smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

WEDNESDAY
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Property owners call for action on homelessness ahead of next week's council study session

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Local property owners are continuing calls for increased oversight on the Third Street Promenade to curb the growing number of individuals who camp out in public elevators and garages.

John Alle, who is suing the city over maintenance of the Promenade, was one of the first to begin documenting the number of people who regularly smoke, defecate and erect tents to sleep in the Promenade's public elevators and garages. He spoke last month to the Daily Press about the topic, which arose during the most recent Santa Monica City Council meeting when city leaders gathered to discuss the Third Street Promenade Stabilization and Economic Vitality Plan.

Due to the ongoing lawsuit, councilmembers who could be reached Tuesday declined to comment.

But Councilmember Phil Brock said during a Feb. 3 City Council meeting, "Our reputation has become, unfortunately, one of an unsafe downtown with unsavory alleys, parking garages and boarded up storefronts. We have to change that now; we can't wait."

Santa Monica Bayside Owners Association member Laurie Sasson agreed when she called in during public comment to speak about the lack of proper property management on Third Street Promenade.

"Basic property management is being neglected right now;" Sasson

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 11





Courtesy photo

ELEVATOR: Downtown property owners and businesses are concerned about homelessness in the public spaces.

D-Day veteran and longtime local music teacher dies at 96

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Wallace Umber, a World War II veteran and former director of the Santa Monica College Emeritus Band, died age 96 from Covid-19 complications leaving behind a legacy as a father and devoted teacher.

Umber's friends and family said he faced many adversities in his life and always rose above with patience, grace, and an ever even-keeled demeanor.

Even during his final months living in social isolation at a retirement home, Umber would play his trumpet out of his window bringing soulful music and joy to his fellow isolated residents.

"He was a wonderful, kind, caring, loving father, and he taught and mentored so many others through his gift of music, leaving this world in a much better place than it was before," said son Dennis Umber.

SEE **VETERAN** PAGE 6

SMMUSD reopening depends on vaccines for teachers

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles County has reached the case count threshold to reopen elementary schools, however Santa Monica-Malibu schools are unlikely to be part of the immediate reopening push.

While some LA schools will bring students on campus next week, SMMUSD is in the same boat as LAUSD and other major districts as it awaits a finalized reopening agreement with the teachers union.

According to SMMUSD, the district has reached a tentative agreement allowing schools to reopen transitional kindergarten through 5th grade for 'Distance Learning Plus' activities 15 days after vaccines become available, in Phase 1b, for educators. The district's safety plan must also be approved by the County.

"We've always supported these partnerships," said County Health Director Barbara Ferrer, referring to union agreements. "I think that's what makes it possible for schools to open with a lot of safety."

The County estimates that it will begin vaccinating educators before the end of the month, meaning SMMUSD elementary school reopenings are likely four to six weeks away.

This rough timeline is subject to both the agreement ratification and vaccine supply. The district is coordinating with St. John's Hospital to open a vaccine clinic so staff can be inoculated at one convenient location.

The district is currently offering limited in-person services for its highest need students including special education students and English language learners, under a separate union agreement reached in the fall.

Distance learning plus will look different at every elementary school and site-specific plans will be shared by principals soon. The

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 11


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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: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 AT 4:00 PM
(Note: Prior notices in the 2.09.21 and 2.13.21-2.14.21 editions of the SMDP incorrectly referred to the meeting day as Wednesday, February 22, 2021)

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 230 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 15

Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1600blk Appian Way 1:33 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 1400blk Interstate 10 2:47 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Ave 2:54 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Broadway 3:32 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1900blk Main St 3:44 a.m.
Prowler Just Left 2800blk Colorado Ave 4:27 a.m.
Burglary Just Occurred 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 4:30 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:12 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk Main St 6:37 a.m.
Loud Music 900blk 4th St 6:45 a.m.
Found Property 1400blk 2nd St 7:24 a.m.
Encampment 500blk Montana Ave 7:28 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 7:41 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 10th St 7:48 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2200blk Virginia Ave 8:37 a.m.
Found Property 1300blk 23rd St 8:42 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 8:53 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Appian Way 8:56 a.m.
Encampment Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 9:10 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 25th St 9:12 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1700blk Sunset Ave 9:17 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1800blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:19 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 2100blk La Mesa Dr 9:38 a.m.
Loud Music 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 9:50 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1500blk Olympic Blvd 9:58 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:07 a.m.
Burglary Report 400blk Raymond Ave 10:11 a.m.
Construction Noise 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:14 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 10:21 a.m.
Construction Noise 500blk Broadway 10:29 a.m.
Construction Noise 400blk Marguerita Ave 10:39 a.m.
Construction Noise 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 10:47 a.m.
Citizen Flag 300blk Santa Monica Pier 10:51 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2600blk 4th St 11:14 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 11:19 a.m.
Burglary Report 2700blk Main St 11:34 a.m.
Fight 1900blk Pico Blvd 11:40 a.m.
Construction Noise 300blk San Vicente Blvd 11:46 a.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600blk Barnard Way 11:54 a.m.
Fraud Report 21500blk Victory Blvd 11:58 a.m.
Lost Property 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 11:59 a.m.
Construction Noise 400blk 23rd St 12:31 p.m.
Loud Music 2300blk Main St 12:38 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 200blk 15th St 12:45 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100blk Stanford St 12:47 p.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk 6th St 12:49 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk 6th St 12:50 p.m.
Illegal Weapon 1700blk Expo Line 12:53 p.m.
Fight 1000blk Palisades Park 12:56 p.m.
Fight 2900blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:57 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2700blk Main St 1:03 p.m.
Fight 1100blk Palisades Park 1:09 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:31 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 2100blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:35 p.m.
Construction Noise 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 1:41 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk Princeton St 1:44 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 9th St 2:07 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:12 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600blk Barnard Way 2:16 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2000blk Pico Blvd 2:23 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 17th St 2:25 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 1000blk 4th St 2:26 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200blk Arizona Ave 2:46 p.m.
Death Investigation 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 2:57 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:31 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1100blk California Ave 3:36 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1100blk Palisades Park 3:37 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 3:41 p.m.
Death Investigation 600blk Marine St 3:52 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 3:54 p.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Princeton St 3:55 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1900blk Delaware Ave 3:55 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2100blk Ocean Ave 3:56 p.m.
Found Property 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 4:02 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:05 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 17th St 4:08 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 3100blk Frederick St 4:31 p.m.
Identity Theft 400blk 21st Pl 5:05 p.m.
Public Intoxication 300blk Bay St 5:26 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 5:31 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:11 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:11 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Stanford St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:57 p.m.
Construction Noise 2000blk Main St 7:05 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 900blk 4th St 7:20 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2500blk Main St 7:32 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 7:33 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:35 p.m.
Rape Report 300blk Santa Monica Pier 8:10 p.m.
Rape Report 200blk Santa Monica Pier 8:10 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Cloverfield Blvd / Pico Blvd 8:11 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk Avenida Mazatlan 9:16 p.m.
Identity Theft 100blk California Ave 9:16 p.m.
Loud Music 2nd St / Montana Ave 10:00 p.m.
Loud Music 2300blk 32nd St 10:31 p.m.
Battery Now 600blk Montana Ave 10:58 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 700blk Franklin St 11:37 p.m.

Editorial: Welcome to Santa Monica

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Daily Press office is located on the 1600 block of 5th Street and it's a fantastic location for news. We can see when traffic backs up on the 10, potential riots are mere steps away and we can check on the status of several construction projects with little more than a head out the window.

We also oversee the 10 offramp and last week, visitors to Santa Monica were welcomed by a homeless man wielding a gun. The weapon turned out to be a fake but it was impossible to tell and drivers were justified in their terror. This incident brings up a lot of topics around homelessness, mental health, police procedure and gun culture but it also hit one of our pet peeves at the Daily Press: Santa Monica's gateways are at best neglected and at worst outright dangerous.

While it's true that entering the city is uninspiring, if not depressing depending on your road of choice, the arguments for spending time and money on this idea now are rooted in public safety and local economics.

In recent months we've covered no less than two significant accidents at the same offramp. In December of last year, we were at the Lincoln off ramp taking photos of a brush fire related to the homeless encampment on Caltrans land and before that we were at the same intersection covering a homeless man who was threatening to jump onto the freeway.

Our freeway exits are never going to be marque gateways, but they can at least be visually appealing and safe. This can be done despite Santa Monica lacking authority over the actual offramps and freeway adjacent land as they are controlled by a state agency (Caltrans).

We can prioritize something like the Gateway Master Plan (without the huge freeway capping elements) to improve downtown offramps, we can work to take over maintenance of the worst Caltrans land and we can develop a consistent plan for the offramps that puts thought into how people perceive the city when they get here.

The actual Gateway To the City can go through the standard Santa Monica process of argument, recrimination and divisiveness but there should be somewhere that is a recognized point of entry because whether you're coming in on one of the freeway exits, along a Blvd. or from the beach, there's nowhere that actually welcomes you to Santa Monica. There are some nascent efforts on the east and west sides with the little understood wave sculpture over Wilshire and the recently rebuilt California Incline. For our money, the Incline has the most potential but like the freeways it's a jurisdictional problem with Caltrans.

This is as much an economic as it is a safety related need. Santa Monica's economy is highly dependent on visitors, whether they be day trippers, overnight visitors or workers. The quality of life that Santa Monicans expect is entirely dependent on out of towners spending their money here and if they can't get here easily, or don't feel safe when they do get here, they'll go somewhere else. This is magnified by the pandemic fallout because we're never going to recoup all the lost office workers thanks to the rise of work-at-home so your favorite sandwich spot, local gas station and taco truck are all counting on leisure travel to fill the gap.

When you walk along the beach path, you know instantly when you cross into Santa Monica and that feeling should be replicated on our streets. It's not a vanity project with art for the sake of arts sake but fixing the obvious safety problems while creating something that actually draws people here is one of the many vital steps necessary to keep businesses open and city services running.

SMDP Editorial Board

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 30 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 15

EMS 1900blk Main St 3:44 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Colorado Ave 5:41 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 7:11 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 21st St 7:22 a.m.
Flooded Condition 2400blk Chelsea Pl 7:48 a.m.
EMS 500blk Ocean Ave 8:37 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 19th St 8:38 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Olympic Blvd 8:47 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk Ashland Ave 10:53 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 11:36 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 900blk 3rd St 12:06 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Pacific St 12:54 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Arizona Ave 1:01 p.m.
Broken Water Main 200blk 20th St 1:07 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100blk 4th St 1:07 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Pico Blvd 2:05 p.m.
EMS 25th St / California Ave 2:36 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 2:42 p.m.
EMS 100blk California Ave 3:03 p.m.
EMS 600blk Marine St 3:48 p.m.
Wires Down 1600blk Oak St 5:35 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200blk 27th St 5:59 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 6:16 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Beverley Ave 6:45 p.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / 26th St 7:10 p.m.
EMS Harvard St / Wilshire Blvd 7:13 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 14th St 7:33 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk Broadway 8:51 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Pico Blvd 9:59 p.m.
EMS 600blk Montana Ave 11:00 p.m.

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



City of Santa Monica

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

SUBJECT: Conditional Use Permit (20ENT-0226 & 0227)
Minor Modification (21ENT-0004)
1401 & 1421-1425 Santa Monica Boulevard
APPLICANT: Nadir Hossain
PROPERTY OWNER: Steve Taub

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

The applicant requests approval of a Conditional Use Permit (20ENT-0226 & 0227) to allow the operation of a 62 stall Recharging Facility with solar canopies, restrooms, and support equipment split between two project sites on either side of an alley and a Minor Modification (21ENT-0004) for reduced drive aisle widths.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021 AT 5:30 PM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Planning Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal but participants may also join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/uyqeuzfz or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 4597542 #)

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@smgov.net. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Additionally, public comment can be made by telephone by pre-registering on the link provided on the posted online agenda no later than 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item.

Address your comments to: James Combs, Associate Planner
Re: 20ENT-0226, 0227 and 21ENT-0004

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact James Combs by e-mail at james.combs@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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



WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS.



Robert Lemle

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WINNER



Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Courage is needed now

BASKETBALL AND NAZIS

I love hoops, but this is actually about the state of our city and country, and honesty in our politics.

I was watching the UCLA men's basketball team Saturday. The Bruins barely squeaked by Washington, 64-61, only because transfer teen guard Johnny Juzang put on an incredible show. He scored half the UCLA points, 32. That's a lot for a college game. Any NBA player would take that total gladly.

At halftime he had outscored the entire Washington team, by himself. In the previous game he scored 25. Three games earlier, in a tough one-point loss to Stanford in overtime, he scored 27, and there was a 12-1/2 minute stretch where Juzang scored all 21 of his team's points. But what's this got to do with Nazis?

JOHNNY JUZANG IS AMERICA

As I was admiring this talented young man I was thinking — he sure is LA, all the way, a black kid with an Asian name, blazing his own trail, and in fact he personifies what America stands for... or used to stand for, to the world. (And could again.) The American dream that draws strength from our melting pot of immigrants. Where hard work, persistence and talent mean more than where you're from or what your name or race is.

His father is Creole, his mother Vietnamese. African-American Asian-American All-American Boy.

He's from Studio City. Hardcore karate enthusiast as a kid, plays piano "well." He put together a website in eighth grade to launch his own clothing line. He graduated from high school in three years.

AND WITH A 4.0

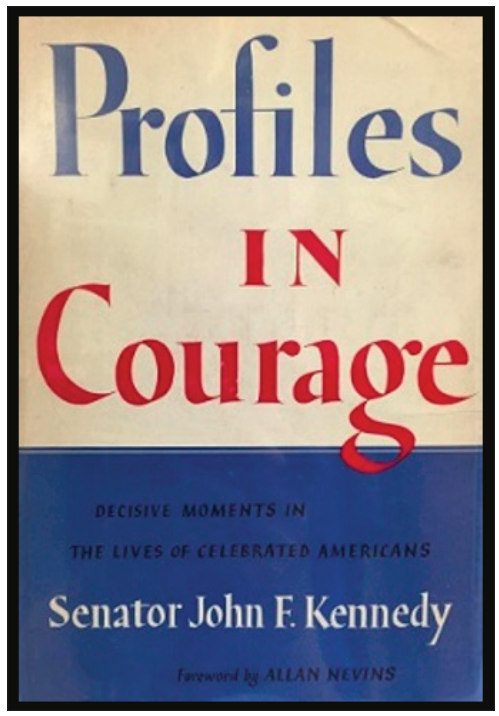
It's early, there are many rivers to cross, but Johnny Juzang could become an NBA star. A name and face everyone knows, paid tens of millions of dollars a year.

And still get harassed, threatened, hurt or killed by the police, or a racist mob. Ask Chris Rock, Denzel Washington, or any pro athlete or famous actor of color. In America, now and throughout our entire history, every American of color has had to pause to think, as they step outside their front door — will I make it back home? Will my parents, my kids?

MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME

Juzang transferred here after his freshman season at the University of Kentucky, in Lexington, an elite basketball program with eight national championships. I wonder how he was treated there, especially off campus, in the Land of Rand (Paul) and Mitch McConnell?

Lexington's Cheapside Park is now known for summertime Thursday evening concerts, but it was once the largest slave trading center in America. The man who murdered Heather Heyer with his car in Charlottesville grew up in Kentucky, an hour's drive straight north



Courtesy image
COURAGE: Needed now more than ever.

from the University. It was only 11 years ago that KKK thugs beat a 16-year-old boy who they thought was Hispanic nearly to death, at the Meade County Fair. As of 2017 there were four active Klans in KY.

But don't kid yourself. Juzang could hear the same racist rot in Westwood, and probably has.

THE INSURRECTIONISTS

Who adore lying, cheating, womanizing, draft-dodging, tax dodging, etc etc etc grifter, bully, seditionist Donald Trump like a messiah to be obeyed without question, would probably hate on Johnny if they met him on the street. They don't know him, but they can see he looks different from them, and so they hate him. He's the enemy. For Trump's cult, they love that he hates the people they hate. (But really, narcissists don't love or hate, it's only me, me, me.)

Not every one of the 73.5M Americans who voted for Trump are racists. But, they all voted for a man who goes out of his way to speak nicely about murderous white supremacists. Racist haters. Nazis. That should be a deal breaker, folks.

MIDNIGHT OIL

Nearly every last one of those followers are descended from immigrants to America. Unless they are pure lineage Native Americans. Remember 1987's "Beds Are Burning," by Australian rockers Midnight Oil? How could such a revolutionary song ("the time has come, it belongs to them [aboriginal people] — let's give it back") become a huge world-wide hit? Especially in the apathetic Eighties? And now, forgotten?

Of course not even most of those who

SEE **COURAGE** PAGE 7

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

More California reopenings on way as virus numbers improve

MICHAEL R. BLOOD AND KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

A substantial number of California counties could see fewer restrictions on business operations starting next week as coronavirus infections, hospitalizations and deaths continue to fall, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Tuesday.

"The good news: Parts of the state are already beginning to open back up," Newsom said.

He spoke at the site of a new federally supported mass vaccination site in Los Angeles, which opened Tuesday along with a similar site in Oakland. The two sites are expected to get about 6,000 doses of vaccine a day, and are intended to vaccinate people in communities hit hard by the pandemic.

The openings of the mass vaccination sites, heralded by a number of state and federal officials, came as California's virus numbers continue to improve even as demand for vaccine far exceeds capacity.

About 3.5% of people being tested for coronavirus are getting back positive results, Newsom said, a rate that's dropped precipitously in recent weeks. The numbers of people in hospitals and intensive care units and case rates are declining — all factors in determining when counties can begin further reopening.

By next week, a "substantial" number of counties are likely to enter the "red" tier, which allows indoor dining at 25% capacity, and the opening of other indoor spaces such as movie theaters, museums and gyms with limits.

California got about 1.08 million vaccine doses from the federal government this week, the governor said. The state expects 1.28 million doses next week and 1.31 million doses after that. The slow increase in the number of doses continues to frustrate local and state officials.

Under a new vaccine distribution contract with insurer Blue Shield, the state set a goal of being able to administer 3 million doses a week, according to contract details released Monday.

But in recent days, mass vaccination sites like Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles and the Moscone convention center in San Francisco were temporarily closed due to lack of supply. Newsom said the state's goal is to build enough capacity so the state can quickly vaccinate people when more doses arrive.

"We're building the infrastructure where the only constraint is supply," Newsom said. "But when the supply is ample, then we're able to move aggressively and quickly."

The mass vaccine sites opened in conjunction with the federal government on Tuesday will not draw from the same state supply, Newsom said.

The sites opened on the east side of the nation's second-largest city at California State University, Los Angeles, and on the east side of the San Francisco Bay Area at Oakland Coliseum. At Cal State LA, groups of cars pulled up to tents manned by military personnel. People were able arrive on foot or public transportation.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is hoping to open similar sites in Texas and New York, said Bob Fenton, FEMA regional administrator in California. When opening the sites, the government is focusing on areas where minorities make up more than 40% of the population, poverty rates, and lack of housing or vehicle access. The sites will also run mobile clinics that can go out to people who lack transportation.

"We're looking at high population areas among the states, but also ensuring that data drives us to the most socially vulnerable," Fenton said.

Ronayne reported from Sacramento and Associated Press journalist John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed.

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 02/06/2021, AT APPROXIMATELY 1:20 A.M.

Officers responded to a radio call of a burglary in progress near the 800 block of Woodacres Rd. The comments of the call indicted the resident could hear a person walking around on the second floor. The legal occupant of the home stated she was sound asleep in her 2nd floor bedroom when she heard the sound of her shower running and music playing although no one else was expected in the home. She immediately exited and called 9-1-1. While standing in front of the residence, officers observed moving shadows through the windows and could hear the water and music. Before entering, officers announced themselves via a loud speaker. Upon searching the house, they discovered an individual later identified as Jared Allan Grimaud ascending the main staircase. Grimaud was handcuffed without incident and escorted out of the home. After a walkthrough of the home, officers discovered Grimaud intended to sleep in an unoccupied bedroom in the home as blanks and personal items not belonging to the homeowner were found. Grimaud was booked for 602(m) PC and issued a citation. Officers also requested a stay away order for the 800 block of Wood Acres.

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*Offer to non insured patients
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VETERAN

FROM PAGE 1

In October 1943 at just 19-years-old, Umber boarded a boat in New York City and journeyed to France where he served as an M1 Rifle Sharpshooter on the frontlines of WWII.

Umber fought in Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. He landed on the shores of Normandy on day two of the D-Day Invasion and stood in Germany when victory was declared.

For his service and selflessness of the highest degree, Umber was honorably discharged in November 1945 and awarded the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Victory Medal.

Following the war Umber returned home to Redlands, California where he had been raised by his aunt and grandmother since his mother died after giving birth to his younger sister Wanda when he was five-years-old.

Umber's father taught him the trumpet when he was just a toddler, sparking a lifelong love for brass music that he passed on to his three sons Dennis, Darryl, and Donn.

With funding from the GI Bill, Umber enrolled as a music major at the University of Santa Barbara where he met and married June Keene. Umber soon took a job as the Music Director at Venice High School and the couple moved to Venice in 1951.

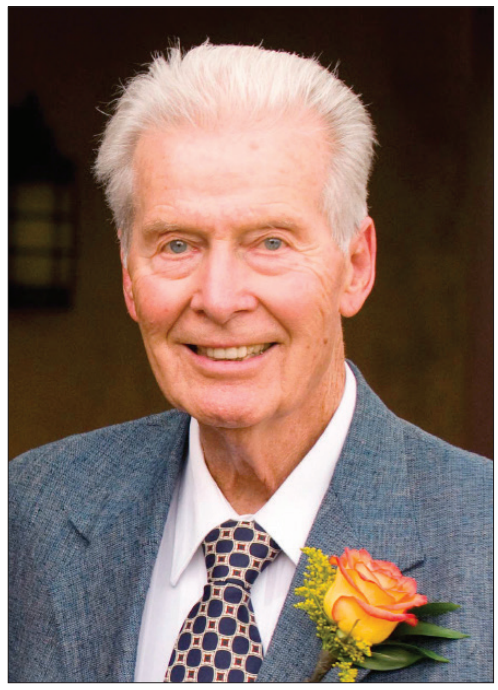
"As a music teacher he taught us the importance of practice and consistency and brought love and enjoyment of the fine arts into our lives," said Dennis. "There are so many people who were touched by his gift of music and the richness that imparts into a young person's life stays with them forever."

After seven years at Venice High, Umber launched the music program at Emerson Junior High School where he remained until his retirement in 1986.

Umber taught many young students who went on to have illustrious careers including Michael Jackson for a brief period of time as well as Gary Lewis of Gary Lewis & The Playboys and Doc Severinsen, who led The Tonight Show Band.

"During the years that he taught in the district he was just an icon. He was a wonderful mentor to so many of us and a real encyclopedia of music, particularly of brass music," said former co-worker and close friend Sue Edwards. "Wally was just a wonderful, generous, very self-effacing guy."

In 1968, Umber founded a community band with the Venice High Community Adult School, which he brought to Santa Monica College in 1979 where it became the Emeritus Concert Band. Umber nurtured and directed the band for four decades until handing over leadership in 2008 at age 84.



Courtesy photo

WALLACE UMBER: The veteran founded Santa Monica's Emeritus Concert Band in 1979 and spent decades with the group.

"All of our success today is solely due to his kindness, fortitude and musicianship," said Emeritus clarinet player and close friend Fred Warner. "There are not enough words to describe the quality gentleman and kind person he was."

In 1969, Umber married Carol Holle and gained three daughters: Suzanne, Holly, and Heidi. Umber leaves behind four grandsons, three granddaughters, five great grandsons, and two great granddaughters.

Umber was deeply devoted to his children and grandchildren and shared both his love of music and of the outdoors with them through lessons, concerts, hiking and camping trips.

"This wonderful man lived an amazing life, characterized by love of family, humility, a higher regard for others than himself, a gentle, patient, kind, non judgmental spirit and a legacy of music that he passed on to countless others," said Dennis.

Wallace will receive full military honors for his service in WWII at the Los Angeles National Cemetery at a ceremony on what would have been his 97th birthday in May. Dennis will be playing Taps in his honor.

Clara@smdp.com





Captain pleads not guilty to manslaughter in boat fire

STEFANIE DAZIO AND BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

The captain of a scuba diving boat that burned and sank off the California coast, killing 34 people, pleaded not guilty Tuesday to manslaughter charges.

Jerry Boylan was arraigned in federal court in Los Angeles on 34 counts of seaman's manslaughter. Each count carries a potential 10-year prison term.

Prosecutors say Boylan failed to follow safety rules before the fire broke out Sept. 2, 2019, on the Conception and led to one of the deadliest maritime disasters in recent U.S. history.

Boylan was accused of "misconduct, negligence and inattention" by failing to train his crew, conduct fire drills and have a roving night watchman on the boat when the fire ignited.

Boylan, 67, was indicted in December and surrendered for booking Tuesday morning. He was held in lockup and appeared in court by video. He was expected to be released later on a $250,000 bond.

The rare federal charges against Boylan were brought under a pre-Civil War law designed to hold steamboat captains and crew responsible for maritime disasters that were much more frequent at the time.

Boylan and four other crew members, who had all been sleeping, escaped from the fiery boat after the captain made a panicked mayday call.

Boylan spoke very little during the short hearing, responding to Magistrate Judge Jean Rosenbluth's questions with "not guilty" and short answers.

All 33 passengers and one crew member died in the bunkroom below deck, some wearing shoes that led to speculation they were trying to escape. Officials said they were trapped by flames that blocked a stairwell and a small hatch that were the only exits. All died of smoke inhalation, according to coroner's reports.

Family members of Charles McIlvain and Justin Dignam watched the proceeding on video from a separate courtroom. Rosenbluth apologized they couldn't be in same courtroom but said she recognized their presence at the hearing.

"We're here today to honor his memory and to represent the families of all 34 victims," Kathleen McIlvain said outside court after the short hearing. "We hope this is the beginning of the journey to find justice for our loved

SEE **CAPTAIN** PAGE 11

COURAGE

FROM PAGE 4

voted for Donald Trump would have joined the shameful insurrection at the Capitol. But that part of his following is armed and ready to fight. And kill. Do you think the Jan. 6 insurrection was the end of it? Their brave leader ("you go on, I'll be leading from back here") has already declared, echoing a famous CA Republican, that "We will be back… in some form." (Terminator Trump?)

WE ALL KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE

The abject cowardice of the Republican Senators and Representatives that we saw on display last week, leaves no more to be proven. But how do we get out of this mess?

Did you think I was going to reveal some wisdom, some plan that you hadn't thought of? Ha! But maybe we should start with simple honesty, and make plans from there. Why not?

I've never denied being an idealist. So maybe, in this unique time when so much has been turned upside down, it is the perfect time for idealism.

Politics, national and local, like it or not, affects all our lives. I recently read, from our smart, tough, compassionate CA Congresswoman Katie Porter, about what makes a real leader. "Speaking truth, pursuing justice, and helping future generations succeed."

Maybe it's that simple. But it's a daunting, tall order. I saw someone brush off an objection recently on social media with the dismissive, "It's just politics." So anything is allowed because it's "just politics"? No. There are a handful of good ones out there. I think Porter is one, and our Congressman Ted Lieu. I know very little about ex-Sen. Claire McCaskill but I do know this: when she voted against confirming Trump's terrible pick for the Supreme Court, Brett Kavanaugh, she knew her political career in Missouri was over.

JFK wrote a bestseller in 1956 titled "Profiles in Courage," describing acts of bravery and integrity by eight U.S. Senators, and the price they paid. I think it's time for volume two. And a separate volume for Santa Monica.

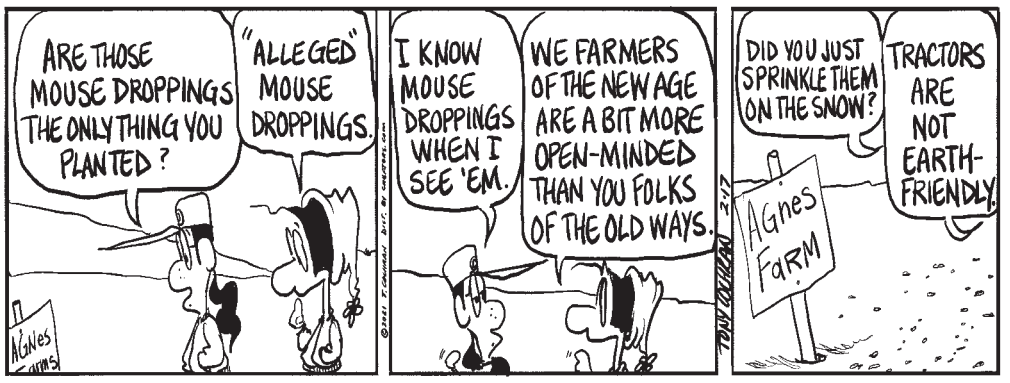
Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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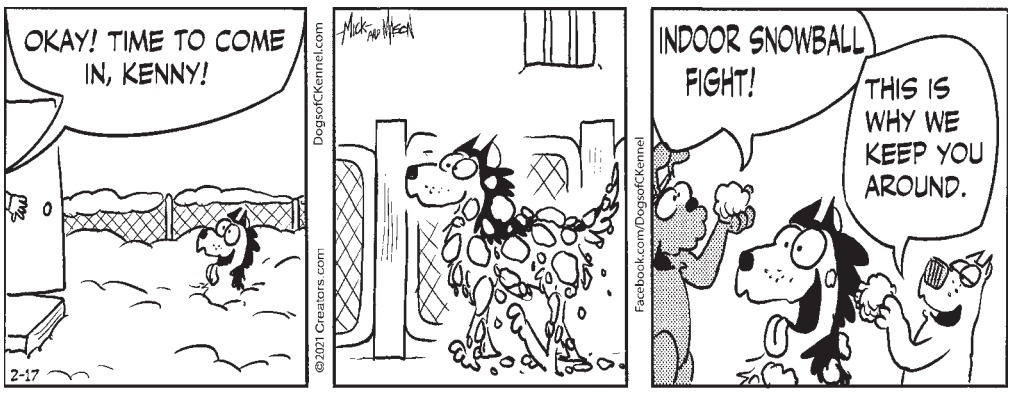
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



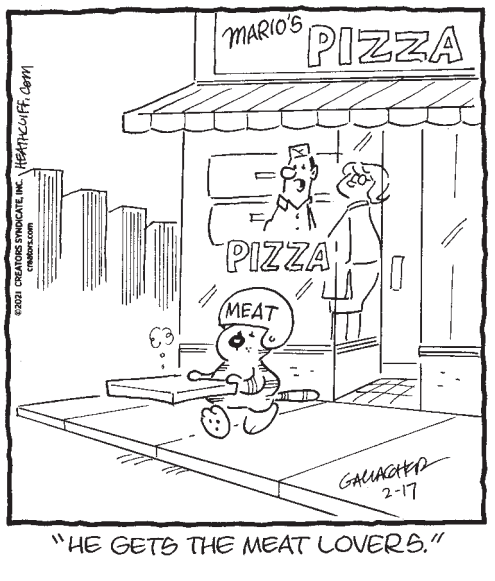
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE GETS THE MEAT LOVERS."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 56.5°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high occ. 4 ft
Peaky as SSW swell builds further and some reinforcing WNW/NW swells mix in.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high occ. 4 ft
Peaky for the beachbreaks. SSW swell holds, WNW swell holds. Offshore flow possible for the morning.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 65.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 69.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/02/18	Thu	08:26 AM	1.63	L
2021/02/18	Thu	2:12 PM	2.46	H
2021/02/18	Thu	6:20 PM	2.10	L
2021/02/19	Fri	02:01 AM	4.12	H
2021/02/19	Fri	10:31 AM	1.32	L
2021/02/20	Sat	03:16 AM	4.18	H
2021/02/20	Sat	11:46 AM	0.81	L
2021/02/21	Sun	04:29 AM	4.41	H
2021/02/21	Sun	12:32 PM	0.30	L
2021/02/21	Sun	7:48 PM	3.14	H
2021/02/21	Sun	11:14 PM	2.75	L
2021/02/22	Mon	05:27 AM	4.77	H
2021/02/22	Mon	1:08 PM	-0.18	L
2021/02/22	Mon	8:00 PM	3.37	H
2021/02/23	Tue	12:08 AM	2.49	L
2021/02/23	Tue	06:15 AM	5.20	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/13
20 28 33 63 68
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 66 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/12
5 14 24 25 27
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 96 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/13
18 22 38 40 42
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 21 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/15
4 17 18 22 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/15
EVENING: 0 1 2

Draw Date: 2/15
MIDDAY: 1 0 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/15
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:40.22

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 17)

A lump sum comes to you and with it a sense of security and just what you need to take action instead of having to constantly be in reactive mode. This grace feels good but not nearly as epic as the true gift of great harmony in your world. Conflicts resolve quickly and relationships glow with sweetness. Leo and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 38, 22, 40 and 8.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's scary to want and scarier still to desire. Remember this, because you have the keys to what other people want. Over the course of your dealings, their feelings may be heightened and illogical.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People around you will take off their sweaters because you create such warmth. Other effects of your personal weather system will include the privilege of hearing what's really on their hearts and minds.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In this human family, usefulness helps ensure a decent position. You're always looking for ways to make yourself more useful and, today, you'll land on one that will be fun to learn.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Today's atypical and nonsensical journey will amuse you. Why you go one direction instead of another is a mystery. Even more mysterious is how you still manage to get there.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You gravitate toward the people who see you as you would like to be seen and also the ones who see things in you that you cannot yet see in yourself. Both types are essential in your development.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You cannot be enticed today, neither by advertiser nor friends with (what they think are) good ideas. It's so obvious to you what the next right move is that you can't help but laugh in the face of persuasion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll get people to switch to your side because you do it better. Knowing which metrics matter most to people will be key here. Hint: Everyone wants to have more fun and ease.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have high expectations for loved ones but you also afford them wide margins for error. Those two factors go together toward optimal performance and, at the same time, sanity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You cannot have diamonds without paying the price. Even those who come by their diamonds via gifting pay the diamond rate in one way or another. It's something to consider before purchase or reception.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When your mind goes to that negative situation, go exercise, listen to happy music or do anything that brings you vitality. You're making a habit of getting your emotional payoffs from seeking joy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're not interested in what you should do today, as societal expectation has nothing to do with your own journey of self-discovery, which cannot be fulfilled under the umbrella of "should."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though you'd love to fill your time with meaningful pursuits, it's even better to discover the purpose behind the pursuits you already engage in and frame it all with your own meaning.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

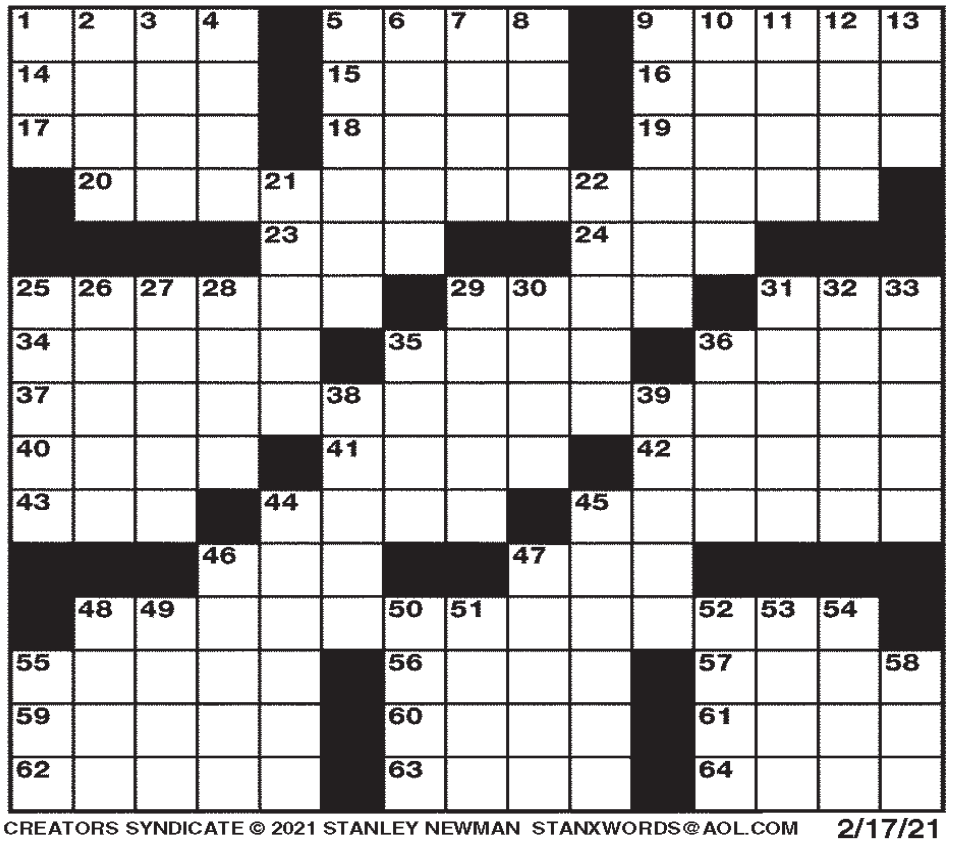
				6				
		6	1		7	4		2
7				3	4			6
	8				1		3	
3		9		8		7		5
	2		3				6	
9			5	1				4
1		5	9		3	6		
				7				

Newsday Crossword

POWERLESS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Resting upon
5 Sailboat's pole
9 Pair on a pirate flag
14 Vanished
15 Medicinal plant
16 Allure in the air
17 Inning enders
18 Oscar actress Sorvino
19 Very, very angry
20 Soda-and-ice-cream treat
23 Long, long time
24 Did a marathon
25 Sap-yielding trees
29 Hotel worker
31 Prominent period
34 Portion out
35 Made the scene
36 Currier's partner
37 Understood the implication
40 Snowballs, for snowball fights
41 Tiny songbird
42 Indy entrant
43 Adversity
44 Twisted out of shape
45 Cuban revolutionary
46 Nectar collector
47 Moral misstep
48 Where Boston and Miami are
55 Ocean's bottom
56 Creative flash
57 Invalidate, as a check
59 Much the same
60 Showing affection
61 Scandinavian capital
62 Mary __ Moore
63 Bug that might bug a beagle
64 Make mention of

DOWN
1 "Long, long" past
2 Play gigs on the road
3 Not fooled by
4 Mexican coin
5 Cuban dances
6 From another planet
7 Feeling offended
8 Sock flaw
9 Romantic tune
10 Hunter constellation
11 Halifax, __ Scotia
12 Send out, as steam
13 Regrettable
21 Edges of saws
22 Fast-food side order
25 Noisy parrot
26 San Antonio landmark
27 Fancy feather
28 Letterhead art
29 French painter Édouard
30 End of a blessing
31 Oust
32 Allude (to)
33 Houston baseballer
35 Muffin flavor
36 Keogh alternatives
38 10-to-12-year-old
39 Liquid-Plumr alternative
44 One holding a check
45 Shrill insect
46 British guy
47 Public to-do
48 Friendly nation
49 Hard work
50 Petty squabble
51 Venerated person
52 Shakespeare's river
53 Not very good
54 Lean to one side
55 "Good" part of nut butters
58 Fawn's mother



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/17/21

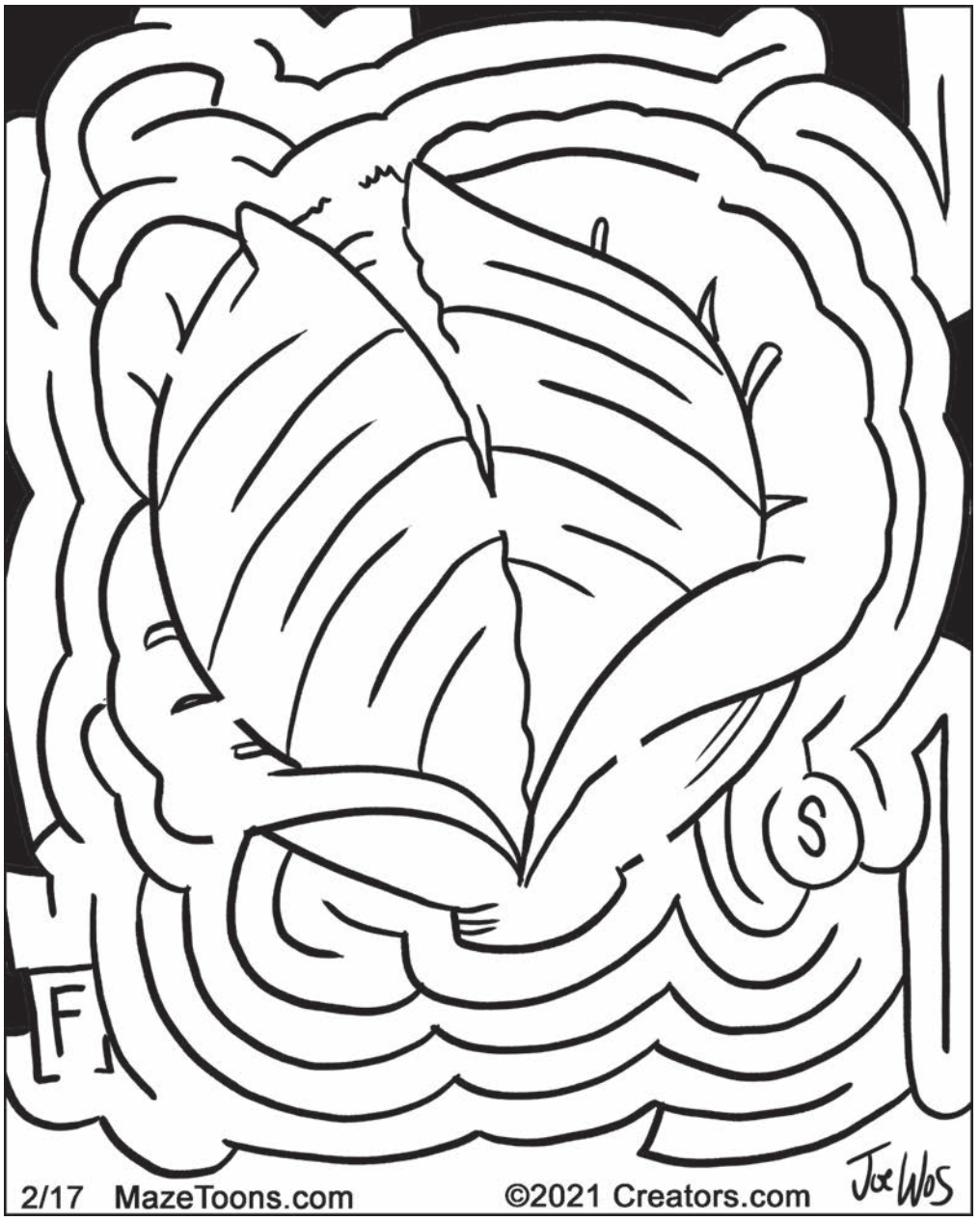
Binary Puzzle

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

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

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



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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5027

In hospital

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

Acid	Gangrene	Plan	Sprain
Aides	Help	Pulse	Staff
Asthma	Idle	Recovery	Tablet
Back	Illness	Registered nurse	Tests
Beds	Incise	Rehabilitate	Tissue
Bite	Legs	Report	Toes
Care	Lint	Revive	Tube
Chart	Meals	Room	Ulna
Cuts	Mend	Sheets	Uniforms
Drink	Need	Sick	Wait
Drug	Newspaper	Sleep	Well
Duty	Onset	Sponge	
Error	Pans		

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Pulling on the leash

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HOMELESSNESS

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said to Council, referring to the instances that have been detailed by Alle over many months.

Sasson added that property owners believe there should be bold innovative visions but also feel there should be more attention given to operations before she specifically took issue with Downtown Santa Monica Inc., an organization responsible for managing events, programs and other activities in the shopping area.

When Alle complained about the Promenade's problems last month, CEO Kathleen Rawson said DTSM Inc. does not have the ability to lock elevators or refuse bins because they do not own the public property.

"I think where the confusion lies is what Downtown Santa Monica's ability is to control space… We are not a traditional property manager in that we don't take care of the trash bins...," Rawson said to council. "We do eyes and ears; We help with interaction with the homelessness through our quality of life team, but the actual street (and) street parking structures are all owned by the City of Santa Monica; the City of Santa Monica maintains it and manages it."

Brock asked how the City can better help DTSM Inc., in keeping the Promenade safe, clean and inviting.

Rawson noted the region is in a perfect storm of increased homelessness in Downtown Santa Monica because of the pandemic.

"There is no sugarcoating that at all. There are more people on the street who are more desperate and more disabled than we've seen in a very long time. And that's a fact. We also have a lack of people who are shoppers and diners and office workers and there's less of us… so there's less eyes on the street," Rawson added, stating she is far from a police chief but she believes increased visibility and pedestrians on the street will help address the problems

City Spokesperson Constance Farrell said security details responsible for covering parking areas, elevators, stairwells, and refuse enclosures have been in place overnight for seven days a week at Parking Structures 1 through 6, 9 and 10, since last week.

"I want people to think about places, locally or even around the world, that they think are really great places... I think most of those spaces are truly public spaces; And I think that's important to remember about the Promenade — that when you have a truly public space you're going to have some grit to it. That's not to say that we shouldn't emphasize safety or we shouldn't emphasize cleanliness," Councilmember Gleam Davis said last week. But when one looks at great public spaces, like Piazza Navona in Rome, it's clear the problems aren't limited to Santa Monica.

"It's got residents, it's got trees, it's just a place where people can hang because it's public. And, yeah, it's got some grit to it; you see things in Piazza Navona that make you kind of go 'OOH! — that might make me uncomfortable,' but it's nevertheless a great public space. Trafalgar Square in London is another one," Davis said.

Because last week's discussion was part of a study session on the Third Street Promenade Stabilization and Economic Vitality Plan, no action was taken by Council. However, City Manager Lane Dilg concluded last week's conversation by inviting the community to join City Council at the upcoming February 23 meeting where a study session will be held on homelessness citywide.

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SMMUSD

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plans will be flexible and allow schools to scale up activities as case counts, hopefully, continue to decrease.

"The goal of this agreement is to move forward in a way that will get our schools fully open for in-person instruction in a smart and safe manner and will address the needs of students, teachers and classified staff, and families," said School Board President Jon Kean. "It is a scaffolded approach that starts the process for a full return to school (virus willing) in the fall, if not earlier."

According to Superintendent Ben Drati there are two main models of distance learning plus being planned for elementary schools.

Some schools intend to bring students on campus for enrichment activities in the afternoon following the conclusion of their distance learning instructional periods. Other schools are looking at rotating students in by grade level for the full school day, likely one day a week to start.

The district will offer continued distance learning for families who do not want to return to in-person opportunities this spring.

"We all wish Covid wasn't circulating and that we could be open fully in-person," said Drati. "To me this is the best agreement we can get to support all the different stakeholders involved: students, parents, and staff."

While L.A. County has hit the 25 cases per 100,000 residents reopening threshold for elementary schools, it has not yet reached the 7 cases per 100,000 residents threshold for secondary schools.

Secondary schools are also developing scalable distance learning plus plans to bring students on campus for activities such as labs, physical education, art programs, social emotional and extracurricular activities.

The district hopes to ratify its agreement with the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association within the next week.

"At this time I am unable to respond or comment until our leadership team meets with our members at an SMMCTA forum scheduled for tomorrow," said SMMCTA President Sarah Braff.

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CAPTAIN

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ones."

Federal safety investigators blamed the owners of the vessel, Truth Aquatics Inc., for a lack of oversight, though they have not been charged with a crime.

Truth Aquatics has sued in federal court under a provision in maritime law to avoid payouts to the families of the victims. The families of 32 victims have filed claims against boat owners Glen and Dana Fritzler and the company.

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