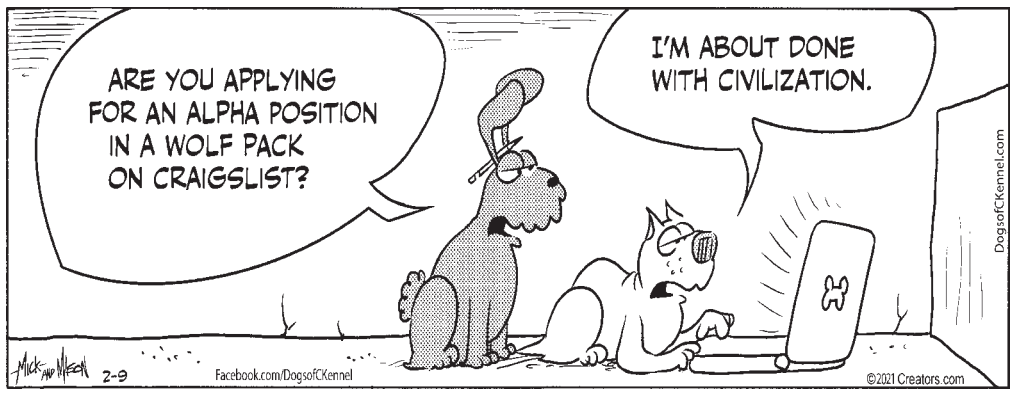
Agnes

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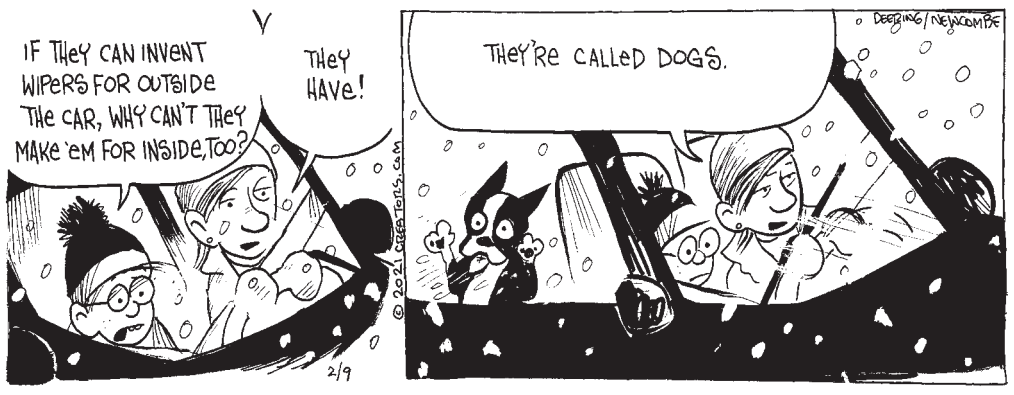
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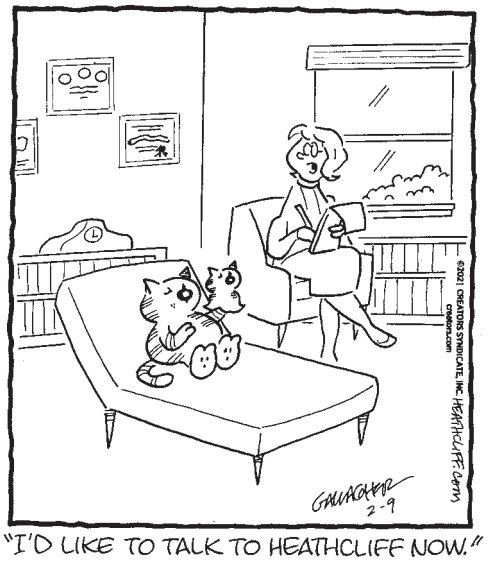
Zack Hill

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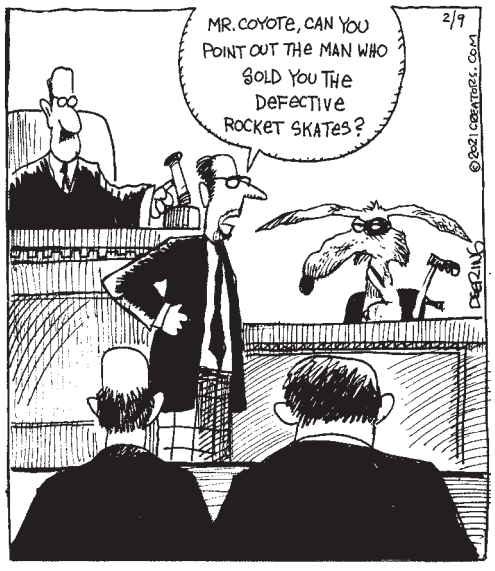
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.6°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 0.5-1ft Shin to knee high
Small surf with ok conditions but looking marginally rideable. Early AM high tide swamps out the weak waves.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 0.5-1ft Shin to knee high
Small surf with ok conditions but looking marginally rideable. Early AM high tide swamps out the weak waves.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Patchy drizzle and fog before 10am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 58.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/02/09	Tue	12:59 AM	2.05	L
2021/02/09	Tue	07:12 AM	6.24	H
2021/02/09	Tue	2:26 PM	-1.43	L
2021/02/09	Tue	8:54 PM	3.97	H
2021/02/10	Wed	01:46 AM	1.80	L
2021/02/10	Wed	07:56 AM	6.32	H
2021/02/10	Wed	3:03 PM	-1.42	L
2021/02/10	Wed	9:26 PM	4.11	H
2021/02/11	Thu	02:27 AM	1.58	L
2021/02/11	Thu	08:35 AM	6.24	H
2021/02/11	Thu	3:37 PM	-1.25	L
2021/02/11	Thu	9:57 PM	4.21	H
2021/02/12	Fri	03:07 AM	1.43	L
2021/02/12	Fri	09:13 AM	5.97	H
2021/02/12	Fri	4:08 PM	-0.94	L
2021/02/12	Fri	10:27 PM	4.27	H
2021/02/13	Sat	03:46 AM	1.36	L
2021/02/13	Sat	09:49 AM	5.56	H
2021/02/13	Sat	4:38 PM	-0.54	L
2021/02/13	Sat	10:57 PM	4.30	H
2021/02/14	Sun	04:26 AM	1.37	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 2/6
1 16 48 49 65
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 42 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 2/5
14 17 28 29 44
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 68 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 2/6
4 16 34 35 45
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 19 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 2/7
8 10 19 24 35

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 2/7
EVENING: 2 2 8

Draw Date: 2/7
MIDDAY: 5 1 4

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 2/7
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:49.28

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 00)

It won't start out as a creative situation, but you'll bring your visions and process to the picture and transform it. This is an attractive thing to watch, and people will gather as you work your magic. Next come the investors. You'll get a proposition in June. Your "yes" is not just an answer; it's a line of action. Sagittarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 44, 41, 9 and 32.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The complex task you're faced with today will require a combination of learning and instinct. By following established methods, you can do very well, though it should be noted that the price of greatness is risk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Because things work differently in different places and times, misunderstandings are more likely between people of different cultures and ages. These relationships will also be the source of deep and universal understandings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you have the eye for it, as you most certainly do, beauty surrounds you. You see the single blade of grass growing straight out of the pavement. You see the sun glint in smiling eyes. It's like it's all there for your delight.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While there are days when it benefits you to stay wide-eyed with your head on a swivel, this isn't one of them. Narrow focus is needed. Put blinders on and march ever forward. You can't stumble over a thing if it's behind you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Pleasant circumstances are delightful, but it's the unpleasant ones that grow you. For instance, had you never been left to fend for yourself, you wouldn't be this self-sufficient. You'll love what you can accomplish alone today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Being keenly aware of the habits of those close to you, you know how to cater to their preferences or disregard them strategically, depending on the effect you're going for. You've got game today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your smooth manners provide shock absorbers and grease for the wheels of social interaction. You're creative, spontaneous, sensitive and empathetic. Any friend of yours is lucky.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People are more likely to remember those they perceive as having a higher status, not because they are shallow social climbers but because humans are hard-wired for climbing. In a new arena, making yourself memorable is key.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've the opportunity to help a person you wouldn't have expected would need it. It's the start of the reciprocal altruism necessary to nurture beneficial relationships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In striving for harmony and happiness, it doesn't hurt to brush up on the rules of etiquette, so long as you avoid the pitfall of monitoring other people's behavior.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You respect people and their time and their privacy. They sense it; they trust you; and they tell you things you maybe wish you didn't have to know. Discretion takes self-control, but it's important.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be in a position to do a deal. It's appropriate for some visiting, speculation and negotiation to go down. It's a dance. Three times back and forth is acceptable, but not four.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

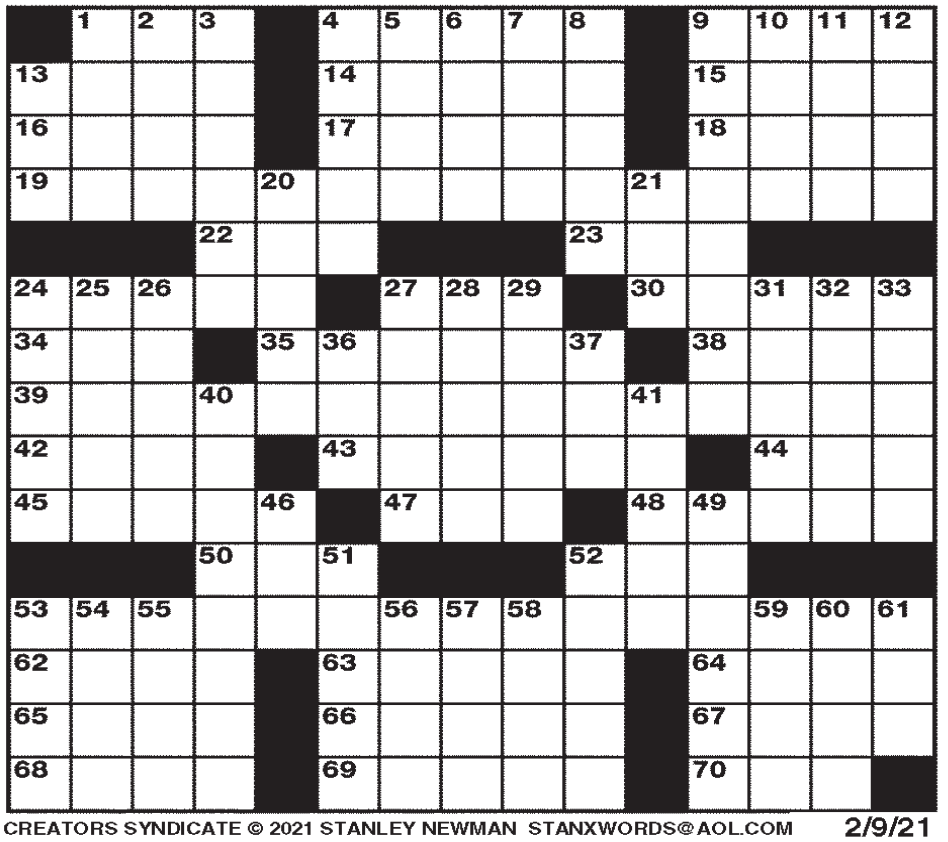
3		5	7			4		
			6					3
4		6		2		5		
				1		8		6
	5		3		7		1	
6		1		9				
		3		7		9		4
5					2			
		2			9	1		5

Newsday Crossword

FIGHTING WORDS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Tablet for writing
4 Highly decorative
9 Car's __-view mirror
13 Nonspeaking street performer
14 "Welcome to Hawaii!"
15 Lighten, as a burden
16 Dating from
17 Unemotional
18 Play's opening
19 Face adversity bravely
22 Morning hrs.
23 Body art, for short
24 Green pasta sauce
27 Opposite of post-
30 Chart showing the 50 states
34 Before, in poetry
35 Tasting like apples or peaches
38 Voice quality
39 Now defeated, informally
42 Creative spark
43 Inhalation
44 Cashew or pecan
45 Bring a meal to
47 Nine-digit ID
48 In a strange way
50 "Absolutely!"
52 NNW opposite
53 Attack unfairly
62 And others: Abbr.
63 Nebraska's biggest city
64 Square footage
65 Human rights org.
66 Covered with asphalt
67 Sharp flavor
68 "My country, 'tis of __"
69 Foe
70 Superlative ending

DOWN
1 Leaning Tower city
2 Run __ (go wild)
3 Sports team's loss
4 Abstains from eating
5 Low female voice
6 When morning ends
7 IOU
8 Expensive pleasure boat
9 Gives feedback about
10 Per person
11 __ spumante wine
12 Horse rider's strap
13 Yoga surface
20 "Time for me to go"
21 __ de Cologne
24 Toenail treatments, for short
25 Eat away at
26 Needle-and-thread worker
27 Contented cat sounds
28 Solemn ceremonies
29 Actor Hawke
31 Small hill
32 Declare void
33 Small-minded
36 Steal from
37 So far
40 Color for a sailor suit
41 Selected
46 Wide shoe width
49 Argue the issues
51 Skiing surface
52 Shielded from the sun
53 What ovens provide
54 Urge to scratch
55 "Tall" story
56 Neighbor of Yemen
57 Surfing surface
58 Those folks
59 Periods of history
60 Gave temporarily
61 Price label



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Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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



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

Locally owned, and committed to local news reporting since 2001.

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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 12 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5019

At the races

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

Accomplice	Bridle	Gait	Malua	Show
Applause	Brumby	Gate	Mane	Silks
Arab	Cart	Grey	Mare	Sire
Archer	Clap	Hack	Media	Slow
Ascot	Club	Hats	Puzzle	Sore
Baghdad	Delta	Hock	Mount	Star
Bale	Draw	Injury	Neigh	Tote
Beach	Enjoy	Kingston	Odds	Trot
Bolt	Evens	Rule	Pace	Trust
Bravo	Fall	Lame	Pinto	Turf
Breed	Foal	Losses	Polo	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Hot and humid

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SURF

FROM PAGE 1

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in May. Following their adoption, world governments will work with non-profit and indigenous group partners to establish marine protected areas (MPAs) around biodiversity hotspots.

"MPAs are a proven solution that reduce stress on fish stocks, and build resilience in critical habitat," said Pacheco. "Protecting important areas—like coral reefs, seagrass beds, or the breeding areas of endangered species and fish we rely on for food—will allow the ocean to continue to sustain us and help everything living in it adapt better to climate change."

Members of the public are encouraged to sign the petition at weareoneocean.org, and follow the instructions to reach out to their UN ambassador, and if they are a US citizen, their state governor.

In order to ramp up campaign support and awareness of the upcoming convention, the World Surf League is hosting a series of online events, including a conversation with writer Siraad Dirshe and Leah Thomas, founder of Intersectional Environmentalist, and a charcoal wave drawing lesson with Championship Tour surfer Courtney Conlogue.

On Tuesday the WSL is launching a virtual series sharing the stories of six famous surfers, scientists, and environmentalists, who will explain their connection to the ocean and motivation for signing the petition. Reigning



Courtesy photo

OCEAN: The WSL is launching a series of virtual talks.

WSL champion Italo Ferreira is an outspoken supporter of the campaign and will be sharing his journey and deep love of the ocean.

While these events will be streamed to surfers and environmentalists across the globe, many of these programs are organized right from Santa Monica, where the World Surf League is headquartered.

"It's great to be part of a community with shared values, and a respect for our planet," said Pacheco. "Whether it's progressive legislation on single-use plastic, or collaboration with great local organizations like Heal The Bay and Surfrider Foundation LA, we appreciate being able to learn from and work with the community toward keeping Santa Monica so beautiful."

Clara@smdp.com

VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1

While 18 percent of the white and Asian population aged 65 and over had received at least one dose by Feb 4, this number was only 7.2 percent for Black residents and 14.3 percent for Latino residents.

"The inequities we saw with respect to cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have been reflected so far in the vaccine administration. This is completely unacceptable," said County Supervisor Hilda Solis.

The L.A. County Department of Public Health is tackling this problem by addressing access to vaccination sites and building trust in minority communities.

Starting next week mobile teams will bring vaccinations directly to government run homeless encampments, senior housing developments, and senior centers in LA's hardest hit communities.

"We think that this model will help address the issue of mobility and access once we scale up these teams," said Solis. "Equity is not just a buzzword — It must be a central tenant to the way we make policy and deliver our services."

The County is also bringing more vaccination sites into the hardest hit communities, including a new federal community vaccination center at Cal State Los Angeles, which will open on Feb. 16.

"You will also have community health workers in highly impacted communities, who at times may be going block-by-block to provide information to residents about how to get vaccinated to help them sign up, and to dispel myths and misinformation about the vaccine," said LACDPH Director, Barbara Ferrer.

Health officials said vaccine supply continues to be the biggest constraint on distribution, but expressed hope that this will improve in the coming weeks. Currently, there are no more appointments this week available for first doses as 55 percent of this week's shipment is reserved for second doses.

As of Feb. 1, the County had received more than 1.2 million doses and administered more than 1 million — reflecting an approximately 82 percent rate of vaccination.

According to Ferrer, vaccination of education and childcare workers, food and agriculture workers, emergency responders and law enforcement officers will begin in a couple weeks.

Despite pressure from LAUSD superintendent Superintendent Austin Beutner to guarantee 25,000 doses for teachers and staff to reopen elementary schools, Ferrer said LACDPH will not make commitments to any district until they know what future vaccine allocations are.

County case counts are predicted to reach the threshold to allow for elementary schools to reopen in the next few weeks as the surge continues to abate.

The seven day average of daily cases has dropped by 77 percent since peaking at over 15,000 on Jan. 8. On Monday, the County reported 2741 new cases and a seven day average of just under 5,000.

Deaths and hospitalizations are also declining.

There was a 42 percent decrease in daily hospitalizations from over 8000 in early January to 4608 on Feb 2. Daily death counts decreased by 44 percent from the beginning of January to the end of the month, but still often reach over 200 a day.

Officials called on all residents to remain vigilant and continue abiding by the health regulations to ensure these numbers don't rise again, especially given the risk posed by more contagious variants.

Clara@smdp.com

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA SOCIAL SERIVCES COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

SUBJECT: **To Inform Development of the FY 2021-22 Action Plan for use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) funds**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive community input to inform the development of the 2021-22 Action Plan, which must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at least 45 days prior to the beginning of the new program year. The Annual Action Plan delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds to address the City's housing and community development high-priority needs as specified in the Council-adopted 2021-24 Consolidated Plan, which can be viewed at: www.smgov.net/ccsgrants.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 AT 4:00 PM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Social Services Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference using the City's BlueJeans platform. Instructions for joining the teleconference via video or phone will be included in the meeting agenda once it posts. The agenda will be available at www.smgov.net/ssc and posted at the front door of City Hall at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to provide written public comment may submit comments via email to humanservices@smgov.net. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Social Services Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments. Verbal public comment can be made by joining the BlueJeans meeting according to the instructions included in the agenda posted at www.smgov.net/ssc.

ACCOMODATIONS: For disability-related accommodations, please contact the Housing and Human Services Division at (310) 458-8701 or humanservices@smgov.net at least three days prior to the scheduled meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es un aviso de audiencia pública para invitar a cualquier parte interesada a participar en la preparación del Plan de Acción Anual del Año Fiscal 2021-22. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Ivy Chang en la División de Vivienda y Servicios Humanos al número (310) 458-8701.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

#1 IN TRANSFERS



Classes start
February 16
smc.edu/spring

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

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