smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Oceana Hotel's request to open restaurant to public fails in deadlocked Council vote



Clara Harter

HOTEL: The hotel lost its bid to open a public restaurant as a majority vote was needed to approve the appeal.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Caught in the classic City Council quandary of business development vs neighborhood preservation, the Oceana Hotel narrowly lost its appeal to open its restaurant to the general public.

The request, though seemingly straightforward, has been the subject of fraught and factious discussion among residents, Planning Commissioners and City Council Members.

Planning Commissioners also deadlocked over the proposal in a 3-3 vote in June. The Oceana appealed the decision to City Council and it again failed to pass by a 3-3 vote following strongly divided public comments and a long debate by Councilmembers.

The Oceana Hotel is located in an R2 and R3 zoning district, where hotels are not a permitted land use. Because the hotel was built in 1958 before this zoning requirement was in place, it is allowed to continue operating, but is only allowed to offer food and beverage services to guests.

The hotel would like to open its restaurant to the general public, without increasing its size or capacity, to increase its economic viability and become a neighborhood eatery.

Those in support of expanding the restaurant's clientele, believe it would help the business and add a valuable new walking distance restaurant for residents. Those opposed feel the expansion would impinge upon the relative peace, quiet and low congestion rates enjoyed by residents, while creating a precedent for other businesses to seek expanded commercial uses in residentially zoned neighborhoods.

Councilmember Lana Negrete was one of the strongest proponents of the Oceana Hotel's proposal, citing the need to support local businesses.

SEE **DEADLOCKED** PAGE 11

US reports 1st case of omicron variant in returning traveler

ZEKE MILLER, OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ AND MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

The U.S. recorded its first confirmed case of the omicron variant Wednesday — in a vaccinated traveler who returned to California after a trip to South Africa — as scientists around the world race to establish whether the new, mutant version of the coronavirus is more dangerous than previous ones.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious-disease expert, announced the finding at the White House.

"We knew it was just a matter of time before the first case of omicron would be detected in the United States," he said.

The infected person was identified as a traveler who had returned from South Africa on Nov. 22, developed mild symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19

SEE **OMICRON** PAGE 5

Mandate mishmash: vaccine proof remains voluntary for most Santa Monica businesses



Clara Harter

CONFUSION: Some restaurants are mistakenly saying that Santa Monica has a vaccine mandate to dine indoors.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

With the City of Santa Monica, City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles each having different health directives, the resulting melange of mandates can prove confusing for residents and business owners — particularly when it comes to indoor vaccination requirements.

In Santa Monica proof of vaccination is required to work at or visit indoor bars, breweries, nightclubs and lounges, per overarching County orders. Proof of vaccination is not required to dine indoors at restaurants, however individual restaurant

SEE **VACCINE PROOF** PAGE 4

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Omicron unravels travel industry's plans for a comeback

DAVID KOENIG AND YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

Tourism businesses that were just finding their footing after nearly two years of devastation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic are being rattled again as countries throw up new barriers to travel in an effort to contain the omicron variant.

From shopping districts in Japan and tour guides in the Holy Land to ski resorts in the Alps and airlines the world over, a familiar dread is rising about the renewed restrictions.

Meanwhile, travelers eager to get out there have been thrown back into the old routine of reading up on new requirements and postponing trips.

Abby Moore, a librarian and associate professor at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, was scheduled to leave for Prague on Wednesday. But the day before her flight, she started having doubts when she saw that Prague had closed its Christmas markets and imposed a citywide curfew.

"I wasn't really concerned about my trip until the Czech Republic started what looked like a mini-lockdown process," said Moore, who decided to reschedule her travel to March.

Less than a month after significantly easing restrictions for inbound international travel, the U.S. government has banned most foreign nationals who have recently been in any of eight southern African countries. A similar boomerang was seen in Japan and Israel, both of which tightened restrictions shortly after relaxing them.

While it is not clear where the variant emerged, South African scientists identified it last week, and many places, including the European Union and Canada, have restricted travel from the wider region.

For all the alarm, little is known about omicron, including whether it is more contagious, causes more serious illness or can evade vaccines.

Still, governments that were slow to react to the first wave of COVID-19 are eager to avoid past mistakes. The World Health Organization says, however, that travel bans are of limited value and will "place a heavy burden on lives and livelihoods." Other experts say travel restrictions won't keep variants out but might give countries more time to get people vaccinated.

London-based airline easyJet said Tuesday that renewed travel restrictions already appear to be hurting winter bookings, although CEO Johan Lundgren said the damage is not yet as severe as during previous waves. The CEO of SAS Scandinavian Airlines said winter demand was looking up, but now we "need to figure out what the new variants may mean."

"In the past year, each new variant has brought a decline in bookings, but then an increase once the surge dissipates," said Helane Becker, an analyst with financial services firm Cowen.

Hotels, which were recovering more quickly than expected, have experienced a similar phenomenon.

"Every time there has been a variant, as soon as it clears up a little bit (leisure travel) snaps back very quickly. Business travel is a little more uncertain," said Ari Klein, a hotels analyst for BMO Capital Markets.

Israel's decision to close the country to foreign visitors is hitting the nation's tourism industry as it geared up for the Hanukkah and Christmas holidays. The country only opened to tourists in November, after barring most foreign visitors since early last year.

Just over 30,000 tourists entered Israel in the first half of November, compared to 421,000 in November 2019, according to government figures.

Joel Haber, a Jerusalem-based guide, said during a typical Hanukkah holiday his calendar would be chock full of food tours through Jerusalem's colorful Mahane Yehuda market. Instead, he has just one tour a day.

"Tour guides like me are the first to get hit and the last to emerge and are directly prevented from working by a government decision," Haber said.

In the West Bank city of Bethlehem, revered by Christians as Jesus' birthplace, local businesses expected a boost from Christmas tourism. The Bethlehem Hotel, one of the largest in the city, has operated at a fraction of capacity for the past 18 months.

"Everyone who had bookings over the next two weeks has canceled, while others are waiting to see what happens next," said

SEE **TRAVEL** PAGE 7

Oil demand, climate change clash in California pipeline plan

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

A proposal to replace an oil pipeline that was shut down in 2015 after causing California's worst coastal spill in 25 years is inching though a government review, even as the state moves toward banning gas-powered vehicles and oil drilling.

Consideration of the $300 million proposal by Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline is expected to enter a critical phase next year at a time when new scrutiny is being placed on the state's oil industry after an offshore pipeline break in October near Huntington Beach. That rupture released at least 25,000 gallons of crude that closed beaches and took a deadly toll on sea life along one of the world's fabled surf breaks.

Farther north, the 123-mile Plains pipeline travels along the coastline near Santa Barbara before turning inland. It's buried and nearly invisible for much of its length to Kern County, in the state's midsection. For decades it was a vital link between oil platforms off the coast and processing plants on shore, with shipments averaging 1.8 million gallons a day.

California Democratic U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla opposes the proposal, bluntly warning of future risks.

"We've seen time and time again how damaging offshore oil spills are to our coastal ecosystems as well as to our outdoor recreation and tourism economies," Padilla said in a statement. "We should not risk repeating history by rebuilding or restarting the Plains pipeline."

Plains spokesman Brad Leone said the company safely transported 90 billion gallons last year throughout North America. "Plains is committed to designing, constructing and maintaining these lines in a safe, reliable manner," he said.

The project faces numerous hurdles, including a federal class-action lawsuit from property owners who say Plains lacks the right to use existing easements for a new pipeline. Lead trial counsel Barry Cappello said the project would rip up vineyards and coastal ranches and "our clients never signed up for that."

Shon Hiatt, an associate professor at the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business, said the company's motivation to revive the pipeline is obvious.

"They make money on that," Hiatt said. "The price of oil is not going to be going down."

He said the cost of a barrel of oil could top $100 next year. It's about $77 now.

Documents filed by Plains with Santa Barbara County say the replaced pipeline, though smaller than its predecessor, could move up to nearly 1.7 million gallons a day. At current prices, that much oil would be valued at more than $3 million daily, or potentially over $1 billion a year, though pipelines often do not run at full capacity.

Oil has been drilled in California since the 19th century, but the project is being debated as the state reckons with its fraught history with fossil fuels. Climate change is expanding the threat of wildfires, drought and tidal surges, and the state has positioned itself as a global leader in renewable energy and pioneering policies intended to slow the planet's warming.

California — by itself the world's fifth-largest economy — plans to ban the sale of new gas-powered cars and trucks by 2035 and end oil production a decade later. The recent spill in Huntington Beach renewed calls to halt all drilling off the coast.

The Plains pipeline inevitably will be a symbol of that conflict: the desire for oil to fuel cars, heat buildings and make plastics versus growing political pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Biden administration — which recently auctioned vast oil and gas reserves in the Gulf of Mexico — faces the same dilemma.

California's oil and gas industry directly and indirectly supports over 365,000 jobs and has an annual output of over $150 billion, one study of 2017 data estimated. Nationally, the industry supported nearly 17 million jobs in 2020, according to a report from the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association, a trade group. California ranked second in direct industry employment, with about 75,000 jobs, though it was far behind Texas, the nation's leading producer with nearly 350,000 jobs.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has spoken about the economic challenges of retiring the industry even as he promotes a greener future for the state. His office declined to comment on the Plains project, noting it was under review by government agencies.

Environmentalists have pointed to the risk of spills — as well as earthquake threats — in arguing against a new line.

California is known as a birthplace of the modern environmental movement, and a watershed event was a massive 1969 spill off the coast of Santa Barbara. Despite that history and the move toward green energies, the Newsom administration has resisted taking a strong stance against new fossil-fuel projects, said Julie Teel Simmonds, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental group that opposes the Plains pipeline.

The state's decision on the project "is an opportunity for California to walk the talk" on weaning itself from oil, she said.

The Plains pipeline was last in service on May 19, 2015, when a corroded section above ground and running west of Santa Barbara

SEE **PIPELINE** PAGE 7

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.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 305 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 30

Loud Music 500Blk Hill St 12:01 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1500Blk 2nd St 12:14 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 12:42 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 700Blk Idaho Ave 4:41 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 5th St / Hollister Ave 6:14 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:23 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:28 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 6:48 a.m.
Encampment 1700Blk The Beach 7:03 a.m.
Fraud Report 200Blk 17th St 7:14 a.m.
Lost Property 700Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:15 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 8:11 a.m.
Encampment 700Blk Ozone St 8:16 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2500Blk Kansas Ave 8:21 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1000Blk 4th St 8:33 a.m.
Encampment Barnard Way / Wadsworth Ave 9:18 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1300Blk Harvard St 9:23 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400Blk 16th St 9:30 a.m.
Encampment 1600Blk 20th St 9:42 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1700Blk Ocean Ave 9:50 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500Blk 17th St 9:54 a.m.
Battery Report 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 10:03 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2500Blk Broadway 10:17 a.m.
Encampment 1800Blk 11th St 10:19 a.m.
General Parking Problem 17th St / Michigan Ave 10:40 a.m.
Illegal Weapon Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 10:46 a.m.
Identity Theft 400Blk San Vicente Blvd 10:51 a.m.
Missing Person 1500Blk Montana Ave 11:11 a.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2000Blk Ocean Ave 11:14 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 11th St / Pico Blvd 11:18 a.m.
Encampment 17th St / Alta Ave 11:25 a.m.
Encampment 1900Blk Expo Bike Path 11:38 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1500Blk Ocean Ave 11:39 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 2700Blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:58 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 12:12 p.m.
Battery Report 3100Blk Main St 12:16 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Cloverfield Blvd / Michigan Ave 12:20 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200Blk Broadway 12:31 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 20th St / Washington Ave 12:32 p.m.
Fraud Report 100Blk Strand St 12:33 p.m.
Encampment 1800Blk 12th St 12:36 p.m.
Burglary Report 1200Blk 14th St 12:53 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 1:04 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1500Blk Ocean Ave 1:09 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Franklin St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:11 p.m.
Burglary Report 1400Blk Ocean Ave 1:37 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1900Blk 22nd St 1:51 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 2200Blk Pico Blvd 1:56 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:03 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1100Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:03 p.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 2900Blk 31st St 2:12 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 800Blk 10th St 2:12 p.m.
Battery Report 600Blk Washington Ave 2:15 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 800Blk 16th St 2:20 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 18th St / Montana Ave 2:23 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:43 p.m.
Person Down 900Blk Marine St 2:46 p.m.
Burglary Report 800Blk 4th St 3:00 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2300Blk 14th St 3:37 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 7th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:39 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200Blk 4th St 3:56 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2200Blk Arizona Ave 4:03 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400Blk Harvard St 4:11 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 500Blk Colorado Ave 4:18 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:58 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2600Blk 5th St 5:14 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 900Blk Marine St 5:28 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 3200Blk 17th St 5:35 p.m.
Fight 500Blk Colorado Ave 6:03 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 800Blk 16th St 6:11 p.m.
Keep The Peace 1300Blk California Ave 6:23 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / California Ave 6:25 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:28 p.m.
Encampment 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:35 p.m.
Sexual Assault 1100Blk Block Arizona Ave 6:42 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1200Blk 4th St 6:42 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:49 p.m.
Construction Noise 2900Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:16 p.m.
Found Property 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 7:19 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 900Blk 14th St 7:24 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1300Blk Harvard St 7:27 p.m.
Encampment 200Blk Palisades Park 8:09 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1500Blk 2nd St 8:11 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 8:33 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:37 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Michigan Ave 8:50 p.m.
Person With A Gun 4th St / Colorado Ave 8:52 p.m.
Loud Music 2100Blk 4th St 9:07 p.m.
Overdose 900Blk Ocean Ave 9:38 p.m.
Encampment 3100Blk The Beach 10:14 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Interstate 10 / Cloverfield Blvd 10:17 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 10:17 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 1500Blk 4th St 10:30 p.m.
Fight 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:36 p.m.
Party Complaint 1300Blk 2nd St 11:13 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 2300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:23 p.m.
Loud Music 00Blk Bay St 11:32 p.m.



DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 40 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 30

EMS 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:11 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 900Blk 9th St 3:39 a.m.
EMS 2100Blk Ocean Ave 3:58 a.m.
EMS 2200Blk Colorado Ave 5:46 a.m.
Arcing Wires 1300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:25 a.m.
Transformer Fire 1600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:26 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 23rd St 7:24 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 1100Blk 14th St 7:42 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 7:52 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 15th St 8:12 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600Blk Montana Ave 8:43 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 1300Blk 15th St 8:45 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400Blk 16th St 9:27 a.m.
EMS 1700Blk Pico Blvd 9:49 a.m.
EMS 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:06 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 12:14 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk Colorado Ave 1:12 p.m.
EMS 3100Blk Lincoln Blvd 1:18 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 11th St 1:49 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 18th St / Montana Ave 2:23 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:45 p.m.
EMS 900Blk Marine St 2:46 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk 14th St 3:40 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk Colorado Ave 4:01 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400Blk 16th St 4:11 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 4:39 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Colorado Ave 5:00 p.m.
Flooded Condition 4th St / Georgina Ave 5:16 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 25th St 5:57 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 6:15 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900Blk Broadway 7:26 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 500Blk San Vicente Blvd 7:51 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 3rd St 7:54 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 15th St 8:26 p.m.
Request Fire Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 8:37 p.m.
EMS 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:44 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 9:30 p.m.
EMS 900Blk Ocean Ave 9:38 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 9th St 11:21 p.m.

INSIDE
THE DAILY PRESS
PODCAST
smdp.com/pod
ALSO AVAILABLE ON

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Matthew King,
Kimberly Jaffe.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Clara Harter
clara@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com
Diana Corona
diana@smdp.com
Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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AWARD WINNER
AWARD WINNER
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WINNER

VACCINE PROOF

FROM PAGE 1

owners may voluntarily choose to enforce a vaccine requirement.

For example, the Rustic Canyon Family of restaurants, which operates eight Santa Monica eateries, has been requiring proof of vaccination to eat indoors since Aug. 16.

"As restaurants reopened indoor dining, we wanted to make sure we were creating a safe gathering space for our guests while not putting our employees at risk," said Rustic Canyon Family President Joel Dixon. "We looked to cities around the nation and beyond on how they were handling indoor dining and it looked like the safest way was to require vaccinations or a negative COVID test from our guests dining indoors."

According to Dixon, the group has not had too many challenges enforcing this rule. In order to avoid issues they have posted the policy on their website, in their reservation responses and on their entrances. Additionally, all of their restaurants have ample outdoor dining spaces if people are unvaccinated.

The voluntary nature of indoor vaccination mandates at local restaurants has been a point of confusion, with some restaurants erroneously displaying signage saying that the City of Santa Monica requires vaccination to dine indoors.

This confusion is likely due to the fact that such a requirement exists in the City of Los Angeles, as well as in West Hollywood, Pasadena and Long Beach.

On Oct. 6, Los Angeles City Council passed a sweeping indoor vaccination mandate that came into effect on Nov. 8. This mandate requires proof of vaccination to enter indoor restaurants, fitness centers, personal care facilities, entertainment venues and city facilities.

This mandate resurfaced in headlines this week as on Nov. 29, the City of L.A. began enforcing its mandate after a three week outreach and education period. Enforcement begins with a warning of non compliance, followed by a range of fines starting at a $1,000 ticket and topping out at a $5,000 ticket.

Santa Monica could opt to adopt its own indoor vaccination mandate that extends beyond the County's regulations, however this would need to be brought forward by City Councilmembers.

According to Mayor Sue Himmelrich, this subject is being considered, but is not moving forward with any haste at this time.

"A couple of us have discussed following the City of L.A. as opposed to the County," said Himmelrich. "We are waiting and watching to determine the progression of cases and how successful L.A. City's enforcement proves."

As the recent threat of the omicron variant has destabilized predictions about the pandemic's retreat, public officials are placing greater emphasis on the need for vaccines and vaccine mandates.

In response to omicron, the CDC expanded its recommendation for COVID booster shots on Monday to include anyone age 18 or older, as opposed to just the elderly or immunocompromised.

"While we don't know for certain the impact of omicron, we're clear that there are immediate action steps we can each take to protect each other and continue to slow transmission of COVID-19," said County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer. "The most effective tool remains the vaccines."

Clara@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Celebrating What We Do and Why It Matters

The Committee for Racial Justice will host a community discussion to reflect and celebrate their antiracist work toward a more equitable community.

They will hear from a number of folks and also have some time for discussion.

Angela Scott, a CRJ Steering committee member; Derek Devermont, the Vice Chair of Santa Monica's Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission; and Tara Barauskas, Chair of the CRJ Housing Team will provide a few insights from CRJ's workshops this past year on Mental Health, Criminal Justice/Policing, and Housing issues.

Gifted veteran character actress, Starletta DuPois, who has breathed life into a bevy of unforgettable roles both onstage and onscreen, will share with us some of her life experiences dealing with racism. You may know her from her roles in films, such as Waiting to Exhale, where she played Whitney Houston's mother, or from some of her TV roles such as in the Lifetime movie Michael Jackson: Searching for Neverland, where she played Jackson family matriarch Katherine Jackson.

A Philadelphia native, Starletta holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and an MFA from UCLA in Theater Arts, where she graduated magna cum laude. She has also proudly served as an adjunct professor at USC.

As is CRJ's custom in the holiday season, there will be music, provided this year by William Bryant, a vocalist, songwriter, and keyboard artist who has worked over the years with folks such as Patti LaBelle, Marvin Gaye, Barry White, and Sheena Easton. He is currently the Minister of Music at Imani Christian Cathedral in Pomona, and is also adjunct faculty at Santa Monica College. In past years, prior to the COVID outbreak, William was present at CRJ's December workshops as Director of the Emeritus Choir.

Jonelle Lewis, Apple Fitness Trainer, will guide us through some centering movements and meditation. She has been practicing yoga for over 15 years and has been a teacher mentor, and educator for other yoga teachers for the past 7 years.

For more information, call (310) 422-5431.

Zoom meeting, Sunday, December 5, from 6:30 -8 p.m.

Click the following link to join the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84162356498

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

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.

OMICRON

FROM PAGE 1

Monday. Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco obtained a sample from the patient Tuesday evening and worked feverishly overnight to assemble the genetic sequence.

The person, who had the full two doses of the Moderna vaccine and wasn't yet due for a booster shot, is improving, California officials said.

Fauci and other medical experts strongly emphasized that Americans should continue to get vaccinated and get their booster shots. The vaccine has been proven to reduce the risk of severe illness and death, and Fauci said it is reasonable to believe it will offer protection against the omicron variant.

The mild nature of the California person's infection "is a testimony to the importance of the vaccinations," said California Health Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly.

All the individual's close contacts have been reached and have tested negative, officials said. The patient, who agreed to remain in quarantine, was identified only as being between 18 and 49.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom expressed confidence in the state's efforts to control the virus and said he does not anticipate imposing another stay-at-home order or other shutdown measures.

At least 23 other countries have reported omicron infections since South African authorities first identified the variant a week ago — an announcement that led the U.S. and many other nations to almost immediately bar airline travelers arriving from southern Africa.

In South Africa, new cases of COVID-19 nearly doubled in a single day to almost 8,600, authorities reported Wednesday, and the country's National Institute for Communicable Diseases said omicron has now overtaken the delta variant among samples now being analyzed at the genetic level.

But the variant is still surrounded by many unknowns, among them: Is it more contagious than other versions, as some scientists are beginning to suspect? Does it make people more seriously ill? And can it evade the vaccine?

"Any declaration of what will or will not happen with this variant, I think it is too early to say," Fauci said.

European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it will take two to three weeks before it becomes fully clear what omicron can do to the world.

"This is, in normal times, a short period. In pandemic times, it's an eternity," she lamented.

In California, the genetic analysis of the patient's virus from UCSF was confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We will likely see this scenario play out multiple times across the country in the coming days or weeks," said Scott Becker, CEO of the Association of Public Health Laboratories.

"This particular case shows the system working as it was designed to work — an individual with travel history from South Africa, an astute laboratory and quick prioritization of the specimen for sequencing, and close coordination with public health officials."

Nigeria and Saudi Arabia also reported omicron infections Wednesday, marking the first known cases in West Africa and the Persian Gulf region.

Going further than many other countries in trying to contain the virus, Japan has banned foreign visitors and asked international airlines to stop taking new reservations for all flights arriving in the country until the end of December.

The U.S. is working toward requiring that all air travelers to the country be tested for COVID-19 within a day before boarding their flights, up from the current three days.

On Wednesday, the World Health Organization warned that blanket travel bans are complicating the sharing of lab samples from South Africa that could help scientists understand the new variant.

At the same time the omicron variant is spreading new fear and uncertainty, the dominant delta variant is still creating havoc, especially in Europe. Many countries there are dealing with a surge in infections and hospitalizations, despite a relatively high vaccination rate of 67% of the European Union's population.

For the first time, von der Leyen said EU nations should consider making vaccinations mandatory. Greece plans to fine people over 60 who don't get the shot. And German Chancellor-designate Olaf Scholz said he will back a proposal to require everyone to get vaccinated.

Miller and Balsamo reported from Washington. AP journalists from around the world also contributed to this report.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

"SMC's Seasons Celebration" Concert December 12

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present the SMC Chamber Choir in "SMC's Seasons Celebration." Under the direction of SMC music instructor Jeremiah Selvey and accompanied by SMC pianist Gary Gray, the choir will perform Sunday, December 12, at 4 p.m. in The Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard), Santa Monica.

The concert will present a variety of tunes sure to make the holiday season brighter, with selected works to be performed by invited guests that include a musical combo and members of the SMC Percussion Ensemble and SMC Jazz Vocal Ensemble, with guest director Andreas Preponis leading two pieces. Performers will also lead audience sing-along selections, so guests are encouraged to come warmed up and ready to empower their own voices.

Tickets are available at the door (cash only) and cost $15 general admission (free for students with I.D.). Free parking on premises. An I.D. and proof of vaccination (or negative test within 72 hours of the event) must be presented to attend the event. Masks are required at all times. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis.

More information is available by calling (310) 434-4323.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

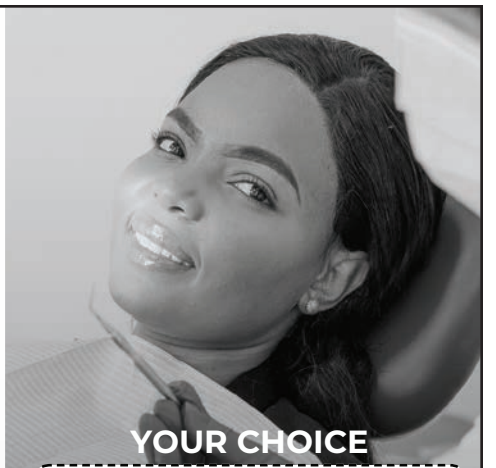
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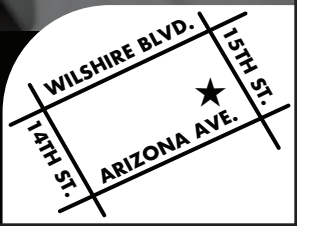
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City of Santa Monica
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

RFP: #300 DIGITAL WAYFINDING & OUT OF HOME ADVERTISING KIOSK PROGRAM.

- **Mandatory pre-proposal meeting. December 9, 2021 1:30 pm.**
- **Submission Deadline is January 18, 2022 at 4:00 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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Noteworthy

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Honky Tonkin' Rocksteady Rossini



courtesy Bloodshot Records

MUSIC: Wayne the Train.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

THE SKATALITES — How can I HIGHLY RECOMMEND a band who had their heyday in Jamaica from '64-'65, reformed in '83, have run through 30 past band members, and now feature only one founding member and she's the singer (Doreen Shaffer), in a nine-piece band known for its instrumental prowess? You have to look at the big picture. The Skatalites are living rocksteady-ska-reggae history, founded by some of the most iconic names in reggae history, and how many bands are touring steady since 1983? They have a heavy history and rep to maintain — I was there for their historic '83 reunion performance at Reggae Sunsplash festival in Kingston and the locals went nuts, well, everyone went nuts — and the odds are very good that they will deliver. They've backed EVERYone in all the famous Jamaican studios, from Bob Marley to Desmond Dekker, Toots and The Maytals to Bunny Wailer, Jimmy Cliff to Lee "Scratch" Perry. Trenchtown rock comes to Venice. Fri 9 p.m., Venice West, $23.

HORTON'S HOLIDAY HAYRIDE with WAYNE "THE TRAIN" HANCOCK. BIG SANDY & His Fly-Rite Boys, REV. HORTON HEAT — Such a fine line, sometimes, between RECOMMENDED and HIGHLY — I take it seriously — but any Southland show by Wayne (don't mix him up with fellow Texan Butch) Hancock is well worth it. His music and singing sound like the personification and the very history of real country music. Let's just say if ol' Hank were still alive they might be touring together. That twang, the songs' rhythms, simple, classic country arrangements, yodeling! and that mournful pedal steel, sometimes rockin' out, all the real deal. He is rightfully called the King of Juke Joint Swing, and that doesn't swing through LA all that often. Big Sandy is a helluva vocalist and a class act, putting sharp pressed pants and an elegant silver and turquoise bolo tie on rowdy rockabilly, and the Rev.? Well, he's revered not just for his trio but for putting together hayrides like this. Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Alex's Bar, Long Beach, $45.

LA OPERA presents ROSSINI'S "CINDERELLA" — You should keep in mind, faithful readers, that if I don't give a HIGHLY RECOMMENDED right off to an LA Opera production, it's most likely because I haven't seen it yet. I can't just go on all the rave reviews stacking up, I have to judge from personal experience. This one's really interesting. A big production, often with 20 singers on stage, magnificent costumes (each yak hair wig takes 40 hours to style and dye), with perspective from otherwise minor characters, a bespectacled prince that ain't the gorgeous fairy tale royal we've come to expect and his unctuous valet pulling all the strings, and demure Cindy in an elegant but less than knock-out ball gown. I love it! Put away your Disney, this is a deeper, better tale. But not his tale: legend on its creation abounds, but Gioachino Rossini lifted the book from another Italian "Cinderella" opera — he had to! The French story he wanted to use was, last minute, deemed too "naughty" by the papal censor. No copyright laws, so no foul. That left him three weeks to write an entirely new score, and he knocked it out of the piazza. Full of the great melodies and staccato vocal gymnastics he's known for.

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 2

the hotel's manager, Michael Mufdi. "I don't know how much longer we can last, but we are doing our best."

The pandemic already caused foreign tourism in Japan to shrink from 32 million visitors in 2019 to 4 million last year, a trend that has continued through this year.

As worries surfaced about omicron, Japan on Wednesday tightened its ban on foreign travelers, asking airlines to stop taking new reservations for all flights arriving in the country until the end of December. The country earlier reversed a relaxation of travel restrictions that had been in effect just three weeks.

The crowds of Chinese shoppers who used to arrive in Tokyo's glitzy Ginza district in a stream of buses to snap up luxury items have long disappeared. Restaurants and bars have been forced to restrict hours.

In Asakusa, a quaint part of town filled with souvenir shops, rickshaw drivers, and stalls selling traditional sweets, news of the omicron variant made little difference this week. Vendors say there hasn't been any business for months except for a few local customers.

In South Africa, Frederic Plachesi, owner of Tamboti lodge in Dinokeng Game Reserve, is facing a similar fall-off in the international guests his business relies on.

"The odds are for the next few months, only locals will visit the lodge," said Plachesi. "We estimate a 60% loss of business because of the omicron restrictions."

In Europe, Alpine ski resorts worry about how to keep up with requirements such as ensuring all skiers are vaccinated or recovered from infection and have tested negative for the virus.

Matthias Stauch, head of the German ski lift operators association VDS, said many are small family businesses that lack the staff to perform such checks. Meanwhile, the association is warning about "massive" economic damage to the tourism sector if there is another lockdown.

Travel executives argue that government decisions about restrictions should wait until more is known about omicron, but they admit it's a difficult call.

"If you wait, by the time you have all the data it's probably too late to stop community spread because (the virus) is already here," said Robert Jordan, the incoming CEO at Southwest Airlines. "If you jump ahead, you run the risk of the measures being more impactful than the actual cases."

About a month ago, Javier Barragan and his husband booked a visit to Paris for later this month. When news of omicron hit, they were concerned but decided to go ahead with the trip.

"The way that it was in the news, there's a sense of 'Oh, is this worse? Is this different?'" said Barragan, who lives in New York. France's health protocols — the couple will have to submit vaccine cards to enter the country — made them feel more comfortable. Also, both got booster shots.

They did, however, buy travel insurance that will cover cancellation for most any reason.

PIPELINE

FROM PAGE 2

ruptured, sending 140,000 gallons of oil onto a state beach and into the ocean.

Federal inspectors found Plains operators working from a Texas control room more than 1,000 miles away had turned off an alarm that would have signaled a leak and, unaware a spill occurred, restarted the hemorrhaging line after it shut down.

Plains apologized for the spill and paid for the cleanup. Plains later was fined over $3 million. The cleanup cost $100 million, and a 2017 company report estimated costs from the spill at $335 million, not including lost revenues.

A key step in the review of the proposed pipeline — a complex environmental study conducted by Santa Barbara County — is expected by spring. Roughly a dozen federal, state and local agencies have a hand in considering the project, first proposed in 2017.

It largely would snake along the existing route. The new line — technically two connected pipelines, like its predecessor — crosses environmentally sensitive areas, including slices of the Carrizo Plains National Monument and Los Padres National Forest.

Three ExxonMobil platforms that relied on the line have been closed since the spill. ExxonMobil proposed establishing interim trucking routes to transport oil, which would allow the dormant offshore platforms to resume production. In a divided vote in early November, the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission urged county supervisors to deny the company's proposal.

"Trucking remains the only option to transport crude to markets until a pipeline is available," ExxonMobil spokeswoman Julie L. King said in a statement.

Environmental groups warn the decades-old platforms pose a separate risk from aging equipment; ExxonMobil says the platforms, while shut down, have been maintained in a "safe, preserved state."

Also at issue: The existing line and its replacement would run through numerous areas with earthquake risks. According to a consultant's study conducted for Plains, the pipeline would cross 10 potentially active faults, as well as a dozen fingers of the active San Andreas Fault Zone.

"Portions of the pipeline could be subject to intense seismic shaking, and some areas could experience ground rupture in the event of a significant earthquake," the study found, recommending safety steps that include covering the line with protective foam.

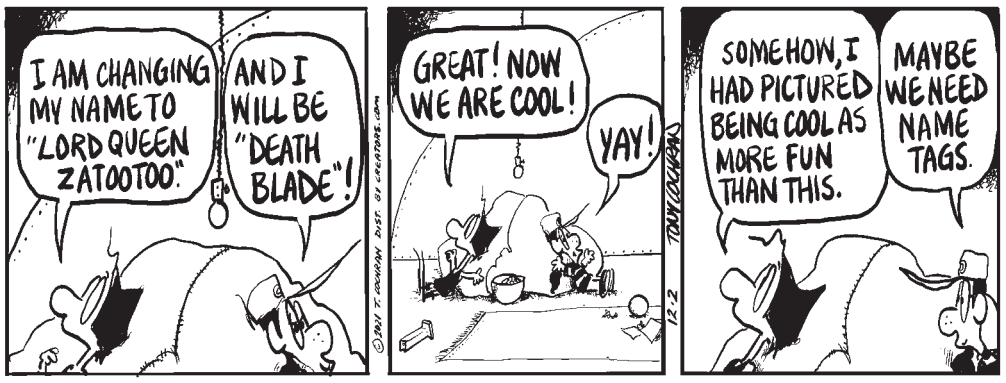
Bob Nelson, who chairs the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, said he would wait for detailed environmental reports next year before making a decision but was encouraged by what he has seen so far. He noted Plains could have sought to repair the existing pipeline but instead wants a new line built to modern safety standards.

"What it means is jobs," Nelson said. With a continuing demand for oil, even as the state transitions away from fossil fuels, "I think that we should find a way to safely deliver it in an environmentally friendly ... fashion."



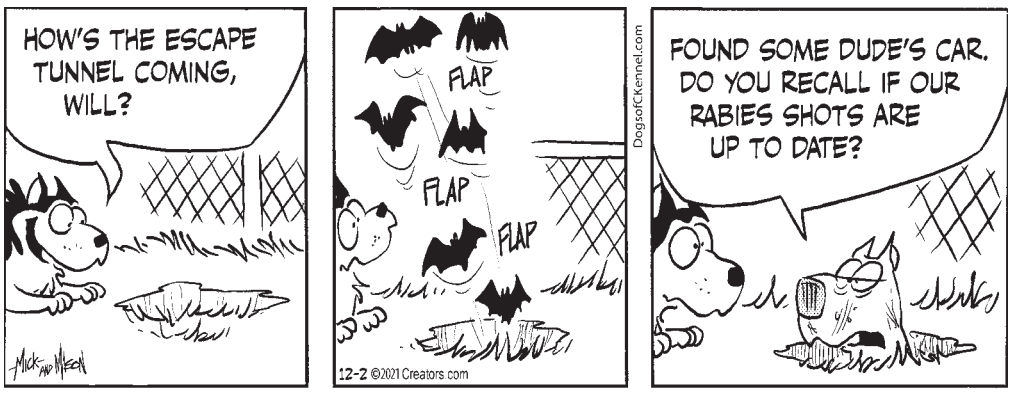
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



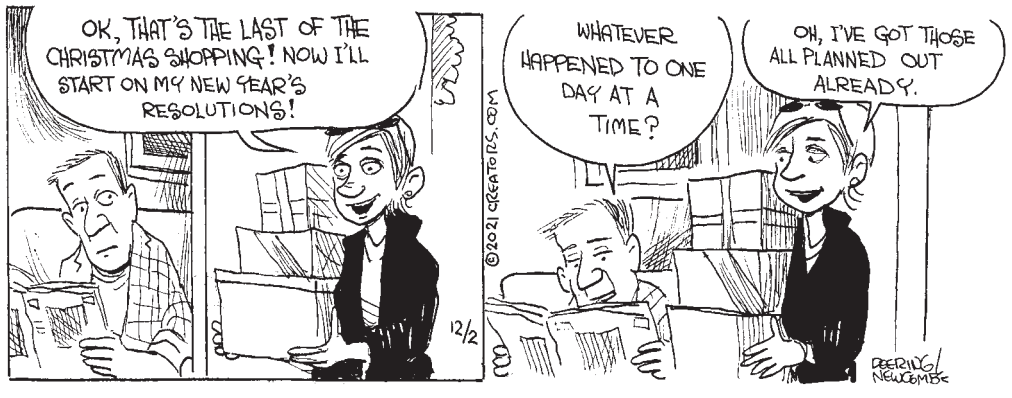
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.6°

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.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Fresh NW pulse tops out, likely smaller than the mid-week pulse but could still be fun for the small gear once the tide drops off from the very deep early morning high.

WEATHER

Thursday: Patchy dense fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 66.
Thursday Night: Patchy dense fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.
Friday: Patchy dense fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/12/06	Mon	5:18 PM	-1.46	L
2021/12/07	Tue	12:03 AM	3.79	H
2021/12/07	Tue	04:19 AM	2.49	L

DAILY LOTTERY

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

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/30
7 8 26 30 39
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 112 M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/30
1 2 12 13 14

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/30
EVENING: 5 0 3
Draw Date: 11/30
MIDDAY: 5 1 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/30
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:45.17

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 2)

When you're not so sure what's in your mind and heart, your feet will know. They'll take you out the door and straight to the hidden goals of your soul. Trust yourself! The new year brings clarity, peace, adventure, success and love. A lucky streak starts with the exchange of property or a significant sale. Aquarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 2, 22, 29 and 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Breathe easy, take frequent breaks from your work and get plenty of sleep and exercise. Make your own pleasure and well-being a higher priority.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Competition for a certain spot will be stiff. Just because you have what it takes doesn't mean it's worth the trouble. Think more about what you want and how well the current offerings really fit the bill.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It seems like everyone needs you at once, and maybe that's part of the deal when you're good at what you do. Keep in mind that you have the choice of when to respond. Other people's urgency doesn't have to be yours.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your memory will be strong and undiscerning, recalling important and useless facts alike. But the thing is, you won't know which is which, so revel in it all. Sometimes the slightest detail is the key to everything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you need another reason to get out and socialize, consider that you'll see yourself objectively as someone else experiences you for the first time. Valuable insights will be gained from your interactions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are those who think they are good at something regardless of how good they actually are. Don't let yourself be bamboozled by overconfidence. Ask for proof of skill. Getting the right person for the job is a game changer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have the freedom to believe as you wish and openly express it. This is a freedom people have fought and died for and you don't take it for granted, even as you exercise the opposite right to keep things to yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your attempts to rearrange your world seem futile because they are. These moves and inquiries won't eliminate suffering, only transmute it. The way to eliminate the problem is to greet the moment and accept it exactly how it is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stories can be like hot meals that cool off as soon as they're served. Timing is everything. Knowing what to trim is key. It's worth working out before you tell it because your stories reflect you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). One theory is that money buys you the freedom to arrange life to your preferences. In practice it will not be so. The more you can do with creativity and strategy the better, as money will complicate things beyond belief.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can handle any nonemotional truth on its face. You can work with any fact and deal with stark realities. It's when feelings get involved that the difficulties arise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In determinate games, the starting player can always win with the right strategy. In indeterminate games, two perfect players could play on forever. You will play with elegance in an indeterminate game, for instance, love.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

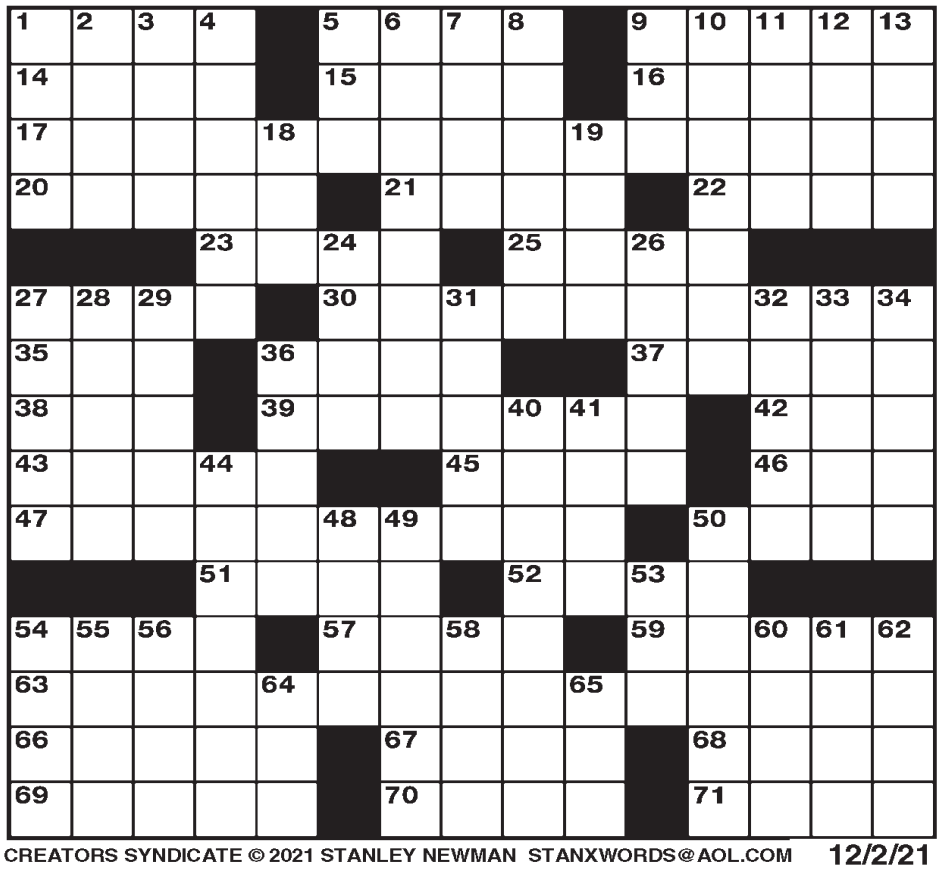
	5	6	4	8			1	
	1		2		5			3
7		2				6		4
	6				1		4	
5			9		3			6
	4		8				3	
4		1				2		5
8			5		2		6	
	2			9	4	3	7	

Newsday Crossword

OF MINOR CONCERN by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Tijuana's region
5 Just loafing
9 Far-from-tranquil feeling
14 Full-range
15 Outward manner
16 Main non-vein
17 Grade-schoolers' magazine that Twain wrote for
20 Indulgent outing
21 Camelot lady
22 Baseball crew
23 Choo-choo sound
25 Work assignment
27 Sets, as a trap
30 Tiny-leafed houseplant
35 Text "two cents" lead-in
36 Post gone viral
37 Broad scarf
38 Grafton's __ *for Lawless*
39 Digital bookshelf
42 Cultivation implement
43 Drained of color
45 Laundry leftover
46 "Be there soon" letters
47 There's nothing to it
50 Play-date cleanup
51 Where Islam originated
52 Secure on a roof rack
54 Sow chow
57 *South Park* brother
59 Bamboo lover
63 Annual Nickelodeon bestowal
66 Deception admission
67 Fancy party
68 Lance cousin
69 Ducks' hangouts
70 Join metal to metal
71 It breaks every morning

DOWN
1 Howls at the moon
2 Surmounting
3 Day, on some menus
4 Ancient cocoa drinkers
5 Online exchanges
6 Monopoly, for instance
7 Name derived from a roarer
8 Ill will
9 High bond rating
10 Antiwar slogan
11 Forbidding
12 Octagonal order
13 Neutral shades
18 Sound of a snicker
19 Outmoded appt. books
24 Cab alternative
26 Maze directive
27 Purple hue
28 Simple-living sect
29 Super Mario Bros. dinosaur
31 Ultimate aim
32 Allergy season sound
33 With lots of space
34 Slow-cooker creations
36 Returns to health
40 Language variants
41 Irish pop singer
44 Ticked away
48 Many a turban wearer
49 Fulfill financially
50 Began loosening up
53 Health facility
54 Disregard
55 Hula-dancing Disney toon
56 Valhalla host
58 Stead
60 It's southwest of Sacramento
61 Played to a tie
62 Port of Yemen
64 S&L offerings
65 Sandal spec



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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | DEC 2

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.

SANTA VISITS LOEWS HOTEL
Reservations are available for breakfast with Santa from 8:30 - 11 a.m. Pet friendly brunch in partnership with Healthy Spot from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Tea with a Twist for $69 at 4 p.m. featuring cocktails and live music. Visit https://www.loewshotels.com/santa-monica/discover/holidays for event reservations and costs.

SANTA MONICA PLACE HOLIDAY EVENTS
Visitors and shoppers will catch special performances by the dancing sensation, Santa Monica Beach Belles, ballerina performances inside the 14-foot larger-than-life Snow Globe, live DJ holiday sets, as well as festive light displays and a 50-foot iconic Christmas tree in Center Plaza. Saturdays and Sundays from 3 - 7 p.m.

OCEAN AVENUE COMMUNITY POP-UP ART
The Santa Monica community is invited to a one-day pop-up art event to experience Ocean Avenue and Palisades Park in a new way on Saturday, December 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The temporary art installation component between Broadway and Colorado Avenue will remain on view through early 2022.

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. © australianwordgames.com.au 5316

Let your hair down

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

Abseil
Arts
Bait
Ball
Bask
Calm
Cats
Chat
Chess
Contemplation
Craft
Dates
Draw
Dunk
Euchre
Event
Exercise
Expo
Farm
Flee
Flowers
Game
Golf
Hose
Idle
Instructor
Lake
Lawn
Lazy
Limits
Ludo
Open
Parks
Paths
Pool
Races
Relaxed
Repeat
Rural
Sand
Show
Song
Surf
Swim
Trail
Trip
Videos
Visit
Wade
Wash
Wine
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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Amazing diversity

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DEADLOCKED

FROM PAGE 1

"As a small business owner myself, the more we put a chokehold on people for things like this, and the more we exclude our community in a post pandemic world, I think we're doing ourself harm," said Negrete.

Councilmember Phil Brock initially positioned himself as a proponent of opening the restaurant to the public, saying that as resident of the neighborhood, he would appreciate having another local restaurant because most nearby dining options require getting in the car.

"The ability to walk to a restaurant to me brings the community into the fold and makes it not exclusive, but rather inclusive," said Brock, adding that while he generally opposes neighborhood densification he doesn't believe opening the restaurant to the public would create negative impacts.

Brock was, however, swayed and conflicted by the voices of the Wilmont and NOMA neighborhood associations, which both opposed opening the restaurant to the public. He waffled during the voting process initially casting a yes vote, then a no vote and then changing back to yes.

Councilmember Oscar de la Torre was also conflicted and requested to take a break in the middle of voting, which was denied. He then drew criticism from Mayor Sue Himmelrich for speaking with Brock off microphone during the vote.

"I was attempting to clarify the process. I was surprised to learn it would take multiple votes so it was a bit confusing. I needed more time to understand how the issues residents raised could be mitigated," said de la Torre, when asked about the subject of the side conversation.

De la Torre ultimately cast the deciding no vote, following no votes from Councilmember Christine Parra and Himmelrich. The motion failed with a 3-3 vote as Councilmember Gleam Davis was absent and a majority was required to pass it.

Opening up the restaurant to the general public would require a text amendment to the Santa Monica Municipal Code, because of the hotel's status as a legal non-conforming use within its zoning regulations. While the text amendment as proposed would not allow any other businesses to alter their uses, Himmelrich said she believes text amendments are a slippery slope towards expanding intensification of uses in residential areas.

"I just want to say that I have nothing against this project and if we could have done it without a text amendment I probably would have voted for it, but I basically am opposed to text amendments," said Himmelrich.

Clara@smdp.com

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 6

And he was only 25, but already a rock star for his previous "Barber of Seville." Only one performance left! Then you'll have to wait until March for their next full production. Sun 2 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, DTLA, $18-282.

EM THE MASTER — I've been giving EM's show a HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for months now and still do. "The Master"? Too much hype on the marquee? Not if you can back it up, and EM does. She sings, dances, has dancers. She crawls across the floor like a reptile, gripping the mic and never missing a beat. She doesn't play the piano, she attacks it. Uses her voice as an instrument in creative ways. Her energy is nonstop and seemingly limitless. Writes terrific songs perfect for her act, and she may remind you some of a more energetic Lady Gaga. With whom she co-authored a New York Times bestseller. Yeah, this gal has more talent than anyone has a right to. And she's putting it on display, right here in your backyard, every Tuesday, for a pittance. Hmm, an artery-clogging burger, Coke and fries for 10 bucks, or something that will hit you and make you grin, and that you will remember. Every Tues 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, DTSM, $10.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - "HAMILTON" — is the story of America's Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington's right-hand man during the Revolutionary War and was the new nation's first Treasury Secretary. Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B and Broadway, "Hamilton" is the story of America then, as told by America now. Tonight - Thurs, Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed, next Thurs 8 p.m., Sun 1 p.m., 6:30 p.m., also Sat 2 p.m., Pantages Theater, Hollywood, $49-3000+, depending on date/time.

LIBRARY GIRL + Roar Shack presents "Speaking of Now" — Time flies when you're having word fun. It's been 12 years since SM word wizard Susan Hayden had the crazy notion to establish a monthly spoken word event at the Ruskin Group Theater at the airport, aiming for the highest level and enlisting the talents of her very talented group of writers. But... this is the last show. THE LAST SHOW OF THE YEAR. Happens every December, and maybe calling it that reminds us to not take good stuff for granted because it's always been there. Usually the second Sunday of every month, but this month only, this Sun 7 p.m., Ruskin Group Theater, SM Airport, $15 includes dessert.

TOLEDO DIAMOND — Have you gone to catch his dynamic, diverse, unique show yet, every Sunday night at Harvelle's, here in SM? I've been recommending him for... decades. Trust me. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, DTSM, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: PONCHO SANCHEZ and His Latin Jazz Band, Catalina Jazz Club, 12/10-12; THE YOUNG CUBLINERS, Venice West, 12/11; LA OPERA presents ROSSINI's "CINDERELLA," Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 12/12;JOHN MAYALL, WALTER TROUT, Saban Montclair, 12/12; TAKE 6 CHRISTMAS, Pepperdine, 12/15; X, BLASTERS, Henry Fonda, 12/16; LA SANTA CECILIA, Novo, 12/17; STEVIE WONDER'S 23rd HOUSE FULL OF TOYS BENEFIT CONCERT, Microsoft Theater, 12/18; SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends, Largo, 12/22; FISHBONE, Venice West, 12/31; MUSICARES honors JONI MITCHELL, LA Convention Center, 1/29.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds
FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
or email cindy@smdp.com

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Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for On-CallArchitectural/ Engineering and Support Services (BRC0000298), will be received by Los Angeles County Public Works. Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m., December 20, 2021. An optional virtual conference will be held on December 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. An RFP and link to the virtual conference may be obtained by accessing the link at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/ge neral/contracts/ opportuniti es/ or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-5114. 12/2/21CNS-3531147#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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