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City stands in solidarity with Ukraine, seeks divestment from Russian assets



Courtesy photo

SUPPORT: The lights at City Hall have been yellow and blue in support of Ukraine.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

As the world watches the Russian invasion with horror, the City of Santa Monica and its people are seeking to do their part to support the people of Ukraine.

In a Feb. 8 City Council meeting Councilmembers voted unanimously to condemn the unprovoked invasion and tragic violence being waged on the peaceful nation of Ukraine.

Council also directed the City Manager to take a look at Santa Monica's finances and investments to research any ways the City can economically sanction Russia. Potential steps discussed include divesting of any City fund possessing Russian assets and lobbying CalPERS in favor of divesting any state funds possessing Russian assets and termination of state contracts with Russian firms.

Council also took symbolic measures to demonstrate solidarity with Ukrainian citizens including offering Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy the title of Honorary Citizen of the City of Santa Monica. A bouquet of sunflowers, which has become a symbol of the Ukraine's resistance, were placed in front of the council dais. The flowers were grown in the Will Rogers Learning Community farm and donated to Council in a show of support for Ukrainian democracy.

"I've been looking at the beautiful bouquet of sunflowers that was donated by the Will Rogers Learning Community tonight to our meeting and the sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine," said Councilmember Phil Brock. "They need every great thought that we can possibly give them and I hope that all of you in your own way will find ways to help the people of Ukraine overcome the great disaster that is befalling them."

On Feb. 28 City Hall was lit in the national colors of Ukraine,

SEE **UKRAINE** PAGE 6

School mask mandate to end on Monday

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Mask wearing will no longer be mandatory at Santa Monica public schools beginning Monday, following a unanimous (6-0) vote by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education at a special meeting held Wednesday, March 9.

The decision came following a recommendation by SMMUSD Superintendent Ben Drati, who earlier in the week announced he felt it was time to lift the mask mandate. Drati's advice was that the School District continue its robust testing regimen as well as recommend students remain masked despite the lifting of the mandate.

Beginning Monday, March 14, masking will move "from required to strongly recommended" for all students in grades TK-12 as well as educators; new masking rules will apply regardless of vaccination status.

Board Member Jon Kean took those recommendations a step further, offering five suggestions, what he called "five points," to

SEE **MASKS** PAGE 11

Hot dog adieu



Emily Sawicki

SHACK: The long awaited demolition of Hot Dog on a Stick finally occurred this week.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Weiner shack Hot Dog on a Stick was torn down this week in preparation for a brand new building that will replace the 75-year-old structure that was first built there in 1946. The new structure will resemble the former location but will be about 50 percent larger; the boardwalk-facing facade will expand from 10 to 15 feet and total square footage will increase from 440 to 680.

"The Hot Dog on a Stick Muscle Beach location is where our brand's history began, and we are forever grateful to the locals in the area for giving us such an amazing start," Jenn Johnston, President of Hot Dog on a Stick, said in a statement provided by spokespeople following the demolition. "For over 75 years, it has been our pleasure to serve up smiles with our fresh, hand-stomped lemonade and signature stick offerings. We built a unique

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MLB players vote to end lockout

RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

Major League Baseball's acrimonious lockout ended Thursday when a divided players' association voted to accept management's offer to salvage a 162-game season that will start April 7.

Owners approved the five-year labor contract with a 30-0 vote, and MLB formally lifted the lockout at 7 p.m. on its 99th day.

"I am genuinely thrilled to say Major League Baseball is back and we're going to play 162 games," Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "I want to start by apologizing to our fans. I know the last few months have been difficult."

MLB's roster freeze, imposed when the work stoppage began on Dec. 2, was to dissolve immediately, allowing Freddie Freeman, Carlos Correa and more than 100 other free agents to sign contracts.

Training camps in Florida and Arizona will open Friday, and the mandatory reporting date is Sunday. Exhibition games will begin March 17 or 18.

Fans can start making plans to be at Fenway Park, Dodger Stadium and Camden Yards next month. Opening day is being planned a little more than a week behind the original date on March 31.

The deal brings several major changes to the sport — a universal designated hitter, an expanded postseason and measures to disincentivize so-called "tanking." Most of the labor fight centered on the game's core economics.

The 184 games canceled by Manfred were instead postponed, with the regular season extended by three days to Oct. 5. Approximately three games per team will be made up as part of doubleheaders.

With pitchers Max Scherzer and Andrew Miller taking prominent roles as union spokesmen, players twice allowed management deadlines pass to salvage the original March 31 opening day, then let this Tuesday's deadline for a 162-game schedule go by.

After narrowing the economic gap this week, MLB made another offer Thursday afternoon, saying this was the absolute, final, last moment to play 162 games and preserve full salary and service time.

Teams moved toward middle ground between themselves and the players. The union's executive board approved the offer on a 26-12 vote. a person familiar with the balloting said, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no announcement was authorized.

Players' pictures that had been scrubbed from the league's website were restored at 7 p.m. sharp. Teams tweeted videos and statements celebrating the lockout's end and sharing info about buying tickets for the new opening day.

"The deal pushes the game forward," Yankees pitcher Gerrit Cole, a member of the union's executive subcommittee, said in an telephone interview with The Associated Press. "It addresses a lot of the things that the players in the game should be focused on: the competitive integrity aspect of it."

Playoffs will expand from 10 to 12 teams, with two division winners receiving first-round byes and the remaining four teams in a best-of-three wild card round in each league.

The deal allows teams to have advertising on uniforms and helmets for the first time and could lead to a pitch clock and limits on defensive shifts in 2023.

"I love our game," Manfred said. "Having said that, since I've been commissioner, I've talked about the need to make changes in some of our rules to enhance the entertainment value of our product for the benefit of our fans. And I think the new agreement opens up an opportunity that we can work with the players to make sure that we can make good rule changes that work for our fans."

The agreement calls for the luxury tax threshold to rise from $210 million last year to $230 million this season and gradually to $242 million in 2026, a loosening for the biggest spenders such as the Yankees, Mets, Dodgers and Red Sox.

Tax rates remain unchanged at the initial threshold, second and third thresholds. A new fourth threshold, aimed at billionaire New York Mets owner Steve Cohen, has tax rates of 80% for the first offender, 90%, for the second and 110% for the third.

The agreement allows training camps to open Friday in Florida and Arizona, more than three weeks after they were scheduled to on Feb. 16. Players can begin reporting Friday, with training cut to about 28 days rather than the usual 42 for pitchers and catchers.

The minimum salary rises from $570,500 to about $700,000 this year, with $20,000 annual increases.

A new $50 million bonus pool was established for players not yet eligible for arbitration, a way to boost salaries for young stars.

After yet another snag, this time over management's desire for an international amateur draft, the deal came together Thursday afternoon and capped nearly a year of talks.

Players had fumed for years about the deal that expired Dec. 1, which saw payrolls decline 4% in 2021 compared to the last full season, back to their 2015 level. The union had an ambitious negotiating stance in talks that began last spring, asking for free-agency rights to increase with an age-based backstop and for an expansion of salary arbitration to its level from 1974-86.

In the late stages, the level and rates of the luxury tax, designed as a break on spending, became the key to a deal. Players think that too low of a threshold and too high of a rate acts tantamount to a salary cap, which the union fought off with a 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95.

Despite hundreds of hours of threats and counter-threats, the sides avoided regular-season games being canceled by labor conflict for the first time since the 1994-95 strike.

The cost, though, was rancor that cast both owners and players as money obsessed. Spring training was disrupted for the third straight year following two exhibition seasons altered by the coronavirus pandemic.

"People can go to the ballpark. That will help," Cole said. "Maybe some people will go to the ballpark to tell us know how they feel negatively. That's their right to do as well. I will say that nobody wants it to go this way. And some of the hurdles we've had to jump through over the last few weeks have not necessarily been ill will but just due process."

US extends mask rule for travel while weighing new approach

DAVID KOENIG AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

Federal officials are extending the requirement for masks on planes and public transportation for one more month — through mid-April — while taking steps that could lead to lifting the rule.

The mask mandate was scheduled to expire March 18, but the Transportation Security Administration said Thursday that it will extend the requirement through April 18.

TSA said the extra month will give the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention time to develop new, more targeted policies that will consider the number of cases of COVID-19 nationally and in local communities, and the risk of new variants.

The TSA enforces the rule, which extends to planes, buses, trains and transit hubs.

As of March 3, more than 90% of the U.S. population lived in areas with low or medium COVID-19 case levels, meaning that the CDC no longer recommends face masks in public indoor settings.

A decision to eventually scrap the mask requirement — one of the last vestiges of nationwide pandemic rules — has grown more likely in recent weeks as more states, even those led by Democratic governors, relaxed their own mandates for wearing masks indoors, and the CDC eased its recommendations.

That led critics to question why the CDC would allow maskless people to gather in movie theaters and sports arenas but not on planes.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Thursday that deciding on the right policy for travel was more complicated than setting recommendations for local communities.

"If you're moving from one zone to another and picking people up ... it's a little bit different, and that requires some consultation, which is what (CDC officials) are going to endeavor to do between now and April 18," Psaki said.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said last week that her agency must study the science around virus transmission "but also the epidemiology and the frequency that we may encounter a variant of concern or a variant of interest in our travel corridors."

Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, the top Republican on the Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee, said he was disappointed in the one-month extension.

"The science does not support this decision," he said. Earlier, Wicker and 30 other Republican senators asked Biden to end the mask rule and a requirement that travelers test free of COVID-19 within a day before flying to the U.S.

Airlines for America, a trade group that represents the largest U.S. airlines, said in a statement that it urged the administration to end both rules.

Dr. Graham Snyder, medical director of infection prevention at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, said it makes sense to be more cautious on planes, subway trains and buses because "they are designed to efficiently put a lot of people in one place," raising the risk of virus transmission.

Stephen Morse, an infectious-diseases expert at Columbia University, said a short-term extension of the rule is appropriate, but he warned that once it is dropped it will be hard to revive if COVID-19 cases surge again. He said there have been so many surprises with the pandemic that "a month may not be long enough."

The federal mask mandate was imposed in January 2021, days after President Joe Biden took office, and has been extended several times. The Trump administration had declined to require masks on public transportation, but airlines began requiring them in mid-2020 to reassure passengers worried about contracting the virus.

Last September, the Transportation Security Administration doubled the fines for people who refused to wear a mask on public transportation to up to $1,000 for first-time offenders and up to $3,000 for repeat violations.

The requirement became a lightning rod for confrontation between some passengers and airline crews. Since the start of 2021, airlines have reported more than 6,000 incidents of unruly passengers, most of them involving disputes over mask wearing. That history could make it unlikely for airlines to require masks once the federal rule lapses.

"I don't think the airlines have any desire to impose their own requirements at this point against a public that is weary of these restrictions," said Henry Harteveldt, a travel-industry analyst with Atmosphere Research Group.

On four flights he took this week, Harteveldt said, "I noticed there were passengers who did not wear their masks even when they were not eating or drinking, and the flight attendants did not ask them to put them on."

Flight attendants were once mostly in favor of masks, which they viewed as protecting their health. They largely supported the federal rule, which carried more weight than an airline policy.

But cabin crews are now divided over keeping the federal rule, according to their largest union, the Association of Flight Attendants, which declined to take a position on extending the mandate beyond March 18.

The continuation of the rule seemed to underscore the position of airlines and aircraft manufacturers, who have argued since the start of the pandemic that high-quality filters and strong air flow made virus transmission unlikely in plane cabins. In December, as omicron was spreading rapidly, the CEO of Southwest Airlines told Congress that masks "don't add much, if anything" to safety on planes — a claim that experts quickly disputed.

David Neeleman, who founded JetBlue and now leads another start-up carrier, Breeze Airways, said passengers "who feel uncomfortable should wear a good mask, an N95 mask," but face coverings shouldn't be mandatory.

"I would love to see it expire on (March) 18th," Neeleman told The Associated Press.

SEE **MASK** PAGE 4

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 305 CALLS ON MARCH 9

Petty Theft 1600Blk Ocean Ave 12:19 a.m.
Loud Music 1500Blk 4th St 1:42 a.m.
Critical Missing Person 1900Blk Ocean Way 1:52 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2200Blk Colorado Ave 3:45 a.m.
Loud Music 00Blk Marine Ter 3:56 a.m.
Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 6:22 a.m.
Petty Theft 1500Blk 12th St 7:19 a.m.
Speeding 9th St / Alta Ave 7:24 a.m.
Encampment 1500Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:35 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 9:06 a.m.
Vandalism 2600Blk 32nd St 9:15 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 2400Blk Centinela Ave 9:30 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 17th St / Olympic Blvd 9:38 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 700Blk Ocean Ave 9:43 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1400Blk Franklin St 9:43 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Lincoln Blvd / Wilshire Blvd 9:43 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1300Blk 2nd St 9:45 a.m.
Auto Burglary 800Blk 10th St 10:02 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2900Blk 10th St 10:17 a.m.
Elder Abuse 1100Blk 7th St 10:22 a.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 300Blk Olympic Dr 10:22 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1500Blk 2nd St 10:37 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2400Blk 11th St 10:42 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300Blk 10th St 11:22 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1500Blk Palisades Park 11:23 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:35 a.m.
General Parking Problem Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 11:38 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 11:42 a.m.
Fight Main St / Olympic Dr 11:50 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 700Blk 15th St 11:51 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1200Blk 20th St 11:54 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 2800Blk 6th St 12:08 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1500Blk 16th St 12:19 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1000Blk Ocean Ave 12:26 p.m.
Lost Property 1400Blk 14th St 12:46 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Ocean Ave / Broadway 12:49 p.m.
Vandalism 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:57 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 800Blk 3rd St 1:02 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 1:08 p.m.
Fraud 1700Blk Pier Ave 1:14 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900Blk Michigan Ave 1:24 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100Blk Fraser Ave 1:25 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600Blk Idaho Ave 1:25 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2200Blk Georgina Ave 1:26 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500Blk 11th St 1:26 p.m.
Sexual Assault 300Blk Olympic Dr 1:30 p.m.
Petty Theft 1100Blk Broadway 1:33 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600Blk Barnard Way 1:54 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Main St / Olympic Dr 1:55 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 2200Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:02 p.m.
Petty Theft 2000Blk Arizona Ave 2:06 p.m.
Fraud 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:22 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 2900Blk Delaware Ave 2:31 p.m.
Burglary 1400Blk 14th St 2:43 p.m.
Petty Theft 1900Blk 6th St 2:46 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Ocean Ave / Montana Ave 2:49 p.m.
Identity Theft 1100Blk 6th St 2:52 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Main St / Hollister Ave 2:59 p.m.
Petty Theft 1800Blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:02 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2000Blk Ocean Ave 3:07 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:08 p.m.
Drinking In Public 9th St / Broadway 3:10 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 2100Blk W 78th Pl 3:17 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2300Blk Virginia Ave 3:20 p.m.
General Parking Problem Main St / Bicknell Ave 3:20 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 1400Blk The Beach 3:43 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 200Blk Broadway 3:44 p.m.
Vandalism Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 3:54 p.m.
Child Abuse 3100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:56 p.m.
Vandalism 2200Blk Ocean Front Walk 4:15 p.m.
Vandalism 3100Blk Main St 4:33 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1400Blk 17th St 4:55 p.m.
Lost Property 2700Blk Main St 5:13 p.m.
Battery 2000Blk Arizona Ave 5:21 p.m.
Grand Theft 800Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:31 p.m.
Burglary 2200Blk Colorado Ave 5:38 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900Blk Michigan Ave 5:43 p.m.
Encampment 1500Blk 9th St 5:54 p.m.
Person With A Gun 700Blk Broadway 5:55 p.m.
Encampment 2900Blk Exposition Blvd 6:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 700Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:43 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Pier 7:01 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 1500Blk 5th St 7:54 p.m.
Death Investigation 1200Blk Euclid St 8:01 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 8:16 p.m.
Burglary 2600Blk 33rd St 8:48 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Appian Way / Moss Ave 8:59 p.m.
Petty Theft 100Blk Colorado Ave 9:12 p.m.
Petty Theft 100Blk Colorado Ave 9:13 p.m.
Auto Burglary 800Blk 7th St 9:43 p.m.
Battery 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 9:55 p.m.
Encampment 100Blk Broadway 10:03 p.m.
Loud Music Highland Ave / Navy St 10:19 p.m.
Assault 1900Blk Ocean Way 10:50 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1400Blk 4th St 11:05 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1300Blk 2nd St 11:27 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 00Blk Pico Blvd 11:32 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1400Blk 14th St 11:36 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 34 CALLS ON MARCH 9

EMS 200Blk Broadway 12:30 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 2:27 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 5th St 4:34 a.m.
EMS 300Blk Olympic Dr 6:07 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 2nd St 7:16 a.m.
EMS 3300Blk Barnard Way 8:11 a.m.
EMS 3100Blk Olympic Blvd 8:49 a.m.
EMS 3100Blk Neilson Way 9:09 a.m.
Structure Fire 2400Blk Centinela Ave 9:27 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 9:57 a.m.
EMS 300Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:10 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:24 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2300Blk Pearl St 11:29 a.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 11:37 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 10th St 12:05 p.m.
EMS 3000Blk Virginia Ave 12:20 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 500Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:30 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Broadway 1:53 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Main St / Olympic Dr 1:55 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 4th St 2:13 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:05 p.m.
EMS 2900Blk 3rd St 3:22 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk 5th St 3:22 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1400Blk 21st St 3:55 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Pico Blvd 4:04 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Kansas Ave 4:32 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 17th St 4:54 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Arizona Ave 5:58 p.m.
EMS 2300Blk 30th St 7:33 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1500Blk 5th St 7:54 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 8:24 p.m.
Public Assist 1200Blk Euclid St 8:31 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 600Blk Copeland Ct 8:59 p.m.
EMS 100Blk Broadway 10:32 p.m.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

SMPD officers were dispatched to a home in the 200 Block of Palisades Drive for a burglary. The victim contacted SMPD and relayed that someone gained entry into his home by breaking a window and was proceeding to ransack the residence. Upon arrival officers met with the victim outside the home and could hear the sound of shattering glass inside. Officers then entered the home and found the suspect yelling incoherent statements while holding a frying pan. After attempting to communicate with the suspect with no response, an officer displayed his department issued taser and ordered the suspect to place his hands on his head. He ultimately complied without force and was transported to the Santa Monica Jail. Further investigation determined that the victim returned to his home and upon stepping inside the suspect charged him with a broken bottle, but did not make contact. The suspect, Andrew Hayes, was booked for burglary, assault with a deadly weapon, and elder abuse.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Follow-home bandits attack Lamborghini driver in downtown LA

A man who had just parked his Lamborghini outside his downtown Los Angeles apartment building was pistol-whipped in an attempted robbery by follow-home bandits, police said.

Video of the violent assault was released Wednesday by Robbery-Homicide Division detectives in an effort to get the public's help in identifying the suspects.

A police statement said the victim and a friend went to an upscale restaurant in the Hollywood area on March 6. The victim gave his friend a ride home and then drove to his apartment building, noticing that a white sedan was following him.

The victim turned into an alley and parked in front of the rear entrance of the building, observing that the sedan also turned into the alley.

The white sedan and another car stopped in the middle of the alley as the victim walked toward the doorway. Two assailants got out of the vehicles while others remained in the cars.

One robber pointed a handgun at the victim and demanded his watch, police said. A struggle ensued and the victim was pistol-whipped before the assailants ran to their cars and fled.

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Legally Blonde





Photos by Erin Leigh Neumeyer

MUSICAL: Samohi Theatre to present LEGALLY BLONDE - THE MUSICAL. Accompanied by a live orchestra, Legally Blonde is an energetic and sassy musical comedy - the perfect welcome back to live theatre after a two-year pandemic pause. Reserved seating is available at samohitheatre.org. Ticket $15 (Adults) and $10 (Students). March 11, 12, 13.

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

Grocery workers set strike vote

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Grocery store workers throughout Los Angeles have scheduled a strike vote for March 21 following the breakdown of negotiations between various unions and the corporate owners of Ralphs and Vons/Pavilions/Albertsons.

According to The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), contracts with over 60,000 grocery workers expired on March 6. Negotiations between the two parties broke down on the same day and no additional negotiation sessions have been scheduled.

Grocery clerks, meat cutters, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, among other employees working at Ralphs, Albertsons, Vons, Pavilions, Stater Bros., and Gelson's are covered by separate contracts. These essential workers are represented by UFCW Locals 8GS, 135, 324, 770, 1167, 1428, and 1442, spanning from central California to the Mexican border.

Various unions will hold individual strike votes starting March 21 and any action that may result will depend on the results of those votes.

"When the pandemic hit, we showed up to make sure our communities were fed. We put our health and our families' health at risk - and now the corporate CEOs who hid in their offices and profited off of our sacrifice refuse to share the success and make our stores safer," said Rachel Fournier, a 17-year Ralphs employee. "Now they are playing dirty and violating our rights. We have no choice but to stand up for ourselves and our families."

John Votava, Director of Corporate Affairs for Kroger's Ralphs division said the company has hopes to avoid a strike.

"A strike authorization vote doesn't mean a strike will happen, but it does create unnecessary concern for our associates and communities, at a time when we should be coming together in good faith bargaining to find solutions and compromise. At Ralphs we remain focused on settling a deal with the UFCW," he said. "We have three very clear objectives; to put more money in our associates paychecks, keep groceries affordable for our customers and to maintain a sustainable future for our business. By working together, we win together."

In a statement, UFCW Local 770 said grocery workers filed Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charges with the federal government's National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) against Ralphs and Vons/Albertsons/Pavilions for violating labor laws by surveilling, intimidating, and interfering with employees for engaging in union activity, failing to bargain over bonuses offered to employees and improperly subcontracting employees' work to outside contractors, among other labor law violations.

NLRB charges against Stater Bros. were also filed after management was accused of violating federal labor law by attempting to negotiate with individual members and delaying negotiations.

editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles hospital sends medical aid to Ukrainians

A Los Angeles hospital donated a huge load of medical supplies to aid Ukrainians on Thursday.

The 200 boxes of supplies packed onto 10 pallets were being sent from Northridge Hospital Medical Center to Project C.U.R.E., a global distributor of medical supplies, said materials management manager Michael Alfaro.

Alfaro said he believed the shipment would be sent to Poland, where thousands of Ukrainians have fled Russia's invasion.

The shipment included surgical gowns and drapes, instruments, wound-care supplies, tourniquets, masks, gloves, gauze, needles syringes, antiseptics and disinfection solutions for wounds.

"We've taken these from our own emergency supply, some of which we actually overstocked due to COVID, not knowing what we're going to need, you know, during that time," said Paul H. Watkins, the hospital president.

"It's really, really good to do something positive, even though we're responding to a situation that is, you know, it's just horrible," Watkins said.

Alfaro estimated that the shipment was worth $10,000.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MASK

FROM PAGE 2

"It puts a lot of stress on our flight crews, and it puts stress on our passengers."

Shannon Schreyer of Ogden, Utah, wants the mandate killed.

"I haven't seen that it has provided any measure of effectiveness," he said, his mask hanging just below his mouth while picking up luggage at Detroit Metro Airport. "I think that the masks have been a pretty big facade from the very beginning. We're pretty much over the whole COVID thing."

Some travelers are just perplexed by all the fuss over wearing masks.

"I don't really mind, honestly — on bus, on train, on plane," said Natalie Johnston, a University of Michigan student from Philadelphia, who was waiting for a bus in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "I don't really think it's that big of a deal."

News of the extension and policy review was first reported by Reuters.

David Koenig reported from Dallas. Mike Stobbe in New York and Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed to this report.

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.

Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not So Quiet on the Western Front



Ron Heinmiller

HOTEL: On the left was the two-story, 115-room Surfrider Inn, on the right, the 8-story, 350-room Loew's Hotel.

A month ago I wrote about the construction noise at the Shores that's been ongoing for months and have a few months left to go. To my surprise, I received feedback from residents all over Santa Monica with their own noise tales of horror, two of which I shall detail later. In the meantime, I hope I've stumbled onto some humor. (Some critics might wisecrack, "It's about time.")

For example, I was talking to my friend Ron who lives in the South Tower and I could hear his building's construction noise through the phone and in return he could hear mine. I was reminded of the movie "Deliverance" which included the famous scene that became known as "Dueling banjos." For Ron and me hearing each others construction noise through our phones felt like "Dueling jackhammers."

As I've given this noise issue a fair amount of thought, albeit often with earplugs, this construction phenomenon might have begun back in the late 1980's. It was then when the two-story, 115-room Surfrider Inn was replaced by (drum roll please)...the eight-story, 350-room Loew's Hotel!

On July 16, 1989 Loew's opened much to the delight of many Santa Monicans, including me. As I exuberantly exclaimed to my wife it was exciting that a major New York corporation thought enough of our quaint little beach town to bring glamour and sophistication here. (Naive as I was, Little did I anticipate what might follow.)

As a small example of this upper-class lifestyle I'm reminded of Loew's lavish Sunday brunch. To my eyes it was fit for an upper-crust crowd from Madison Avenue the likes of which some Santa Monicans might not have seen before. I know I hadn't. The lobby was converted into an elegant brunch dinning room for the then unheard-of price of $50. (Though Santa Monica was known to be a casual beach town, nobody wore flip flops, at least not having paid bank for brunch.)

In the middle of the elegant room was a large, gorgeous ice sculpture. The upscale brunch featured: lobster, crab, shrimp, and two carving stations manned by executive chefs with large knives, one for roast turkey and one for roast beef; extensive types of gourmet salads and mouth-watering pastries. (As it happens, any of which I could go for right now.)

The brunch was a huge success and, unfortunately, so was the hotel. I say that because of the myriad of hotels that followed. They brought jobs, tourist dollars and the all-important bed tax which filled city coffers. Though some will disagree, the city council seemed to be addicted to the newly found moolah and this led to more and more hotels and adios quaint and quiet Santa Monica. (Lest I be labeled "anti-progress," I'm with Mark Twain who said, "I'm in favor of progress, it's change I don't like.")

Back to the Shores' noise, one of my neighbors emailed me saying it was so intense it would have made "Hanging out under the runway at LAX seem like camping next to a mountain stream." As for the jackhammers, "It sounded like they would be coming right through the wall at any second." That brings me to the many emails I received from readers cathartically venting their noise nightmares from all over our city.

Janine, in the mid-Wilshire area, wrote about the cacophony and also sent me a video of the construction at her apartment building. Not only are there scaffolds and jackhammer palooza but there's also the constant pounding of steel doing what I'm not sure but would drive anyone bonkers. I was gratified Janine got a kick out of my column and marvel at how well she's dealing with it all. (As opposed to my whining.)

Doug, who grew up in Santa Monica, lives on Pico and shared his tale of noise troubles starting with the removal of asphalt at the Santa Monica Civic to turn a former parking lot into an athletic field. The field looks terrific but Doug describes the noise he endured as horrific. And now the bowling alley apparently will become condos and, Doug, who fortunately still has his sense of humor, jokes that ear plugs strong enough to block out that noise, haven't been invented yet.

At the Shores, not only are residents subjected to the construction noise Monday through Friday, but on Sundays, for over a year, they are blasted with amplified music from Ocean View Park. Councilman Phil Brock is diligently trying to get legislation that helps rectify the problem. (How about no amplified music in public parks that abut residential housing?)

The Shores' manager, Leon, assured me that when the North and South Towers are painted they'll be like brand new. I wish I could say the same for me.

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



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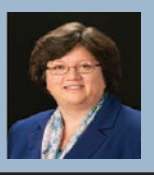
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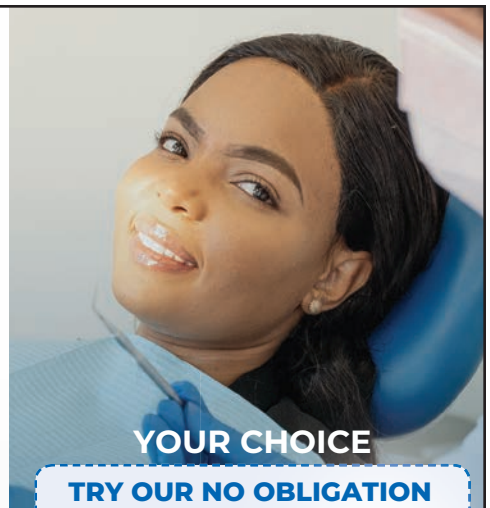
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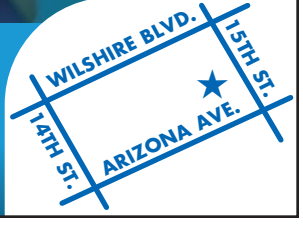
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UKRAINE

FROM PAGE 1

blue and yellow, and the City tweeted that this symbolism was "to share the City's support for the people of Ukraine as they face unimaginable devastation. To every community and staff member who is Ukrainian or has family in the region, we stand in solidarity with you." A day prior, hundreds of protesters gathered on the Third Street Promenade and called for an end to the bloodshed in Ukraine and stronger national sanctions against Russia.

Many local businesses and organizations have stepped in to raise money for relief efforts in the Ukraine.

Rustic Canyon and the Gourmandise School participated in a charity baking fundraiser organized by Gather for Good. Montana flower shop Holy Chic is donating 100 percent of the revenue from its blue and yellow flower arrangements to the non-profit organization Razom, which is providing medical aid in Ukraine. The Santa Monica College Foundation has started a SMC Ukrainian Student Relief Fund to support Ukrainian students who are unable to return home and need additional financial support. More information is available at santamonicacollegefoundation.org/ukrainian_student_relief

Clara@smdp.com



Courtesy photos

FLOWER: Locals gathered sunflowers to present to City Council as part of their show of support.



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Some minority groups missed at higher rate in 2020 US census

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

Black, Hispanic and American Indian residents were missed at higher rates than a decade ago during the 2020 census, according to a report released Thursday that evaluated how well the once-a-decade head count tallied every U.S. resident.

Even though the 2020 census missed an unexpectedly small percentage of the total U.S. population given the unprecedented challenges it faced, the increase in undercounts among some minority groups prompted an outcry from civil rights leaders who blamed political interference by the Trump administration, which tried unsuccessfully to add a citizenship question to the census form and cut field operations short.

"These numbers are devastating. Once again, we see an overcount of white Americans and an undercount of Black and Hispanic Americans," National Urban League CEO Marc Morial said on a call with reporters. "I want to express in the strongest possible terms our outrage."

The results of U.S. Census Bureau's Post-Enumeration Survey showed that most racial and ethnic minorities were overlooked at statistically significant higher rates than a decade ago, with the Asian population being an exception. The survey measures whether certain populations were undercounted or overrepresented in the census. Overcounts take place, for example, if someone owns a vacation home and is counted there as well as at a permanent home address.

The Black population in the 2020 census had a net undercount of 3.3%, while it was almost 5% for Hispanics and 5.6% for American Indians and Native Alaskans living on reservations. Those identifying as some other race had a net undercount of 4.3%. The non-Hispanic white population had a net overcount of 1.6%, and Asians had a net overcount of 2.6%, according to the results.

In the 2010 census, by comparison, the Black population had a net undercount of more than 2%, while it was 1.5% for the Hispanic population. There was almost a 4.9% undercount for American Indian and Alaskan Natives living on reservations, and it was 1.6% for people identifying as some other race and 0.08% for Asians. The non-Hispanic white population had a net overcount of 0.8%.

The 2020 census missed 0.24% of the entire U.S. population, a rate that wasn't statistically significant, while it missed 0.01% in the 2010 census.

The census figures help determine the distribution of $1.5 trillion in federal spending each year as well as how many congressional seats each state gets. Any undercounts in various populations can shortchange the amount of funding and political representation they get over the next decade.

In the years leading up to the 2020 census, advocates worried that a failed attempt by the Trump administration to add a citizenship question to the census questionnaire would scare off Hispanics and immigrants from participating, whether they were in the country legally or not. The Trump administration also unsuccessfully tried to get the Census Bureau to exclude people in the country illegally from numbers used for divvying up congressional seats among the states and cut short the schedule for field operations that had been extended because of the pandemic.

During a conference call Thursday, Census Bureau Director Robert Santos said many Latino communities throughout the U.S. suffered during the pandemic from joblessness and housing insecurity, and that played a role in the undercount. But he added that the Trump administration's actions also may have had an impact.

"I'm personally not surprised to see the results we see today," said Santos, who was sworn into the position at the beginning of the year.

The severe undercount of the Hispanic population helps explain why three states with large Latino populations underperformed in the 2020 census, with Arizona failing to gain an extra seat, Florida only gaining only a single seat and Texas getting only two seats, said Arturo Vargas, CEO of NALEO Educational Fund.

"It was startling to me, the level of undercount," Vargas said. "We knew there was going to be an undercount, but the extent of it took me by surprise."

About 70% of Native Americans live on reservations. James Tucker, the chairman of a Census Bureau advisory committee, estimated the undercount translates to at least 100,000 Native Americans on reservations not counted and more than a $300 million loss in federal funding for Indian Country annually.

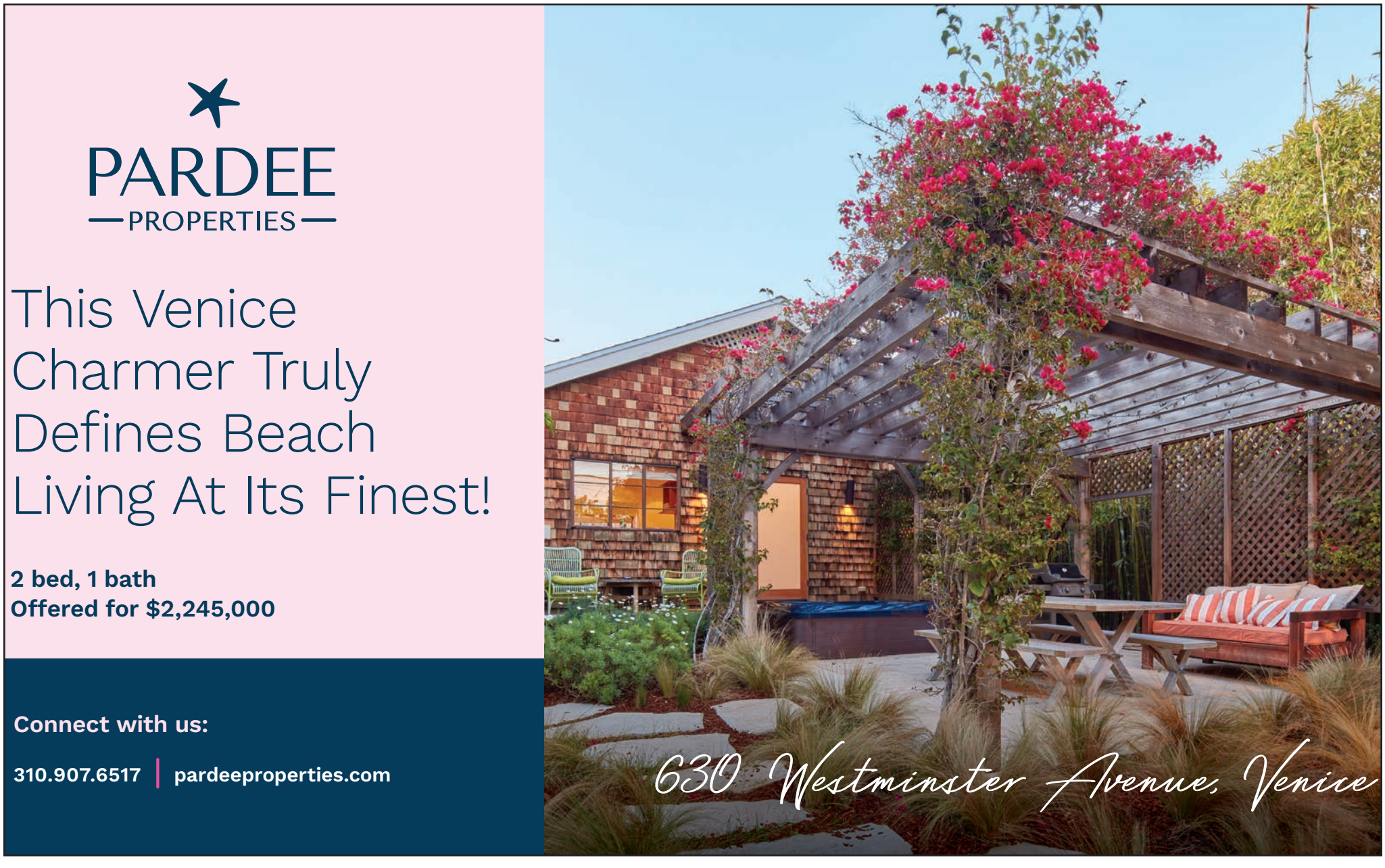
"This undercount is not new — it is a continuous cycle of erasure of Native people from society," said Lycia Maddocks, a citizen of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe in Arizona who is political director of NDN Collective, a South Dakota-based advocacy group. "In a practical sense, an undercount means that Native people are not looked at as a significant voting block when in reality, our population has proven itself to be the margin of victory in key states such as Arizona."

The pandemic disrupted census operations and schedules, and it made residents wary of opening their doors to answer questions from census takers. Wildfires in the West and hurricanes in the Gulf Coast during the door-knocking phase of the head count sent residents fleeing from their homes.

The Post-Enumeration showed that 18.8 million people weren't counted correctly in the 2020 census. Although some of them may have been missed, others were counted using a statistical technique that fills in missing data.

After the results of the Post-Enumeration

SEE **CENSUS** PAGE 11



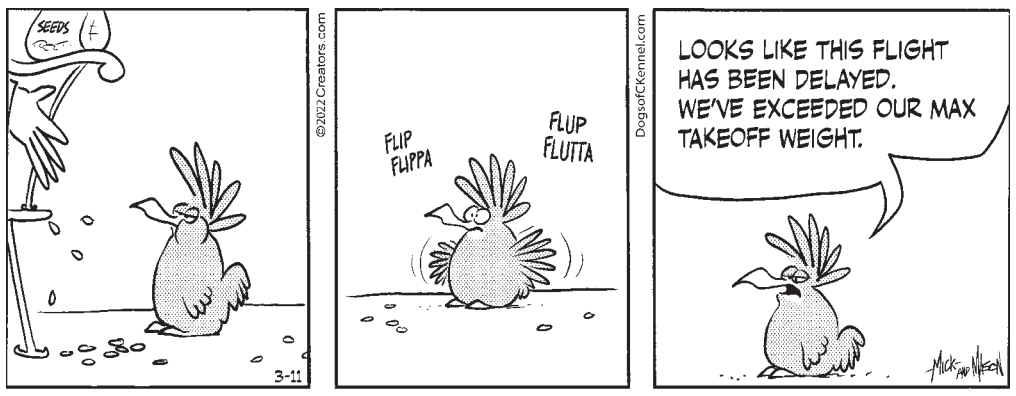
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



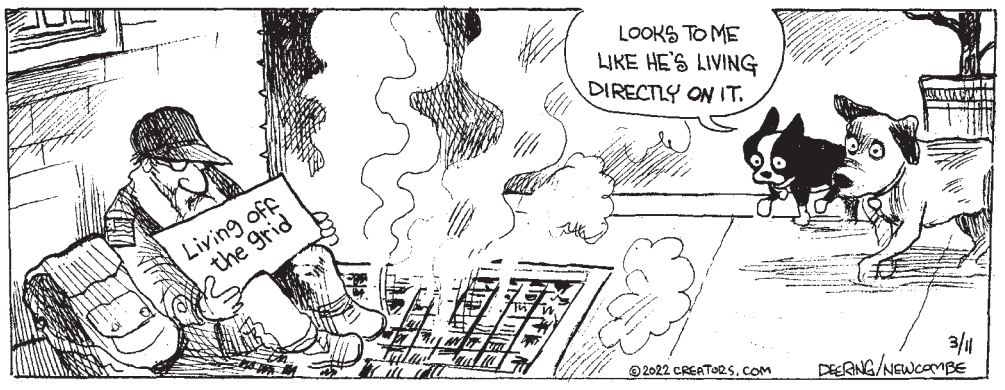
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



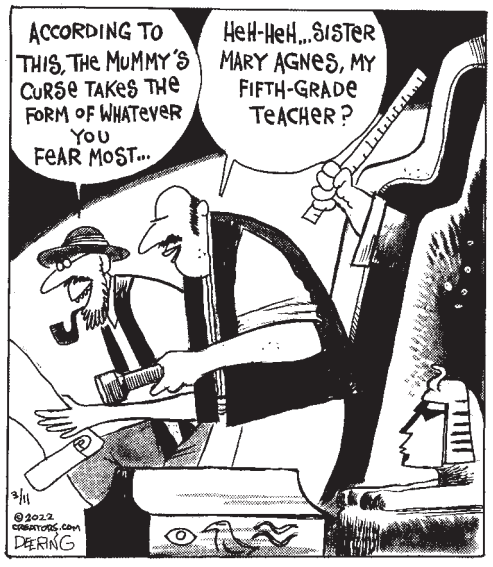
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.7°

FRIDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 0.5-1ft Shin to knee
Another day of trace NW swell. Breezy offshore flow likely for the morning.

SATURDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 0.5-1ft Shin to knee
Another day of trace NW swell.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 70. North northeast wind around 10 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 71. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/03/11	Fri	03:46 AM	4.06	H
2022/03/11	Fri	12:07 PM	0.35	L
2022/03/11	Fri	7:45 PM	3.28	H
2022/03/11	Fri	11:19 PM	2.92	L
2022/03/12	Sat	05:03 AM	4.31	H
2022/03/12	Sat	12:46 PM	0.00	L
2022/03/12	Sat	7:48 PM	3.47	H
2022/03/13	Sun	12:09 AM	2.56	L
2022/03/13	Sun	06:57 AM	4.67	H
2022/03/13	Sun	2:17 PM	-0.28	L
2022/03/13	Sun	8:59 PM	3.65	H
2022/03/14	Mon	01:44 AM	2.16	L
2022/03/14	Mon	07:39 AM	5.03	H
2022/03/14	Mon	2:44 PM	-0.49	L
2022/03/14	Mon	9:13 PM	3.86	H
2022/03/15	Tue	02:16 AM	1.74	L
2022/03/15	Tue	08:15 AM	5.31	H
2022/03/15	Tue	3:09 PM	-0.61	L
2022/03/15	Tue	9:29 PM	4.11	H
2022/03/16	Wed	02:48 AM	1.32	L
2022/03/16	Wed	08:50 AM	5.47	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball calottery
Draw Date: 3/9
13 22 34 51 67
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 112 M

calottery MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/8
7 18 38 58 64
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 3/9
19 34 36 41 42
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 24 M

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 3/9
14 18 19 20 29

calottery Daily3
Draw Date: 3/10
MIDDAY: 6 2 8
Draw Date: 3/9
EVENING: 1 0 5

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 3/9
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:46.49

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 11)

You'll take part in a race. Many will drop out before the finish line, but not you. You'll eventually end up among the winners. Your tenacity will also net lucrative arrangements and gloriously beneficial relationships. Avoid attracting unwanted jealousy; remain low-key about your abundant blessings. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 19, 30 and 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The one you love can hurt you with so much as a look. Knowing this, you recognize the similar power you hold and will wield that power with gentle compassion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Talent is everywhere and what you witness will get the wheels of your mind whirring. People are doing the unimaginable, though once you experience it, imagining certainly gets easier.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have many interests. Even if the people around you don't share the same passions as you, they appreciate your wide range. For your sake and theirs, keep on exploring!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some people listen; others just wait for the chance to talk again. You're an attentive listener who deserves the same. Today it's better to just avoid the known offenders who can't or won't connect.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The day has a confessional quality, including admissions you'd rather not hear. As for your own information, you like to keep it on a need-to-know basis. Later you'll leverage all the mystery you've cultivated.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The potential for tedium is too high for your liking, so whatever you can do to keep things interesting is strongly favored. Elements of humor, mischief, creativity... even chaos... can help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Saying "sorry" doesn't put things back the way they were before, but it can give the closure necessary to start again. Do they deserve your forgiveness? Debatable. Forgive anyway. You deserve the peace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Being around different styles will make you appreciate your own. It will also inspire you to change a few things. You're the best kind of impressionable right now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The answer will involve putting people to work. This is more effective than any other way of starting a relationship. Through work, bonds are woven, loyalties forged.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People say it's not about the cards you're dealt, but how you play them -- not entirely true. Good cards win. Bad cards can win too, but only if you bluff. Today's game will be tricky; perform and prevail.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The secret to success is... there is no secret. It's the same thing everyone knows. Work and try. Improv. Try again. When your offer is what they need and want -- success!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everyone has a self-image and a public image. These two images will align in a curious way. Whatever you do, do it for you. Please yourself and don't look for validation from any other.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

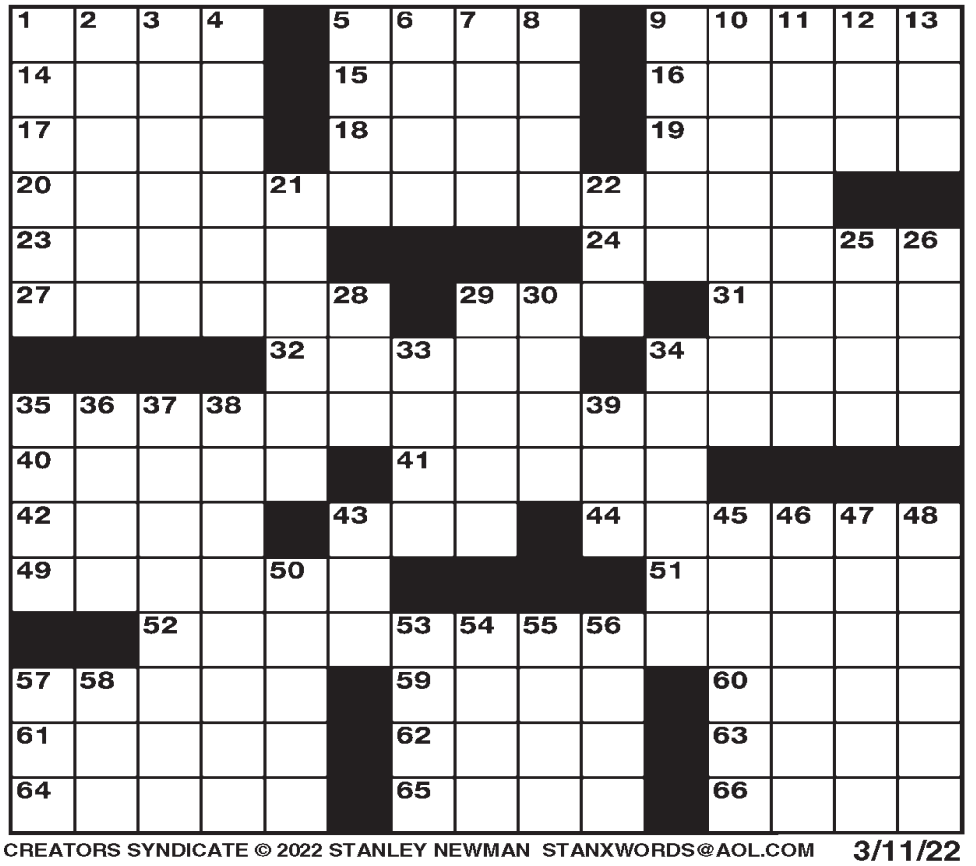
7	5	3			8			
	1				2		5	
		9	4				1	3
				2		3		
5			7	9	4			1
		8		3				
3	7				1	9		
	6		2				7	
			5			6	3	2

Newsday Crossword

MONTHING ALONG by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Bartlett kin
5 Concocted, as a tall tale
9 Avaricious
14 Horror film helper
15 "Not so fast!"
16 Fawn over
17 Bookbinder's buy
18 Alehouses
19 Unwelcome weather
20 Wives of marquises
23 "Hello" or "Goodbye"
24 Unleash
27 Furniture artisans
29 DC's Dupont or Grant
31 Surveyor's calculation
32 English racetrack town
34 Computer mode
35 Error-finding apps
40 Cute little crosswords
41 Bit of a zipper
42 __ *raison* (sensible: Fr.)
43 SpaceX regulator
44 Six-legged buzzer
49 Electronic dance music genre
51 Mouselike mammal
52 Church's hemispherical roof
57 Sushi bar eel
59 Seeping slowly
60 Apple voice
61 Flower fragment
62 Classmates.com user
63 Ceaselessly
64 Carol septet
65 The MTV Generation
66 "Holder" of highlights

DOWN
1 Whopper alternative
2 Certain Sioux
3 Grow to dislike
4 December display
5 The US joined it in '41
6 Lamentful comment
7 American downhill Olympic champ (2010)
8 No trouble at all
9 In no longer
10 Babbling
11 Gets sprung
12 Common B-school prerequisite
13 Despite that
21 Wings of Muslim palaces
22 Kind of camera
25 Unwelcome look
26 Pup squeaks
28 Cucumber buyer and mud maker
29 Oreo ingredient
30 Texter's preface
33 *Chica, brevemente*
34 Religious rift
35 Common B-school prerequisite
36 Paris' __ Gauche
37 Unconfirmed facts
38 State said to resemble a mitten
39 Truncation indication
43 Dandy dresser
45 One in a posse
46 Attain prominence
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48 Rotating rapidly
50 On-hand group
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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | MARCH 11

ALICE BEASLEY QUILTS EXHIBITION
The California Heritage Museum is pleased to present a 30 year retrospective by Oakland quilt artist Alice Beasley. Quilt artist Alice Beasley has been making quilts since 1988. Fabric is her chosen medium of expression through which she creates realistic portraits of people and objects. The exhibition will open on Friday, March 11 and conclude on Sunday, June 12, open Wednesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a MEET THE ARTIST event on Saturday, March 12 from 2 to 5 p.m.

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

SAMOHI THEATRE TO PRESENT LEGALLY BLONDE - THE MUSICAL
Accompanied by a live orchestra, Legally Blonde is an energetic and sassy musical comedy - the perfect welcome back to live theatre after a two-year pandemic pause. Reserved seating is available at samohitheatre.org. Ticket $15 (Adults) and $10 (Students). 7 p.m.

SATURDAY | MARCH 12

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

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

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

SAMOHI THEATRE TO PRESENT LEGALLY BLONDE - THE MUSICAL
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SUNDAY | MARCH 13

ORCHESTRA SANTA MONICA CONCERT
Orchestra Santa Monica is bringing the full symphony orchestra to perform in the heart of Santa Monica. Led by Music Director Roger Kalia, the orchestra will perform Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9 and the Brahms Violin Concerto (soloist Nathan Cole). The concert will open with Seven O'Clock Shout, written by Valerie Coleman to honor front line workers. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Broad Stage, 1310 11th St.

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

SAMOHI THEATRE TO PRESENT LEGALLY BLONDE - THE MUSICAL
Accompanied by a live orchestra, Legally Blonde is an energetic and sassy musical comedy - the perfect welcome back to live theatre after a two-year pandemic pause. Reserved seating is available at samohitheatre.org. Ticket $15 (Adults) and $10 (Students). 3 p.m.

MONDAY | MARCH 14

MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT MONDAYS
Competitors have just one minute to complete the challenge, with each week bringing a different challenge. Play solo or with friends and family! Top 10 times posted weekly. For families. Speed Eraser Competitors get 1 minute to bounce 10 pencils into a mug. Each pencil needs to be bounced off the eraser portion and into a mug. Main Library. Register at https://bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps.

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

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5415

Rainforest magic

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

Algae
Ambush
Ants
Aril
Bacteria
Bark
Bats
Bees
Berries
Bird
Branch
Carnivore
Damp
Endangered
Fauna
Fern
Figs
Frogs
Fungus
Green
Heat
Lizard
Mist
Mosquitoes
Moth
Mulch
Orchid
Palms
Parasite
Precious
Python
Smell
Snakes
Spider
Staghorn
Sunlight
Taste
Tropical
Vine

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Conservation program

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MASKS

FROM PAGE 1

amend Drati's original suggestions.

Because of the swift turnaround between the Wednesday decision and Monday implementation, Kean suggested the week of March 14-18 have a lenient absentee policy to allow parents to gauge their level of comfort with students returning to unmasked classrooms.

"We have a large number of people that are weighing independent study. It's Wednesday; they have to decide by Monday," Kean said. "I really encourage the District to do something with these individuals to give them time to make a decision … The people that want masks off Monday: I get it. But imagine if you have a kid that's medically fragile, and you're trying to make a decision, and you've been given 72 hours. Let's give these people some time to make a decision."

Kean's second request was that the School District focus on ways to keep students safe for the week following Spring Break, a time when many families travel and there may be a higher likelihood of COVID-19 spread. Kean's suggestion was that all school sites administer PCR tests upon return to class and mandate masks the first week after Spring Break – April 18-22.

Third, Kean said he wanted to see the District enforce policies that would see asymptomatic people who have tested positive and/or had close contacts who tested positive continue to mask with medical-grade masks: "I do not feel we've done a great job with that."

Next, Kean addressed the issue of bullying, both of students who claim they have been victims due to continued mask wearing and those who say they've been bullied because they do not wear them.

Finally, Kean requested the District continue to supply "the best quality masks for our students who are medically fragile if they need it."

Kean said he had hoped to be celebrating the lifting of mask mandates, but ongoing tension and incivility between parents made it impossible to have a jovial atmosphere at the meeting.

"I know people are saying, 'Oh, they're just scared of COVID.' No, they're not scared of COVID. There are people in our community who are scared of dying," Kean said. "I've spoken with these people. They're not scared of COVID; they're scared that COVID could cause them to die or that their child with diabetes could die. That's — that's real." Kean said he would personally have supported waiting to lift the mask mandate until following Spring Break, but as a board member he was willing to follow direction from the Superintendent.

"As a board member, I do believe that our community is ready to move to the next step, which is that personal responsibility to choose what they want to do — whether you want to follow the recommendation to keep masks up or whether you want to unmask," Kean said. "I will support the Superintendent's recommendation, because I think our community is at that point."

Although not formalized, other Board Members in attendance appeared supportive of Kean's five points. All Board Members in attendance touched on the issue of bullying.

"I support the Superintendent's recommendation, and I support John's call for no bullying anywhere, in any direction, and making sure that folks have time to adapt … and move their lives in a place that is safe for them within our system," Board Member Craig Foster said.

One teacher who spoke at the meeting, Claudia Bautista-Nicholas, who also represents the Santa Monica Malibu Classroom Teachers Association, spoke to urge empathy for those who wish to continue masking.

"We all have been affected by this virus and, although I am happy that our current risk in LA County is slow, the fear that many feel regarding this virus is very real. As a union, we firmly believe in following the science and the guidance of our LA County DPH [Department of Public Health] officials," Bautista Nicholas said. "We share their optimism as we see the declining COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations that allow us to see the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel. However, we need to keep in mind that approximately 32 percent of our overall community and a higher percentage of our Spanish speaking community still feel uneasy about lifting this indoor mask mandate. So, I urge you and I urge our community to be empathetic to the needs of others in their community and to respect their right to follow the strongly recommended guidance to continue masking indoors."

Drati's recommendation followed a survey of about 5,200 community members during the first week of March, after LA County and the State of California announced the lifting of mandatory masking rules.

The majority of those who took the survey — 68.2 percent — indicated they would "support SMMUSD aligning with the County's updated guidance regarding indoor masking from Required to Strongly Recommended." However, a much narrower majority — 50.8 percent — said they wanted mask mandates lifted on March 14, which is as early as LA County recommendations allowed. Roughly a third of those who responded — 31.1 percent — said the District should lift mandatory masking at the end of the 2021-22 school year. The remaining 18.1 percent of respondents split the difference, saying the SMMUSD should require masks until one week following spring break: April 25.

SMMUSD staff remained unable to provide data that showed how responses varied between parents, teachers and students surveyed. Nearly three-quarters of respondents were parents, while 15.5 percent were students and about 11 percent were staff.

Board Members Maria Leon-Vazaquez, Laurie Lieberman, Jennifer Smith, Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Kean and Foster voted in favor of the resolution, as did the student Board Member representing Samohi, Nathan Castanaza. Board Member Keith Coleman was absent for the vote.

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CENSUS

FROM PAGE 7

Survey were released, dozens of members of the Congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to the Census Bureau asking how it planned to investigate the undercount.

"A Census that does not accurately represent Black communities robs them of their equal share of federal resources in education, health care, housing, nutrition assistance, and many other areas — perpetuating systemic racism," the letter said.

HOT DOG

FROM PAGE 1

experience that people seek out, all while not losing our authenticity.

"We are confident our guests will love our refreshed look which will set us up for the next 75 years of business," Johnston continued. "While the building will be getting the make-over it deserves, the location itself will still maintain its nostalgic feel with smiling Hotdoggers ready to serve you."

If the project sticks to its ambitious timeline, it could be operational in time for Memorial Day; the project is estimated to take two months from start to finish once demolition was cleared to begin, according to estimates from the California Coastal Commission.

emily@smdp.com



SMDP file photo

ORIGINAL: The former shack had uneven floors and was too small for the number of employees.

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

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