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TUESDAY
12.01.20
Volume 20 Issue 16
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Laughing Matters
Better late than never.
Page 4

Police and Fire Logs
See the calls for service.
Pages 2 and 3

SMPD welcomes Jack the K9

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Police Department has added a new canine to the team that will allow it to conduct sweeps for guns and other explosive devices like never before.

Most police dogs are known for their ability to apprehend criminals on the run or find stationary explosives in public places but Jack, SMPD's newest canine recruit, can sniff out weapon parts, ammunition, carbon, gun oils, cleaning solvents, fireworks, black powder and several other components related to firearms from nearly 50 yards away.

Jack came to Santa Monica by way of Anniston, Alabama, according to his handler Officer Elaina Hassan, who has spent the last 12 years doing everything she can to ensure she would become Jack's lifelong partner.

"To be a part of the canine unit, you have to not only show interest, you have to also take a bunch of different trainings on your own time — whether they're related to explosives, canine-related apprehension or anything as far as dog-obedience behaviors," Hassan said. "There's really a plethora of different types of trainings because you have to put yourself against so many other amazing police officers. So, you have to kind of stand out."

Since Hassan and Jack joined forces, the two have certainly stood out.



Courtesy photo

K9: Jack poses with his handler Officer Elaina Hassan.

With so many events canceled during the pandemic, Jack is often spotted out on the pier or in shopping areas like Beverly Hills with nose and tail in the air.

"Vapor Dogs are able to track

SEE **JACK THE K9** PAGE 11

'Winterlit' returns to Downtown Santa Monica



Courtesy photos

TREE: Residents can see some holiday cheer in the decorations and trees available throughout the city.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

COVID-19 has put a damper on the holiday season but Winterlit has returned to Downtown Santa Monica to brighten up 2020.

The city's annual Winter festivities will not feature ice skating this year due to the pandemic but Shannon Daut, Santa Monica's manager of Cultural Affairs, said there's plenty to enjoy on the Promenade and Pier between now

SEE **WINTERLIT** PAGE 11

Playgrounds close and store capacities decrease as cases spike

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

As daily COVID-19 case rates reach record highs, L.A. County issued new health orders closing playgrounds, limiting business capacities and banning all gatherings between households, from Nov. 30 to Dec. 20.

Essential businesses are limited to 35 percent capacity, non-essential businesses are limited to 20 percent capacity, and outdoor fitness centers are limited to 50 percent. The Santa Monica Farmer's Market will also reduce customer capacity by 50 percent.

All Santa Monica playground equipment will be closed for three weeks. Other public facilities will close between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. in accordance with the County's curfew.

"One of the issues that we've heard from some of the parks departments that are running the playgrounds is that they have been extraordinarily crowded," said County Public Health Director, Dr. Barbara Ferrer, in a Nov. 30 press briefing. "Many times children are seen at the playground without wearing their face coverings interacting with people who aren't in their households."

Muscle Beach will remain open for now while the City awaits guidance on outdoor gym equipment from the County Department of Public Health, according to City Chief Communications Officer Debbie Lee.

SEE **COVID-19** PAGE 6



Courtesy image

CONCERNS: It will take several weeks to see if the Thanksgiving holiday worsened the already growing surge in COVID-19 cases.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL VIA TELECONFERENCE Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

SUBJECT: **Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Text of the City's Zoning Ordinance to Prohibit Certain Fast Food Restaurants in Establishments with Frontage on the Third Street Promenade**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to introduce for first reading an ordinance amending the text of the City's Zoning Ordinance prohibiting certain fast food restaurants in establishments with frontage on the Third Street Promenade.

On October 21, 2020, the Planning Commission adopted a Resolution recommending to the City Council that the Council make the proposed amendments to the text of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to prohibit certain fast food restaurants in establishments with frontage on the Third Street Promenade.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020, AT 6:30 P.M.**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the City Council and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal but participants may also join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/xhttakyv or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 3163201 #)

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give public comment must make that request via email to councilmtgitems@smgov.net. Written public comment submitted before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Additionally, public comment can be made by phone at **(310) 458-8423.** Remarks from the public are limited to a total of 6 minutes per City Council meeting, with a maximum of 2 minutes per agenda item; under some circumstances, Council may change the maximum to 1 minute per agenda item.

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: Fast Food Prohibition

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Tony Kim, City Planning Manager, at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at tony.kim@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 218 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 29

Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1900blk Olympic Blvd 12:08 a.m.
Party Complaint 700blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:27 a.m.
Runaway 2300blk 20th St 2:23 a.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 3:08 a.m.
Encampment 600blk Kensington Rd 7:14 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Michigan Ave 7:18 a.m.
Burglary 1200blk 21st St 7:37 a.m.
Loud Music 2800blk Ocean Front Walk 8:43 a.m.
Grand Theft 2300blk Schader Dr 8:54 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 200blk Montana Ave 9:00 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 11th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:52 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk 11th St 9:56 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk 10th St 10:13 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk 10th St 10:13 a.m.
Auto Burglary 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:16 a.m.
Burglary 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 10:17 a.m.
Auto Burglary Now 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:18 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk 10th St 10:23 a.m.
Loud Music 7th St / Montana Ave 10:35 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 2000blk Ocean Ave 10:40 a.m.
Overdose 1900blk 18th St 10:48 a.m.
Burglary 1400blk 23rd St 10:55 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 11:01 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 11:04 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 3rd St / Idaho Ave 11:12 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 400blk Colorado Ave 11:21 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 26th St / Olympic Blvd 11:22 a.m.
Burglary 2300blk 34th St 11:48 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 11:53 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 12:01 p.m.
Found Property 2400blk 21st St 12:36 p.m.
Loud Music 2700blk Barnard Way 12:38 p.m.
Burglary 1000blk 12th St 12:39 p.m.
Auto Burglary 800blk 3rd St 1:02 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor 1600blk Ocean Ave 1:10 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor 1600blk Ocean Ave 1:12 p.m.
Burglary 1000blk 14th St 1:29 p.m.
Fight 300blk Santa Monica Pier 1:34 p.m.
Battery 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:37 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1100blk 12th St 1:46 p.m.
Burglary 2800blk Main St 1:56 p.m.
Petty Theft 800blk 4th St 1:57 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:08 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:08 p.m.
Loud Music 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:11 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1300blk 18th St 2:38 p.m.
Burglary 1100blk 15th St 2:54 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:56 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 3:24 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:47 p.m.
Drinking In Public 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:15 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 28th St / Ocean Park Blvd 4:20 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 500blk San Vicente Blvd 4:30 p.m.
Battery 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 4:41 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 4:51 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 200blk Santa Monica Pier 4:59 p.m.
Domestic Violence Now 22nd St / Delaware Ave 5:01 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pier 5:04 p.m.
Encampment Lincoln Blvd / Pine St 5:46 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 500blk Wilshire Blvd 5:50 p.m.
Injured Person 2800blk Main St 6:09 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor 1600blk Ocean Ave 6:29 p.m.
Arson Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 6:34 p.m.
Encampment 200blk Santa Monica Pier 6:48 p.m.
Loud Music 300blk Arizona Ave 6:49 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 4th St / Idaho Ave 7:08 p.m.
Petty Theft 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 7:18 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 400blk Wilshire Blvd 8:00 p.m.
Loud Music 900blk 12th St 8:17 p.m.
Petty Theft 2000blk 14th St 8:23 p.m.
Petty Theft 1200blk Franklin St 8:33 p.m.
Petty Theft 1200blk 4th St 8:34 p.m.
Arson 900blk Palisades Beach Rd 10:23 p.m.
Public Intoxication 600blk Wilshire Blvd 10:35 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 14th St / Arizona Ave 10:55 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:56 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:13 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Ave 11:13 p.m.
Fight 600blk Wilshire Blvd 11:33 p.m.

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 28 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 29

EMS 1400blk 16th St 12:00 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Franklin St 2:33 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2000blk Colorado Ave 3:20 a.m.
EMS 300blk California Ave 3:45 a.m.
EMS 400blk 21st St 4:06 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 12th St 6:25 a.m.
EMS 400blk Colorado Ave 7:03 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 7:21 a.m.
EMS 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:48 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Arizona Ave 8:26 a.m.
Electrical Fire - No Fire Visible 800blk 16th St 9:54 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 700blk Wilshire Blvd 9:55 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 2nd St 10:13 a.m.
EMS 1900blk 18th St 10:48 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Expo Line 11:34 a.m.
EMS 300blk California Ave 11:37 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 11:42 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 1:32 p.m.
EMS 400blk 23rd St 1:46 p.m.
EMS 900blk 9th St 2:18 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 10th St 2:26 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Arizona Ave 4:13 p.m.
EMS 700blk Raymond Ave 4:23 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Berkeley St 5:47 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900blk 14th St 5:58 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Main St 6:07 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 6:31 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 6:55 p.m.
Transformer Fire 4th St / Idaho Ave 7:00 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Arizona Ave 7:03 p.m.
EMS 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 7:11 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Wilshire Blvd 7:51 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 900blk 3rd St 8:03 p.m.

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SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANTA MONICA MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **Bid #21.05.SMS – Lincoln Middle School – HVAC Project at Lincoln Middle School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$7,000,000.00 to $7,700,000.00** and includes school modernization including HVAC improvements, electrical improvements, plumbing improvements, replacement of campus wide fire alarm system, and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be submitted electronically as per the instructions included in the bidding documents on or before 1/12/2021 no later than 2:00 PM. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 12/8/20 at 1:30 PM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 12/28/20 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at http://fip.smmusd.org/contractors.html.

Mandatory Job Walk: 12/8/20 at 1:30 PM

Job Walk location: Lincoln Middle School located in Santa Monica, CA – **All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the front of the school administration building, 1501 California Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location. Due to COVID-19 all attending contractors must bring and wear face masks/coverings at all times while on the site and adhere to social distancing safety requirements during the meeting or they will be asked to leave the property.**

Electronic Bid Submittal Deadline: 1/12/21 at 2:00pm

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop-Griego at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANTA MONICA MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **Bid #21.03.SMS – Grant Elementary School – HVAC Project at Grant Elementary School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$4,000,000.00 to $4,400,000.00** and includes school modernization including site work, interior and exterior accessibility (ADA) upgrades, HVAC improvements, electrical improvements, plumbing improvements, replacement of campus wide fire alarm system, replacement of doors, interior accessibility (ADA) upgrades, and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be submitted electronically as per the instructions included in the bidding documents on or before 1/5/2021 no later than 2:00 PM. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 12/8/20 at 10:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 12/18/20 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at http://fip.smmusd.org/contractors.html.

Mandatory Job Walk: 12/8/20 at 10:30 AM

Job Walk location: Grant Elementary School located in Santa Monica, CA – **All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the front of the school administration building, 2368 Pearl Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location. Due to COVID-19 all attending contractors must bring and wear face masks/coverings at all times while on the site and adhere to social distancing safety requirements during the meeting or they will be asked to leave the property.**

Electronic Bid Submittal Deadline: 1/5/21 at 2:00pm

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop-Griego at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.



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AWARD WINNER

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rudy Was Dyeing Out There

Editor's Note: Due to Thanksgiving printing disruptions, Laughing Matters is appearing in today's paper.

Post Thanksgiving, I've likely put on five pounds adding to my pandemic poundage. (Yikes!) That brings me to Rudy Giuliani (talk about an awkward segue) who has a myriad of problems but weight isn't one of them. (Whereas being in the Borat 2 movie awaiting a massage in a hotel bedroom laying on his back with his hand down his pants IS!)

Poor Rudy. After comforting the country through the horrific 9/11 terrorist attack he was dubbed "America's Mayor;" Queen Elizabeth II named Giuliani "Knight of the British Empire for his outstanding help to the bereaved British families in New York;" and he was on the cover of Time Magazine as "Man of the Year!" Now he belongs on the cover of Clown Magazine. (Which is really a magazine.) Sadly, Rudy's gone from "America's Mayor" to "Trump's Chump.")

In 2002, after retiring from the Mayor's office, Rudy founded Giuliani Partners, a security consulting firm and overnight became a terrorism intelligence "expert" raking in an estimated $45 million. (It's ludicrous because Rudy was a total intelligence flop.)

February 1993 marked the first WTC terrorist attack when a truck bomb detonated below the North Tower intending to send it crashing into the South Tower. It failed but killed seven people. Ominously, the terrorists warned they would be back but Rudy seemingly ignored it.

A large majority of EMT workers and fire fighters still blame Rudy for not upgrading equipment between the two attacks. Also real experts wanted the Command Center placed underground in Brooklyn but lazy Rudy wanted to be able to walk to it and thus left it in the WTC. (We all know how well that turned out.)

In 2008, egotistical Rudy ran for the GOP presidential nomination, spending $50 million and winning a grand total of one delegate. As for Rudy and Trump, they're a match made in political heaven – they're brash New Yorkers famous for their media savvy, public divorces and arguably race-baiting rhetoric. (One difference, Rudy's never been accused of raping a minor and Trump never married his 2nd cousin.)

In April 2016 Rudy endorsed Trump in the New York primary and "opened" for him at his rallies – saying that a terrorist attack had never occurred on American soil before President Obama. Say what? (Desperate to be relevant again, Rudy worked for free, which is exactly what he's worth.)

Cut to the infamous 2020 election Rudy press conference that Trump tweeted was going to be at the plush Four Seasons Hotel in Philadelphia. Inexplicably, however, it wound up at the run-down Four Seasons Total Landscaping location in between a porn shop and a crematorium. It and Rudy were a complete disaster.

The Four Seasons Hotel hurriedly denied any connection. Meanwhile, the Four Seasons Total Landscaping immediately produced parody t-shirts with their name at the top and "Lawn and Order" at the bottom that sold like hotcakes. (Do hotcakes really sell that vigorously because, if so why, in 2018, did IHOP start selling burgers?)

Rudy's next preposterous presser was at the RNC on November 19. During the longest 2 hours ever, Rudy developed flop sweat that caused his hair dye to drip down his face in long brown streaks that many mistook for blood. (The video blew up on the Internet.)

During the embarrassing presser, Rudy actually did a pathetic impression of Joe Pesci from the 1992 movie "My Cousin Vinny." But, to the horror of the other Trump lawyers, soon black dye started flowing. Eventually Rudy noticed and wiped the ghoulish mess with a handkerchief but not before he blew his nose into it! (What a fitting symbol of the Trump administration!)

Trump's "real" election law firms such as Porter Wright Morris & Arthur and Jones Day attempted to argue his bogus election fraud cases in courts but were so humiliated they quit. That put Giuliani in charge of Trump's "elite lawyer strike force." But Rudy hadn't been in court since the early 1990's and was so inept he sheepishly asked the Judge to explain certain legal terminology. To avoid perjury, Rudy said, "Your honor, this case is not about election fraud," but when he's not under oath tells anyone who will listen the election was rigged.

On Wednesday the 25th, Rudy was at it again with a bogus "election fraud hearing" in Pennsylvania. The bad news is it was the same baseless, evidence- free b.s. that 34 courts have already rejected. I suppose the good news is Rudy was able to keep his hair dye from running down his face.

This Thanksgiving season I've been endlessly grateful democracy survived a near-death experience. Also, that Biden's cabinet of intelligent, remarkably qualified and historically diverse nominees, gives me hope. (And among them there will be no grifter son-in-law, or reality show clowns or flop-sweating Rudy!)

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

SEND YOUR TIPS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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Americans face new COVID-19 restrictions after Thanksgiving

TAMMY WEBBER AND HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press

Americans returning from Thanksgiving break faced strict new coronavirus measures around the country Monday as health officials brace for a disastrous worsening of the nationwide surge because of holiday gatherings over the long weekend.

Los Angeles County imposed a stay-at-home order for its 10 million residents, and Santa Clara County, in the heart of Silicon Valley, banned high school, college and professional sports and decreed a quarantine for those who have traveled more than 150 miles outside the county.

In Hawaii, the mayor of Hawaii County said trans-Pacific travelers arriving without a negative COVID-19 test must quarantine for 14 days, and even those who have tested virus-free may be randomly selected for another test upon arrival. New Jersey is suspending all youth sports.

"The red flags are flying in terms of the trajectory in our projections of growth," said Gov. Gavin Newsom. "If these trends continue, we're going to have to take much more dramatic, arguably drastic, action."

Health experts had pleaded with Americans to stay home over Thanksgiving and not gather with anyone who didn't live with them. Nevertheless, almost 1.2 million people passed through U.S. airports Sunday, the most since the pandemic gripped the country in March, and others took to the highways to be with family and friends.

Now they're being urged to watch for any signs of illness and get tested right away if they experience symptoms.

Some families are already seeing the fallout from Thanksgiving gatherings.

Jonathan Eshnaur lugged his 32-inch TV to a Thanksgiving Day family gathering at his sister's home in Olathe, Kansas, so he could watch football outside. He wore a mask and only went into her house for the prayer and to use the bathroom.

One day later, his father began feeling terrible and tested positive. His mother now is showing symptoms, and the six others at the gathering are concerned that they caught it, too.

"I think we all have a tendency to think it won't happen to me," said Eshnaur, a 34-year-old special education teacher. "But that is kind of the issue with these kinds of viruses is it does happen, especially when we have widespread community spread that is going on."

Priya Patel, 24, is isolating at her parents' home in San Antonio after visiting friends over the weekend and coming down with a sore throat.

Patel, who works in public health in New York City, said she had been careful, wearing masks in public and staying out of restaurants and bars. But she spent time at a friend's home in Texas over Thanksgiving.

"I'm an extremely extroverted person, and there is just so much time I can spend with my parents at home," said Patel, who will stay away from her parents, both of whom have preexisting medical conditions, and wear a mask inside their home for the next 14 days.

Health officials are urging people to remain vigilant until a vaccine becomes widely available, which is not expected to happen for at least a few months.

On Monday, Moderna Inc. said it will ask U.S. and European regulators to allow emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine as new study results confirm the shots offer strong protection. Pfizer is also seeking approval for its vaccine and hopes to begin administering shots in the U.S. in December.

The virus is blamed for over 267,000 deaths and more than 13.4 million confirmed infections in the U.S. The country on average is seeing more than 160,000 new cases per day and over 1,400 deaths — a toll on par with what the nation witnessed in mid-May, when New York City was the epicenter.

A record 90,000 people were in the hospital with the virus in the U.S. as of Sunday, pushing many medical institutions to the limit.

West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice said hospitals across the state will reduce elective surgeries to ensure there is room for coronavirus patients. The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 jumped 29% in the past week. In Kansas City, Kansas, hospital and nursing officials said they fear there will not be enough nurses to staff new hospital beds in the metro area if COVID-19 cases continue unchecked. Health officials on Monday added 4,425 confirmed infections and 87 hospitalizations to the state's pandemic tally since Friday.

Rhode Island's hospitals reached their COVID-19 capacity on Monday, the same day the state's two-week pause took effect. Under restrictions announced by Gov. Gina Raimondo, some businesses will be required to shut down, while others are restricted. Residents are also asked to limit their social circles to people in their household.

"This will not be easy, but I am pleading with you to take it seriously," Raimondo said in a statement.

In suburban St. Louis, a hospital official warned that hospitalizations could double in two to three weeks if people don't quarantine after Thanksgiving gatherings. SSM Health DePaul Hospital in Bridgeton, Missouri, last week brought in a morgue trailer to store the dead, canceled elective surgeries and doubled up patients in rooms.

"We will be absolutely overwhelmed," said Shelly Cordum, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer. "I can't even imagine what we are going to be facing in three weeks if we stay on this path."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's foremost infectious-disease expert, warned on ABC over the weekend that the country could see a "surge upon surge" of infections tied to Thanksgiving. And White House cornonavirus task force coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx told CBS that people who traveled should "assume that you were exposed and you became infected," and get tested if they experience symptoms.

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SANTA MONICA MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **Bid #21.04.SMS – SMASH/MUIR Elementary School – HVAC Project at SMASH/MUIR Elementary School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$3,400,000.00 to $3,800,000.00** and includes school modernization including new HVAC systems, fire alarm system upgrade, exterior door replacements, door hardware upgrade including Salto access control system, new flooring, new paint, installation of acoustic panels, ADA upgrades, and other associated improvements per the bidding documents. All bids must be submitted electronically as per the instructions included in the bidding documents on or before 1/5/2021 no later than 2:30 PM. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 12/8/20 at 12:00 PM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 12/18/20 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at http://fip.smmusd.org/contractors.html.

Mandatory Job Walk: 12/8/20 at 12:00 PM

Job Walk location: SMASH/Muir Elementary School located in Santa Monica, CA – **All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the front of the school administration building, 2526 6th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location. Due to COVID-19 all attending contractors must bring and wear face masks/coverings at all times while on the site and adhere to social distancing safety requirements during the meeting or they will be asked to leave the property.**

Electronic Bid Submittal Deadline: 1/5/21 at 2:30pm

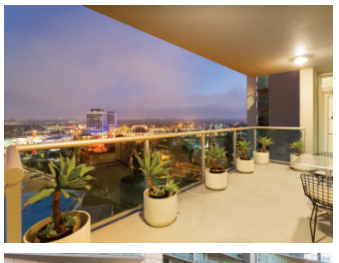
Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop-Griego at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

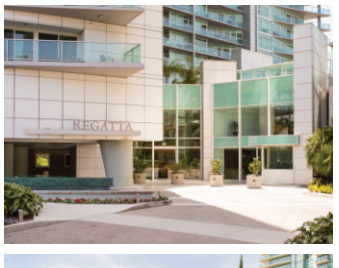
FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
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For New Patients
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*Offer to non insured patients
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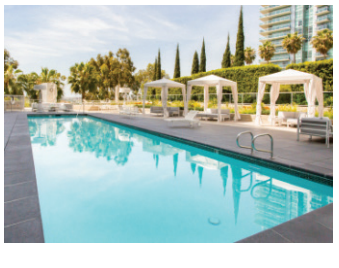
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COVID-19

FROM PAGE 1

The temporary order strives to reign in the current spike in cases, which is greater than any previous surge. On Monday Nov. 30, the County reported 5,150 new cases, while during the summer spike the highest number of daily cases was 2,950.

In Santa Monica, more than 500 new cases were reported in the last month, accounting for over a third of all cases recorded in the City since the pandemic began.

"We understand these additional closures and emergency orders impact every corner of our community, especially heading into the December holidays," said Santa Monica Chief Resilience Officer, Lindsay Call. "As we await a vaccine, our collaborative actions can help curb the deadly impact of COVID-19 on our community. We need every Santa Monican to follow L.A. County health guidelines and stay at home as much as possible, to wear a face covering, and not gather with those outside of their household."

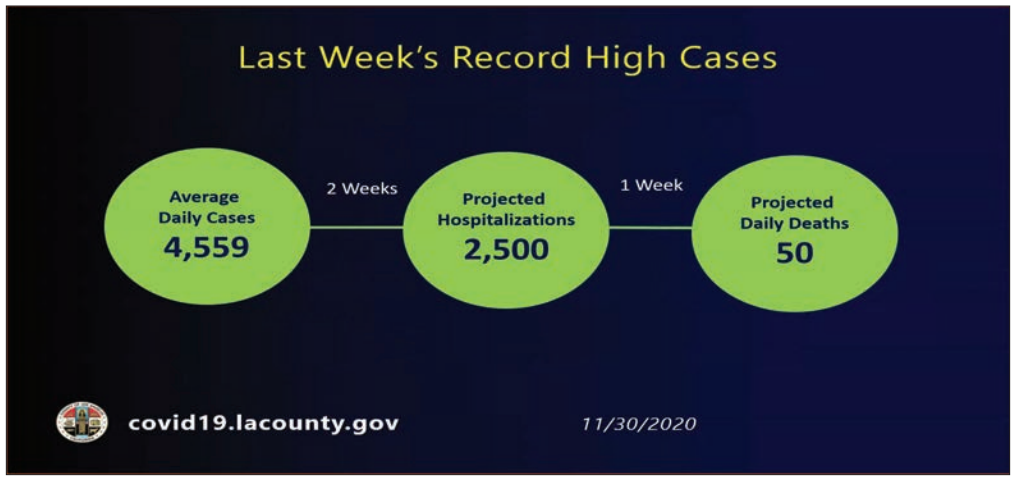
Between Oct. 30 and Nov. 30 test positivity rates in L.A. County jumped from 3.7 percent to 9.4 percent. Average daily case rates increased by 91 percent between Nov. 8 and Nov. 21, and average daily hospitalizations increased 93 percent between Nov. 13 and Nov. 26.

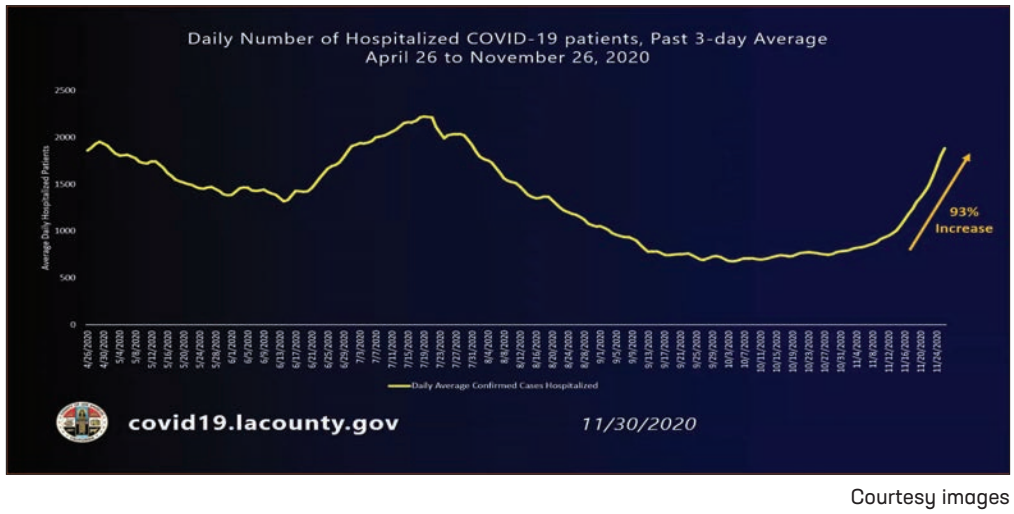
"As hospitalizations increase sharply, we worry not only about the people who are suffering, but also about how the increasing numbers could potentially overwhelm the healthcare system," said Ferrer.

The temporary orders aim to reduce transmission and relieve the burden on hospitals down the line. The goals of new restrictions are to reduce crowding at sites where non household members mingle, ensure individuals remain at home as much as possible, and ensure masks are worn for activities that involve contact with non household members.

Clara@smdp.com







Courtesy images

CORONAVIRUS: County officials are hoping new restrictions will reduce the spike in cases and preserve hospital capacity.

This holiday season, everyone is shopping from home

JOSEPH PISANI
AP Retail Writer

The viral pandemic is accelerating a transformation of America's holiday shopping season.

Few people showed up at the mall this weekend, with millions of pandemic-wary shoppers staying home to shop online.

The result? Overall holiday sales are projected to rise a slight 0.9% in November and December — and even that modest gain will be due to an explosion in online shopping, according to the research firm eMarketer. It expects online sales to jump nearly 36%, while sales at physical stores fall 4.7%.

The online rush was on fully display Monday, known as Cyber Monday, a day of sales promoted by retailers back in 2005. Once the final numbers are tallied up, this year's Cyber Monday is projected to become the biggest online shopping day in American history.

Here's how this holiday shopping season is shaping up:

"BLEAK FRIDAY"

Black Friday, typically the frenzied kick-off of the holiday shopping season, was eerily quiet this year. Health officials had warned shoppers to stay home, and stores followed suit by putting their best deals online to discourage crowds.

Half as many people shopped inside stores this Black Friday than last year, according to retail data company Sensormatic Solutions.

"Black Friday was really Bleak Friday," says David Bassuk, a member of the retail practice at the consulting firm AlixPartners.

Online was a decidedly different story. Sales hit a record $9 billion on Black Friday — up a sharp 22% from last year, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks online shopping.

CYBER MONDAY STILL ON TOP

Even though shoppers had access to weeks of online deals, many held out for bargains that they could get only on Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Amazon offered 30% off on board games

SEE **SHOPPING** PAGE 11

MASKS HELP EVERYONE AROUND YOU.

Cloth face coverings can help slow the spread, including from people who may not know they have the virus.



covid19.ca.gov



DURING THE ONGOING COVID-19 CRISIS OUR TEAM PIVOTED TO DELIVER OUR PROGRAMS TO KIDS ONLINE AND TO PROVIDE OUR FAMILIES WITH TECHNOLOGY ACCESS FOR SCHOOL AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR ESSENTIALS SUCH AS RENT, BILLS, FOOD, AND MEDICINE.

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- Over 8.5K produce and grain boxes
- $120K in direct financial assistance
- 280+ virtual programs offered directly to youth
- Daily in-person distance learning support



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A Virtual Event to Support Youth and Build Community

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020

5:30 PM • RECEPTION | 6:00 PM • PROGRAM
7:15 PM • RECEPTION CONT.

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- Projected attendees include 400+ leaders & influencers in the private and public sector
- Special Guest Performances
- Powerful Youth Presentation

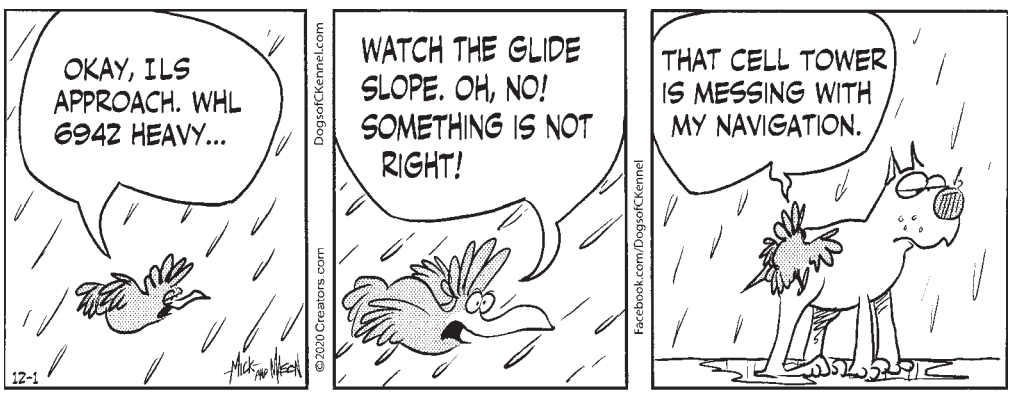
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S GOT A THING FOR THE UTZ GIRL."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 63.1°

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
Fresh SSW swell tops out and holds. Small NW swell in the mix. AM wind looking more favorable across the board.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
SSW swell starts to ease as next pulse of SW-SSW swell builds underneath.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 65.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 66. North northeast wind around 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/12/01	Tue	02:29 AM	2.27	L
2020/12/01	Tue	08:47 AM	5.98	H
2020/12/01	Tue	4:10 PM	-0.44	L
2020/12/01	Tue	10:44 PM	3.51	H
2020/12/02	Wed	02:58 AM	2.46	L
2020/12/02	Wed	09:18 AM	5.89	H
2020/12/02	Wed	4:49 PM	-0.40	L
2020/12/02	Wed	11:36 PM	3.41	H
2020/12/03	Thu	03:29 AM	2.66	L
2020/12/03	Thu	09:52 AM	5.72	H
2020/12/03	Thu	5:33 PM	-0.29	L
2020/12/04	Fri	12:35 AM	3.36	H
2020/12/04	Fri	04:08 AM	2.87	L
2020/12/04	Fri	10:32 AM	5.46	H
2020/12/04	Fri	6:20 PM	-0.13	L
2020/12/05	Sat	01:44 AM	3.41	H
2020/12/05	Sat	05:05 AM	3.07	L
2020/12/06	Sun	02:52 AM	3.63	H
2020/12/06	Sun	06:33 AM	3.19	L
2020/12/06	Sun	12:26 PM	4.66	H
2020/12/06	Sun	8:13 PM	0.24	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:11/28
8 12 18 44 51
Power#: 18
Jackpot:231 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/27
4 10 27 35 58
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 229 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/28
2 14 26 32 38
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/24
21 22 24 27 28

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/29
Evening: 0 4 1
Draw Date: 11/29
Midday: 9 1 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/29
1st: 08-GORGEOUS GEORGE
2nd: 01-GOLD RUSH
3rd: 11-MONEY BAG
RACE TIME: 1:49.43

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 (DECEMBER 01)

There are always those who believe they know your duty better than you do. Your cosmic gift is a self-authority that serves as an armor deflecting the authority of others. You are reinforced by the work you do as a result and you grow in capability, therefore power. You'll use this to lift loved ones in 2021. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 10, 13, 5 and 7.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're typically quite sensitive to what people around you might need and being focused in this way could interfere with recognizing your own needs. So, turn those sensors on yourself and take action to relieve stress.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone who is watching you closely may make you feel self-conscious and prone to mistakes. The attention is a compliment, though one that would more comfortably be deflected.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Halfway between two ideas you are unlikely to find favor with either side. But you're not doing this for the approval. You really want to find a good fit — a way to see things that makes sense to you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Perhaps the moon is not the reason for life on earth, but its influence on the tides has made for more diversity than could otherwise be possible. Someone orbiting you will have a similarly favorable influence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Ambitious people are exciting to you insofar as they work toward achievement. What people would like to do and what they actually do can be two different things, a difference you'll pay attention to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are many nuances at play as you connect with someone you've known a long time and these make the relationship rich in a way that cannot compare with those you barely know — something you appreciate today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Remember when you watched yourself making a mistake, in full consciousness of the error but somehow still not able to stop yourself? It will happen again because some mistakes are just too fun to make!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). For now, don't concern yourself with the matter of how pointless is an activity. It is quite pointless, indeed, but everything doesn't have to have a point. Anyway, this one will pay off further down the road.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even though every state of being is temporary, there are some you want to make last as long as possible. Trying too hard won't work, though you may be able to relax and give yourself more to savor with increased noticing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What the self says matters. It matters going into an endeavor. It matters when the self is satisfied, and it matters even more when the world doesn't validate the self's satisfaction. Believe in your compass, not theirs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Force isn't the only way to make things happen, and usually it's not even the best way. Be like water, soft but powerfully shaping all it touches as it makes its way down the path of least resistance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is no universal "up" or "down," just people pulled toward earth from wherever they happen to be on the sphere. Relatedly, you appreciate friends living according to their beliefs, which are so different from your own.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

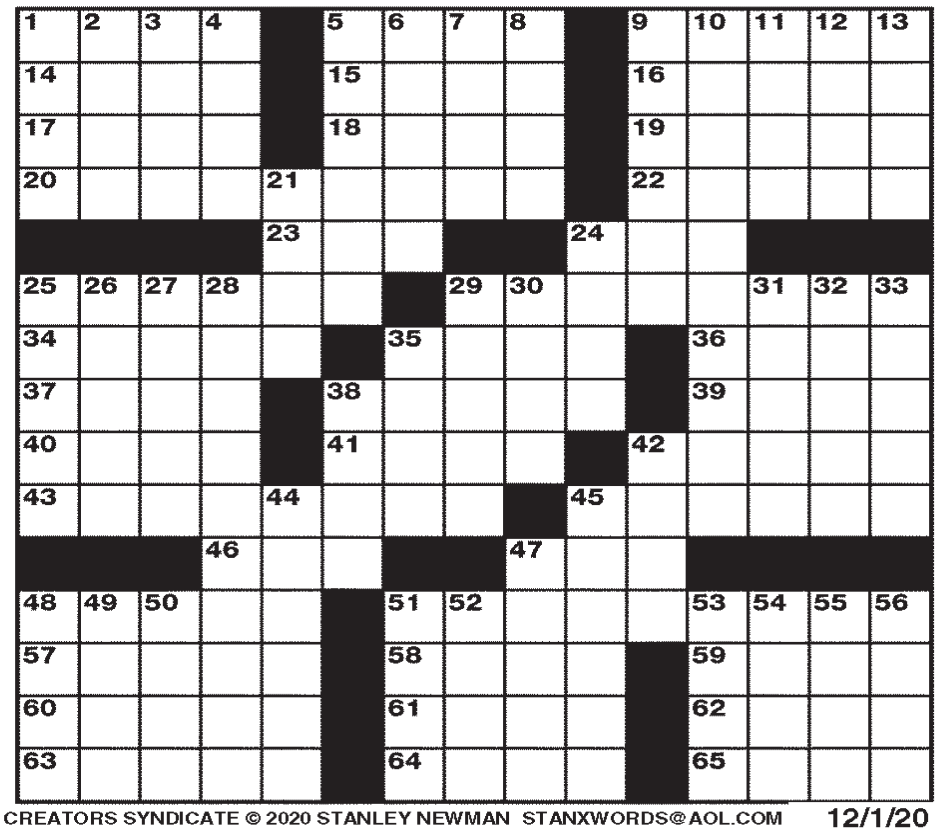
				1				9
8		4		3		5		6
			6		4		2	
	2				7	8	1	
		5		2		9		
	9	7	4				5	
	5		1		6			
6		8		7		2		1
7				9				

Newsday Crossword

SUPERSIZED SERVINGS by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Gush like a volcano
5 "That's hard to believe"
9 Car's emergency marker light
14 Female singing voice
15 Infamous Roman emperor
16 Displayed great anger
17 Emblem "of approval"
18 Pretrial court payment
19 Wear away slowly
20 With 51 Across, "big" beef on a bun
22 Incite to act
23 Hospital crisis areas: Abbr.
24 Actor's signal to begin
25 __ Horse (legendary Greek trick)
29 Jumping-over-kids game
34 Happen again
35 Female pigs
36 Baseball great Babe
37 Line on a shopping list
38 Fastener in a girder
39 Turn __ (become)
40 Typical Saudi
41 Spanish cheers
42 Doles (out)
43 Be futile
45 Large vacation facility
46 Total in arithmetic
47 Boy in a family
48 Soaking sessions in a tub
51 See 20 Across
57 WWII submarine
58 Triple-decker cookie brand
59 Round toy on a string
60 Stroke of good luck
61 Couch or bench
62 All over again
63 Gave a fancy party for
64 Servings of corn
65 The Loch __ monster

DOWN
1 Wide belt
2 "Not guilty," for example
3 And others: Abbr.
4 Howling wild canine
5 Naturally present at birth
6 Boyfriends
7 Nickname for Ireland
8 Recounted, as a story
9 Make available for use
10 "Big" portion of potatoes
11 Extremely eager
12 Make over, as a kitchen
13 Adam and Eve's paradise
21 Bosc or Bartlett
24 Group seen in a play
25 Three-note chord
26 Back-in-style fashion
27 Pacific or Atlantic
28 "Big" milky drink
29 Liked very much
30 Mothers of lambs
31 Make a dash for
32 Furry river swimmer
33 White Halloween costume
35 Grain storage tower
38 Den or kitchen
42 Eatery's list
44 Blew in bursts, as the wind
45 Metallic factory workers
47 Makeup smudge
48 Shine to a high gloss
49 Well qualified
50 Recommend highly
51 Fire hydrant attachment
52 Region
53 TV host Seacrest
54 __ *with the Wind*
55 What visors shade
56 Propels a canoe with oars



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/1/20

Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0

								0		1	
0		1						1			
						1					
				0							
								0		0	0
				0							
		1						1		0	0
					1	1					
0		1	1								0
		1				1			0		
	1		1						0	0	
		1		0				1			0



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

Locally owned, and committed to local news reporting since 2001.

smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

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 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4949

Chilling out

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

Arts	Deep sea	Food	Rural
Aunty	Dogs	Game	Shrubs
Bait	Draw	Hose	Skate
Bask	Drink	Idle	Skiing
Benches	Dunk	Laps	Stereo
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California urges hospitals to test all workers for virus

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California has asked hospitals to ramp up their coronavirus testing amid a surge of new cases, urging them to test health care workers at least once per week while testing all new patients before admitting them.

California reported 7,787 confirmed coronavirus hospitalizations on Monday, with 1,812 of those patients in the intensive care unit. Statewide, 75% of intensive care beds are filled and state officials expect to reach capacity by mid-December.

The California Department of Public Health sent hospitals a letter last week that "strongly recommends" they test their employees at least once per week, defining workers as all paid and unpaid people who have the "potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients." The broad definition includes doctors, nurses, students, volunteers, security, laundry and administrative workers, among others.

"There are simply too many asymptomatic people with COVID, and without robust testing, our hospitals will remain centers for spreading the disease instead of centers of healing as they should be," said Zenei Triunfo-Cortez, the association's president who works as a nurse in the San Francisco Bay Area.

It's unclear how hospitals will respond. The California Hospital Association said the letter was a recommendation, while labor unions for nurses and other health care workers said it was a requirement.

Lucia Hwang, spokesperson for National Nurses United, said these "all facilities letters" are often worded as "guidance," but that state officials expect hospitals to comply. They noted that the state issued similar guidance earlier this year for skilled nursing facilities to regularly test their workers.

The California Public Health Department, responding to an email from the Associated Press, said hospitals are required to submit a testing plan and that the state recommends the plan include weekly testing of health care workers.

The letter says hospitals should put health care workers on a weekly testing schedule. The exception is workers who have tested positive within the past three months and have since returned to work. The state says those workers should only be tested if they show new symptoms or it has been more than three months since their infection.

However, hospitals "must understand that routine ... testing of (health care workers) does not replace or preclude other infection prevention and control interventions," Heidi W. Steinecker, deputy director of the California Department of Public Health, wrote in the letter to hospitals.

SHOPPING

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and discounts on many of its gadgets. Target had 40% off Legos and robot vacuums for $75 off.

Cyber Monday is expected to generate as much as $12.7 billion in sales — a 35% jump from a year ago, according to Adobe Analytics.

SHIPPING SLOWDOWN

A big unknown hanging over the shopping season is this: Will retailers and shippers be able to deliver all those online orders in time for Christmas? Retailers have been warning shoppers to buy early this year, because with far more people shopping online during the pandemic, shippers may become overwhelmed with packages to deliver.

Prolonged delays could send people back to physical stores closer to Christmas, if many people eventually decide that old-fashioned stores are a more reliable way to obtain their gifts on time, said Charlie O'Shea, a retail analyst at Moody's.

MORE CURBSIDE PICKUP

Curbside pickup, in which people order online and pick up at a store's parking lot, is becoming a popular option for those who want their gifts right away or who fear that they won't be shipped on time.

Some stores, like Macy's, are offering curbside pickup for the first time this holiday. Others are making more space in their parking lots for people to park and pick up orders.

In the weekend after Thanksgiving, curbside pickup rose 67% from a year ago, according to Adobe Analytics.

ONLINE SMALL BUSINESSES GAIN, TOO

While retail giants Amazon and Walmart are likely to be the biggest winners this holiday season, smaller businesses that have an online presence are racking up sales, too.

Adobe Analytics says online sales at smaller retailers were up 349% on Thanksgiving and Black Friday. And at the more than 1 million businesses that use Shopify to build their websites, sales rose 75% from a year ago to $2.4 billion on Black Friday, according to Shopify.

Some shoppers are purposefully skipping big stores for smaller ones.

Bernadette Vielhaber, a technical writer in Avon, Ohio, says she bought books, T-shirts and other gifts from small businesses online, instead of giving her money to large companies that she feels don't need it, like Amazon.

"I'm trying to be more supportive of people who are struggling to keep their businesses open," she says.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

WINTERLIT

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and Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021.

On the Promenade, residents can see tens of thousands of lights illuminating the outdoor retail and dining storefronts.

Daut said holiday-inspired art installations have come to life in window displays and through the murals that were created by local artists who were asked to interpret what the holiday season means to them during an unprecedented year.

With the recent citywide budget cuts resulting from the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, this year's holiday festivities were in danger but a partnership through the City of Santa Monica's Cultural Affairs Art of Recovery initiative brought the free installations to the public.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing it," Daut said. "When I went to the Promenade and the pier for Dia de los Muertos, it was just so wonderful and it was a moment of joy, which we desperately need these days. So, I'm very excited to get down and I think what you're going to see and what visitors will see is a really eclectic mix of artists' installations in these storefronts."

Santa's helpers have also placed a mailbox on the Promenade so children can drop off their letters to have them delivered to the North Pole. If the letters include a return address, Santa will write back.

Guests to Santa Monica Place can visit Santa at his winter home in Center Plaza, beginning Friday, Dec. 4,, to enjoy a contactless visit with Santa, share a wish list, and take home a keepsake photo.

Visitors can also head down to the pier to enjoy the Bob Baker Marionette puppets, which was another project funded by the Art of Recovery initiative.

"We're really thrilled with all these projects," Daut said, "and we're really happy to be working with our business partners and helping them to see the value that artists can bring to their recovery efforts and to develop what we hope will be long standing relationships between artists and businesses and other community and neighborhood groups."

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JACK THE K9

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and sense while moving, instead of while static," which is what most explosive detection dogs are capable of, according to Hassan. "They can locate an explosive if they are in the vicinity. But with my dog, he can actually locate you if you're walking on the pier or the Promenade and you have a gun in your waistband or maybe some other explosive. He can actually distinguish that odor from all other odors, and as you're walking through, he can pinpoint which person has it. So, if I give him the command to search, you'll see his nose go up-and-down and side-to-side… it's kind of like a scent funnel. He starts wide and he makes sure the scent is getting stronger and stronger and stronger."

Jack is just like a normal dog in the fact he lives and plays with Hassan and her other four-legged friends at home. His favorite toy is even a blue and orange ball that looks very similar to ones found in pet stores around the country.

"The main difference is the obedience with these dogs is very basic, because you want them to be as independent as possible so they follow their nose," Hassan said. "They are completely dependent on the scent."

Outside of that, like most Labradors, Jack is a very social dog who happily greets passers-by while out on his patrols and day-to-day walks. "He's a perfectly normal dog at home. There's no issues whatsoever," Hassan said, detailing how Jack often gets excited to put on his uniform — a harness featuring SMPD patches — and head out to work.

Another thing that sets Jack apart from the rest of the pack is his handler's belief that the pair could run the U.S. Canine Biathlon.

"It's back at the Vapor Wake facility in Anniston. It's about four-plus miles and 40-plus obstacles that myself and Jack go through," Hassan said. "And I think we can win it. We just need the opportunity."

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