smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

WEDNESDAY
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Parents protest playground closures

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

On Saturday Dec. 5 a three foot tall protester stood in front of the closed playground at Douglas Park proudly brandishing a sign that read "please let me swing!"

The two and a half year-old activist Izzy Savoy is part of a group of families fighting against the playground closure by organizing a petition to the County Board of Supervisors and exercising their right to protest.

The movement is led by local parents Jill Savoy, Laura Tabano, and Monzerrat Brunkhorst who disagree with the current restrictions that allow indoor malls to operate while outdoor playgrounds are closed. In their opinion, playgrounds are a relatively safe activity that is very important for children's physical, emotional, and social wellbeing.



Courtesy photo

PROTEST: Two and a half year-old protester Izzy Savoy wants to go on the slide.

SEE **PROTEST** PAGE 7

Santa Monica's Pub Crawl set for December 19

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

For a dozen years, the Santa Monica Pub Crawl had made its way to the Westside for the holidays, and organizers don't intend to let COVID-19 ruin this year's fun.

The 12th annual Santa Monica Pub Crawl returns from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, to spread some much-needed holiday cheer this year but the popular program will utilize a new virtual and social-distanced experience, which organizers said will evoke the same spirit of crawls from years prior and still allow residents to support local restaurants, all while they comply with the recently instituted safer-at-home orders.

The Pub Crawl has been popular since its inception back in 2008 when there were only about eight bars participating. Since then, organizer Kim Koury said, the crawl has expanded to offer four different routes that will lead locals to approximately 40 different bars in Santa Monica.

"It really supported all of the bars and every bar said it was their busiest night of the year and it helped them through December,"

SEE **PUB CRAWL** PAGE 7

Michael Major wants you to change the climate

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

One of the problems with the green movement is that environmentalists are often preaching to the converted. Local high school senior Michael Major wants to change that, and he started by challenging the public to 'change the climate' on a 50 foot sign above the freeway.

The giant banner hung on the side of a clean energy office building at 3402 Pico Blvd directly facing the I-10 freeway, causing thousands of drivers to reflect on what it means to change the climate.

The message is ambiguous, which is Major's point — he wants to engage more people in actively thinking about climate change.

"I was hoping to reach those who usually neglect the climate crisis," said Major. "I was hoping that those who drive by would see it and think about it maybe for the rest of the car ride or maybe just a little bit, and really consider it and try to unpack it."

The idea first came to Major when he was touring the environmentally focused companies in the office building with a group of students last year. Major enjoyed the tour and made a strong impression on the property owner Ben Van de Bun, co-owner of Cypress Creek Renewables, Paramount Equity, LoanPal, FHR, and CEO and President of Guthy-Renker.

"What made Major stand out was that he listened, but he was not just "buying" the story he heard hook, line and sinker. He offered the following insight "aren't you preaching to the already converted? Wouldn't you do better if you could get more and new people to see things your way?," said Jeff McKay, marketing manager for Cypress Creek Renewables and 8minute Solar Energy.



Courtesy photo

BANNER: Major next to his 'Change the Climate' sign.

The renewable energy executives were impressed by Major's observation and asked him what he would do differently. Major quickly rose to the challenge and offered the idea for the 'change the climate' sign.

"As marketers, we appreciated the visceral reactions it invoked from its provocativeness and ambiguity. As business people, we love the moxie from Michael saying 'I can make and put up a sign on your building saying just that'… and he did," said McKay.

Following Van de Bun's approval, Major solicited the help of an artist friend, acquired the materials, and delivered the 50 foot bright fuchsia sign to the office. The sign was then mounted on the side of the building where over 30,000 cars drove by every day.

"I consider myself pretty entrepreneurial and I like to think outside the box on issues like this. I want to figure out how I can stand out and how to make issues I'm passionate about stand out," said Major. "It's not easy to make that happen, but if you spend time thinking about it and look at it from different angles, you can be far more successful."

SEE **CLIMATE** PAGE 11



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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 198 CALLS ON DECEMBER 7

Grand Theft Auto 2400blk 20th St 12:07 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 30th St / Ocean Park Blvd 12:43 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600blk Montana Ave 2:43 a.m.
Person Down 4th St / Broadway 4:07 a.m.
Arson 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 5:49 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2800blk Colorado Ave 6:45 a.m.
Construction Noise 800blk Bay St 7:27 a.m.
Arson 1500blk 4th St 7:57 a.m.
Transport Prisoner Lax Court 8:02 a.m.
Arson 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 8:22 a.m.
Domestic Violence 1500blk 6th St 8:50 a.m.
Encampment 9th St / Pico Blvd 9:03 a.m.
General Parking Problem 3300blk Barnard Way 9:08 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 200blk Santa Monica Pier 9:08 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk Alta Ave 9:17 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2100blk 10th St 9:21 a.m.
Person Down 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:36 a.m.
Burglary 200blk Ocean Ave 10:22 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1500blk Alta Ave 11:01 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 800blk Olympic Blvd E 11:07 a.m.
Loud Music 900blk 12th St 11:11 a.m.
Stalking 2900blk 4th St 11:16 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 2nd St 11:18 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 11:25 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1900blk Washington Ave 11:45 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk 4th St 11:47 a.m.
Trespassing 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:48 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 12:20 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 12:22 p.m.
Burglary 1400blk Broadway 12:31 p.m.
Fraud 100blk Strand St 12:35 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 15th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:39 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk 7th St 12:53 p.m.
Trash Dumping 1500blk 17th St 1:07 p.m.
Petty Theft 800blk Cedar St 1:12 p.m.
General Parking Problem 18th St / Washington Ave 1:13 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:33 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk 16th St 1:38 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 600blk Ocean Ave 1:39 p.m.
Identity Theft 3100blk 5th St 1:45 p.m.
Burglary 1400blk 2nd St 1:49 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 800blk Broadway 1:57 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 2:09 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk Ocean Ave 2:09 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk 21st St 2:15 p.m.
General Parking Problem 00blk Bay St 2:18 p.m.
Petty Theft 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:42 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900blk 20th St 2:44 p.m.
Trespassing 2200blk Colorado Ave 2:49 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 2:51 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1200blk 14th St 2:57 p.m.
Missing Person 2000blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:59 p.m.
Covid 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:07 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2400blk Arizona Ave 3:17 p.m.
Found Property 100blk Olympic Dr 3:28 p.m.
Person Down Cloverfield Blvd / Colorado Ave 3:37 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1600blk 9th St 3:47 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1600blk 7th St 3:56 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk 2nd St 4:08 p.m.
Burglary Now 700blk Idaho Ave 4:17 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2800blk Donald Douglas Loop N 4:30 p.m.
Fraud 900blk Euclid St 4:57 p.m.
Trespassing 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 5:09 p.m.
Encampment 2000blk The Beach 5:11 p.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 5:26 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2800blk Donald Douglas Loop N 5:38 p.m.
Person Down 1200blk Euclid St 6:00 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk Stanford St 6:02 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400blk Palisades Park 6:02 p.m.
Loud Music 2400blk Barnard Way 6:08 p.m.
Encampment 1300blk Olympic Blvd 6:10 p.m.
Loud Music 2200blk Ocean Ave 6:13 p.m.
Burglary 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:25 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Santa Monica Pl 6:27 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 3200blk Pico Blvd 6:33 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 6:42 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:44 p.m.
Identity Theft 300blk Olympic Dr 7:34 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 200blk Montana Ave 7:40 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:51 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 7:53 p.m.
Arson 2400blk Main St 7:57 p.m.
Arson 2400blk Main St 7:57 p.m.
Public Intoxication Neilson Way / Bay St 8:10 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 8:15 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 100blk Wadsworth Ave 8:32 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:55 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 9th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:15 p.m.
Prowler 800blk Navy St 9:22 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

California uses text alert to warn millions of virus spread

California authorities sent a cellphone text alert Tuesday to two major regions of the nation's most populous state to tell millions that the coronavirus is spreading rapidly and asking them to stay home except for essential activities.

The noon blast to the state-designated 11-county Southern California region and 12-county San Joaquin Valley region was sent by the state Office of Emergency Services.

The text also urged people to wear masks and physically distance.

Both regions came under increased restrictions this week after the capacity of hospital intensive care units dropped below 15%. The restrictions will remain in effect for at least three weeks.

The regions will be eligible to emerge from the order on Dec. 28 if ICU capacity projections for the following month are above or equal to 15%, the emergency services office said.

Meanwhile, three counties northwest of Los Angeles are planning an attempt to separated themselves from the Southern California region.

Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties plan to seek approval to create a smaller Central Coast region if the tri-county ICU capacity exceeds 15% in the next three weeks, the counties said in a statement Monday.

At that point, the three counties will ask to be assessed on the tri-county ICU capacity and not overall Southern California region capacity.

"We believe it's reasonable to have the Central Coast as one region instead of including our county with over half the state's population in the current Southern California Region," Ventura County Executive Officer Mike Powers said in a statement.

Last week, amid a huge surge of COVID-19 cases, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom divided the state into five regions to use intensive care unit capacity in each region as a trigger for wide-spread closures, setting a 15% threshold that occurred during the weekend.

The 11-county Southern California region includes Los Angeles County, where public health officials say the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 has surpassed all-time highs every day since Dec. 1.

"We're really distraught that we're being lumped in with Southern California where they have more severe problems than we have," Lynn Compton, chair of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, said in an interview.

In Los Angeles County, where gatherings are banned under public health orders, 158 people were arrested at an illegal house party Saturday, the Sheriff's Department said.

Sheriff Alex Villanueva said last week that since March he focused on educating people about virus-related restrictions, but now will crack down on "super-spreader events."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles police sergeant dies of COVID-19 complications

A Los Angeles police sergeant has died from complications due to the coronavirus, authorities said, becoming the department's second sworn officer to succumb to the virus as cases rise across the state.

Sgt. Fred Cueto was a 22-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. He died on Sunday, the LAPD announced on social media.

"He was known for always having a smile & being a consummate professional," the department wrote on Twitter.

Los Angeles Senior Detention Officer Erica McAdoo, a civilian member of the LAPD, died in early July. She was the first LAPD employee to die of the disease. Officer Valentin Martinez, 45, died a few weeks later while his domestic partner was pregnant with twins, marking the department's first sworn fatality.

Thousands of police officers nationwide have tested positive for the coronavirus, many believed to have contracted it while on duty. At least six members of law enforcement in California have died from the virus's complications.

In Los Angeles alone, 929 LAPD employees had tested positive throughout the pandemic, as of Dec. 3, the most recent figures available. More than 250 were self-isolating at home as of last week.

The LAPD offered its condolences to Cueto's family and friends "with an extremely heavy heart," a statement said.

The Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents rank-and-file officers, said Cueto had dedicated his life to protecting Los Angeles residents.

"He served our community with honor and his passing is a loss for the LAPD and our city," president Craig Lally said in a statement. "Since the beginning of the pandemic, our officers have put themselves and their families at increased risk in order to continue to police our city. Sergeant Cueto's passing is a reminder of that risk."

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 36 CALLS ON DECEMBER 7

EMS 4th St / Broadway 4:07 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 5:47 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Sunset Ave 5:54 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 6:16 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 6:34 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 7th St 7:35 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1500blk 4th St 7:58 a.m.
EMS 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:37 a.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 8:56 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk Beverley Ave 9:12 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk 9th St 9:15 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:36 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 11th St 10:20 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Sunset Ave 10:49 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900blk 4th St 11:09 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 11:13 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 2nd St 11:17 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:21 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1500blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:39 p.m.
Wires Down 700blk Grant St 12:45 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:35 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Pico Blvd 2:48 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Arizona Ave 3:34 p.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 4:02 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Pico Blvd 4:06 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 4:20 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:58 p.m.
EMS 3400blk Pearl St 5:51 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Euclid St 6:00 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 7:24 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 7:53 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 2400blk Main St 7:57 p.m.
EMS 2900blk 3rd St 9:16 p.m.
EMS 800blk 5th St 9:23 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 10:01 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 700blk Adelaide Pl 11:48 p.m.

CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 AT 7:79 A.M.

SMPD Officers responded to a call about a disturbance at the Public Storage facility on the 3000 block of Wilshire Blvd. The caller told Dispatchers that she heard loud banging on the glass door at the rear of the location and was afraid for her safety. Upon arrival and noticing that the front door had been completely shattered, the responding Officer requested additional units and activated his Body Worn Camera. As he peered into the room, he noticed a subject sitting down smoking a cigarette. When the Officer asked the individual what he was doing, the individual made statements about taking things from the location. Adrien P. Lormand was then placed under arrest for a 459PC- Burglary. Due to Covid-19 protocols, Lormand was subsequently cited and released.

Biden calls for action on virus as he introduces health team

JONATHAN LEMIRE AND RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday called for urgent action on the coronavirus pandemic as he introduced a health care team that will be tested at every turn while striving to restore the nation to normalcy.

Biden laid out three COVID-19 priorities for his first 100 days in office: a call for all Americans to voluntarily mask up during those 100 days, a commitment to administer 100 million vaccines and a pledge to try to reopen a majority of the nation's schools.

"I know that out of our collective pain, we will find our collective purpose: to control the pandemic, to save lives, and to heal as a nation," Biden said.

Topping the roster of picks was health secretary nominee Xavier Becerra, a Latino politician who rose from humble beginnings to serve in Congress and as California's attorney general. Others include a businessman renowned for his crisis management skills and a quartet of medical doctors, among them Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious-disease specialist.

The usual feel-good affirmations that accompany such unveilings were overshadowed by urgency, with new cases of COVID-19 averaging more than 200,000 a day and deaths averaging above 2,200 daily as the nation struggles with uncontrolled spread.

Vaccines are expected soon. Scientific advisers to the government meet Thursday to make a recommendation on the first one, a Pfizer shot already being administered in the United Kingdom. Indeed, President Donald Trump held his own event Tuesday, to take credit for his administration's work to speed vaccine development.

But having an approved vaccine is one thing, and getting it into the arms of 330 million Americans something else altogether. Biden will be judged on how well his administration carries out the gargantuan task.

On Tuesday, the president-elect warned that his team's preliminary review of Trump administration plans for vaccinations

SEE **BIDEN** PAGE 11

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PIONEER FLINTKOTE PLANT WORKERS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER SECURE CASH BENEFITS FROM MULTIPLE PRIVATE TRUSTS

Federal Courts Require Asbestos Manufacturers to Compensate Cancer Victims

Vernon, CA, November 18 - Plant workers employed before 1981 diagnosed with various cancers are entitled to special benefits. Lung cancer, esophageal cancer, laryngeal cancer, pharyngeal cancer, stomach cancer, colon cancer, rectal cancer, and mesothelioma are frequently caused by asbestos exposure. Asbestos-laced products were used for decades at Pioneer Flintkote Plant. Neither employees nor management were aware of the asbestos risk.

Asbestos is a mineral that in its natural state is harmless. It becomes harmful when it is pulled apart or ground up into flexible fibers. Then, when inhaled or swallowed, microscopic asbestos fibers may be permanently affixed to body tissue. Over many years, these fibers may cause genetic changes that can lead to cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute, "It can take from 10 to 40 years or more for asbestos-related cancers to appear."

To compensate cancer victims and the families of deceased cancer victims, Federal Bankruptcy Courts have required asbestos manufacturers to set aside hundreds of millions of dollars in private trusts. Through these trusts, cancer victims can receive money damages by the filing of timely, detailed, and accurate claims.

Norris Injury Lawyers has announced a specific initiative to assist Pioneer Flintkote Plant employees in recovering money set aside for them in these asbestos trusts. Cancer victims or the families of deceased victims who worked at the plant before 1981 may call 800-478-9578 for a free evaluation of their claim. Additional information is available at getnorris.com/asb.

# # #

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Robert Norris at 205-397-3111 or e-mail rmn@getnorris.com.



WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS.



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Curious City

Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

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TWO STEPS FORWARD...

Often I marvel at the parallels I see between local politics and national.

The nightmare is over. People are celebrating. Finally, someone elected who will listen to the people and understand what they need and act on it. Who will undo all the bad governance we have been suffering for years. We understand that we are still in very tough times and the sun won't shine again right away, but now there is hope for the future. It's a new day!

But wait. Are our knights in shining armor all we thought they would be? Do they really think and believe as we thought? And do they have the skills to accomplish what we sent them to do? Are the odds too stacked against them, the forces of opposition still too strong? Will it wind up being too much compromise, too much of the same ol', same ol', business as usual?

Which political scene am I referring to? Both?

PRESIDENT JOE

Is a good guy. Extremely empathetic. Devoted all his life to working for the good of the people, not outside interests. Well, mostly. But many voted for him mainly to rid themselves of the nightmare of Trump.

We know Joe will do good things. He will attack the awful pandemic with all his presidential powers instead of calling it a hoax, making it so much worse with false information and really bad advice, blaming the disaster on the opposition and walking away from a monumental challenge that he clearly was not up to.

Joe will act according to medical science and push for relief for small businesses, cities and states, hospitals, schools, and so many ordinary people who are really hurting, out of work, about to be evicted, hungry. But he still is firmly entrenched in the party politics machine, that many blame for the disillusionment of so many that pushed them to vote for a man like Trump.

YESTERDAY THREE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Were installed. And the Council voted on the appointments of a new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. There had been talk of making Sue Himmelrich the Mayor -- a mostly ceremonial title but highly coveted because for the rest of your life you will be referred to as the Former Mayor of Santa Monica. And it does have some power, such as the ability to set the agenda for meetings. Some figure it is Sue's turn.

Since I am writing this Monday I don't know how it turned out. I have advocated for something different.

Tossing out three incumbents in one election is unheard of, almost unthinkable in Santa Monica with its Old Boy/Old Girl $$$ power network. This was an undeniable, overwhelming mandate from the voters, to not continue business as usual, to make major changes in the direction our city has been steered by past Councils. But it does still leave the New Guard at a three to four voting disadvantage. They can't do anything or block anything without the partnership of at least one incumbent. And, they would need to vote as a bloc, like the incumbents have. Will they?

MANY THINK HIMMELRICH

Is the one most likely to flip, because she has so often voiced opposition to projects the residents do not want. I like and admire and encourage that. She goes further than anyone else. But I say it's not always all that it appears. After asking hard questions that no one else does, and voicing opposition, she would usually go on to vote with the majority, to make it unanimous. (They like unanimous.) Or vote safely against a major project knowing that it will still pass 5-2 (ditto Mayor Kevin McKeown), perhaps with an eye to the next political campaign. (She has stated she will not run for another term on Council.) Some say newcomer Kristen McCowan could be the swing vote, but she has yet to show anything but toeing the party line.

Let's look at that mandate again, and the legacy of the remaining incumbents. Despite years or decades of voting to overdevelop SM into high rise oblivion, they could change all that this term, change their legacies 180 degrees, by acknowledging the big writing on the wall of the last election and voting with the New Guard we sent, for reasonable, sustainable, smart development and all that goes with it. In the midst of a pandemic, they are still pushing huge projects through as "emergencies." What's it going to be, incumbents? The next two years are so very important, but if we have to, we will wait to turn you all out too, next election. Onto the dustbin of bad history.

MAKING PHIL AND OSCA

Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, in honor of their years of service to the community, would send a clear message, from the incumbents, about the change we voted for. It would signal that this City Council will be working for the betterment of Santa Monica as expressed by the voters, though obviously they would not always agree. It would be a big sacrifice by Sue, that would certainly be acknowledged.

Did that happen last night? It would be such a good sign. I'm betting against it. And hoping I'm wrong.

THANK YOUR MAIL CARRIERS!

Big time! Of course you know their load for Christmas is always huge, but did you know the load for election time is even worse? They jump from the fire into the frying pan.

Only this year you also have coronavirus, which has depleted their ranks from illness and also kept many others away from work. Add to all that a corrupt Postmaster appointment by Trump, who dismantled their sorting machines, removed blue street boxes, forbade overtime, and changed procedures to

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 6

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AWARD WINNER

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California's hospitals filling up as virus cases skyrocket

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

Some California hospitals are close to reaching their breaking point, prompting Gov. Gavin Newsom to bring in hundreds of hospital staff from outside the state and to prepare to re-start emergency hospitals that were created but barely used when the coronavirus surged last spring.

California officials paint a dire picture of overwhelmed hospitals and exhausted health workers as the state records an average of 22,000 new cases a day. After nine months of the pandemic, they recognize about 12% of people who test positive will end up in the hospital two to three weeks later. At the current rate, that means 2,640 hospitalizations from each day's new case total.

"As we see the distressing surge in cases, we know that we can expect in the upcoming weeks alarming increases in hospitalizations and deaths," said Barbara Ferrer, health director for Los Angeles County, the state's largest with 10 million residents.

California's hospitalizations already are at record levels, and the state has seen a roughly 70% increase in ICU admissions in just two weeks, leaving just 1,700 of the state's 7,800 ICU beds available.

Several hospitals in Los Angeles County and others in San Diego, Imperial and Fresno counties are close to running out of intensive care beds that are needed for the sickest patients. That has the state scrambling to create more space and staffing to take care of COVID patients and others seeking emergency treatment for things like broken arms.

California has requested nearly 600 health care workers to help in ICUs through a contracting agency and the federal government. It's starting a two-day program to train registered nurses to care for ICU patients and setting up links for doctors to consult remotely on ICU patients.

The goal is to avoid the nightmare scenario of people lined up outside hospital emergency rooms, patients struggling to breathe alongside those seeking care for non-life-threatening ailments, and not enough staff to take care of them. With that tragic scene in mind, Gov. Gavin Newsom recently imposed an overnight curfew, a ban on nonessential travel, and issued stay-home orders in regions where open ICU beds have dipped below 15%.

Similar concerns about patient overload and staffing shortages faded during the initial months of the pandemic, leaving most of the state's auxiliary surge hospitals barely used. But now capacity is dwindling even before the impact of infections spread by those who ignored entreaties to stay home for Thanksgiving.

"For those 12% for whom the respiratory infection becomes unbearable — they have difficulty breathing and it's very frightening — they will end up in the hospital," California Hospital Association president and CEO Carmela Coyle said. What starts with a spike in emergency room visits "could be a challenge depending on how many medical-surgical beds are available and that all important how many ICU beds are available."

County health officials point to two troubling trends: A spike in health care workers themselves becoming infected and a dearth of traveling nurses who are busy in other states dealing with their own unprecedented spikes.

When specially trained critical care nurses become overwhelmed, hospitals will likely first draft post-surgery nurses to fill the void. And if they too are swamped, hospitals will shift to a team approach, where a critical care nurse oversees others with less training who can still perform many duties.

That would require waiving strict nurse-to-patient ratios that are uniquely written into law in California, something the California Nurses Association argues would inevitably endanger patients' care.

Meanwhile, the state is activating the first two of 11 alternative care sites that have a total capacity of 1,862 beds.

A site in hard-hit Imperial County, on the border with Mexico, already has 19 of its 25 available beds in use, though it can expand to handle 115 patients.

The second site is at the former home of the Sacramento Kings professional basketball team. The goal is to have the first 20 beds ready by Wednesday in a practice gymnasium, then prepare another 224 beds in the main arena — some in luxury suites where well-heeled fans once watched games.

It's still unclear what patients will be placed there, Office of Emergency Services spokesman Brian Ferguson said.

Last spring the state spent $12 million initially setting up the arena and hiring roughly 250 medical workers who were told to expect 30 to 60 patients within days. But only nine arrived over the next 10 weeks, leaving doctors frustrated before the site was put back into mothballs.

It will be staffed this time with California Medical Assistance Teams, which usually respond to disasters like wildfires, and members of Newsom's California Health Corps — paid volunteers who are often recently retired medical professionals. The state also is seeking workers from contract medical providers and the federal government.

Newsom wants more volunteers after his corps dwindled to fewer than 900 members, less than 1% of the 93,000 who originally signed up.

Only 10 corps members were recently assisting at hospitals and nursing homes. But program spokesman Rodger Butler said some have previously assisted in intensive care units and Newsom on Monday said the program "has been incredibly effective, particularly in our skilled nursing facilities," with members helping at more than 100 facilities statewide.

Coyle said the corps isn't a major help for hospitals "because the patients we are caring for are among the most acutely ill and very few of the Health Corps volunteers were trained at that highest level."

Fresno County has been pleading for state help to staff three area hospitals for several weeks, but was sent just one or two workers for each amid the nationwide shortage, county Emergency Medical Services Director Daniel Lynch said.

SEE **HOSPITALS** PAGE 6

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4403 NETWORK VIDEO RECORDER REPLACEMENT
#4404 RENEWABLE LIQUID NATURAL GAS

Submission Deadline is December 22, 2020 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **City's Online Vendor Portal**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
FOR 2019 PROGRAM YEAR

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2019 Program Year. The CAPER is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provides a status report on how the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME grant funded projects and activities are meeting the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the 2015-19 Consolidated Plan and the 2019-20 Action Plan adopted by City Council in April 2019 and submitted to HUD.

The CAPER is now available to the public for a 15-day community review period ending on December 24, 2020. The report is accessible at www.smgov.net/hsd, and written comments may be submitted by email to humanservices@smgov.net or by mail to: Housing and Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, MS22, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

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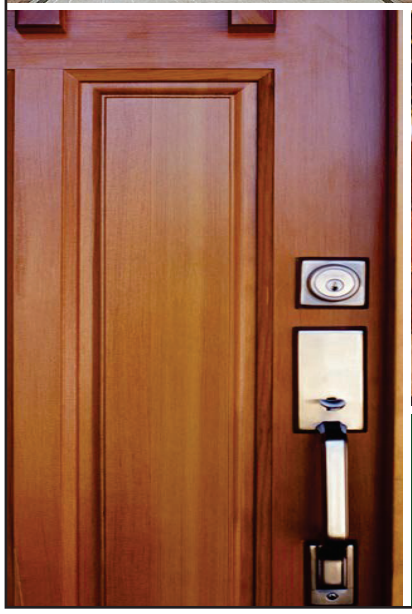
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

SMPD and DEA arrest Meth dealer

Thursday, December 3, Santa Monica PD's Special Investigations Unit (SUI) along with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) concluded a long-term investigation into a high-level methamphetamine and cocaine dealer who is suspected of being the source of supply for numerous narcotics dealers in the City of Santa Monica. A Federal search warrant on the subject's vehicle and residence was successfully executed due to the collaboration with the Santa Monica Police Department and DEA.

The subject was detained away from his residence without incident by SIU and members of SMPD's Crime Impact Team (CIT) and presented with the warrant. A search of his vehicle yielded approximately 30 pounds of methamphetamine. After the subject was arrested for the methamphetamine, SIU, DEA, and CIT then executed a search warrant at the subject's residence.

As a result of the search warrant at the residence, detectives recovered a loaded Glock style "ghost gun", extended magazine, ammunition, cocaine hydrochloride, and packaging materials. This subject was previously arrested by SMPD in 2019 for narcotics trafficking. In custody: Guadalupe Edwin ZUNIGA, MH DOB 7/26/1990. ZUNIGA was transferred to DEA / US Marshals custody Thursday, December 3rd, 2020. Anyone with information related to this investigation is encouraged to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491; Detective Khansari at (310) 458-8458; or Detective McGowan at (310) 458-2201 ext 4698.

SUBMITTED BY LT. JOSEPH CORTEZ

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 4

delay moving the load forward. And with all the increased online ordering, they wind up delivering a lot of Jeff Bezos' packages.

The carriers are suffering. Some are arriving at work early, by 5-5:30 a.m. And not finishing until 7-9 at night. Most I've spoken with take a lot of pride in always getting that day's mail out, and are distraught that no matter what their efforts right now, it's impossible.

And of course they are risking their health, by being out there in public the entire work day. So show 'em some love, won't you? A kind word, or maybe a cool little present. And go ahead, slip a Franklin in there somewhere. I won't tell.

Charles Andrews 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

HOSPITALS

FROM PAGE 5

Fresno officials urged the state to open 123 alternative care beds ready for use at Porterville Development Center in Tulare County, but Lynch said they were told the state's priority is the Sacramento arena. Now county officials are considering putting overflow beds in the Fresno Convention Center.

Ferguson defended the state's approach of having "flexible" alternative care sites that could serve residents displaced from nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities, or absorb some of hospitals' less serious patients.

"This is kind of what the next stage of this looks like, if things go back to really bad," Ferguson said.

Associated Press writers Brian Melley contributed from Los Angeles and Daisy Nguyen from Oakland.

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PUB CRAWL

FROM PAGE 1

Koury said as she detailed how the event has been just as important to the locals who have regularly attended.

"I have been here for 18 years and I wanted to create something where you saw people on the streets, all together, spreading joy and merriment," which is exactly what occurred every year when residents hit the streets in their holiday costumes, according to Koury.

"This year, I'm like, 'I'm not canceling this. It's the happiest day of the year in Santa Monica so I can't do it,'" Koury said. So, instead of walking from place to place in a pandemic, this year's crawl is focused on encouraging takeout specials on food and drinks the entire month of December. Crawlers will then be invited to participate in a "virtual Bar Bingo" game night via Zoom with host Brian Thomas Smith from Big Bang Theory and DJ Kooleo of Free Space Virtual Events. Of course, the 2020 Pub Crawl will still feature cocktails, games, trivia and a ton of prizes including hotel stays and gift certificates to local restaurants.

"Save your receipts because when you get on the Bingo Zoom Party on the 19th, you'll be sent three bingo cards to your phone, and the bingo cards will have the bar logos on them. So you're crawling but you're virtually crawling from your phone and you're playing games and there will be music and lots of prizes," Koury said, sharing residents have an opportunity to win bigger prizes the more receipts they possess.

"Another cool component of this year's crawl is we partnered with Lanea Cocktail Bar," which is on Second and Broadway and was recently voted one of the best cocktail bars in L.A., Koury added. "This means you can buy two tickets — one is a non alcoholic ticket and the other includes a four pack of canned cocktails that they make — and you'll get a kit with the holiday mask, and you can have it delivered if you live in Santa Monica or Venice. It's free delivery or you can pick it up anytime, and you can order right up until (December) 19th and they'll deliver the cocktails to your house so you can enjoy cocktails while you're participating in the zoom party."

Per tradition, a portion of the proceeds from the Pub Crawl will be donated to the Westside Food Bank.

"So, if you want to put on your festive holiday costume, have some cocktails and have a socially distance holiday event that's safe and allows you to see your local community and still feel the spirit of the crawl, then this is a great way for you to give back, support businesses support the food bank, and have fun," Koury concluded. "Some people have been attending this event since 2008 and haven't missed one. People have emailed me and said they've met their husbands on the crawl and they want pictures, so it's really near and dear to a lot of people's hearts. And it gives back, which is needed now more than ever."

To purchase a ticket for the upcoming Pub Crawl, visit the website santamonicapubcrawl.com/tickets/.

brennon@smdp.com

PROTEST

FROM PAGE 1

For Brunkhorst the playground was an invaluable resource to help her two cooped up toddlers burn off steam so she could focus on the challenges of running her local business Cafe de Mundo.

"I think it's unfair because I live in Santa Monica and Santa Monica is expensive so I have a condo and I don't have a backyard. All I have is the public spaces like the playground for my kids to go out and have a healthy way of spending time outside," said Brunkhorst.

While Brunkhorst knows that hiking trails remain open, she doesn't have time to drive thirty minutes or more every day just to get her children outside. Part of the reason she moved her family to Santa Monica was for the quality public schools and public spaces, neither of which are currently open.

Brunkhorst is not the only local parent with these frustrations. Her group's petition to open public playgrounds has been signed by 468 community members. Several of these signatures were gathered at the protest on Saturday, where many park-goers voiced their support.

"I think for all of us it was a beautiful opportunity for the children to know that they have rights and they should express what they want and what they feel is the right thing to do," said Brunkhorst. "At one point in the protest my son was screaming 'open playgrounds' and he's only two and a half years old."

While their protest movement has gained considerable steam, not all of the public response has been positive. When the organizers shared the event in a parents Facebook group, the post gained over 500 comments many of which were angry and disapproving.

The organizers still feel like they are doing the right thing. While they agree that playgrounds are not an appropriate space for immunocompromised children, they feel that in general playgrounds are less risky than retail stores and far more essential for children's wellbeing.

"The whole point is we are trying to walk the talk and not just complain that we don't agree with it, but show in a very respectful way why we don't agree with it and why we think it's important to care about our kids," said Brunkhorst.

The reopen playgrounds petition can be found at: https://tinyurl.com/yxqyk9ck

Clara@smdp.com

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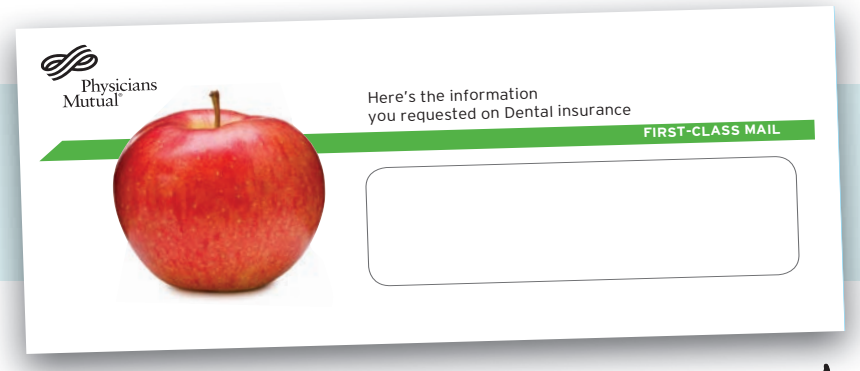
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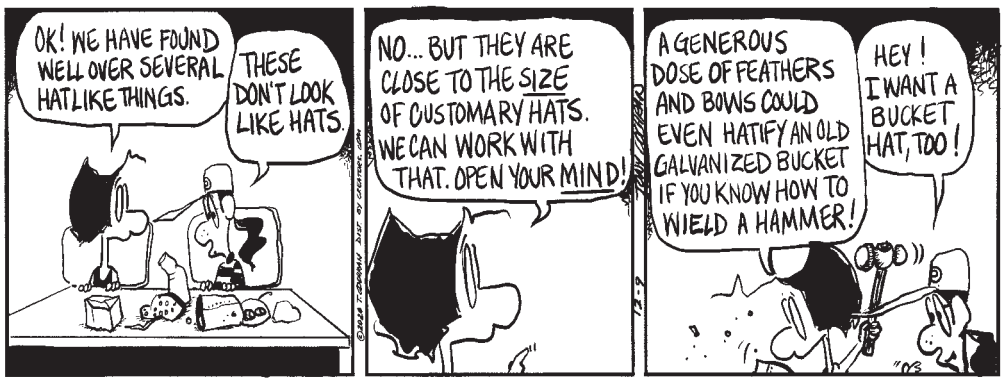
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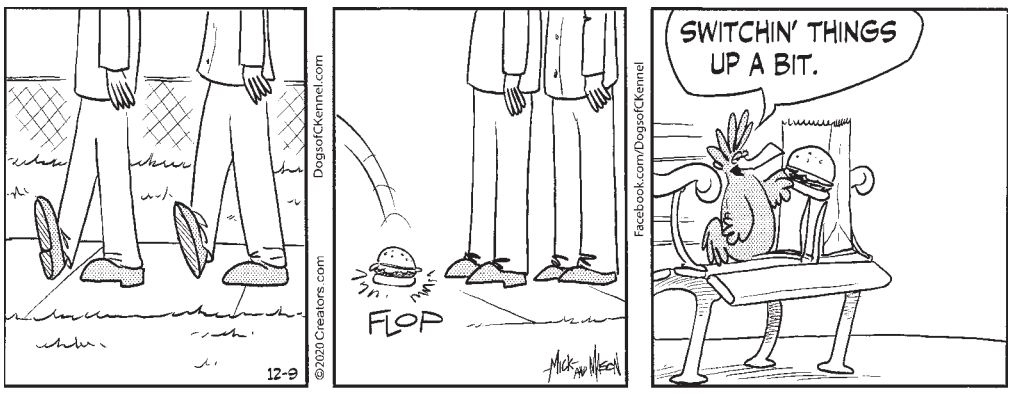
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.2°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR TO GOOD** - SURF: 4-5ft Chest to head high
Nice size WNW swell peaks. A little sluggish early with the higher tide, but the midday low tide and light winds mean many spots are good most of the day.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
WNW swell is likely to ease. Still a little sluggish with the early AM high tide - wind looking to stay light enough to take advantage of the lower tide later in the morning.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 50. South wind around 5 mph becoming east northeast after midnight.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/12/09	Wed	04:59 AM	4.99	H
2020/12/09	Wed	11:21 AM	1.49	L
2020/12/09	Wed	4:53 PM	3.90	H
2020/12/09	Wed	10:54 PM	0.79	L
2020/12/10	Thu	05:34 AM	5.58	H
2020/12/10	Thu	12:15 PM	0.57	L
2020/12/10	Thu	6:06 PM	3.95	H
2020/12/10	Thu	11:38 PM	1.01	L
2020/12/11	Fri	06:11 AM	6.14	H
2020/12/11	Fri	1:05 PM	-0.28	L
2020/12/11	Fri	7:09 PM	4.03	H
2020/12/12	Sat	12:21 AM	1.25	L
2020/12/12	Sat	06:49 AM	6.62	H
2020/12/12	Sat	1:52 PM	-0.97	L
2020/12/12	Sat	8:05 PM	4.08	H
2020/12/13	Sun	01:04 AM	1.48	L
2020/12/13	Sun	07:29 AM	6.94	H
2020/12/13	Sun	2:38 PM	-1.44	L
2020/12/13	Sun	8:57 PM	4.08	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:12/05
3 4 6 48 53
Power#: 10
Jackpot:262 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/04
3 19 24 44 50
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 264 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 12/05
1 13 30 35 40
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 13 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/07
2 6 19 22 24

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/07
Evening: 3 2 9
Draw Date: 12/07
Midday:7 6 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/07
1st: 03 - HOT SHOT
2nd: 02 - LUCKY STAR
3rd: 05 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
RACE TIME: 1:41.40

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 09)

Oft the initiator, this solar return shows a role reversal -- you will be most auspiciously chosen, beckoned by a soul-fortifying endeavor. You'll prepare over many months for a presentation -- the first in many that will net you impressive dividends and allow you to grow, teach and employ others. Work and love intertwine. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 1, 30, 12 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have an inkling about a fresh source of fun. It might not be the most conventional thing, but you'll be surprised at how many others enjoy it, too. These endeavors light you up and connect you with a thriving community.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Peer pressure doesn't stop just because a person is grown. Certain things will be hard to say no to because their mass appeal is so strong. The trick is in writing your own script before the world writes one for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As long as you're shooting for the moon, you may as well shoot for the sun. Either way, things change once you get out of the atmosphere and thus the gravity of a certain situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Water itself is no rival to your ability to go with the flow. But on a day like today, you prefer events to happen in your timing. In fact, you command them to as though an orchestra conductor setting the tempo.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your friendships exist in a kind of ringed system around the planet that is you. The first tier is an elite group and someone has to be extremely special to jump from one stratum to the next, but it will happen today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can't be sure if your work speaks for itself unless you back off and let it. Your silence will allow people to draw their own conclusions and you can go from there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Before you're asked to fulfill a role, give yourself the part you want. Those who are well-aware of what they are saying "yes" to will find it much easier to say "no" when they need to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You were ambitious, so you started. You were tenacious, so you finished. You were grateful, so you thoroughly enjoyed the fruits of your effort. That worked, so rinse and repeat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You want love and attention as much as the next person, but you wouldn't dream of asking for it. You'd rather work for it, especially by creating delightful scenarios that people are irresistibly drawn into.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Do you get the sneaking suspicion that your talent could be better used elsewhere? Perhaps you don't have to go far so much as up. Is there an opportunity for promotion here?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you're warming up, you have a few silly thoughts. When you're on a powerful roll, you have hundreds of them. The big ideas will be sandwiched inside playful ones.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though you're professional-level at many things, you're an amateur in other areas -- a status to revel in. The pressure is off. The horizon is open. Herein lies the freedom to explore.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

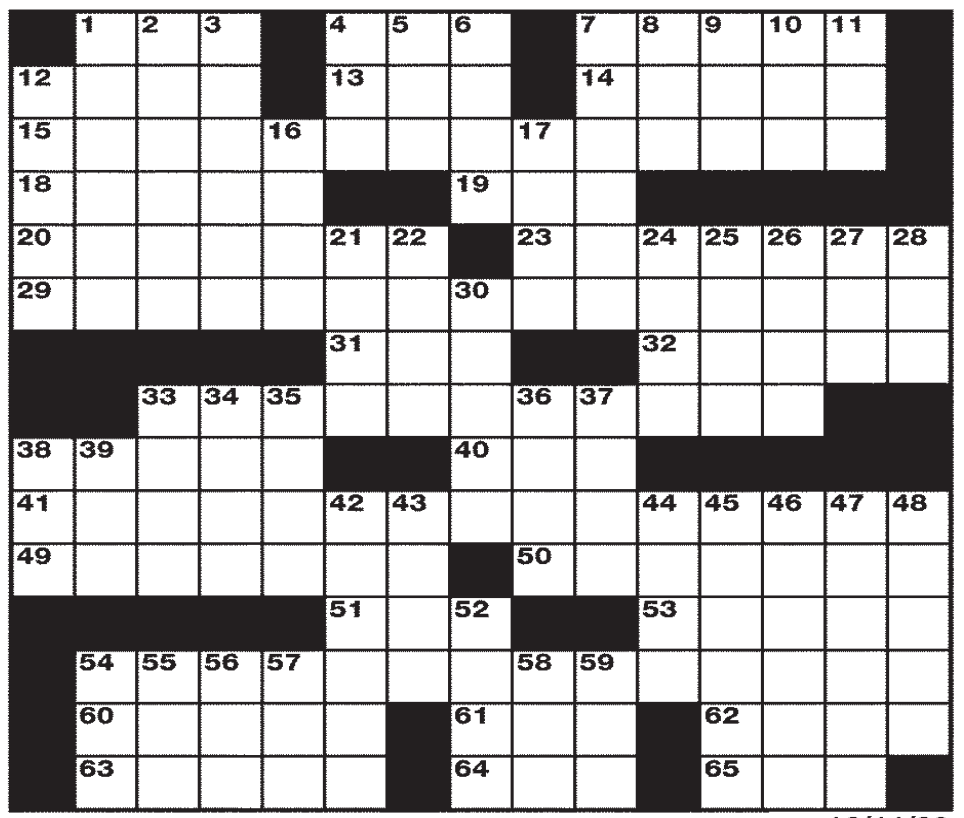
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	2		4		5		9	
		3	9				6	
8		6					1	
					6	3		4
		7	2	4				

Newsday Crossword

NO LATITUDE by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 End of the century
4 Incubator occupant
7 "Grr!"
12 Handle roughly
13 *Iliad* activity
14 Worst possible attendance
15 Two on the equator
18 City in Tuscany
19 Speaker introducers
20 Unlike vests
23 Out of control
29 Two on the equator
31 ". . . __ reasonable facsimile"
32 Sports site
33 Two on the equator
38 Absolut rival
40 Foal's mom
41 Two on the equator
49 Hockey player's stat
50 Main event preceders
51 Treat on toast
53 Childhood ailment
54 Two on the equator
60 Give up
61 Dude
62 Apt to meddle
63 Musical skill, these days
64 French fashion monogram
65 Bit of a flue

DOWN
1 Southeast Asian metropolis
2 Bottom-dwelling fish
3 Beside oneself, perhaps
4 Feta source
5 Furnace fuel
6 Frightful
7 Octopus "arsenal"
8 *Simpsons* barkeep
9 Parisian pronoun
10 Some subset of
11 DOJ branch
12 Bette's "Divine" nickname
16 *Avatar* race
17 Longing feeling
21 Rachael Ray sautéing staple
22 Last Best Supporting Actress Oscar winner
24 Money depicting Mao
25 Urban district
26 Inspiration
27 Hamilton biographer Chernow
28 Notable stretch
30 King Salman subject
33 Cheney predecessor
34 Landed
35 Knesset nickname
36 [That's shocking!]
37 Caesar's love
38 Go downhill fast
39 Quirk
42 Scopes of activity
43 Rossini opera hero
44 Written reminder
45 Thatcher, vis-à-vis Oxford
46 Lowers oneself at a beach party
47 Mischievous
48 Put to the test
52 Frozen dessert franchise
54 __ America (basic cable network)
55 Retro shout of support
56 "From now" antonym
57 Nothing at all
58 Where interns may work
59 Text of approval



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Binary Puzzle

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I
O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O
I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I
I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I
O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	I	O
I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O
O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I
I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O
O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I
I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O
O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O
O	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I

						I					
									O	O	
						I				O	
			O	O					I		I
				O	O		O		I	I	
											I
				I		O		I	I		I
I	O		O		I		O	O			
	O					O		O	O		



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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4957

Beautiful Blue Mountains

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

Atop	Guide	Parks	Springwood
Banksia	Lawson	Picnic	Storied
Blaxland	Leura	Range	Thrill
Brisk	Line	Region	Timber
Cafe	Mist	Rest	Tracks
Cliff	Motels	Rock	Views
Cold	Mountain	Scenery	Warmth
Creek	devil	Sites	York
Dramatic	Open	Snow	Zig Zag
Great	Outdoors	Space	railway

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Creative juices

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BIDEN

FROM PAGE 3

has found shortcomings. And he called on Congress to pass legislation to finance administration of vaccines as they become more widely available next year. That would effectively close the loop, from lab to patient.

The rest of Biden's extensive health care agenda, from expanding insurance coverage to negotiating prices for prescription drugs, will likely hinge on how his administration performs in this first test of competence and credibility.

Becerra, Biden's pick to head the Department of Health and Human Services, will be backed in the White House by businessman Jeff Zients, who will assume the role of coronavirus response coordinator. Running complex, high-risk operations is his specialty.

Alongside Fauci, the other medical doctors selected include infectious-disease specialist Rochelle Walensky to run the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vivek Murthy as surgeon general and Yale epidemiologist Marcella Nunez-Smith to head a working group to ensure fair and equitable distribution of vaccines and treatments.

Participating by video, Fauci called Biden's 100-day plan "bold but doable, and essential to help the public avoid unnecessary risks and help us save lives."

Ever the straight talker, he admonished: "The road ahead will not be easy. We have got a lot of hard and demanding work ahead."

HHS is a $1 trillion-plus agency with 80,000 employees and a portfolio that includes drugs and vaccines, leading-edge medical research and health insurance programs covering more than 130 million Americans.

In choosing Becerra to be his health secretary, Biden tapped a prominent defender of the Affordable Care Act. But Becerra, 62, will face questions in his Senate confirmation about whether he possesses sufficient health care and management experience.

Becerra as a congressman played an insider role helping steer "Obamacare" to passage, and as California attorney general he leads a coalition of Democratic states trying to block the Trump administration's latest attempt to overturn it. He has been less involved in the day-to-day work of combating the coronavirus.

Becerra would be the first Latino to serve as U.S. health secretary. In announcing his pick Tuesday, Biden initially stumbled on the Spanish pronunciation of Becerra's name.

But Biden was drawn to Becerra's working-class roots, his longtime effort to increase access to health care and his willingness to work with Republicans to solve problems like getting patients access to COVID-19 treatments.

Accepting his nomination via video link, Becerra called it a "breathtaking opportunity" to help shape the future of health care.

"I share the president-elect and vice-president-elect's determination to rebuild unity and civility in America," he added.

Biden is under pressure from fellow Democrats to ensure that his Cabinet is diverse. Black and Asian American groups are pressing for more representation.

Biden's choice of Becerra smooths, but does not end, the concerns of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus about Latino representation. Becerra's mother emigrated from Mexico, and his U.S.-born father spent his formative years in that country.

Then-California Gov. Jerry Brown appointed Becerra as California's top prosecutor in late 2016. Becerra instantly struck a combative tone toward the incoming Trump administration.

Defending California's implementation of the Affordable Care Act was a key priority, but he also focused on protecting young immigrants from deportation and defending California's climate change laws.

As HHS secretary, Becerra would be responsible for overseeing the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which cares for unaccompanied minors who enter the U.S. illegally. Becerra has helped lead a coalition of fellow state attorneys general who sued over the Trump administration's child separation policies.

Republicans immediately made clear their attack lines. Sen. John Cornyn of Texas argued that Becerra was unqualified because he lacked ties to the health care or pharmaceutical industries. Sen. Mike Braun of Indiana blasted his support for "Medicare for All," which is not Biden's policy. Abortion opponents have called Becerra "unacceptable."

The HHS secretary's job requires political connections, communications skills, managerial savvy, a willingness to learn about complex medical issues and a creative legal mind to use vast regulatory powers without winding up on the losing end of lawsuits.

Becerra will need to establish ties with governors who will play outsize roles in distributing the coronavirus vaccine.

Alonso-Zaldivar reported from Washington.

CLIMATE

FROM PAGE 1

Major lives in Santa Monica, is a senior at the Chadwick School, and wants to study business in university. He believes that creative people make the best business people and points to Elon Musk as an example of someone who became hugely successful by voicing ideas no one else was brave enough to try.

To Major the sign was just one way to approach environmental outreach creatively. Major said that the previous generation failed to take action on climate change and that if his generation doesn't try something different the problem will only be worse for the next generation.

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*Civic Economics, 2008

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