smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY
02.17.22
Volume 21 Issue 79

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Don't steal an item with its own GPS.
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Music from DTSM to DTLA.
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Re-do for Gelson's project community meeting tonight



Matthew Hall

DEVELOPMENT: Developers for a proposed 521 residential unit project slated to replace the Gelson's shopping center will be holding a community meeting via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17. While residents have voiced concerns about the scale of the project, if it meets all building and zoning codes, it could qualify for "by-right" approval, meaning Planning Commission and City Council could not deny it. Residents can join the zoom call at tinyurl.com/GelsonsDevelopment.

Surge's end brings masking reprieve



Matthew Hall

OUTSIDE: Students at Will Roger's were able to enjoy outdoor activities, like Farm Class without a mask yesterday.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica school kids are no longer obliged to wear face masks outdoors as of Wednesday, Feb. 16.

The LA County Department of Public Health (DPH) reported the County would "enter into a post-surge period" on Wednesday. Although the date aligned with the lifting of statewide mask mandates, LA County's rule change was due to a drop-off in daily COVID-19 hospitalizations; the seven-day average daily COVID-19 hospitalizations had fallen below 2,500 as of Wednesday, County Health reported.

"A modified LA County

SEE **MASKING** PAGE 7

Mayor decries 'aggressive hostility' in State of the City remarks

Speaking during the annual event, Mayor Sue Himmelrich called the issue the "elephant in every room."

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica Mayor Sue Himmelrich's remarks during this year's State of the City address on Tuesday took an uncharacteristically candid turn as the Mayor described "cancel culture" and personal attacks she has suffered over the past year.

In her comments, Himmelrich said she was concerned that the current political climate would deter qualified candidates from entering the political arena out of fear of abuse.

Following close to 15 minutes describing local issues such as the City's staff turnover, commitment to social justice and affordable housing, and ongoing work to combat the effects of COVID-19, Himmelrich said there was one further topic to touch on: the shift in political discourse toward personal attacks on elected officials.

"I would be remiss if I did not speak about the elephant in every room and that is the aggressive hostility we witness every day on television, on our streets, in our schools and in our government chambers," Himmelrich began. The Mayor went on to describe the protesters who showed up to her home during the Tuesday, Jan. 11, City Council meeting. At the time, Himmelrich and other council members had proposed a potential vaccine mandate for dining indoors at local restaurants.

"These protesters came to my door and demanded of my husband that I leave a city council meeting to speak to them because they were more important," Himmelrich described before playing a video clip captured by her doorbell camera of a group of protesters gathered on her front porch.

The protesters, wielding a bullhorn, accused her of perpetrating a "massive genocide." Himmelrich reported they also called her "Mayor Himmler," in reference to the prominent Nazi leader Heinrich Himmler, whom Encyclopedia Britannica describes as the "prime architect of the Holocaust."

Citing recent remarks by Pope Francis (who opined during a

SEE **CITY** PAGE 11

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Rams fans cheer Super Bowl champs at LA victory parade

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

Matthew Stafford, Cooper Kupp, Aaron Donald and the rest of the Los Angeles Rams celebrated their Super Bowl championship Wednesday with a victory parade and rollicking rally where they told thousands of cheering fans they would try to "run it back" and win again next year.

Fans lined sidewalks along the mile-long parade route as team members passed around the Lombardi Trophy, chugged champagne and waved from open-top double-decker buses that rolled to a plaza outside Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Awaiting them was a sea of yellow and blue, a throng of supporters waving flags and decked out in Rams gear.

"It's a testament to this team and the guys that are standing up here, the work that we put in, that we were able to bring this back to this city that demands nothing less than a world championship," said game MVP Kupp, who wore a Kobe Bryant Lakers jersey.

Responding to chants of "Run it back!" Kupp said he thinks the team can repeat next season.

"I really believe it. This is just the start," he said.

His teammates puffed cigars and sprayed bubbly from magnum bottles in a loosely organized party atop a crowded stage covered in confetti.

"I've been having a lot of fun ... so if I slur my words, I apologize," laughed crowd favorite Donald, who was shirtless and slugged champagne. "Look at this trophy right here! Look at it! That's what it's all about!"

"It's an unbelievable journey we've been on," said Stafford.

Fans came from all over the region to celebrate, with some arriving hours early to take in the scene. Cars on LA freeways flew Rams flags, and residences and businesses throughout downtown displayed banners congratulating the team.

"It's like a dream," said Lawrence Morse, who drove in from suburban Irwindale with his 12-year-old son, Jacob.

"We watched almost every game the whole season," said Jacob. "We knew they would win the Super Bowl!"

The celebrating began Sunday when the Rams beat the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 after a 79-yard final drive by Stafford that ended with a 1-yard TD toss to Kupp.

Charles Goolsby, 16, came with his two brothers and their father from Fontana, in San Bernardino County. He said his late grandfather was a lifelong Rams fan, and his passion for the team was contagious.

"I was holding my breath in the fourth quarter, but I just knew that Kupp could win it," Goolsby said.

"We are here for our grandpa," he added.

Three LA sports teams have won championships in the past two years, but the Lakers and Dodgers didn't get victory parades because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rams' party came the same day that Los Angeles County lifted its outdoor mask mandate as coronavirus case rates and hospitalizations continue to fall.

"The sun is shining, the Rams won, the pandemic seems to be easing. What a day!" exclaimed fan Gregg Donovan, who wore a top hat emblazoned with "Rams House."

The Coliseum was for decades home to the Rams, who now compete at SoFi Stadium in neighboring Inglewood, where the Super Bowl was played. Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts Jr. was on hand Wednesday to give the key to his city to team owner Stan Kroenke.

Rudy Gallego, 70, said he saw his first Rams game when his dad brought him to the Coliseum in the 1960s.

"They tore my heart out" when the team moved to St. Louis, he said, but his cousin persuaded him to resume his fandom when the Rams returned to LA. Gallego said it was like regaining a relationship with a long lost friend.

"I'm still processing this win," he said. "I'm really savoring it. It's so sweet."

Associated Press writer John Antczak contributed to this report.

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More virus rules fall as CDC hints at better times ahead

SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

The nation's leading health officials said Wednesday that the U.S. is moving closer to the point that COVID-19 is no longer a "constant crisis" as more cities, businesses and sports venues began lifting pandemic restrictions around the country.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said during a White House briefing that the government is contemplating a change to its mask guidance in the coming weeks. Noting recent declines in COVID-19 cases, hospital admissions and deaths, she acknowledged "people are so eager" for health officials to ease masking rules and other measures designed to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

"We all share the same goal – to get to a point where COVID-19 is no longer disrupting our daily lives, a time when it won't be a constant crisis – rather something we can prevent, protect against, and treat," Walensky said.

With the omicron variant waning and Americans eager to move beyond the virus, government and business leaders have been out ahead of the CDC in ending virus measures in the last week, including ordering workers back to offices, eliminating mask mandates and no longer requiring proof of vaccine to get into restaurants, bars and sports and entertainment arenas.

The efforts have been gaining more steam each day.

Philadelphia officials on Wednesday said the city's vaccine mandate for restaurants was immediately lifted, though indoor mask mandates remain in place for now. At Disney World, vaccinated guests will no longer have to wear masks at the Florida theme park starting Thursday. Professional sports teams including the Utah Jazz and Washington Wizards and Capitals have stopped requiring proof of vaccine for fans.

The most populous county in Washington — where Seattle is located — announced Wednesday it will no longer require COVID vaccination checks to enter restaurants, bars, theaters and gyms beginning March 1.

Health Commissioner Cheryl Bettigole said Philadelphia's average daily case count had dropped to 189 cases per day in the city of more than 1.5 million people. Bettigole said the plunge in infections has been steeper in Philadelphia than elsewhere in the state or the country, making it easier to lift the vaccine mandate for restaurants and other businesses announced in mid-December and that just fully went into effect this month.

"Our goal has always been to the least restrictive as possible while ensuring safety," she said.

In Provincetown, Massachusetts, a seaside town that became a COVID hot spot with an early outbreak of the delta variant last summer, officials on Tuesday lifted a mask mandate and vaccine requirement for indoor spaces like restaurants and bars. Town Manager Alex Morse said the community of about 3,000 recorded zero active cases last week among Provincetown residents — something that hasn't happened since the surge following last year's July 4 celebrations.

"We are learning to live with, and mitigate, the impact of the virus on our community," Morse said.

COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations have fallen sharply in the U.S., with the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases dropping from about 453,000 two weeks ago to about 136,000 as of Tuesday, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations are at levels similar to September, when the U.S. was emerging from the delta variant surge. Almost 65% of Americans are fully vaccinated.

"As a result of all this progress and the tools we now have, we are moving to a time where COVID isn't a crisis but is something we can protect against and treat," said Jeff Zients, the White House coronavirus response coordinator.

Walensky said the CDC "will soon put guidance in place that is relevant and encourages prevention measures when they are most needed to protect public health and our hospitals." She suggested any changes will take into account measures of community transmission, as well as hospitalization rates or other gauges of whether infected people are becoming severely ill. They also would consider available bed space in hospitals.

Several states with indoor mask mandates announced last week they would be lifted in coming weeks, also citing promising numbers.

Two music festivals that draw thousands of people to the California desert town of Indio in April and May, Coachella and Stagecoach, also said this week there will be no vaccination, masking or testing mandates in accordance with local guidelines. Coachella also noted that could change along with COVID conditions.

In Philadelphia, Bettigole said the vaccine mandate helped spur "a very large" increase in pediatric vaccinations, pushing the city way ahead of the national average for first doses among kids ages 5 to 11. More than 53% of Philadelphia residents in that age group have received a first dose, compared to closer to 30% nationally, she said.

Not all businesses plan to immediately change course. Philadelphia Irish sports bar and restaurant O'Neals will keep asking to see customers' vaccination cards for now, said managing partner Greg "Spoonie" Rand, even though the city is lifting its vaccine mandate.

"Guests are more compliant and employees are more happy for us to continue doing vaccine cards inside," he said. He thinks vaccinated people will be wary of coming in if the pub stops checking cards.

Walensky said the CDC wants to "give people a break from things like mask-wearing" when circumstances improve, though be able to mask up again if things worsen. She also said there will be instances where people should continue to wear masks even if prevention measures ease. Examples include when individuals have symptoms of COVID-19 or are within 10 days after being diagnosed with it.

Associated Press reporters Mike Stobbe and Tali Arbel in New York, Claudia Lauer in Philadelphia and Todd Richmond in Madison, Wisconsin, contributed.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 295 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 15

Person Down 1400Blk 2nd St 2:55 a.m.
Petty Theft 1000Blk Ocean Ave 2:57 a.m.
Burglary 1000Blk Broadway 3:36 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 500Blk Colorado Ave 4:25 a.m.
Encampment 600Blk Olympic Blvd W 5:40 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 16th St / Bay St 7:06 a.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 7:35 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1100Blk Pico Blvd 7:49 a.m.
Petty Theft 400Blk Broadway 7:58 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2400Blk Virginia Ave 8:08 a.m.
Missing Person 2000Blk Olympic Blvd 8:15 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public Dorchester Ave / Pico Blvd 8:37 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1400Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:49 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:49 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1700Blk 14th St 8:56 a.m.
Burglary 2900Blk Neilson Way 8:58 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2500Blk Main St 9:06 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1200Blk 25th St 9:21 a.m.
Battery 2100Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:22 a.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 9:26 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1900Blk 11th St 9:33 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2000Blk Olympic Blvd 9:35 a.m.
Vandalism 200Blk Ocean Ave 9:47 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 700Blk 9th St 9:47 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 400Blk Broadway 9:55 a.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 10:00 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 10:20 a.m.
Burglary 2500Blk San Vicente Blvd 10:26 a.m.
Burglary 800Blk Ocean Ave 10:29 a.m.
Found Property 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 10:47 a.m.
Burglary 2500Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:01 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 800Blk Bay St 11:02 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 21st St / Pier Ave 11:03 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2400Blk 20th St 11:18 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:20 a.m.
Lost Property 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:24 a.m.
Lost Property 800Blk Grant St 11:32 a.m.
Burglary 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:55 a.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 11:58 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 900Blk Ocean Ave 12:17 p.m.
Petty Theft 2200Blk Main St 12:20 p.m.
Encampment 1600Blk Ocean Ave 12:24 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 12:31 p.m.
Encampment 1500Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:40 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:44 p.m.
Person Down 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 12:48 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 200Blk Broadway 12:53 p.m.
Prowler Just Left 1200Blk Grant St 12:55 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1400Blk Palisades Park 12:57 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 4th St / Washington Ave 1:19 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 25th St / Wilshire Blvd 1:21 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1700Blk 21st St 1:22 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Neilson Way / Pier Ave 1:31 p.m.
Assault 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:46 p.m.
Grand Theft 800Blk Euclid St 1:58 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:08 p.m.
Encampment 1500Blk 17th St 2:11 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 300Blk Strand St 2:14 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 800Blk 2nd St 2:34 p.m.
Vandalism Now 1600Blk Ocean Ave 2:49 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1500Blk 4th St 2:59 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1400Blk 21st St 3:00 p.m.
Missing Person 2000Blk Olympic Blvd 3:01 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Now 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:05 p.m.
Person Down 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:20 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Franklin St / Wilshire Blvd 3:25 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Neilson Way / Ocean Park Blvd 3:26 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Main St / Marine St 3:44 p.m.
Battery 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 3:47 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2600Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:51 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:07 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:18 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2800Blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:30 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2200Blk Broadway 4:32 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 4:34 p.m.
Battery 11500Blk Aviation Blvd 4:36 p.m.
Arson 1900Blk 4th St 4:39 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400Blk The Beach 4:45 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 400Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:17 p.m.
Found Property 1900Blk 10th St 5:19 p.m.
Identity Theft 1300Blk 15th St 5:25 p.m.
Battery 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:44 p.m.
Person Down 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 5:54 p.m.
Grand Theft 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 6:10 p.m.
Battery 1800Blk Cloverfield Blvd 6:12 p.m.
Found Person 1900Blk Ocean Way 6:49 p.m.
Petty Theft 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:09 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1300Blk 2nd St 7:51 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 5th St / Arizona Ave 8:09 p.m.
Petty Theft 3100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:14 p.m.
Identity Theft 800Blk Hill St 9:03 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 200Blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:36 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 9th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:42 p.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Bay St 9:50 p.m.
Vandalism 2600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:09 p.m.
Encampment 14th St / Colorado Ave 10:19 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 11:15 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 11:30 p.m.
Fight 28th St / Pearl St 11:59 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 46 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 15

EMS 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:37 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 2nd St 2:55 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 2nd St 4:36 a.m.
EMS 800Blk Ashland Ave 5:16 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 6th St 7:38 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:55 a.m.
EMS 400Blk San Vicente Blvd 8:04 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1400Blk 2nd St 8:30 a.m.
EMS 2500Blk Kansas Ave 8:55 a.m.
Fire Out Investigation 700Blk 9th St 9:41 a.m.
EMS 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 10:00 a.m.
EMS 2500Blk 3rd St 10:19 a.m.
EMS 200Blk 25th St 10:22 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 15th St 10:44 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 500Blk Broadway 11:17 a.m.
EMS 2800Blk 11th St 11:27 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1700Blk San Vicente Blvd 11:40 a.m.
Ladder Request 800Blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:41 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 11:58 a.m.
EMS 2500Blk 32nd St 12:03 p.m.
EMS 400Blk Euclid St 12:18 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 2nd St 12:51 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:14 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1400Blk 4th St 3:16 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:20 p.m.
EMS 300Blk 12th St 3:23 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Stewart St 3:32 p.m.
EMS 25th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:38 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 3:48 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1500Blk 4th St 4:24 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 400Blk 18th St 4:45 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 700Blk 19th St 5:00 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900Blk 7th St 5:22 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 5:56 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 6:02 p.m.
Arcing Wires 1500Blk 20th St 6:10 p.m.
EMS Main St / Ocean Park Blvd 6:26 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk Colorado Ave 7:09 p.m.
EMS 00Blk Village Pkwy 7:56 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 400Blk 18th St 8:18 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:57 p.m.
Wires Down Ocean Ave / Strand St 10:17 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 22nd St 10:45 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 11:02 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 19th St 11:15 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Broadway 11:53 p.m.

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 FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 AT 6:19 P.M.

Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of Montana regarding an existing LAPD incident where several cell phones were stolen. The reporting party was tracking his phone via Find My iPhone and tracked it to the location. Officers contacted an individual matching the description given by the reporting party and found the stolen items on his person, along with additional items that had been stolen. The subject also had an arrest warrant out of another state. Andrew Wistic Ocalliham was issued a citation for Receiving Stolen Property.

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 AT 1 P.M.

Officers responded to the 1300 block of the 3rd Street Promenade for a Petty Theft call. A female subject was accused of stealing food from the local Starbucks. The suspect, later identified as Nicole Sheridan, entered the store, asked multiple customers for money and ultimately proceeded to select multiple food item from the display stand. She exited the location without paying for the items. Sheridan was located outside the store and taken into custody.



Ex-Angels employee accused in Skaggs case doesn't testify

SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Sports Writer

Defense attorneys rested their case Wednesday without the testimony of a former Los Angeles Angels employee accused of providing the drugs that led to the overdose death of pitcher Tyler Skaggs.

A brief and uneventful presentation from the defense came a day after federal prosecutors concluded their case with the gripping testimony of four major league players acknowledging past drug use while saying they received oxycodone pills from defendant Eric Kay.

Kay, who faces drug distribution and conspiracy charges, obtained oxycodone pills for players and was a user, according to testimony. Pitcher Blake Parker, the last of six witnesses called by the defense, testified that he received opioids from Kay in 2018, the last year Parker played for the Angels.

Closing arguments are scheduled for Thursday, the eighth day of Kay's trial in downtown Fort Worth. The federal court is about 15 miles from where the Angels were supposed to play the Texas Rangers when Skaggs was found dead in his suburban Dallas hotel room on July 1, 2019. He was 27.

A coroner's report said Skaggs had choked to death on his vomit, and a toxic mix of alcohol, fentanyl and oxycodone was in his system.

Prosecutors contended Kay was the only one who could have provided the drugs that led to Skaggs' death, and that the drugs were delivered after the team arrived in Texas. An expert testified for the government that Skaggs died because of the fentanyl, which is significantly more potent than oxycodone.

The defense countered that Skaggs had multiple suppliers, that Kay didn't give him drugs after the team arrived in Texas and that there's no way to prove fentanyl caused the death.

Kay faces a minimum sentence of 20 years in prison and maximum of life on the distribution charge resulting in death. The conspiracy count carries a maximum of 20 years.

Parker was emotional when he first took the stand, saying he considered Skaggs a friend and said, "I thought so," when asked if Kay was a good guy. Parker said he quit asking Kay for pills when Kay said he was trying to quit using oxycodone.

Kay served as the team's public relations contact on many road trips, and the trip to Texas was his first since returning from rehab. Kay was placed on leave shortly after Skaggs' death and never returned to the team.

Two more former Angels players, infielder Andrelton Simmons and pitcher Trevor Cahill, testified that they saw Skaggs at the hotel the night before he was found dead. Both said Skaggs had mentioned the possibility of going out but they didn't think he left the hotel.

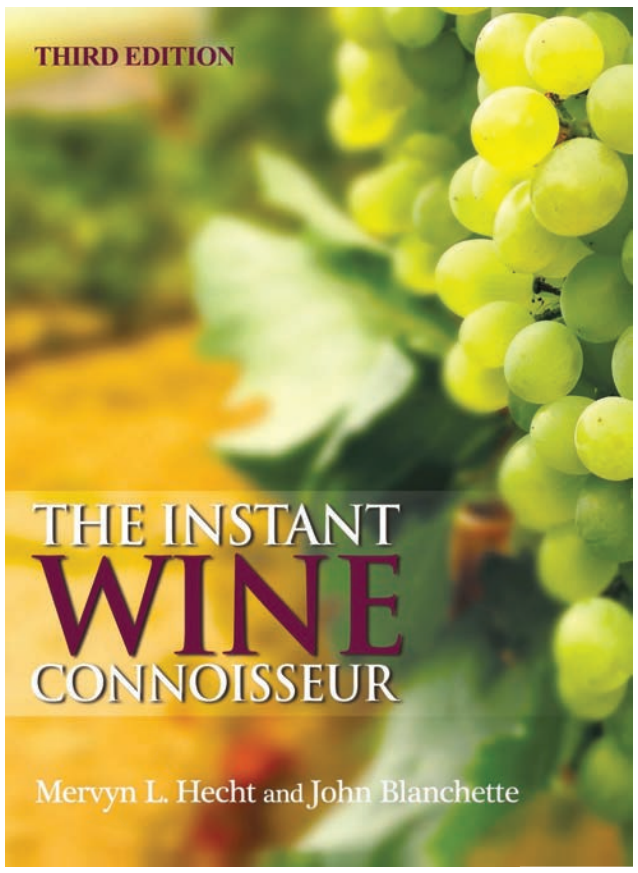
Garet Ramos, Skaggs' stepbrother, was asked by the defense if he deleted any texts from Skaggs' phone when it was given to him by police in the suburb of Southlake, where Skaggs died. Ramos said he didn't.

The defense has said Ramos deleted a text at the request of Chris Leanos, a friend of Skaggs who acknowledged in testimony that he was a drug dealer. Leanos said he received a text from Skaggs a week or two before the pitcher died asking for oxycodone and Leanos refused, saying he warned Skaggs of the danger of those pills.

Ramos said he couldn't remember specifics of how he might have helped wean Skaggs off Percocet, a combination of oxycodone and acetaminophen, in 2013. Skaggs' mother, Debbie Hetman, testified early in the trial that her son had an issue with Percocet in 2013 and that he quit "cold turkey" at the time.



★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

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

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Online harassment, real harm: Fixing the web's biggest bug

DAVID KLEPPER
The Associated Press

It should have been a time of celebration: Brittan Heller would soon graduate from college and head to one of the nation's top law programs.

But when a classmate with unrequited feelings for Heller wasn't admitted to that same school, he turned his rage on her. He wrote a manifesto titled "A Stupid B—-h to Attend Yale Law School" and posted it on a site popular with anonymous trolls. The man urged them to do their worst.

Soon strangers were making derogatory, sexualized comments and posting her pictures online. They made threats. Posted her personal information. At one point, FBI agents escorted Heller to class for her protection.

"People say, 'Oh, just log off. Don't read it. Turn off the computer,'" said Heller, who turned her personal experience from 15 years ago into a legal specialty as a leading expert on online harassment. "This the 21st century, and people have a right to use the internet for work, for pleasure or to express themselves. Telling people not to read the comments is no longer enough. We don't talk enough about this problem, and we need to."

Online harassment has become such a familiar part of the internet that it can be hard to imagine the web without it. From teen cyberbullying to authoritarian governments silencing dissent, online toxicity is a fact of life for everyone, with women, teens and religious and racial minorities the most likely to be targeted.

And there is evidence the problem is getting worse.

In 2014, 15% of Americans said they had faced severe or significant online abuse, defined as stalking, physical threats, sustained harassment or sexual harassment. In 2021 the number was 25%, according to studies by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Health care workers, journalists, teachers, police and government workers have all reported increases in online harassment in recent years, as the pandemic and political polarization led many people to release their anger and fear online.

Nearly three in four female journalists reported receiving threats or other forms of online harassment, according to a survey by UNESCO and the International Center for Journalists that polled more than 700 journalists in more than 100 countries. One in five of those said the harassment escalated to offline abuse or even assault.

The growth of the internet has also expanded the ways that people can be targeted beyond merely email to social media posts, direct messages, texts and streaming video. And with the rise of smartphones and cheap, ubiquitous internet, harassment can now be a 24-7 problem for victims.

"We've made so many strides — there's more awareness now — but it's easy to get frustrated and to feel like we've gotten nowhere," said Tina Meier, who started a foundation to teach kids and parents about online harassment after her daughter's suicide in 2006.

Thirteen-year-old Megan Meier had been bullied by someone she met online who she thought was a teenage boy named Josh. The two had flirted until the person suddenly turned against Megan. "Everybody hates you," "Josh" wrote. "The world would be a better place without you."

Police later determined that "Josh" was actually an adult woman, the mother of one of Megan's classmates.

While polls show all types of people are susceptible to online harassment, extensive research has shown that women and people of color are far more likely to be targeted. That's also true for people with disabilities, people who belong to religious minorities and members of the LGBTQ community.

Women are more likely than men to say online harassment is a serious problem, Pew found. They're also more likely to report being the victims of online sexual harassment and more serious abuse such as threats of physical harm.

The difference is so great that many men may not understand the severity of the demeaning language, sexualized insults and unwanted attention that women frequently face online. A coordinated harassment campaign against female video game designers that began in 2014, known as Gamergate, became so pervasive — including threats of rape, torture and murder — that some women hired security or went into hiding.

Online harassment has also been used globally to attack journalists, dissidents and others in the public arena.

Political consultant Maria Cardona began receiving nasty emails and direct messages once she began presenting her opinions on national news shows. She's noticed that many of her critics seem focused on the idea that an outspoken Latina woman could be considered an authority on politics.

One typical message read: "I hope you get raped and have your throat slit."

"They want to shut us up, they want to scare us, they want to intimidate us," said Cardona, who now keeps her office locked after someone showed up to accost her in person.

Anonymity can make it easier to be cruel without fear of offline repercussions. It's a phenomenon called the online disinhibition effect, and it's one reason why trolls feel comfortable saying things they would never say to someone in person.

As part of a 2009 settlement of Heller's lawsuit against her harassers, she asked to meet them face to face. One was a 17-year-old boy who had posted that he'd like to gouge Heller's eyes out and have sex with her corpse.

"They all essentially said the same thing: that they didn't realize their actions were impacting a person in that way, that they didn't realize there was a person on the other side of the screen," Heller recalled. "And they all said, 'I am so sorry.'"

California enacted the nation's first law against cyberbullying in 1999, and most states have since followed suit. Enforcement can be difficult, however, as the lines between harassment and free speech can be blurry.

SEE **ONLINE** PAGE 11

DENTAL
Insurance
Get the dental care you deserve.

Medicare does not cover dental care[1]. That means if you need dental work done, it can cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars out of your own pocket.

Get Dental Insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It helps cover over 350 procedures – from cleanings and fillings to crowns and dentures. Call today to get help paying big dental bills.

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[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).
6255

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Noteworthy

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Music from DTSM to DTLA

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

EM THE MASTER — I know what you're thinking. I've been giving EM's show a HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for months now and still do. For so many reasons. She has more talent than anyone has a right to. She recently came to the attention of Spectrum news, whose Kelvin Washington did a rave piece on her with some nice clips from her live show. She just announced the release on Tuesday of her new single "Bite," produced by and featuring 2x Grammy winner Adrian Young of No Doubt. It's a gripping number I've seen her do live several times, always one of my favorites. She says it is an autobiographical follow-up to her previous single "Get Out." I would give you the link to it but I see that it is not yet mastered, so I'll hold off on that. But, of course, you can go hear it live any Tuesday night, right here in town. Every Tues 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $10.



Photo courtesy TB

TOM BROSSEAU: @McCabe's.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - HAMILTON — Still with us, but only four more weeks. Tonight - Thurs, Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed, next Thurs 8 p.m., Sun 1 p.m., 6:30 p.m., also Sat 2 p.m., Pantages Theater, Hollywood, $49-3000+, depending on date/time.

TONIGHT! - LA PHIL with SALONEN plays BARTOK, BJARNASON, SIBELIUS — This should be adventurous, and really good. LA Phil former music director/conductor Esa-Pekka returns home to present two of his favorite composers, fellow Finn Jean Sibelius (in my Top 5 composers), and 20th Century titan, Hungarian Bela Bartok, sandwiching the Dudamel-commissioned world premier of "Feast" by rising Icelandic star Dnaiel Bjarnason. This will prepare you for the Bartok: "orchestration – two complete string orchestras divided spatially by the percussion (timpani, bass drum, cymbals, snare drums, tam-tam), xylophone, harp, piano (two- and four-hands), and celesta." Doesn't sound like Mozart or Bach. Sibelius 7th – 23 minutes of Arctic Circle serene beauty, here in 90 degree LA. Ain't life wonderful, with this kind of music available, by masters? Thurs 1:30 p.m., donors invitational rehearsal; Fri 11 a.m., Sat, Sun Fri 8 p.m., Sat 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $20-189.

TOM BROSSEAU, JAKE XERXES FUSSELL – Not familiar with the headliner Jake Xerxes Fussell (great name, though), but I suggest you get in line nice and early so you don't miss any of opener Tom Brosseau. For years he would perform occasionally at the monthly Friday night music show at the Church in Ocean Park and I would always recommend him for his sweet tenor and gentle way of storytelling in his songs that draw you in and take you there. Much of the time "there" is North Dakota, where he grew up. He has a ton o' albums and tours the world, but don't miss this return to Santa Monica. Maybe one of his fans, Bonnie Raitt, said it best: "Tom Brosseau is a soulful cat." Sat 8 p.m. McCabe's, $20.

SOUNDS OF LA with NOBUKO MIYAMOTO – The Getty's live music shows are back! Kicking off with Nobuko Miyamoto's "120,000 STORIES," a genre-bridging concert inspired by her latest album, which reflects on her experience as one of 120,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned during World War II. Joined by a stellar group of musicians, this concert features "songstories," political and personal reflections that cross race, culture and time, inviting the audience into "Bambutsu no Tsunagari," a Japanese phrase meaning "the space where all things are connected." All that, and you can check out the great Getty too.

Sat 8 p.m., Sun 4 p.m., Getty Center, LA, free with reservations, Getty Center parking $15-20.

SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends – apparently bumped for a Judd Aptow benefit, but she is still scheduled for 3/5, Largo at the Coronet, LA.

TOLEDO DIAMOND — Have you gone to catch his unique show yet, every Sunday night at Harvelle's, here in SM? I've been recommending him for... decades. Trust me. You've never seen anything like Toledo. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

BLACK PATRIOTS: Heroes of the Civil War – He was one of the very best to ever touch a basketball, scored more career points than anyone ever (though LeBron may pass him), sure he was hilarious in his short bit in "Airplane" but Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is a brilliant, creative force who is a noted jazz collector, author of many books, and now narrating and producing this series. I'm sure he has dug up fascinating things that will entertain and educate us. History Channel, premieres Mon 9 p.m.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: LA PHIL with FATHER JOHN MISTY, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 2/25; HERBIE HANCOCK, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 2/27; HARLEM

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

MASKING

FROM PAGE 1

Health Officer Order will be posted today [Tuesday, Feb. 15] and effective at 12:01 am on 2/16/2022 recommending, but no longer requiring, outdoor masking at outdoor mega events and outdoor spaces at TK-12 schools and childcare sites," a DPH news release stated.

Masks would still be required indoors across the County.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) leadership confirmed masks would become optional as of Wednesday morning. SMMUSD Superintendent Ben Drati sent out a message to parents describing changes about five hours after the County announcement.

"The SMMUSD School Board has directed us to lift the requirement effective immediately, with some exceptions," Drati wrote. "Staff and students may voluntarily continue to wear masks outdoors, if they so desire. Masks indoors are required."

Exceptions would remain for those "on quarantine while on campus," Drati wrote, meaning any student or staff member who is identified as having been exposed to a positive case, who is asymptomatic. District spokesperson Gail Pinsker emphasized that students and staff members who are symptomatic, even if they have not received a positive test result, should also stay home "until COVID-19 is ruled out through a test."

"This is a big milestone of this pandemic and we can take a moment to rejoice in seeing the smiling faces of our students and staff outside again, but must continue to remain vigilant in protecting against new surges," Drati wrote in his Tuesday evening message.

The change was met with enthusiasm by some parents and trepidation by others; for instance, Will Rogers Learning Community Principal Ryan Bourke said he had received one angry phone call from a parent who thought students should be told to keep wearing masks outside.

On Wednesday, many students at Will Rogers were taking advantage of the new protocols around lunchtime, with fewer than half of students seen playing on the jungle gym with masks on. Kids there were still following County COVID-19 rules and remaining masked while indoors and transitioning between classrooms.

In a districtwide survey of parents in the fall, two-thirds of respondents said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the District's outdoor masking policies. In general, Santa Monica parents were much more supportive of the outdoor masking requirement than Malibu parents when surveyed at the time.

In addition to the lifting of outdoor mask mandates, DPH announced on Tuesday that residents infected with the coronavirus would have the option to communicate with the County via text message or online rather than over the phone.

"Residents who test positive will receive an initial text message from DPH with easy-to-follow instructions for isolation and links for additional information, including a link requesting they complete an online case interview survey," the DPH information stated. "Residents can complete the survey at their own pace over the next 8 days." The current call center system will also be available by calling (833) 540-0473.

emily@smdp.com

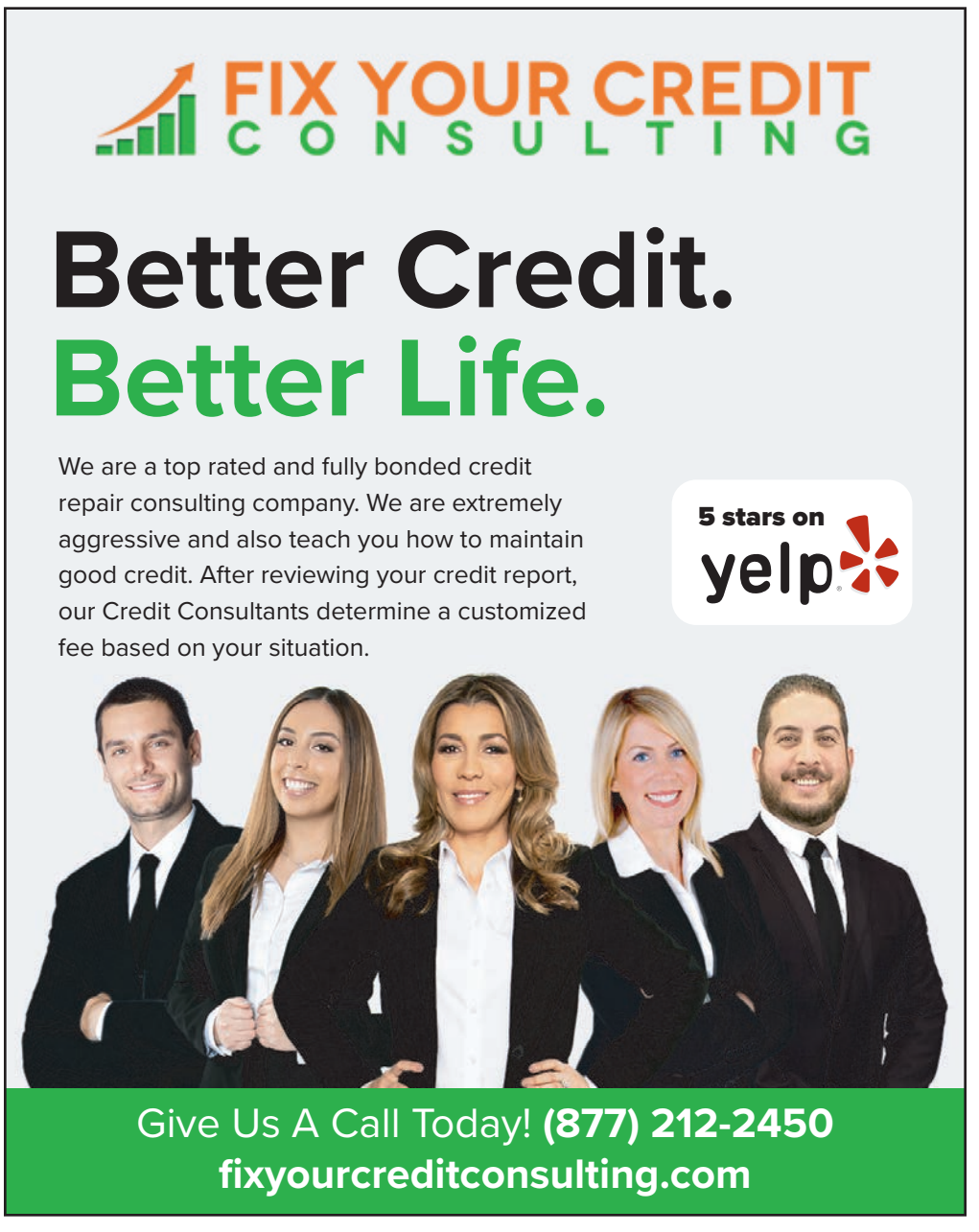


Matthew Hall

PLAY: Students had the option to remove masks during lunch on Wednesday.

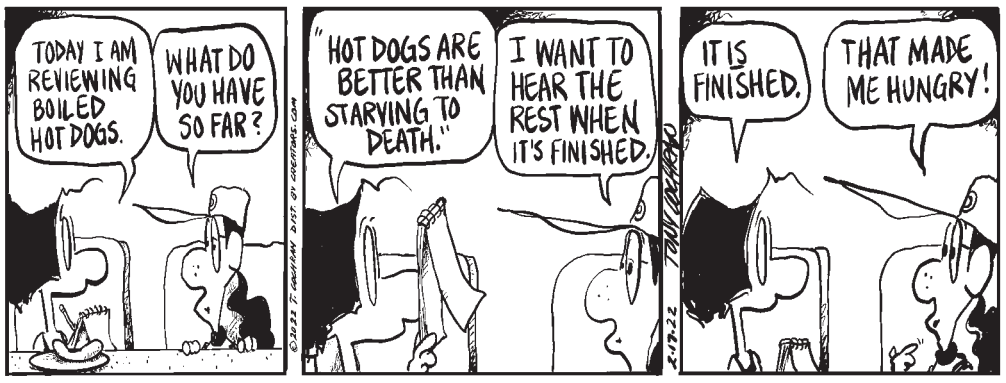






Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



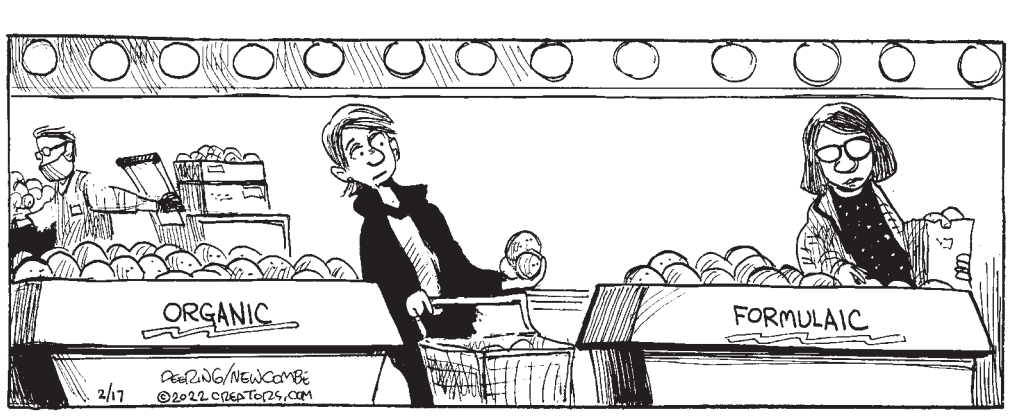
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"MY DUDE."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.5°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
A nice little day of waves. NW swell mix will ease as new WNW and SSW swells creep in. The high tide doesn't help the cause but wind is offshore in the AM.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Decent day for the small wave gear with a little blend of new SSW swell and lingering NW and WNW swells on tap. Wind is lightest in the AM but the afternoon low tide could be in play.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 69. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 72. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/02/17	Thu	03:08 AM	1.43	L
2022/02/17	Thu	09:12 AM	5.74	H
2022/02/17	Thu	4:04 PM	-0.69	L
2022/02/17	Thu	10:23 PM	4.23	H
2022/02/18	Fri	03:47 AM	1.27	L
2022/02/18	Fri	09:47 AM	5.43	H
2022/02/18	Fri	4:30 PM	-0.41	L
2022/02/18	Fri	10:50 PM	4.41	H
2022/02/19	Sat	04:29 AM	1.15	L
2022/02/19	Sat	10:25 AM	4.94	H
2022/02/19	Sat	4:56 PM	0.01	L
2022/02/19	Sat	11:20 PM	4.58	H
2022/02/20	Sun	05:18 AM	1.08	L
2022/02/20	Sun	11:09 AM	4.29	H
2022/02/20	Sun	5:22 PM	0.52	L
2022/02/20	Sun	11:54 PM	4.71	H
2022/02/21	Mon	06:17 AM	1.04	L
2022/02/21	Mon	12:04 PM	3.54	H
2022/02/21	Mon	5:49 PM	1.10	L
2022/02/22	Tue	12:34 AM	4.81	H
2022/02/22	Tue	07:36 AM	0.98	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 2/14
16 25 27 49 55
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/15
2 4 15 21 63
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 64 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 2/12
2 10 23 42 44
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 17 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/15
7 21 26 27 30

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/15
EVENING: 0 8 3

Draw Date: 2/15
MIDDAY: 8 1 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/15
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:49.50

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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Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds

A Veterans Benefit!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 17)

This solar return finds you ever on the search for new sensations. Discovery is a pleasure; pleasure leads to gratitude; gratitude makes your life prayer in motion. Your range of perspective widens with an excursion to the top. You'll work at having more to offer because giving is among your greatest joys. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 40, 7, 20 and 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Despite your feeling of shyness, you are still expected to make a presentation, introduction or sales pitch. You will need to do this work more than once, so get started right away. The sooner you begin, the sooner you will succeed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A partner or colleague is going through changes that make you wonder about your future together. It's like you're moving forward and they're in the rear-view. Don't jump to conclusions just yet. There is a temporary dynamic at play.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will question an idea or attitude you've accepted for years. While you may wonder "why did it take me so long?" you can be sure that this would have caused you pain if you had asked the question in another era.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll feel moved to help out someone close to you, but there's only so much you can do. Offer assistance until the other person can handle it on their own, then back off to show you trust them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The clarity of your mind will amaze you. Your untrue beliefs will be exposed. You will build new logical pathways that support your pursuit of a fantastic goal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The project has become convoluted with so many cooks. This calls for a return to basics. It will take a few days for you to sort out issues, then you will create a new plan that honors your original intent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Because others' wants seem more urgent than your own, you are tempted to give in to them. But that may set the stage for subtle manipulation. Take a stand to prevent future conflict.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're dealing with a tricky personal issue. Information is lacking. There is no way you can know the whole story now or ever. In this situation, all you can do is go with the feeling and respond with as much love as you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're doing a good deed for someone but consider why you are doing it. Eliminate ego-driven motives. When you carry this out for the right reasons, you'll be rewarded with great joy and luck.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Following the schedule feels repetitive. Everything is so familiar. An element of intrigue would shake things up, or it may be enough just to include someone new.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You consider work essential to your well-being. You believe you are here to serve and contribute. It's hard for you to imagine how anyone could feel otherwise, but they do, and you'll be challenged to accept it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may think the drama is unnecessary, but frequently a dramatic person is satisfying a need in the best way they know how. If you can remain detached, there is entertainment value in this. Otherwise, try walking.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

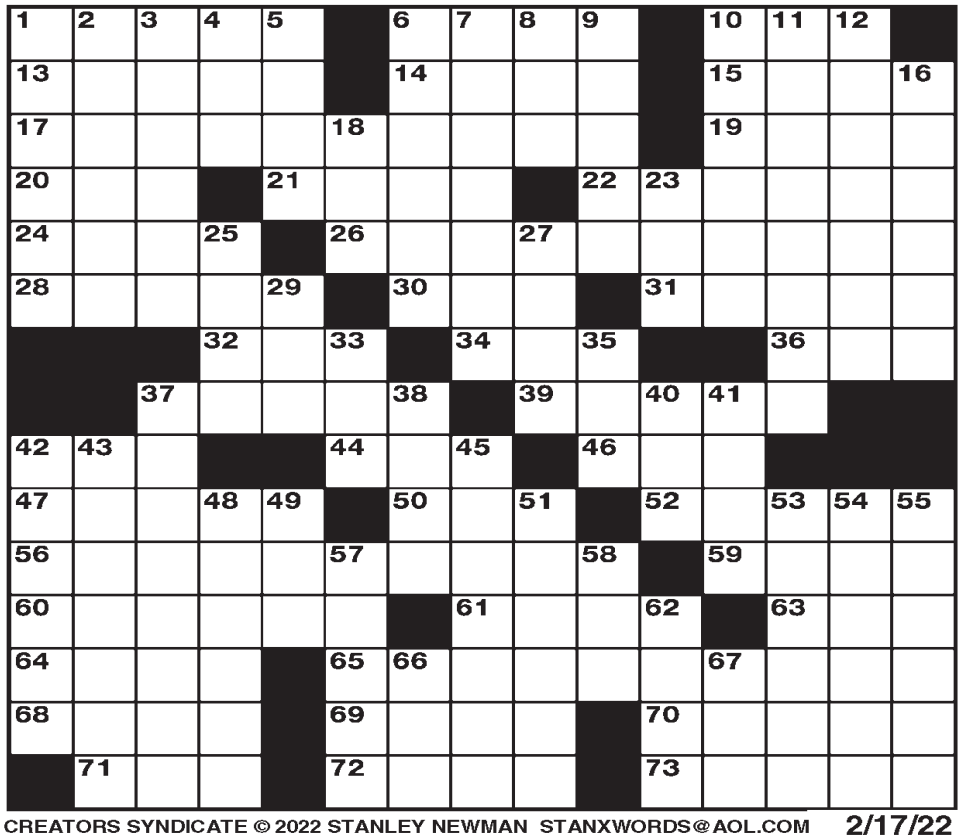
				5		2		7
	9	1		8		4		
	3		4		7			8
5		2				3	7	6
			2	7	8			
4	7	9				1		2
9			1		5		4	
		6		4		8	2	
1		7		2				

Newsday Crossword

5-5 FOODS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Album insert
6 Pass the buck
10 Thing in a pen
13 *Who's Who in the Bible* leader
14 What help desks provide
15 Not yet resolved
17 Popular peanut-butter partner
19 Dish (out)
20 Drop (out)
21 Final starter
22 Big name in Cajun cooking
24 A buck or two
26 Barbecue staple
28 Fire chief's suspicion
30 *Simpsons* neighbor
31 Sound of an allergy
32 Bulk food holder
34 Home-project cable channel
36 Venerable redheaded doll
37 With 39 Across, crispy base for cheese
39 See 37 Across
42 Auto loan stat.
44 Clinicians' org.
46 Common practice
47 Class of 2024, today
50 Acceptances
52 Arabian Nights group
56 Potatoey side
59 Raider of video games
60 Where Napoli is
61 LOL, orally
63 Dryly amusing
64 Email notification
65 Mediterranean cuisine staple
68 "Indeed!"
69 Terrier in a Lego movie
70 Ridiculous
71 Pay stub letters
72 In no time
73 Obsessive experts

DOWN
1 Asian tiered temple
2 Creator of Atticus and Scout
3 Addresses a crowd
4 Outperform
5 Most-printed notes
6 Merchant of a kids' rhyme
7 Far from popular
8 ESPN media partner
9 Tinkered (with)
10 Consumer science, for short
11 Collapsible formal topper
12 Manage to become a part of
16 Trafalgar Square honoree
18 W's brother
23 W's degree
25 Dressing gown
27 Amend and/or abridge
29 Nonexistent
33 ESPN media partner
35 The solver, sounding like a sheep
37 Venerable monocled mascot
38 *Telenovela* topic
40 Volcanic output
41 Official symbol
42 Pitch in
43 Ceramic stuff
45 Monarch who abdicated in 2019
48 At a standstill, perhaps
49 With 51 Down, high time for snow sports
51 See 49 Down
53 Where clams are not cooked
54 Minor mission
55 Uncertainties
57 Takes in nothing
58 "Zip it!"
62 Analogous
66 Sob syllable
67 GPS readout



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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | FEB 17

ADULT LITERACY TUTORING
Volunteer literacy tutors work one-on-one with adult learners in a library setting. Tutors meet with learners once or twice per week to work on learning goals. For information about becoming a volunteer adult literacy tutor, visit VolunteerMatch at https://tinyurl.com/mtubkz84. To learn how to become an adult learner, call (310) 458-8603 or email us at literacy.program@santamonica.gov.

FRIDAY | FEB 18

TOURS OF THE MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE
Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute visits docent tours are available on a walk-up basis, for groups of up to six people on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12pm – 2pm. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. Please note masks are required while indoors. Schedule subject to change, check the website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm dates and hours. Annenberg Community Beach House. 12 - 2 p.m.

SATURDAY | FEB 19

NOTABLE BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP
Any Human Heart by William Boyd
A novel in the form of the journals of Logan Mountstuart, which chronicles his childhood in Uruguay, education at Oxford, wartime exploits, career as an art dealer, and retirement in France. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

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

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

SUNDAY | FEB 20

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR KINDERGARTEN
Access via YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/SantaMonicaPL/playlists These short bilingual English/Spanish video segments focus on kindergarten-readiness skills through reading and activities. Track Building Blocks activities your child completes through the virtual platform Beanstack and earn points towards a prize drawing for book packs. Register here: smpl.beanstack.org.

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

MONDAY | FEB 21

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. Memoir, courtroom drama, and social critique combine in this powerful and popular look inside the criminal justice system. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

SNOOZER'S STORYTIME ADVENTURES
Bi-weekly on Mondays: 12p.m. Checkers Library TV presents Snoozer's Storytime Adventures, a bi-weekly virtual series that brings children's books to life with an uplifting story, craft and song. Access the program here: https://www.youtube.com/user/SantaMonicaPL/playlists

GALLERY OPEN
Open daily, no reservations or admission fee. Schedule subject to change with short notice, check calendar or call (310) 458-4904 to confirm. Annenberg Community Beach House. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIAL-A-STORY
Access 24/7 via telephone at (424) 610-8600. New children's stories are recorded each week in English, Spanish and Mandarin, and can be listened to by phone at any time.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5393

Our brave volunteers

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

Aide	Elderly	Laugh	Rely
Ally	Fence	Lend	Risk
Apex	Fete	Mind	Scouts
Boats	Fires	Museum	Share
Chat	Food	Need	Supper
Community	Gang	Neighbours	Task
Conservatorium	Green	Oblige	Tears
Crash	Help	Offer	Trust
Dogs	Homeless	Panic	Update
Drive	Image	Phone	Visits
Drugs	Injuries	Protect	Yarn
Effort	Join	Refugees	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Telling ghost stories

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

CITY
FROM PAGE 1

"State of the World" sermon last month), Himmelrich said she had been the victim of "cancel culture."

"Cancel culture flies in the face of working toward the common good, both politically and personally, because it forces us into echo chambers, where we hear only those who agree with us," Himmelrich said. "We know that cancel culture has a deterrent effect on political discourse and leadership."

The Mayor said she was first targeted by "ugly hit pieces" during her first council campaign in 2014.

"Their campaign failed, but this personal attack approach to politics deters many whose goal it is to promote the common good from choosing to run for office and from subjecting themselves to this kind of abuse," Himmelrich said.

The Mayor did not reply to a request for confirmation that she intended to run for a third and final City Council term; her statements at the State of the City did not indicate whether or not she had committed to running for a third term.

Later in the program, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Laurel Rosen said she supported Himmelrich's "courage and candor." The Santa Monica Chamber co-sponsored the event with the City of Santa Monica.

Rosen praised the Mayor for issuing a "call to action that we work together to create change in these areas."

emily@smdp.com



Courtesy image

CITY: Mayor Himmelrich played a video of protesters at her home.

ONLINE
FROM PAGE 5

Police and prosecutors often lack sufficient training or resources.

Tech companies say they are getting better at identifying and stopping harassment. For example, Instagram, which is owned by Facebook parent company Meta, made several changes designed to reduce harassment, including putting warning labels on potentially abusive language and making it easier to block or report harassers.

Yet those moves haven't been enough. Internal Facebook documents leaked by former employee Frances Haugen show that executives are aware of the potential for their products to be used to harass people. One internal study cited 13.5% of teen girls saying Instagram exacerbates suicidal thoughts and 17% saying it worsens eating disorders.

"Online harassment is a problem for everybody, but I think it's especially problematic for kids," said Natalie Bazarova, a professor at Cornell University who studies social media.

She said a multifaceted approach is required to address the problem: legislation to require minimum safeguards from tech companies, technical innovations and extensive educational efforts such as simulations that teach teens to spot cyberbullying and use social media safely.

Technical solutions include automated systems that flag posts for signs of harassing language — all-capital letters, repetitive phrases, certain key words — or instituting a short delay before users can respond to posts, giving them a chance to cool off.

Now in its "awkward adolescence," the internet is not the first invention to change how humans communicate, Heller said.

"People said similar things about the telegraph, the telephone and the television — that they were somehow going to ruin society," she said. "They were all regulated about 25 years into their life cycle. Those regulations didn't kill the telephone, the television or the radio."

NOTEWORTHY
FROM PAGE 6

GLOBETROTTERS, Crypto.com Arena, 2/27; DAMN WELL PLEASE ORGAN TRIO, Mardi Gras! Harvelle's; 3/1; JANIS IAN, McCabe's, 3/1, 2; THE ENGLISH BEAT, The Bourbon Room, 3/4, 5; ARTURO SANDOVAL, Catalina Jazz Club, 3/4, 5; SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends,Largo at the Coronet, 3/5; RICK SHEA, JULIE CHRISTENSEN, McCabe's, 3/6; SOUNDS OF LA with SALAR NADER, Getty Center, 3/12, 13; LA OPERA presents BACH'S ST. MATTHEW PASSION, 3/12. 17. 20.23. 26. 27; MIDORI, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 3/13; HILLARY HAHN, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 3/18, 19, 20; DAVID HIDALGO, RICK HOLMSTROM BAND, McCabe's, 3/20; LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III, McCabe's, 3/21. 22; LA PHIL plays MAHLER 7th, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 3/24. 26, 27; LA PHIL with ZUBIN MEHTA, MOZART'S GREAT MASS, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 3/31, 4/1, 2, 3.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 36 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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

CLASSIFICATIONS					
Announcements	Pets	Rent	Storage Space	Business Opportunities	Lost and Found
Creative	Boats	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Yard Sales	Personals
Employment	Jewelry	Roommates	Massage	Health and Beauty	Psychic
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Furniture	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Wealth and Success	Tutoring
	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services		

Help Wanted

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

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

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