smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Letter to the Editor
Balance the Court.
Page 6

Puzzles & Stuff
Horoscope.
Page 9

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Arson suspect arrested

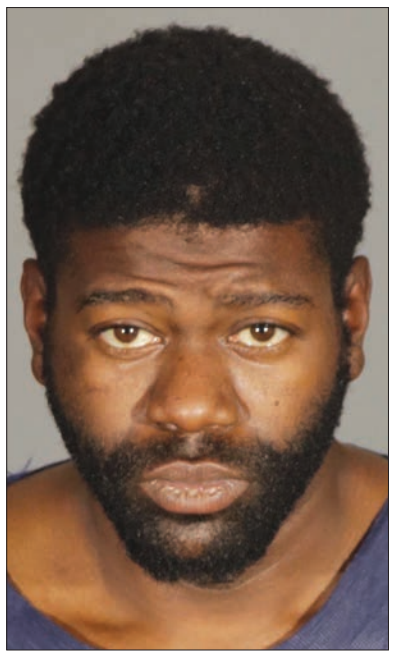
MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) has arrested a suspect in connection with several arsons in Downtown.

According to SMDP, Jonathan Powell, a 28-year-old homeless man was arrested on Nov. 28.

Officers were initially called to the area in the early morning hours on Sunday for reports of dumpster and trashcan fires. At about 3:45 a.m., they located a suspected who tried to run but was caught on the 400 block of Arizona. Powell was identified as a suspect in one fire and is believed to be responsible for at least five others.

During a search of Powell's person, officers located several lighters in his front pants pocket. Powell was taken into custody and booked for Arson and Delaying Arrest. Anyone with any information pertaining to this incident, or any other similar incidents, is strongly encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigation Division at 310-458-8451 or the Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458-8426.



Courtesy photo
JONATHAN POWELL

editor@smdp.com

Stolen dog reunited with owner

JAMIE PAIGE
Special to the Daily Press

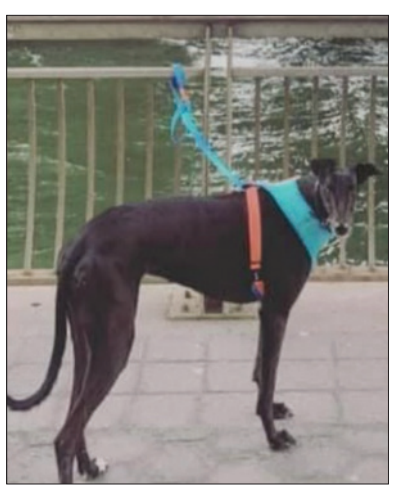
A woman was reunited with her dog after the dog and her car were stolen on Monday evening.

The theft occurred while the 2019 Silver Kia Soul was parked at 1431 Ocean Avenue around 6 p.m., police said

Shortly after the theft, the owner of the dog and several volunteers began looking for the 4-year-old black female Greyhound.

A volunteer group that originally rescued the dog was also active in

SEE **STOLEN** PAGE 7



Courtesy photo
FOUND: The pet has been returned.

Feeding frenzy brings masses of fish, birds, dolphins and porpoises by the Pier



Aerial shots by Aureo Franzoni Lugo and Paola Flores
FISH: A large school of fish swam through the bay this week causing a feeding frenzy among the wildlife.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

There was a party going on by the Pier last week, but it wasn't for people.

Hundreds of winged and finned friends gathered a few hundred yards off the coast from Lifeguard Tower 20 for a veritable feeding frenzy.

According to Harbor Services Supervisor Dan Buchanan, a bait ball of small fish drew dolphins, porpoises, pelicans and seagulls to the area on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Bait balls are formed when small fish swarm tightly together in a clump to defend themselves from predators.

From the coast this appeared as a dark swirling blur punctuated by ocean splashes. From above, as can be seen in aerial footage on the Daily Press website, this chaos reveals itself to be the dive bombing of birds accompanied by the breaching of porpoise and dolphin pods.

While such oceanic feasts are not an uncommon phenomenon in the Santa Monica Bay, they offer a unique opportunity for residents to witness the striking and diverse amount of marine life living in local waters.

According to fifty-year fisherman Captain Rick Oefinger of Marina del Rey Sportfishing, there is currently a high concentration of small fish in the Santa Monica Bay.

"There's just tons of anchovies and sardines in the Bay right now, that's primarily what all dolphins feed on," said Oefinger. "And, if you look up west at night, you'll see the lights up in front of Malibu from commercial squid fishing... there is a mega tonnage of squid up there, so there's tons of food for the common dolphin."

Director of the Bay Foundation Tom Ford said that several factors could be working together to bring concentrations of small fish close to local shores.

"We had that little bit of pulse of rain a couple of weeks back that's going to bring some nutrients down into the near shore," said Ford. "It's been sunny, (it) hasn't been too windy lately, that might allow for the phytoplankton to sort of rapidly start to grow."

Rain can wash out nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus into the ocean. While large quantities of

SEE **FEEDING FRENZY** PAGE 7


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361

SUBJECT: 21ENT-0195 (Conditional Use Permit)
3212 Wilshire Boulevard
APPLICANT: Beverages & More, Inc. dba BevMo!
PROPERTY OWNER: Lawrence L. Welk

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

Amend Conditional Use Permit No. 09CUP-012 to allow extended hours of operation to facilitate the purchase and delivery via app/online for alcohol products from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and non-alcohol products 24 hours/day. The requested amendment does not extend the existing in-store purchase store operations that will remain from 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. daily, with extended holiday hours of 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. between November 15th and January 2nd.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021 AT 5:30 PM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Planning Commission 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/gpgwghcx or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 3411075 #)

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@smgov.net. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Additionally, public comment can be made by telephone by calling 1-408-740-7256 (Meeting ID: 461613875 and Passcode: 8565 followed by #) when the caller queue opens for the item on which you wish to comment. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: Grace Page, Senior Planner
Re: 21ENT-0195

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Grace Page at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at grace.page@santamonica.gov. 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. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. 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 258 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 29

Speeding 9th St / California Ave 12:11 a.m.
Missing Person 2900Blk Colorado Ave 1:37 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 22nd St / Arizona Ave 2:13 a.m.
Person Down 1300Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:25 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2400Blk Pico Blvd 3:35 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 2400Blk Pico Blvd 3:56 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk Ocean Front Walk 4:05 a.m.
Missing Person 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 6:01 a.m.
Grand Theft 900Blk 10th St 6:25 a.m.
Burglary 2600Blk 3rd St 6:55 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 6:59 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 3000Blk Urban Ave 7:07 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:17 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:23 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 2200Blk Virginia Ave 7:23 a.m.
Burglary 1900Blk Ocean Ave 7:32 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 900Blk 10th St 7:55 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2400Blk Virginia Ave 8:03 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1100Blk Montana Ave 8:28 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 7th St / Ocean Park Blvd 8:31 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2300Blk Ashland Ave 8:51 a.m.
Burglary Report 1600Blk Berkeley St 8:54 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 8:59 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 7th St / Ocean Park Blvd 9:01 a.m.
Fraud Report 2500Blk Idaho Ave 9:14 a.m.
Expired Registration 1500Blk 9th St 9:16 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 600Blk 25th St 9:33 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:33 a.m.
Encampment 2000Blk The Beach 9:49 a.m.
Vandalism 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:58 a.m.
Expired Registration 1300Blk 17th St 9:58 a.m.
Smoking Violation 1200Blk 2nd St 9:59 a.m.
Encampment 400Blk Palisades Park 10:05 a.m.
Encampment 3100Blk Barnard Way 10:07 a.m.
Vandalism 1400Blk 12th St 10:14 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1400Blk 20th St 10:18 a.m.
Speeding 34th St / Ocean Park Blvd 10:34 a.m.
Burglary 1500Blk 6th St 10:41 a.m.
Battery 1900Blk Pico Blvd 10:47 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200Blk Yale St 11:00 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 400Blk Broadway 11:01 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:02 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200Blk Franklin St 11:07 a.m.
Petty Theft 2500Blk Broadway 11:22 a.m.
Speeding Euclid St / Montana Ave 11:26 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 900Blk 11th St 11:28 a.m.
Speeding 26th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:41 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 26th St / Olympic Blvd 12:00 p.m.
Expired Registration 800Blk 9th St 12:03 p.m.
Encampment 3000Blk Ocean Front Walk 12:11 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 1300Blk 2nd St 12:46 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2400Blk Euclid St 12:53 p.m.
Rape Report 2000Blk 21st St 12:56 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2200Blk 22nd St 1:24 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 900Blk California Ave 1:42 p.m.
Vandalism 1600Blk 11th St 1:45 p.m.
Battery 2200Blk Virginia Ave 2:01 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1600Blk 9th St 2:05 p.m.
Missing Person 1500Blk Montana Ave 2:10 p.m.
Encampment 2000Blk The Beach 2:12 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1700Blk California Ave 2:29 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:45 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 1000Blk 2nd St 2:54 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 21st St / Ocean Park Blvd 2:57 p.m.
Grand Theft 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:11 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 4th St / Strand St 3:32 p.m.
Speeding 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 3:43 p.m.
Burglary 1100Blk 10th St 3:43 p.m.
Burglary 800Blk 4th St 4:05 p.m.
Alcohol & Beverage Code Violation 300Blk Olympic Dr 4:24 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2900Blk 10th St 4:27 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 4:33 p.m.
Encampment 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:42 p.m.
General Parking Problem 200Blk California Ave 4:52 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 5:00 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 100Blk Georgina Ave 5:06 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 3000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:09 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2200Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:53 p.m.
Missing Person 1500Blk Montana Ave 5:55 p.m.
Encampment 900Blk 3rd St 5:56 p.m.
Identity Theft 1400Blk 7th St 6:00 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 6:18 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1400Blk Ocean Ave 6:24 p.m.
Loud Music 1400Blk 11th St 6:46 p.m.
Battery 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 7:16 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 200Blk Broadway 8:09 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 9th St / Arizona Ave 8:17 p.m.
Battery 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 8:45 p.m.
Burglary 2100Blk Delaware Ave 8:58 p.m.
Assault 1300Blk 2nd St 9:31 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 900Blk 18th St 9:45 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered Ocean Ave / Washington Ave 9:56 p.m.
Petty Theft 1200Blk 4th St 10:08 p.m.
Petty Theft 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:04 p.m.
Battery 300Blk Olympic Dr 11:08 p.m.

Can California legally require women on corporate boards?

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

When then-California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the nation's first law requiring women on boards of publicly traded companies, he suggested it might not survive legal challenges.

Three years later, a judge will begin hearing evidence Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court that could undo the law credited with giving more women seats in boardrooms traditionally dominated by men. The California law has spurred other states to adopt or consider similar laws.

The conservative legal group Judicial Watch brought the lawsuit that claims it's illegal to use taxpayer funds to enforce a law that violates the equal protection clause of the California Constitution by mandating a gender-based quota.

"They are creating a classification that either prefers or discriminates against one class or in preference of another," attorney Robert Patrick Sticht said. He said the state doesn't have a compelling government interest to create the mandate.

Another conservative legal group has filed a separate lawsuit in federal court claiming the law violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Betsy Berkhemer-Credaire, CEO of the advocacy group 50/50 Women on Boards, who supported passage of the law. She is confident it will be upheld but said even if it is found unconstitutional that pressure from investors will lead to more women being named to corporate boards.

"The train has left the station," Berkhemer-Credaire said. "I don't think it'll be a serious setback."

The law required publicly traded companies headquartered in California to have one member who identifies as a woman on their boards of directors by the end of 2019. By January, boards with five directors must have two women and boards with six or more members must have three women.

Penalties range from $100,000 fines for companies that fail to report board compositions to the California secretary of state's office. Companies that do not include the required number of female board members can be fined $100,000 for first violations and $300,000 for subsequent violations.

Fewer than half the nearly 650 applicable corporations in the state reported last year that they had complied. More than half didn't file the required disclosure statement, according to the most recent report.

No companies have been fined, though the secretary of state can do so, said spokeswoman Jenna Dresner.

The state has argued in court papers that it hasn't used taxpayer funds to enforce the law. Dresner and the state attorney general's office declined to comment on pending litigation.

Supporters of the law said it has already had a big impact in California and beyond. Washington state passed a similar measure this year and lawmakers in other states, including Massachusetts, New Jersey and Hawaii, have proposed similar bills. Illinois requires publicly traded companies to report the makeup of their boards.

Several European countries, including France, Germany, Norway and Spain, require corporate boards to include women.

Before the California law went into effect, women held 17% of the seats on company boards in the state, based on the Russell 3000 Index of the largest companies in the U.S., according to 50/50 Women on Boards. As of September, the percentage of board seats held by women climbed to more than 30% in California, compared to 26% nationally, said Heather Spilsbury, chief operating officer for the group.

Still, some 40% of the largest companies in California need to add women to their boards to comply with the law. With a deadline approaching, Berkhemer-Credaire said "there's a lot of scrambling going on," though she said she has heard anecdotally that other companies are waiting to see how the court rules.

Adding pressure on the issue, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in August approved Nasdaq's proposal that most of the nearly 3,000 companies listed on the exchange have at least one woman on their boards, along with one person from a racial minority or who identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer.

There's no penalty for companies that don't meet the Nasdaq diversity criteria, but they must publicly explain why they could not comply.

The Nasdaq rule and a California law signed last year requiring publicly traded corporate boards have a member by January from an underrepresented community — including Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, or someone who self-identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender — are also facing lawsuits.

When the California law was proposed, an analysis by the state Assembly noted: "The use of a quota-like system, as proposed by this bill, to remedy past discrimination and differences in opportunity may be difficult to defend." Brown signed it amid the budding #MeToo movement over sexual misconduct.

"I don't minimize the potential flaws that indeed may prove fatal to its ultimate implementation," the Democratic governor said in a letter. "Nevertheless, recent events ... make it crystal clear that many are not getting the message."

Judicial Watch sued in August 2019 and the Pacific Legal Foundation sued three months later on behalf of a shareholder who said the law would force him to discriminate on the basis of sex. The latter case was thrown out by a federal judge, but revived by a unanimous panel of the 9th U.S Circuit Court of Appeals.

Although the California Chamber of Commerce had opposed the law, it didn't sign on to the litigation and no company has joined the legal effort being led in Los Angeles by three California residents. They sued under a provision that allows taxpayers to prevent unlawful government expenditures.



City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA INVITES SEALED RESPONSES FOR

RFI: Enterprise Asset Management System (EAMS) Solution for Public Works Department/ Water Resources Division

- **Submission Deadline is December 20, 2021 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Responses must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Information may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Information and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFI package.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

RFP: #301 BILL REDESIGN, PRINTING AND MAILING SERVICES

- **Submission Deadline is December 15, 2021 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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



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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

US panel backs first-of-a-kind COVID-19 pill from Merck

MATTHEW PERRONE
AP Health Writer

A panel of U.S. health advisers on Tuesday narrowly backed a closely watched COVID-19 pill from Merck, setting the stage for a likely authorization of the first drug that Americans could take at home to treat the coronavirus.

The Food and Drug Administration panel voted 13-10 that the antiviral drug's benefits outweigh its risks, including potential birth defects if used during pregnancy.

"I see this as an incredibly difficult decision with many more questions than answers," said panel chair Dr. Lindsey Baden of Harvard Medical School, who voted in favor of the drug. He said FDA would have to carefully tailor the drug's use for patients who stand to benefit most.

The recommendation came after hours of debate about the drug's modest benefits and potential safety issues. Most experts backing the treatment stressed that it should not be used by anyone who is pregnant and called on FDA to recommend extra precautions before the drug is prescribed, such as pregnancy tests for women of child-bearing age.

The vote specifically backed the drug for adults with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who face the greatest risks, including older people and those with conditions like obesity and asthma. Most experts also said the drug shouldn't be used in vaccinated people, who weren't part of Merck's research and haven't been shown to benefit.

The FDA isn't bound by the panel's recommendation and is expected to make its own decision before year's end. The antiviral is already authorized in the U.K.

The drug, molnupiravir, could provide a much-needed weapon against the virus as colder weather pushes case counts higher and U.S. officials brace for the arrival of the new omicron variant.

Merck hasn't specifically tested its drug against the new variant but said it should have some potency based on its effectiveness against other strains of coronavirus.

That uncertainty frustrated many panelists as they grappled with whether to back the treatment for millions of Americans.

"With no data saying it works with new variants, I really think we need to be careful about saying that this is the way to go," said Dr. David Hardy of Charles Drew University School of Medicine and Science, who ultimately voted to back the drug.

On Friday, Merck released updated data that paint a less compelling picture of the drug's effectiveness than just a few weeks earlier.

Merck said final study results showed molnupiravir reduced hospitalization and death by 30% among adults infected with the coronavirus, when compared with adults taking a placebo. That effect was significantly less than the 50% reduction it first announced based on incomplete results.

For many panelists, the modest effect wasn't enough to outweigh the drug's potential toxicity to human fetuses.

"Given the large potential population affected, the risk of widespread effects on potential birth defects has not been adequately studied," said Dr. Sankar Swaminathan of the University of Utah School of Medicine, who voted against the drug.

FDA scientists told the panelists earlier Tuesday that company studies in rats showed the drug caused birth defects when given at very high doses. FDA staffers concluded the data "suggest that molnupiravir may cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant individuals."

The agency is weighing a blanket restriction against any use in pregnant women or allowing doctors to use the drug in rare cases. Some panelists said that option should be left open for pregnant mothers who have high-risk COVID-19 and may have few other treatment options.

Dr. Janet Cragan, who backed the drug, said that even with tight restrictions some pregnant women would inevitably take the antiviral.

"I don't think you can ethically tell a woman with COVID-19 that she can't have the drug if she's decided that's what she needs," said Cragan, a panel member and staffer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "I think the final decision has to come down to the individual woman and her provider."

Merck's drug uses a novel approach to fight COVID-19: It inserts tiny errors into the coronavirus' genetic code to stop it from reproducing. That genetic effect has raised concerns that the drug could spur more virulent strains of the virus. FDA regulators said Tuesday that risk is theoretical but many panelists said it should be carefully tracked in follow-up studies.

Antiviral pills have long been seen as a key advance beyond currently used antibody drugs, which must be injected or infused by health professionals. But given the shortcomings of Merck's data, several experts said they would prioritize patients to receive the older drugs.

While Merck and its partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics were the first to submit their COVID-19 pill to the FDA, rival drugmaker Pfizer is close behind with its own pill under review.

Pfizer's drug is part of a decades-old family of antiviral pills known as protease inhibitors, a standard treatment for HIV and hepatitis C. They work differently than Merck's pill and haven't been linked to the kind of mutation concerns raised with Merck's drug.

Pfizer said this week that its drug shouldn't be affected by the omicron variant's mutations.

Both drugs require patients to take multiple pills, twice a day for five days.

The U.S. government has agreed to purchase 10 million treatment courses of Pfizer's drug, if it's authorized. That's more than three times the government's purchase agreement with Merck for 3.1 million courses of molnupiravir.

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.

Court upholds California ban on high-capacity magazines

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a ruling by two of its judges and upheld California's ban on high-capacity magazines Tuesday in a split decision that may be headed for the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The statute outlaws no weapon, but only limits the size of the magazine that may be used with firearms," the court said in the 7-4 ruling.

The majority reasoned that "the record demonstrates that the limitation interferes only minimally with the core right of self-defense, as there is no evidence that anyone ever has been unable to defend his or her home and family due to the lack of a large-capacity magazine; and that the limitation saves lives."

The 11-member panel of the San Francisco-based court acted after two of three judges on a smaller 9th Circuit panel last year ruled the state's ban on magazines holding more than 10 bullets violates the U.S. Constitution's protection of the right to bear firearms.

Gunowners' rights groups plan to appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. They have been trying to get firearms cases before a high court that tilts more to the right because of appointments by former President Donald Trump.

9th Circuit Judge Patrick Bumatay, who was appointed by Trump, wrote a dissent and said large-capacity magazines are "commonly used" by Americans for self-defense.

"Indeed, these magazines are lawfully owned by millions of people nationwide and come standard on the most popular firearms sold today," he wrote. "If California's law applied nationwide, it would require confiscating half of all existing firearms magazines in this country."

His dissent was joined by two other judges, while a fourth judge wrote a separate dissenting opinion.

The majority decision hinged in part on which legal standard should be used to determine the outcome, and the 9th Circuit's majority chose the more stringent standard. It found that "intermediate scrutiny applied because the ban imposed only a minimal burden on the core Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms."

Gun rights groups hope the Supreme Court will select a lower legal standard for Second Amendment cases in an upcoming decision on a New York law restricting concealed weapons.

"We're disappointed but not surprised that this particular 11-judge panel had the numbers to overturn the lower court decision. But the fight is far from over," said Chuck Michel, the California Rifle & Pistol Association's president and general counsel. Seven judges on the 9th Circuit panel were appointed by Democratic presidents.

"The panel is bitterly factioned, and the dissenting judges are all suggesting that the Supreme Court needs to take this case to explain how a Second Amendment challenge should be reviewed," he said.

Gun control proponents and California Attorney General Rob Bonta hailed the ruling, with Bonta calling it "a victory for public safety in California."

He called California's ban on large-capacity magazines a commonsense way to confront "an epidemic" of gun violence "including devastating mass shootings."

Bonta noted that the court's majority said every mass shooting with 20 or more deaths in the last 50 years involved large-capacity magazines, as did about three-quarters of those with 10 or more deaths. More than twice as many people were killed or injured in mass shootings with high-capacity magazines than those with less firepower, the court said.

Jonathan Lowy, chief counsel and vice president for legal at the Brady gun control advocacy group said the court's majority rightly held that "the Constitution, properly understood, does not prevent Americans from enacting the gun laws they want and need to protect their families and communities, and it does not entitle people to weapons of war."

Four years ago, San Diego-based U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez declared unconstitutional a state law that since 2000 had prohibited buying or selling large-capacity magazines. That law barred new sales or imports but let those who had the magazines before then keep them.

Benitez also barred the state from enforcing a voter-approved law that would have prohibited gun owners from possessing magazines holding more than 10 bullets. The practical impact was that those who already possessed weapons with such magazines would have had to turn them in.

Gun groups estimated that more than a million high-capacity magazines may have legally flooded into California during a one-week window before Benitez stayed his ruling pending appeal. The three-judge 9th Circuit panel upheld Benitez's ruling and kept the stay in place.

Aside from the effect on high-capacity magazine laws in California and other states, Tuesday's ruling helps to unjam a roadblock in other pending cases over the state's ban on assault weapons.

Everytown for Gun Safety, a leading group seeking firearms restrictions, said state officials' appeal of Benitez's ruling this year throwing out California's assault weapon restrictions was on hold while the 9th Circuit considered the ban on high-capacity magazines.

The assault weapons ruling is also on hold while the appeals court considers the same issues in a different case, where a different federal judge upheld the state's ban in 2018.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

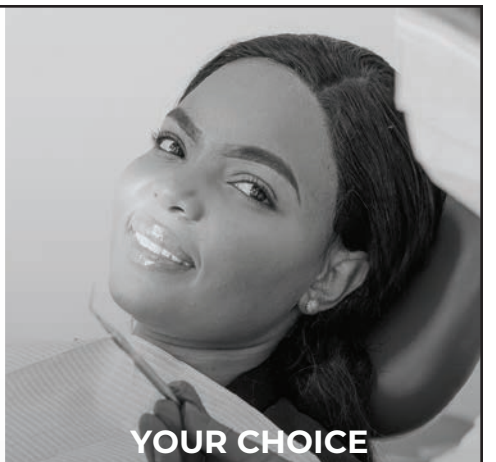
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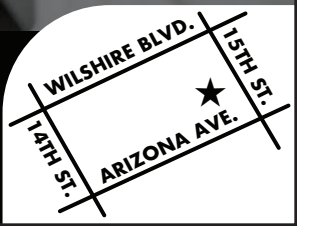
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Statue toppled



Matthew Hall

FALLEN: A statue at 26th and Wilshire installed by artist Ed Massey was toppled recently. The work was installed two years ago as part of Massey's efforts to use art to spur social change.

Letter to the Editor

Kathryn Paddock — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Balance the court

To the Editor:

Right now, the Supreme Court has a 6-3 partisan right-wing supermajority, thanks to a deliberate, decades-long takeover of the highest court in the land. We saw the culmination of this takeover in 2018 and 2020, when Trump and Mitch McConnell used a filibuster exception to install two extreme partisan justices. Now Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett have lifetime appointments to the court.

But it's possible to undo this damage. The Judiciary Act would add four seats, restoring balance to the Supreme Court. It's the solution we need to move away from partisan rulings that could gut gun safety laws, continue rolling back a pregnant person's right to choose, and sabotage health care reform. And it's been done before. In fact, Congress has changed the size of the Supreme Court seven times already in our nation's history. It's time to do it again.

I'm urging Congress to pass the Judiciary Act of 2021 to ensure we protect our fundamental rights and restore balance to our courts now.

Kathryn Paddock, Santa Monica

FEEDING FRENZY

FROM PAGE 1

this from rainwater run-off pollute the ocean and can throw food webs out of balance, small amounts are less detrimental and can lead to the growth of very small plankton.

"That (phytoplankton) results in zooplankton feeding on them that… increases up the line to those filter feeding fishes, like anchovies, sardines, things like that, which may be what folks are witnessing out there off our coast," said Ford.

While the Santa Monica Bay faces a variety of environmental challenges, it does continue to be a center of aquatic biodiversity.

According to Ford, there have been some positive changes for Bay wildlife in recent years, such as the restoration of kelp forests in Palos Verdes led by the Bay Foundation, and the natural cooling of water from an atypical El-Niño driven warm water pulse in late 2014 through mid 2016.

"We do have a bay that is, I think, often unappreciated for the amount of life that it does support," said Ford. "Historically, if we looked at the Santa Monica Bay and truly what... the West Coast of North America used to have off of it, I think it would really blow people's minds. It's a rich, beautiful, amazing ocean full of life and I'm fortunate to continue to work to preserve it."

Clara@smdp.com



Aureo Franzoni Lugo and Paola Flores

FEEDING: The bay has had an abundance of small fish passing through in recent weeks.

STOLEN

FROM PAGE 1

the search. According to the organization, the dog was found in Palisades Park a few hours after the car was taken.

No further details about the stolen car or the dog's health are available at this time.

Anyone with additional information regarding this incident is strongly encouraged to contact the SMDP Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458- 8427.

Published in partnership with the Westside Current

DAILY FIRE LOG

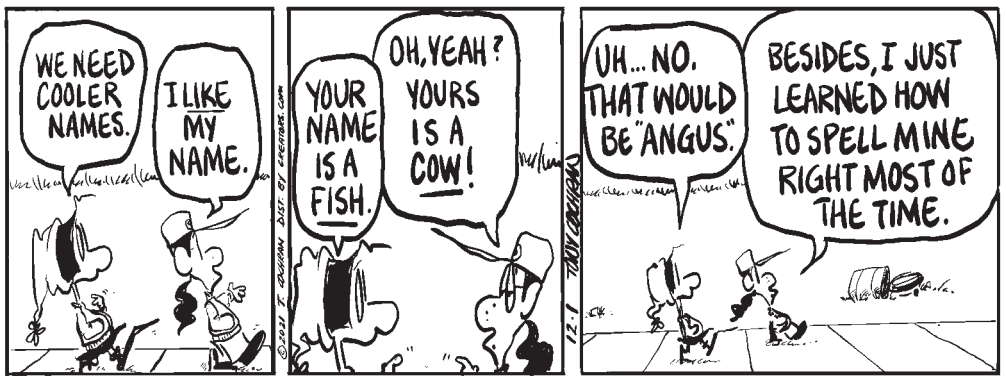
SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 38 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 29

Automatic Alarm 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 7:37 a.m.
EMS 2300Blk 28th St 8:17 a.m.
EMS 16th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:03 a.m.
EMS 200Blk Ocean Ave 9:20 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800Blk Broadway 9:36 a.m.
EMS 20th St / Broadway 10:19 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 10:27 a.m.
EMS 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:00 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:03 a.m.
EMS 1700Blk Ocean Ave 11:50 a.m.
EMS 1000Blk 3rd St 12:41 p.m.
Confined Space Rescue 2400Blk Virginia Ave 12:55 p.m.
Public Assist 1100Blk 12th St 1:04 p.m.
EMS 1800Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:18 p.m.
EMS 800Blk Pier Ave 2:24 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 300Blk Arizona Ave 3:03 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Strand St 3:32 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 4:08 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Ocean Ave 4:43 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1200Blk 15th St 5:42 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk Pacific St 5:46 p.m.
EMS 3100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:00 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:54 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:17 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1500Blk 15th St 8:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 9th St / Arizona Ave 8:17 p.m.
EMS 400Blk Expo Line 8:25 p.m.
EMS 3rd St / Marine St 9:58 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Olympic Dr 11:18 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Olympic Blvd 12:27 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:25 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800Blk 7th St 2:42 a.m.
EMS 2300Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:34 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:42 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk Stewart St 6:17 a.m.
EMS 400Blk 18th St 6:22 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 700Blk 14th St 7:03 a.m.
EMS 100Blk Hart Ave 7:12 a.m.



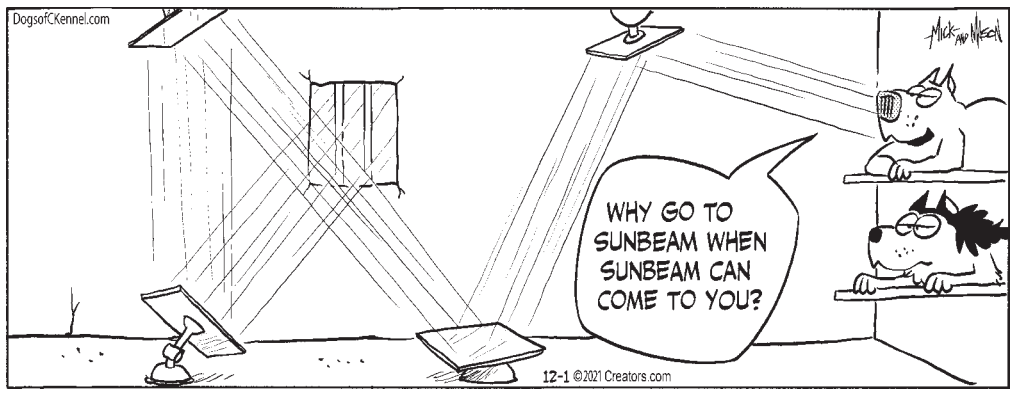
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



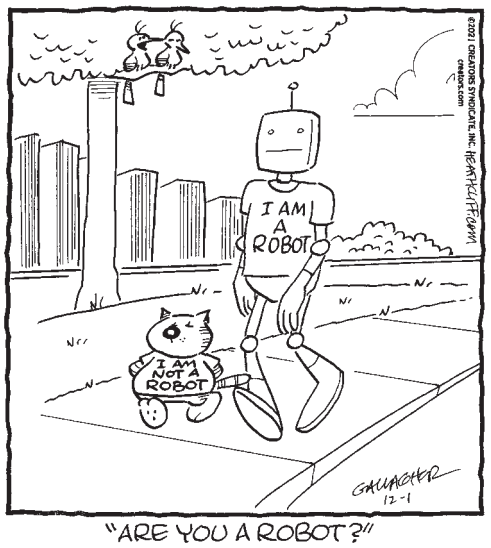
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

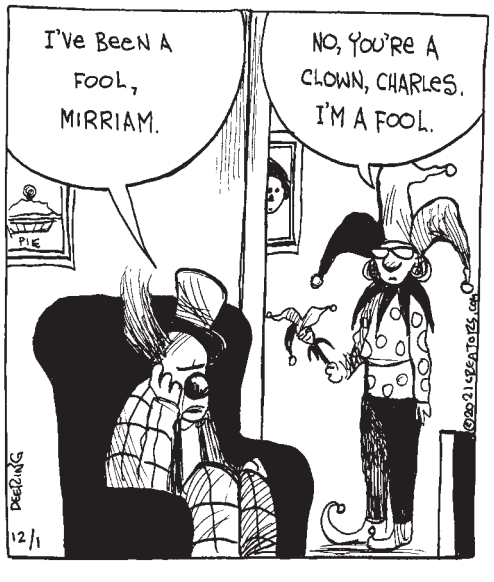
By PETER GALLAGHER



"ARE YOU A ROBOT?"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.8°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
WNW swell holds early then eases through the afternoon, some small SSW swell mixing in. Early high tide slows most of the region but wind could remain light into the afternoon.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
WNW swell mix comes down a bit further with small SSW swell mixing in. Deep high tide early will slow down the surf but should be pretty fun for the smaller wave gear once it drops into midday.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 71. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. Northwest wind around 5 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 66. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/12/01	Wed	06:28 AM	6.05	H
2021/12/01	Wed	1:16 PM	-0.17	L
2021/12/01	Wed	7:19 PM	4.17	H
2021/12/02	Thu	12:36 AM	1.21	L
2021/12/02	Thu	07:02 AM	6.57	H
2021/12/02	Thu	2:00 PM	-0.90	L
2021/12/02	Thu	8:13 PM	4.18	H
2021/12/03	Fri	01:15 AM	1.45	L
2021/12/03	Fri	07:38 AM	6.97	H
2021/12/03	Fri	2:46 PM	-1.41	L
2021/12/03	Fri	9:05 PM	4.13	H
2021/12/04	Sat	01:55 AM	1.70	L
2021/12/04	Sat	08:18 AM	7.16	H
2021/12/04	Sat	3:35 PM	-1.67	L
2021/12/04	Sat	10:00 PM	4.01	H
2021/12/05	Sun	02:38 AM	1.96	L
2021/12/05	Sun	09:01 AM	7.13	H
2021/12/05	Sun	4:25 PM	-1.67	L
2021/12/05	Sun	10:59 PM	3.88	H
2021/12/06	Mon	03:25 AM	2.22	L
2021/12/06	Mon	09:47 AM	6.84	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 11/29
18 26 28 38 47
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 264 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/26
7 27 37 42 59
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 102 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 11/27
1 11 27 31 36
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/29
13 17 20 29 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/29
EVENING: 0 1 2
Draw Date: 11/29
MIDDAY: 1 7 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/29
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:42.65

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 1)

What you do you will do with style. Instead of requiring more money, time and effort, you'll use less. The specific decisions that are so you are bolder than they are expensive. You have a full heart, and love in many forms flows through 2022. It will be impossible to be too generous in this regard as giving amplifies your resources. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 2, 22, 19 and 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your mastery of a skill depends on accurate feedback. Which opinion is correct? Gather them all, but don't act on any yet. Time will shake things out and sort them for you. By the end of the week, only the truth will remain.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are brave, persistent and focused on the right thing for you and yours. The courage of your convictions is a powerfully attractive force, and by the end of the week, you'll find you have allies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have your hand on the dial of your own intensity. You can take any emotion you feel and turn it up or down as needed. Combine this talent with your ability to read the room and you're unstoppable.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Yes, something has slipped out of your grip and now you long to have and hold it. The good news is this is lost but not gone. It will, however, take work to get it back. Extend your reach.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't wait until you need something badly or are frustrated, angry or anxious to move yourself into a better state of mind. However you feel, raise it. Why shouldn't you live in an optimum, powerful state of mind?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). On your mind will be matters of citizenship, fairness and leadership. You've a gut instinct for what's right, but it's still important to process the facts with an open mind because the lesson is in an integration of gut and intellect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Obtain what's necessary to move forward. This is probably a skill or tool. Success depends on a belief. Try this one on for size: It was always meant to be yours; you just have to claim it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The Chinese proverb says, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." But it's not until step 233 that you begin to feel like you're really going somewhere.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). All of the things that money can't buy -- love, respect, profound glamour, real connection -- require complex kinds of work. To imagine, plot and execute your plans will feel like play.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time, but oh, how the objects will keep trying! The spirit of competition and the inevitability of collision keeps it interesting in a highly charged atmosphere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a certain part of your life that's not a pretty picture. Consider that it may not be the picture's fault. Maybe it's the frame. Framing it differently will change your view entirely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Get clear about what you want. Ranking your options in order of desirability, from your top-tier arrangement to your bottom-line necessities, will bring good fortune to your realm.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

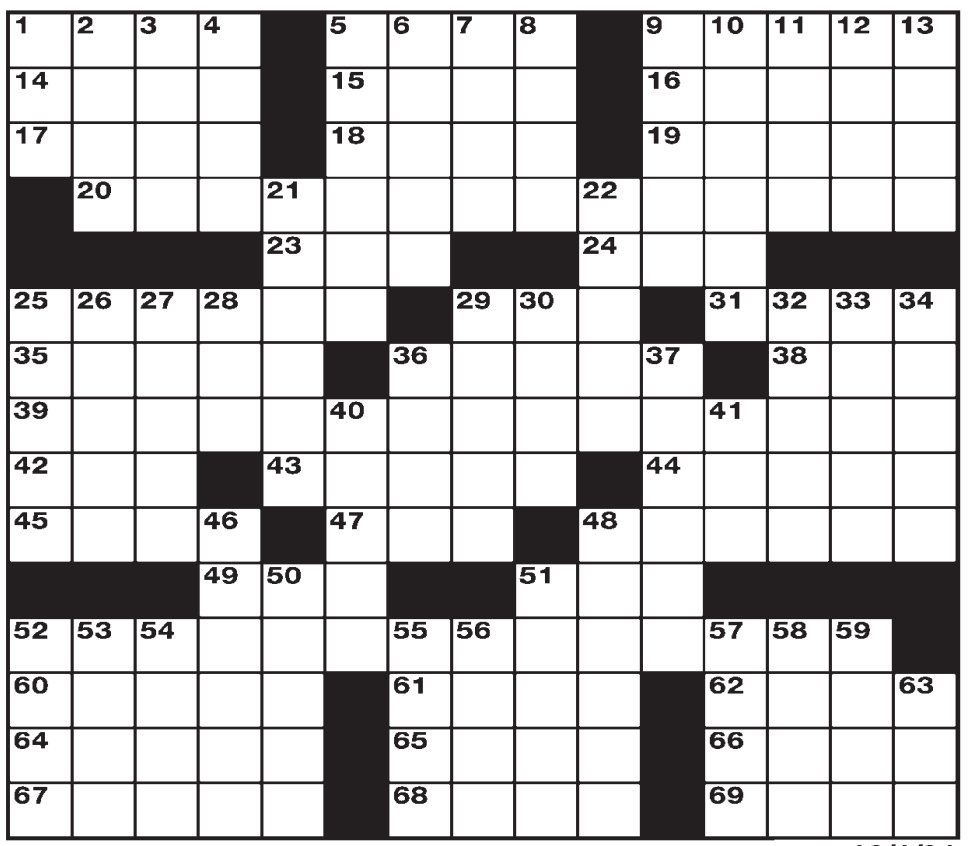
	2					1		
	5		8					9
1			5		9		2	
		4		9				1
	9	1	4		5	6	8	
2				1		4		
	8		3		6			4
6					4		7	
		9					3	

Newsday Crossword

CALL IT by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Corrosive liquid
5 Pasta nutrient, for short
9 Whitish gemstones
14 "This is terrible!"
15 Burn-soothing plant
16 *Santa* __ (ship of 1492)
17 __ story (biography)
18 Jones or Smith
19 Ram of the zodiac
20 Bosses in boardrooms
23 Dream-period acronym
24 Grown-up boy
25 London's river
29 Eyebrow shape
31 Waterproof cover
35 Subtle glows
36 Woodwind instruments
38 Feel sorry about
39 What monkeys hang from trees with
42 Extremely long time
43 Mark on "señor"
44 Any possession of value
45 Break sharply
47 Tip of a sneaker
48 "Do unto __ . . ."
49 Rowboat implement
51 Uni- times three
52 Two-outcome random occurrence
60 Nearby
61 Face of a gauge
62 No longer in effect
64 Copy machine powder
65 Rustic guesthouses
66 Caesar's rebuke
67 Disreputable, as a bar
68 Birthday party dessert
69 Comic poet Ogden

DOWN
1 "You've got mail!" company
2 Stylish
3 Helpful data
4 Take-charge type
5 Summer camp boats
6 Signal from a clock
7 Capital of Italia
8 Red veggie
9 Nebraska city
10 Mom or dad
11 Operatic solo
12 Wasn't truthful
13 Bratty talk
21 Adjust in advance
22 Television host
25 Repairs with cellophane
26 A Great Lake
27 Boxing match venue
28 __-jongg
29 Comply with, with "by"
30 Part played
32 Start your day
33 Measuring stick
34 Annoying people
36 Scandinavian capital
37 Radio noise
40 Explosive liquid, briefly
41 Hearth remnant
46 Self-confident
48 End of a threat
50 Imitative skill
51 Express appreciation
52 Plays a part
53 Arctic ice sheet
54 Solitary
55 Bank protection agcy.
56 Fey of TV
57 Where a pie bakes
58 Slight amount
59 Petty complaints
63 "How silly of me!"



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

WEDNESDAY | DEC 1

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Arizona Ave & 2nd St

MYSTERY WINDOW ART PROJECT
Help an art project come to life! Bring friends and family to create window art at the Library using post-its. What will it be? Come create and see! For ages 7 and up. Main Library. 3 - 5 p.m.

THURSDAY | DEC 2

COCKTAILS AND ALL THAT JAZZ
from November 25th to January 6th, Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel has created the best of holiday cheer, seasonal cocktails, live entertainment, culinary creations, and more for the whole family to enjoy. Listen to live jazz this holiday season, by the beach, every Thursday night beginning December 2nd, 2021 in our lobby lounge from 5pm to 9pm. Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel 1700 Ocean Ave.

NOMA MEETING
The North of Montana Avenue Association will be giving residents the opportunity to meet new City Manager David White and our newly-appointed Chief of Police Ramon Batista at NOMA's meeting this Thursday, December 2, at 7 p.m. and to discuss issues of neighborhood concern and prospects for the city. The session will be on Zoom and the public is invited to attend at smnoma.org till capacity is reached.

MINDFUL PAJAMA JAM AT THE MAIN LIBRARY
Learn about mindfulness you can use during the holidays. Wear your pajamas, bring a favorite stuffed animal and enjoy storytelling and mindful activities. For families. Space is limited. 6:30 p.m. To register, email ann.wilson@santamonica.gov.

FRIDAY | DEC 3

THE PRACTICE OF DISGUISE - BEHIND THE SCENES
An experimental video trailer by Taiwanese artist Ling-lin Ku, produced under the framework of her solo show entitled The Practice of Disguise, features a behind the scene look at her time as an AiR at 18th Street Arts Center. The video will present footage around her studio and process, interviews with staff members and artists, the exhibition, as a visual collage along with other researched images. Streaming online at Facebook Live (@18thstreetarts) at 12 p.m. to 1p.m. For more information visit https://18th-street.org/event/thepracticeofdisguise/

ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE TOUR
Santa Monica Conservancy docents will be on hand Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 - 2 p.m. at the Annenberg Community Beach House! Discover the site's rich history from the 1920s to present day. Our free 20-minute guided tours are available on a walk-up basis for individuals and groups of up to six people. Please wear a mask as it is required indoors at City of Santa Monica facilities. Reservations not required. 415 Pacific Coast Highway.

SEASIDE CINEMA AT LOEWS SCREENS THE GRINCH
Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel announces its third annual holiday program, Seaside Holidays. Tis the season for FREE holiday movies... beachside. Seaside Cinema Holidays features timeless classics, seasonal culinary treats, and more.Movies show from 6pm-8pm.

SAT |DEC 4

CELEBRATE PICO
Save the date for a free, fun family event at the Pico Farmer's Market at Virginia Park from 9am - 1pm! A 10-ft Wishing Tree will be up at the corner of Pico and Cloverfield, and kid's can spin a prize wheel for candy or toys, and enjoy a spectacular framed kids art project sponsored by the charming new Creative Roads Kids Enrichment Center. We'll hang your child's mural art in a Pico merchant's shop! The Pico Branch librarians have Storytime planned for 10:15am and 11:15am and Pico Improvement Org has some fabulous canvas totes to surprise lucky visitors.

MONTANA AVENUE HOLIDAY WALK
Find wonderful gifts, have your photos taken with Santa, listen to live music, indulge in great food and drinks. This is a fun night for all! 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Montana Ave.

OCEAN PARK BRANCH BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende Saturday. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sponsored by poet Pablo Neruda to flee the violence of the Spanish Civil War, a pregnant widow and an army doctor unite in an arranged marriage, only to be swept up by the early days of World War II. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov.

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

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At the zoo

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

Aardwolf	Carp	Dook	Hyena	Soft
Bass	Cattle	Duck	Koala	Wail
Bats	Cavy	Dunnart	Lemur	Walrus
Bear	Clam	Eels	Lion	Whale
Bird	Climb	Eland	Marsupial	Whine
Blind	Cobra	Euro	Mole	Yaks
Boa constrictor	Crane	Feed	Neigh	Yowl
	Cuddly	Gnus	Purr	Zebu
Boom	Cute	Hair	Roar	Zoos
Bugs	Deer	Hare	Rumble	
Call	Dodo	Hoot	Seal	
Camel	Dogs	Horse	Sloth	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Our weekend ritual

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LA begins enforcing strict mandate requiring proof of vax

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

Enforcement began Monday in Los Angeles for one of the strictest vaccine mandates in the country, a sweeping measure that requires proof of shots for everyone entering a wide variety of businesses from restaurants to theaters and gyms to nail and hair salons.

While the latest order aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus took effect Nov. 8, city officials spent the past three weeks providing business owners the information and resources business they need to comply.

"Nobody wants to penalize anyone," said Sharon Tso, the city's Chief Legislative Analyst, whose office drafted the enforcement rules. "That's why we've been prioritizing education."

A first offense will bring a warning but subsequent ones could produce fines running from $1,000 to $5,000. Inspectors with the Department of Building and Safety will enforce the mandate, and the city hopes to eventually get assistance from the LA County Department of Public Health, Tso said. She didn't immediately know if any warnings or citations were issued on Monday.

Los Angeles is among a growing number of cities across the U.S., including San Francisco and New York City, requiring people show proof of vaccination to enter various types of businesses and venues. But rules in the nation's second-most-populous city, called SafePassLA, apply to more types of businesses and other indoor locations including concert halls, museums and convention centers.

A sign reminding customers to be prepared to show their vaccine cards hangs at the Muddy Paw Coffee Shop in the Eagle Rock neighborhood, where owner Darren Laborie said he's thankful that the vast majority of his regulars have happily complied with the shifting regulations over the past year and a half.

"We have to adapt to whatever rules are coming at us. And our customers go along with us," Laborie said. Those that don't want to wear a mask or show vaccine proof can sit in the outdoor patio or take their coffees and pastries to go, he said.

One year ago, Los Angeles was becoming the state's epicenter of the worst spike of the pandemic in California. By January an average of 500 people were dying statewide every day.

To guard against another spike in cases, deaths and hospitalizations, the LA City Council voted 11-2 last month for the ordinance that requires people 12 and older to be fully vaccinated to enter indoor public spaces including sports arenas, museums, spas, indoor city facilities and other locations. Retail stores and shopping malls are exempt.

Negative coronavirus tests within 72 hours of entry to those establishments would be required for people with religious or medical exemptions for vaccinations. Customers without proof can still use outdoor facilities and can briefly enter a business to use a restroom or pick up a food order.

Business trade groups have said the mandate will sow confusion and could present safety concerns for employees tasked with checking customers' vaccination status. Laborie shares concerns that the rules could place "an undue burden" on small business owners.

"A lot of businesses can't afford to have employees spending their time at the front door all the time. They just don't have the staffing," he said.

Melanie Bolen happily showed her vaccine card before having lunch inside Fred 62, an upscale diner in the city's Los Feliz neighborhood.

"I mean, I'm fine with that," Bolen said. "If that's what's needed to help get things over with this pandemic, I'm all for it."

While many cold-weather states are seeing sharp increases in cases, California's per capita rate has been among the nation's lowest for two months and that has kept hospitalizations relatively low after a late-summer surge.

In the last two weeks, Los Angeles County hospitalizations have fallen about 10%, mirroring the statewide trend. State forecasts show a continuing decline through Christmas.

Among LA county's roughly 10 million people, 82% of eligible residents now have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose and 74% of those eligible are fully vaccinated, according to public health officials.

Diane Pullman wore a cloth mask around her neck, ready to pull on when she met a friend for lunch in Eagle Rock. She keeps a digital image of her vaccine card as the home screen of her phone.

"It's become second nature. Mask on. Vaccine card ready. I honestly don't find it that disruptive any more," Pullman said, adding that she hopes the inoculations will be effective on the new Omicron variant of the virus that's spreading overseas.

Omicron has been detected in Canada after first emerging in Africa and then spreading to Europe. The California Department of Public Health warned that "it is only a matter of time" before Omicron is detected in the U.S.

"New variants will continue to evolve as long as there are large proportions of unvaccinated people," the department said in a statement Sunday urging residents to get vaccinated and follow rules regarding masks in indoor public spaces.

Associated Press video journalist Eugene Garcia contributed to this report.

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