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Santa Monica Daily Press
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02.20.21 - 02.21.21
Volume 20 Issue 84

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Youth sports
New rules for sports activities.
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Plummeting cases spark fierce school reopening debate

Classified staff call for Hero pay, covid protections

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Classified staff members in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are calling for Hero Pay and increased protections from COVID-19.

SMMUSD leaders first started to hear about the struggles of local custodians, theatre technicians and other classified staff shortly after the district's presentation on diversity, equity and inclusion.

The speakers weren't supposed to address the issue until the end of the meeting during General Public Comment since the topic wasn't on Thursday's agenda, but that didn't stop residents like Henry Plascencia, who has been a maintenance worker with the school district for at least a decade, from sharing their stories of hardship.

"During this pandemic, I have been working about six days a week preparing our schools to reopen safely. I have installed hundreds of hand sanitizers and signs to ensure students stay six feet apart. I also work on building desks and shelves to keep our classrooms organized and assist plumbers, air conditioning crews and electrician workers to make sure our schools are properly maintained and ventilated," Plascencia said. "As frontline workers, we know our work is important to make sure students can learn

SEE **HERO** PAGE 4

Parents push for district to set reopening date

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Local parents are demanding that schools reopen as soon as possible now that county case counts are lower and an agreement is in place between the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Santa Monica Malibu Classroom Teachers Association.

Dozens of parents phoned in to Thursday night's meeting of the board of education to state their displeasure with the district's current distance-learning model and share a need for schools to reopen on March 15. Most of the callers were associated with Open Up Santa Monica Malibu Schools, a newfound campaign started by local parents and health professionals looking to reopen the district, who cited decreasing case counts and hundreds of other open schools as reasons why SMMUSD should allow students to return to the fullest extent possible.

Parent Harriet Fraser said she was very proud of everybody who voiced their opinion Thursday night even though a large majority had never spoken at a board meeting.

"It is completely clear that we are on the right side of this argument, and everyone remained calm and respectful and you will have noticed I'm sure that no-one even spoke against school reopening. We are a community in crisis and the Board needs to do the right thing," Fraser said. "While children are attending school around the

SEE **REOPENING** PAGE 6

Pandemic outweighs riots in 2020 crime stats

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica crime figures for 2020 were driven by two huge trends with impacts from the global COVID-19 pandemic offsetting the May 31 riot to settle at about a 5.5% reduction in serious crime for the year.

Part 1 offenses, traditionally defined as the more serious crimes, declined by about 255 calls last year according to figures from the Santa Monica Police Department.

According to SMPD, there were declines in murder, robbery, aggravated assault and larceny. Burglaries increased as did car theft and arson. Rape calls were identical year on year.

SMPD reported huge declines in Larceny, otherwise known as theft. There were 253 fewer shoplifting incidents and 406 fewer thefts from vehicles last year. Across all theft categories, Santa Monica saw a 21 percent decline or about 670 fewer incidents.



SMDP File photo

CRIME: The pandemic reduced opportunities for crime but May 31 created a spike in some Part 1 crimes.

That decrease can be attributed in large part to pandemic repercussions.

"With the stores being closed, the targets were not there so the opportunity isn't there for the shoplifting," said SMPD Lt. Roberto Villegas. "Along with that, when the stores were closed our parking structures had a much lower incidence of these crimes because there was just a much lower count of cars."

Villegas said that while there were vastly fewer cars in downtown and beach lots last year, SMPD actually saw the car theft trend begin in January, prior to the pandemic. He said the department had responded to an increase in car thefts from prior years by increasing patrols in lots and partnering with other organizations to help deter car thefts.

While theft was down, non-residential burglary (defined as taking something from a building) skyrocketed by 193 percent due in

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 4

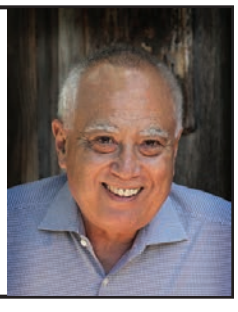


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CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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 FEB. 7 AT APPROXIMATELY 6:40 P.M.

Officers responded to a radio call regarding a suspect trespassing at the Subway restaurant at 1551 Ocean Ave. Witnesses stated the suspect, Joshua Robinson, attempted to take another customer's sandwich from behind the counter but was not successful. Restaurant staff proceeded to ask Robsinon to leave the store multiple times with no response. Officers repeated the request for Robinson to exit the store, again, multiple times to no avail. Robinson was placed under arrest for trespassing, 602.1(a) PC., transported to the Santa Monica Jail and issued a citation with a promise to appear in court on 4/8/2021.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS

PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission:
Eleven seats available for a term ending June 30, 2025.
Applicants must be residents of the City of Santa Monica. Two applicants must be between the ages of 18-22 years old.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Appointment to be made by City Council, Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/boards
All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.



WEEKLY ARRESTS

THERE WERE 65 ARRESTS DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY.

Date	Sex	Age	Charged With
2/1/21	M	32	Murder
2/1/21	M	42	Parole Violation
2/1/21	M	42	Shoplifting
2/1/21	M	20	Shoplifting
2/2/21	M	41	Assault & Battery
2/2/21	F	44	Warrant
2/2/21	M	26	Contempt of Court
2/2/21	M	45	Vandalism
2/3/21	F	30	Warrant
2/3/21	M	33	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
2/3/21	M	48	Possession of Methamphetamines
2/3/21	M	31	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
2/3/21	F	43	Warrant
2/4/21	M	48	Drunk in Public
2/4/21	M	25	Warrant
2/4/21	M	38	Parole Violation
2/4/21	M	42	Burglary
2/4/21	F	21	Robbery
2/5/21	F	26	Drunk in Public
2/5/21	F	62	Drunk in Public
2/5/21	M	39	Parole Violation
2/5/21	M	53	Carrying A Concealed Dirk Or Dagger
2/5/21	M	33	Corporal Injury To Spouse
2/5/21	M	50	Warrant
2/6/21	M	31	Unlawfully Occupying Property
2/6/21	M	43	Possession of Methamphetamines
2/7/21	M	20	Driving Under Combined Influence of Alcohol & Drugs
2/7/21	M	25	Resisting Arrest
2/7/21	M	61	Aggravated Assault
2/7/21	M	38	Possession of Methamphetamines for Sale
2/7/21	M	47	Shoplifting
2/7/21	M	21	Obstructing a Business Establishment
2/8/21	M	29	Resisting an Executive Officer
2/8/21	M	51	Drunk in Public
2/8/21	M	25	Domestic Battery
2/8/21	M	61	Parole Violation
2/8/21	M	46	Possession of Methamphetamines
2/9/21	M	53	Trespassing Downtown/Main St.
2/9/21	M	20	Shoplifting
2/9/21	F	22	Burglary
2/9/21	M	36	Assault with a Firearm
2/9/21	M	26	Possession of Methamphetamines
2/10/21	F	50	Murder
2/10/21	F	25	Fugitive
2/11/21	M	51	Drunk in Public
2/11/21	M	42	Burglary
2/11/21	M	27	Battery Against a Custodial Officer
2/12/21	M	31	Drunk in Public
2/12/21	M	34	Drunk in Public
2/12/21	M	27	Vandalism
2/12/21	F	22	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
2/12/21	M	52	Illegal Riding on Sidewalk
2/12/21	M	37	Warrant
2/12/21	M	34	Receiving Stolen Property
2/12/21	F	21	DUI causing bodily injury
2/12/21	M	33	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
2/13/21	M	28	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
2/13/21	M	45	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
2/13/21	M	44	Loitering to Commit a Crime
2/13/21	M	26	Corporal Injury To Spouse
2/13/21	F	41	Possession of Methamphetamines
2/14/21	F	37	Domestic Battery
2/14/21	M	32	Domestic Battery
2/14/21	M	20	Driving Under the Influence
2/14/21	M	28	Warrant

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 232 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 18

Traffic/Vehicle Stop 700blk Washington Ave 1:10 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1400blk 17th St 1:33 a.m.
Construction Noise Yale St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:39 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1400blk 17th St 1:57 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk 15th St 5:29 a.m.
Loitering 1000blk 9th St 6:17 a.m.
Follow Up 300blk Olympic Dr 6:29 a.m.
Follow Up 300blk Olympic Dr 6:36 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 900blk Marguerita Ave 7:03 a.m.
Smoking Violation 2400blk Pier Ave 7:13 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2600blk 23rd St 7:24 a.m.
Construction Noise 6th St / Marine St 7:26 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1500blk Palisades Park 7:51 a.m.
Loitering 800blk Pico Blvd 8:14 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1800blk Michigan Ave 8:20 a.m.
Death Investigation 1100blk 7th St 8:28 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk 2nd St 8:37 a.m.
Loitering 1000blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:46 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1800blk Euclid St 8:59 a.m.
Information Only Broadcast 300blk Olympic Dr 9:00 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 11th St 9:18 a.m.
Lost Property 300blk Olympic Dr 9:25 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 17th St / Montana Ave 9:30 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 9:41 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200blk Harvard St 9:44 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 10:13 a.m.
Information Only Broadcast 300blk Olympic Dr 10:15 a.m.
Information Only Broadcast 300blk Olympic Dr 10:15 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2400blk Pier Ave 10:31 a.m.
Burglary Report 1800blk Ocean Ave 10:33 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk Olympic Dr 10:42 a.m.
Burglary Report 300blk 22nd St 11:02 a.m.
Lewd Activity 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:05 a.m.
Keep The Peace 1300blk 19th St 11:12 a.m.
Information Only Broadcast 300blk Olympic Dr 11:15 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd E 11:29 a.m.
Lewd Activity 2400blk Pier Ave 11:30 a.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 2300blk 20th St 11:30 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:38 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 4th St / Pico Blvd 11:51 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 23rd St / Ocean Park Blvd 12:04 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 12:21 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 4th St / Pacific St 12:25 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:30 p.m.
Encampment 800blk Pier Ave 12:37 p.m.
Fraud Report 1000blk 20th St 12:42 p.m.
Death Investigation 1100blk 12th St 12:43 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 12:45 p.m.
Loitering 1000blk 14th St 12:46 p.m.
Fraud Report 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 12:56 p.m.
Loud Music 2200blk 28th St 12:57 p.m.
Fraud Report 900blk 4th St 1:02 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2100blk 22nd St 1:14 p.m.
General Parking Problem 16th St / Broadway 1:23 p.m.
Fraud Report 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 1:23 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200blk California Ave 2:07 p.m.
Loud Music 00blk Bay St 2:22 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:38 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:44 p.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 21st St / California Ave 2:44 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1700blk Ocean Ave 2:52 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk 18th St 2:58 p.m.
Follow Up 300blk Olympic Dr 3:17 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1400blk Pearl St 3:22 p.m.
Loud Music 2200blk Colorado Ave 3:30 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2100blk Oak St 3:38 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400blk 7th St 3:40 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 3:56 p.m.
Keep The Peace 1300blk 19th St 3:59 p.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 17th St 4:10 p.m.
Found Property 21st St / California Ave 4:51 p.m.
Fraud Report 1300blk 4th St 5:02 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 5:04 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1300blk Arizona Ave 5:07 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2600blk 23rd St 5:17 p.m.
Found Property 2200blk 24th St 5:22 p.m.
Fight 2200blk Virginia Ave 5:27 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:27 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 800blk Broadway 5:50 p.m.
Found Property 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 6:14 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:19 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1100blk Franklin St 6:33 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Ave 6:43 p.m.
Loud Music 1500blk 7th St 6:48 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 400blk Broadway 6:49 p.m.
Encampment 00blk Pico Blvd 6:53 p.m.
Encampment 1800blk Ocean Front Walk 7:04 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1400blk Broadway 7:27 p.m.
Fire 1400blk 4th St 7:59 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 800blk 3rd St 8:02 p.m.
Burglary Now 2000blk Olympic Blvd 8:17 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2500blk 20th St 8:33 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1700blk Main St 8:44 p.m.
Fight Ocean Ave / Broadway 9:05 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 800blk 6th St 9:23 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1700blk Cedar St 9:27 p.m.
Party Complaint 1100blk 18th St 10:26 p.m.
Party Complaint 1200blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:51 p.m.
Burglary Report 2600blk Main St 11:05 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 11:29 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1500blk Arizona Ave 11:47 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 23 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 18

EMS 1800blk Ocean Ave 12:44 a.m.
EMS 2700blk Neilson Way 2:04 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 2:37 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2800blk Neilson Way 6:53 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 8:20 a.m.
EMS 600blk Pacific St 8:57 a.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 9:37 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Pico Blvd 10:50 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 7th St 11:06 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 12th St 12:11 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2000blk Main St 12:54 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1400blk 6th St 1:14 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 5th St / Broadway 1:15 p.m.
EMS 15th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:43 p.m.
EMS 600blk Wilshire Blvd 2:05 p.m.
EMS 100blk Pacific St 2:25 p.m.
EMS 900blk Pico Blvd 3:10 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 7th St 3:31 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Princeton St 6:17 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 6th St 6:56 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 500blk Hill St 8:37 p.m.
EMS 600blk 20th St 9:23 p.m.
EMS 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:35 p.m.

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**

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. Members of the public may also join the teleconference via computer at https://bluejeans.com/792293599/3766 or by dialing in at (408) 419-1715 or (408) 915-6290 and entering the Meeting ID (792 293 599#) and Participant Passcode (3766#). Instructions for joining the teleconference via video or phone are also included in the meeting agenda, available at www.smgov.net/ssc. The agenda will also be posted to 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. In lieu of oral public comment, the public is strongly encouraged to submit written public comment on agenda items via email to humanservices@smgov.net. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Written public comment should indicate the agenda item number in the subject line.

Additionally, oral public comment can be provided remotely by joining the BlueJeans teleconference according to the instructions above. When the time for public comment on a particular agenda item is reached, members of the public who are present will be called on to provide oral public comment. Members of the public providing oral comment in this way may appear on video. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.

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.



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HERO

FROM PAGE 1

in a safe and healthy environment but we are also aware that we are risking exposure to COVID-19 ourselves. The risk is very real; every week we get a notice about a site that has been exposed or possible exposure or someone has tested positive."

As a COVID-19 survivor, Plascencia said, "This is very concerning to me because I know how dangerous the virus can be and the impact it has on our families. I got COVID-19 last March, and it almost took my life. I was in the hospital for eight weeks; I was in an induced coma; I was placed on a ventilator; and at one point my organs started to fail… Somehow I made it. It took time to recuperate but, thankfully, I returned to work in October.

Plascencia concluded his two minutes at the dais stating he wants to do his job and keep students safe. "But I believe that our work and our commitment needs to be recognized. This is why I urge you to support hero pay for essential workers like me."

District spokesperson Gail Pinsker said Friday the district's comprehensive safety plan provides needed protections for all staff, classified and certificated, as she detailed how each campus has a Covid compliance team and protocols are in place to ensure everybody's wellness,

"We are following all protocols by the LADPH, described in detail in the safety plan and working hard to ensure they are safe," Pinsker said. There has been mention of people not wearing masks or other protective equipment on the playgrounds but SMMUSD is working with the City and Santa Monica Police Department to monitor the situation.

Despite the various protections, custodian Anthony Davis said schools like Will Rogers have still seen COVID cases on-campus.

"And we, as the custodians, are the ones that have to go in and spray and sanitize rooms for it to be safe all over again," Davis said, "so I feel that we deserve hero pay because we're the first on the line."

Cesar Herrera agreed when he took the virtual podium Thursday night.

"We have been fighting this deadly virus for almost a year now. Then, we leave the safety of our homes and put our lives in danger to come to work," Herrera said, sharing he's been informed there is a contact tracing notification system in place but he's never received notification from the district about any positive cases.

As a result, Herrera said, "We are left to rely on our coworkers to warn us. This, both, is negligent and irresponsible of the school district; Instead of being proactive, my coworkers are ignored and I have been forced to live in a constant state of reaction and fear because of these stressful and unsafe, unsafe working conditions."

Like his peers, Herrera asked the board to take care of classified staff and vote to approve the hero pay protections that they are qualified for.

"The teachers are taken care of; the office staff is taken care of; the board members are taken care of; what about us? We have been in the trenches, and have been left in the dark," Herrera said at the conclusion of his speech. "So please, I beg you guys to consider the hero pay for us to show that you guys care about us."

Board President Jon Kean said prior to the conclusion of Thursday's meeting that the topic of hero pay has been in the news lately but it hasn't come to the board yet.

"I'm happy to call Chris Mark who's the SEIU steward for SMMUSD, and we can figure out a way to start this conversation properly," Kean said. "But I just want to let you know that it has not come to the board yet. No one has made that ask yet. So I'll reach out to Chris and we'll go from there.

Brennon@smdp.com

CRIME

FROM PAGE 1

part to the May 31 riot.

Villegas said the crime numbers reflect "incidents" not individual suspects or even specific locations. An incident of looting could be a single count in the numbers if it was isolated but there's a formula for determining the total incidents based on the number of suspects and crimes committed.

Of the 528 non-residential burglaries about 34% occurred during the riots but burglaries of stores continued to be high throughout the pandemic as stores remained closed.

In addition to burglary, the theft of auto parts, specifically catalytic converters increased 272 percent due to the increased opportunity for theft with cars parked for extended periods of time. There were 19 additional arsons in 2020 (a 95% increase).

Aggravated Assault incidents decreased by 12% year on year. Of the 281 incidents, 84 resulted in the arrest of a homeless individual and 31 were homeless-on-homeless attacks.

Residential burglaries increased last year and 47% of cases involved a theft from a garage. The second most impacted location were apartments and single family homes were third.

The decline in Part 1 crimes continues a trend from 2019. After reaching a historically low level in 2014, the rate of Part 1 crimes, which include murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, theft, grand theft auto and arson, rose 29% between 2015 and 2018. However, the figures fell by 16% in 2019.

However, the Part 1 figures don't represent all crimes within the city and low level incidents are not included in the figures.

editor@smdp.com

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

WINNER

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.

California loosens rules for youth sports during pandemic

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California public health officials on Friday loosened the rules for youth sports, allowing all outdoor sports to resume in counties where COVID-19 case rates are at or below 14 people per 100,000.

The new guidance clears the way for sports like baseball, softball, gymnastics and cheerleading to resume Feb. 26 for at least 27 counties, including places that are in the most restrictive tier of the state's virus designations.

High-contact outdoor sports like football, basketball and rugby can also resume under that standard, but only if all coaches and players 13 and older get tested once a week. Test results must be available within 24 hours of competition.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said the state will pay for the tests. The new guidelines were developed in partnership with organizations large and small, including the Let Them Play coalition, the governor said, thanking them "for their strong advocacy."

"We are now confident with new guidelines we are publishing today we can get youth sports moving again in the state of California," Newsom said.

The rules apply to all organized sports for kids and adults, including schools and community-sponsored programs. It does not apply to collegiate or professional sports or "community events," which include marathons and other endurance races.

The guidance requires all coaches and spectators to wear masks. It says athletes should wear masks when not participating, such as when they are sitting on the sidelines.

Twenty-seven counties currently have case rates at or below 14 people per 100,000. The largest is Santa Clara county, which includes the city of San Jose.

An additional 16 counties have case rates between 14 and 20 people per 100,000 and could soon meet the new standard. That includes Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento and Fresno counties.

Dr. Tomas Aragon, director of the California Department of Public Health, said state officials loosened the rules because case rates and hospitalizations are declining across the state.

"Youth sports are important to our children's physical and mental health, and our public health approach has worked to balance those benefits against COVID-19 risks," he said.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2021015529 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/21/2021. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Jumpstart Digital 13140 Mesa Verde Way Sylmar, CA 91342 The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Ted B Lanier Jr 13140 Mesa Verde Way Sylmar, CA 91342 This Business is being conducted by: A Individual . The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Ted B Lanier Jr Title: Owner Ted B Lanier Jr , Ted B Lanier Jr This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/21/21 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish , 02/20/21, 02/27/21,. 03/06/21, 3/13/21

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 202101662 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/22/2021. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Chameleon Painting 18255 Lull St Reseda, CA 91335 The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Carlos Enrique Garcia Herrera 18255 Lull St Reseda, CA 91335 This Business is being conducted by: An Individual . The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Carlos Enrique Garcia Herrera Title: Owner Carlos Enrique Garcia Herrera, Carlos Enrique Garcia Herrera This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/22/21 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish , 02/20/21, 02/27/21, 03/06/21, 03/13/21

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STATE OF THE CITY
2021
Our Community Road to Recovery

Wednesday, February 24
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Speakers: Mayor Sue Himmelrich / Interim City Manager Lane Dilg
Chamber President Laurel Rosen

Guest Speaker: Rep. Ted Lieu

For more information about State of the City or to register, visit **smchamber.com/stateofthecity**
Santa Monica CHAMBER of COMMERCE
City of Santa Monica

REOPENING

FROM PAGE 1

country and in our neighboring communities, the Board seems to have ignored the fact that children are not in school in Santa Monica and Malibu. At this point, the District's sole focus must be on returning children to campus. The Board is holding important and essential sessions about equity and diversity while the greatest inequity right now is playing out during this pandemic, where our socio-economically disadvantaged students and BIPOC students are at great risk of being set back years by this lack of leadership, planning and forward movement. The greatest gift of equity and diversity would be to provide an in-person education where children are surrounded by diverse peers and mentors."

Superintendent Ben Drati recognized this week that case counts have fallen in the region to an acceptable level according to the terms of the new contract between the district and local teachers union.

"But the secondary part of that agreement is that we want the vaccines to be available for educators for 15 days prior to students returning," Drati said Thursday. "So, for those parents out there that want a more definitive time on when (a reopening) is going to happen — those conditions are what's going to dictate that."

Drati added there is no district that can probably do more than a hybrid or distance learning model that looks similar to SMMUSD's previously approved format.

"And I want to make sure I spent some time on that, because I'm also getting emails from families, thinking we can come back full-time as if COVID is not around," he said. "Whoever does that is not going to get approved by the health department to open...so the two structures people are considering are really the stuff that we're doing around distance-plus and then the hybrid. You can't do more than that, otherwise you won't meet the safety protocols."

District spokesperson Gail Pinsker explained Friday the district's currently approved model, District Learning Plus, provides for the ramping up of in-person experiences for students and staff until the County meets the thresholds that allows it to bring in more students at one time.

The model may include a hybrid-type option in the future, but since class sizes differ at each school, campuses are developing their own plan for Distance Learning-Plus, Pinsker said. "Site administrators have had meetings with staff and parents who have contributed and are supportive of the plan and schedule to start. Our principals are beginning to roll out their plans with their families and staff."

Fraser feels the district's efforts are unnecessary though.

"Science has clearly shown that (teachers) do not need to be vaccinated before returning to the classroom with that age group, and as long as strict protocols are followed and layered mitigation is in place then they are safe and there is no student to teacher spread," she said, mentioning nearly 300 schools have students back on-campus in Los Angeles County. "We were encouraged that they agreed to come back after the opportunity of the first dose, so the clock is ticking."

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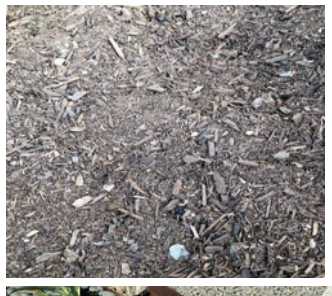
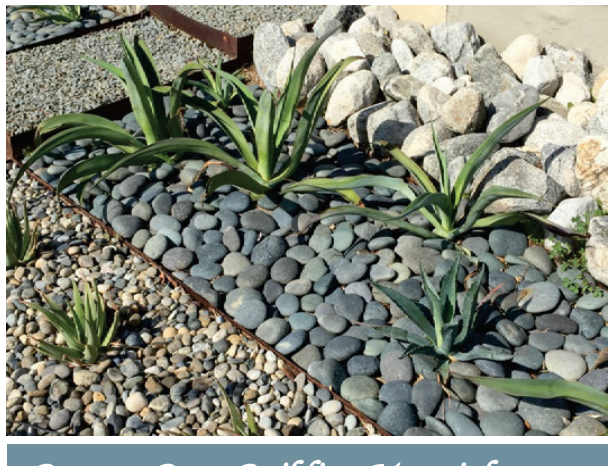


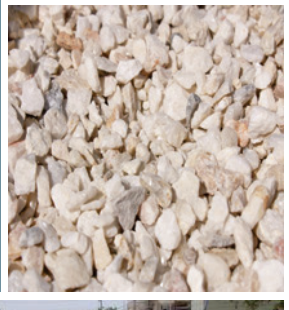


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California will set aside vaccine doses for educators, staff

KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

California plans to set aside 10% of first vaccine doses for educators, school staff and childcare providers starting in March to help get children back in classrooms, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Friday.

The move is aimed at jumpstarting in-person learning after nearly a year of distance learning for most of California's 6 million K-12 students. It comes a day after California's legislative leaders announced a $6.5 billion proposal aimed at reopening schools this spring. Newsom said that's not fast enough and suggested he could veto it.

"I can't support something that's going to delay the safe reopening of schools for our youngest kids," he said.

It also comes as the state faces delayed vaccine shipments affecting about 702,000 doses — more than half of its typical weekly allotment — due to winter storms in the eastern half of the country. The delays have prompted health officials around the state to shutter some vaccine centers and delay appointments.

In Los Angeles, city officials postponed vaccine appointments Friday for about 12,500 people due to shipment delays, while in nearby Orange County officials temporarily closed a vaccination site at Disneyland.

Aside from the weather delays, Newsom said the state expects more consistent vaccine shipments and that its allotment from the federal government to start rising. That consistency gives the state the confidence to set aside a baseline of 75,000 first doses of vaccine each week for teachers, school staff and childcare workers — a move welcomed as "an important step" by the California Teachers' Association, which represents 310,000 educators.

California has been ramping up vaccine efforts, giving 6.9 million shots to date by opening large-scale vaccination centers at places such as Disneyland and Dodger Stadium and running mobile clinics to vaccinate farmworkers and other vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations. Health officials have repeatedly said they are ready to provide far more doses but are limited by vaccine supplies.

California's virus cases, infection rates and hospitalizations have dropped precipitously after reaching record highs in early January. Only 3.1% of people tested in the last week were positive, while cases have fallen to 6,700 per day from a

SEE **CALIFORNIA** PAGE 11

Red beard returns: Turner glad to be back with Dodgers

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

Justin Turner's extended flirtation with free agency ended where it began — with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Along the way, the third baseman had doubts about whether he would return to his hometown team and wondered if his mask-less appearance on the field to celebrate the Dodgers' World Series championship would hurt him.

Turner got yanked from the clinching Game 6 against the Tampa Bay Rays in the eighth inning last October after testing positive for the coronavirus. He wasn't initially on the field as his teammates celebrated the franchise's first World Series title since 1988.

Instead, Turner was confined to a small room at Globe Life Field in Texas, pained as he watched the hugs and high-fives go on without him. Major League Baseball said he violated COVID-19 protocols by returning to the field, pulling down his mask and posing for photos. After an investigation by MLB, Turner was not disciplined and he issued an apology.

"It was extremely difficult. I experienced just about every range of emotion that you can possibly have," he said Friday on a virtual call from spring training in Arizona. "For me, sitting back in that room and watching the guys dogpile, personally, it felt like it was the third time I had to sit and watch a team celebrate winning a World Series. That was tough."

Turner and the Dodgers were on the losing end of World Series appearances in 2017 and 2018 — with Houston and Boston, respectively, partying on Los Angeles' home field.

"I still have not been able to be on the field for the last out and celebrate a championship," Turner said, "and that's something I'm determined to show up and work for every day and have that experience at the end of this year."

Turner was initially unsure how his mask-less appearance would affect him in free agency.

"Going into the process, it was definitely a big question mark and a big unknown as to how people were going to perceive that and how people were going to pursue me," he said. "Once I got into conversations, not only with the Dodgers but other teams, and cleared the air on that stuff, it all kind of just started moving forward and building momentum."

Turner became a free agent at the end of last season when his $64 million, four-year

SEE **RED BEARD** PAGE 11



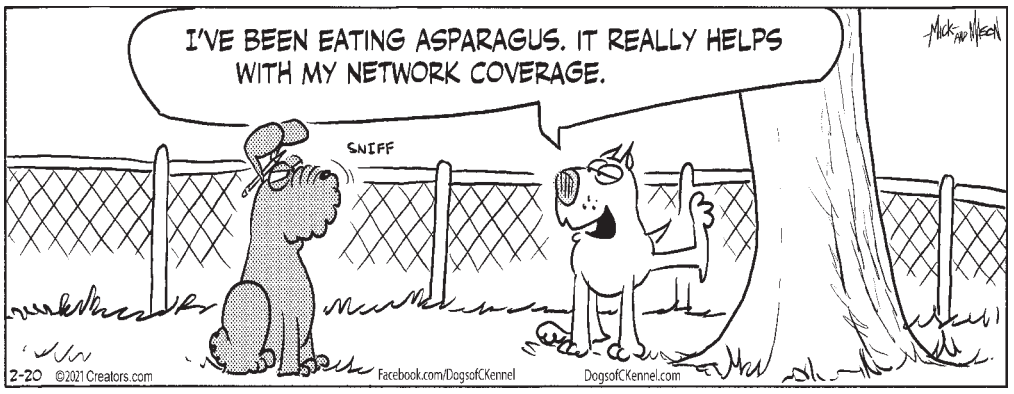
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



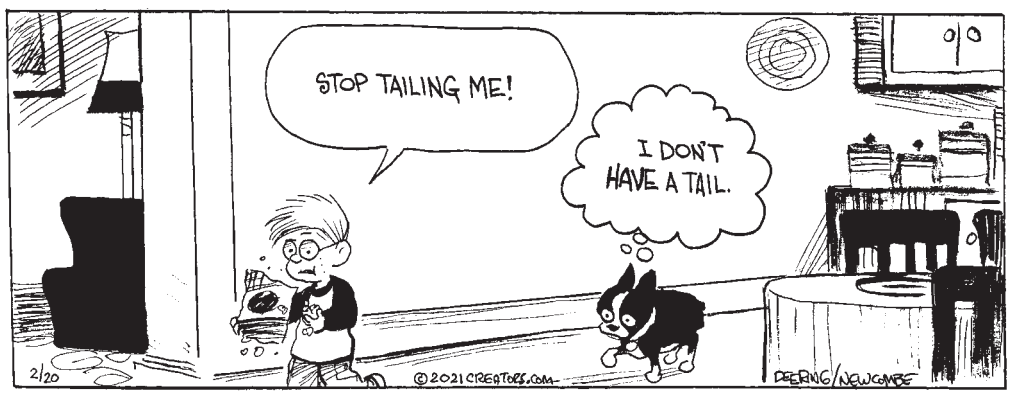
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



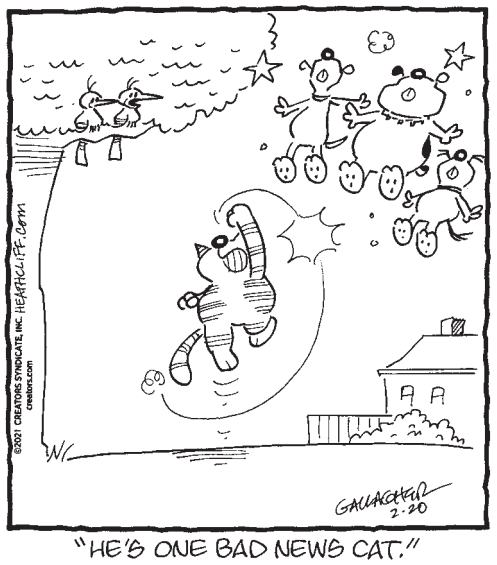
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S ONE BAD NEWS CAT."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 55.8°

SATURDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Less favorable conditions as onshore WNW winds return. Still peaky for the beachbreaks but the south facing points east of Pt Dume are cleanest/rideable as SSW swell eases and WNW swell rebuilds.

SUNDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high
NW swell mix back up a notch in the morning as leftover S swell blends in. Marginally rideable but likely clean with light offshore flow to return for the morning.

WEATHER

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 67
Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 52.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 74.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/02/23	Tue	1:39 PM	-0.59	L
2021/02/23	Tue	8:16 PM	3.59	H
2021/02/24	Wed	12:50 AM	2.15	L
2021/02/24	Wed	06:57 AM	5.62	H
2021/02/24	Wed	2:08 PM	-0.91	L
2021/02/24	Wed	8:36 PM	3.82	H
2021/02/25	Thu	01:28 AM	1.77	L
2021/02/25	Thu	07:35 AM	5.95	H
2021/02/25	Thu	2:38 PM	-1.11	L
2021/02/25	Thu	8:59 PM	4.07	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/17
1 15 21 32 46
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 78 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/16
1 36 44 54 66
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 2/17
20 26 39 40 46
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 22 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/18
5 8 11 14 23

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/18
EVENING: 2 0 9
Draw Date: 2/18
MIDDAY: 5 4 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/18
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:44.74

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 20)

Unlike the frog that can't tell the water is getting hotter, you hop out of situations before they boil over. Your bright responses and quick timing, in fact, is what makes this year your most brilliant yet. You'll make money by moving assets. You'll scoop up love by dropping your charms into moments that open just for you. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 48, 11, 5, 13 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Not one to wing it, you like to follow a guide. When there is none, as will be the case today, you'll create the map yourself. Many will try to predict your next move; none will succeed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Why are you afraid of being perceived in a certain way? If you tried, you could think of others who are perceived in a similar way who actually embrace, if not capitalize on, the title. Let them inspire you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Strong focus and determination contribute to success but do not guarantee it. Chance plays a part. Soften your focus so you can see what's in the periphery. Be ready to react to surprises.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What if the rule was that you could only say yes, or only eat green or orange food? The use of unusual rules will help you get more out of the day because it will force a pattern interrupt that changes your perception.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Not everything that feels good is good, but today your odds are much better than usual. Go ahead and do the thing that puts a smile on your face because chances are you'll be smiling later about it, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're a collector of random bits of life, especially of the undervalued and discarded variety, which, today, will have the added appeal of a price tag that reads "free" and potential that reads "full of."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Take the highway if you must, but there are better views from the roads if you have the time. The highway offers no side streets to where the fun, art, interests, love and other opportunities live.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are people who will never know the depth of your feelings for them. These feelings are not always appropriate or necessary to express, but you're grateful to have them today. They make you rich.

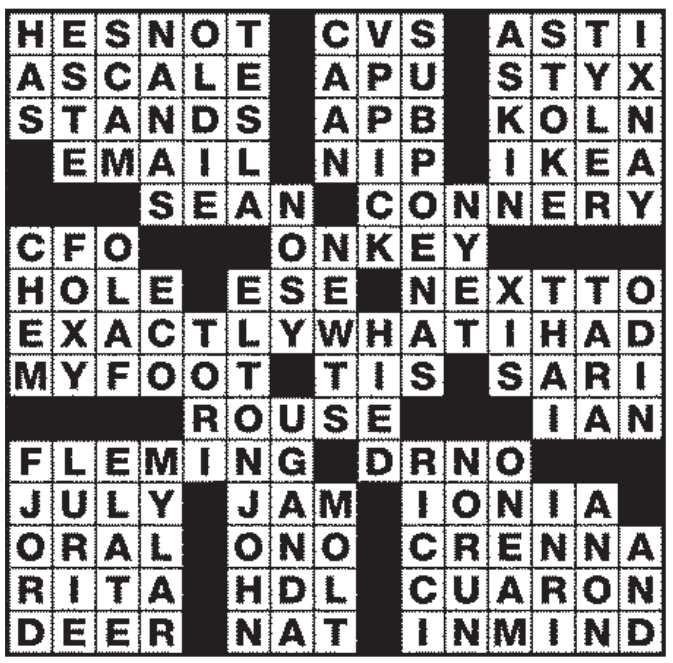
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The ability to hear information and accept it as neutral is actually quite rare in this judgmental, polarized world. The poets, artists and comedians do it well, as do the priests, preachers, teachers and gurus. Also you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll want to learn something, and before you have, you'll be asked to teach it. So work fast, get focused and believe in your intuitive sense about what seems important. You can do this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you perform, you want applause. Give the cues so they know what to do. For your task, what is the equivalent of a drumroll? And don't forget to pause at the end, arms spread, hands gesturing for more.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Why improve the aesthetic appeal of practical tools? What does it matter if the paperclip is red or the pen polka-dotted? The answer is in a smile, a feeling. If feelings don't matter, what does?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



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

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

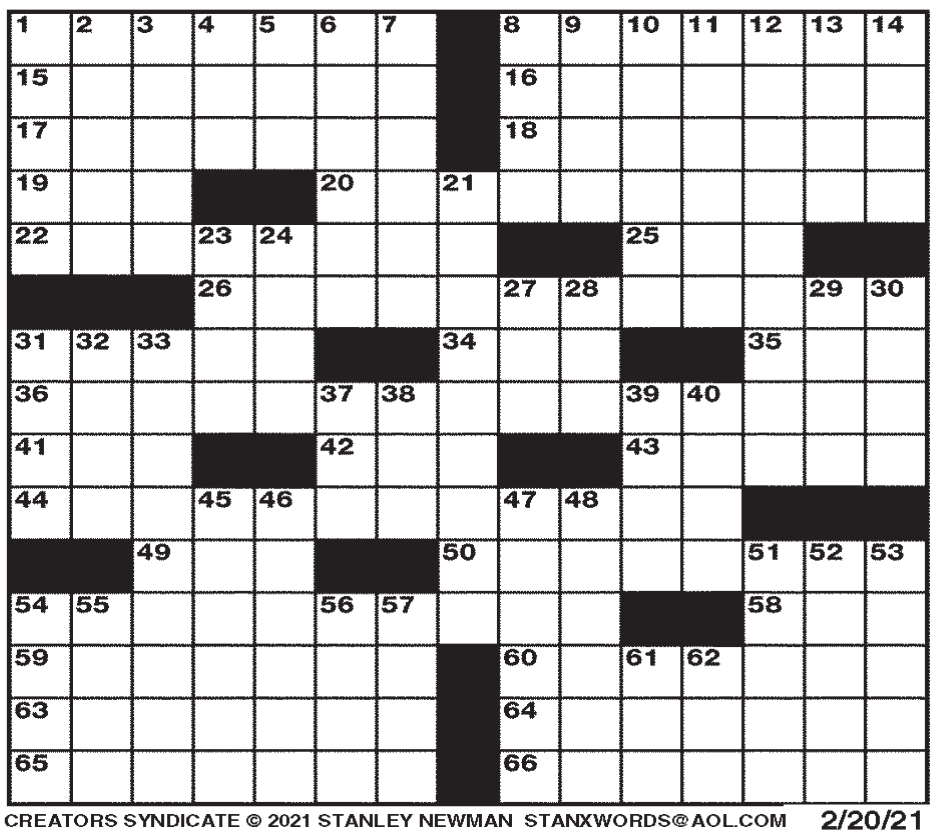
7						5		
	4				5		1	
9					1	6		
			9	2			3	
1		2				4		9
	6			5	4			
		4	3					7
	8		2				4	
		3						1

Newsday Crossword

THEMELESS SATURDAY by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 From where pesto originated
8 Former Snickers shelfmate
15 Takes flight
16 Organic solvent
17 Sleepwear that may reduce split ends
18 Thames activity
19 Federally registered western Nation
20 First job for many
22 Caltech's home
25 Bowling ball residue
26 Acrobats to compete at the 2024 Olympics
31 Big name in bronzers and blush
34 What a siren may clear the way for
35 Insignificant amount
36 Seating for oboists
41 Letter opener
42 Snack to dispense with
43 Brunch selections
44 "Got it?"
49 Belfast-born film star
50 What returns cover
54 Lines to read carefully
58 It's nothing
59 *Young Frankenstein* wear
60 Last Women's World Cup champs
63 With no one AWOL
64 One offering coverage
65 Signs off on
66 Pollen producers

DOWN
1 Trip prep step
2 What got Lloyd Webber three-fourths of his EGOT
3 Four-Emmy sitcom brother (1995-2004)
4 Early environment for whiskey
5 Shortening in semi-sweet chocolate
6 Battalion builder
7 Islas Canarias owner
8 Molly, more formally
9 Old hands
10 Indefinite district
11 Critical comments
12 Keeps confined
13 Price to play
14 Bring to maturity
21 Cheesy, saucy casserole
23 "No animal shall sleep in ___": Orwell
24 Put pencil to paper, perhaps
27 Tweets to one, for short
28 Took
29 Board member
30 Balls of fire
31 Source for feta
32 Step on it
33 Barely OK
37 Hoppy concoction
38 Spectator protection for drone races
39 Some models' makeup
40 Antler's end
45 Smucker's alternative
46 Examples of light symbolism
47 Predator among insects
48 Range covered
51 Shade seen above
52 Quit lying
53 Duels with fists or phrases
54 Some meat or concrete
55 Thing with an anchor
56 Make less edgy?
57 Short courses
61 ___ whole
62 Queen ____



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Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
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	0	0				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 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5030

The Olympics

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

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Bids
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Dais
Flag
Form
Gold
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Hurt
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Marathon
McKay
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2021015576 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/21/2021. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as As They Grow 339 E. Rowland St Covina, CA 91723 The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Sydel Khoe 1613 Watson Ct. Upland, CA 91784 This Business is being conducted by: A Individual . The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) 05/2008 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Sydel Khoe Title: Owner Sydel Khoe, Sydel Khoe This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/21/21 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish , 02/20/21, 02/27/21,. 03/06/21, 3/13/21

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CALIFORNIA

FROM PAGE 7

peak of more than 40,000. Hospitalizations are a third of what they were six weeks ago.

California on Friday also announced a more rapid return to athletic playing fields for youth sports, while Newsom recently said more counties will soon be able to allow various businesses to reopen and expand customer volume.

But school districts in many areas of the state such as San Francisco and the city of Los Angeles remain closed to in-person learning.

Under the legislative proposal, those that offer in-person instruction by April 15 to "vulnerable" students in elementary schools, including English learners, homeless students and foster children, could tap into additional funding. The plan also requires schools that receive the funding to reopen classrooms for all students in grades TK-6 when coronavirus case rates in their counties drop below 7 per 100,000.

Waiting until April 15 is too long, Newsom said, noting it's nearly the end of the school year.

State lawmakers plan to take up the school reopening bill on Monday, said Nannette Miranda, a spokeswoman for Phil Ting, the chair of the Assembly Budget Committee.

Taxin reported from Orange County.

RED BEARD

FROM PAGE 7

contract expired. He hit .307 with four homers and 23 RBIs in the pandemic-shortened season and .293 (17 for 58) with three homers and six RBIs in the postseason, including .320 with a pair of solo homers in the World Series.

Turner, who turned 36 in November, has been with the Dodgers since 2014. He was one of a handful of free agents still unsigned until just before the start of spring training.

"It felt like it took forever," he said, adding that his main goal was to sign with a contending team that could offer him a chance to win another World Series.

How close did he come to signing elsewhere?

"There were some times where I was like, 'Oh man, like, this doesn't look good, like I'm not sure what's going to happen,'" he said.

Dodgers fans weren't shy about letting Turner know they wanted their red-bearded veteran back. He saw their comments on social media and he heard them during his and his wife's nightly dog-walking ritual.

"There were people walking down the streets yelling, 'You got to sign back. You got to come back,'" said Turner, whose normally unruly beard was neatly trimmed for spring training. "That's why I love them so much. They are the best fans in baseball."

Like most free agents, Turner was flattered to be courted by other teams interested in his services.

"But at the end of the day it all worked out how it's supposed to," he said, "and I'm back in Dodger blue like I was supposed to be."

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