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School reopenings
Local schools are for all families.
Page 4

Restaurant Review
Boa in Santa Monica.
Page 5

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Santa Monica's Zero-Emissions Delivery Zone Pilot launches



Courtesy images

DELIVERY: Robot delivery units are part of the new program that includes other kinds of zero emission vehicles.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's Zero-Emissions Delivery Zone Pilot is now underway, and program participants are hoping a successful test run in the city will result in similar initiatives throughout the Westside in the near future.

Thanks to a partnership between the City, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator and a number of private companies, the first-in-the-nation Zero Emissions Delivery Zone stretches from the city's southern border at Dewey Street to Wilshire Boulevard, and from the ocean eastward to Lincoln Boulevard.

Residents in the area may have already spotted robots delivering sandwiches or electric bicycles carting small packages since the pilot first kicked off last year when local companies, like Cyan Robotics and its handful of human-powered bots, eagerly signed on to deliver goods from restaurants like Alfalfa on Main Street. And earlier this month, Santa Monica City Council approved a license agreement that grants computer software company Automotus the ability to mount video camera equipment on City street lights in the pilot zone.

The data collected will help ensure delivery vehicles in the zone are compliant with the zero emissions regulations, staff said in a report, and also serve as a real-time monitor of the dwell time for vehicles, what curb space is available, how congested streets are.

LACI CEO Matt Petersen said at the beginning of the pilot that data like this was key to the program's success because it allows program leaders to assess the pilot's impact on delivery efficiency, safety, congestion, and emissions, and also gives staff the ability to evaluate operations within the zone so it can return to Council with a long-term strategy in the future.

"We have a working group that's focused on goods movement and primarily looks at those

SEE **DELIVERY** PAGE 11

Community health centers are key to solving striking vaccine inequities

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Three months into the vaccine rollout people of color are receiving doses at a startlingly low rate and community health centers believe this is in large part because their clinics were deprioritized as distributors.

The Department of Public Health recognizes this too and is rushing to expand partnerships with community health centers and pharmacies in the hardest hit areas of the County.

Still, it will take concerted effort and time to bridge the existing gaps.

So far only 5.2 percent of black individuals and 23 percent of Latinx individuals eligible for the vaccine have received doses compared to 33 percent of their white counterparts, reported County Supervisor Hilda Solis on Monday.

Over 30 percent of residents in wealthy communities such as Mandeville Canyon and Bel Air have been vaccinated whereas poorer areas including Compton, Lynwood, and Watts have rates below 8 percent, according to data from the Department of Public Health.

"It's clear that our most affluent communities have greater access than those who need it the most," said Solis. "To me this is unacceptable. We can and we have to do better."

In order to maximize the speed of the vaccine rollout the state and County focused on building mega sites and utilizing an online

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 11

Police Officers Association takes issue with exclusion from commission

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's first civilian police oversight body is still accepting applications from community members who wish to promote the best practices in community-oriented policing, but local police officers are taking issue with their exclusion from the newfound commission.

A 15-member Public Safety Reform Advisory Committee originally suggested that sworn and civilian Santa Monica Police Department employees be barred from serving on the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission, but City Council was hesitant to single out local officers when it discussed the matter in January.

Instead, Council agreed to ban all city employees from serving as commissioners shortly before Interim City Manager Lane Dilg described the commission as a product of a monthslong community engagement process that brought a dedicated and historically diverse group of locals together.

However, members of the Santa Monica Police Officers Association feel they have been excluded from the process despite repeated attempts to "lead the moment, not just follow," POA President Gerardo Leyva said in a recent interview where he discussed the union's willingness to head to court to resolve the matter.

Former POA president Erika Aklufi first expressed concerns about officers' lack of involvement in the creation of a police oversight commission in a letter addressed to Interim City Manager Lane Dilg last fall.

Like Leyva, Aklufi said the organization did not take issue with

SEE **POLICE** PAGE 7


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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
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2662 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA ADDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.50 TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2662 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

The Ordinance adds Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapter 2.50 to establish a Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission. The Ordinances specifies that the Commission shall have eleven members appointed by the City Council, at least two of whom shall be between the ages of 18 and 22 at the time of appointment, and sets out eligibility requirements for Commissioners, including that they reside in the City. The Ordinance requires appointed Commissioners to receive training relevant to providing oversight of law enforcement and to the understanding of racial justice within one year of appointment. The Ordinance specifies that the Commission shall be supported by an Inspector General who shall be a contractor retained by the City Manager's Office but shall report to and receive direction from the Commission. The Ordinance requires that the Inspector General have access to SMPD disciplinary records and personnel files and specified SMPD data and records. The Ordinance requires the SMPD, City Manager's Office, and City Attorney's Office to assign staff liaisons to assist the Commission. The Ordinance requires the Police Chief or authorized representative to be present at each Commission meeting.

The Ordinance defines the powers and duties of the Commission, including: reviewing and making recommendations regarding SMPD policies and practices; receiving information relating to any violations of procedures or policies in connection with disciplinary investigations, proceedings and actions and making recommendations regarding any such violations; collaborating with SMPD to promote interaction and trust building between SMPD and community members; promoting transparency and availability to the public of SMPD data and records; collaborating with SMPD and the community to promote restorative justice; evaluating and making recommendations regarding ideas for implementing best practices in community-oriented policing and reimagining public safety and wellbeing; and reviewing and making recommendations regarding the proposed SMPD budget. The Ordinance requires that the City's annual budget contain such appropriations as the City Council deems necessary and appropriate to enable the Commission to exercise its powers and provide commissioners with reasonable training as specified in the Ordinance.

The Ordinance requires the Commission to provide written reports of its activities to the City Council not less than once every six months. The Ordinance requires the Commission within 150 days after its first official meeting to prepare and present to the Police Chief, City Manager, and City Council a set of initial recommendations regarding proposed reforms for handling complaints regarding SMPD conduct.

The Ordinance will take effect thirty days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.



Biden directive expands jobless aid to more unemployed

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

Unemployed Americans who have turned down job offers because they feared their prospective employers weren't providing sufficient protection from the coronavirus would qualify for jobless aid under a directive the Labor Department issued Thursday.

The measure would also expand a federal unemployment-benefits program, established in last spring's economic relief package, to cover workers who have lost hours or who were laid off because of the pandemic. It would also cover school employees who lose jobs or work hours because of school closings.

The federal program, known as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, made the self-employed and gig workers eligible for jobless aid for the first time.

"Until now, unemployment insurance benefits during the pandemic have been too scattered and too uncertain," said Patricia Smith, senior adviser to the labor secretary. "That begins to change today, with many more workers now eligible for unemployment insurance benefits."

The directive stems from an executive order President Joe Biden issued last month. The White House said it sought to "ensure that unemployed Americans no longer have to choose between paying their bills and keeping themselves and their families safe from COVID-19 by clarifying that workers who refuse unsafe working conditions can still receive unemployment insurance."

Speaking to reporters, department officials declined to estimate how many Americans would now become newly eligible for jobless benefits.

The benefits will be made retroactive, officials said. People who applied for unemployment aid after Dec. 27 can receive retroactive payments back to Dec. 6. Those who applied before then and were turned down can receive retroactive payments dating back to when they first applied.

With unemployed Americans now receiving a $300 weekly federal payment on top of state benefits that average about $320 a week, the retroactive aid could result in significant lump sum payments. The department estimates that states won't be able to update their jobless-benefit systems to include the new criteria until late March, which could mean that the first payments would amount to about four months of benefits.

Workers whose place of employment have closed because of the pandemic are already eligible to receive jobless aid from the federal program. But workers who were laid off even as their company remained open, such as waiters at a restaurant that stayed open for delivery, weren't eligible. This directive will now cover those workers, the Labor Department said.

For the unemployed who have turned down jobs out of concern over the coronavirus, applicants will have to state under penalty of perjury that their prospective employer wasn't meeting state or local guidelines on mask-wearing or personal protective equipment, said Suzi Levine, a deputy assistant labor secretary.

The potential for large lump sum payments could encourage fraud, which has bedeviled unemployment assistance programs all year. Levine said the Labor Department would continue to combat fraudulent claims.

"It is imperative to not let such callous theft deter us from bolstering our support for America's workers and families who are suffering through the double impact of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and associated job losses," she added.

On Wednesday, the Labor Department's Office of the Inspector General released a report that said it had found $5.4 billion in fraudulent payments between March and October of 2020.

While that is a small fraction of the $400 billion in jobless aid that was paid last year, "the OIG expects that the actual amount of potential fraud is much larger," the report said. It noted that California has estimated that at least 10% of its payments, or $11 billion, and as much as 27%, or $29 billion, were fraudulent.

Governor's vaccine plan aims to reopen California classrooms

JANIE HAR AND JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

California released a new plan Thursday outlining how the state will allocate vaccines to education workers as Gov. Gavin Newsom continues to push to reopen more schools to in-person instruction.

The Democratic governor announced last week that at least 10% of the state's vaccines would go to education workers starting in March, which translates to roughly 75,000 dedicated doses a week.

On Thursday, his office released an overview showing how those vaccines would be distributed. Each week, the state will provide doses to county offices of education for distribution. Teachers and other education workers will get single-use codes to make expedited appointments online.

The state will also host targeted drives for education staff at mass vaccination sites in Oakland and Los Angeles that are run in partnership with the federal government.

If 75,000 vaccine doses do come through each week, it could be a matter of weeks for California's 320,000 K-12 public school teachers to be inoculated.

Much of the supply in California remains dedicated for seniors 65 and older, although more counties are opening up appointments for educators, food and farm workers and other essential employees. The state had administered more than 8 million doses as of Thursday.

The governor's office said it will allocate doses to counties based on the number of school employees there and also with an eye toward ensuring that students most affected by the pandemic — homeless and foster youth, low-income students and English learners — get back into the classroom.

SEE **CLASSROOMS** PAGE 7

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 228 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 24

Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 12:07 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 900blk 10th St 1:05 a.m.
Construction Noise 1500blk 12th St 1:08 a.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Virginia Ave 2:25 a.m.
Auto Burglary Now 700blk Ocean Ave 5:36 a.m.
Encampment 2400blk 6th St 6:46 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1300blk 2nd St 7:01 a.m.
Armed Robbery Report 300blk Santa Monica Pl 7:18 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:36 a.m.
Encampment 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:38 a.m.
Identity Theft 200blk 26th St 7:39 a.m.
Fraud Report 2000blk Navy St 7:48 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk 9th St 7:52 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 500blk 17th St 7:56 a.m.
Transport Prisoner Montebello 7:56 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 8:03 a.m.
Encampment 28th St / Ocean Park Blvd 8:19 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Ave 8:23 a.m.
Overdose 1700blk Ocean Ave 8:36 a.m.
Panic Alarm 3000blk Margaret Lane 8:40 a.m.
Attempt Auto Theft Report 2000blk Hill St 8:46 a.m.
Encampment 1900blk The Beach 8:51 a.m.
Transport 300blk Olympic Dr 9:11 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 100blk California Ave 9:12 a.m.
Found Property 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:14 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 10th St / Washington Ave 9:22 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk Virginia Ave 9:50 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 700blk Pacific St 9:59 a.m.
9-1-1 Hang Up 1500blk Ocean Ave 10:29 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:37 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk 16th St 10:47 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 700blk Ozone St 10:48 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk Carlyle Ave 10:55 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2300blk 17th St 10:57 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1300blk 17th St 11:00 a.m.
Burglary Report 1800blk 12th St 11:13 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2900blk 10th St 11:34 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Report 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 11:42 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1400blk 2nd St 11:53 a.m.
Found Property 1600blk Ocean Ave 11:56 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 300blk 9th St 12:02 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk The Beach 12:05 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1000blk Pico Blvd 12:17 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1300blk 12th St 12:24 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 900blk 7th St 1:25 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 800blk Pearl St 1:37 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 800blk Pacific St 1:37 p.m.
Fraud Suspect Just Left 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 1:39 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:52 p.m.
Lewd Activity 600blk Palisades Park 2:21 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1500blk The Beach 3:19 p.m.
Burglary Report 2600blk Virginia Ave 3:40 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2800blk Neilson Way 3:44 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2500blk Lincoln Blvd 3:58 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1500blk Ocean Ave 4:13 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 4:24 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200blk California Ave 4:42 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2400blk 3rd St 4:45 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 4:56 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:00 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:08 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1400blk Yale St 5:10 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 400blk Wilshire Blvd 5:14 p.m.
Loud Music Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 5:15 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 11th St / San Vicente Blvd 5:36 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 5:40 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 5:41 p.m.
Armed Robbery Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:02 p.m.
Armed Robbery Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:13 p.m.
Hazard Materials Investigation 800blk 19th St 6:21 p.m.
Person Down 1000blk Berkeley St 6:22 p.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk California Ave 6:28 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 6:51 p.m.
Lost Property 200blk Santa Monica Pier 7:23 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2400blk Main St 7:56 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 1900blk 11th St 7:59 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1100blk Cedar St 8:33 p.m.
Encampment 1400blk 2nd St 8:49 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 500blk Wilshire Blvd 8:57 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 9:36 p.m.
Encampment 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:56 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:13 p.m.
Death Investigation 900blk Euclid St 10:42 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:29 p.m.
Rape Now 1600blk Ocean Ave 11:48 p.m.
Fraud Report 2100blk Navy St 11:54 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 18 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 24

EMS 1800blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:13 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 7:45 a.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 8:37 a.m.
EMS 1900blk 20th St 11:02 a.m.
EMS 400blk Montana Ave 11:21 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:56 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Civic Center Dr 1:15 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 4th St 3:03 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 16th St 4:47 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 4:50 p.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 800blk 19th St 6:21 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Berkeley St 6:22 p.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 6:57 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk Broadway 7:24 p.m.
EMS 900blk Yale St 7:49 p.m.
EMS 2700blk Neilson Way 8:20 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 20th St 9:20 p.m.
EMS 900blk Euclid St 10:42 p.m.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH 10:37 P.M.

Officers stopped a vehicle after observing that the front passenger was not wearing a seatbelt. Upon making contact with the driver, Officers noticed marijuana and open beer bottles in the vehicle. The driver admitted he was driving without a license and had smoked marijuana throughout the day, he was subjected to standard field sobriety tests. Ultimately, Luis Fernando Campos was arrested for 23152(g) VC- Driving Under the Influence of Combined Alcohol and Drugs and 12500 (a) VC - Driving Without a License. Campos' vehicle was impounded and he was later issued a notice to appear in court and released.

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Your column here

By Justin Watt

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I am writing in response to a letter published on February 22nd, 2021. This letter was originally intended for the SMMUSD and Dr. Drati - however a local father decided to share it with the Santa Monica Daily Press as well. The letter written by Mr. Torkamani documents what he feels are failures of the SMMUSD during the Covid-19 pandemic. As a father of two young children, this letter made me feel a lot of emotions and none of them are particularly good.

No two families will have the same pandemic story. We are all in this horrible thing together and yet we are all isolated from each other (or at least should be). Our school district is made up of hundreds of families each with a different set of circumstances in these insane times. This includes our incredible teachers, board members and other staff members - many of whom have their own children enrolled in local schools. I do not know Mr. Torkamani nor do I know his family or pretend to understand their quarantine experience. What I do know is that it is not just his kids who are struggling. Literally everyone is struggling.

While Mr. Torkamani is welcome to his beliefs and opinions, not all parents share these feelings. In fact based on my experience over the last year, I would say that he is part of a very small yet extremely vocal minority.

I will allow the words found in Mr. Torkamani's letter to stand on their own. However I fully disagree that SMMUSD has failed their students. In fact I feel SMMUSD has done the exact opposite and even Mr. Torkamani's quote of one of their bylaws proves this point.

"The Board of Education believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in the district."

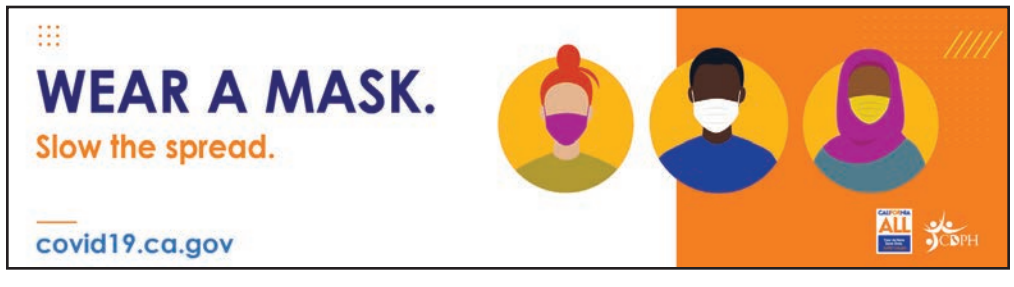
It is clear that Mr. Torkamani is trying to look out for the best interests of his family and that is a respectable quality in a parent. However SMMUSD doesn't exist to only serve his family; they have a responsibility to serve all of us. If there was one simple solution to educate thousands of kids in the middle of an ever evolving global pandemic, I have no doubt that SMMUSD would have executed this plan months ago. The goal has always been to re-open schools. Not even SMMUSD could have predicted that Los Angeles County would be one of the hardest hit areas on planet Earth. Reopening schools prior to March 15th even if only to serve the "coalition of the willing" as suggested by Mr. Torkamani would have not only hurt our children, this would have caused more pain and suffering across our entire community.

500,000 Americans have lost their lives because of Covid 19. That is 500,000 Americans who won't be there to sponsor a jog-a-thon or watch the next generation walk across a stage and get a diploma before moving onto their next adventure in life. All of us want our children back in school, but even the CDC has declared as recently as December 2020 that kids can indeed catch and spread Covid-19. Some families in our community are essential workers with limited access to child care. Some are taking care of high-risk elderly family members. Some are high-risk themselves. There are countless configurations of the challenges each family faces during this extraordinary event. We cannot let go of our empathy for the challenges that all members of our community are managing right now and that includes the SMMUSD.

Where I can't speak for Franklin — Will Rogers and SMMUSD has done a fantastic job of communicating to us their thought process in trying to come up with a smart and safe solution to educate our children in this challenging time. They truly took the time to listen to all input from a wide range of families who are united in struggling day in and day out with distance learning. I know our teachers and staff spent their summer break coming up with numerous game plans ready to pivot and change course depending on where the pandemic collectively took us. Chromebooks have been provided to a majority of students as well as WiFi hotspots for internet access. Meals are still being provided to kids who need them on a daily basis and a few of the kids in my daughters class who are struggling the most are now able to attend remote school in a classroom on the Grant campus. These incredible things are all happening because SMMUSD fulfilled their promise to act in the best interest of ALL students.

Pandemic parenting is far from easy but I have found that one of the hidden blessings of quarantine is how much more time I get with my kids. I am touching up on my cursive skills, learned about a man named Alfred L. Cralle who changed the Ice Cream game as we know it and I got to watch NASA land their latest rover on MARS together with my kids. How incredible is that? Everyone associated with SMMUSD who has given countless hours no doubt struggling themselves in order to help all of our kids in the middle of a global crisis deserves a massive thank you from all of us. Along with so many other front line workers they are truly heroes and I hope that once we get past this dark time we never forget their contributions to our community and society.

Justin Watt, Santa Monica



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AWARD WINNER

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WINNER

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The Re-View

By Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

BOA Steakhouse Santa Monica

Some of my friends are complaining about not being able to go to a restaurant and sit inside like in the old days. So far that hasn't been a problem for me and my family. If it's raining we stay home. If the weather is at all reasonable, and only mildly cold, we go out and enjoy our favorite restaurants.

In fact, Los Angeles has become a lot more like Paris, with it's wonderful sidewalk cafes, and I hope that we can continue to eat semi-outside, on the sidewalk, when the pandemic is over.

Last week we had dinner at BOA, facing the Ocean Avenue Palisades Park. We were seated at a table on the sidewalk, with heaters on both sides of the table, and well separated from other tables by Plexiglas partitions. I've never felt so safe! My companion and I have both received both vaccinations, yet it still felt good to be so safe.

We are in sort of a rut when we go to BOA, and almost always order the same thing. In a way that's too bad, because BOA has a wonderfully broad selection of both meat and seafood, appetizers and salads. We really should branch out.

We start with the Cesar salad, which, before the pandemic, was tossed tableside. We ordered it with extra lemon and anchovies on the side. It's not as much fun as when it's tossed at the table, but it's still delicious. I knew Cesar when he was the maitre'd at a restaurant in a hotel in Tijuana, and frankly this one is better than his.



Merv Hecht

STEAK: BOA is located at 101 Santa Monica Blvd. boasteak.com or (310) 899-4466.

Then, as always, we moved on to a steak, cooked medium rare. This time we selected the center cut filet. It was as good as steak gets. We selected two sauces to go with it, the peppercorn and the chimichurri. We preferred the peppercorn, but the contrast was nice. With the steak, of course, we had a couple glasses of red Bordeaux wine, which had a few years on it and was better than most wine by the glass in restaurants.

Then, only because it was a special occasion,

SEE **FOOD** PAGE 7

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ocean Park

Grant That Will Open Ocean Park Branch

The Santa Monica Public Library has been selected to participate in an exclusive grant provided by the California State Library in partnership with Bibliotheca, LLC to pilot an innovative way to provide library service in a post-COVID world. The innovation grant will allow for new technology to be installed at the Ocean Park Branch Library to expand access to the library collection to Santa Monicans through a unique self-service model.

The Open+ Pilot Project, is part of the California State Library's Bringing the Library to You Mobile Library Solutions grant initiative. Santa Monica Public Library was one of ten California libraries selected to receive funding to increase access to physical library services via the Open+ product. The opportunity came at a time when the City restructured the organization in response to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the library experienced cuts to its budget and staff, including suspension of services at two neighborhood branch locations.

"We look forward to installing the new technology and to securely opening the doors of the beloved Ocean Park Branch to library patrons who are eager to once again explore the shelves of their local branch," said Patty Wong, Library Services Director. "We are preparing the facility and Open+ technology and will welcome patrons back through this new self-service model as soon as we can open safely."

The Ocean Park Branch Library will be the sole location equipped with the technology and able to operate via a comprehensive self-service model providing controlled access to the library and security cameras. Library patrons who sign the Self-Service Hours Terms and Conditions and agree to library policies can scan their Santa Monica Public Library card at the entrance to gain access to the building. Details and instructions on how to sign up for Open+ will be released as the project gets ready to launch. The technology will allow the Branch to provide service with limited resources by maintaining access to valuable library collections, space, and services.

"This is a smart way to improve service to the Santa Monica community by keeping library doors open and offering services when they're needed. The project makes valuable library services more convenient and more accessible," noted Greg Lucas, State Librarian.

For more information on the grant, visit https://califa.org/openplus-grant.

While the library buildings remain closed to the public as required by the County of Los Angeles Public Health Department, we are here to assist you. Books and audiovisual materials are available for pickup through contactless curbside service. By popular request evening hours are being added to curbside pickup. Curbside service hours at all pickup locations will be 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Wednesdays beginning March 17. For more information visit smpl.org/curbside.

For general and reference questions call 310-458-8600 or email reference@smgov.net. Staff are available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The library's digital services are available 24/7 through an Online Library.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Take a Sad Song and Make It Better

A grim milestone, the U.S. just passed 500,000 Covid deaths, which is more than WWI, WW2 and Vietnam combined. So much for, "It will disappear like a miracle" or "It's no worse than the common cold." And January 6th marked the murderous attack on the Capitol by Un-American, white supremacist, insurrectionist, traitors. (Hope I'm not being too harsh. Lol.)

These are definitely among the darkest days in our 244 year history. Texas Senator Ted Cruz helped inspire the seditionists which prompted calls for his resignation. But Cruz responded, "I ain't going anywhere." Of course this was before he abandoned ice-bound Texans for a warm Cancun vacation and then stooped to blaming it on his pre-teen daughters.

I should note I've been encouraged by Daily Press management not to write anymore about the former POTUS. (Actually, slightly more than encouraged.) So I decided to share a tale that luckily ended well during another very dark period in American history.

In 1963, a much-beloved JFK was assassinated and frankly I don't think our country has ever recovered. Then came Vietnam, the assassinations of Malcom X, Martin Luther King and RFK leaving much of the country feeling hopeless and lost.

So it was, not long after Bobby's death and Teddy's heart-breaking eulogy, I dropped out of law school. Searching for hope again, and with the company of my Samoyed puppy, Jude, (named after the Beatles "Hey, Jude") I took an extensive "road trip." We traveled through the western U.S. and into the Canadian Rockies in my van which I had converted into a mini-home on wheels.

Months into the trip, we were driving in majestic Montana, the Big Sky state which is so vast it feels like you can see over the horizon. I decided to pull over at a rest stop, took off my shirt and, laying on a picnic table, enjoyed the solitude and sun. (While Jude eagerly went looking for squirrels.)

Suddenly, I heard a car sputtering in the distance. It was a dilapidated faded blue Ford Falcon, with steam bellowing from its radiator. It was weaving along the highway because the occupants, I would soon learn, were completely drunk. Finally, the car came to a stop near my table and two native Americans got out. One was almost my size but the other was a giant. The two were reminiscent of an Indian version of George and Lenny from John Steinbeck's classic "Of Mice and Men."

"George" joked, "We're Blackfeet but we really don't have black feet." Nervously, I feigned laughter but trouble seemed to hang in the air. Especially when "Lenny" began inexplicably stroking my long hair.

I quickly moved his hand away and asked if they needed water for their radiator but Lenny kept playing with my locks and if I needed help there probably wasn't a soul within 50 miles. (In the movie "Deliverance" what happened to Ned Beatty's character was what I worried might be in store for me.)



Courtesy photo

FAMILY: Me, my girlfriend Liz, our dogs Jessica and Jude, Jim Smith and his daughter Jennifer, circa 1971

I went to the van to get water for their radiator but also to quickly find a "weapon" just in case. All I could grab was a potato peeler which, against Lenny, would be as effective as a Q-tip. However, I purposely left the van doors open.

I called Jude who thankfully dashed right over. He was normally friendly to strangers but not this time, as if he too sensed danger. Since he had literally grown up in the van, he was very territorial. I had taught him when I whispered, "Jude, get in the van," he jumped right in. (Somehow whispering seemed to make him realize it was serious.)

As I was helping George pour water in the radiator, Lenny came up from behind and tried to put my hair in a pony tail to pull on it. Yikes! I quickly wiggled out of his grasp and whispered, "Jude, get in the van!" To my overwhelming relief he obeyed my command. Except when he turned around to face us, he had gone from sweet Samoyed to wild wolf as he growled like he was rabid.

Now George and Lenny were the nervous ones. They stood frozen as Jude paced back and forth in the van barking and even snapping at the glass window. The pair slowly tip-toed backwards to their car, apparently fearful this white wolf might tear them apart.

As they disappeared down the highway, I hugged Jude with such gratitude he wondered what had he done, before resuming his squirrel search. I had to laugh when I put my potato peeler "weapon" away and, albeit very briefly, gave thought to getting a haircut to avoid a similar experience.

A few years later, when I saw "Deliverance" I flashed back on that harrowing day. And yet I'm forever heartened by the memory of Jude as somehow he always managed to make any sad songs in my life so much better.

Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

POLICE

FROM PAGE 1

the creation of a police oversight commission but rather the specific expulsion of public safety personnel in its conception.

In the months since Aklufi's first letter, POA leaders have sent many more, according to Leyva, who said Thursday that engagement between the city manager's office and himself has been virtually nonexistent to this point.

"We just want to tell our community that we have empathy for some of the things that happened in law enforcement and most of us feel equally as hurt and disappointed by some of the actions taken by police officers," Leyva said. "And we feel that we have something to offer to the formation of this commission because we have first-hand knowledge on how we do things in Santa Monica and the best practices that have worked and haven't worked. And that's not even touching on the fact that we feel we are the community since many of us, like myself, were born and raised in Santa Monica."

The union president compared the creation of the Commission without SMPD's perspective to a resident building a house for themselves while having no input on what's going to be constructed.

"It doesn't it doesn't make any sense if you're looking at changing some of our practices without letting us explain the things that have worked or how we got there. We can provide some historical perspective and we have institutional knowledge on how things have been done and why we've done certain things," Leyva said. "So we feel, at a minimum, we should have an active officer on the board, but we'd be okay with a retiree."

However, law enforcement has changed so much in recent years that a former officer may not have the necessary insight, Leyva added as he detailed why the union feels the law is on their side.

Last Wednesday, SMPOA counsel informed city leaders in a letter that the organization is legally entitled to have a member on the commission in accordance with the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act, which governs labor management relations and seeks to promote full communication between public agencies and their employees.

City officials could not be reached for comment on the matter, but Leyva said he received a letter this month that said city leaders did not feel the formation of the commission constituted a breach of the act.

While he shared his disappointment in hearing the City was still reluctant to let the SMPOA participate in the conversation, Leyva said he doesn't see a need to head to court if the Commission includes at least one member from the SMPD.

"We don't want to go the legal route and we definitely don't want to control the conversation or the direction of the committee, but we do feel we have a right to be part of the conversation," Leyva said. "It'd only be one vote. I don't understand the fear of having inclusivity."

brennon@smdp.com

FOOD

FROM PAGE 5

our one-year anniversary since our first date, we had the two-cookie dessert.

As we finished our wine, we sat back and thought how lucky we are to live in Santa Monica, and how fortunate we are to have such wonderful restaurants open.

Merv Hecht, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book is "The Instant Wine Connoisseur" and it is available on Amazon. Or you might like his attempt at humor in "Great Cases I Lost." He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and beverages, including wines, internationally. Please send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

CLASSROOMS

FROM PAGE 2

Newsom has come under increasing political pressure to get California's public schools back open. The majority of the state's 6 million K-12 public school students have not been inside a classroom since March 2020 due to the pandemic as other states have moved more swiftly to reopen.

For weeks, the governor has been negotiating with lawmakers on a deal to reopen schools and salvage what's left of this academic year. He said earlier this week that he was confident of striking a deal soon "to get our kids safely back in schools very, very shortly."

California's powerful teachers unions have repeatedly said that getting teachers vaccinated is key to getting classrooms reopened. Union officials have balked at proposals to reopen from Newsom and state lawmakers, which did not make vaccinations a condition for resuming in-person classes.

At least 35 of the state's 58 counties are actively vaccinating education workers, the governor's office said. That includes San Francisco, which began Wednesday and made national headlines for suing its own school district to jump-start reopening plans.

On Wednesday, San Diego County officials announced that COVID-19 vaccinations will open Saturday for people in emergency services, child care and education, and food and agriculture. Santa Clara County in Silicon Valley will begin such vaccinations Sunday.

Newsom's prioritization plan also includes custodians, administrators, food and bus workers and other staff who are working at schools or expect to be at school within the next three weeks.

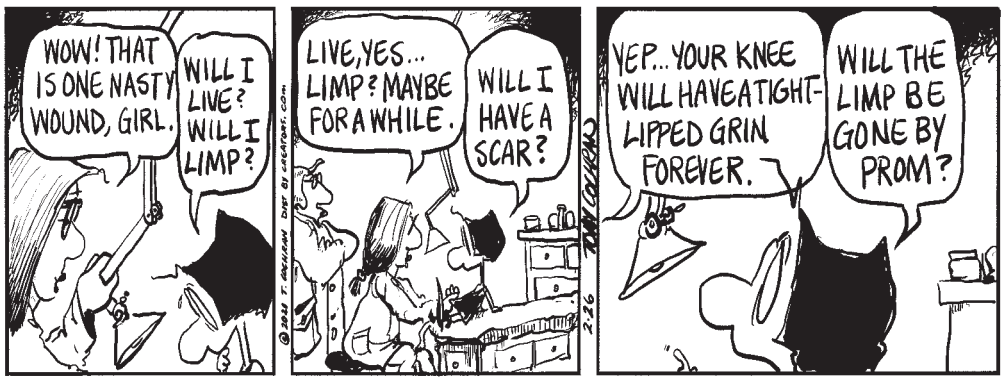
On a national level, President Joe Biden has set a target of reopening the majority of elementary schools by the end of his first 100 days in office. Biden says the reopening goal applies to K-8 schools and not to high schools or colleges, due to a higher risk of contagion among older students.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has echoed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new guidelines, which say that vaccination is not a prerequisite for reopening safely if masks, social distancing and proper safety measures are in place.



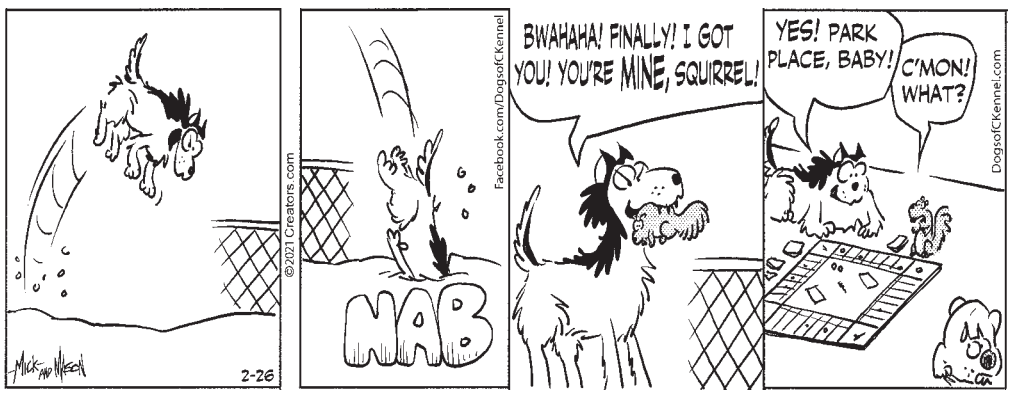
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



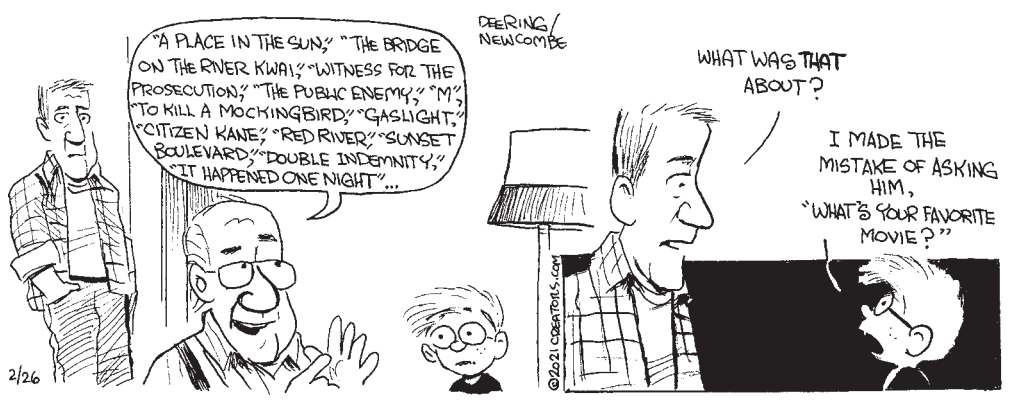
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



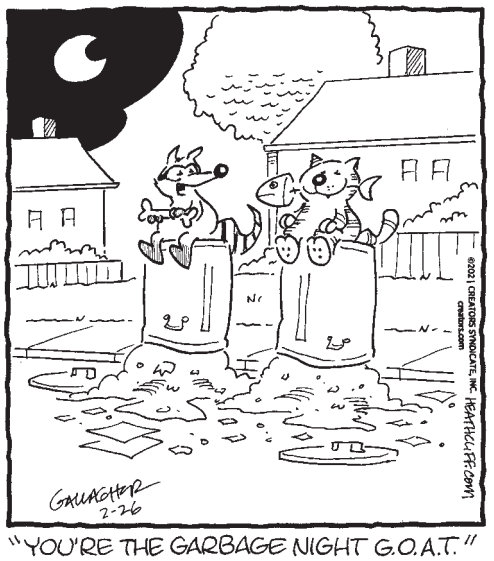
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"YOU'RE THE GARBAGE NIGHT G.O.A.T."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.9°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
NW swell fades. Minor S swell. Deep high tide early morning bogs down the small surf.

SATURDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Most size of the weekend. NW swell gets reinforcements, but still small. Leftover S swell. AM winds trending more favorable for at least the early morning.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 71.
Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 50.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 69.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/03/02	Tue	11:08 AM	4.55	H
2021/03/02	Tue	5:13 PM	0.36	L
2021/03/02	Tue	11:40 PM	5.13	H
2021/03/03	Wed	06:11 AM	0.45	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 2/24
4 33 43 53 65
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 106 M

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

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 2/24
7 34 38 44 47
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 24 M

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 2/24
13 22 23 24 25

calottery Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/24
EVENING: 3 3 9

Draw Date: 2/24
MIDDAY: 3 2 6

calottery Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/24
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:43.84

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 26)

Spiritual development elevates your experience. Whether pleasures are many or few, goals are met or not, relationships grind or sail blissfully, your joy, grace, gratitude and compassion flow strong through it all. Professional shifts align brilliantly with your talents. Bonus money allows for fun improvements. Virgo and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 33, 1 and 14.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will let go of a little piece of pride in the hopes of coming to a harmonious place in a relationship. Other parties may not be so willing, at least not initially, but your example will lead the way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Love is many things. Today, it's being able to correctly assess and cater to an emotional state. Turn your nurturing powers in on yourself or turn them to another person. Either way, the love begets more love.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's a situation you pursued in the past. The doors were closed back then. Now brings the beginning of the turn. This one doesn't need to be seized so much as slowly, curiously encountered.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You admire emotional restraint, but don't be fooled. People who seem in control of their "feels" are possibly not feeling them quite as deeply as you are. Your passion intensifies the highs and lows.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be bright in two moments: the practice moment that happens in the safety of an empty room and the moment of inhale that pauses the action just long enough for you to insert yourself between opportunity and a grand potential.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There was a time you didn't know the standard, only your own experience which didn't teach you enough. Now you know how people can effectively help one another, so you see what's not going on as clearly as what is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your sense of focus is on point and you've never been so serious about advancing your interests and the interests of those you answer to. Narrow down your task list so the big important things get the best of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If there's one thing you don't need today, it's advice. For starters, your intuition is on fire. And furthermore, you're going to do this thing in a way that's so unique, no one else has thought of it yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is no such thing as failure. If you're putting things out into the world, trying things, working through fear and limitation, risking your pride, then you're winning no matter what the outcome.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Impart the plan and cast your supporters in fitting roles. Then, watch it unfold. You're a guide through this process. Don't get so involved in the labor that you forget to put your head up to get the overview.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are people you appreciate because you can count on them to make good sense and help you onto the right path. Then there are people you appreciate because they don't have to make sense to be loveable to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you want to know what others want, you ask, fully expecting to get back lies. It takes a special kind of listening to get past social niceties and know which questions to ask to get to the real truth.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

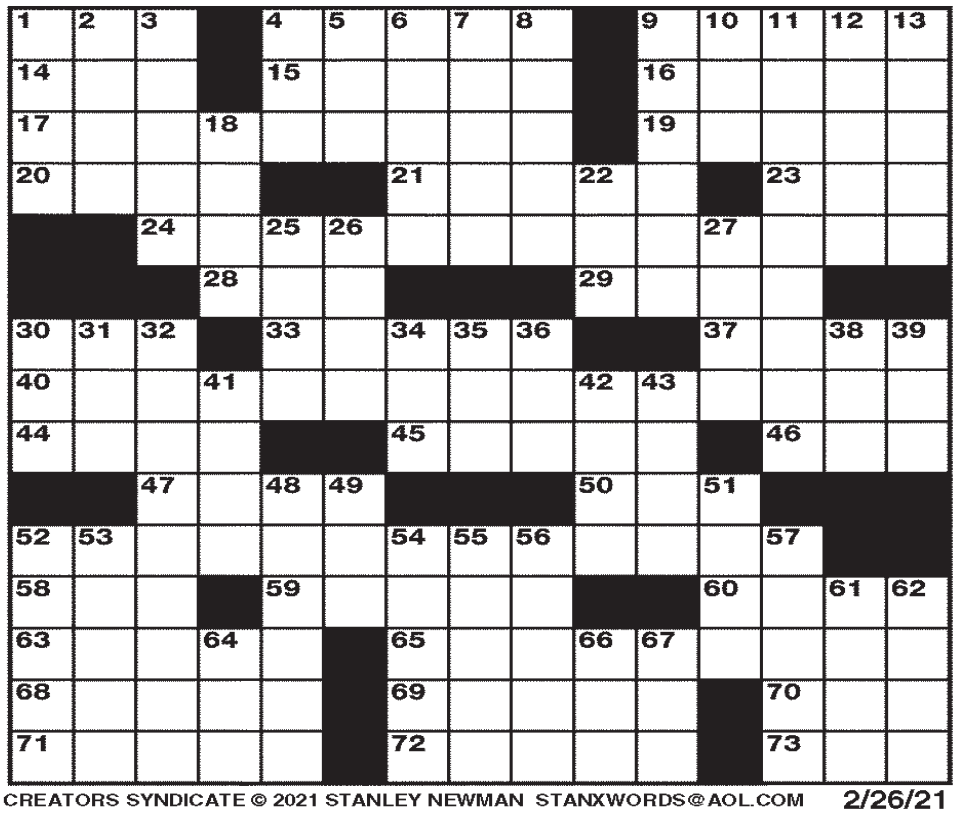
2	3		6	9			7	
	8					6		9
9		6	7				2	
		8		2				
3	7			4			9	1
				7		4		
	6				2	7		5
8		9					3	
	2			6	3		4	8

Newsday Crossword

MOVE IT by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 School lunch staple
4 Arkansas River city
9 Crouch from fear
14 Steamed state
15 School lunch staple
16 "That's good," in Guatemala
17 With 65 Across, "Move it!"
19 Sporty Ford, to buffs
20 Regarding
21 See 68 Across
23 Quiche, essentially
24 "Move it!"
28 Airport acronym
29 Burn before eating
30 Urgent call
33 Arab League charter member
37 Ball game
40 "Move it!"
44 It's near Edith in name dictionaries
45 Rainforest flier
46 Hard-to-draw self-portrait part
47 Ounce fraction
50 Cure for crankiness, maybe
52 "Move it!"
58 Audible exhalation
59 Mark under C
60 Think ___ (don't decide right away)
63 List of runners
65 See 17 Across
68 With 21 Across, portrayer of Rocky Jr.'s mom
69 Arises (from)
70 Its first airing was *Gone With the Wind* (1994)
71 It's near Emily in name dictionaries
72 Novices
73 Easy target

DOWN
1 Pocket full of lamb, perhaps
2 Some of your peeps
3 Harbor protector
4 Low digit
5 Metro area
6 Office expense
7 2014 Winter Olympics site
8 Be hospitable
9 Venerable TV symbol
10 Reveal
11 "Fine with us"
12 Film composer Morricone
13 Big name in synonymy
18 It's really funny
22 Suite group: Abbr.
25 Puts to work
26 Steamed state
27 Drawn-out drama
30 Eroded
31 Scholarly type
32 Ball game venue
34 Starchy side
35 Group meeting on school grounds
36 Odd habit
38 Where herds graze
39 Voight, in *Pearl Harbor*
41 Bangladeshi attire
42 Navajo art medium
43 Move to the music
48 From llama country
49 Game ball hoister
51 Ball game
52 Recycler's bane
53 Koran's "kosher" equivalent
54 Terse concession
55 Covered in feather clusters
56 Glyceride, for instance
57 Storage rentals
61 Llama country ancient
62 Time and ___ (radio news update)
64 One way to avoid defeat
66 Benefits Department option
67 Symphony opening



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/26/21

Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I
O	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	I
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"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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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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5036

Mining industry

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

Alarm
Argon
Auger
Bega
Beryl
Bowen
Brass
Byng
Cairns
Camps
Cards
Coal
Coen
Copper
Digs
Dirt
Drake
Ebor
Erbium
Ferrogabbro
Free
Gangue
Giru
Gold
Heat
Iolite
Iron
Krypton
Labour
Lead
Lefroy
Lode
Marble
Mica
Mine
Muntz
Ollera
Onyx
Ophir
Ores
Peace
Pits
Rain
Rich
Rock
Ruby
Spar
Talc
Tension
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Wind
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DELIVERY

FROM PAGE 1

heavy-duty trucks that come in and out of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach before they head to our freeways to move goods from warehouses and beyond," Petersen said. "But once those vehicles reach their destinations and the goods get on medium-duty trucks, we're trying to find ways to reduce emissions in the neighborhood and throughout that process — that's what we want to learn."

Petersen detailed how large trucks delivering small packages cause increased congestion and pollution on smaller streets while also blocking bike lanes and vital parking spaces. But the pilot program looks to curb these problems and others by eventually ridding the area of any gas-guzzling delivery vehicles that bring goods to customers in city centers, and eventually residential areas.

"Other forms of transportation we're looking at is package delivery to homes and businesses, which would be in those medium duty trucks," Petersen added. "And we're also looking at food delivery, which currently is primarily delivered by single passenger vehicles, but I think there are a lot of other forms of modalities that could be used — perhaps a cargo bike."

Petersen and his fellow program participants hope Santa Monica's success will serve as a blueprint to a zero emissions delivery zone that could be adopted by other cities in the Southern California region by 2028, he said as he detailed how Santa Monica's unique infrastructure made it the perfect place to test the idea.

"We had to pick one community to start with, and since Santa Monica was in front of the fray in terms of micromobility — that's something that stood out. And it's also a place where you've got that unique mix of residential and commercial density segments," Petersen said. "So even though Santa Monica will be at the center of the work, it's a project that everyone is going to learn from."

Mayor Sue Himmelrich agreed.

"To reduce and ultimately eliminate our carbon emissions, we need to look at all aspects of the transportation sector. This pilot with LACI will use smaller and cleaner technologies to deliver goods instead of the large diesel-fueled trucks we're used to seeing on our streets. Beyond reducing carbon and congestion, the added bonus is that restaurants can keep higher margins of sales on delivered food items," she said. "This is coming at a critical moment in our recovery and we look forward to new insights on zero-emissions delivery and the possibilities beyond our one square mile test zone."

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VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1

appointment system. Local health centers and pharmacies were tacked on later and currently receive very limited dose allotments.

While this approach prioritizes distribution efficiency, it also drives inequalities.

Under this system, people with consistent internet access and the time and means to travel to open appointments are the most likely to be inoculated. These also happen to be the people least likely to live in hardest hit communities.

"If you're trying to put out a fire you don't aim your hose at the periphery of the fire, you aim it at the source of the fire and we know the source of COVID-19 is the hardest hit, under resourced, underserved communities of color," said David Carlisle, president and CEO of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science at a 'Health + Justice' panel organized by the Venice Family Clinic.

Community health centers, such as the Venice Family Clinic, believe they are perfectly poised to reach the population the vaccine rollout is missing, because these individuals are already their clients.

"It doesn't make sense when we are used to serving those who don't have transportation, those who have language barriers, those without internet access, those who are experiencing homelessness who are already connected with us and already trust us, that we aren't a fundamental part of the vaccine rollout," said Anita Zamora, deputy director and COO of Venice Family Clinic.

Venice Family Clinic serves 27,000 low-income patients and so far has only received 1,000 doses, 500 of which were reserved for healthcare providers. The organization has a 50 year history of caring for vulnerable community members and a robust vaccination program, delivering around 10,000 flu shots annually.

Medical mistrust is also cited as a contributor to low vaccination rates in communities of color. However, health care professionals question how salient of a factor it is given the current high demand and low supply of vaccines.

"I think that there is much more demand for vaccination than there is hesitancy against vaccination, even among our African American and Latinx populations," said Carlye, who also noted that people of color are more likely to trust community healthcare providers that they already have a relationship with.

The L.A. County Department of Public Health is not blind to the shortcomings of the current distribution approach and is working to adjust its strategies.

LACDPH has established relationships with over 400 local healthcare centers, although their vaccine allotments remain low. The department is also creating closed vaccination pods for target populations that bypass the online system and is rolling out mobile vaccination teams to help reach elderly and homeless individuals.

Blue Shield of California recently signed a state contract to take over the allocation of vaccines across California using an algorithm designed to scale up daily doses. It is currently unclear how this will affect supplies to community healthcare centers.

On a federal level, the Biden administration launched a program on Feb. 15 to ship vaccines directly to community health centers, recognizing their key role in reaching underserved areas. This is welcome news for many local providers.

"There's a new channel that's coming and there's hope on the horizon," said Louise McCarthy, president and CEO of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County. "The Biden initiative focuses on community health centers specifically to get targeted doses each week for their patients and communities."

Yet, the question remains — why weren't they utilized from the start?

Clara@smdp.com

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Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Peter Hauspurg CASE NUMBER: 21STPB01398 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Peter Hauspurg. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Daun Paris Hauspurg in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles-Stanley Mosk Courthouse. The Petition for Probate requests Daun Paris Hauspurg be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: 04/01/2021 Time: 8:30 a.m Dept.79 Room - Address of Court: 111 N. Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90012 If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Avital Z. Klapach 15303 Ventura Blvd, Ste 1510 Sherman Oaks, CA 91403-3137 Telephone (310) 424-3144 Published In The Santa Monica Daily Press: 2/26/21, 03/5/21, 03/12/21

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