smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

FRIDAY
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City Hall open to the public



Emily Sawicki

OPEN: The doors of Santa Monica's iconic City Hall have reopened after extended Covid closures.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Hall is back open to the public, with the City Clerk, City Attorney, Rent Control, and City Manager's Office counters, plus passport services and other offices open once again.

City Hall has been largely closed since March 2020, when state and county regulations designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 caused the City to close non-essential areas of the historic building.

Staff and elected officials who spoke to the Daily Press said they were excited to be back in person, with staff attendance at City Hall expected to slowly ramp up in the coming weeks as employees re-adjust to working out of the office once again.

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, Santa Monica City Council met at City Hall once again, although members of the public are still only able to attend meetings virtually for the time being.

SEE **CITY HALL** PAGE 7

Samohi wins JPL Ocean Science Bowl



Courtesy image

CHAMPS: The Samohi team is a dynasty in the competition.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Five talented Samohi science experts are basking in the glow of victory this week after earning top marks at last weekend's regional Ocean Sciences Bowl tournament — called the Los Angeles Surf Bowl — hosted by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) at CalTech.

The winners of the Feb. 5 Surf Bowl will now go on to compete with students from around the country at the national championship in May. Both the Surf Bowl and the national tournament are being held remotely this year due to the pandemic.

The students, representing the sophomore, junior and senior classes at Samohi, beat out teams from seven other schools from Los

SEE **SURF BOWL** PAGE 11

Council rejects a vaccine mandate for indoor businesses

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

When presented with a study session on a potential vaccine mandate for indoor businesses, City Councilmembers agreed with staff that such a measure is not necessary at this time.

Such a mandate would be similar to those already in place in the cities of Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Culver City, which require proof of vaccination to enter indoor restaurants, gyms, entertainment venues and personal care services. All cities, including Santa Monica, must follow the County's indoor vaccine mandate for bars, nightclubs and lounges.

Chief Resilience Officer Lindsay Call, who delivered the staff presentation, said that an expanded mandate is not recommended for several key reasons — vaccination rates are already very high in Santa Monica, there is a lack of data indicating similar policies have been effective in combating COVID-19 and the County Public Health Department has not deemed it necessary.

Councilmembers agreed with these conclusions and recommended that instead of forcing more indoor businesses to implement a vaccine mandate, the City focuses on calling attention to the businesses that voluntarily choose to do so.

"I think we should be highlighting those restaurants and those businesses that are checking

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 3


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Most vulnerable still in jeopardy as COVID precautions ease

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

Two years into the pandemic Jackie Hansen still left home only for doctor visits, her immune system so wrecked by cancer and lupus that COVID-19 vaccinations couldn't take hold.

Then Hansen got a reprieve — scarce doses of the first drug that promises six months of protection for people with no other way to fend off the virus.

"This is a shot of life," Hansen said after getting injections of Evusheld at a University of Pittsburgh Medical Center clinic. She can't wait to "hug my grandkids without fear."

Up to 7 million immune-compromised Americans have been left behind in the nation's wobbly efforts to get back to normal. A weak immune system simply can't rev up to fight the virus after vaccination like a healthy one does. Not only do these fragile patients remain at high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19, they can harbor lengthy infections that can help spark still more variants.

With more of the country now abandoning masks and other precautions as the omicron wave ebbs, how to keep this forgotten group protected is taking on new urgency.

This is "quickly transitioning into an epidemic of the vulnerable," said Dr. Jacob Lemieux, an infectious disease specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital. While healthy vaccinated people may return to pre-pandemic activities with little worry about severe consequences, "the immunocompromised -- despite vaccination, despite taking all precautions -- cannot, and remain at risk."

"We're going to have to navigate this as a society and it's going to be a really difficult societal conversation," he added.

Indeed, amid all the talk about omicron being less severe for many people, the most contagious variant so far laid bare how the immune-compromised need more defenses.

"The pandemic has not spared them yet," said Dr. Ghady Haidar, an infectious disease specialist at UPMC, where people hospitalized with serious COVID-19 over the past month have been a mix of the immune-compromised and the unvaccinated.

Hansen, a retired nurse, has had to have tough conversations about why she can't be around anyone who's not vaccinated.

"Other people's behaviors really affect and jeopardize the lives of people like myself," said Hansen, who nearly died from the flu shortly before the pandemic began.

"We're all tired of wearing a mask, everybody just wants to put it behind us," Hansen said. But while for most people "'it's an annoyance to put a mask on to go to the grocery store," she's had to fight to get her cancer care scheduled during COVID-19 surges.

There aren't many options for the immune-compromised as community-wide COVID-19 precautions wane. Health authorities are pushing a fourth vaccine dose for these vulnerable patients, since some get at least a little protection from repeat vaccinations. The immune-compromised are supposed to get three up-front doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines followed by a booster, one more shot than the U.S. recommends for everyone else.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also is considering if the immune-compromised need their booster a little sooner -- three months after their last shot rather than five months.

But many patients are anxiously awaiting AstraZeneca's Evusheld, the first set of antibodies grown in a lab to prevent COVID-19 -- rather than treat it -- in people who can't make their own virus-fighters. Evusheld contains two types of antibodies, given in two shots at the same appointment, that are expected to last for six months.

The problem: There's not nearly enough to go around. A federal database shows nearly 500,000 of the 1.2 million doses the government has purchased have been distributed, and an AstraZeneca spokesperson says the rest should arrive before April.

Without enough for everyone deemed immune-compromised, many hospitals used a lottery system to dispense doses to their highest-risk patients -- and no one knows what will happen later in the year when those people need another dose.

A study found Evusheld cut by 77% the chances of a COVID-19 infection, although that was before omicron appeared.

While that's not perfect protection, one organ transplant recipient credits his Evusheld dose with preventing him from becoming seriously ill.

Just getting to the Evusheld appointment at a University of Washington clinic in Seattle, over an hour from his home, made Ray Hoffman nervous. He takes strong immune-suppressing drugs after recent liver and kidney transplants and never ventures out without his mask — but wound up with a masked but coughing cab driver. The next day Hoffman developed cold-like symptoms that turned out to be mild COVID-19, and his worried doctors told him the protective antibody injections likely made the difference.

"I'm just really happy that, fortunately for me, it was just a couple of days of feeling pretty bad and then that was the worst of it," he said.

As long as Evusheld helps weakened patients avoid a severe infection, "that is definitely a win," said UPMC's Haidar. "I'm cautiously optimistic."

Hansen, the suburban Pittsburgh patient, knows she can't completely let down her guard but says Evusheld has eased her crippling fear.

"Maybe I can go out for lunch, maybe my husband and I can go do something instead of just sitting here in the house," she said. "This drug needs to be made more available. It's a great victory for me but until everybody else that's compromised gets it, it's hard for me to celebrate."

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

EXPLAINER: Why US inflation is so high, and when it may ease

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

Last year, it was a nasty surprise. And it wasn't supposed to last. But now, inflation has become an ongoing financial strain for millions of Americans filling up at the gas station, lined up at a grocery checkout lane, shopping for clothes, bargaining for a car or paying monthly rent.

For the 12 months ending in January, inflation amounted to 7.5% — the fastest year-over-year pace since 1982 — the Labor Department said Thursday. Even if you toss out volatile food and energy prices, so-called core inflation jumped 6% over the past year. That was also the sharpest such jump in four decades.

Consumers felt the price squeeze in everyday routines. Over the past year, prices rose 41% for used cars and trucks, 40% for gasoline, 18% for bacon, 14% for bedroom furniture, 11% for women's dresses.

The Federal Reserve didn't anticipate an inflation wave this severe or this persistent. In December 2020, the Fed's policymakers had forecast that consumer inflation would stay below their 2% annual target and end 2021 at around 1.8%.

But after having been an economic afterthought for decades, high inflation reasserted itself last year with brutal speed. In February 2021, the government's consumer price index was running just 1.7% ahead of its level a year earlier. From there, the year-over-year price increases accelerated steadily — 2.7% in March, 4.2% in April, 4.9% in May, 5.3% in June.

By October, the figure was 6.2%, by November 6.8%, by December 7.1%.

For months, Fed Chair Jerome Powell and others characterized higher consumer prices as merely a "transitory" problem — the result, mainly, of shipping delays and temporary shortages of supplies and workers as the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession much faster than anyone had anticipated.

Now, many economists expect consumer inflation to remain elevated well into this year, with demand outstripping supplies in numerous areas of the economy.

"Inflation remains the single largest near-term challenge to the economy," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer at Plante Moran Financial Advisors. "Although price pressures are expected to ease as the year progresses, inflation will remain above the Fed's 2% target for some time to come."

So the Fed has radically changed course. Last month, the central bank signaled that it will begin a series of rate hikes in March. By doing so, the Fed is moving away from the super-low rates that helped revive the economy from 2020's devastating pandemic recession but that also helped fuel surging consumer prices.

WHAT'S CAUSED THE SPIKE IN INFLATION?

Good news — mostly. When the pandemic paralyzed the economy in the spring of 2020 and lockdowns kicked in, businesses closed or cut hours and consumers stayed home as a health precaution, employers slashed a breathtaking 22 million jobs. Economic output plunged at a record-shattering 31% annual rate in 2020's April-June quarter.

Everyone braced for more misery. Companies cut investment and postponed restocking. A brutal recession ensued.

But instead of sinking into a prolonged downturn, the economy staged an unexpectedly rousing recovery, fueled by vast infusions of government aid and emergency intervention by the Fed, which slashed interest rates, among other things. By spring of last year, the rollout of vaccines had emboldened consumers to return to restaurants, bars, shops and airports.

Suddenly, businesses had to scramble to meet demand. They couldn't hire fast enough to fill job openings — a near record 10.9 million in December — or buy enough supplies to meet customer orders. As business roared back, ports and freight yards couldn't handle the traffic. Global supply chains became seized up.

With demand up and supplies down, costs rose. And companies found that they could pass along those higher costs in the form of higher prices to consumers, many of whom had managed to sock away a ton of savings during the pandemic.

But critics, including former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, blamed in part President Joe Biden's $1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, with its $1,400 checks to most households, for overheating an economy that was already sizzling on its own.

The Fed and the federal government had feared an agonizingly slow recovery like the one that followed the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

Elevated consumer price inflation will likely endure as long as companies struggle to keep up with consumers' demand for goods and services. A recovering job market — employers added a record 6.7 million jobs last year and tacked on 467,000 more in January — means that many Americans can continue to splurge on everything from lawn furniture to electronics.

Many economists foresee inflation staying well above the Fed's 2% target this year. But relief from higher prices might be coming. Jammed-up supply chains are beginning to show some signs of improvement, at least in some industries. The Fed's sharp pivot away from easy-money policies toward a more hawkish, anti-inflationary policy could slow the economy and reduce consumer demand. There will be no repeat of last year's COVID relief checks from Washington.

Inflation itself is eating into household purchasing power and might force some consumers to shave back spending.

Omicron or other COVID' variants could cloud the outlook, either by causing outbreaks that force factories and ports to close and disrupt supply chains even more or by keeping people home and reducing demand for goods.

"It's not going to be an easy climb down," said Sarah House, senior economist at Wells Fargo. "We're expecting CPI to still be roughly 4% at the end of this year. That's still well above what the Fed would like it to be and, of

SEE **INFLATION** PAGE 4

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 322 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 9

Loud Music 1500Blk Broadway 12:22 a.m.
Armed Robbery Report 600Blk Lincoln Blvd 1:12 a.m.
Arson 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 2:36 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600Blk Colorado Ave 2:55 a.m.
Loud Music 900Blk 24th St 3:01 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Report 7th St / Olympic Blvd W 3:38 a.m.
Public Intoxication 1400Blk Ocean Ave 4:14 a.m.
Burglary Report 2500Blk Main St 6:05 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries N/B 405 / S/O Wilshire 6:06 a.m.
Encampment 2900Blk The Beach 6:35 a.m.
Burglary Report 3200Blk Highland Ave 7:39 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1900Blk 20th St 8:18 a.m.
Expired Registration 1400Blk 9th St 8:21 a.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 16th St 8:27 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk 6th St 8:30 a.m.
Encampment 1900Blk Main St 8:40 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Interstate 10 / 4th St 8:42 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:42 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 200Blk Bay St 8:43 a.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 1400Blk 4th St 8:51 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:03 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1200Blk 16th St 9:06 a.m.
Person Down Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 9:14 a.m.
Encampment 900Blk Palisades Park 9:32 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1100Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:52 a.m.
Encampment 200Blk Palisades Park 10:03 a.m.
Drinking In Public 1200Blk 14th St 10:16 a.m.
Encampment Harvard St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:58 a.m.
Fraud Report 1300Blk 17th St 11:02 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500Blk Harvard St 11:08 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 2800Blk Exposition Blvd 11:14 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 3000Blk Exposition Blvd 11:22 a.m.
Fight 1800Blk 18th St 11:24 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000Blk 14th St 11:25 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2400Blk Ocean Front Walk 11:26 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1600Blk 5th St 11:32 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2200Blk Main St 11:38 a.m.
Battery Report 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 11:52 a.m.
Encampment 1500Blk 26th St 12:01 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800Blk 10th St 12:03 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 500Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:16 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 800Blk Euclid St 12:35 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 1600Blk The Beach 12:37 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:39 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2800Blk The Beach 12:47 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000Blk 14th St 12:49 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2700Blk Lincoln Blvd 1:03 p.m.
Battery Now 3100Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:28 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1200Blk 26th St 1:36 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1000Blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:58 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 3100Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:59 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 2:02 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Report 4600Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:03 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:07 p.m.
Elder Abuse 2800Blk Neilson Way 2:14 p.m.
Elder Abuse 1500Blk 5th St 2:15 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 7th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:15 p.m.
Fraud Report 2400Blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:17 p.m.
Missing Person 2500Blk Virginia Ave 2:20 p.m.
Arson 1800Blk 20th St 2:34 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:45 p.m.
Burglary Report 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 2:50 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 2:52 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 300Blk Olympic Dr 3:11 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 21st St / Broadway 3:29 p.m.
Lewd Activity 400Blk Colorado Ave 3:32 p.m.
Rape Report 800Blk Ocean Ave 3:37 p.m.
Burglary Report 1100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:49 p.m.
Fraud Report 1300Blk 17th St 4:04 p.m.
Rape Report 800Blk Ocean Ave 4:04 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1000Blk Pier Ave 4:05 p.m.
Burglary Report 800Blk 2nd St 4:08 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1600Blk Ocean Ave 4:19 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1200Blk 26th St 4:29 p.m.
Identity Theft 1800Blk California Ave 4:36 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2500Blk Michigan Ave 4:46 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 600Blk Hill St 4:52 p.m.
Identity Theft 1800Blk 7th St 5:01 p.m.
Expired Registration 1100Blk 4th St 5:07 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1400Blk 9th St 5:11 p.m.
Fraud Report 800Blk 19th St 5:13 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:40 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2800Blk Arizona Ave 6:03 p.m.
Illegal Weapon 5th St / Broadway 6:04 p.m.
Burglary Report 1500Blk 6th St 6:11 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 300Blk Idaho Ave 6:25 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2000Blk Arizona Ave 6:27 p.m.
Loud Music 3300Blk Barnard Way 6:35 p.m.
Burglary Report 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 6:43 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800Blk 5th St 6:44 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2000Blk Arizona Ave 7:17 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 5th St / Broadway 7:53 p.m.
Elder Abuse 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:06 p.m.
Fight 700Blk Navy St 9:05 p.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 2600Blk Washington Ave 9:09 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Stewart St / Olympic Blvd 9:50 p.m.
Child Abuse 1100Blk Pico Blvd 10:52 p.m.
Battery 2000Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:32 p.m.
Battery Report 1300Blk 20th St 11:44 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 52 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 9

EMS 400Blk Expo Line 12:10 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:14 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:24 a.m.
EMS 2100Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:58 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 15th St 5:32 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 2nd St 6:31 a.m.
EMS 16th St / Arizona Ave 7:11 a.m.
Hydrant Leak 20th St / Pearl St 7:19 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 300Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:38 a.m.
EMS 900Blk Ocean Ave 8:04 a.m.
EMS 900Blk Michigan Ave 8:05 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk Ocean Ave 8:50 a.m.
EMS 2200Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:51 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:04 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 2nd St 9:12 a.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 9:14 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 26th St 9:52 a.m.
EMS 1800Blk 10th St 10:12 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 3rd St 10:41 a.m.
EMS 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 10:50 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 4th St 10:52 a.m.
EMS 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:42 a.m.
EMS Stanford St / Wilshire Blvd 12:56 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Pico Blvd 1:01 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Pico Blvd 2:02 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 2:21 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1800Blk 20th St 2:35 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 2:52 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 9th St 2:56 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk 32nd St 3:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:12 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 21st St / Broadway 3:33 p.m.
EMS 700Blk Raymond Ave 3:49 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk Centinela Ave 4:25 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1300Blk 2nd St 4:36 p.m.
EMS 700Blk Raymond Ave 4:45 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1600Blk Franklin St 5:12 p.m.
EMS 600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:34 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 5th St 7:06 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 800Blk 2nd St 7:08 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 7:13 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Pico Blvd 7:21 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 7:30 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Broadway 7:47 p.m.
Flooded Condition Neilson Way / Ocean Park Blvd 8:13 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1200Blk Euclid St 9:30 p.m.
Broken Water Main 1400Blk 2nd St 9:43 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 10:14 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 3rd St 10:18 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 24th St 10:24 p.m.
EMS 2100Blk Oak St 10:33 p.m.
EMS 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:37 p.m.

VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1

vaccines. I 100 percent agree with it because someone like me, who is a cancer survivor and had a stem cell transplant, would not be going to a restaurant that's not checked," said Mayor Sue Himmelrich.

Public opposition to a potential mandate was strong with many residents calling into the meeting or submitting written comment and a group of protesters gathering outside Council chambers and chanting "no vax passport."

"I strongly oppose the proposed vaccine mandate for restaurants, movie theaters, and other indoor businesses for the following reasons: They are unnecessary; they are ineffective, and they are detrimental to the Santa Monica economy," stated resident Mary Duprey in written public comment. "Our economy depends in large part upon our small businesses. We should do all that we can to not only keep them afloat, but to help them thrive. In the end, I feel that it should be up to the individual businesses and the individual residents to take whatever actions they deem to be the most appropriate."

Councilmember de la Torre did not think a mandate was a good idea and said that it was important to respect the decision of people who do not receive vaccines.

"I feel that, you know, there are constitutional rights in terms of people's medical choice," said de la Torre. "I think in some cases, you know, where people have real concerns, you know, whether it's religious exemptions or medical exemptions, that we also allow for that type of choice for individuals to choose."

In Santa Monica, where 91 percent of the eligible population has received at least one vaccine dose—compared to a Countywide average of 81 percent—such people are in the firm minority.

As motivating people to get vaccinated is one of the main goals of indoor vaccine mandates, Call cited Santa Monica's high vaccination rate as a reason the mandate is unnecessary.

The other main goal of indoor vaccine mandates is to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and in turn the number of hospitalizations and deaths. According to the staff report, there is no evidence this has been the outcome in cities that have chosen to implement vaccine mandates for indoor business.

At the height of the Omicron surge, Santa Monica's seven day adjusted case rate of 1,668 was comparable to those of Culver City and West Hollywood, which were 1,659 and 1,637 respectively.

The staff report did outline thresholds for when City Council would be advised to reevaluate an indoor vaccine mandate. These include if the definition of fully vaccinated changes to include a boost shot and Santa Monica's associated vaccination rate is below 80 percent; if the County Department of Public Health expands its indoor vaccination requirement in response to data suggesting this would reduce COVID spread or increase vaccination rates; or if there is a surge of a new variant that shows increased susceptibility to vaccines.

Clara@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.

Officials are asking residents to be aware of a suspicious man lurking around Santa Monica schools. The man has been reported as speaking to pre-teen and teenage girls after school outside several campuses. The man is known to local law enforcement, however, had not been seen during the pandemic, until now. He typically engages girls in conversation, makes comments and has been seen taking photos of girls. In the past, he has followed female students on foot. The man is described as: early 70s, Hispanic, 6'0", 210 lbs, gray hair, brown eyes, possible goatee. It is possible that he may be driving a white vehicle. Make and model unknown at this time. Residents and students are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings when walking to and from school, and at all times. Officials recommend that girls walk in pairs or groups, when possible. If anyone witnesses unusual behavior by anyone, please contact SMPD at (310) 458-8491 or We Tip: https://www.wetip.com/submit-a-tip/.

Letter to the Editor

Alan Toy — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hmm, let me see here … You have several leaks about confidential hiring considerations, apparently originating from a member of the City Council, in repeated violation of the Brown Act. A Council member calls for an investigation of those leaks to determine who might have been responsible. A couple of Councilmembers vociferously express their "outrage" at such an investigation, citing the great expenses involved and the divisiveness of such an inquiry. Another Councilmember votes with them to stop the investigation. All of those three Councilmembers were part of a "slate," elected to allegedly rout out corruption in the City Council. I guess the joke is on whoever voted for them.

Alan Toy, Santa Monica

INFLATION

FROM PAGE 2

course, well above what consumers are used to seeing."

HOW ARE HIGHER PRICES AFFECTING CONSUMERS?

A strong job market is boosting wages, though not enough to compensate for higher prices. The Labor Department says that hourly earnings for all private-sector employees fell 1.7% last month from a year earlier after accounting for higher consumer prices. But there are exceptions: After-inflation wages were up more than 10% for hotel workers and more than 7% for restaurant and bar employees in December from a year earlier.

Partisan politics also colors the way Americans view the inflation threat. With a Democrat in the White House, Republicans were nearly three times as likely as Democrats (45% versus 16%) to say that inflation is having a negative effect last month on their personal finances, according to a University of Michigan survey.

Legacy grant provides $2 million to Los Angeles communities

Associated Press

A $2 million grant is being provided to Los Angeles communities through funding from the NFL Foundation, the Los Angeles Super Bowl Host Committee, the LA84 Foundation, and the Play Equity Fund.

Each grant will support the Champions Live Here initiative, which has shined a spotlight on the achievements of 56 local organizations focusing their work on youth development, jobs and economic opportunity, and social justice.

The Legacy Program has awarded each of the selected organizations a $10,000 grant; a professionally produced vignette-style video spotlighting the organization; and supplied recognition for their work in the lead-up to the Super Bowl. Six of these 56 organizations were selected in December to each receive a total grant award of $50,000 to make an even bigger impact in their community.

"The Super Bowl 56 Legacy Program will expand the work of a variety of partners who are committed to finding solutions to the challenges that exist for kids in under-resourced communities," said Renata Simril, president and CEO of the LA84 Foundation. "These are challenges every city faces, but they aren't insurmountable if we work together. The NFL has dedicated resources to support unsung heroes who are making the Los Angeles region better, and is shining a spotlight on their work to inspire others to join in. This partnership will bring play and sports to neighborhoods where kids don't have the chance to play, to address the play equity gap and make these young lives better. That's the real legacy of Super Bowl 56."

NFL WIVES

Off the Field, the official NFL players' wives association, and Hall of Fame Health are partnering to help with health care for families.

Hall of Fame Health, which launched two years ago, seeks to bring world-class health care solutions and services to those in the football community. Its focus is not only on former players but on wives, children and other family members or dependents.

A 16-year-old organization, OTF seeks to empower its more than 12,000 members nationwide by creating opportunities to impact communities across the United States through philanthropic endeavors that focus on families.

"This may be the most important relationship we will ever form," said Jeremy Hogue, CEO of Hall of Fame Health. "These are strong women, and like most women across the country, they typically make the decisions regarding health care in their homes. They ensure their husbands get the care they need and their kids get the care they need. We want to support them and make that process easier, and also make sure they don't sacrifice themselves in the process, and get the care they need as well."

Hall of Fame Health offers a concierge service; partnerships with health systems and medical groups; assistance on insurance and benefit issues; and a comprehensive behavioral health network with providers across all levels of care.

"I'm looking forward to this much-needed partnership to ensure NFL wives are getting the most value from our benefits," said Rachel McKenzie, OTF president and wife of 11-year NFL veteran Mike McKenzie. "Together, we will help reduce time spent with the intricacies of disability benefits and much more."

CLOSE CALLS

Green Bay coach Matt LaFleur is the repeat winner of the EdjSports Coach of the Year award.

The analytics company ranks coaches based on how they handle fourth-down calls and other decisions with its Critical Calls Index, as well as a power ranking of the performance by teams to come up with a season-long ranking.

LaFleur ranked eighth in the Critical Call Index and third in the power ranking to claim the top overall spot ahead of Indianapolis' Frank Reich. The only other coaches to finish in the top 10 in both categories were Reich, Kansas City's Andy Reid and Buffalo's Sean McDermott.

Chargers first-year coach Brandon Staley got the top spot in the Critical Calls Index after his aggressive season going for it on fourth downs.

The two Super Bowl coaches came in further down the list, the Rams' Sean McVay ranking 14th overall and Cincinnati's Zac Taylor 19th.

LACES OUT

The shoe laces Los Angeles Rams running back Sony Michel will wear in Sunday's game will be donated to be made into two bracelets.

Rastaclat founder Daniel Kasidi will make the bracelets. One will be given to Michel and the other will be auctioned off, with proceeds benefiting the Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club.

"I am excited to partner with Rastaclat and give back to the Los Angeles community in a cool and creative way," Michel said in a statement. "It is incredible that Rastaclat changes something as simple as my football cleat laces into a work of art. I am looking forward to a great partnership with the company."

Michel is averaging eight carries in the Rams' three postseason games.

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AWARD WINNER

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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WINNER

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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Transparency Project

Mary Marlow
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Very Bad Deal for Residents and the City – Part 1

Even if you don't live south of the 10 freeway, you will want to mark your calendar for Thursday, February 17, at 7 p.m. to listen and give input at a developer-led community meeting on the largest new housing project since the 1960's on Lincoln and Ocean Park Blvd (Gelson's site).

Here's the ZOOM meeting link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82892453793

The Transparency Project is bringing the sunshine of public scrutiny to a bad deal for the neighborhood and the city. This February 17 meeting is a city ordered redo of a botched, community process last month when neither adjacent neighborhood association (Friends of Sunset Park, Ocean Park Association) was given the courtesy of notice.

The developer team scheduled the January meeting, learned it conflicted with a City Council meeting at the same time, refused to reschedule it after concerns were raised, and unreasonably restricted public participation to 100 people despite knowing there was widespread interest. Predictably, many people who tried to participate were excluded, and they complained to city officials.

THE PROPOSED DEAL

The developer, Sanmon, Inc., has revealed plans for an 894,385 sq ft project on the site of the Gelson's lot, which would include 10 buildings, up to 5 stories/65 feet with 521 apartments, and only 10% or 53 affordable units. This would be about 60% larger than Santa Monica Place but on a much smaller site, and the plans sharply reduce neighborhood-serving retail, as discussed below.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY IMPACTS

As designed, this project will not be a center of community life. Given its minimal retail, this project will substantially increase traffic throughout the area including at Lincoln and Ocean Park Blvd., which is the second most dangerous intersection in our city in terms of fatalities and serious injuries. (Vision Zero Project report)

Building a residential project of this size and eliminating existing community-serving retail represents the failed planning practices of the past and is unsound on environmental grounds alone. It is against the goals and policies of our General Plan and specific plans, which aim to do the opposite.

STATE DENSITY HOUSING BONUS

California has enacted density bonus legislation that overrides local land-use density and zoning standards, even for charter cities like Santa Monica. A density bonus allows a mixed-use housing developer to significantly increase the number of housing units on a given site in return for including some affordable units. Sanmon Inc. is applying a 50% statewide density bonus to build an additional 173 units of mainly market rate housing even though the deal would only include 53 affordable units. This is more than 3 to 1 for bonus market rate apartments in relation to the affordable units to be built. Such a deal! That's how this project gets more than 500 units plus 2 stories taller than current zoning standards.

LOCAL CONTROL MATTERS

This proposed development is the poster child for why local control is essential. Santa Monica's had an exemplary record of continuous affordable housing production strongly supported by residents. There's Prop R, passed by Santa Monica voters in 1990, that requires 30% of all new multifamily housing in the city each year be affordable to low- and moderate income households. In 2018, voters enacted a new half a percent sales tax – half of it restricted to producing affordable housing. Still, these and other efforts reported to the state every year did not exempt us from these density housing bonuses aimed at recalcitrant cities throughout the state not doing their part to build sufficient housing.

This means that our city must adopt objective community standards, such as how many square feet a housing unit (studio up to 3-bedroom) must be for any project so that a developer cannot take advantage of density bonuses to build much larger projects than our city neighborhoods and infrastructure can handle.

CITY COUNCIL ACTS

This site wasn't included in the City's inventory of suitable sites for housing to meet Santa Monica's state-mandated housing targets. So, residents were left in the dark and didn't see it coming.

But the City is not rolling over. In addition to requiring the developer to hold an adequate community meeting on February 17, the city council recently voted to require projects of over 1 acre be subject to Development Review, not just administrative approval. This means both the public and the Planning Commission will be heard, and an appeal to the council is possible if the Planning Commission decision is disputed.

Kudos to our city council for listening to our concerns and expanding the public process. We await next steps after the community provides its input. We will do a Part 2 as that unfolds.

THIS COULD HAPPEN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighbors, look around your immediate neighborhoods and envision what large commercial sites could be targeted for huge housing projects with inadequate neighborhood retail by using state density bonuses. The Lincoln Center project eliminates the dry cleaning, UPS store, hair salon, pet store, and restaurant, leaving a scaled down grocery (about the size of a 7-Eleven) and a small cafe. Large properties such as the Pavilions on Montana, the Ralph's on Cloverfield, and the Rite Aid on Wilshire at 14th Street could also become huge, mostly market rate housing projects.

SEE **TRANSPARENCY** PAGE 11

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE
If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!
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*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
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INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
OR
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
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(310) 736-2589
WILSHIRE BLVD. 15TH ST. 14TH ST. ARIZONA AVE.
WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Super Bowl: BBQ, Beer & Betting

Sunday, the highly anticipated Super Bowl 56 will be played at Sofi Stadium in Inglewood and will mark the 8th time the most watched single game in American sports will have been held in Los Angeles. In 1967 I attended the first Super Bowl ever which was at the L.A. Coliseum with my late Aunt Amelia, a die hard Rams fan. The game featured the favored NFL Champion Green Bay Packers and the AFL Champion Kansas City Chiefs. Unfortunately it was a dull affair with the Packers winning 35-10. (Actually most Super Bowls have been dull but it never dampens the hype for the next year.)

The game at the Coliseum wasn't even called the "Super Bowl" but rather the somewhat wordy "AFL-NFL World Championship Game." The best tickets cost $12 and parking was $1 and yet one-third of the Coliseum was embarrassingly empty.

Suffice it to say, times have changed. For example, if you want to attend Super Bowl LVI at the much lauded Sofi Stadium, there's good news and bad news. The good news is tickets are still available. The bad news is they're averaging $10,000 for a great seat and $5,000 for a lousy one, almost double last year's numbers. (This according to Seat Geek's Super Bowl ticket tracker. How's that for a company name?)

Whereas parking was $1 in 1967, on Sunday parking will range from $200 to one listed right across the street from the stadium for $8,400. (It would seem infinitely cheaper and maybe more convenient to just take Uber.) For those who only want to participate in a tailgate party, that will cost $1,000 per car. #Ouch.

Instead of SOFI being one-third empty, as was the Coliseum, it's estimated Super Bowl 56 will be a sellout. As for wagering on the game in the U.S. it will surely break the previous record of $43.65 billion, set in 2019. (That's billion with a "b".)

Not surprisingly, both teams are desperately hungry for a win. The Bengals are one of only twelve NFL teams who've never won a Super Bowl, though they've been in two. Counting this one, the Rams will have been to five Super Bowls with one victory, however, that was the St. Louis Rams. Technically the Los Angeles Rams haven't won a title game since 1951 which means, unless my math is off, they've had a 71 year drought.



Courtesy image

FOOTBALL: The L.A. Rams and Cincinnati Bengals will do battle in Super Bowl LVI.

Being a lifelong Ram fan and having fond memories of going to their games with Aunt Amelia, I desperately hope L.A. finally wins. They're favored by 4 ½ points, which actually makes me nervous they could be jinxed. (Which shows how frequently losing has made me superstitious.)

The Bengals' second-year quarterback, Joe Burrow, is touted by many to be the next Tom Brady and the new face of the NFL. However, the Rams have many outstanding players including: perennial All-Pro defensive tackle Aaron Donald; outside linebacker Von Miller; corner back Jalen Ramsey; quarterback Matthew Stafford who's won three straight playoff games; and wide receivers Odell Beckham Jr. and Cooper Kupp. (Cooper's so good I was debating putting his name in the title i.e. "My Kupp Runneth Over," or "Kupp Half Full," but I could almost hear groans from my readers.)

The Super Bowl is so uniquely popular in America maybe it should be a national holiday? Before you think I'm out of my mind (which comes with being a Rams fan) keep in mind that the Cincinnati Public Schools has canceled school on Super Bowl Monday.

My theory is if something looks like a holiday and acts like a holiday why not make

SEE **LAUGHING MATTERS** PAGE 11



CITY HALL

FROM PAGE 1

"I am so looking forward to seeing my fellow Santa Monicans back in City Hall," Mayor Sue Himmelrich wrote in an email. "I urge all of you to tour our Black History Month exhibition in our lobby — it is a treat."

Some City services will still require appointments for the time being, including permit, mobility and utility services.

City leadership made the decision to reopen City Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 8, citing "COVID-19 cases decreasing in Los Angeles County and more than 84% of Santa Monica residents over the age of 12 fully vaccinated," according to a press release provided by City staff.

"We've been trying to open for a while, but following, now, the Omicron surge and seeing a couple of things in place — the community vaccination rate for people over 12 fully vaccinated is 84 percent, and I think for anyone over with at least one shot it's even over 90 percent, I believe," Christopher Smith, chief of staff in the city manager's office, said on Wednesday. "So that, combined with the fact that our we have falling case rates now so rapidly with Omicron, we determined that it was important to get City Hall open."

Public Information Coordinator Miranda Iglesias said she personally was looking forward to working out of City Hall on a more regular basis, together with her colleagues.

"It's such a wonderful feeling when we're in there," Iglesias said, adding that she was looking forward to the camaraderie among City staff returning.





Emily Sawicki

LOBBY: Visitors to the newly reopened City Hall can see a Black History Month exhibit or the soon-to-be covered murals.

Although City Hall has been closed to the public, staff adapted in 2020 and 2021 to offer a range of services, including virtual plan check review, curbside pickup at the library and the 311 program. Smith said he has been involved with 311 since its inception in March 2021.

The program helps residents and business owners navigate city services via phone, email or mobile app.

And because City Hall's reopening functions more like a dimmer switch than a light switch, Smith suggested residents continue to rely on 311 as some in-person services may be experiencing delays or short staffing in early weeks.

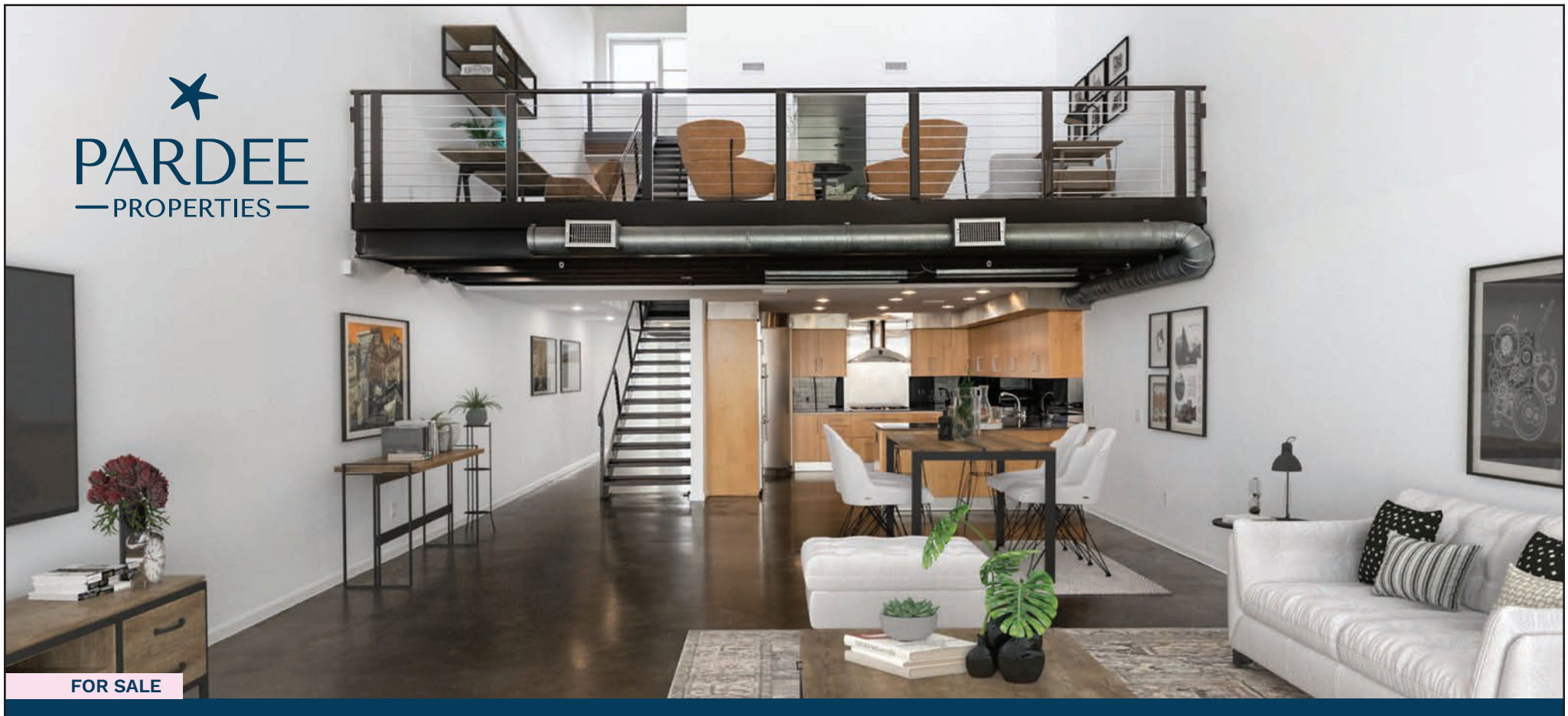
"We encourage people to work through the 311 system to get the latest," Smith said. "Right now all our services — I don't want to say they're fully back online, but you know, I think things are in a pretty good place."

More information on 311 can be found at santamonica.gov/process-explainers/santa-monica-311.

At the same time, Malibu city officials announced Thursday that Malibu City Hall was to remain closed through at least Feb. 22.

Malibu's main municipal building, which had remained open through much of the pandemic, closed to the public on Jan 4, 2022, with officials citing the highly transmissible omicron variant. That closure was initially set to be lifted on Jan 28, but it was extended twice — first, through Feb. 11, and again, through Feb. 22.

emily@smdp.com



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

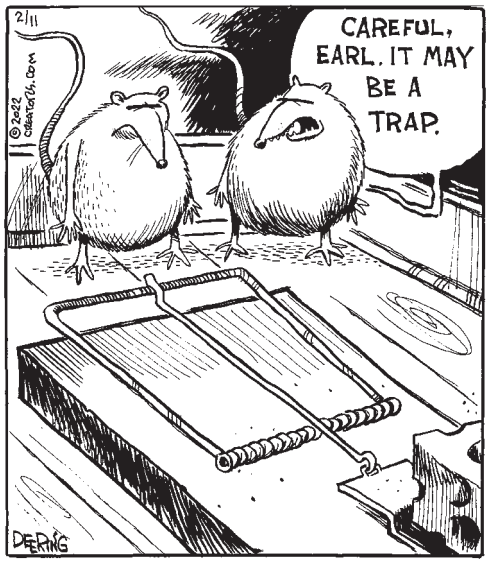
By PETER GALLAGHER



"I DIDN'T SEE HIS REPORT CARD EITHER."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.8°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
SSW swell continues -- summer focal points larger at times. Small new NW swell. Best surface conditions in the AM, mind the deep early high tide though. Summer spots do well.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft high to waist high occ. 4 ft
Lingering SSW swell, easing NW sell. Summer spots do best. Winds looking light and favorable most of the day with the best surface conditions in the AM. Mind the deep early high tide.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 79. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. South wind around 5 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 80. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2022/02/13	Sun	2:19 PM	-0.65	L
2022/02/13	Sun	8:52 PM	3.62	H
2022/02/14	Mon	01:28 AM	2.12	L
2022/02/14	Mon	07:35 AM	5.67	H
2022/02/14	Mon	2:46 PM	-0.80	L
2022/02/14	Mon	9:12 PM	3.75	H
2022/02/15	Tue	02:00 AM	1.86	L
2022/02/15	Tue	08:07 AM	5.83	H
2022/02/15	Tue	3:12 PM	-0.87	L
2022/02/15	Tue	9:34 PM	3.90	H
2022/02/16	Wed	02:33 AM	1.63	L
2022/02/16	Wed	08:39 AM	5.87	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 2/9
2 17 33 51 63
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 172 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/8
1 17 20 52 54
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 42 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 2/9
20 35 37 39 44
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 16 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/9
4 6 17 23 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/9
EVENING: 3 9 8
Draw Date: 2/9
MIDDAY: 3 0 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/9
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:47.35

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 11)

Grab the wheel if you must, but you'll find this year quite un-steerable. Handle it like an ice skid -- provide no resistance, enjoy the spin. People you meet possess rare qualities like charm, tenderness and generosity. The next five months will combine your scenes and people in unexpected and auspicious ways. Libra and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 22, 1, 27 and 5.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A common thought today: "What is wrong with them?" There are hidden but logical causes and reasons for the undesirable behaviors of others. Try and find them because they are the basis for dealing with others in a healthy manner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're gaining skills and building up desirable traits. Even so, you should never have to be a different person to succeed. In each new version you'll stay true to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have deep wells of creativity and will be drawn to those with similarly rich resources. Seek an atmosphere of support and encouragement where everyone is safe to express themselves.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As others run from responsibility, you run toward it. Work is an essential part of who you are and your need for it is more ample than your need for play or rest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Money is important, but not the most important, and certainly shouldn't have the emphasis that certain people around you seem to give it. Chasing the dollar leads to hollow victory at best. Center your goals on helping.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When guests leave your home, you see them to the door, a gesture to soothe the transition and prevent emptiness from settling into the separation. You'll metaphorically enact this lovely gesture in other settings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You allow yourself to be unserious and people relax around you. The spirit of playfulness, laughter and creativity will be your constant companions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will receive a blessing of sorts. It won't be from a religious official, and it won't happen in a formal context. You will feel the energy of this blessing open something up in you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People will have a strong need to categorize you, only because they're trying to figure out where you fit into their lives. Just don't let them define you. You define you, and that definition is ever evolving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If love is a game, this will be a prize-winning round. Hand on the buzzer, you're ready to come up with the right answer. Make your move. Don't wait to be sure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Artistic expression is stress relief. A regular creative practice will net you a calmer and more centered existence with the bonus of being masterful at your craft.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll have your choice of a few different investments. It will be better to invest in a person than it will in an object or commodity. Tonight: Fortune favors you when you express your love in actions instead of words.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

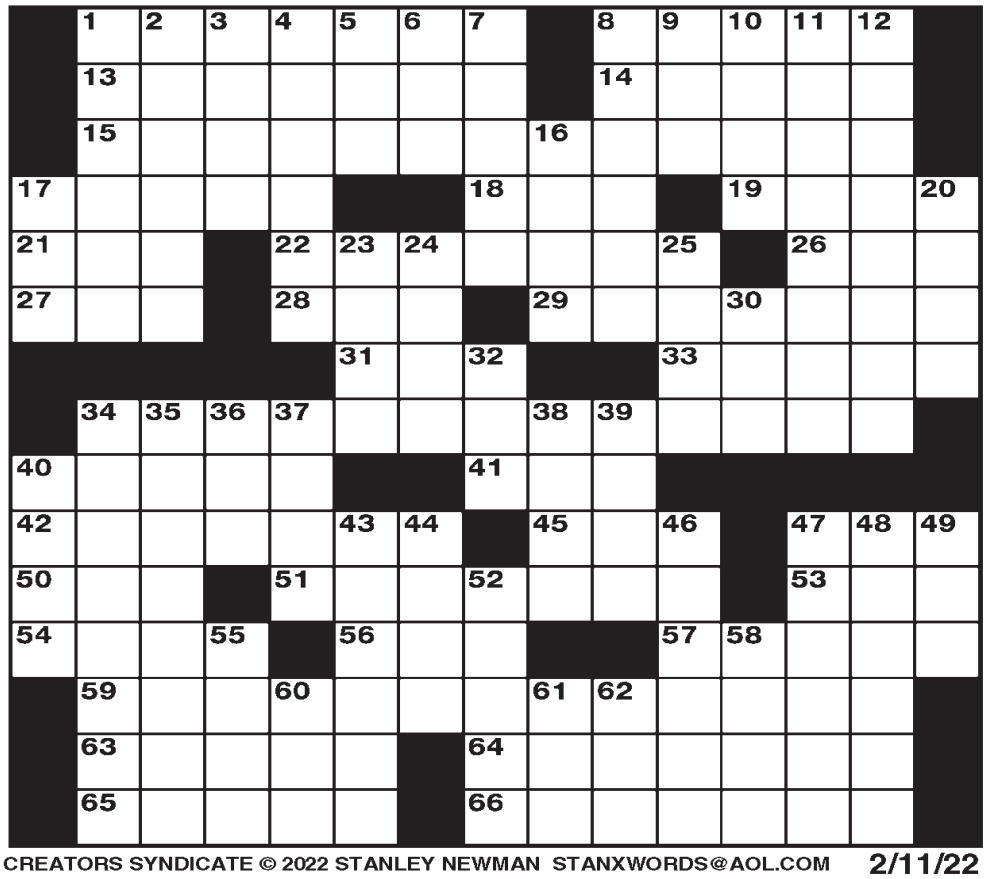
THINKING ABOUT THAWING by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Tenor's high note
8 College city near Bangor
13 Mischievous
14 Spots for spectacles
15 Start of a quote
17 *Prince and the Pauper* kid
18 One way to bid
19 Make __ in (tear)
21 Cheese sharpener
22 With 51 Across, source of quote
26 Cell phone trio
27 King of Spain
28 It can mean "modified"
29 Old-fashioned cleaner
31 Alias introducer
33 Light sprays
34 Middle of quote
40 Dovetail part
41 Word on a South Asian map
42 Brad Pitt space travel film
45 E-file destination
47 NY tech school
50 DMV ID
51 See 22 Across
53 Extremely long time
54 It touches Thailand
56 Muscle car of yore
57 With a charge, in chemistry
59 End of quote
63 Dostoyevsky title character
64 Dizzy feeling
65 What lore consists of
66 Themed toy collection

DOWN

1 Priority-setting procedure
2 Comic Dangerfield
3 Rare show-biz attainment
4 Legendary logger
5 Luminous
6 Adult ed. course
7 Fine dishes
8 Eventually
9 Go bad
10 Workplace oversight agcy.
11 Closest
12 Recurring musical fragment
16 '90s predecessor of Merkel
17 Wheels on rails
20 Small explosions
23 Ceiling support
24 Video streaming device
25 Video that's gone viral
30 Take a break
32 Certain equine
34 Promo handout
35 Giant reptile
36 SSA IDs
37 Global, for short
38 Not a big band
39 Minor miss
40 Skyscraping
43 Legal privileges
44 Start to freeze
46 In a sour mood
47 Don't follow through
48 . . . *Orient Express* sleuth
49 Entrepreneur mag
52 Postseason prize sharer
55 Make muddy
58 Vertical transportation giant
60 Adversity
61 __ Paese cheese
62 Celebrated period



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

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.

BUILD UP LOVE INTERACTIVE DISPLAY
Write down or draw something you love on a sticky note to become part of a month-long interactive display. Main Library, Lobby.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Arizona Ave. (between 2nd & 4th)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PICO FARMERS MARKET
Pico Blvd. & Cloverfield Blvd.
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SUNDAY | FEB 13

MAIN ST. FARMERS MARKET
2640 Main St. (In The Victorian Parking Lot) 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

SECOND SUNDAY JAZZ AT MT. OLIVE
Guest musicians - The Chris Dawson Nonet featuring Janice Anderson and the arrangements of Dan Barrett. At Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean Park Boulevard (14th & Ocean Park), Santa Monica. $10 suggested donation at the door. Facemasks and COVID vaccination required. Free parking. Everyone is welcome. 5 p.m.

MONDAY | FEB 14

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, HIGH
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA,90405. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY | FEB 15

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
The Missing American by Kwei Quartey. 7 to 8 p.m. Accra private investigator Emma Djan's first missing persons case will lead her to the darkest depths of the email scams and fetish priests in Ghana. To register, email library@santamonica.gov.

WEDNESDAY | FEB 16

STORYTIME: CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH
10:30 to 11 a.m. Join us at this virtual storytime! Enjoy books by black authors and illustrators. Ages 2 & up. Space is limited. Register here: https://bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps.

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson. 7 to 8:30 p.m. The Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling author of The Warmth of Other Suns examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. To register, email library@santamonica.gov

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 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 5387

Tassie travels

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

Boats
Burnie
Canoe
Coast
Cold
Cool
Cygnet
Dams
Devil
Don
Emu Bay
Fauna
Fish
Flora
Gretna
Heat
Heka
Lakes
Lilydale
Linda
Luina
Miena
Moss
Nala
Neika
Nile
Oaks
Ouse
Owls
Paper
Peak
Penna
Rail
Remote
Risks
Rugged
Safe
Seals
Snug
Swell
Targa
Temma
The Neck
Togari
Tours
Trek
Trout
Views
Vineyards
Viticulture
Walks
Water
Wild
Zeehan

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
It's a long story

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

SURF BOWL

FROM PAGE 1

Angeles and Orange counties to take first place in the annual competition, but they are far from the first Vikings to earn the honor. In fact, the 2022 win marks the seventh consecutive year Santa Monica students have taken the top spot.

The team is coached by science teacher Ingo Gaida, who has shepherded a total of 14 first-prize winning teams since he began moderating the club 21 years ago.

"I think it's an outlet for the real sharp kids," Gaida said. He added that his students were motivated and "willing to put in the work" to win.

Gaida said the students practice after school as well as in his a.m. academic competition class, which meets early in the morning every day. In the lead up to the competition, students from the 27-member class play games and compete among each other to earn a position on the competition team. Gaida said each team has students that specialize in one particular area, such as ocean biology, geology or physics.

According to Gaida, over the years about half of the Samohi students who compete in the Ocean Sciences Bowl have gone on to pursue careers in science after graduation. Recently, a former team captain earned a PhD from UCLA in biology. Another student has been conducting ocean research in Antarctica.

Last year's captain is now studying at UC San Diego and recently earned an internship at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Gaida said.

"A lot of them have actually gone on to do some really cool stuff," Gaida said. "I'd say about half of them go into something science-related.

"The other half, completely not," Gaida laughed. "Ethan, for instance, got into Duke. He's going to major in business."

This year's team consisted of Captain Sara Akiba, a senior; junior Halie Matsui; senior Ethan Vazquez Foley; and sophomores Isaac Feinberg and Jesse Howard.

Matsui said she was planning to attend college, but hadn't yet decided whether or not she would be pursuing science. Right now, her favorite classes are math (she's taking calculus BC) and AP biology.

Matsui, who was also on last year's winning team, said students felt the weight of prior victories on their shoulders going into Saturday's competition.

"I think beforehand, there definitely were expectations to win this time, especially because two of the people on the team were on last year's team, so we just really wanted to win again," Matsui said. "I'm glad that we were able to win and honor everyone."

For Matsui, it's more than just the competitive nature of the game that keeps her hooked.

"It is a big time commitment, but I think what helps is that Mr. Gaida is a really great teacher and he makes the games in the morning really fun. The community is really nice — I'm able to find friends with similar interests as me," Matsui said. But, she added, it's "ultimately just the competition and being able to have that satisfaction of winning the buzzer race or going to nationals — I think that's probably why I do it."

In the competition, students are given five seconds to answer multiple-choice questions worth four points each; if the team gets the answer right, they're given a shot at a bonus question worth six points and can deliberate for up to 20 seconds on its answer. Questions come from a range of ocean-related topics, which can also include "social" categories such as the history of ocean exploration.

JPL supplied two sample multiple-choice questions from last Saturday's competition: "How can you quickly determine the sex of most species of crabs?" and "Lead-210 with a half-life of 22 years cannot be used to determine the sedimentation of deep-ocean sediments because of which of the following?"

Akiba told JPL's media relations specialist that the team practices all sorts of questions in class, after school and in their downtime.

"That doesn't even account for the individual studying and the flash cards we make," she noted, according to information shared by JPL. Akiba called the team's winning streak "overwhelming," adding, "It's a lot to live up to."

But this year's win proves Samohi science students are still elite competitors.

So how come lead-210 with a half-life of 22 years cannot be used to determine the sedimentation of deep-ocean sediments?

As the Samohi Surf Bowl competitors would tell you: Its half-life is too short.

And how do you quickly determine the sex of the average crab? By the shape of its abdominal plate.

These two questions, and dozens more like them, will soon be entering the study materials for future science bowl competitors at Samohi. Gaida said he collects practice questions every year, building up the team's impressive repertoire.

emily@smdp.com

LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 6

it a holiday? The Super Bowl is like the 4th of July and Christmas rolled into one. Plus you can bet on it whereas you can't on Christmas. (That said, maybe Vegas has odds on Dad getting a tie.)

Most holidays have food connected with it like Turkey on Thanksgiving and hot dogs on July 4th. Others have nationwide sales like on Memorial Day for tires and mattresses. The Super Bowl outsells all the others if, for no other reason, that many viewers tune in just to see the commercials!

Another popular aspect to the Super Bowl is the Halftime Show which has featured endless mega stars including: Michael Jackson, Katy Perry, Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones, and Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson (Can you say "wardrobe malfunction?") This year Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige and Kendrick Lamar will perform at the Pepsi Super Bowl LVI Halftime Show.

As for Super Bowl parties, I'm not a huge fan. The main reason is I always want to see the game whereas most everyone else is into wolfing down snacks, schmoozing, boozing and networking. (However, I might make an exception for some BBQ chicken, Heineken and chocolate cake. Go Rams!)

Super Bowl LVI is on NBC Sunday, February 13, at 3:30 P.M. If he's not busy drinking Heineken, eating BBQ chicken and chocolate cake, Jack can be reached at jackdailypress@aol.com

TRANSPARENCY

FROM PAGE 5

WHAT'S NEXT

Developers can reduce their projects to meet community expectations and environmental issues, but they don't have to. So, it's very important that people who care about this deal weigh in, and continue to weigh in, throughout the process.

We hope the city, within the law, will reject this deal as bad for Santa Monica. It is too big, impactful, and detrimental to public safety. And it does not include enough affordable housing to justify the height and density proposed.

If you want to keep informed on this project, please contact: info@FriendsofSunsetPark.org

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

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Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALEPursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700et. seq.), the undersignedwill sell at public auction, on February 22, 2022 personal property including but not limited to businessequipment, electronics, furniture, clothing, tools and/or other miscellaneous items located at:A-AMERICAN SELF STORAGE Via storageauctions.com @ 2:00 pm, at 2300 Federal Ave Los Angeles CA90064 (310) 478-2211STORED BY THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:Scott ChamberlinScott ChamberlinJohn EskowJohn EskowBernadette JimenezMarc LeggetNancy LoveBrandon BowdenBrandon BowdenWillie D. Frazier Jr.Shaun IcayanMiles YorkTerrence J. BrownleeMarina ChubRena DhemingRena DhemingSarah HeinKevin KleimanSteven D SannSteven D SannJamal TurnerBrian WitkowskiAll sales are subject to prior cancellation. Terms, rules and regulations available at sale. By A-AmericanManagement Co. Inc. (310) 914-4022,Bond. #72BSBBU5400

Notices

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE for Santa Monica Mini Storage. Notice Is Hereby Given that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to chapter 10 commencing with section 21700 of the CA Business & Professions Code. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted online & bidding takes place via www.lockerfox.com ending at noon on Friday, February 25, 2022. The personal property includes but is not limited to electronics, furniture & household goods stored at SANTA MONICA MINI STORAGE, 1620 14th Street, Santa Monica CA 90404, County of Los Angeles, State of California. Units: 284A & 1008 Bradford Romano, 488A Sammy RushPurchases must be paid for in cash only & paid to the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Items sold as is & must be removed within 48 hours. Your $200 cleaning deposit is refunded after units are completely empty & cleaned. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner & obligated party. AD DATES: Feb 11 & Feb 18, 2022.

Help Wanted

Tech Mentor Founder 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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