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THURSDAY
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Arson arrest
Man charged for trying to set fire to a stolen car.
Page 3

New Vaccine
Authorities have released a positive review of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
Page 7

Lincoln Middle School students launch tech-savvy plastic pollution reduction campaign

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The proliferation of plastics and reduction of group clean-ups due to Covid-19 is fueling a pollution pandemic on local beaches and a group of girls at Lincoln Middle School plan on changing that.

In partnership with environmental education non-profit Grades of Green, a team of students from Lincoln's 'Women in STEM' club are running a technology-forward and socially distanced pollution reduction campaign.

The students have created a video to educate the broader Santa Monica community about the effects of plastic pollution on the ocean and its relationship to climate change. They are not only spreading a message, but also a call to action by imploring local residents to join them on three distanced, but coordinated, beach clean-ups.

"Once the pandemic started a lot of the cities relaxed their bans on plastic bags and with the expansion of takeout foods we've seen a lot more single use containers and utensils," said Robyn Murphy, Grades of Green program advisor. "In addition to that, single use masks and gloves are being found more



Courtesy image

SEE **CAMPAIGN** PAGE 11

SCIENCE: Students are adapting beach cleanups to the pandemic era.

Local scientists research new method to "sniff out" prostate cancer with the help of dogs

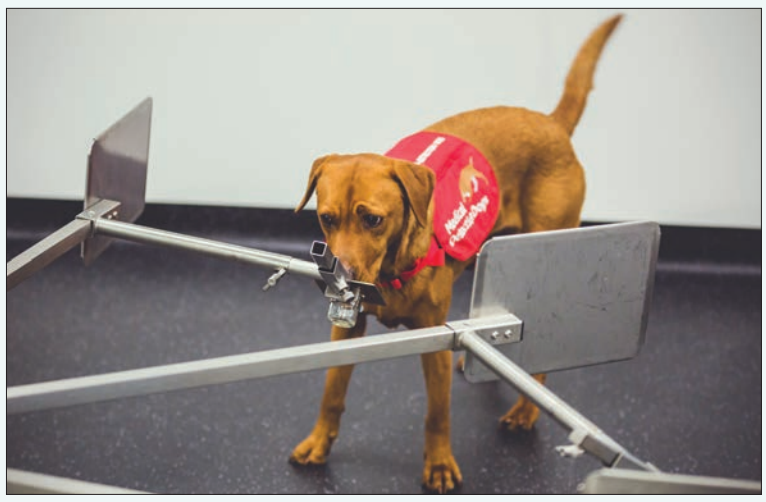


Photo credit: Neil Pollock and Emma Jeffery

GOOD BOY: Dogs are being trained as diagnostic tools.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

With the help of man's best friend, scientists at the Prostate Cancer Foundation in Santa Monica have proven that a dog's nose can be an accurate early detector for prostate cancer.

The implications of their recently released study are enormous as prostate cancer is one of the biggest killers for men in the US.

The team of researchers from the PCF, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, and Medical Detection Dogs in the UK seek to use findings from this study to eventually develop a "robotic dog nose" — potentially taking the form of a smartphone app that detects prostate cancer from urine samples.

In America, prostate cancer affects one in eight men in their lifetime and will kill more than 34,000 men in 2021, according to data from the PCF.

"Research has shown it can take prostate cancer 10 to 15 years to metastasize and spread outside the prostate where it becomes potentially incurable," said Jonathan W. Simons, MD, PCF president and CEO, and study co-author. "Catching prostate cancer early means potentially curing tens of thousands of men from a disease that if undetected may kill them."

Existing early detection tests have already cut prostate cancer deaths in the US by 53 percent in the last 20 years — the largest decrease in deaths of any type of cancer.

Even so, these tests come with their limitations and new methods could save millions more.

For example, Simons said the commonly used PSA blood test comes up positive for two types of benign prostate diseases and can miss some of the most rapidly growing prostate cancers.

"The research that was reported with canine biodetection is actually designed to find the most fast growing and aggressive form of prostate cancer," said Simons. "So what the PSA test does not do really well the dogs do incredibly well."

For the study a Labrador and a Vizsla were trained to detect the smell of prostate cancer in urine samples collected from patients with the disease, including Gleason 9 prostate cancer — the most lethal type that would benefit the most

SEE **CANCER** PAGE 6

Council reaffirms outreach programs in face of ongoing homeless crisis

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Council has prioritized the strategies it will use to address homelessness throughout the Westside, a region that is still grappling with a pandemic that threatens to put more people on the street than ever before.

City leaders would have typically completed the Point-In-Time homeless count prior to this week's annual study session on homelessness, but Covid-19 forced the cancellation of the count so Council and the local community gathered via Zoom Tuesday evening for a four-hour discussion that concluded with Council affirming its intentions: to prevent housed Santa Monicans from becoming homeless; address the behavioral health needs of vulnerable residents; advocate for regional capacity to address homelessness; and maintain access to safe, fun, and healthy open spaces.

Council identified four policies for priority during the upcoming budget process including extending Emergency Rental Assistance to prevent residents from falling into homelessness, creating an alternative non-congregate shelter on City property, developing a behavioral health triage center and implementing a low acuity crisis response unit in the Santa Monica Fire Department.

"We're here to discuss perhaps the single biggest challenge facing our community. Too many people

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 11

California halts system of shared vaccine codes after misuse

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

California is revamping its plan to help essential workers and seniors in underserved communities get coronavirus vaccinations after officials learned that appointment access codes were leaked to people who were not eligible for the shots.

The move comes as the state of 40 million people is striving to prioritize vaccinating the most vulnerable, including low-income, Latino and Black residents who have been disproportionately hit by the pandemic, as well as some essential workers.

Brian Ferguson, a spokesman for California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, said Wednesday that the state provided general access codes to some 1,000 community groups so they could sign up residents for reserved doses at federally funded vaccination sites that opened last week in Los Angeles and Oakland.

But these group codes were shared over email and passed on, leading some people to sign up for shots who were not eligible due to their age or occupation. In one instance, outsiders showed up at a predominantly Latino public housing community for vaccinations being provided by a mobile unit sent from the Los Angeles site, he said.

"We're going to go away from group codes to individual codes," Gov. Gavin Newsom said this week. "We don't like to see those abuses."

Ferguson said state officials don't know how many people used codes who shouldn't have, but when groups such as churches and adult day care centers notified officials they could no longer schedule their members for vaccinations because slots were filled up, appointments made under those codes were canceled and new ones entered manually. He said the state will start issuing individual codes to community groups next week.

California has administered 7.8 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine, more than half of them to people age 65 and over. With demand for the shots outstripping supply, many experts have raised concerns that some of the state's most vulnerable residents could be crowded out by more affluent Californians who are internet savvy and can afford to spend time navigating web portals and waiting in line for appointments.

State officials believe only a small percentage of appointments were mistakenly made with the codes and that most people didn't intentionally misuse them, Ferguson said.

The Los Angeles Times reported this week that several people told the newspaper they called a state hotline to verify the codes were legitimate and were not given clarifying information about who they were intended for. Bryce Schramm, a 31-year-old who works in the entertainment business, said he managed to get an appointment he later canceled after reading the newspaper's report about the misused codes.

Blanca Gallegos, a spokesperson for SEIU Local 99, said her union reached out to child care and school district warehouse workers with state-issued access codes last week, and said some members said they did get the shots.

Alejandra Valles, secretary-treasurer for United Service Workers West, said the union is hosting a vaccination clinic in Los Angeles this week with help from federal officials. She said the union was provided 1,000 doses for airport workers, janitors and others, with individual codes used to make appointments for them on the state's My Turn website. The codes aren't shared, and the union prescreens members when they arrive for their shots.

"We have not had anybody crashing" the vaccination site, she said. "We have not had that and that's because we have not shared any of the codes."

BRIEFS

Australia

Facebook says it will pay $1B over 3 years to news industry

Facebook, following in Google's footsteps, says it plans to invest $1 billion to "support the news industry" over the next three years.

The social networking giant, which has been tussling with Australia over a law that would make social platforms pay news organizations, said it has invested $600 million since 2018 in news.

Google said in October that it would pay publishers $1 billion over the next three years.

News companies want Google and Facebook to pay for the news that appears on their platforms. Governments in Europe and Australia are increasingly sympathetic to this point of view. The two tech companies suck up the majority of U.S. digital advertising dollars, which – among other problems – has hurt publishers.

Facebook said on Tuesday it would lift a ban on news links in Australian after the government agreed to tweak proposed legislation that would help publishers negotiate payments with Facebook and Google. Facebook was criticized for its ban, which also temporarily cut access to government pandemic, public health and emergency services on the social networking site.

Facebook said Tuesday that the changes allow it to choose which publishers it will support and indicated that it will now start striking such deals in Australia.

Google had already been signing content licensing deals with Australian media companies, and says that it has arrangements with more than 50 publishers in the country and more than 500 globally.

There may be more such regulation in other countries. Microsoft is working with European publishers to push big tech platforms to pay for news. European Union countries are working on adopting copyright rules that allow news companies and publishers to negotiate payments.

TALI ARBEL, AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 251 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 23

Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk Montana Ave 12:31 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 900blk 5th St 12:53 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2000blk Pico Blvd 1:44 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:59 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2900blk Lincoln Blvd 2:19 a.m.
Arson 2100blk Yorkshire Ave 2:31 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 500blk Colorado Ave 2:37 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk Montana Ave 3:07 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk Main St 5:52 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1500blk 9th St 6:09 a.m.
Information Only Broadcast Lin / Rose 6:31 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations Yale St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:41 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk 7th St 6:48 a.m.
Construction Noise 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:03 a.m.
Encampment 1900blk Broadway 7:07 a.m.
Rape Report 300blk Olympic Dr 7:15 a.m.
Runaway 1600blk The Beach 7:54 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2800blk Kansas Ave 8:04 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2500blk Washington Ave 8:07 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2800blk Kansas Ave 8:14 a.m.
Lewd Activity 1100blk Arizona Ave 8:19 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1900blk 18th St 8:20 a.m.
Encampment 200blk Marine St 8:28 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 2500blk Kansas Ave 8:29 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2600blk 23rd St 9:30 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 500blk Pacific St 9:39 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk Georgina Ave 9:43 a.m.
Identity Theft 900blk 5th St 9:52 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200blk 6th St 10:37 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk 23rd St 10:39 a.m.
Burglary Report 200blk 19th St 10:44 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:49 a.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 100blk Broadway 10:51 a.m.
Encampment Euclid St / Pine St 10:53 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 3100blk Olympic Blvd 10:56 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2100blk Oak St 11:05 a.m.
Burglary Report 2600blk Centinela Ave 11:10 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 1500blk 9th St 11:18 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk 16th St 11:38 a.m.
Encampment 2500blk Broadway 11:41 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 14th St / Montana Ave 11:44 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 20th St / Colorado Ave 11:47 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1300blk Centinela Ave 12:03 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2100blk Stewart St 12:14 p.m.
Fraud Report 800blk Bay St 12:17 p.m.
Encampment 1800blk The Beach 12:31 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2600blk The Beach 12:32 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk 5th St 12:38 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000blk 11th St 12:39 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:08 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500blk Broadway 1:13 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 1:16 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 700blk Pacific St 1:29 p.m.
Sexual Assault 300blk Olympic Dr 1:32 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:40 p.m.
Overdose 1700blk Ocean Ave 1:41 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2500blk Pico Blvd 1:52 p.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk 6th St 2:13 p.m.
Arson 23rd St / Dewey St 2:15 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 500blk Euclid St 2:29 p.m.
Lost Property 300blk Olympic Dr 2:30 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 4th St 2:31 p.m.
Injured Person Ocean Ave / Palisades Ave 2:39 p.m.
Encampment 700blk California Ave 2:43 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred Main St / Colorado Ave 2:57 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 200blk 26th St 3:03 p.m.
Burglary Report 200blk 19th St 3:05 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1100blk 14th St 3:31 p.m.
Fight 5th St / Colorado Ave 3:40 p.m.
Fight 500blk Colorado Blvd 3:40 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 900blk 15th St 3:44 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:46 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 3:51 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:52 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1500blk Harvard St 4:01 p.m.
Found Property Main St / Colorado Ave 4:01 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:29 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 700blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:30 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk 4th St 4:31 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 11th St 4:40 p.m.
Lewd Activity 400blk Broadway 4:50 p.m.
Elder Abuse 2900blk Glenn Ave 5:04 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 5:25 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 4th St / Broadway 5:43 p.m.
Fraud Report 1400blk 7th St 5:45 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk 2nd St 5:47 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 300blk Pico Blvd 5:54 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk The Beach 6:13 p.m.
Panic Alarm 800blk Navy St 6:16 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 6:29 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk 2nd St 6:37 p.m.
Loud Music 800blk 15th St 6:57 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 7:13 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 7th St 7:23 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1200blk Cedar St 7:28 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:44 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2400blk Pico Blvd 7:48 p.m.
Person Down 1400blk 15th St 8:14 p.m.
Fraud Report 12400blk Palms Boulevard 8:46 p.m.
Loud Music Ocean Ave / California Ave 9:19 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:19 p.m.

Your column here

Hank Rosenfeld Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I'm sitting in a plastic chair at Station 1 in Santa Monica Family Physicians on 9th and Wilshire. Rosie is the Vaccinator. Ten minutes earlier than my actual appointment (!) she sticks me quickly in the left arm. A poke in my left because I tell her I pitch from the right side, "I'm a righty." Lightens the mood in a serious conference room where nurses marker their names on a wall chart tracking shifts. Note to fellow squeamish Santa Monicans: NPR goes on about, "getting vaccines into arms." A frightening visual, right? But its gentler than a CVS pharmacist's flu shot. Because of thin needles: another modern medicine marvel!

"Hey Rosie!" I say to Rosie, rolling my sleeve back down. "They call me Rosie, too; do you spell yours with a 'y' or an 'ie'?"

"R-o-s-e-e-h," she replies. "Roseeh."

That's kind of odd. Am I woozy already and misheard her?

"Cool," I say.

* * *

So many women help me. (Where are the men who went to nursing school?) I count a dozen calm guides, step-by-step making it so mellow. Roseeh hands me off to Bonnie, who hands me off to Sharon, who tells me to go to jail.

For a lousy little injection?

"Jade," Bonnie tells me. "That's Jade over there."

You kids dig experiences? Get on the route to 66. In your 66th year on earth not only do you make up your own words when you don't hear so good the ones they say to you, but you also meet women like Bonnie. Which is what every elder-ish person needs in this crazy world of ours: care. And Kurt Vonnegut's, "Kindness."

Jade has beautiful handwriting as she pens my name on the index card with the date of my follow-up in 28 days. I haven't heard that word "Booster" since getting my booster shot for polio in 2nd grade. It was a big deal at school so we made a big deal of the word. So much more painful, though. Must've been the thick needle? (You kids have no idea.) Jade recommends taking a photo of my index card—good advice, since it won't fit in a wallet which means I'm sure to misplace it on route to 66.

* * *

The website will instruct you to go to the 2nd floor. Over the phone they'll say go to the 3rd Floor. Either way, be psyched. The light at the end of the tunnel! I stopped on the 2nd Floor to see my AARP Medicare physician. But apparently, Dr. Short moved to the 2nd Floor. Confusing. I thought they've got me right where they want me: confused. Luckily, Sharon gives you only three documents to fill out, review at a distance and wait in line to return. Make sure to circle all the "no" words you've already clicked in the box on the computer to make the appointment and repeated on the follow-up phone call. Notice those little pencil cups they've labeled "Unused Pens" and "Used Pens"? Here's a tip: as long as you make sure to wash your hands, you can take home a lot of pens.

* * *

After the jab you sit and wait until 1:58 pm for the all-clear signal. Jenna's the Observer for this stage. A woman also waiting keeps joking and laughing — distracting the Observer from keeping track of my time, that's what I think. What kind of person risks the added droplets in this day and age? She tells Jenna that her knees have hurting since the vaccine, adding, "But they hurt before, so…!" Oh that's original. I find a chair far away from her and call a friend. My friend is in Florida, "helping my mother in the bathroom." I keep her on the line to chat about the news that folks are moving into tents all in Echo Park, because when they lost their job, they had huge debt from unpaid rent, and their friends said, sadly, they couldn't take any more weeks of the future tent-dweller sleeping on the couch.

* * *

So, that happened. And yay! I got vaccined. That's what they call it now. American caregivers don't have time to say "vaccinated" – they need every syllable! People, it's so tough out there. But I totally recommend going out there to get vaccined. And take a last look around the conference room after they poke you: you won't see recovery cookies or juice – just water. You only get the milk and cookies after giving blood. Meet you at the Santa Monica Red Cross!

Hank Rosenfeld is an author in Ocean Park.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 32 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 23

Automatic Alarm 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 12:47 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 3:36 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:57 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 20th St 6:35 a.m.
EMS 800blk 17th St 7:11 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:01 a.m.
EMS 17th St / Broadway 8:23 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 6th St 8:53 a.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 9:11 a.m.
Hydrant Leak Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 9:45 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 10:51 a.m.
EMS 2400blk Main St 11:41 a.m.
Vehicle Fire 23rd St / Dewey St 2:22 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 12th St 2:35 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900blk 4th St 2:37 p.m.
EMS 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:53 p.m.
EMS 3000blk Main St 3:01 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 3:31 p.m.
Broken Water Main 1500blk 12th St 4:06 p.m.
EMS 2400blk 6th St 4:16 p.m.
EMS 2600blk 29th St 4:40 p.m.
EMS 300blk Pico Blvd 5:54 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 600blk Broadway 6:32 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 6:47 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 7:01 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 21st St 7:10 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Lincoln Blvd 7:38 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 15th St 8:14 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 8:27 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 8:56 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Neilson Way 11:16 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Stanford St 11:24 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Arson / Grand Theft Auto Suspect Arrest

On February 23, 2021 at about 2:15 p.m., officers from the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) responded to area of 23rd and Dewey regarding a male trying to set a vehicle on fire. Details of the call indicated the male was attempting to light an item stuffed in the gas tank of the reporting party's vehicle. Officers arrived on scene and were directed to the subject, later identified as Alex Omar Aguirre, a 28-year-old Hispanic male from Los Angeles.



Officers could see Aguirre leaning into the car window of a separate vehicle, rummaging through the contents of that car. Officers noticed that vehicle had smoke emitting from the inside compartment and immediately summoned for the Santa Monica Fire Department. Officers detained Aguirre and spoke with the victim to ascertain the details of this incident, while Fire personnel extinguished the burning vehicle.

The reporting party told officers that he saw Aguirre trying to pick the lock of his vehicle before he confronted him. He also noticed that there was a burning rag stuffed into the filler of the gas tank. He was able to extinguish the fire before calling 9-1-1. The victim watched as the suspect attempted to flee in the vehicle, he eventually ignited, however it appeared Aguirre was having trouble starting that car. Aguirre then exited the vehicle before being detained by officers.

Aguirre was placed under arrest and was transported to the Santa Monica Police Department, where officers discovered he was on parole. Officers also learned that the second vehicle Aguirre set on fire was an unreported stolen car from Los Angeles. Aguirre was booked for Attempt Burglary - 664/459 P.C., Arson - 452(d) P.C., Grand Theft Auto 487(D) P.C. and Parole Violation 3056 P.C.

Anyone with any information related to this incident is encouraged to contact Detective David Chabot from Criminal Investigations Division (CID) of the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-6679 or the Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458-8427.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT RUDY FLORES

City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #285 TURNKEY DEMAND RESPONSE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

• Submission Deadline is April 2, 2021 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the City's Online Vendor Portal. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4413 DFW METER BOXES

Submission Deadline is March 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **City's Online Vendor Portal.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.



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



Robert Lemle

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- TRIP & FALLS

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AWARD WINNER

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WINNER

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

R.I.P. Ed Pearl, Ash Grove



Courtesy photo

PIER: "New" ASH GROVE: small square building next to carousel.

I DIDN'T KNOW ED PEARL

Never even met him. Only went to the resurrected, mid-'90s Ash Grove on the Pier a few times during its brief run. What a surprise: Pearl said he got a lot of grief from the City, even though they were supposedly trying to revitalize the Pier as an entertainment center. Among other requirements, he had to spend more than half a million dollars to refurbish the old Billiards Building, next to the carousel. Then the City evicted him less than a year later.

The original folk music club was on Melrose, seating 250; it later became Budd Friedman's Improv comedy club and I spent quite a few uproarious nights there. The Ash Grove, named for a Welsh folk song, operated from 1958 to 1973 and I was still in NM, missing all that great LA music and trying to figure out how to get there with my young son.

It's fun and mostly justified for me to mock the backwater, small-town mentality of Albuquerque (the largest city in the state) where I grew up, and especially the dearth of good music possibilities, but when a young UNM administrator named Tom Hogg started messing around with these new-fangled computers and discovered they had a really good application to booking concerts, he transformed the music scene there, then left town and quickly rose to the number three position at a nascent Ticketmaster, transforming the music scene everywhere.

You may hate on Ticketmaster for the way they raised the cost of your concerts but they also made it possible for you to get those tickets without driving to the Forum and waiting in line for hours. (Oops! — sold out.) And Tom is truly one of the good guys, a philanthropist who has supported good causes and people, especially fighting the AIDS scourge.

So thanks to Hogg the music drought in Albuquerque ended and my last few years there were tolerable, though the wait between great shows was still too long.

CLEANING OUT OLD BOXES

As many of us are, I came across the layout sheet for an issue of the UNM Daily Lobo newspaper, where as a student I was the Arts & Media Editor. Back in those Paleolithic days, you had to glue the photos and typeset copy onto a full-sized mock-up page, before sending it to the printer.

I kept one, labeled, "Putting Out: A Selection of Concerts, UNM, '73-'74, photos by Mel Buffington." Mel was a ridiculously good concert photographer, as good as any. Period. Really. Not only did he manage to unobtrusively, invisibly, get his diminutive body onto areas of the stage that were illegal and dangerous — OMG there's Mel! Peeking over the top of that tower of amps! And now he's practically resting his camera on the drummer's shoulder! — he was able to snap facial expressions and stage poses that gave no advance notice and were gone in an instant (instinct, I guess), and under stage lighting effects that are murder to take into account.

These were the concert shots from that school year that he liked the most. There were more concerts than these, and Buffington was also not able to shoot every show. The year before he shot the Stones and as many thousands of times as that's been done, I've never seen anything better than what Mel got.

I wish I could show them to you. But on that one page were nine fairly large, sumptuous photos of Joni Mitchell, Roberta Flack, Rod Stewart, Steve Howe of Yes, Three Dog Night (dressed for their doo-wop segment), the Pointer Sisters (dressed to kill), Gordon Lightfoot, Jackson Browne and Terry Kath of Chicago (one of the most underrated rock guitar slingers ever — and of course Buffington focused on him).

SEE **R.I.P.** PAGE 6

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.

LA sheriff calls Tiger Woods crash 'purely an accident'

STEFANIE DAZIO AND DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

The Los Angeles County sheriff on Wednesday characterized the crash that seriously injured Tiger Woods as "purely an accident" and appeared to rule out any potential criminal charges even as authorities were still investigating.

Deputies did not see any evidence that the golf star was impaired by drugs or alcohol after Tuesday's rollover wreck on a downhill stretch of road known for crashes, Sheriff Alex Villanueva said.

"He was not drunk," Villanueva said during a livestreamed social media event. "We can throw that one out."

Woods, who had checked into a clinic in 2017 for help dealing with prescription medication, was driving alone through coastal Los Angeles suburbs when his SUV struck a raised median, crossed into oncoming lanes and flipped several times. The crash caused "significant" injuries to his right leg, and he underwent a "long surgical procedure," according to a post on the golfer's Twitter account.

Villanueva said investigators may seek search warrants for a blood sample to definitively rule out drugs and alcohol. Detectives also could apply for search warrants for Woods' cellphone to see if he was driving distracted, as well as the vehicle's event data recorder, or "black box," which would give information about how fast he was going.

Joe Giacalone, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a retired New York police sergeant, said it was "premature" for Villanueva to determine the crash was an accident just a day later.

"The blood test could give us a whole other insight," Giacalone said, noting that some drugs are not necessarily detectable by observation. "Because it's Tiger Woods, people are going to demand answers. You have to dot your I's and cross your T's."

Crash investigations typically include interviews of first responders and bystanders as well as inspections of the road and the vehicle, including photographing and measuring the scene and checking to see if the vehicle had defects or malfunctions, according to William Peppard, a retired Bergen County, New Jersey, police detective who has served as a crash investigator.

Peppard said in typical cases with no immediate indications the driver was impaired, detectives might not seek blood samples if the crash did not injure anyone else or damage property.

"Take the celebrity out of it — it's a matter of resources and time," he said.

The crash was the latest setback for Woods, who at times has looked unstoppable with his 15 major championships and record-tying 82 victories on the PGA Tour. He is among the world's most recognizable sports figures, and at 45, with a reduced schedule from nine previous surgeries, remains golf's biggest draw.

He won the 2008 U.S. Open with shredded knee ligaments and two stress fractures in his left leg. His personal life imploded in 2009 when he was caught having multiple extramarital affairs and crashed his vehicle near his Florida home. He returned to win his 11th award as PGA Tour player of the year and reach No. 1.

In 2017, Florida police found him asleep behind the wheel of a car parked awkwardly on the side of the road. He was arrested on a DUI charge and said he had an unexpected reaction to prescription medicine for back pain. Woods later pleaded guilty to reckless driving and checked into a clinic to get help with prescription medication and a sleep disorder.

And then after four back surgeries that kept him out of golf for the better part of two years, he won the Masters in April 2019 for the fifth time, ranking among the great comebacks in golf.

Woods had a fifth back surgery, a microdiscectomy, on Dec. 23, just three days after he played the PNC Championship with his son Charlie, now 12.

Woods was in Los Angeles over the weekend as the tournament host of the Genesis Invitational at Riviera Country Club. Monday and Tuesday had been set aside for him to give golf tips to celebrities on Discovery-owned GOLFTV.

Woods was driving his courtesy vehicle from the Genesis Invitational when he crashed. Deputy Carlos Gonzalez, who was the first to arrive at the crash, patrols the road and said he sometimes catches people topping 80 mph (129 kph) in the downhill, 45-mph zone. Crashes are common.

Ferguson reported from Jacksonville, Florida.

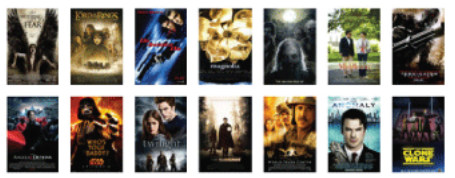
CRIME WATCH

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 13TH 12:29 P.M.

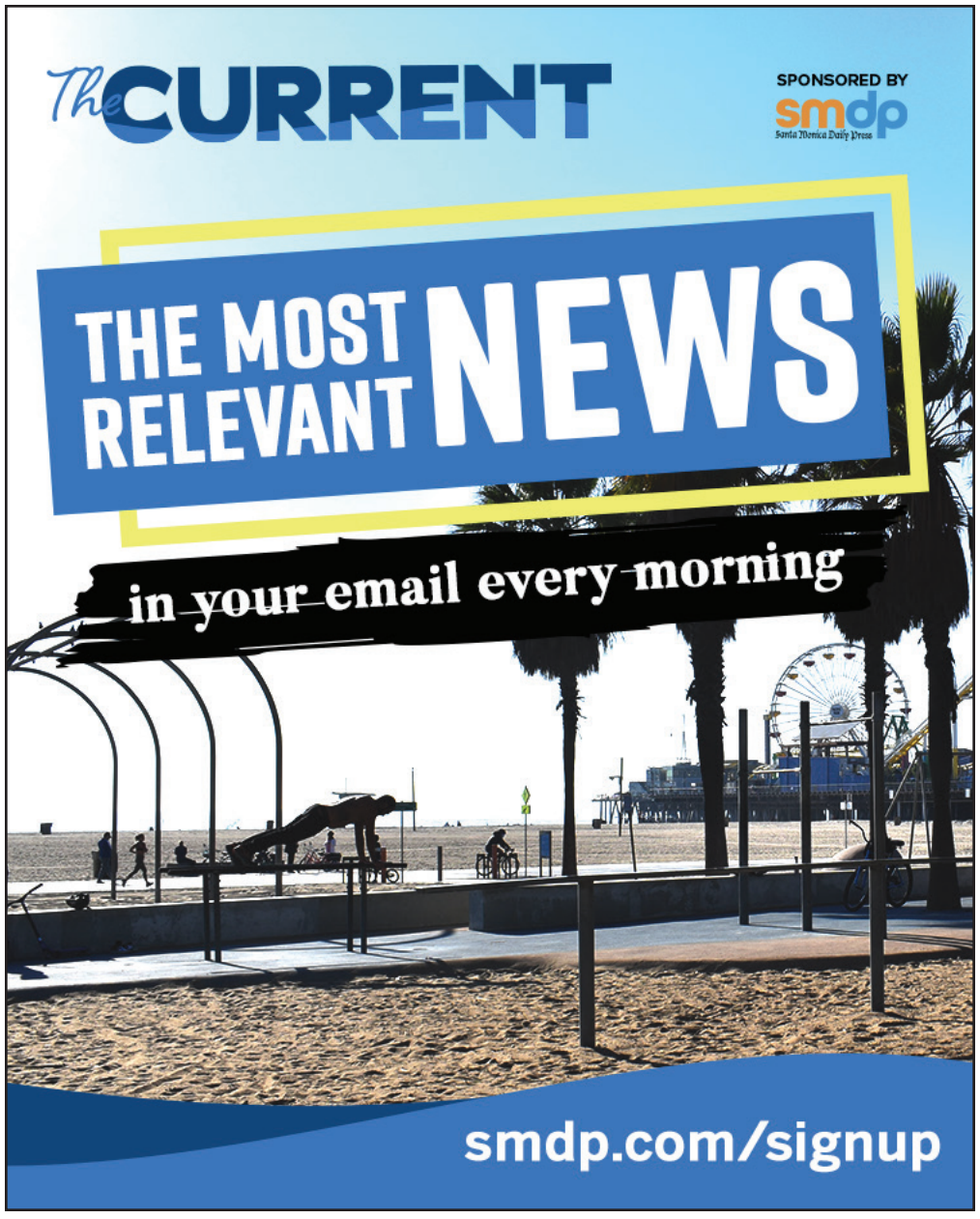
Officers responded to the 900 block of Palisades Beach Road regarding a subject pacing back and front in front of the Reporting Party's (RP) home. According to the RP, the subject has been a problem in the past and had burglarized their home a few months back. Furthermore, the RP continuously makes claims about being the rightful owner of the home and will become agitated and verbally aggressive. Andre Marc Lewis was arrested for 647(h)P.C.- Prowling and 11364(a)(1)H&S- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

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*Offer to non insured patients
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$99 EXAM
AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
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CANCER

FROM PAGE 1

from early detection.

"Dogs smell with 300 million sensors and we have only five million," said Simons. "Dogs have 60 times more sensory neurons in their nose than homo sapiens."

Scientists have believed dogs are capable of detecting prostate cancer in urine samples since the mid-2000s, but they have not known what precise molecules they are detecting. This missing information is the key to building a machine olfaction diagnostic tool that can be rolled out in doctors offices and pharmacies across the country.

The PCF's latest research not only scientifically verified that dogs are accurate prostate cancer detectors but offered several clues as to what molecules they may be detecting.

"Dogs can smell multiple inputs at one. It's like a barcode; the dog brain doesn't just look at the black and white stripes it looks at the entire barcode," said Simons. "So we are trying to understand the barcode for 'this is cancer', because we are trying to build an artificial dog that reads the barcode in the urine."

While a robotic smartphone nose that can detect cancer may sound straight out of a science fiction novel, this type of technology is not as far away as many might think.

In fact it's already here. Airport x-ray machines have been using sniffer devices to detect molecules in explosives for many years. A team of MIT researchers are already developing a smartphone app prototype for a machine olfaction cancer detection tool.

The applications of such a device are far reaching and research indicates it could potentially be used for early detection of lung cancer in breath samples.



Courtesy image

CANCER: Dogs are one possible tool to help identify cancer early enough for treatment.

"Early detection can mean the difference between life and death," said Simons. "Results could now lead to the future development of a more sensitive and specific prostate cancer diagnostic beyond the current PSA test."

Although more research is necessary, it is not unreasonable to believe that a day will come when men's smartphones will alert them that they are at risk for an aggressive form of prostate cancer years before doctors notice a rise in PSA levels.

These are pretty exciting developments all thanks to the super smelling skills of furry friends.

Clara@smdp.com

R.I.P.

FROM PAGE 4

Thanks, Mel, and Tom. An honor and a pleasure to have worked with you both.

BACK TO DIVING FOR PEARLS

I've probably lost the readers who recommended I cover Ed Pearl's passing at 88 two and a half weeks ago, of COVID and pneumonia complications, but... I mean... those photos. It's a music column. I had to mention them. And there's a connection.

Pearl railed against the commercialization of the music business, combined his love of political activism (he helped found the Peace & Freedom Party in 1967) with folk, blues and ethnic music, and was an unlikely acoustic, DIY success. Hogg brought technology and big business to bear to make much more great music available, in the desert. Love of music from two different approaches.

But the road was bumpy for Pearl and he long believed that fires at his club, that quickened its demise, were arson attempts to stop his social activism. They started after he booked some artists returning from Cuba who gave talks and showed films, he said, adding he had received threats from Cuban exiles.

BOYLE HEIGHTS BOY

Pearl was an LA product, growing up in Boyle Heights with a true melting pot of friends that made multiculturalism a natural for him. His parents fled Jewish persecution in Russia around 1900. The Ash Grove was billed as "the West Coast University of Folk Music," and "it educated a lot of people to the cultures of America," Pearl told the LA Times in 1993. "It legitimized the American potpourri and gave it a dignified stage."

There's the story of Mick Jagger, a frequent visitor, exiting a show and seeking out Pearl to pump his hand and thank him, for all the entertainment, and education. Ry Cooder played his first time in public there when he was 16, backing Jackie De Shannon on guitar. It was the first place Linda Ronstadt headed after hitting town from Tucson, and she met songwriter-singer Kenny Edwards, who also loved Mexican music, and thus was born the Stone Poneys and Ronstadt's notable, enduring career. Future Byrds Chris Hillman and Clarence White met at the Ash Grove while both were in high school. Spirit, one of my favorite LA bands, debuted there.

FOLK AND BLUES

Were the bricks and mortar of the Ash Grove, but Pearl's eclecticism led him to also book relevant jazz and rock performers like Chuck Berry, Oscar Brown Jr., Jackson Browne. He also presented cutting edge comedy, often politically tinged, like Lenny Bruce, Mort Sahl and the Firesign Theatre, Dr. Demento and San Pedro's Charles Bukowski and other poets.

There's another local (SM) person connected to the Ash Grove that I am saving for next week. You'll never guess.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com



FDA says single-dose shot from J&J prevents severe COVID

LAURAN NEERGAARD AND MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine offers strong protection against severe COVID-19, according to an analysis released Wednesday by U.S. regulators that sets the stage for a final decision on a new and easier-to-use shot to help tame the pandemic.

The long-anticipated shot could offer the nation a third vaccine option and help speed vaccinations by requiring just one dose instead of two. Food and Drug Administration scientists confirmed that overall the vaccine is about 66% effective at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19, and about 85% effective against the most serious illness. The agency also said J&J's shot is safe.

The analysis is just one step in the FDA's evaluation. On Friday, the agency's independent advisers will debate if the evidence is strong enough to recommend the shot. With that advice, the FDA is expected to make a final decision within days.

The COVID-19 death toll in the U.S. topped 500,000 this week, and the vaccination drive has been slower than hoped, hampered by logistical and weather delays. So far, about 44.5 million Americans have received at least one dose of vaccine made by Pfizer or Moderna, and nearly 20 million of them have received the second dose required for full protection.

Tests showed the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were 95% effective at protection against symptomatic COVID-19.

Dr. Paul Offit, a vaccine expert at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, is part of the FDA advisory panel that will scrutinize the J&J data on Friday and cautions that none of the vaccines have been directly compared. Still, he was encouraged that one dose of the J&J vaccine appears as good at preventing serious illness as its two-dose competitors.

"This is a vaccine to prevent you from going to the hospital and dying at a level that's certainly comparable" to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, he said.

J&J tested its single-dose option in 44,000 adults in the U.S., Latin America and South Africa. Different mutated versions of the virus are circulating in different countries, and the FDA analysis cautioned that it's not clear how well the vaccine works against each variant. But J&J previously announced that the vaccine worked better in the U.S. — 72% effective against moderate to severe COVID-19, compared with 66% in Latin America and 57% in South Africa.

South Africa recently began giving the J&J vaccine to front-line health workers on a test basis after deciding that a vaccine from rival AstraZeneca had not shown strong enough study results against the particularly concerning variant spreading there.

"I was reassured" that despite different variants, the J&J shot still protected against serious illness, said Dr. Jesse Goodman of Georgetown University, a former FDA vaccine chief. "That's pretty robust data."

In case the vaccines eventually need to be updated, manufacturers are working on adjustments to their recipes. Moderna announced Wednesday that it is ready to begin testing experimental doses that better match the South African version of the virus.

Across all countries, the analysis of the J&J vaccine showed protection began to emerge about 14 days after vaccination. But by 28 days after vaccination, there were no hospitalizations or deaths in the vaccinated group compared with 16 hospitalizations and seven deaths in study recipients who received a dummy shot.

The FDA said effectiveness and safety were consistent across racial groups, including Black and Latino participants.

All of the world's COVID-19 vaccines have been tested differently, making comparisons nearly impossible. It would not be surprising if one dose turned out to be a little weaker than two doses, and policymakers will decide if that's an acceptable trade-off to get more people vaccinated faster.

J&J has another large study underway to see if a second dose of its vaccine works better, raising the prospect that countries could eventually add a booster if one turned out to be warranted.

Like other COVID-19 vaccines, the main side effects of the J&J shot are pain at the injection site and flu-like fever, fatigue and headache. No study participant experienced the severe allergic reaction, called anaphylaxis, that is a rare risk of some other COVID-19 shots, although one experienced a less serious reaction.

The FDA said there were no serious side effects linked to the vaccine so far, although it recommended further monitoring for blood clots. In the study, those were reported in about 15 vaccine recipients and 10 placebo recipients, not enough of a difference to tell if the vaccine played any role.

J&J was on track to become the world's first one-dose option until earlier this month. Mexico announced it would use a one-dose version from China's CanSino, which is made with similar technology as J&J's shot but initially was developed as a two-dose option until beginning a one-dose test in the fall.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines now being used in the U.S. and numerous other countries must be kept frozen, while the J&J shot can last three months in a refrigerator, making it easier to handle. AstraZeneca's vaccine — widely used in Europe and Britain — is made similarly and also requires refrigeration but takes two doses.

If the FDA clears the J&J shot for U.S. use, it will not boost vaccine supplies significantly right away. Only a few million doses are expected to be ready for shipping in the first week. But J&J told Congress this week that it

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



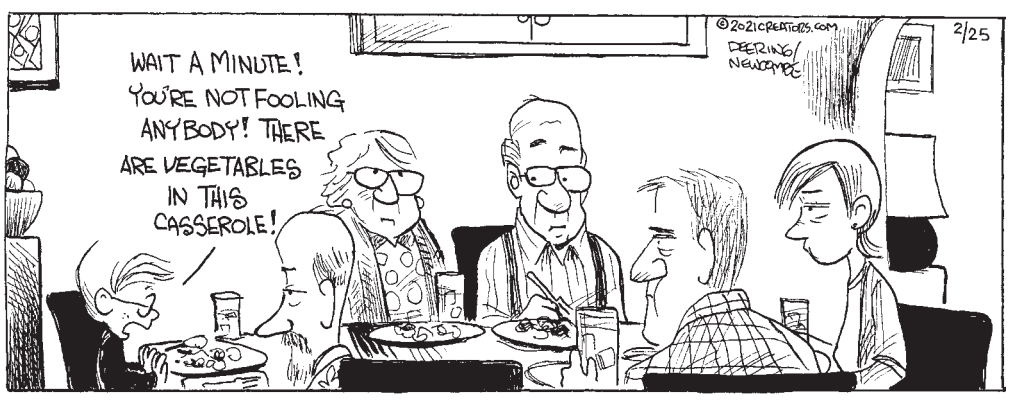
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



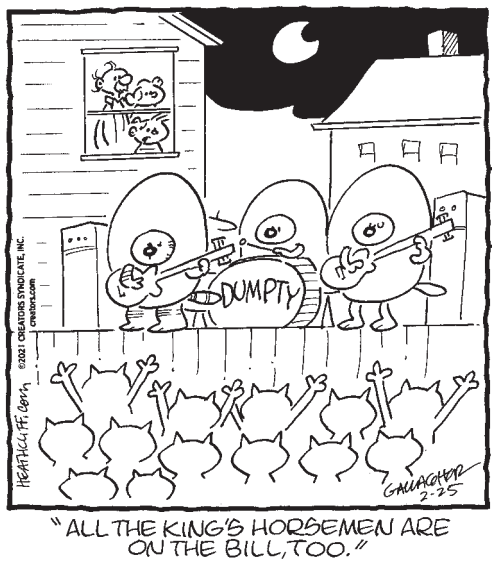
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



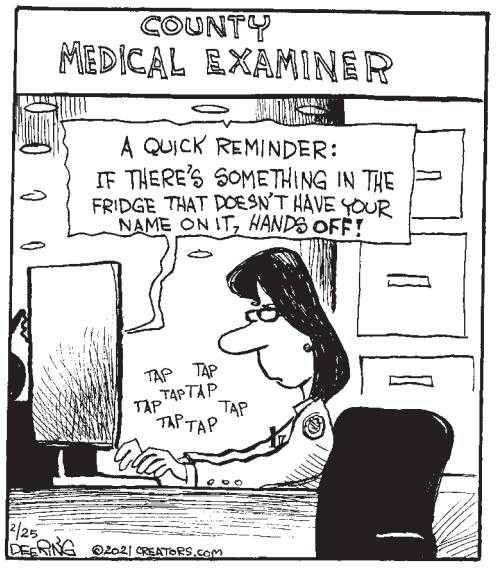
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 56.3°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
AM offshore flow likely to overpower the little swell mix. NW swell tapers off through the day. Smaller S swell.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
NW swell fades. Minor S swell. Deep high tide early morning bogs down the small surf.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 69.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 70.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/02/26	Fri	02:06 AM	1.39	L
2021/02/26	Fri	08:13 AM	6.13	H
2021/02/26	Fri	3:08 PM	-1.17	L
2021/02/26	Fri	9:25 PM	4.33	H
2021/02/27	Sat	02:46 AM	1.03	L
2021/02/27	Sat	08:52 AM	6.09	H
2021/02/27	Sat	3:39 PM	-1.04	L
2021/02/27	Sat	9:54 PM	4.60	H
2021/02/28	Sun	03:30 AM	0.74	L
2021/02/28	Sun	09:33 AM	5.80	H
2021/02/28	Sun	4:10 PM	-0.73	L
2021/02/28	Sun	10:26 PM	4.84	H
2021/03/01	Mon	04:17 AM	0.54	L
2021/03/01	Mon	10:18 AM	5.27	H
2021/03/01	Mon	4:42 PM	-0.25	L
2021/03/01	Mon	11:01 PM	5.03	H
2021/03/02	Tue	05:10 AM	0.45	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/20
4 8 22 32 58
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 90 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/23
5 7 9 20 57
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 30 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/20
2 5 8 21 45
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 23 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/23
9 13 16 21 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/23
EVENING: 3 8 3

Draw Date: 2/23
MIDDAY: 4 7 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/23
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:43.96

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 25)

In the same way you can turn the mighty sun on and off with a flick of your eyelids, you can change the trajectory of a relationship with tricks of the mind. This you'll do often and well, finding ways to think of things that give you power and options, and then exercising that potential to create one magnificent outcome after another. Virgo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 22, 4, 44 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You didn't get all that you wanted. It's better this way. Some degree of hunger keeps things exciting. Hunger causes action. Overindulgence causes lethargy and is generally unattractive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People pick up on your signals whether or not you are consciously aware of what they are. Know yourself and be empowered. Ten minutes of honest reflection will do it. Relationships transform as your intention does.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What good is your charm if you are not using it to forward your purposes? You didn't exactly wake up this morning knowing what those purposes were, but it's OK. You can make up for lost time by getting clear on it now.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The reason you haven't met the goal yet is that you're not totally sure you're ready. In the back of your mind, there's fear as to the responsibilities that go with the prize. Grab on anyway. Don't borrow tomorrow's problems today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). These circumstances are not inherently entertaining. This fun you're having, that's all you. Know it. Own it. Claim it. The world is your playground and people love being around you because of your unique way of being in it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Good conversation leads to even better things — a deal, a friend, a meaningful and possibly life-changing exchange. Your communication skills are a golden ticket.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To enjoy a thing fully, you must empty your mind of fantasies, assumptions, prejudices and expectations in all directions. Into that void will flow experience in which you can revel in

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've tended toward criticizing and directing yourself lately, and an amazing thing happens when you stop that. Chaos doesn't ensue. Everything gets done. The vibes simultaneously elevate and relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You do quite a lot in a day and yet you find, when your head hits the pillow, you still want more. There is more, right? The question sticks with you even after you've closed your eyes to sleep. Ambitions fill your dreams.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The words, "I love you," can only be interpreted inside of context. Consistently loving behavior reflects one meaning, and if these words are unsupported by such things they could mean literally anything.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're dedicated to work. You manage time well, and you're conscientious. It's when your high standards of performance extend to those around you that you realize how much you need to team patience with your other virtues.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though you may turn to other worlds as a fun escape, you do not wish to have the lives of others, only to make your own more brightly reflect your heart and ideas.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

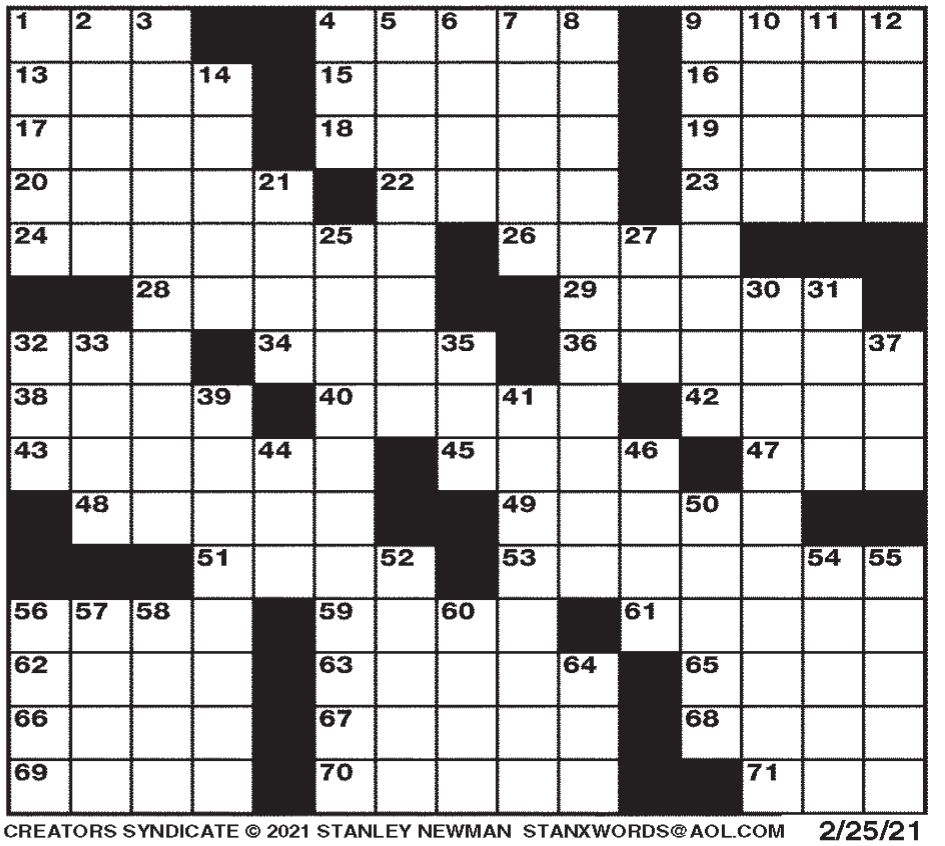
	4	3		7				6
7				3		9		2
		5	6		4		3	
3		6		5			9	
	7		3		2		8	
	1			6		4		3
	5		7		3	1		
6		1		4				7
2				8		3	5	

Newsday Crossword

HALTER BOTTOMS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 MASH personnel: Abbr.
4 Walk heavily
9 First Lady before Mamie
13 Becomes inedible
15 Sorrow
16 What a unicycle has one of
17 Be tangent to
18 "Likewise!"
19 Rotisserie rod
20 Goldfinger's idol, possibly
22 Surrealist Chagall
23 Certain undergrad
24 Whenever it's convenient
26 Playwright O'Casey
28 Special Forces topper
29 Hygienic thread
32 Grill's partner
34 Keen on
36 Time-honored ceremony
38 Page for pundits
40 Short on words
42 River of Spain
43 Rival of Athens
45 Microwave sound
47 Coating for 29 Across
48 Danish toast
49 City near Pasadena
51 Venues for darts
53 Into ruin
56 First school for some
59 Stitch's Disney film pal
61 Wallpapering need
62 Name on jeans labels
63 Things sniffed
65 Start to awaken
66 Crude cartel
67 Sound of coins dropping
68 Get fast cash for
69 Function properly
70 . . . *Cuckoo's Nest* author
71 Shell out

DOWN
1 Soap opera, for instance
2 Batmobile passenger
3 Time off from cramming
4 Certain stadium successes
5 Train's sleeping compartment
6 Captain Pierce portrayer
7 Secures a ship
8 Hike preventer
9 Sound from a deep guitar
10 Convention center show
11 Minor misstep
12 Son of Eve
14 Proclaim
21 Speaker on some phones
25 Creativity hurdle
27 Will Smith biopic
30 Metro map notation
31 Pop singer Bareilles
32 AL East team
33 Dim sum and buffalo wings
35 Poet's planet
37 Brunch fish
39 Wrestling maneuver
41 Carried by freighter, say
44 Frat letter
46 Paper mill material
50 Sweeping cut
52 Move furtively
54 Erie Canal city
55 Bright and bouncy
56 Reinvest, with "back"
57 Bank take-back
58 At any point
60 *Family Guy* mom
64 Overhead expanse



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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

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

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

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A quiet weekend?

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

Abseil	Dawn	Lake	Stereo
Amble	Dunk	Laps	Stroller
Amusement park	DVDs	Lazy	Summer
Arts	Energy	Lie in	Surfing
Bait	Euchre	Open	Trail
Ball	Excel	Picnic	Trees
Barbecue	Farm	Plan	Trip
Beach	Flee	Repeat	Uncle
Cats	Frogs	Restaurant	Visit
Chess	Games	Sand	Wade
City	Garden	Scuba	Walk
Cricket	Hose	Skate	Wine
	Idle	Soccer	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Precious memories

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

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CAMPAIGN

FROM PAGE 1

and more on beaches and in our waterways."

Students are interested in analyzing the type and number of trash items collected at their clean-ups. Participants will record what they collect using the Litterati app and students will use this data to advance their advocacy campaign.

"There was so much progress over the last few years in reducing single use plastics and now students are very concerned," said Murphy. "Students have incorporated that into their messaging and are giving people advice for switching back to reusables, reducing whenever possible, and saying no to single use utensils when they can."

The cleanups are led in partnership with the Heal the Bay Foundation and will take place on March 6. between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., March 7. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and March 13 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

All community members are encouraged to join the team picking up litter at any point along the beach between the Pier and Pacific Palisades and to record their progress on the Litterati app using challenge code '824587'.

"I am excited to see how we can bring our community together, even though we are apart, to fight global warming and save our beautiful Santa Monica beaches!" said Siona Kirschner, 7th grade student.

LAcarGuy is also lending a hand and encouraging employees and customers at their five Santa Monica locations to take part.

"As a surfer and Santa Monica native, keeping our local beaches clean and plastic free has always been a top priority for LAcarGUY," said Owner Mike Sullivan. "We love participating in our annual beach cleanup event so when we heard that Grades of Green's students at Lincoln Middle School needed help with their beach cleanup, we jumped at the opportunity to get our team involved."

While the all-consuming crisis of the coronavirus has taken political and media focus away from the impending climate crisis, Grades of Green said their students remain incredibly dedicated to environmental issues.

"The pandemic is an excellent example of how fragile our stability is as a global society and climate change will have a lot of the same sorts of life altering impacts if we don't do anything about it," said James Saracini, Grades of Green communications and marketing director. "Students still see it as a major issue and want to be more involved than ever."

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HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 1

in California, too many people in L.A. County and too many people in Santa Monica are living without shelter," Interim City Manager Lane Dilg said this week. "Homelessness now impacts our daily community life in every possible way, and the pandemic has starkly exposed that addressing homelessness will be central to every aspect of our state's and our local community's economic recovery. We will not solve homelessness alone, but we must as a community believe that this is a solvable problem and approach it accordingly and with urgency."

During the discussion, council also committed to continuing the work of its dedicated outreach teams and funding ambassadors in local parks.

Property owners have complained in recent weeks that Santa Monica is seeing more instances of people sleeping in public spaces than they did prior to the pandemic, and residents were eager to share their frustrations with the situation during the meeting's public comment period.

Councilmember Phil Brock said recent reports make it appear as though the City is doing a great job.

"But from the outside, in the streets, our residents feel we're still failing. So my question is… are we looking for different approaches as well, or are we stagnant?" Brock asked as he addressed concerns relating to a lack of public bathrooms, enforcement and other necessary resources.

Margaret Willis, a human services administrator who addressed Council Tuesday, said the issue isn't the effectiveness of the city's programs.

"I think the issue is scale in that we don't have enough of anything; we don't have enough multidisciplinary teams, as someone mentioned, we don't have enough portable housing in order to place people who are moving officers around working on housing programs, we don't have enough time for our facilities, you know, that we can take the 24 hours," Willis said.

"So we're overwhelmed?" Brock asked.

"Yes, sir," Willis replied.

Brock added he and the residents who have contacted him aren't concerned with the cost of programs.

"What they're more concerned with, bottom line, is do they feel their streets are safe? Do they feel that trash bins on the Promenade and parking garages are locked? Do we feel, when the trash truck empties the bin at the end of the pier, a homeless person will fall out of that trash can into a sanitation bucket?" Brock said, mentioning residents simply want to hear the city is making an effort to address the problem rather than save money by worrying about costs.

However, the economic impact of COVID-19 has weakened Santa Monica's budgetary reserves so it's unlikely the City will be able to fund every possible program that could address the twin crises of homelessness and affordable housing.

As a result, Dilg said Tuesday, staff intends to return with a cost analysis in the near future that would allow Council to decide what projects will be worth enacting.

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COVID

FROM PAGE 7

expected to provide 20 million doses by the end of March and 100 million by summer.

European regulators and the World Health Organization also are considering J&J's vaccine. Worldwide, the company aims to produce around a billion doses by the end of the year.

Associated Press video producer Kathy Young contributed to this report.

Letter to the Editor

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

As many COVID-19 variants have revealed themselves, the virus thrives, and more risks of mutations and resurgence of the virus become apparent domestically and abroad.

Millions of lives have already been lost due to this pandemic, and millions of people have been out of work with businesses closing their doors for good. This is why safe and effective vaccines are vital to ending the pandemic and reopening the global economy. However, this can only happen if people everywhere, even in the most vulnerable of places have access to them.

That's why it is important that Senator Feinstein, newly appointed Senator Padilla, and Representative Ted Lieu support global efforts to distribute vaccines and invest at least $20 billion in fighting COVID-19 globally, including funding for proven health programs like the Global Fund and CEPI.

The economic cost of not distributing a vaccine everywhere would be enormous. A recent study found the global economy stands to lose as much as $9.2 trillion if governments fail to ensure developing economy access to COVID-19 vaccine.

The pandemic will remain a threat until vaccines are able to be distributed equally throughout the global sphere. We're all in this fight together.

Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, and Representative Ted Lieu can help our economy, heal our country, heal the world, and respond faster by supporting more resources for the global response in the next emergency relief bill.

Josephine Borchardt, Santa Monica

BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Lakers waive 2-time champion guard Quinn Cook

Backup guard Quinn Cook has been waived by the Los Angeles Lakers.

The defending NBA champions announced the move Wednesday, shortly before Cook's contract would have been guaranteed.

Cook averaged 2.1 points while appearing in 16 games this season for the Lakers, who also waived him in November before re-signing him in December.

Cook was a popular locker room presence who was also a backup on last season's title-winning team, averaging 5.1 points while winning his second NBA championship ring in three years. Before joining the Lakers in 2019, Cook spent two seasons with Golden State.

Cook's departure opens a second roster spot for the Lakers, whose need for a backup center has seemed obvious lately. Marc Gasol has started 32 games for Los Angeles, and All-Star big man Anthony Davis is out for at least three more weeks with a calf injury.

The Lakers (22-10) are on their first three-game losing streak of the season heading into their game at NBA-leading Utah on Wednesday night.

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