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Santa Monica Daily Press

WEEKEND EDITION
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Alfalfa salad and doughnut bar sprouts up on Main Street





Courtesy photos

FOOD: The newly opened spot mixes salads and donuts for its second location on Main Street.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

A new all-day cafe called Alfalfa is taking root on Main Street, striving to bring the perfect balance of naughty and nice with its fresh farmers market inspired salads and funky doughnut selection.

The Hoboken-based business was founded by four best friends who are beyond stoked to be touching down in Santa Monica for the grand opening of Alfalfa's second location on Saturday. The team is partnering with mental health non-profit Bring Change to Mind and donating a portion of opening day profits to their cause.

"I would say the one word to describe us is definitely excited," said Co-founder Andrew Arrospide. "This is truly a dream come true for us. We all have our own LA roots and to finally open up a store here is truly incredible."

The health centered casual eatery offers fresh salads, wraps, bone broths and breakfast burritos packed with nutritious locally sourced ingredients. For those with a sweet tooth, the menu also boasts a range of freshly baked doughnuts including lavender vanilla, amber maple, and oreo flavors.

"We are healthy guys at heart, but ultimately we also like to indulge," said Co-founder Daniel Sobsey. "We're focused on building a menu that brings joy to our customers. We were shocked, surprised and actually really happy to see how many people end up getting a salad and a doughnut together."

Alfalfa was born in 2018 out of the four friends' frustration with the limited number of healthy, affordable, and tasty lunch options in their New Jersey neighborhood.

The team piloted their live salad bar concept at a farmers market in Hoboken and quickly attracted the attention of a local restaurateur who helped them launch a pop-off kitchen in his luncheonette.

Alfalfa operated as a ghost kitchen in the morning and afternoon and converted the space to an in-person restaurant once the luncheonette closed in the evening. The team hit it off with the owner and later acquired the storefront, converting it into Alfalfa's first brick and mortar location.

"Myself, my brother, Dan, and Andrew were there everyday making everything from scratch. It was very much a grassroots

SEE **ALFALFA** PAGE 6

Tensions rise over proposed Ramada Inn homeless shelter in Venice



Courtesy photo

SHELTER: Los Angeles is moving forward with plans for a homeless shelter.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Venice residents continue to oppose plans for a new homeless shelter at a former hotel and some are accusing officials of deliberately building services in Venice to keep the homeless population out of other parts of the area.

On Thursday the LA Bureau of Engineering held a public hearing

SEE **SHELTER** PAGE 4

CDC: Strong evidence in-person schooling can be done safely

COLLIN BINKLEY AND MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

The nation's top public health agency said Friday that in-person schooling can resume safely with masks, social distancing and other strategies, and vaccination of teachers, while important, is not a prerequisite for reopening.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released its long-awaited road map for getting students back to classrooms in the middle of a pandemic that has killed more than 479,000 people in the U.S. But the agency's guidance is just that — it cannot force schools

SEE **CDC** PAGE 11

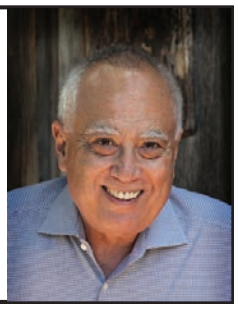


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021, 7:00 PM
LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Architectural Review Board and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The public may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/tsddgguf or by dialing in at +1 (415) 466-7000 (US) PIN: 8788743#.

PROPERTIES:
- 20ARB-0251: 1639, 1643, 1649 9TH Street: Commercial Building & Signs
- 20ARB-0315: 1232 3RD Street Promenade: Façade Remodel
- 20ARB-0328: 1502 Franklin: New 2nd Floor Multi-Unit Residential

PRELIMINARY REVIEW(S):
- 710 Broadway: Mixed-Use

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien). The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give public comment must make that request via email to planningcomment@smgov.net. Written information received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Written information received after 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read aloud at the meeting subject to time constraints. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA SOCIAL SERVICES 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.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 253 CALLS ON JANUARY 11

Indecent Exposure Now 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 12:18 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400blk 7th St 12:47 a.m.
Attempt Armed Robbery Just Occurred 700blk Broadway 1:09 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1600blk 11th St 1:16 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:32 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Civic Center Dr 5:58 a.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 200blk Broadway 6:12 a.m.
Encampment 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 6:46 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 5th St / Colorado Ave 6:55 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 7:17 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk Ocean Front Walk 7:27 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 700blk 14th St 7:56 a.m.
Encampment 200blk Marine St 8:30 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400blk 19th St 8:46 a.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 800blk 2nd St 8:52 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1100blk 3rd St 8:57 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 3000blk Urban Ave 8:59 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 7th St / Michigan Ave 9:18 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk 9th St 9:23 a.m.
Arson Cloverfield Blvd / Delaware Ave 9:24 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 19th St / Broadway 9:37 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Harvard St 9:48 a.m.
Death Investigation 2000blk Main St 9:57 a.m.
Elder Abuse 2100blk Ocean Ave 9:58 a.m.
Prowler Report 2700blk Neilson Way 10:03 a.m.
Information Only Broadcast 300blk Olympic Dr 10:27 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 10:40 a.m.
Found Property 2300blk Wilshire Blvd 10:45 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 2500blk 3rd St 10:53 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2100blk Oak St 10:54 a.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk 12th St 11:08 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1700blk Cedar St 11:24 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Arizona Ave 11:32 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk 2nd St 11:33 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100blk 12th St 11:35 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 3100blk Pico Blvd 11:54 a.m.
Extortion Investigation 1400blk 5th St 12:06 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 15th St / Montana Ave 12:07 p.m.
Encampment 100blk California Ave 12:09 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 600blk Pico Blvd 12:22 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1900blk 19th St 12:28 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100blk Wadsworth Ave 12:34 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 900blk 2nd St 12:42 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 200blk Ocean Ave 1:10 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 500blk San Vicente Blvd 1:32 p.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 3100blk Pennsylvania Ave 1:37 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2600blk 6th St 1:43 p.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 1700blk Appian Way 2:02 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk 10th St 2:03 p.m.
Loud Music Ocean Way / Bay St 2:04 p.m.
Fraud Report 200blk 17th St 2:11 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 4th St / Interstate 10 2:18 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 15th St / Idaho Ave 2:25 p.m.
Found Property 1500blk Broadway 2:26 p.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 1600blk Stanford St 2:28 p.m.
Fraud Report 2000blk Ocean Ave 2:30 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 2:54 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 16th St / Montana Ave 2:56 p.m.
Found Property 1200blk Lincoln Blvd 3:02 p.m.
Smoking Violation 700blk Ozone St 3:13 p.m.
Lewd Activity Main St / Bay St 3:31 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 200blk 16th St 3:35 p.m.
Lewd Activity 200blk Bay St 3:37 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 600blk Strand St 3:40 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 3:58 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 4:02 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 4:02 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper Just Occurred 1600blk 11th St 4:07 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 200blk Broadway 4:22 p.m.
Found Property 2000blk Oak St 4:30 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 800blk 5th St 4:45 p.m.
Person With A Gun Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 4:58 p.m.
Loud Music 10th St / Arizona Ave 5:05 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400blk 17th St 5:21 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1400blk Broadway 5:36 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1300blk 10th St 5:39 p.m.
Panhandling 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:47 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk Marine St 5:59 p.m.
Fraud Report 1100blk Centinela Ave 6:02 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1800blk 20th St 6:37 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1600blk 4th St 6:48 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Ocean Ave / California Incline 7:03 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Ave 7:17 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 3100blk Lincoln Blvd 7:33 p.m.
Loud Music 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 7:45 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1300blk 2nd St 8:10 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 12th St 8:46 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2nd St / Washington Ave 8:46 p.m.
Loud Music 1300blk 2nd St 10:14 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 3300blk 17th St 10:14 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 12th St 10:21 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Main St / Hill St 10:35 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 17th St / Cedar St 11:55 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 24 CALLS ON JANUARY 11

Hydrant Leak 1400blk Stanford St 12:20 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 3rd St 12:23 a.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 12:28 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 19th St 4:43 a.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 6:20 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 9:14 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 9:28 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 19th St / Broadway 9:38 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 10:30 a.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 10:30 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 12:54 p.m.
EMS 400blk Hill St 2:24 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 3:09 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 3:54 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 100blk Broadway 4:47 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 21st St 5:08 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Kansas Ave 5:30 p.m.
EMS 700blk San Vicente Blvd 6:21 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1200blk 10th St 6:40 p.m.
EMS 600blk 19th St 7:13 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Ozone St 7:34 p.m.
EMS 900blk Yale St 9:15 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Arizona Ave 10:51 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Pearl St 10:54 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMC Presents Free Live Literary Talks & Readings this Spring

Santa Monica College (SMC) is pleased to continue its Literary Talks & Readings series featuring a noteworthy spectrum of writers reading from and discussing their works. The ongoing series opens its spring season on February 23.

All presentations in the series are free, and will be held online as live virtual events. A Zoom link to each talk will be posted with the listing on the SMC Events calendar at smc.edu/calendar. To attend the events, the Zoom software must be installed on the viewer's computer. A free download is available at zoom.com.

The spring 2021 series lineup is:

• Thursday, February 23: Natashia Deón: "An Afternoon with Natashia Deón" at 11:15 a.m. Natashia Deón is the author of the critically-acclaimed novel Grace (Counterpoint Press) – awarded the 2017 First Novel Prize by the American Library Association's Black Caucus (BCALA), and named a Kirkus Review Best Book of 2016 and a New York Times Top Book 2016. She is a practicing attorney, law professor, and UCLA creative writing professor, and an advocate of abolition of the prison industrial complex. She also launched Redeemed, a nonprofit hub of services and relief for those who have been convicted or incarcerated. Deón is the recipient of a PEN Center USA Emerging Voices Fellowship and a number of fellowships and residencies. Her writing has appeared in American Short Fiction, Buzzfeed, LA Review of Books, The Rumpus, The Feminist Wire, Asian American Lit Review, Rattling Wall, and other places. Sponsored by the SMC Associates and SMC English Department.

• Thursday, March 11: Mario Padilla: "Blue Plums Among the Weeds: Poems from Mario Padilla – with Q&A" at 11:15 a.m. Mario René Padilla, of Italian and Mexican descent, grew up a typical "midwestern" kid, so multiculturalism and cultural identity are central themes in his work. His poetry and stories have appeared in North American Review, The Antioch Review, New Letters, Alligator Juniper, The Ledge, INKWELL Magazine, Americas Review, Tulip Tree Review, Westwind, Chiron Review, and Atlanta Review, among others. He is a winner of a Fulbright Award for his dissertation, Jorge Luis Borges: Young Poet of Prose (1919-1925). Padilla's first collection of poems, Reaching Back for the Neverendings, appeared in 1994. His second collection of poems, Blue Plums and Weeds, was a finalist for several literary prizes, and published in December 2020 by PSPoets in Los Angeles. Two of his stories – "La Château Possonniere" and "Scales" – won first prize in TulipTree Publishing's story contest, "Stories That Need to Be Told" in 2017 and 2020. Padilla teaches English, Creative Writing, and Latin-American Literature full-time at Santa Monica College. Sponsored by the SMC Associates and SMC English Department.

• Tuesday, April 6: Donna Rifkind: "The Sun and Her Stars Reading and Discussion with Donna Rifkind. From Berlin to Santa Monica: Salka Viertel and Hollywood's Fight Against Fascism" at 11:15 a.m. Donna Rifkind reads from The Sun and Her Stars, and discusses the little-known story of screenwriter Salka Viertel, whose salons in 1930s and 40s Hollywood created a refuge for a multitude of famous figures who had escaped the horrors of World War ll. Rifkind's reviews appear frequently in The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times Book Review. She has also been a contributor to The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, The Times Literary Supplement, The American Scholar, and many other publications. In 2006, she was a finalist for the Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing from the National Book Critics Circle. Sponsored by the SMC Associates and SMC English Department.

• Tuesday, May 4: Sara Borjas: "Poems from the Cliff: A Reading by Sara Borjas" at 2 p.m. Sara Borjas, a Xicanx pocha, is a Fresno poet who now lives in Los Angeles. Her debut collection of poetry, Heart Like a Window, Mouth Like a Cliff, was published by Noemi Press in 2019 as part of the Akrilica series, and received a 2020 American Book Award. Borjas was named one of Poets & Writers 2019 Debut Poets, is a 2017 CantoMundo Fellow, and is the recipient of the 2014 Blue Mesa Poetry Prize. Her work can be found in Ploughshares, The Rumpus, Poem-a-Day by The Academy of American Poets, and The Offing, among others. She is a lecturer in the Department of Creative Writing at UC Riverside. Sponsored by the SMC Associates and SMC English Department.

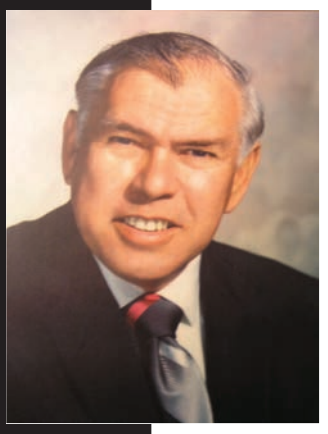
Now in its 20th year, the SMC Literary Series has brought to campus such acclaimed writers as Khaled Hosseini (author of the bestselling The Kite Runner), Steph Cha (writer of the popular 'Juniper Song' novels), Audrey Niffenegger (author of the bestselling Time Traveler's Wife), and Edward J. Larson (author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion).

Additional information is available by calling SMC's Office of Public Programs at (310) 434-4100.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

David Dudley Jennings

January 15, 1925 – December 26, 2020



David Dudley Jennings was born January 15, 1925 at Manhattan, Kansas, to Harry Clayton Jennings and Leona Moore Jennings. He had two brothers, Gerald and Harry Jr. Their mother died from cancer when David was three years old and his family moved to Venice, California, and then to West Los Angeles when David was of school age. He graduated from University High School. At age 18 he joined the Navy and served as a radioman on the troop transport ship, "U.S.S. Heywood" in the Pacific Theatre during WWII. At the end of the war he returned to the States and earned a bachelors degree at Kansas State University. Upon graduation from college he returned to Los Angeles and joined the family business that was founded by his father, Everest & Jennings, which became the world leader in the design and manufacture of light-weight folding wheelchairs. He served as president of Jennings Plating Company and vice-president of Everest & Jennings International. In the 1960s and 1970s he designed, built, and operated Mystic Cove Marina, one of the first yacht anchorages in Marina Del Rey, and also operated a boat storage and boat building yard called "Boulevard of Boats" on Lincoln Boulevard in Venice. He was also an astute real estate investor and developer in West Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Venice, and Marina Del Rey. He met his first wife, Donna Yeager Jennings in Los Angeles. David and Donna made their home in Santa Monica, California. They had eight children: Craig, Gregory, Dennis, Joanne, Dianne, Steven, Karen, and Robert. The Jennings family loved outdoor activities and enjoyed many adventures that included camping, fishing, and travelling. Donna was taken by cancer in 1987. In 1995 David married his second wife, Rosalyn Goldsmith Jennings. Rosalyn preceded David in death in September, 2020. David passed away peacefully in Santa Barbara, California on December 26, 2020. David will always be remembered by his family and friends for his kindness, integrity, generosity, and good humor. He is survived by his eight children, twenty grandchildren, and, so far, eighteen great grandchildren.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cloverfield Blvd.

LAPD arrest in Santa Monica

Wednesday morning at approximately 1:30 a.m., LAPD attempted a traffic stop of a vehicle in the West Los Angeles area. The driver initially pulled over, but subsequently fled from police westbound towards Santa Monica. The vehicle was eventually located near Cloverfield Blvd, between Pearl St and Ocean Park Blvd. When officers tried to contact the suspects inside the vehicle, two of the four suspects fled on foot into the residential neighborhood.

LAPD requested SMPD assistance. LAPD also sent additional resources, including a helicopter and several K9 units. Santa Monica officers responded to the area and quickly set up a perimeter and provided logistical support. All suspects were arrested and two loaded firearms were recovered from the vehicle.

SUBMITTED BY SMPD

SHELTER

FROM PAGE 1

for the proposed conversion of the Ramada Inn to an interim homeless housing shelter under the City's Project Home Key program.

While City and PATH representatives say the shelter will be an excellent resource to assist the area's growing unhoused population, many community members fear the project may backfire and attract more homeless individuals to Venice.

The City of LA bought the two-story 12,220-square foot property located at 3130 Washington Blvd. for $10 million in December 2020 and intend to spend around $380,000 on renovations.

The City plans to partner with People Assisting the Homeless to transform it to a 33 bed interim housing center with comprehensive case management services for five years and then convert it to permanent supportive housing project.

Over thirty community members spoke on Thursday in opposition of the project. Many argued that the City is trying to make Venice a containment zone for City District 11's homeless population in a similar way that Skid Row became an unofficial containment zone for Downtown LA's homeless population.

While Venice represents roughly 4.3 percent of CD-11's land, it houses 60.5 percent of the district's homeless population, according to LASHA's 2020 homeless count.

"We're not rejecting any solutions to homelessness. However, we are rejecting the homeless containment of Venice," said local resident Saul Goodman. "When Councilmember Mike Bonin first came to Venice in 2013 we had about 167 homeless people, per LASHA estimates. Now we have over 2000, so I'd call that containment."

The argument over the proposed Ramada Inn in some ways boils down to a 'chicken or the egg scenario.'

A group of community members believe that Venice attracts unhoused individuals because it has a high concentration of homeless services and a lenient attitude towards street homelessness. They fear that adding more beds locally will exacerbate the problem and also contribute to raising rates of neighborhood crime.

PATH, the City, and other Venice community members believe the opposite and say shelters are a key solution to decrease the local homeless population.

"A change of use from a low cost visitor recreation use motel to an interim supportive, affordable housing allows the city to begin to respond to the current emergency homeless crisis," said AJ Azara, project manager at PATH. "New affordable housing is a more sustainable, just, and equitable action towards addressing chronic homelessness in the community of Venice."

Venice's homeless population increased by 57 percent from 2019 to 2020. While LASHA is foregoing its annual count in 2021, this number has almost certainly increased over the course of the pandemic.

The public comment period for the project is over but if approved, it is expected to reach the Coastal Commission on March 5.

Clara@smdp.com

2020 Homeless Count Data Summary

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

	Number of Individuals	Change from 2019
Sheltered Homeless	12,438	39% Increase
Unsheltered Homeless	28,852	8.4% Increase
Total Homeless Persons	41,290	16.1 % increase

VENICE

	Number of Individuals	Change from 2019
Sheltered Homeless	80	33.3% Increase
Unsheltered Homeless	1,901	65% Increase
Total Homeless Persons	1,981	57.2% Increase

Courtesy image

HOMELESS: Venice saw an increase of 57 percent in its homeless population.

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Consumer Corner

Eda Suh
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Enhanced Tenant Protections During COVID-19

Many Santa Monica renters have lost jobs or income during the pandemic, and worry about eviction. The good news is that state law protects residential tenants financially impacted by COVID-19 from eviction if they are unable to pay rent due between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

Tenants seeking protection must submit a declaration for each month that they are un-able to pay, and pay 25 percent of rent due for September 2020 – June 2021 by June 30, 2021. State law only protects tenants from eviction due to non-payment of rent.

The City of Santa Monica also enacted an eviction moratorium for residential and some commercial tenants. City protections for residential tenants for reasons other than non-payment of rent are in effect through June 30, 2021. The City's moratorium protects tenants from evictions that are based owner-occupancy; the Ellis Act; refusing a non-emergency entry; having unauthorized occupants or animals; or causing a nui-sance that doesn't endanger life or property.

Residential tenants in Santa Monica have overlapping protections under state law and the City's eviction moratorium for non-payment of rent for March through September 2020. Santa Monica's eviction moratorium for non-payment of residential rent ended September 30, 2020. California law prohibits cities from extending non-payment protections for residential tenants after that date.

Even though tenants are protected from eviction if they meet the requirements, state law still allows landlords to give tenants notices for nonpayment of rent, but the notice must give tenants 15 days instead of three days to pay. Any eviction notice for non-payment must include a declaration of COVID-19-related financial distress form. To be protected, tenants need to sign and return the declaration within 15 days of receipt. No documentation is needed unless a landlord has evidence before serving the notice of the tenant being "high income."

The rent is deferred, not forgiven, and is still owed to the landlord as consumer debt. Landlords can sue tenants beginning August 1, 2021. Tenants who deferred rent un-der the City's moratorium may have a defense in a debt-collection lawsuit if sued for rent due April - September 2020 before September 1, 2021.

California has announced rental assistance is on the way for landlords and tenants. Landlords can apply to receive 80 percent of past-due rent if they agree to forgive the remaining 20 percent. The program covers up to a year of unpaid, past due rent owed from April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021.

Qualifying tenants can also apply to the program if the landlord doesn't. Tenants can apply for a 25 percent payment of all unpaid, deferred rent for the period April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. Rental assistance may also be available to cover 25 percent of prospective rent for the months of April, May and Jun 2021. Go to https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/ for more information.

If you are served with an eviction, it's important to consult with a private attorney. You can contact the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles at lafla.org; Bet Tzedek at bettzedek.org/; and LA Represents at coronavirus.la/LARepresents.

More information is available at santamonica.gov/coronavirus. If you have questions that are not addressed here, contact the Public Rights Division of the City Attorney's Office at 310-458-8336.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

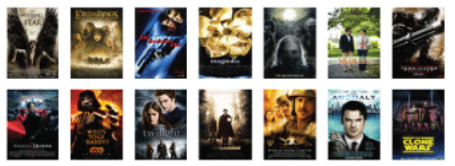
Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 10:25 A.M.

SMPD Officers responded to a call of a Theft occurring at REI. Upon arrival, Officers spoke to REI's Loss Prevention Officer and were told that she had observed a transient individual grab a backpack and begin stuffing random items into it. After watching the Suspect for some time, Loss Prevention approached him and asked for the items back. The Suspect then ran out through the emergency exit, taking the backpack with him. Officers located the Suspect nearby and found the stolen items hidden in a building alcove a few feet away from the Suspect. Elijah Muntez Phillips was arrested for a 459.5PC- Shoplifting. Phillips was transported to Santa Monica jail and later released with a citation.

ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH 12:17 P.M.

Two SMPD Officers were patrolling the 1800 block of Lincoln Blvd., when they spotted an individual writing on the glass of a business. The Officers pointed their dash camera toward the subject to capture the incident and activated their lights. The Suspect dropped the sharpies he was holding and sat on the curb. Officers noticed that two messages had been written on the glass: "911 is my favorite holiday" and "Reger is dead, you may say yes now." William Ray Guthrie was arrested for a 594PC- Vandalism.

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ALFALFA

FROM PAGE 1

campaign and we were working every single aspect of it every single day," said Sobsey.

While many restaurants were devastated by Covid-19, Alfalfa's business continued to thrive due to its loyal customer base, health centric menu, and easily transportable to-go model.

The team has long wanted to open a West Coast location and said they are thrilled to have the opportunity to do business on Main Street.

"We know that a lot of restaurants are really struggling and we are one of the only new businesses in the area," said Arrospide. "One of the many things we like about opening in Santa Monica is that it makes us feel happy to bring joy to the community and feel like we're part of the movement to open back up and be part of the 2021 optimism."

The team said they chose Bring Change to Mind as their opening day charity partner because the non-profit shares their mission to "create happiness and inspire joy".



Courtesy photo

FOOD: Alfalfa is at 2309 Main St.

BC2M works to end the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental illness, and helps over 10,000 high school students take a proactive approach to mental health and self-care. Alfalfa is selling a special honey matcha doughnut in BC2M's green logo color and will be donating all proceeds from the doughnut to the organization.

Alfalfa is open for outdoor dining and to-go orders seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 2309 Main St.

Clara@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Fare Collection & Front Door Boarding Resume on February 14

Big Blue Bus (BBB) announces that on February 14, 2021, fare collection and front door boarding will resume on all buses. In March 2020, BBB suspended fare payment and required customers to board through the rear doors to support social distancing between Operators and customers.

"We have retrofitted the fleet with laminated automotive safety glass protective barriers for the Operator's compartment. These new barriers, along with enhanced safety measures onboard, will help ensure that fare collection and front door boarding can safely resume for our customers," said Ed King, Director of Transit Services.

On February 14, BBB will also introduce a phased pilot program to study cashless boarding. The first phase includes the discontinuation of all paper pass sales on board its buses and at Blue: The Transit Store. BBB will continue to accept paper passes on board through April 2021.

Customers are strongly encouraged to transition to contactless fare payments with TAP or mobile tickets using the Transit or Token Transit apps. To help incentivize this fare payment transition, for a limited time, BBB will discount Single Ride fares for those making contactless payments. When paying with TAP or a mobile ticket, Regular customers will ride for only $1 each way or just $0.40 for Senior/Disabled/Medicare (S/D/M) customers.

TAP cards can be purchased and preloaded with BBB passes or a specified amount (Stored Value) online at www.taptogo.net, by phone at 866.TAPTOGO, via the TAP app (available on iPhone and Android devices), in-person at the Transit Store and over 400 TAP vendor locations, or Metro Rail Stations. Mobile tickets can be purchased for single rides and multi-day passes through Transit (BBB's official app) or Token Transit.

Blue: The Transit Store is open for in-person service with modified hours of operation. Customers can safely visit the store to purchase or reload passes and Stored Value on TAP, to pick up a Reduced Fare TAP card application, to sign up for reduced fares on mobile tickets, to pre-pay for MODE (Mobility On-Demand Every Day) trips, and more.

To learn more about TAP and mobile ticket options, please visit www.bigbluebus.com/contactless.

SUBMITTED BY JENNIE CAMPOS

Malibu

The City's Outdoor, COVID-19-Safe Student Poetry and Art Exhibition at Bluffs Park Highlights Malibu's Talented Youth

The City of Malibu Cultural Arts Commission and the Poet Laureate Committee are hosting a COVID-19-safe poetry and art exhibition at Malibu Bluffs Park Michael Landon Center (24250 Pacific Coast Highway). The outdoor exhibit featuring original literary and visual artwork created by Malibu Elementary School 5th grade students will be on display Feb. 14 through March 28.

Former Malibu Poet Laureate Ricardo Means Ybarra, assisted by Jolynn Regan, conducted a series of virtual poetry workshops with Ms. Levy and Ms. Matthews' 5th-grade Malibu Elementary School students through the City of Malibu Arts in Education program. The students learned about writing poetry then created a visual representation of their poems with art teacher Nicole Fisher. The individual art pieces were then transformed into a cohesive and collaborative poetry quilt, which is on display on the exterior of the building so that the public can safely see the artworks close up while remaining outdoors.

Before the pandemic, the City regularly showcased artwork created by young artists from Malibu schools and local art studios in public art exhibitions in the Malibu City Hall art gallery. The current art exhibition was planned to be displayed outdoors for COVID-19 safety considerations.

The artwork and poems are also part of the 2021 Virtual Student Art Exhibit available online at MalibuArtsandCulture.org/ParkArt

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

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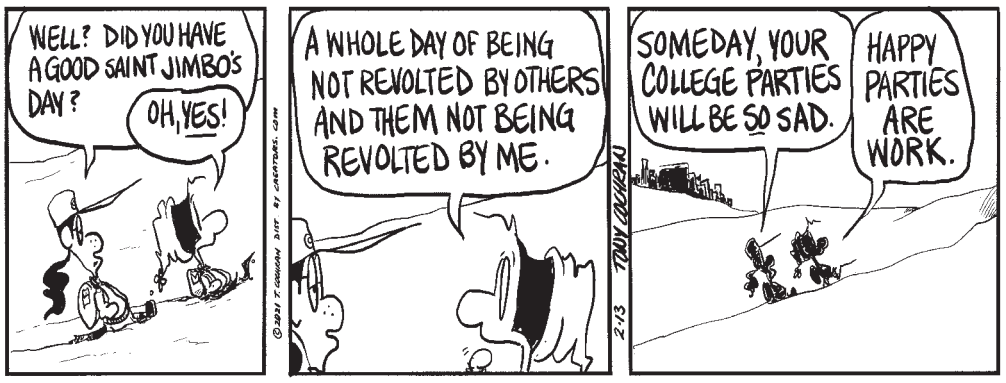
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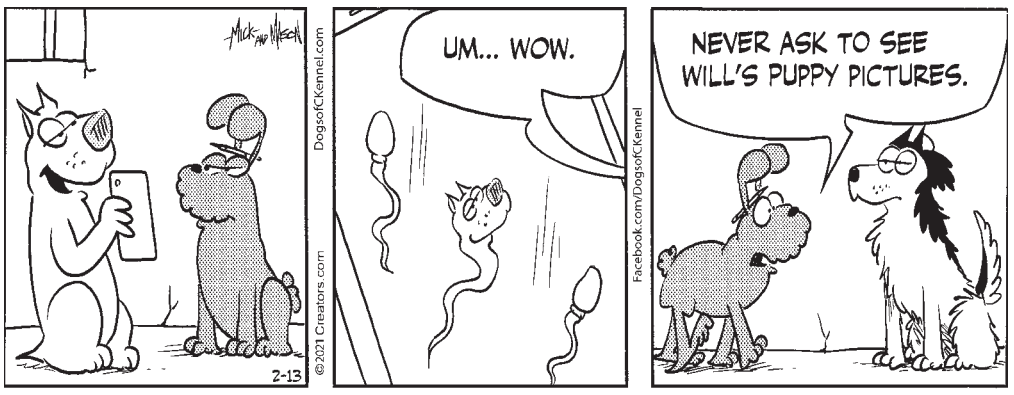
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



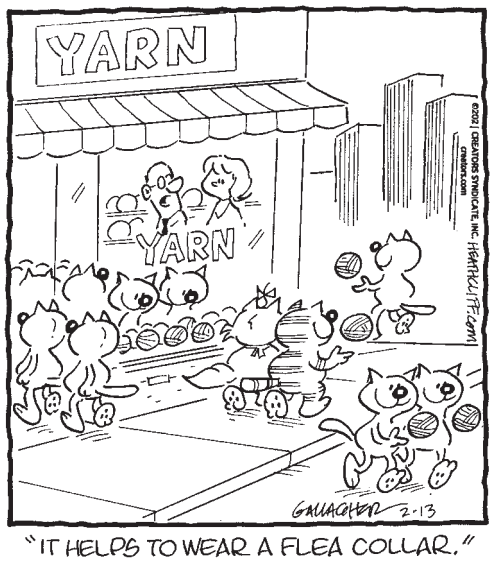
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT HELPS TO WEAR A FLEA COLLAR."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.5°

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
NW swell hangs on with lighter wind for the morning tide push. Early will be the best window before the mid AM high tide slows the little waves.

SUNDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Jumbled, local NW swell mix eases after an overnight peak. Fresh NW swell mix trends up later in the day.

WEATHER

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 61.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 65.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/02/14	Sun	10:25 AM	5.02	H
2021/02/14	Sun	5:05 PM	-0.04	L
2021/02/14	Sun	11:27 PM	4.30	H
2021/02/15	Mon	05:08 AM	1.42	L
2021/02/15	Mon	11:02 AM	4.39	H
2021/02/15	Mon	5:30 PM	0.50	L
2021/02/15	Mon	11:58 PM	4.27	H
2021/02/16	Tue	05:55 AM	1.52	L
2021/02/16	Tue	11:42 AM	3.71	H
2021/02/16	Tue	5:52 PM	1.06	L
2021/02/17	Wed	12:30 AM	4.22	H
2021/02/17	Wed	06:53 AM	1.62	L
2021/02/17	Wed	12:32 PM	3.03	H
2021/02/17	Wed	6:10 PM	1.61	L
2021/02/18	Thu	01:08 AM	4.16	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/10
15 39 58 63 67
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 56 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/9
7 18 21 31 40
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 82 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/10
8 10 19 22 41
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 20 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/11
15 19 21 23 26

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/11
EVENING: 0 5 8
Draw Date: 2/11
MIDDAY: 7 8 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/11
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:46.01

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 13)

It's a year of big asks and returns. Three stressors diminish and disappear over the course of six months as a new focus changes your conditions. You'll delight in unexpected money drops -- earned, in a roundabout way. You'll also receive words and acts of love aplenty, and catered just for you. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 1, 49 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You make judgments based on the way things look, but they don't have to appear magazine-worthy for you to be interested. The most exciting thing to you is seeing a mind at work. You'll search every eye for evidence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a first-class observer, tending to what others don't see because they are too busy trying to amass status or, more likely, buried in their phones. Through noticing, you'll have every advantage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Capitalize on your connections. It's especially lucky to call people from way back. People love to hear from you and want to get involved in what you're doing; all you have to do is ask.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It will bring good fortune to check in on your financial situation today. While managing money, you'll see or attract an opportunity. This one contributes significantly to your bottom line.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't let your attention get so divided between the physical world and the one your devices connect you to that it undermines interactions with people who are actually around you. The magic isn't glowing from a screen; it's just glowing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll have the choice between being productive and being curious. Your curiosity will, in one way or another, wind up serving your productivity, but it won't work the other way around.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your beliefs change. This is how you know that you're evolving as a person. And the beauty of it is that the people you keep in close company are changing right along with you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The day is filled with chances to be amazed, surprised and enchanted. You'll actively investigate the avenues that interest you, putting yourself in delight's favor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). An investment in yourself will pay off handsomely over time, and the immediate attention and encouragement you receive will also be a pretty sweet reward.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A life filled with first experiences is rich indeed, and you never stop adding them to your life. Most make a great story. And you never know which experience is going to blossom into an obsession.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This mission you're on takes quite a lot of industrious energy today. Sometimes, it will require letting your mind wander. Other times, it will mean making sure that it doesn't.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's wonderful to get away if only because it allows you to see those familiar things you tend to take for granted. When you can't physically travel, a media escape can have a similar effect.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

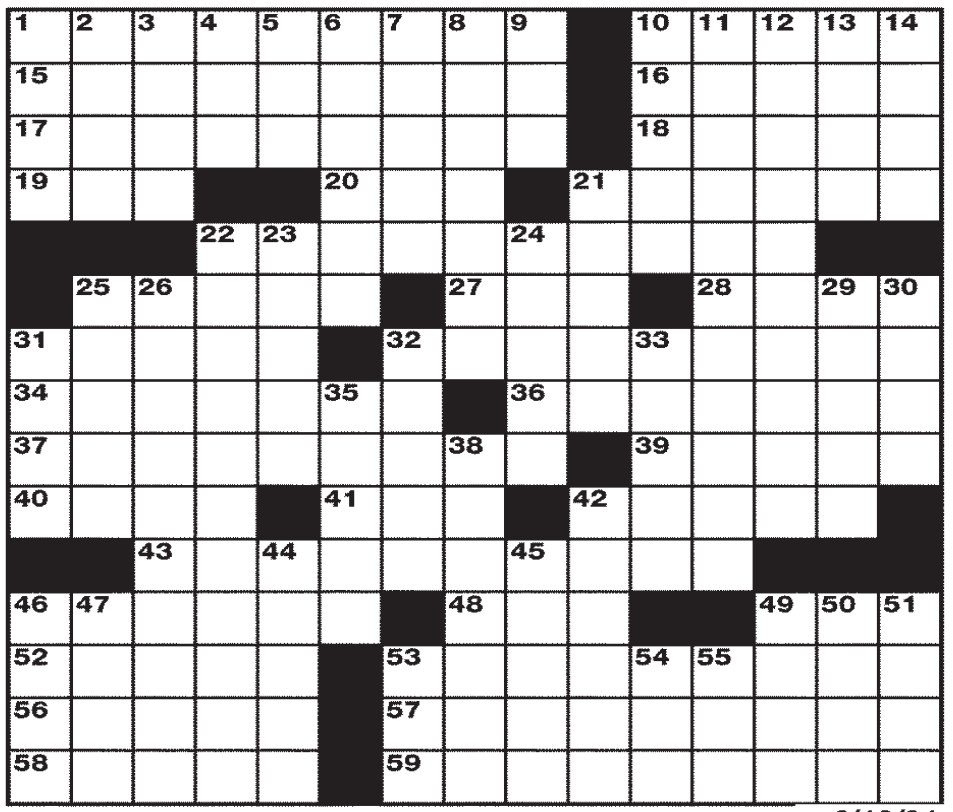
2			9	7		3		1
1	8	4	6					
3								
			7			9	2	
			8	6	3			
	3	5			9			
								7
					7	5	1	6
4		7		1	2			9

Newsday Crossword

THEMELESS SATURDAY by Matthew Sewell
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Ill-fated Shakespearean spouse
10 Uber Eats category
15 Non-mechanized, as meals
16 Beat guy now a Sir
17 Top for telemeetings
18 Bike shoe attachment
19 Pseudoscientific subject
20 Odious
21 Overly extreme
22 Unstinting
25 Spend time relishing
27 Fighter who created the "Me? / Whee!" poem (1975)
28 Music descended from subcontinental hymns
31 Stakes to start
32 Box set holders
34 Went unchecked
36 Italian cocktail named for a painter
37 Even more certain, in logic
39 Name in art repatriation debates
40 Plum kin
41 Navigation abbreviation
42 Cinema-tographer's airborne assistant
43 Roguery
46 Shores up
48 Indicator of an unsettled slot
49 Coaster
52 Vital internal outlet
53 Dillydallies
56 Dynamo
57 Twist entreaty
58 Some wooden Christmas ornaments
59 Beverage with barley or bee balm

DOWN
1 Cause to stagger
2 Legendary archer
3 Red alert
4 Much less than brilliant
5 Concave/convex shape
6 Debussy contemporary
7 Edible pearl
8 Beluga cousin
9 Music genre prefix
10 Threw softly, say
11 Sterling, for instance
12 "Heaven help me!"
13 Vegan's gelatin alternative
14 Write down quickly
21 Attack with a crack
22 Went too far
23 Presuppose
24 Something checked in a case
25 Big boo-boo
26 Without obligation
29 Legendary fulfilling fellow
30 Part of a pronunciation explanation
31 Not worth __
32 Merciless
33 Cratchit's occupation
35 County fair chorus
38 Creepy one?
42 Profiler's workplace
44 Bears down on
45 A better fit
46 Works at home
47 Nettle
49 Sign of some springs
50 *Chérie femme*
51 "1,000 cubed" starter
53 Trans-Labrador Hwy. measure
54 Its website has a Retirement Estimator
55 Word on the Middle East metropolis list



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/13/21

Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



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

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

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 5023

Computer talk

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

Analogue	Code	Floppy	Robot
Apple	Copy	Folder	Runs
ASCII	Core	HTML	Saver
Bars	Data	Hypertext	Shutdown
Boot	Disk	IMac	Software
Bugs	Dots	Keys	Spreadsheet
Byte	Drive	Menu	Tape
Cables	Edit	Message	Template
Cache	Email	Monitor	Video
Card	Fast	Pda	Website
Chat	File	Program	
Chip	Flash	Remove	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Relaxation and sunshine

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CDC

FROM PAGE 1

to reopen, and CDC officials were careful to say they are not calling for a mandate that all U.S. schools be reopened.

Officials said there is strong evidence now that schools can reopen, especially at lower grade levels.

The new guidance includes many of the same measures previously backed by the CDC, but it suggests them more forcefully. It emphasizes that all of the recommendations must be implemented strictly and consistently to keep school safe. It also provides more detailed suggestions about what type of schooling should be offered given different levels of virus transmission, with differing advice for elementary, middle and high schools.

Recommended measures include hand washing, disinfection of school facilities, diagnostic testing and contact tracing to find new infections and separate infected people from others in a school. It's also more emphatic than past guidance on the need to wear masks in school.

"We know that most clusters in the school setting have occurred when there are breaches in mask wearing," Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC's director, said in a call with reporters.

Vaccinating teachers can provide "an additional layer of protection," she said.

The guidance was issued as President Joe Biden faces increasing pressure to deliver on his promise to get the majority of schools back to in-person teaching by the end of his first 100 days in office. The White House said this week that a national strategy would be guided by science.

"We've used stronger languages than prior guidance. We've been much more prescriptive here as to putting some guardrails on what can and should be done to get to a safe reopening," Walensky said.

"And I can assure you that this is free from political meddling," she added.

There's wide agreement that learning in the classroom is more effective and that students can face isolation and learning setbacks at home. But teachers unions in some areas say schools have failed to make buildings safe enough to return.

The new guidance was embraced by both sides of the debate, with each saying it bolstered their position. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said it's further evidence that schools are equipped to reopen now.

The new information "affirms what many of us, including students and parents, have known for months: It is critical for schools to open as safely and as soon as possible," he said.

Becky Pringle, president of the National Education Association, applauded the guidance but said schools are failing to meet it. Most still have outdated ventilation systems, she said, and few have the type of virus testing programs suggested by the CDC.

"CDC standards still aren't being met in too many of our schools," Pringle said. "We can and must provide students the opportunity to return to in-person learning, but we also must ensure that every school has the safety measures in place to keep students and educators safe."

CDC officials emphasized that in-person learning has not been identified as a substantial driver of coronavirus spread in U.S. communities, and that transmission among students is now considered relatively rare.

The CDC also stressed that the safest way to open schools is by making sure there is as little disease in a community as possible. The agency urged local officials to assess whether a bad outbreak is occurring in a community when making decisions about sending adults and children in to schools.

The guidance included a color-coded chart, from blue to red, on assessing community spread, including rates of new cases per 100,000 people and the percentage of positive tests.

That said, high community transmission does not necessarily mean schools cannot be open — especially those at the elementary level. If school mitigation measures are strictly followed, the risk of spread in the schools should still be low, the guidance suggests.

The document suggests that when things get risky, elementary schools can go hybrid, providing in-person instruction at least on some days, but that middle and high schools might go virtual.

"The older children get ... the more they act like adults in terms of transmission and disease," Walensky explained. "So when we are in areas of high transmission, we have pushed more for elementary school hybrid learning.

Government officials estimate that about 60% of K-12 schools right now have some form of in-person learning going on, though in many cases it may be part-time.

Schools also can tighten up restrictions for the in-person learning that is going on. For example, the CDC continues to recommend that children be spaced 6 feet apart in school settings. But it should be required when there's a worrisome surge of new infections in the community, said Greta Massetti, a CDC official who led much of the work on the new guidance.

Biden has been caught between competing interests as he works to get students in the classroom without spurning the powerful teachers unions that helped get him elected. Critics say he has bowed to unions instead of taking more aggressive action on reopening.

Unlike former President Donald Trump, who pressured schools to open and blasted the CDC for issuing guidance that he said was impractical, Biden has kept his distance from the CDC as it works on recommendations. Even after the CDC's director recently said that vaccinations are not a prerequisite for reopening, the White House declined to take a firm stance on the question.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday that "no one on our senior staff" had seen the CDC guidelines ahead of their release. "I can assure you that the White House is not directing the CDC."

Getting students back in the classroom is seen as a key to getting parents back to work. As part of Biden's coronavirus relief package, he's calling for $130 billion to help schools update buildings, buy protective gear and enact other recommended safety measures.

Biden's national strategy says the administration "will also work with states and local school districts to support screening testing in schools, including working with states to ensure an adequate supply of test kits."

But the CDC guidance stops short of recommending testing, saying "Some schools may also elect to use screening testing as a strategy to identify cases and prevent secondary transmission."

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