smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

TUESDAY
02.22.22
Volume 21 Issue 83

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31 calls last week.
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City evaluation deems Open Main Street pilot a success



Matthew Hall

PILOT: The program closed Main Street for several weekends during the summer of last year.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

For four weekends in late summer 2021 two blocks of Main Street were transformed into a pedestrian plaza, and while fears were raised about traffic, noise and business disruption, a City evaluation found them to be largely unfounded.

The Sharing an Open Main Street pilot program was organized by the Ocean Park Association and the Main Street Business Improvement Association with a goal of restoring a sense of neighborhood camaraderie and revitalizing businesses as the community emerged from the darkest days of the pandemic. During four weekends in July, August, September and August, the two blocks between Hill and Kinney Streets were sealed to traffic and filled with family friendly programming including music performances, free fitness classes, arts and crafts and movie screenings.

Some nearby residents opposed the program and voiced concerns that it would lead to significant traffic congestion, disruptive neighborhood noise and draw business away from stores located outside of the pedestrian plaza. While the evaluation found that there was a minor uptick in traffic on adjacent streets during event days, none of the other concerns were reflected in the City's data or stakeholder surveys.

"Overall, the pilot is considered a success by City staff in that it did not create any unforeseen traffic issues or have a significant negative impact on the character of the neighborhood," stated the report. "Survey responses were overwhelmingly positive, with respondents living within two blocks of the closure providing most of the negative responses."

Event organizers were gratified by the report and hope to put on similar car-free community friendly events in the future.

"We were pleased to see that the data backs up what we knew all along: Our innovative

SEE **MAIN STREET** PAGE 7

Councilmember McCowan proposes paid parental leave

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Although California was the first state in the nation to adopt a paid family leave program in 2004, this policy does not currently apply to City of Santa Monica employees and Councilmember Kristin McCowan would like to see that changed.

In a February City Council meeting, Councilmember McCowan brought forward a request that the City Manager's office provide City Council with information related to the implementation of a paid parental leave policy for City staff in time for the Fiscal Year 22-23 exception based budget. After a brief discussion the proposal was

SEE **PARENTAL LEAVE** PAGE 4

City Hall murals, Pier parking and sidewalk vending all before council tonight

The stacked council agenda includes an investigation into alleged open meeting law violations by two or more council members.



Clara Harter

FUEL: In addition to banning flammable material from the Pier, council will have several additional items to debate on Tuesday night.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Current Santa Monica Housing Commissioner Leonora Camner is speaking out about what her supporters call a "retaliation item" recently added to the upcoming City Council agenda: a motion from Council Members Phil Brock, Christine Parra and Oscar de la Torre to have her removed from the Commission.

Over the weekend, Santa Monica city staff added several key items to the agenda for the next City Council meeting, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 11

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EXPLAINER: How fake electors tried to throw result to Trump

FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

State attorneys general and the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol are digging deeper into the role that fake slates of electors played in Donald Trump's desperate effort to cling to power after his defeat in the 2020 presidential election.

Electors in seven battleground states signed certificates falsely stating that Trump, not Democrat Joe Biden, had won their states. They mailed those certificates to the National Archives and Congress, where they were ignored.

Now those certificates are getting a second look from lawmakers as they conduct an expansive review of the riot on Jan. 6, 2021, and the events preceding it. More than a dozen people have been subpoenaed so far.

A look at who the electors are, how the scheme unfolded and why lawmakers are investigating now:

WHO ARE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS?

Electors are people appointed by state parties, sometimes before the general election, to represent voters. The job is often given to current and former party officials, state lawmakers and party activists.

The winner of the state's popular vote determines which party's electors are sent to the Electoral College, which convenes in December after the election to certify the winner of the White House.

There's very little guidance in the Constitution about the qualifications of electors except that no senator, representative or person holding federal office can be appointed to the position. After the Civil War, the 14th Amendment also specified that state officials "who have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States" cannot serve as electors.

There are currently 538 electors, matching the number of U.S. senators and representatives, plus three for the District of Columbia, which gets those electoral votes even though it has no voting representation in Congress.

Once chosen to be an elector, members gather in their respective state capitals on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December to certify their statewide popular vote winner. Each elector gets two votes: one for president and one for vice president through a process laid out by the 12th Amendment.

To cast the votes, each elector signs six certificates. One gets mailed to the Senate president, two go to their state's secretary of state and two go to the National Archives. The last is sent to a local judge.

HOW DOES CONGRESS COUNT ELECTORAL CERTIFICATES?

Once the certificates are sent, Congress gathers on Jan. 6 at 1 p.m. for a joint session to tally votes in the Electoral College. The process is prescribed by federal law and, up until 2020, was mostly routine.

The sitting vice president — in 2021 it was Mike Pence — presides over the session and opens the vote certificates from each state in alphabetical order.

After the certificates are opened, they are passed off to four tellers — two from the House and two from the Senate — who announce the results. House tellers include one representative from each party and are appointed by the House speaker. At the end of the count, the vice president announces the name of the next president.

The certification of the results on Jan. 6, 2021, was upended as a mob of Trump's supporters fought past police and broke into the Capitol, halting the process and forcing lawmakers and Pence into hiding. Biden's victory in the Electoral College was certified in the early morning of Jan. 7 after it took police all day to clear the rioters and secure the building.

SO WHAT WERE TRUMP ALLIES TRYING TO DO?

On Dec. 14, 2020, as Democratic electors in key swing states met at their seat of state government to cast their votes, Republicans who would have been electors had Trump won gathered as well. They declared themselves the rightful electors

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 7

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Medina Spirit stripped of Kentucky Derby victory

GARY B. GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

Medina Spirit was stripped of the victory in last year's Kentucky Derby and Mandaloun was declared the winner after a ruling by state racing stewards on Monday.

The since-deceased Medina Spirit tested positive after the race last May for a steroid, betamethasone, that is legal in Kentucky but banned on race day. The positive test threw the world's best-known horse race into turmoil and cast an unflattering spotlight on trainer Bob Baffert, considered the face of horse racing after he guided horses to the Triple Crown in 2015 and 2018.

Medina Spirit finished half a length ahead of Mandaloun in the race, giving Baffert what was then his seventh Kentucky Derby title. Baffert was subsequently banned for two years by Churchill Downs following the positive test.

Monday's decision by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission makes Medina Spirit the second horse in the 147-year history of the race to be disqualified for a banned substance; the first was Dancer's Image in 1968, a decision that gave Forward Pass the victory. The only other disqualification was in 2019 when Maximum Security was penalized because of interference, giving Country House the win.

Following the announcement by the racing stewards, Churchill Downs issued a statement declaring Mandaloun the Kentucky Derby winner and congratulating owner and breeder Juddmonte Farms, trainer Brad Cox and jockey Florent Geroux. Cox becomes the first Louisville native to win the Derby, and Mandaloun's owners will receive the $1.8 million winner's purse.

"We look forward to celebrating Mandaloun on a future date in a way that is fitting of this rare distinction," the statement said.

The track plans to replace Medina Spirit with Mandaloun on the paddock sign honoring the Derby winner on Tuesday. Mandaloun is set to run in the $20 million Saudi Cup in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday. The winner receives $10 million.

The racing commission also suspended Baffert for 90 days and fined the Hall of Fame trainer $7,500 on Monday. The decision followed a Feb. 14 hearing that was closed to the public and media.

Clark Brewster, an attorney for Baffert, said he would appeal the ruling.

"This ruling represents an egregious departure from both the facts and the law," Brewster said, "but the numerous public statements by KHRC officials over the last several months have made perfectly clear that Bob Baffert's fate was decided before we ever sat down for a hearing before the three stewards, one of whom is directly employed by Churchill Downs as the racing director at Turfway Park."

The California Horse Racing Board said it will honor Baffert's suspension at its tracks. He is based at Santa Anita, where he has already won some of this season's 3-year-old prep races for the Kentucky Derby.

The CHRB also said it will honor any stay or preliminary injunction if granted by Kentucky racing officials or a court.

Medina Spirit collapsed and died on Dec. 6 of a heart attack following a training run at Santa Anita less than a month after finishing second in the Breeders' Cup Classic at Del Mar. A necropsy found no definitive cause of the horse's death.

Baffert initially denied wrongdoing after a postrace drug test revealed 21 picograms of betamethasone in the horse's system. Baffert later acknowledged treating the horse with a topical ointment containing the corticosteroid for a skin inflammation.

Churchill Downs subsequently suspended Baffert, citing a recent spate of failed drug tests by his horses. Baffert sued the racing commission last June, seeking custody of remnant samples of Medina Spirit's blood and urine for subsequent testing to prove that the steroid did not come from an injection.

Another Baffert attorney, Craig Robertson, said in December that a urine test from a split sample showed the steroid came from an ointment.

Animal Wellness Action executive director Marty Irby applauded the stewards in a statement for taking action against Baffert, whom he called "American horse racing's most infamous violator."

"Baffert continues to drag horse racing through the mud in scandal after scandal," Irby said, "and we call on every racing jurisdiction in the nation to hold him accountable by reciprocating the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's suspension in their own state. We're elated that Baffert won't be participating in the upcoming 2022 Kentucky Derby and believe the horses will be better off, and the event will have more credibility, without him."

AP Racing Writer Beth Harris contributed to this report.

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.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 11:12 A.M.

Officers responded to a business on the 2500 block of Main St regarding a Petty Theft. An individual reportedly walked into the store and removed money from the tip jar. A good Samaritan held the door shut from the outside, giving the store owner and his son the opportunity to hold the subject down until police arrived. Alexander Paxton Todd was arrested for Theft.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 280 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 20

Speeding Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 12:16 a.m.
Fight 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 12:53 a.m.
Attempt Armed Robbery 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:13 a.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Broadway 2:39 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2600Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:45 a.m.
Burglary 2900Blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:06 a.m.
Burglary 2900Blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:27 a.m.
Burglary 2800Blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:32 a.m.
Grand Theft 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:13 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2400Blk Oak St 6:16 a.m.
Encampment Main St / Pico Blvd 7:16 a.m.
Burglary 2800Blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:20 a.m.
Encampment 2000Blk Ocean Ave 7:39 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk 2nd St 7:58 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300Blk Olympic Dr 8:38 a.m.
Bike Theft 900Blk 19th St 8:44 a.m.
Lewd Activity 6th St / Hollister Ave 9:08 a.m.
Petty Theft 2400Blk Centinela Ave 9:11 a.m.
Auto Burglary 600Blk Navy St 9:15 a.m.
Auto Burglary 400Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:18 a.m.
Overdose 1500Blk 4th St 9:29 a.m.
Lojack Hit 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:52 a.m.
Found Property 2200Blk 20th St 10:16 a.m.
Elder Abuse 1300Blk 17th St 10:19 a.m.
Found Property 2500Blk The Beach 10:22 a.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 4th St 10:23 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 10:32 a.m.
Burglary 1000Blk 11th St 10:37 a.m.
Burglary 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:49 a.m.
Assault 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 10:57 a.m.
Fire Request Police 3rd St / Hill St 10:58 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1000Blk 5th St 11:33 a.m.
Elder Abuse 2000Blk Arizona Ave 11:33 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 11:37 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1500Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:42 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 2300Blk 4th St 12:07 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 12:13 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Main St / Olympic Dr 12:17 p.m.
Fight 1500Blk 4th St 12:29 p.m.
Found Property 1000Blk Stanford St 12:47 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500Blk 4th St 2:12 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 2:15 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1100Blk 23rd St 2:20 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:26 p.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 2:29 p.m.
Burglary 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:35 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 600Blk 12th St 2:37 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1500Blk 9th St 2:39 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Yale St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:54 p.m.
Petty Theft 700Blk Angeles Crest Hwy 4:10 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 800Blk 7th St 4:11 p.m.
Petty Theft 1700Blk 9th St 4:13 p.m.
Vandalism Now 1000Blk Colorado Ave 4:17 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Neilson Way / Hollister Ave 4:19 p.m.
Battery 9th St / Arizona Ave 4:32 p.m.
Battery 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 4:32 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2400Blk Chelsea Pl 4:42 p.m.
Assault 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 4:43 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 4:44 p.m.
Identity Theft 1000Blk Princeton St 4:55 p.m.
Encampment Warwick Ave / Exposition Blvd 5:20 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Broadway 5:30 p.m.
Burglary 2200Blk Ocean Ave 5:35 p.m.
Fire Request Police 1500Blk 2nd St 5:37 p.m.
Fight 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:42 p.m.
Fire Request Police 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:07 p.m.
Missing Person 900Blk Euclid St 6:20 p.m.
Fight 100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:35 p.m.
Speeding 15th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:35 p.m.
Vandalism 2300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:42 p.m.
Encampment 3300Blk Exposition Blvd 6:52 p.m.
Speeding 7th St / Georgina Ave 6:52 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500Blk 6th St 7:18 p.m.
Found Property 1500Blk 4th St 7:26 p.m.
Vandalism 4th St / Broadway 7:27 p.m.
Petty Theft 1500Blk California Ave 8:02 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 3200Blk Broadway 8:14 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 600Blk Idaho Ave 8:20 p.m.
Found Property 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:59 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1300Blk Yale St 9:36 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:40 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1100Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:49 p.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Pico Blvd 10:05 p.m.
Prowler Just Left 800Blk 15th St 10:17 p.m.
Fight 11th St / Washington Ave 10:44 p.m.
Speeding 3rd St / Bicknell Ave 10:51 p.m.
Fight 100Blk Santa Monica Pl 10:58 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1600Blk Berkeley St 11:34 p.m.
Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 11:40 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 800Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:44 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Berkeley St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:53 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 23 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 20

Automatic Alarm 1500Blk 5th St 12:58 a.m.
EMS 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:16 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:34 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Euclid St 7:32 a.m.
EMS 2900Blk Pennsylvania Ave 8:06 a.m.
EMS 200Blk Beach St 8:44 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 4th St 9:29 a.m.
EMS 3rd St / Hill St 10:54 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 2nd St 11:06 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 11:09 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:58 a.m.
EMS 2800Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:10 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 4th St 12:32 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Colorado Ave 12:36 p.m.
EMS 3200Blk Colorado Ave 12:39 p.m.
EMS 2600Blk Kansas Ave 2:26 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk California Ave 2:30 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk California Ave 2:37 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Yale St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:54 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Arizona Ave 4:50 p.m.
EMS 600Blk Idaho Ave 8:32 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk San Vicente Blvd 9:01 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 9:30 p.m.

Trump's social media app launches year after Twitter ban

BERNARD CONDON
Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump's social media app that he hopes will rival Twitter launched Monday as he seeks a new digital stage to rally his supporters and fight Big Tech limits on speech, a year after he was banned from Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

His Truth Social app was offered for download from the Apple App Store to a limited number of subscribers who had preordered. Others who were added to a waiting list are to be given access over the next 10 days.

The site encountered technical glitches shortly after launch, with reports that subscribers were shut out for hours. Others had trouble signing on. The site is not expected to be open to anyone who wants to download it until next month.

"Due to massive demand, we have placed you on our waitlist," read a message to some of those trying to access the platform, adding, "We love you."

Trump is hoping Truth Social will attract the millions who followed him on Twitter as he hints at a third presidential run, triggering a wave of other subscribers to justify the billions of dollars that investors have bet on the venture. Shares in a company that plans to buy Trump Media and Technology Group, the parent of Truth Social, have soared in recent months.

According to Apple's rankings, Truth Social was the top free app in the U.S. on Monday morning, besting the "Talking Ben the Dog" children's game, streaming service HBO Max, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook.

The partial launch Monday follows an experimental "beta" launch to test the platform last week.

Trump was banned from top social media platforms following the Jan. 6 Capitol riot last year that critics accused him of inciting. The ban has raised difficult questions about free speech in a social media industry dominated by a few tech giants — an issue that Trump and conservative media have seized upon.

Republicans were quick to use the launch of Truth Social to raise money for their election efforts.

"After over A YEAR of muzzling by the Liberal Big Tech Tyrants: TRUMP. IS. BACK," wrote GOP House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy in a fundraising email appeal Monday.

Groups like the Republican National Committee and the Congressional Leadership Fund also have been fundraising off the launch.

"Our main goal here is to give people their voice back," Trump Media CEO and former GOP Congressman Devin Nunes said Sunday on Fox News. He added that the app offers "the opposite of some Silicon Valley tech oligarch freak telling people what they want to think and deciding who can or cannot be on the platform."

Nunes said the app should be "fully operational" by the end of March.

For all the fanfare, Trump appears to have largely stayed away from the app on launch day. A screenshot taken of his Truth Social account showed no new messages as of 4 p.m. Eastern. His last message was from a week earlier: "Get Ready! Your favorite President will see you soon!"

Before Twitter permanently barred him from posting last year, Trump had tweeted nearly 60,000 times and had attracted almost 90 million followers.

His Truth Social followers on Monday were listed at 12,000.

Trump is hoping to tap into outrage over the social media bans to attract a broad audience to keep the stock rising — and possibly hand him hundreds of millions of dollars personally — but he faces significant challenges.

None of alternative messaging platforms already open to public, such as Gettr and Parler, have been able to move beyond an echo chamber of conservative political commentary.

Trump's company, Trump Media, also faces financial hurdles. It has been promised nearly $300 million from a publicly traded company that plans to merge with it and got pledges from dozens of private investors for an additional $1 billion to fund its operations, but it still needs approval from regulators for the deal before it can access the cash.

The company it hopes to merge with, Digital World Acquisition Corp., has said regulators are investigating following reports that it may have broken security rules last year by talking to Trump representatives about possibly joining forces before selling stock to the public. Digital World is a so-called blank-check company that is only allowed a quick path to going public without many disclosures if it has not identified a target to buy yet.

Another regulatory investigation is focused on possible stock trading violations earlier in the fall.

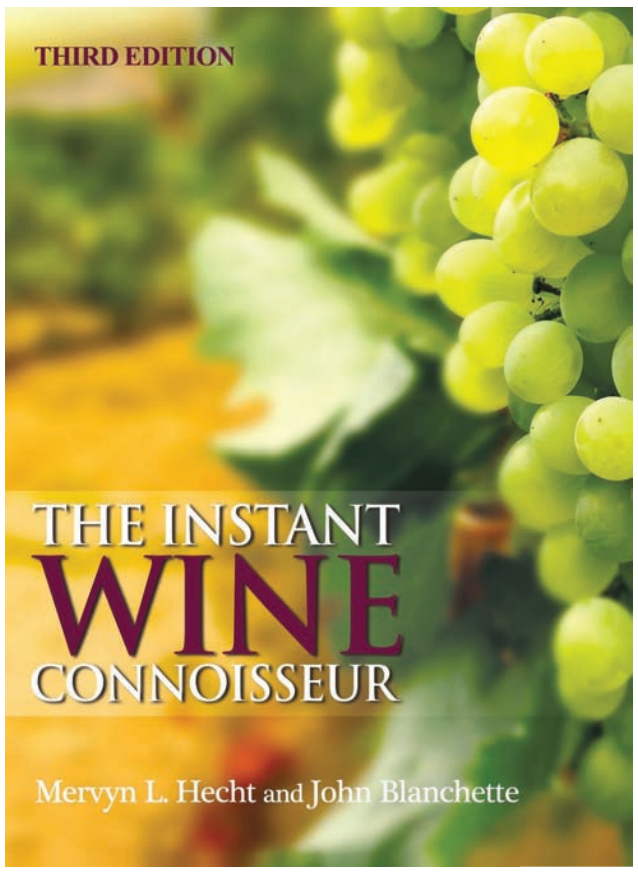
Investors in shares of Digital World are valuing its eventual merger target, Trump Media, at $10 billion.

Associated Press writers Tali Arbel and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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



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WEEKLY ARRESTS

SMPD MADE 31 ARRESTS FROM FEBRUARY 7 TO FEBRUARY 13.

Date	Sex	Age	Primary Charge
Mon, Feb 7	M	38	Burglary
Mon, Feb 7	M	35	Shoplifting
Mon, Feb 7	M	19	Possession of Marijuana for Sale
Mon, Feb 7	M	25	Possession of Marijuana for Sale
Mon, Feb 7	M	23	Possession of Marijuana for Sale
Tue, Feb 8	M	52	Larceny
Tue, Feb 8	M	27	Animal Abuse
Tue, Feb 8	M	41	Possession of Methamphetamines
Wed, Feb 9	M	28	Parole Violation
Wed, Feb 9	M	38	Drunk in Public
Thu, Feb 10	M	34	Unlawfully Occupying Property
Thu, Feb 10	M	40	Parole Violation
Thu, Feb 10	M	66	Prohibition against camping in public places
Thu, Feb 10	F	33	Unlawfully Occupying Property
Thu, Feb 10	M	33	Carrying A Concealed Dirk Or Dagger
Thu, Feb 10	F	23	Possession of Methamphetamines
Thu, Feb 10	M	30	Possession of Burglary Tools
Fri, Feb 11	M	34	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Fri, Feb 11	M	32	Warrant
Fri, Feb 11	F	51	False Impersonation
Fri, Feb 11	M	34	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Sat, Feb 12	M	38	Possession of Burglary Tools
Sat, Feb 12	M	32	Arson
Sat, Feb 12	M	32	Larceny
Sat, Feb 12	M	34	Probation Violation
Sat, Feb 12	M	36	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
Sat, Feb 12	F	31	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Sun, Feb 13	M	30	Possession of Burglary Tools
Sun, Feb 13	M	32	Vandalism
Sun, Feb 13	M	36	Probation Violation
Sun, Feb 13	F	30	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol

PARENTAL LEAVE

FROM PAGE 1

unanimously supported by Council.

"When we talk about staff retention and things during this sort of employment resignation that we're seeing, I think that it's important that we have modern policies in place and this isn't one that I believe should be left to labor negotiations," said McCowan. "I do believe to some extent this should be afforded to all employees in the same way that it's afforded to all other employees in other sectors in the state of California."

Workers in California are eligible for paid family leave benefits from the state if they need to take time off work to care for a seriously ill family member, bond with a new child or because they are unable to work in the last weeks of their pregnancy. Payments can be received for up to eight weeks and are equivalent to about 60 to 70 percent of weekly wages.

McCowan said she wanted to bring this issue to attention in part because of her experience being a civic employee for the federal government in Washington D.C. and for the City of Los Angeles and not receiving pay for the time she took off related to her two pregnancies. Since then a paid parental leave policy has been introduced in both agencies.

"Because many cities and their employees don't pay into the state coffers in the same way because we have separate programs, when the state implemented a paid family leave policy that doesn't apply to our staff," said McCowan. "It (paid parental leave) got introduced in the City of Los Angeles and I was sad to see that we didn't have something similar here."

In February 2021, Los Angeles City Council approved six weeks of fully paid time off for new parents. This pilot program is currently available to civilian employees and there are plans to extend it to fire and police sworn personnel if the pilot is deemed successful.

Councilmember Christine Parra was supportive of the proposal and cited her experience and struggle when she did not qualify for paid family leave.

"I worked for a city and first pregnancy I was civil service and I had leave pay, second pregnancy I was management and I didn't realize under management I didn't have paid leave. And so for three months I had no pay and it really affected me because I still had to pay for childcare for my first child, and now I have three months without pay. And so I wholeheartedly support this, so thank you for bringing it up," said Parra.

The cost and scope of the City's potential paid parental leave policy will be explored by staff and brought back to Council in time for the FY 22-23 budget. Councilmember McCowan's motion intends for such a policy, if approved, to take effect during FY 22-23.

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AWARD WINNER
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World shares mixed as investors eye Ukraine, inflation

ELAINE KURTENBACH
AP Business Writer

World shares were mixed Monday as investors watched for developments in Ukraine after Russia rescinded earlier pledges to pull tens of thousands of its troops away from Ukraine's northern border.

U.S. markets will be closed for a holiday but futures were higher. Shares rose in early European trading but fell in most Asian markets.

The White House said President Joe Biden had agreed "in principle" to meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin if he refrains from launching an assault that U.S. officials say appears increasingly likely.

Russia's decision extended military exercises that brought an estimated 30,000 Russian forces to Belarus, Ukraine's northern neighbor. They had been due to end Sunday. The troops are among some 150,000 deployed along Ukraine's borders, along with tanks, warplanes, artillery and other war materiel.

The concern that Russian troops could descend on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, a city of about 3 million people less than a three-hour drive away, has added to uncertainties for investors already jittery over central bank strategies to combat inflation.

Russia is a major energy producer and a military conflict also could disrupt energy supplies and make for extremely volatile energy prices.

Germany's DAX gained 0.5% to 15,111.84 and the CAC 40 in Paris edged 0.2% higher. Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.3% to 7,538.08. The future for the S&P 500 climbed 0.3% while that for the Dow industrials added 0.4%.

Markets are on "tenterhooks," Mizuho Bank said in a commentary. But it added, "relief rallies appear to be emerging; drawing comfort from Presidents Biden and Putin having 'accepted the principle' of a summit; conditional upon Russia not invading Ukraine."

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.8% to 26,910.87, while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong shed 0.7% to 24,170.07. In Seoul, the Kospi gave up less than 1 point to 2,743.80. The Shanghai Composite index was unchanged at 3,490.61. India's Sensex lost 0.4% and Thailand's benchmark was 0.7% lower.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.2% to 7,233.60 as the country reopened its borders to more international travel after nearly two years of being mostly sequestered due to the pandemic.

Vaccinated travelers were greeted at Sydney's airport by jubilant well-wishers waving toy koalas and favorite Australian foods including Tim Tams chocolate cookies and jars of Vegemite spread.

Outbreaks of coronavirus fueled by the highly contagious omicron variant are also a worry. A preliminary reading on factory data for Japan on Monday showed a sharp drop in the manufacturing purchasing manager's index, to 52.9 from 55.4 on a 0-100 scale where readings above 50 indicate expansion.

But analysts said they expect activity to rebound as the latest wave of infections subsides.

In Australia, shares in AGL, the country's biggest electricity generator, jumped 10% after it said it had rejected an 8 billion Australian dollar ($5.8 billion) takeover bid from tech billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes and Canadian investment firm Brookfield.

Shares in software company Atlassian, founded by Cannon-Brookes, fell 2%.

On Friday, stocks capped a week of volatile trading on Wall Street with a broad sell-off.

The S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average both slipped 0.7%. The Nasdaq composite bore the brunt of the selling, skidding 1.2%.

Small company stocks also fell, with the Russell 2000 index down 0.9%.

Treasury yields fell Friday, as investors shifted money into the safety of U.S. bonds. The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which affects rates on mortgages and other consumer

SEE **STOCKS** PAGE 6

Letter to the Editor

Peter Borresen Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't look up! - Climate change is happening now, and the Santa Monica Council has its head in the sand. The current squabbling at city hall will end up destroying the world.

The council needs to:

1) Immediately ban gas connections in all new buildings

2) Require all new buildings, of all sizes, to have adequate solar panels and batteries to power the building for all its expected use. Including for large multifamily buildings. (this will have added benefit of slowing development).

4) Require all parking, both public and private to have functioning electric charging sockets for all parking spaces.

6) Only allow city employees using zero-emissions vehicles to get free city parking at work. Low-income employees will be given a credit towards the cost of parking, which they can use for other purposes - it will be their choice whether to spend it on parking or not. (Don't punt this to staff for review, they will be strongly opposed to this - as they will have to pay. The interests of staff and councilors are opposites here, as they are on many subjects.)

7) If a landlord wants to refurbish a vacant apartment, they should be forced to replace any gas heating with a heat pump. Then the city should waive all permit and inspection fees and provide financial support towards the replacement. The city should also waive any architectural approvals needed, and allow roof/side yard/balcony installation. Attic insulation should only be required if easily achievable. Otherwise landlords will have zero motivation to go gas-free.

Even the LA City Council is considering banning gas connections - showing up Santa Monica's minimal attempts at fighting global heating.

Peter Borresen, Santa Monica

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[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Oh Santa Monica! Where Art Thou Going?

I hate the trajectory our city is on. It's losing its humanity. Its character is being replaced with a defensive posture that is not conducive to community and camaraderie.

This past weekend I took a stroll down the boardwalk while walking a dog. As we came up from Pico Blvd. it was a lovely evening of warm breezes and the wafting of marijuana. Moving along we arrived at the exercise pit where the rings are. Long lines of ropes were stretched out for the wire-walkers to practice. People were enjoying the rings and working out on the bars. Acrobats and calisthenics enthusiasts were enjoying the green space and I recalled the many hours I've spent there photographing athletes.

And then I looked over at the ramp down from the parking lot. It used to be the upper border of a green space where my dog and I would sit and relax after his long pier adventures hunting for errant French fries and dropped bits of hot dogs and pizza. But it was no more.

What was a delightful resting spot of real grass had been replaced with drought-resistant and people deterrent bark and thorny bushes. Palm trees had been planted for some unknown purpose. Yet another people-friendly space had been sacrificed in the name of, probably, water-saving, budget cuts and that catchall phrase bureaucrats love to use to justify their actions, public safety.

I was bothered by the loss of such a nice space. My memories of it are all that I have. No new ones will be made there by me or anyone else. I wasn't annoyed enough to write about it at the time. And then I saw the story about how city staff are preparing to remove the tables and seats at Chess Park.

Again this is being done in the name of budget cuts, and 'public safety'. I know there have been a lot of problems with Chess Park. I've seen the videos of fights, drunks, drug addicts and the mentally ill causing problems there. I get that our city is under siege from the homeless, the resurgence of gang taggers (which may or may not lead to bigger problems) and the lack of enough police resources to handle the problems of the city.

But does the reaction of the city ALWAYS have to be withdraw public spaces? Why are we as a city allowing the bad elements to win by the removal of what is meant for all the public? When are the city council going to stand up and say, "ENOUGH!" Do something more creative. Find a better way to address the issues of homelessness and mental illness.

The fact is that yes we have a lot of problems. We have a huge budget that is evidently not enough to provide our city with the police force we need. We need more help with the homeless and the mentally ill. We need more resources to protect the public spaces. We need more assistance from our neighboring cities.

Why is our City Council, who are so busy eliminating Commissions (while ignoring the need for valid ones like a Diversity Commission and/or a Men's Commission - don't think I forgot about that Women's Commission we had for years!) but ignoring the reduction in services and public assets while the city staff continue to accrue their pension monies.

I've reached out to our Council on the status of commissions and the need for a Diversity Commission - crickets. I've asked about what can be done with the destruction of the Bowling Alley and its conversion into a behemoth residential structure that will dwarf the neighborhood - and I was told there's nothing we can do.

On 14th street, across from Woodlawn Cemetery is another major development of community housing. It's the first of many I imagine on that street and surrounding area. On Pico Blvd at 18th is another giant complex being built that soon will dwarf its neighbors.

As our city is becoming a warehouser of people, with no place for them to comfortably enjoy the outdoors, I don't know what this will become. How much longer until the City decides that our parks are too expensive to maintain and we should shut them down? How long until those child play areas become too much work and too risky and they need to be closed?

David Pisarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @ davidpisarra

STOCKS

FROM PAGE 5

loans, was steady at 1.93% early Monday.

Markets have been rocked by worries over how companies will cope with inflation at decades-high levels in many countries, and over whether consumers might pull back on spending to cope with higher costs.

Wall Street is looking ahead to determine how markets will react to a more aggressive monetary policy from the U.S. Federal Reserve as it begins tightening after two years of ultra-low interest rates and other supportive measures.

In other trading Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil lost 15 cents to $90.06 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 17 cents to $90.21 on Friday.

Brent crude, the international pricing standard, gained 12 cents to $93.66 per barrel.

The U.S. dollar slipped to 114.86 Japanese yen from 115.12 yen late Friday. The euro rose to $1.1362 from $1.1324.

MAIN STREET

FROM PAGE 1

and forward-thinking pilot program in partnership with the Ocean Park Association was a resounding success," said MSBIA Executive Director Hunter Hall. "In order to tackle our biggest challenges successfully, Santa Monica needs to encourage flexibility and collaboration between businesses and residents. We proved that could be done well here, which is what this pilot was really about all along."

To solicit community feedback OPA collected survey responses from event attendees, business owners and residents after each weekend event. Positive feedback was in the 90 percent range for most weekends. Residents living within two blocks had the greatest proportion of negative feedback, which peaked at 21.8 percent following the second event.

Feedback from Main Street businesses was also mainly positive. Survey results reported that only 3 percent of businesses outside of the closed block and 1.9 percent within the closed blocks hated the event. The rest of businesses either rated it as "okay" or "loved it." Inside the pedestrian plaza businesses had a near 50/50 split between loving it and rating it as OK, while outside the plaza 66 percent said it was OK and 30 percent said they loved it.

The impact the event had on business varied by location and business type. Within the pilot area 54 percent of businesses reported increased sales compared to 24 percent outside of the business area. Restaurants and bars were most likely to economically benefit from the event, while retailers were the least excited by the event. Across the event weekends an average of 19 percent of businesses reported worse sales than regular weekends.

During event days traffic was primarily diverted onto Neilson Way, while 2nd, 3rd and 4th Streets also served as reasonable detours for cars. The largest uptick in traffic was observed on Neilson way, which experienced an increase of 5,800 average daily trips on the first weekend compared to a regular weekend. Baseline weekend daily trips were measured at 18,550 compared to 24,350 on the event weekend.

The events were successful in drawing more foot traffic to the pedestrian plaza. The evaluation reported a 550 percent increase in pedestrians during the first event weekend compared to a regular weekend and 64 percent of event attendees reported walking to the event series.

The overall event series cost was $141,070, or approximately $35,000 per weekend, which was funded through the repurposing of funds originally set aside for the 2020 COAST open streets event and Main Street SOULstice. While the report indicated a City desire to continue similar open street events in the future, it said that funding for future iterations of an Open Main Street has not yet been identified.

Clara@smdp.com

ELECTION

FROM PAGE 2

and submitted false Electoral College certificates declaring Trump the winner of the presidential election in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, New Mexico, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin,

Those certificates from the "alternate electors" in seven states were sent to Congress. Several of Trump's Republican allies in the House and Senate used them to justify delaying or blocking the certification of the election during the joint session of Congress.

On two of the certificates, from New Mexico and Pennsylvania, the fake electors added a caveat saying the certificate was submitted in case they were later recognized as duly elected, qualified electors. That would only have been possible if Trump had won any of the several dozen legal challenges he filed in the weeks after the election. Instead, he lost them all.

But the lies about election fraud from the former president and his allies ended up having grave consequences beyond the Electoral College certification, fueling the deadly insurrection on the Capitol building that day.

WHY DIDN'T IT WORK?

The attempt to throw the election did not succeed, in part, because of centuries-old safeguards. While Congress and the National Archives received the fake certificates, the only ones that were counted during the joint session were the official slates of electors from each of the swing states in question.

When Pence was pressed by Trump allies to introduce the unofficial pro-Trump electors to cast doubt on Biden's victory on Jan. 6, he declined. And though Republicans in Congress filed challenges to several of the electoral college votes, none succeeded. Lawmakers ultimately certified the results and Biden's win.

But the insurrection and Trump's brazen campaign to throw the results have led to a bipartisan effort in Congress to update the laws governing the Electoral College to ensure no future president can abuse the process to stay in power.

WHAT DOES THE JAN. 6 COMMITTEE WANT TO KNOW?

The House wants to identify whether there was any fraudulent activity in the preparation of the fake Electoral College certificates. They are also looking into the people who planned and implemented the efforts in each of the seven states. Attorneys general in New Mexico and Michigan are conducting their own investigations.

At least 20 people in connection with the fake electors scheme have been subpoenaed by the House panel, including former Trump campaign members, state party officials and state lawmakers.

While the false-electors push was public at the time, lawmakers want to know more about the involvement of Trump's White House and members of his campaign, in part to determine whether any crimes may have been committed.

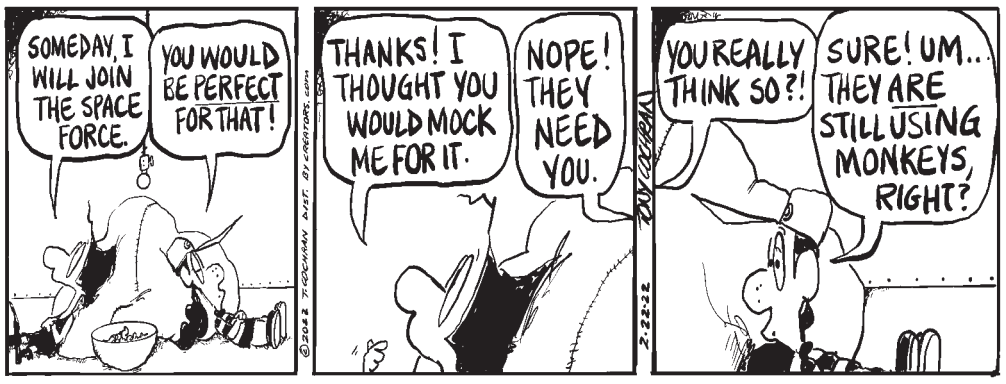
"This was a coordinated effort — a multistate effort," California Rep. Zoe Lofgren, a Democratic member of the committee, told MSNBC shortly after the first subpoenas were issued to the fake electors. "The fake documents are similar and we'd like to know who coordinated this and who asked them to do this."





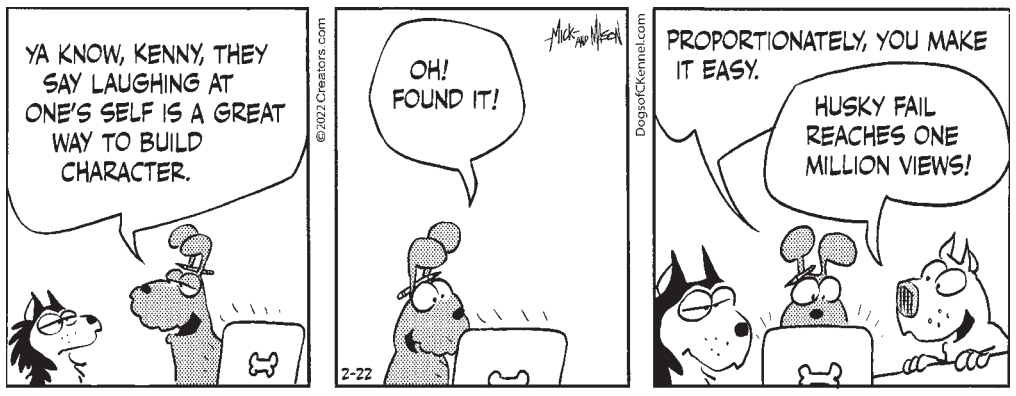
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



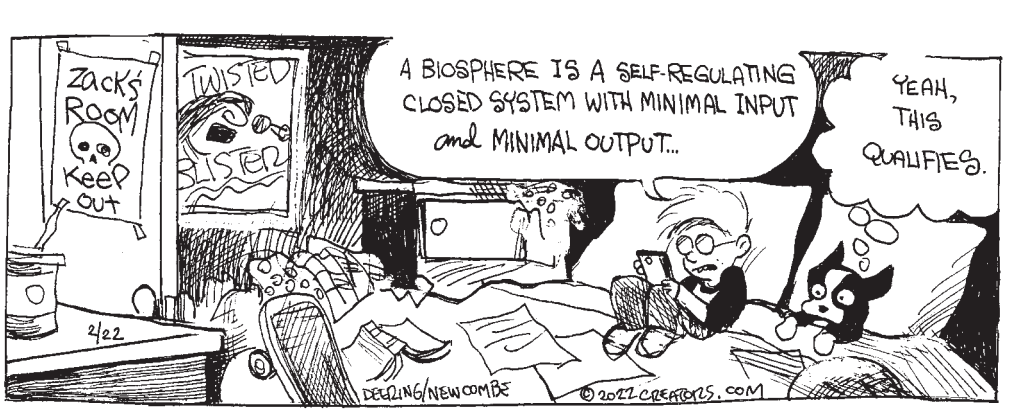
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



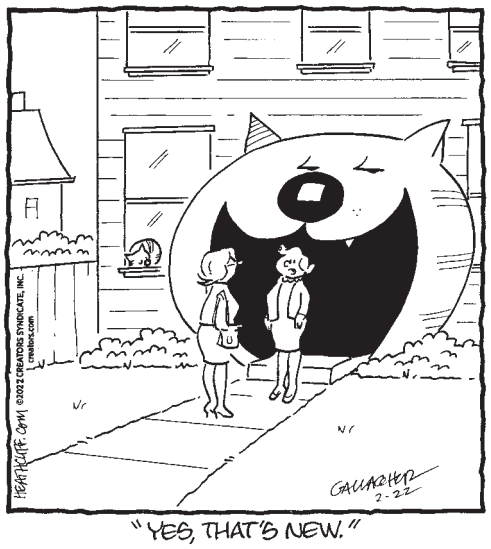
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



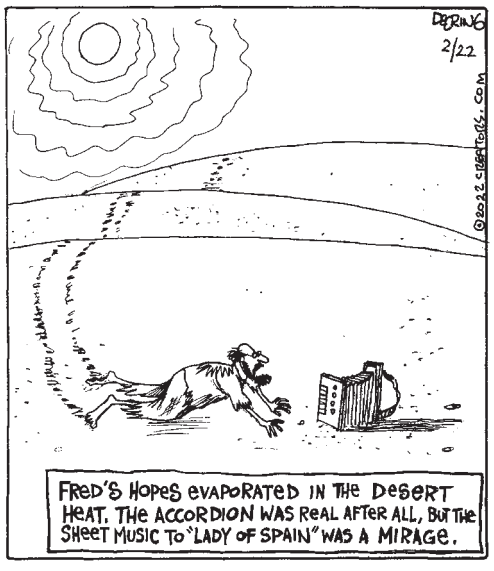
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.4°

TUESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Continued NW swell mix. Wind will likely still be from the WNW but does have potential to have a lighter window in the morning.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Expecting to see refresh in shorter-period NW swell. Onshore WNW wind looking problematic through the day.

WEATHER

Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers after 10am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 58.
Tuesday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45.
Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers before 10am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/02/22	Tue	12:34 AM	4.81	H
2022/02/22	Tue	07:36 AM	0.98	L
2022/02/22	Tue	1:26 PM	2.81	H
2022/02/22	Tue	6:17 PM	1.70	L
2022/02/23	Wed	01:29 AM	4.86	H
2022/02/23	Wed	09:25 AM	0.69	L
2022/02/23	Wed	3:55 PM	2.48	H
2022/02/23	Wed	6:56 PM	2.26	L
2022/02/24	Thu	02:44 AM	4.95	H
2022/02/24	Thu	10:58 AM	0.11	L
2022/02/24	Thu	6:22 PM	2.80	H
2022/02/24	Thu	9:01 PM	2.67	L
2022/02/25	Fri	04:07 AM	5.19	H
2022/02/25	Fri	12:05 PM	-0.53	L
2022/02/25	Fri	7:10 PM	3.24	H
2022/02/25	Fri	10:57 PM	2.60	L
2022/02/26	Sat	05:20 AM	5.56	H
2022/02/26	Sat	12:56 PM	-1.05	L
2022/02/26	Sat	7:41 PM	3.63	H
2022/02/27	Sun	12:09 AM	2.23	L
2022/02/27	Sun	06:21 AM	5.95	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 2/19
3 10 15 33 42
Power#: 11
Jackpot: 37 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 2/18
6 11 50 63 68
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 75 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 2/19
3 12 24 30 36
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 19 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 2/20
9 19 30 31 36

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 2/20
EVENING: 5 5 0
Draw Date: 2/20
MIDDAY: 1 4 7

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 2/20
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:46.21

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 22)

Wisdom seekers will consult you. You bring peace to people by responding with empathy and compassion in addition to your logical answers. Your help will solve a major dilemma, allowing everyone to move on to brighter futures. You will learn new skills from a fun social group. A dream will finally be realized. Aquarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 22, 18, 30 and 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Is it possible to go an entire day without saying "I"? You bet. You'll jump at the chance to put others first. And paradoxically, your selflessness will benefit you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Doing a job the standard way and doing it your way might be two completely different things. Nevertheless, if you show a lot of heart and your intention is pure, your way will eventually catch on and become the norm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Enjoy your instant rapport with leaders and powerful people — they certainly will. People envy you because you can talk freely and equally with people from all walks of life. You'll use this talent for the good of your team.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have both intelligence and common sense in abundance. As part of your role, you will gather information from various sources and present it in a way that is valuable to all involved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Gifts cause conflicting feelings in you. While you enjoy seeing what someone has planned for you, you also wonder what their motives are. Such gestures bind you to the giver, so you don't take them lightly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Despite your love of security, you also crave glamour. Today's risk is enough to entice you, and you may find that you move faster than you thought possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People who feel comfortable are more open and generous than those on the defensive. As a result of your warmth, wit and kindness, people let their guard down, which will benefit you greatly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Excitement is in the air. However, this isn't a free ride. You'll have to earn this thrill. To begin with, you have to pay attention, learn the ropes and follow the leader.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's peaceful to bask in the sunshine of your mind. The connections you make will be energetic and curious. Eventually, you'll wonder what they want from you. Assume the best. Today, you're just fun to be around.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Rethink how you organize your workspace. Even though you've changed things around several times, it's still not quite right. Noise matters. Lighting matters even more. It might be time to call in the professionals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you do all you can to make sure a relationship works, it worsens. Calm down. You are just trying too hard. Don't try at all and you will love how things work out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The current state of affairs is merely a passing occurrence. It would be a waste of time to dwell on the unsatisfactory bits since they will either resolve themselves or become moot. The present will not be the future.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

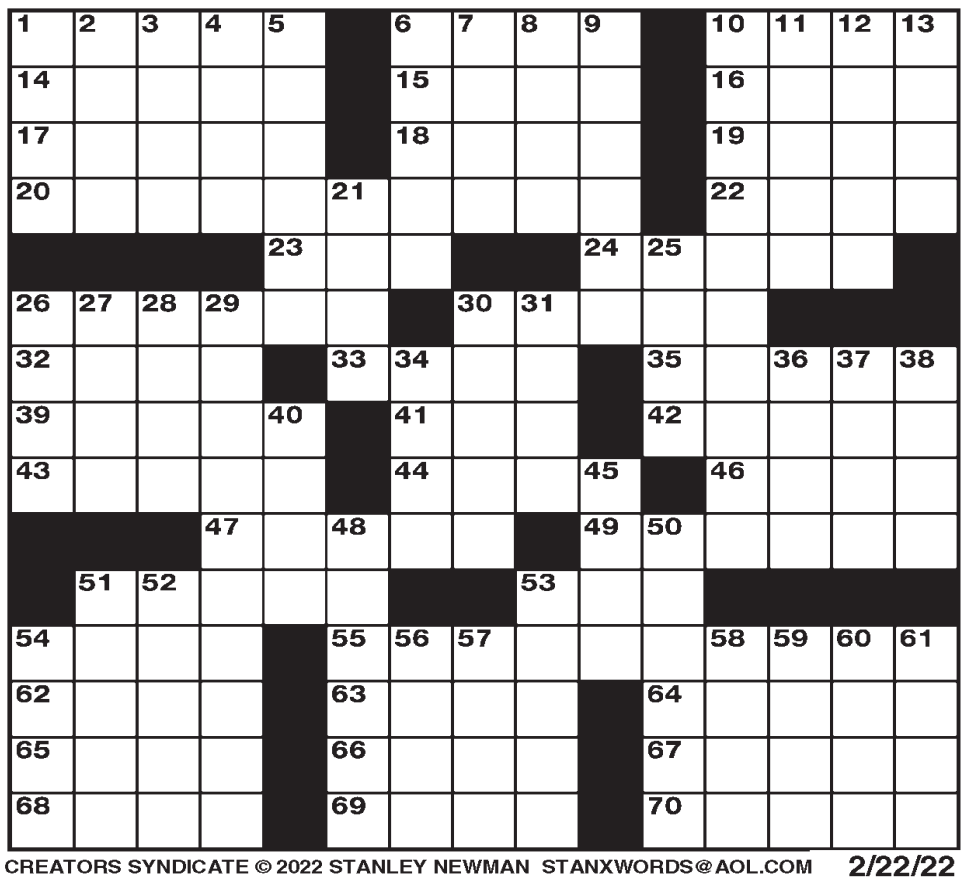
6				9		4		7
2		9			4			
	4			1			9	
		5			3	2		
	9		1	6	5		4	
		1	2			7		
	7			2			3	
			4			9		5
9		4		3				6

Newsday Crossword

E-COMMERCE by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Trails for hiking
6 Beverages like beer
10 Mothers of lambs
14 Facing the pitcher
15 Deep affection
16 Outpost with tents
17 Soldier's denial
18 Assist in a crime
19 __ in a blue moon
20 Hiring of workers
22 Require
23 Feline of the zodiac
24 Wear away
26 "I want to hear about it"
30 "Get lost!"
32 Acme
33 Tra __ (singing syllables)
35 Catchers' gloves
39 #2 executives, for short
41 Edge of a cup
42 Ice cream utensil
43 Establish, as a scholarship
44 Praiseful poems
46 Alan of *M*A*S*H*
47 Fry lightly
49 Larger cousins of violas
51 Big smiles
53 Payment to the IRS
54 Narrow cut
55 Business venture
62 German auto
63 Golfer's shout
64 Devoured
65 Toy block brand
66 "When You Wish __ a Star"
67 Any religious belief
68 Paradise in Genesis
69 Allows
70 Fill-in workers, for short

DOWN
1 Window glass
2 Molecule part
3 Sugar amt.
4 Frozen rain
5 Leisurely walk
6 San Antonio attraction
7 Tip of an ear
8 __ so (nevertheless)
9 "Irish" dog
10 Priced to be a good value
11 Decreased gradually
12 Banquet host
13 Moved very quickly
21 Holler
25 Fathers of lambs
26 Chappelle or Brubeck
27 Unwrap, as a gift
28 __ off (started a golf game)
29 Trade show for products
30 Lose traction
31 What's behind Superman's back
34 Frequently
36 Turnpike charge
37 Well-__ (wealthy)
38 Healthful resorts
40 Graceful water bird
45 Lasting mark
48 Handy to have
50 Look forward to
51 Attached with Elmer's
52 Chain of hills
53 Adolescents
54 Reduced-price event
56 "Uh-uh"
57 Jogger's pace
58 Highly uncommon
59 Agenda listing
60 Leak slowly
61 Conclusions



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

TUESDAY | FEB 22

COURTYARD & SPLASH PAD OPEN
The Annenberg Community Beach House gated area, including the courtyard and splash pad, are open to the public daily. Please note, from September - May hours are subject to change with short notice. Check the Beach House website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm. Annenberg Community Beach House. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY | FEB 23

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

THURSDAY | FEB 24

THE COLLEGE PROCESS FROM A-Z
Get the inside scoop on the college admissions process, including high school academics and course planning, building a college wish list, navigating the application process, and applying for financial aid. Presented by Diana Hanson of Magellan College Counseling. Register for this virtual workshop at: shorturl.at/dpuRT. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY | FEB 25

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

SATURDAY | FEB 26

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, HIGH
SMPL hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the SMMUSD Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at the Pico Branch Library, 2100 Pico Blvd. 12 - 3 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.co/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 27

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
2640 Main St.
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MONDAY | FEB 28

SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING
Visit https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ for more information. 7 p.m.

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
Visit https://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/Airport_Commission/Airport_Commission.aspx for more information. 6 p.m.

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

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Into the tropics

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

Alpha	Cow Bay	Heat	Relaxing
Alva	Dalby	Hills	Roma
Atoll	Dawn	Hook	Sails
Avocado	Diverse	Ideal	Salty
Beer	Dunk	Lawes	Shoal
Boat	Eulo	Laze	Swim
Brisbane	Euramo	Lucky	Taroom
Bypass	Fish	Major	Tour
Cairns	Giru	Nebo	Tully
Calm	Green	Nelia	Tuna
Colonial	Gympie	Noosa	Vast
Coral	Hats	Paget	Warm
Cove	Hazy	Plantation	Yerra

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Measure twice cut once

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

One of the new items is a " Request of Councilmembers Brock, Parra and de la Torre that the City Council remove Housing Commissioner Leonora Camner pursuant to City Charter Article 1002 (requiring a motion adopted by at least five affirmative votes), and to thank her for her previous service to the Santa Monica Housing Commission." Camner, who has been on the commission since late 2021, is also the executive director of Abundant Housing LA, a 501(c)4 social welfare not-for-profit.

The move comes as the Housing Commission has taken on additional prominence; just days earlier, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) rejected the City's 6th Cycle Housing Element, requesting additional research into the feasibility of converting City-identified sites into housing among other adjustments.

Neither Brock nor de la Torre responded to a request for comment by Daily Press deadline.

Camner posted an image of the agenda item on Twitter, writing: "Getting kicked off the housing commission because I advocate for housing."

Among Camner's supporters is San Francisco State Senator Scott Wiener, chair of the Senate's Housing Commission and outspoken housing advocate, who tweeted on Monday: "Santa Monica City Council is considering removing from its Housing Commission one of our great Southern California housing advocates, Leonora Camner.

Why? Because she actually believes in having more housing." Wiener also encouraged his followers to submit letters to Santa Monica City Council.

Camner announced on social media that she was planning a meet-up at Tongva Park at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 22, where she would discuss the Housing Commission and her advocacy.

BROWN ACT VIOLATIONS

In response to concerns over possible violations of the Brown Act — specifically, allegations that council members disclosed closed-session discussions publicly — Council on Tuesday will consider launching an independent investigation into the allegations.

Specifically, some council members believe their counterparts violated both the Brown Act (California's open meetings law that dictates how public officials conduct business) and confidentiality agreements while going through the recruitment and interviewing process for Santa Monica's City Manager and City Attorney in 2021 and 2022. The proposal would authorize the issuance of subpoenas in the name of the City as part of the investigation.

SIDEWALK/PIER VENDING RULES

City staff are asking Council for direction on "resource-intensive and costly" Pier Task Force operations, which have already cost nearly $600,000 in enforcement on the Santa Monica Pier. That includes $342,400 spent by the Santa Monica Police Department, $84,500 spent by taxpayer-funded private security, $81,200 spent by Code Enforcement, $58,400 spent by the Santa Monica Fire Department and $24,000 spent by Public Works.

If the current enforcement model continues, staff estimate it will cost the city about $3.75 million for fiscal year 2022-23.

These various "investments," as staff calls them, involve a Task Force that works each weekend from Friday through Sunday "to address the risks to public safety, public health, and the environment posed by unpermitted vending on and around the Pier, with a focus on criminal violations and associated non-criminal activities." In addition, the City has invested the work of two deputy city attorneys, physical modifications to the Pier itself (such as temporary fencing and gates), and outreach and educational materials to Pier vendors. They have also requested the City's lobbyists work "to advance state legislation related to sidewalk vending," in an attempt to reform certain aspects of SB 946, the state law that decriminalized sidewalk vending beginning in 2019.

Staff recommends Council consider tweaks to the current enforcement plan, which would bring the total cost of the Pier Task Force for fiscal year 2022-23 from $3.75 million down to $3.07 million.

CITY HALL MURALS

The latest move in the saga over City Hall's controversial Stanton Macdonald-Wright murals will come Tuesday, as de la Torre and Parra issued a request to no longer install the "scrims," or curtain-like screens, over the historic artwork. The murals depict aspects of Santa Monica history through a lens of 1930s white America, with some imagery evoking complaints of racial insensitivity.

De la Torre was the council member who initially called for the murals to be covered during a council discussion in May 2021; at the time, de la Torre said he felt the art was beautiful and valuable, but "very problematic."

When the item requesting the murals be covered was initially brought forward by de la Torre and Parra, it was approved in a 6-1 vote of City Council, but nearly one year later the scrim has not yet been installed. Now, the two council members are requesting community engagement take place instead.

The request states that rather than cover or remove the murals, staff should "launch … a process that engages and educates our community and results in the addition of artwork within the lobby to create a more inclusive and complete story of our City's history and vision for our future to advance the City's commitment to equity, justice and respect for all and, in the interim, direct staff to explore the creation of a temporary lobby display around the themes that will be explored during the larger community education and engagement process."

One suggestion came last May: the addition of a mural depicting Toypurina, a member of the Tongva Tribe in the eighteenth century who was a leader against colonial rule.

PIER PARKING TO RESUME

If approved, Santa Monica City Manager David White will be tasked with establishing hours of operation for the parking lot located atop the Santa Monica Pier. The lot has been closed since the initial COVID-19 shut-down in March 2020, when that part of the Pier was "temporarily repurposed to support expanded outdoor dining, additional open space, and enhanced physical distancing." The closure also allowed parts of the Pier deck and substructure to be replaced, according to a staff report prepared for the Tuesday meeting.

Currently, the Pier is closed to the public from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., and the parking lot reopening was not anticipated to materially change those hours. Vehicles would be required to vacate the lot at or before closing time.

COUNCIL MEETING CUT-OFF

Council Members Brock and Lana Negrete placed a discussion item on the Tuesday agenda requesting a change to the way meetings are held; namely, that no new items may be heard (except for public comment) after 11 p.m.

Currently, City Council Meetings commonly run seven, eight or nine hours in length, sometimes ending well after 2 a.m. The suggested change would stipulate that a two-thirds majority of council members could vote to hear new items after 11 p.m. if they so choose.

emily@smdp.com





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If you qualify for the California College Promise Grant, you'll receive book vouchers for the first and second year: $500 for fall semester, $100 for winter session, $500 for spring semester, and $100 for summer session.

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- If you graduated in 2021, you are eligible for any term in the 2021-22 academic year.
- You will take 12 units or more per semester.
- You are a California resident or an AB 540 student.
- You submit FAFSA or Dream Act application by start of the first term of your first year and by start of the first term of your second year.

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