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Street medicine tackles homeless health crisis



Larry Valenzuela

MEDICINE: Physician assistant Brett Feldman does a checkup on his patient Gary Dela Cruz on the side of the road near his encampment in downtown Los Angeles.

KRISTEN HWANG
Special to the Daily Press

Living on the streets of California is a deadly affair. The life expectancy of an unsheltered person is 50, according to national estimates, nearly 30 years less than that of the average Californian. As homelessness spirals out of control throughout the state, so too do deaths on the street, but it's those whose lives are the most fragile who are least likely to get medical care.

Now, the state Medi-Cal agency is endeavoring to improve health care access for people experiencing homelessness. Through a series of incentives and regulatory changes, the Health Care Services Department is encouraging Medi-Cal insurers to fund and partner with organizations that bring primary care into encampments.

They're known as street medicine teams. There are at least 25 in California.

"Oh crap. This is where she was, and they just swept that," said Brett Feldman on a Friday morning in November, looking at a green tent, crumpled and abandoned on Skid Row in Los Angeles. Feldman, a physician assistant, is searching for a female patient in her 40s with severe and unmanaged asthma. She cycles predictably in and out of the hospital, and Feldman knows she's due for another hospitalization soon.

The road is streaked with water from a cleaning truck, and sanitation workers in fluorescent vests sweep up debris. Parking enforcement

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 4

Orchestra performance



Maggie Marks

MUSIC: As we approach the holiday seasons, the Santa Monica High School Orchestra welcomed the spirit with their annual Winter Concert. Performing songs alluding to the upcoming festivities such as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Sleigh Ride, the seven Orchestras lived up to the legacy of the long time success of SAMOHI and their music program. With 46 students going to perform at the California Orchestra Directors Association, talented Directors Jason Aiello and Jim Wang are honored to have the school represented. The jubilant music filled historical Barnum Hall, illuminated by red and green lights around the art-deco building. Santa Monica High School music performances are not to miss, with tickets available to the public, as well as a $2 bake sale and a $1 raffle for the chance to conduct the Symphony Orchestra's last piece.

County health officials walk back threats of new mask mandate

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A week after warning a new mask mandate was on the horizon, Los Angeles officials are now saying the area may well escape any new Covid rules.

Los Angeles County crossed into the CDC's "high" community tier but moving to that level won't require new mask rules unless hospitalization levels increase and LA County Department of Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said she was less certain the region would remain "high" long enough to warrant a mask mandate given current trends.

Case counts are up about 40 percent week on week with the understanding that the reported figures are a vast undercount due to the prevalence of unreported home tests. In her weekly briefing, Ferrer said hospitalizations are up about 9% which is less than the increase seen last month, possibly due to

SEE **MASK** PAGE 6



Gary Limjap
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Jewish Americans confront antisemitism with resolve, worry

DAVID CRARY, HOLLY MEYER AND JESSIE WARDARSKI
Associated Press

Jewish Americans are closely following the recent upsurge in antisemitic rhetoric and actions with a mix of anxiety and resolve — along with a yearning that a broader swath of Americans, including leaders across the political spectrum, speak out against anti-Jewish hatred.

New Yorker Rizy Horowitz, who runs a program in Brooklyn providing meals and activities for Holocaust survivors, says the widespread vitriol prompts her to ask: "When can I pack up my suitcase and run away?"

"It's a very frightening moment. There is no other word," said Horowitz. "We're all frightened because we've seen the past and we don't want to relive it."

As for those spewing the hate, she says: "Have I done something? No. It's just I'm a Jew."

Rabbi Seth Adelson of Congregation Beth Shalom in Pittsburgh, located near the Tree of Life synagogue where 11 worshippers were killed in 2018 in the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history, said anxiety has intensified as anti-Jewish vitriol abounds on social media, embraced by some widely followed celebrities.

The rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, expressed love for Adolf Hitler in an interview. Former President Donald Trump hosted Ye and a Holocaust-denying white supremacist at Mar-a-Lago. Basketball star Kyrie Irving was suspended after posting a link to an antisemitic film

"The antisemitic cat is out of the bag," said Adelson. "I don't think it's reached a place where we feel it's time to go hide in the basement. But it certainly has increased everybody's anxiety."

"We feel it whenever we go in and out of buildings, because now we have security in a way that we didn't before," he said. "There are armed security guards at most, if not all, Jewish buildings and metal detectors and all of those things."

"People who hate Jews want us to cower in fear," he added. "What I hope for is that Jewish people will understand that the way to respond to antisemitism is to be loudly and proudly Jewish, to be proud of our traditions."

A prominent Los Angeles rabbi, David Wolpe, has wrestled with his response to the antisemitism upsurge.

"When I began my career, I thought antisemitism was an issue in my father's generation — it won't be in mine," he said. "I was sadly and unforgivingly wrong."

He strives to put the recent events in perspective.

"We are still — in America — as safe and free as Jews have been in all of human history," he said. "It's so easy to be alarmist, ... to lose perspective, to scare our kids. I don't want to do that."

Asked what makes this moment different, Wolpe was succinct.

"It's the volume, the persistence, the permissibility."

The expanding use of social media by antisemites is a major concern.

"This hateful rhetoric is being promoted by people who unfortunately influence hundreds of thousands of people," said Pat Halper, a community activist in Nashville, Tennessee. "We never know if one of those followers, or many of them, will take the next hateful or violent step."

Yet Halper's outlook is resolute.

"We've been in bad places before and found our way," she said. "I have to believe we'll find our way through this too."

Texas author Anna Salton Eisen, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, has been sharing her late parents' stories for years.

"When I started speaking in schools more than 20 years ago, the Holocaust was a history lesson. Now it has become a lesson in current events," she said. "Students who used to ask me questions about Hitler now want me to address the statements by Kanye that put Hitler in a positive light."

Eisen, author of two Holocaust memoirs, has undergone active shooter training due to worries over potential threats to synagogues and Holocaust museums she frequently speaks at. Recently she's received antisemitic threats on social media.

Eisen hopes Christian churches show solidarity by inviting Jews into their spaces for Hanukkah. She'll be at the White House for its Hanukkah party, which she says "feels like an act of defiance more than just a social event."

"It's my way of saying, 'Here I am, a Jew and free to worship God in my chosen faith and I will not live in fear nor be defeated by those who hate me.'"

In Fort Myers, Florida, Rabbi Nicole Luna of Temple Beth El said antisemitism discussions occur frequently — in the theology class she teaches and in event planning where extra security measures are considered.

"I tell my congregants the people who hate ... have no problem putting it out in the open, so we want to put our Jewish joy and our Jewish pride out in the open," she said.

Amid the recent surge of antisemitism, there have been expressions of outrage — and vows to combat hate — from an array of prominent politicians, including President Joe Biden, as well as leaders of major Jewish organizations. Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, hosted a White House discussion with Jewish leaders on Wednesday.

However, several Jewish Americans interviewed by The Associated Press said strong statements against antisemitism were needed from a broader range of civic and political leaders.

"It's not enough to hope or wish it away," said Elisia Cohen, director of the University of Minnesota's Hubbard School of Journalism & Mass Communication. "It's a time for leaders to form coalitions across communities in a very strong movement against hate."

Diane Brown, a retired pharmacist who moved from Massachusetts to Minnesota's Twin Cities a few months ago, is struck by how Jewish communities 1,100 miles apart are troubled by similar anxieties.

"We can't go to temple without being

SEE **ANTISEMITES** PAGE 8



Trump blowback could carry less bite in 2024 for some in GOP

MARC LEVY
Associated Press

Donald Trump's attacks on fellow Republican David McCormick contributed to the former hedge fund manager's loss in Pennsylvania's Senate primary. Now, as McCormick considers running again for the Senate, Trump's derision may not be such a liability.

While McCormick, 57, has not said whether he will challenge three-term Democratic Sen. Bob Casey in 2024, he is taking steps signaling a campaign may be in the works, including attending recent receptions with influential GOP strategists and donors. McCormick also plans to publish a book in March — "Superpower in Peril: A Battle Plan to Renew America" — that could raise his profile.

He would be running in what could be a much different political environment.

Trump dominated the GOP primaries this year, wielding the power of his endorsement to lift his preferred candidates to the party nomination. But many of those contenders, including Mehmet Oz in Pennsylvania, lost in the general election. The latest was Herschel Walker, whose defeat on Tuesday in Georgia gave Democrats 51 of the Senate's 100 seats.

Trump is now facing blame from some Republicans for contributing to the party's midterm shortcomings, and that could open room for McCormick and others without worrying about blowback from the former president.

McCormick "hasn't come to any definitive conclusion even though we've tried to encourage him to run," said Christine Toretti, the GOP's national committeewoman from Pennsylvania. "I think he's a fabulous candidate and I would love to see him run."

McCormick did not respond to a request for an interview.

Flipping a Senate seat in one of the most competitive states won't be easy.

Casey, 62, has not said whether he will seek reelection. He has never won a race for Senate by fewer than 9 percentage points and, as the son of a former two-term governor and someone who has run statewide seven times, is an institution in Pennsylvania politics.

The 2024 race in the closely contested state also could be influenced by the parties' choice of presidential nominees that year.

Some Republicans expect that the Senate field will be frozen until McCormick makes up his mind. He was the establishment favorite in the party's seven-way primary in May that he lost by fewer than 1,000 votes to Oz.

McCormick is a West Point graduate who was awarded a Bronze Star for service in the Gulf War, got a doctorate from Princeton University, became a tech entrepreneur and served at the highest levels in President George W. Bush's administration before running the world's largest hedge fund.

And he's worth nine figures.

"With his resources, the party would be foolish to actively recruit someone to go against him," said Vince Galko, a Republican campaign strategist based in northeastern Pennsylvania. "He checks most boxes Republicans care about."

Over the weekend, McCormick was seemingly everywhere at the Pennsylvania Society, an annual cluster of dinners, receptions, fundraisers and get-togethers for Pennsylvania's social and political elite in New York City. McCormick attended a reception hosted by Toretti and several events held by prominent donors and organizations.

One other name coming up in Republican circles as a potential Senate candidate is the elected state treasurer, Stacy Garrity, who campaigned hard for fellow Republicans on the ticket in 2022. Garrity didn't return a request for comment.

Perhaps an equally big problem as Casey for McCormick — or any other Republican candidate — is the GOP's embarrassing performance in this past election.

> "With his resources, the party would be foolish to actively recruit someone to go against him - Vince Galko

Finger-pointing is following GOP defeats in the races for senator, governor and three toss-up congressional districts, and its loss of the state House majority. Oz lost by 5 percentage points to Democrat John Fetterman, while the party's nominee for governor, Doug Mastriano, lost by 15 points to Democrat Josh Shapiro.

Party leaders now are warning that the GOP must end an aversion among its voters to voting by mail, fueled by Trump's baseless claims that such voting is rife with fraud.

They also say the party must be firm about endorsing in primaries to weed out weak general election candidates and avoid bruising primaries — a prospect sure to benefit McCormick.

And after GOP candidates once again lost vast swaths of Pennsylvania's heavily populated suburbs, there is talk anew that the party must do a better job countering Democrats' ideas and communicating their own to moderate voters.

That must be fixed before 2024 if a GOP candidate is to be successful, said Sam DeMarco, a McCormick supporter and GOP chairman in heavily populated Allegheny County.

Still, it's not clear that McCormick can capture the GOP's primary electorate.

In this year's primary campaign, McCormick tapped deep connections across the world of finance, politics and government to get support for his campaign and was the choice of many in the establishment. He was wealthy enough to pay for his own TV ads, spending $14 million of his own money, and was backed by a super political action committee spending millions more.

To try to endear himself to working-class primary voters, his campaign put up ads of McCormick shooting guns, riding a motorcycle and reminiscing in a bar about scoring touchdowns as a high school athlete.

But McCormick was attacked by primary rivals that he was a carpetbagging political opportunist trying to buy the seat after living the previous 12 years in Connecticut. He also drew criticism for being weak on China after running a hedge fund notable for its sizable portfolio that catered to Chinese investors investing in China.

In the end, McCormick was not the choice of many of the party's farthest-right voters.

And he was not the choice of Trump, who endorsed Oz and attacked McCormick as the "candidate of special interests and globalists and the Washington establishment."

If Trump is on the ballot in 2024, McCormick will have to share the campaign trail with a fellow Republican who tried to defeat him and who continues to peddle baseless claims about how the 2020 election was stolen from him — claims that party leaders want to put behind them.

For a party that just went through a difficult election year in Pennsylvania, it's certainly not too early to start talking about 2024, said Keith Rothfus, a former congressman who spoke with McCormick recently. He said candidates, even ones as wealthy as McCormick, should start talking to donors now and building a network of people who will give to their campaign and support them.

It's also important for Republicans to start early in Pennsylvania, where Democrats have been winning most statewide races and hold a slight voter registration advantage.

"Pennsylvania is not a purple-red state, it's purple at best for Republicans," Rothfus said. "A Republican can win, but you pretty much have to run a flawless campaign and you pretty much have to do everything right."

COMMUNITY NEWS

LOS ANGELES

Officials grant Los Angeles girl's request to keep unicorn

Rules are rules. Animal control officials in Southern California have granted permission for a little girl to keep a unicorn at home, provided she follows strict guidelines.

Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control this week shared a letter it received from a child named Madeline.

The girl wrote: "Dear LA County, I would like your approval if I can have a unicorn in my backyard if I can find one. Please send me a letter in response."

Director Marcia Mayeda replied with a letter along with a pre-approved unicorn license, a heart-shape license tag and a plush toy unicorn — until Madeline finds a real one. Photos of the license and Madeline's letter were posted to the agency's social media.

The licensing letter included five conditions:

"1. The unicorn must be cared for in compliance with all animal caretaking regulations set forth in Los Angeles county Code Title 10.

2. The unicorn is given regular access to sunlight, moonbeams and rainbows.

3. The unicorn is fed one of its favorite treats — watermelon — at least once each week.

4. The unicorn's horn must be maintained to be in good health. This requires polishing at least once a month with a soft cloth.

5. Any sparkles or glitter used on the unicorn must be nontoxic and biodegradable to ensure the unicorn's good health."

Mayeda commended Madeline for her "sense of responsible pet ownership."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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.

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

STAFF WRITERS
Grace Inez Adams
grace@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

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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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WINNER

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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

and police cruisers line the section of road where a homeless encampment once stood. Nearly 5,000 people live in the half-mile block infamous for the hypervisibility it affords the state's unrelenting homeless crisis.

Burdened by disproportionate rates of addiction, mental health disorders and chronic disease, people experiencing homelessness are some of the state's neediest patients, but few receive anything more than emergency services. Barriers like lack of transportation and cumbersome insurance rules keep most from getting regular health care. Instead, they drift through the emergency room during a crisis, racking up high costs to the system and deteriorating physically in the interim.

Delivering health care this way is costly and not particularly effective for the patient or the system. More than half of the state's $133-billion Medi-Cal budget is spent on the top 5% of high-needs users, according to the California Department of Health Care Services.

"Where we have been falling short, especially with this population, is their reality is so different from ours that we haven't been building reality-based systems for them," Feldman said. "They have Medi-Cal. They're eligible for all these benefits, but they can't access these benefits."

The state's efforts to bridge the gap between eligibility and access is supported in part through CalAIM, a multi-year plan to revamp the state's low-income health insurance program. Grants to hire staff or invest in billing or data collection software offer some stability to teams that have historically been volunteer- or charity-operated. The department also issued a rule change in November allowing street medicine teams to tap into and manage homeless patients' Medi-Cal benefits, meaning providers can be reimbursed for their work.

"One of our core principles of CalAIM is breaking down the walls of health care and meeting people where they are," said Jacey Cooper, director of the state's Medi-Cal program. "We really feel like street medicine helps us do that."

WHAT IS STREET MEDICINE

Several months ago, Feldman's Skid Row patient suffered a brain injury from lack of oxygen during an asthma attack. She's now confined to a wheelchair and reliant on a friend for basic needs like finding food and using the toilet.

Newer asthma medications might be able to help end her hospitalization cycle, but until recently only her assigned primary care doctor, whom she has never seen, was allowed to refer her to a specialist for assessment under Byzantine Medi-Cal rules. Feldman had been trying to get her a primary care appointment for more than a year, to no avail.

Under the new rules, however, Feldman could have referred the asthmatic patient directly to the lung specialist she needed or gotten prior authorization for the medication since it was recommended during a hospital stay. Instead, without adequate medical care to address her condition, her life has been irrevocably altered.

Statistically, she'll be lucky to live longer than a few more years.

"She used to be a staple down here. She knew everybody," Feldman said. "Now, she can't walk, is confined to her tent. She's lonely because she's used to being part of the Skid Row community. She had a very full life despite being unhoused."

Feldman, co-founder and director of the street medicine program at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine, said the goal of street medicine is to give some autonomy back to people who usually have very little power left in their lives.

Each day he and a team of providers scour the county streets diagnosing chronic and acute conditions, treating mental illness and substance use, delivering medicine, drawing blood for tests and following up with patients who request a visit. Community health workers hand out food and hygiene supplies and help them navigate hurdles as they try to obtain housing and social services.

"We know that people who are experiencing homelessness have higher mortality, have higher ER utilization, have higher length of stay when they get admitted," Cooper said. "We really see this as part of a comprehensive approach to ensuring that we have a true continuum of care for people experiencing homelessness."

The traditional health care system thrives off efficiency: The more patients move through an office, the more the provider gets paid, resulting in brief appointments and little sympathy for circumstances that make patients late. But that setup doesn't work for unsheltered people who run the risk of getting their belongings stolen if they leave their camp — or who would rather find something to eat than take care of what may seem like a minor malady.

Less than 30% of unhoused people with Medi-Cal have ever seen their primary care provider, according to a state legislative analysis of a street medicine bill vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2021. The measure passed the legislature with broad support but was opposed by the state Health Care Services Department for potential duplication of services. In the veto, Newsom directed the department to work with street medicine teams to fill any gaps left out by CalAIM — one such gap was adjusting billing codes that prevented street medicine reimbursement.

"When you're focused on those very basic needs, like food, safety, shelter, how are you then able to focus on, you know, managing your diabetes or your blood pressure or some of these risk factors that can lead to more serious downstream effects?" said Dr. Kyle Patton, medical director of the street medicine program at Shasta Community Health Center in Redding.

On a Monday in September, Patton and Anna Cummings, a case worker, trekked through a wooded area on the north edge of town to meet Amber Schmitt, 47, a patient with an infected leg. The ground is muddy from a storm the night before. Schmitt is paying a friend $700 a month to stay in his apartment, but hidden among the trees and rolling hills is her abandoned encampment, along with dozens of others. Schmitt gets $1,000 a month from Social Security, but it's not enough to afford a security deposit or rent in the area, she said.

The gash on Schmitt's right shin is mottled and inflamed. She said she scraped it on a fallen branch. Patton cleaned and dressed it for her previously, but she had no choice but to reuse bandages after running out. Now she can barely walk from the pain.

"This is a silver-based dressing, which will kill bacteria in wounds," Patton tells Schmitt after rinsing the area with a saline wash. "We'll get you some more dressing too. And then you've got some skin breakdown and maceration between your toes. I don't like the look of that."

He gives her a fungal cream and a bottle of antibiotics. Schmitt is a leukemia survivor and has had a hip replacement on the same injured leg. Her medical history makes her prone to infections and poor circulation in her extremities, Patton said.

"There's people that would maybe make the argument that … they have health insurance here in California, they should just utilize the system as is. The reality is because of certain factors within the context of their homelessness, they're not able to do that," Patton said.

Although they qualify for comprehensive health coverage under Medi-Cal, the program wasn't necessarily designed with homeless people in mind. For example, Medi-Cal will pay for transportation to and from a doctor's appointment, but it requires the patient to provide a fixed address and give several week's notice to the driver, something most people experiencing homelessness aren't able to arrange.

LINK BETWEEN HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH

Health data on homeless people are sparse, with no state agency and only a handful of counties tracking the information, but it's clear that most of their deaths are preventable.

In Alameda and Marin counties, half result from acute or chronic health conditions like cardiovascular disease, cancer or respiratory failure. In Orange County, these make up a quarter of deaths among the unhoused. In Los Angeles County, heart disease is the second-leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness, second only to overdoses.

Even overdose deaths are considered preventable — yet in San Francisco, overdoses cause 82% of deaths among the unsheltered.

"We commonly see conditions that you would see in a typical population, but they're just not addressed; so out-of-control high blood pressure, uncontrolled diabetes…also substance use in terms of opioids, we see a whole lot more than in the general population," said Dr. Absalon Galat, medical director for LA County's Department of Health Services' Housing for Health division.

Galat's team started its foray into street medicine in an effort to dole out COVID-19 vaccines, but team members quickly found they needed to do more. The county used COVID-19 relief funds to purchase mobile clinics, and CalAIM funding has helped them hire 60 staff members.

In September, the county's fleet of mobile clinics, complete with fully outfitted exam rooms, began visiting areas where services are sparse. Smaller teams of clinicians and case workers roam encampments to follow-up with patients, treat minor issues and bring patients to the mobile clinic. There's some disagreement among street medicine providers about whether mobile clinics remove enough barriers because they still require patients to travel to a set location, but Galat said his goal is to improve access, whether it's by wheel or foot.

"People are dying every day," Galat said. "So we have to try with what we know best in the medical field right now to limit people who are dying."

The connection between homelessness and health is inextricable, said Dr. Michelle Schneidermann, director of the People-Centered Care team at the California Health Care Foundation, a statewide health policy think tank.

"Either one can lead to the other. A catastrophic health incident or a series of conditions can lead to someone not being able to work, leading to poverty," Schneidermann said. "We see this all the time, health conditions precipitating homelessness, and the other way around."

Take Danny Doran, 56, who visited LA County's mobile clinic at Whittier Narrows Park on a recent Thursday to pick up insulin. He spent his career as a plumber and owned a home in Bishop. Three years ago he fell into a diabetic coma and was hospitalized for months. A friend Doran trusted to pay his bills while he was hospitalized emptied his bank account and disappeared — Doran has been homeless ever since. Several weeks ago he was beaten and robbed by another homeless man, who left him with a fracture in his skull and a tremor in his hands.

"I guess I'm a little bit naive," Doran said. "We're all humans and we're prone to mistakes, you know? So I hate for anyone to have their money stolen like mine was and end up like me on the streets."

At the mobile clinic, Doran said the doctor on staff agreed to be his primary care physician. His previous primary care doctor stopped accepting Medi-Cal insurance, and Doran hasn't had regular access to insulin ever since.

"The doc here, she truly has compassion for her patients. I'm glad our paths crossed," Doran said.

Schneidermann, who is overseeing a study on street medicine programs across California, said CalAIM, which also pays for housing services, is an opportunity for the state to address its most pernicious problem.

"Until we can end our crisis of homelessness…we have to find a way to deliver care for people on the streets," Schneidermann said.

NEW PROGRAMS POPPING UP

Prior to CalAIM and the Health Care Services Department's rule changes, street medicine programs operated outside of traditional health care, funded by philanthropies or the rare health organization willing to lose money. Now, the department's changes offer some hope for stability, Feldman said.

Noting that these programs were birthed out of the pandemic, Feldman said they "might not exist in a few years if they're not supported, but they have all these patients that rely on them."

A year ago only 25 programs existed across the state, primarily concentrated in urban areas, Feldman said. But ever since CalAIM launched at the beginning of 2022, he's run into more organizations looking to begin services. CalAIM requires Medi-Cal insurers to coordinate patients' physical, behavioral, dental and developmental care as well as social services — something many street medicine teams already do. The goal is to make the "system hustle behind the scenes rather than making the patient hustle," California Health Care Foundations' Schneidermann said.

One such program is run by Anthony Menacho in Sacramento. Unlike USC, Shasta Community Health or LA County's teams that are staffed full time, Menacho's street medicine band is composed entirely of volunteers. They visit six camps every other weekend.

The work was funded initially by a $100,000 grant from Health Net, the largest Medi-Cal provider in the state, but Menacho, who trained as a physician assistant with Feldman at USC, wants to be able to do the work full time and hire more clinicians. He's working to secure money through CalAIM and the Department of Health Care Services.

"We don't have the academic resources or people behind us to be able to put in a department or infrastructure on the drop of the dime," Menacho said. "We run on grants, but that's not true sustainability. We can't do it ourselves. It has to be a coordinated effort and I think that's what CalAIM is trying to do."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California students are struggling to read. If adopted, these education strategies will help

For most people, reading is second nature – it's almost muscle memory. As you read the words on this page right now, you likely are not thinking about how you read or the mechanisms our brains use to decipher jumbled letters and words into cohesive concepts and sentences. We learned how to do this and, like many skills, teachers helped us along the way.

The latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (often called the National Report Card) showed the largest drop in reading scores in 30 years. While the pandemic exacerbated learning losses, America's literacy skills have been in decline for decades.

Investing in more effective strategies such as structured literacy and abandoning the failing approaches that don't work for students is more important than ever. "Structured literacy" is a proven model that takes a systematic approach to phonics instruction. When paired with intentional vocabulary and oral language instruction, it helps children understand letters and the sounds they make, blend those sounds into words, and connect those words to meaning.

California's test results this year made it clear that our current approach to literacy education is not working effectively, with more than half of students failing to meet English and language arts requirements. The truth is, we haven't been equipping our teachers with effective tools and practices, yet we've been expecting improved outcomes for generations.

Instead of structured literacy, disproven practices that fail to help have been embedded in curriculum and teacher preparation programs, and are part of what is causing children to fall behind in reading proficiency. The current approach, for example, downplays skills like decoding words by sounding them out, which help children to learn and commit to memory a wider variety of new vocabulary. Research on the cognitive science of reading shows that teaching students to read by relying on context to determine unknown words in a passage is a backward technique. When students never learn the fundamentals of phonics, they continue guessing words using cues, pictures or the letters they start with.

But initiating a major shift in literacy education will require a unified effort from philanthropy, parents, advocates and educators. There are four strategies that administrative and funding agencies can adopt to help teachers move away from inadequate strategies and embrace proven ones:

Support people and organizations working to shift literacy policy at the macro level.

Invest in effective curriculum, high-quality decodable texts and teacher training prep strategies that use systematic phonics and "sound it out" tactics.

Prioritize the latest scientific recommendations in grantmaking decisions by funding peer-reviewed evaluations of program effectiveness and assessing the efficacy of grantee programs.

Advocate for and invest in greater training for practitioners, including new certification requirements to ensure teachers are equipped to succeed from the start.

Improving literacy instruction will not only improve test scores but also lead to increased graduation rates, better college and career readiness, and an informed and literate civic population.

This year's test results and literacy challenges must be met with action. California students deserve it.

Guest Commentary written by Dana Cilono. Cilono is the education program officer for the Kenneth Rainin Foundation and has been an educator for nearly 15 years. She helped create and implement early learning innovations in Oakland schools.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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MASK

FROM PAGE 1

increased use of treatments for the disease keeping people at home and out of hospital beds.

However, she said even if metrics increased,

> New circulating variants that dominate increased risk for infection due to their ability to evade prior immunity - Barbara Ferrer

current cases are being driven by new variants that may peak quickly and then decline just as quickly, preventing the prolonged stress on the healthcare system that would require new mask rules.

"As I've noted before, that universal indoor masking would only go into effect after we've had two weeks, two consecutive weeks, of remaining at that high level for both thresholds with the hospital metrics. We're actually not sure that we'll get there," she said.

Ferrer said any predictions about the future were difficult because as Covid evolves, new strains prompt new problems. Locally, officials are seeing a new strain increase to about 45% of all cases and Ferrer said another new version is growing around the margins.

"New circulating variants that dominate increased risk for infection due to their ability to evade prior immunity," she said.

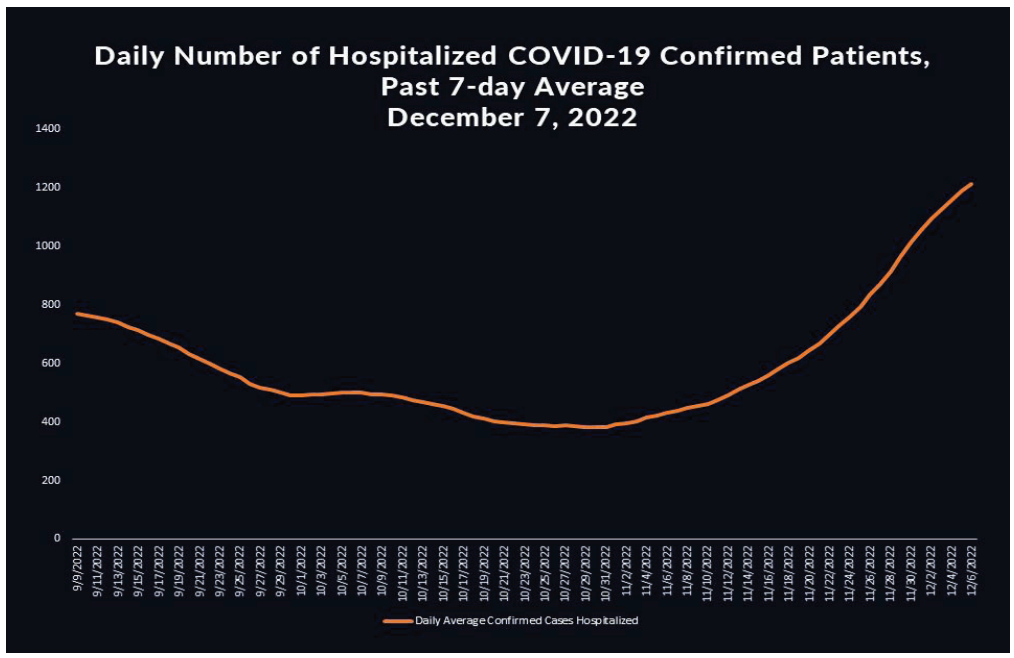
According to Ferrer, those new variants are worth tracking, but as of this week, she thinks there's hope to avoid the worst outcomes.

"I think it's fair to say that I'm feeling more hopeful that our metrics might improve before they tank," she said. "I really do. I mean, I could be wrong. And that's why, you know, sort of the crystal ball questions are always, so difficult because, with a new strain, it's very, very hard to know exactly what's going to happen. But there is the possibility that we peak quickly and we start to go down quickly. It is a new strain, so we're going to have a different experience.

Ferrer said the change in tone was less a retreat from last week's warning and more a representation of her optimism that a crisis will be averted. Even without a requirement, she said her office continues to recommend masks as a prudent step to help head off any emergency problems.

"We know everyone is super focused on like, 'when might this be universal masking? You know, indoor masking requirements.' But what we really want to focus on today is we all need to wear our masks now. We haven't reached that super dangerous threshold where CDC has said 'no, you really need to start worrying about your hospital system.' But we've reached the threshold and all of the data shows, this where there's just too much transmission and it's creating a lot of risk. And the time to mitigate the risk is actually now."

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy image

COVID: The county is pushing towards the CDC's "high" tier but may still avoid masking rules.

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Biden approval, views of economy steady, sour: AP-NORC poll

HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

Fresh off his party's better-than-anticipated performance in the midterm elections, President Joe Biden is facing consistent but critical assessments of his leadership and the national economy.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds 43% of U.S. adults say they approve of the way Biden is handling his job as president, while 55% disapprove. That's similar to October, just weeks before the Nov. 8 elections that most Americans considered pivotal for the country's future.

Only about a quarter say the nation is headed in the right direction or the economy is in good condition. Both measures have been largely negative over the course of the year as inflation tightened its grip, but were more positive through much of Biden's first year in office.

Mishana Conlee said she tries to be optimistic about the coming year, but she thinks things are going to the gutter because "our president is incompetent" and not mentally fit for the White House. The 44-year-old in South Bend, Indiana, said she's frustrated about rising expenses when she's living paycheck to paycheck as a dietary aide at a nursing home.

"The more I work, I just can't get ahead," Conlee said. "That's just all there is to it."

She doesn't blame Biden for the state of inflation, but "I feel like he's not doing anything to change it," said Conlee, an independent who voted for former President Donald Trump. Biden's "not doing us any good."

The Biden administration in its second year in the White House relished economic growth, a series of legislative wins and relative success for the president's party in the midterms. But that has yet to translate to glowing reviews from a pessimistic public.

> "I think that the Democrats can be a little bit more aggressive - Glen McDaniel

"I don't understand why his approval ratings are so low," said 56-year-old Sarah Apwisch, highlighting the administration's investments in infrastructure and computer chip technology.

Apwisch recognizes that it's been "a tough year" and that prices are higher, but she's hopeful because of the midterm results as a Republican-turned-Democrat who worries about the "Make America Great Again" movement's influence on the GOP.

"We're headed in the right direction," said the Three Rivers, Michigan, resident who works for a market research company's finance department. She is eager to see Democrats press forward on a wide-ranging agenda, including codifying abortion rights.

Even as Republicans took control of the House, Democrats defied historical precedent to stunt GOP gains and even improve their Senate majority, which was cemented with this week's runoff win for Sen. Raphael Warnock, the lone Democrat in Georgia this year to be elected statewide.

Glen McDaniel of Atlanta, who twice voted for Warnock, thinks the Biden administration has moved the country forward and weathered the economic storm as well as possible.

"I think that this administration has done as much as they can" to fight inflation, the Democrat said.

But McDaniel, a 70-year-old medical research scientist, also thinks the nation faces "social headwinds" that he wants Biden and the party to prioritize.

"I think that the Democrats can be a little bit more aggressive" in legislating on things like marriage equality, reproductive rights and voting reform, he said.

The poll shows majorities of Democrats and Republicans alike think things in the country are on the wrong track, likely for different reasons.

But Democrats have shown renewed faith in Biden, boosting his overall job approval rating from a summer slump. Even so, the 43% who approve in the new survey remains somewhat depressed from 48% a year ago and much lower than 60% nearly two years ago, a month after he took office.

Seventy-seven percent of Democrats, but only 10% of Republicans, approve of Biden.

While many Americans don't entirely blame Biden for high inflation, AP-NORC polling this year showed Biden consistently hit for his handling of the economy.

As in recent months, the new poll shows only a quarter of U.S. adults say economic conditions are good, while three-quarters call them bad. Nine in 10 Republicans, along with about 6 in 10 Democrats, say the economy is in bad shape. Ratings of the economy have soured amid record-high inflation, even as Biden touts falling gas prices and a low unemployment rate at 3.7%.

Joshua Steffens doubts that the job market is as good as indicators show. The 47-year-old in St. Augustine, Florida, said he has been unemployed and struggling to find an information technology job since September.

"Even though they're trying to claim that things are looking good," Steffens said, "in the trenches, it definitely does not appear that it's so accurate."

Biden's shopping and vacationing, captured on broadcast news, is "tone deaf," said the Republican, who called the president "a habitual liar."

Steffens said he and his wife are experiencing rising expenses for electricity and groceries, and relying on his wife's income has "put a strain" on their holiday shopping. He doesn't think Biden is handling high inflation well.

"If he has policies that he's trying to push through, then they're not working currently," Steffens said.



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Los Angeles

Los Angeles City Council Bans Expanded Polystyrene

Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed three plastic reduction ordinances, supported by Reusable LA. These new laws ban the distribution and sale of expanded polystyrene (EPS) products, close loopholes in the citywide single-use plastic bag ban, and require city departments to implement zero waste practices at city facilities and events.

Advocates have been working on banning expanded polystyrene (commonly called Styrofoam) for more than a decade. Foam foodware accessories, including takeout containers and cups, can leach toxic chemicals and pose a threat to human health and the environment. Additionally, City Councilmembers voted to fix a problematic loophole that allowed for the distribution of thicker disposable plastic bags in grocery stores that were marketed as "reusable".

Los Angeles creates nearly 30 million tons of municipal waste each year, and plastic is the greatest contributor to the waste stream by item. These measures will reduce waste, save businesses money, lessen our dependence on fossil fuels, and improve public health.

The three ordinances were supported by Reusable LA, an environmental advocacy coalition made up of over 30 organizations working to reduce plastic pollution and move LA towards a thriving culture of reuse. Coalition partners have been working on an EPS ban and the citywide single-use plastic bag ban for over 14 years, and on this specific ordinance since 2019. A recent public engagement campaign, resulting in more than 5,300 emails to City Council and more than 80 public comments in support of the ordinances, was spearheaded by Reusable LA.

Quotes from Reusable LA Coalition:

"Reusable LA is thrilled to see Los Angeles move forward after a decade of working on these ordinances," said Alison Waliszewski and Emily Parker, Co-Chairs of Reusable LA. "City Council has demonstrated incredible leadership by prioritizing community health in banning toxic expanded polystyrene. We applaud their commitment to fixing loopholes in the single-use plastic-bag ban that allowed for the sale and use of thicker single-use plastic bags and we're especially glad to see Los Angeles commit to a culture shift towards a zero-waste circular economy by its requirement for zero-waste plans in all city facilities and events."

"We have a lot more to do to reduce our reliance on plastics and get it out of our water, air, and bodies, (and also reduce our dependence on oil), but this is an important step in that process."

Lisa Hart, board member, Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

"I was born and raised in Los Angeles and have dedicated the past 13 years to stopping plastic pollution at the source. The passage and implementation of these bans are a tremendous milestone in the movement to measurably reduce plastic pollution and its toxic impacts. Together with Reusable LA, we look forward to our home city being grounded in non-toxic reusables and refillables!" – Dianna Cohen, Co-Founder and CEO of Plastic Pollution Coalition

"As a native Angeleno and ocean protector, I am thrilled to see our City of Los Angeles leading the way to a healthier and more sustainable future by protecting our communities from the toxic health impacts of plastic pollution. Plastic is harmful at every stage of its death cycle, from the extraction of fossil fuels to plastic production and incineration. We thank the City of LA Council Members for taking this important first step to protect the health of our future generations as we push for real solutions and transition to a thriving nontoxic reuse and refill economy." - Melissa Aguayo, Break Free From Plastic US Regional Coordinator

"When only 5% of plastic is recycled and much of our exported waste is illegally dumped, we need to find real solutions that reduce our plastic consumption," said Cheryl Auger, President of Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic). " The benefits are numerous: reduced consumption of resources; costs; and pollution; along with less noise and decreased health conditions. LA City is leading the way to a healthier and more sustainable environment."

"As California's largest city, Los Angeles plays a significant role in reducing the state's unnecessary single-use plastic, threatening our oceans, communities, and climate. Today's decision by the LA City Council sets an example for other cities to follow as the state, and the world, continues to combat the plastic pollution crisis." - Christy Leavitt, Campaign Director, Oceana

"These ordinances establish Los Angeles as a national leader in stopping the single-use waste crisis," said Michael Martin, Founder and CEO, r.Cup. "As the country's leading reuse platform investing in local communities, we're especially excited to see the city's commitment to implementing zero waste at their facilities and events and know from experience this will inspire others to follow their lead."

SUBMITTED BY REUSABLE LA

ANTISEMITES

FROM PAGE 2

screened — there are police, plainclothes security," she said.

She's appalled at how antisemites use social media "to post stuff online that they'd never say to anyone's face."

Some Jewish college students have reported increasing on-campus antisemitism. At Brandeis University in suburban Boston, which has a substantial Jewish enrollment, rabbi and chaplain Seth Winberg says he feels fortunate to be in a setting where Jewish identity can be celebrated.

"My students can learn to respond to antisemitism in proactive ways: building relationships, learning how to listen to others, and when necessary, taking action," he said via email.

Rachel Timoner, senior rabbi at Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, sees the surge of hateful rhetoric as a test for America — "a contest between two sets of ideas."

"What white nationalists want is to spread that Hitler was right and Jews are a threat — that's gaining traction in certain quarters of our society," she said. "Who is going to speak up and say that is unacceptable?"

"If people are silent, the threat and the danger will only grow," she added.

"Everyone in every neighborhood has a role. That's the contest we're in — every voice matters."

Meyer reported from Nashville. Wardarski reported from Pittsburgh. Associated Press writer Giovanna Dell'Orto in Minneapolis contributed.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 9)

Your adventurous spirit leads you to gain skills. You'll take on new projects, not because you know how to do the work but because you don't. Your expertise in one area will spread to another and your power will grow. More highlights: a medal won in a competitive event, domestic bliss as you follow your heart and a family mystery solved. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 13, 28, 8 and 6.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You create your life, but not completely. You always have creative partners. Even when you're finally in charge, you're still in a co-creation with life itself. Affect what you can. If it doesn't yield to you, it's not yours to control.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you buy into your future, you accept that things could go either way; victory and defeat are two sides of the same coin, and there is no such thing as a one-sided coin. However, the fates favor you in today's toss.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can tap into an intensity when you want or need to. It's an attractive side of you, in part because you rarely use it. Though you usually like to keep things light, brief instances of passion make life sparkle with excitement.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's not the amount of stress in your life, but how you deal with it that matters. You're finding new ways all the time. You'll continue to hone your game until you can deftly handle the very things that once caused you anxiety.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know almost everything about something and something about almost everything. Given your current level of sophistication you may wonder if it's still possible to have a day filled with carefree innocence. It is and you will.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may not be able to articulate what's on your heart, but if you write it out, you'll come to an interesting conclusion. Three pages is the magic number. By the end of the third page, you will understand your next move.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Extend an invitation -- the more specific the better. Whether or not your invite is accepted will have more to do with convenience and fit than anything else, so geographic desirability will earn points.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It feels nice to be understood, but if you're more often misunderstood today, don't worry -- it's actually making you better. You'll problem-solve and determine how better to communicate with different types of people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not inclined to sell people on things they don't need or want, even if it would be good for you, your boss or your company. Honesty may cost you a short-term sale, but it will win you a long-term fan and future customer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've known relationships that were comfortable from the get-go and never got less-so. Also, some relationships have always been and will always be difficult. Accept the work as a given feature of the relationship and it's easier to take.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be struck by a realization: What you're doing is not what you set out to do. False starts, strange turns and the like are all part of the process. Be patient with yourself as you find your way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you're so creative your mind will go in multiple directions, some more helpful than others. You can rein in your thoughts though, kindly picking and choosing the most supportive among them to put on repeat.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

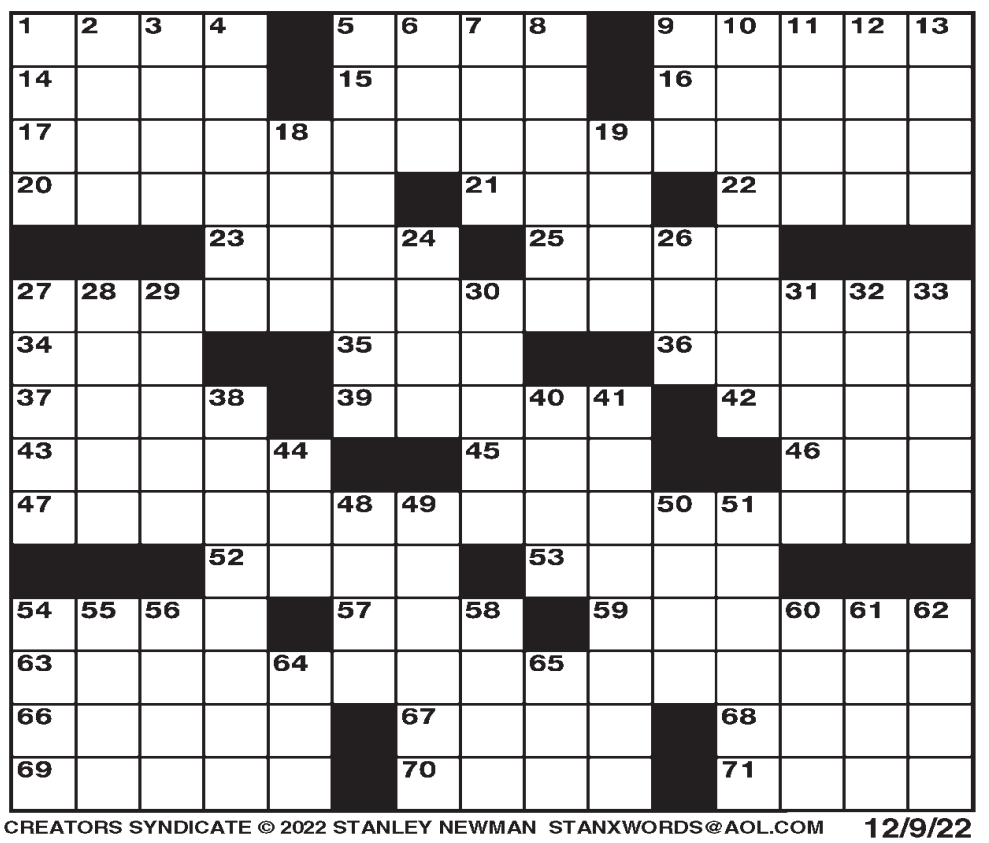
		2	5	7		3		9
6			8				1	
7				9		6		4
	6	8				9		
	3			1			4	
		7				2	6	
3		6		5				2
	2				3			7
9		1		2	4	8		

Newsday Crossword

DOG STAR by Kevin Christian
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 *Rent* heroine
5 One raised on a farm
9 Taro, for example
14 Had too much
15 Slurpee alternative
16 Beanie Baby pachyderm
17 Fuel-saving devices in race cars
20 Morissette of music
21 Wand-wielding agency
22 "Yeah, right!"
23 *Cuatro doblado*
25 Egg cell
27 Pixar person
34 Cause of some sudden explosions
35 Up to, in verse
36 "Based on ___ story"
37 Give or take
39 "Forever" purchase
42 Corrodes
43 Old Testament patriarch
45 Cultural Revolution leader
46 Pixar procedure, for short
47 Stick on a stage
52 Array of choices
53 Minute quantity
54 Wonderland talking bird
57 Touchdown prediction
59 Of letters etc.
63 Car's numerical arrangements
66 Spritelike
67 Strap on a stage
68 Major erupter in 2021
69 Piratic pal
70 Burlap product
71 Piratic plunder

DOWN
1 Where to see Monets in Manhattan
2 Megastar
3 Facebook's conglomerate
4 Denial of use
5 VIPs
6 Top performer
7 Tear in fabric
8 Schindler portrayer
9 What's held by some bags and caddies
10 Unimprovable
11 Amorphous object
12 Word on Irish euros
13 Leftovers
18 *Muy próspero*
19 Sitar master Shankar
24 Taking care of business
26 Name on *Pulp Fiction* posters
27 Municipal
28 Schoolyard comeback
29 Put back on
30 South central Texas tourist stop
31 Political opinion piece
32 What you spend
33 Amber, essentially
38 What may have stars but gets no stars
40 Rooney of . . . *Dragon Tattoo*
41 Avant-garde rock
44 Signal to start
48 Tech news website
49 Teaching assistants
50 Spare tyre holder
51 River through the Dutch capital
54 Consider to be
55 ___ podrida (miscellany)
56 Sure-handed
58 Surveyor's stat
60 What the longest answers have in common
61 Word on some cornerstones
62 Early step toward a JD
64 Whatever
65 Popular pen name

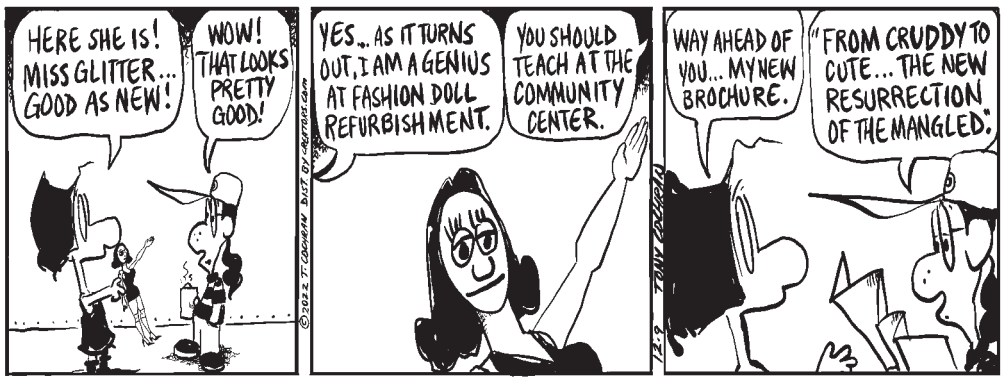


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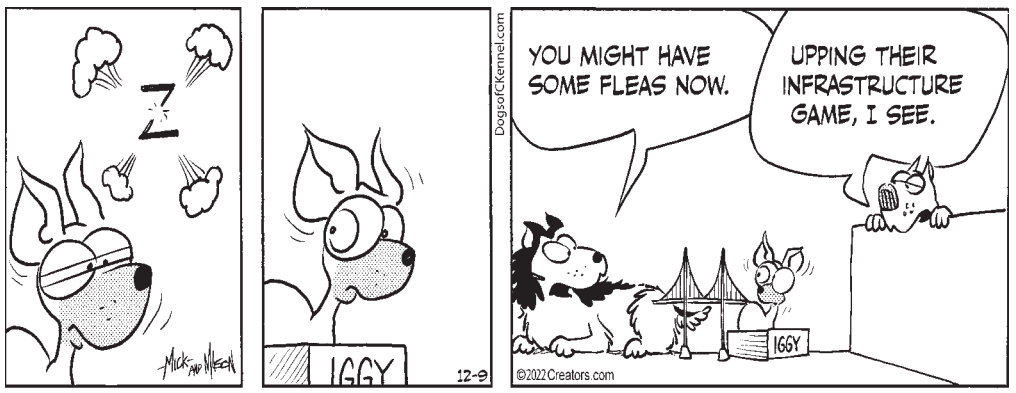
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



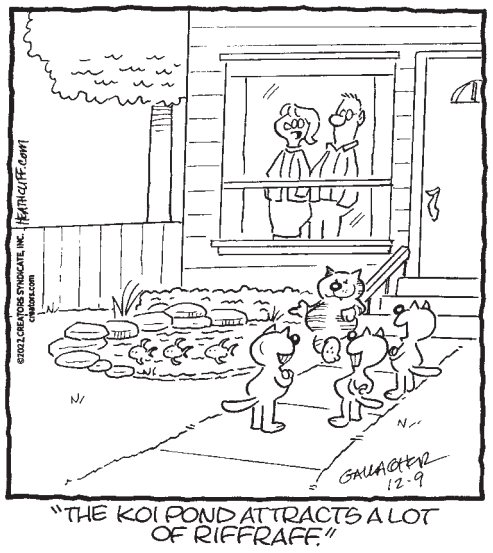
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THE KOI POND ATTRACTS A LOT OF RIFFRAFF."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5688

Let's dance

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

Achieve
Ad lib
Adapt
Ballet
Band
Boston
Caper
Chasse
Clumsy
Crowd
Disco
Easy
Enjoy
Fast
Flow
Frug
Glide
Group
Heat
Hula
Jazz
Juba
Kolo
Latin
Lead
Legs
Limbo
Lively
Mashed potato
Pairs
Pas
Pavan
Piano
Plan
Reel
Rhythm
Samba
Shimmy
Skip
Slip
Sophisticated
Steamy
Tempo
Tiring
Trot
Tuition
Turn
Valse
Watch

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 9

PICO HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Join Pico friends, family and merchants at the Pico Culture House for complementary wine, appetizers, sweets and hot chocolate! Try your hand at decorating gingerbread cookies and see this year's winter wonderland display. Special Pico gifts and prizes will be given away. You won't want to miss this event! Pico Culture House, 3018 Pico Boulevard, 4 - 7 p.m. Email picoblvdsm@gmail.com to RSVP.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 10

CONSCIOUS HOLIDAY MARKET

Shop 40+ local vendors with a focus on elevated and sustainable brands at Downtown Santa Monica's favorite artisanal pop-up market as part of this year's Winterlit series. Enjoy free fitness classes by Fit Girl Club and shop for local and sustainable gifts to give this year at this family and dog-friendly market! 1351 3rd Street Promenade. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET

Meet on the California Heritage Museum Lawn for an evening of miracle fun! Join at the Kids Corner for face painting and more, welcome Santa Claus as he arrives in Santa Monica and join for the seasonal candlelight walk to the one-and-only Edgemar Shopping Cart Tree. There's plenty of street-wide holiday parties happening, so come down and join the festivities! 3 - 7 p.m. https://www.mainstreetsm.com/holiday-event/

18TH STREET ARTS CENTER'S ANNUAL WINTER PARTY

18th Street Arts Center, in collaboration with Art At The Airport, are pleased to announce their annual Winter Party on December 10 from 4-7 PM. Free and open to the public, visitors will have the opportunity to connect with over 20 professional artists in their studios directly; view Ranu Mukherjee's Dear Future in the Propeller Gallery; purchase handmade, artisanal goods by Market Exchange vendor collective; participate in a winter ornament workshop conducted by artist Marcus Kuilando-Nazario; and enjoy a performance by pianist Paul Cornish and 18th Street Arts Center Staff. 18th Street Art Center 1639 18th St 4 - 7 p.m. RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/18th-street-arts-center-annual-winter-party-tickets-464750068967

SMALL SPACES GARDENING DEMONSTRATION

Are your gardening dreams big but your cultivation space limited? No worries! Join the Community Gardeners and special guests, Master Gardeners, Julie Strand and Elizabeth Ostrom, for a presentation and conversation about small space gardening for edibles, including container gardens and balcony/postage stamp gardening. Demonstration begins at 10 am. Join us at 9 am for coffee, refreshments and walking through the gardens. Learn about the Westside Seed Exchange. Sponsored by City of Santa Monica Community Gardens Program with the support of Santa Monica Roots. Contact: santamonicaroots@gmail.com. 9 - 11 a.m. Main Street Community Gardens, 2318 Main Street.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 11

BEACH WALK & SKETCH

For a peaceful morning on the beach, bring your sense of wonder and take to the sands to sketch on the beautiful coastline. Binoculars, drawing boards, pencils, and newsprint provided, or bring your own easy-to-carry sketching tools. 415 Pacific Coast Highway 9 - 11 a.m. Free but registration required online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beach-walk-sketch-registration-449636804787

MEET ME UNDER THE FIG TREE

Join for The Miramar's annual community holiday gathering under the historic Moreton Bay Fig Tree for an afternoon filled with fun and festive frolics for the family. The day's festivities include: live entertainment, seasonal crafts, cookie decorating, a bounce house and much more! Please bring non–perishable food items or gently worn business clothing to contribute to those most in need. Donations will benefit Westside Food Bank and Chrysalis. 101 Wilshire Blvd.2 - 5 p.m. https://www.fairmont.com/santa-monica/

HIGH HOPES INSTALLATION LAUNCH

Art of Recovery artist Yeu Q. Nguyen invites the community to an intimate gathering to celebrate the launch of her work, High Hopes. The installation features 200 colorful flags filled with personal aspirations of hope made by Santa Monica's community members at the Art of Recovery supported concert series, Americana in the Park. This work explores resilience as a communal ritual and re-imagines art in public spaces as a sanctuary for collective healing and unification. The launch event will include flying bubbles, live music, a healing meditation and art-making activities for all ages. Tongva Park, 1615 Ocean Ave. 3:30 - 5 p.m.

MONDAY | DECEMBER 12

KARAOKE NIGHT PARTY AT TAVERN ON MAIN

Sing a song, sing it loud and sing it strong at Tavern on Main's Karaoke Night Party, every Monday and Wednesday night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St. https://www.tavernonmainsm.com/events/karaoke-night

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **59.7**

FRIDAY *POOR*	**SURF:** 0-1ft Shin to knee	Looking like a tiny day of waves but there could be a touch more NW energy to blend in with minor S swell. Conditions at least looking clean for the morning but there will be a deep high tide to slog through.
SATURDAY *POOR*	**SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh	NW swell mix up in size from the end of the week. Morning could have a decent window before southerly flow develops into the afternoon.

WEATHER

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. East wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. East wind around 5 mph.
Saturday: A 30 percent chance of rain, mainly after 4pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57.
Saturday Night: Rain, mainly after 10pm. Low around 51. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/12/09	Fri	02:35 AM	2.53	L
2022/12/09	Fri	08:53 AM	5.98	H
2022/12/09	Fri	4:25 PM	-0.57	L
2022/12/09	Fri	11:14 PM	3.44	H
2022/12/10	Sat	03:05 AM	2.69	L
2022/12/10	Sat	09:24 AM	5.77	H
2022/12/10	Sat	5:04 PM	-0.39	L
2022/12/11	Sun	12:03 AM	3.37	H
2022/12/11	Sun	03:38 AM	2.83	L
2022/12/11	Sun	09:58 AM	5.49	H
2022/12/11	Sun	5:43 PM	-0.16	L
2022/12/12	Mon	12:58 AM	3.34	H
2022/12/12	Mon	04:17 AM	2.98	L
2022/12/12	Mon	10:34 AM	5.14	H
2022/12/12	Mon	6:26 PM	0.10	L
2022/12/13	Tue	02:01 AM	3.39	H
2022/12/13	Tue	05:11 AM	3.13	L
2022/12/13	Tue	11:16 AM	4.73	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/7
6 28 44 59 61
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 116 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/6
15 16 19 28 47
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 379 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 12/7
16 26 32 38 43
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 14 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/7
5 12 17 18 29

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/7
EVENING: 5 2 7
Draw Date: 12/7
MIDDAY: 6 9 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/7
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:45.79

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