smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Crime Watch
If at first you don't succeed, steal, steal again.
Page 2

Puzzles & Stuff
Crossword & Sudoku.
Page 9

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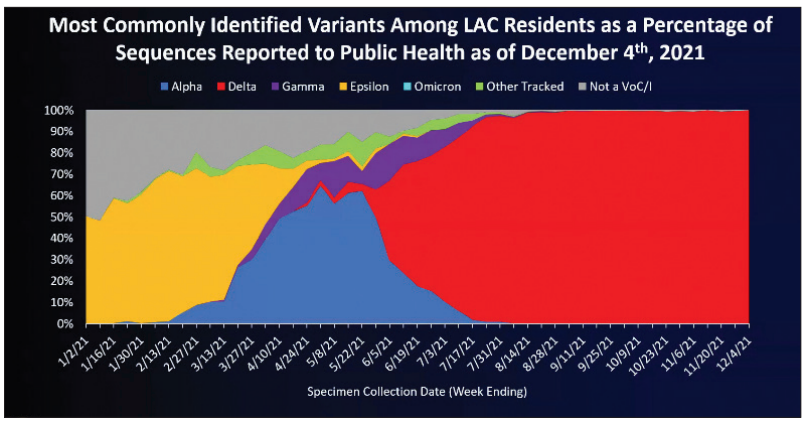
Omicron arrives in LA as county prepares for potential winter surge

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Los Angeles officials are making adjustments to some rules as they prepare for the new omicron Covid variant to spread but they believe many existing measures will continue to protect against the evolving disease.

Omicron is of concern to officials due to its large number of mutations in key regions of the virus and that raises the possibility of increased infectivity, potential immune evasion, resistance to treatment and increased illness severity. The county tests about 25 percent of its positive cases to determine which variant the patient has and has found four cases in the area so far. All of the cases identified were fully vaccinated and one person had already received a booster dose. All of these four cases had mild infections and as of Dec. 9, 21 states have reported a total of 71

SEE **COVID** PAGE 5



Courtesy image

VARIANT: Delta (red) has squeezed out all other variants to this point.

Santa Monica Santa Map



Courtesy image

SANTA: The Santa Monica Police Officers Association and Santa Monica Firefighters Local 1109 are partnering to bring Santa Monicans some much needed holiday cheer on Saturday. For the last 25 years, public safety officials in Santa Monica have brought Santa to area parks as part of the annual Candy Cane Drive, this year some creativity and determination was required to bring St. Nick to locals. See Page 3 for a schedule of Santa's path through town or scan the code above and track the route in real time on Saturday.

Café Lovi's Jewish-Italian fare quickly embraced as neighborhood coffee shop

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

In a town with 17 Starbucks it's easy to forget the sense of community that pours out of an independent coffee shop. Fortunately for Mid-City residents there's a new java joint in town, Café Lovi, serving top-notch Italian espresso and homemade challah sandwiches.

In a neighborhood marked by car dealerships and medical offices, the tiny coffee shop brings a much welcome sense of coziness and character. Although it's only two months old, Lovi has already become a favorite gathering spot for locals.

At the helm of the operation is Benedetta "Beny" Jasmine Guetta, a food writer from Milan Italy, who has crafted the Lovi menu based on

SEE **CAFÉ LOVI'S** PAGE 7



Courtesy photo

FOOD: Cafe Lovi's food and coffee are drawing in locals.

Shore Hotel greenlit for micro rooms and expanded services

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

After five hours of heated City Council consideration, the Shore Hotel was granted almost everything it came to the table for — permission to add 14 micro hotel rooms, a cafe with beer and wine service, a restaurant with alcohol and entertainment, and a massage service.

The only request refused in the Dec. 7 meeting, was full alcohol service in the newly approved 2nd Street ground floor cafe space, per an amendment made by Councilmember Phil Brock who said there are too many hard alcohol outlets in the area.

The Downtown Community Plan text amendment and Conditional Use Permit granted for the construction of a micro-hotel helps bring to a close a decade long controversy over a requirement that the Shore Hotel provides affordable rooms. The

SEE **HOTEL** PAGE 11


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Boxing among 3 Olympic sports in danger of losing 2028 spot

GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

Boxing, weightlifting and modern pentathlon were set a target of about 18 months on Thursday to make changes in order to keep their status as Olympic sports for the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

The governing bodies of boxing and weightlifting were described as problem children by International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach, who has long voiced concerns with the leadership of those sports and issues with corruption and doping.

Modern pentathlon has effectively been told by the IOC to remove equestrian jumping from the event, provoking a backlash from angry athletes.

The high-profile incident of a coach striking a horse at the Tokyo Olympics has undermined modern pentathlon's reputation despite more than 100 years in the Games since being created by IOC founder Pierre de Coubertin.

All three sports have been left off the initial list of 28 on the 2028 program, which will be put to IOC members for approval in February.

The list of approved sports includes skateboarding, surfing and sports climbing. All three made successful Olympic debuts in Tokyo and look to be locked in for the future as the IOC chases younger audiences.

It also sets them to receive a share of future Olympic broadcasting income, which is currently worth at least $15 million to each sport.

The three sports left isolated Thursday still have a "pathway for inclusion" at the 2023 annual meeting of the IOC membership, Bach said.

They need to "demonstrate to the satisfaction" of the IOC executive board they have made changes variously to the governance and organizational culture of the sports. Modern pentathlon also needs to replace horse riding with a more inclusive discipline accessible to young people worldwide.

Soccer is still on the Los Angeles program, but Bach put FIFA on notice because of its plans to play World Cups every two years, instead of every four. The current cycle of men's World Cups would put any biennial tournament in a direct clash with the Los Angeles Olympics.

The World Cup plan, which has faced resistance in Europe and South America, is being pushed by FIFA president Gianni Infantino, but momentum has stalled in recent weeks.

Bach said the IOC still had not been consulted about the plan, but he is due to talk Saturday with Infantino — an elected IOC member — at an online meeting of Olympic sports leaders.

Other sports can also be added to the Los Angeles sports program in 2023, when local organizers are scheduled to ask for medal events they want to host. Baseball and softball are a potential choice. They were added by organizers to the Tokyo Olympics, along with karate, to appeal to Japanese fans.

Baseball, softball and karate were not requested by organizers of the 2024 Paris Olympics, which will have breakdancing in addition to skateboarding, surfing and sports climbing.

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 DEC. 4

SMPD officers working uniformed patrol assigned in the Downtown area responded to a radio call at Nordstrom (220 Broadway) at approximately noon regarding a "Theft in Custody". Upon our arrival loss prevention staff explained that multiple Nordstrom employees noticed a female who they recognized from an attempted theft the prior day back in the store. On Dec. 3, the individual identified at Tiffany Watson entered the store and began concealing merchandise on her person. She was contacted by loss prevention and agreed to return the items and advised to leave the store. The following day, she returned, selected sunglasses and placed them on her face. She then selected a pair of earrings. After selecting a hat and placing it on her head and she began walking toward the Broadway exit and left the store without paying for the aforementioned items she selected and was wearing. Watson stopped and gave the merchandise back to store personnel. She was detained in the store until officers arrived and was arrested for shoplifting.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 307 CALLS ON DECEMBER 8

72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:03 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1400Blk 4th St 1:32 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1600Blk 9th St 2:26 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:50 a.m.
Loud Music 500Blk Colorado Ave 4:25 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 200Blk Arizona Ave 6:04 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 900Blk 2nd St 6:08 a.m.
Death Investigation 1700Blk Ocean Ave 6:24 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 6:32 a.m.
Found Property 100Blk Wadsworth Ave 6:47 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1300Blk 15th St 6:52 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 700Blk Marine St 8:16 a.m.
Encampment 2200Blk Colorado Ave 8:20 a.m.
Encampment 200Blk Marine St 8:28 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:00 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2400Blk 34th St 9:15 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:22 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400Blk 24th St 9:23 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2400Blk 20th St 9:32 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2700Blk Main St 9:34 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 900Blk 15th St 9:41 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300Blk 14th St 9:49 a.m.
Encampment 2000Blk The Beach 9:49 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 900Blk 15th St 10:07 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 2300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:09 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300Blk Barnard Way 10:10 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 4th St / Civic Center Dr 10:25 a.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 1700Blk 4th St 10:26 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1100Blk Pine St 10:30 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1200Blk 16th St 10:31 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 10:40 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2000Blk 3rd St 10:44 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300Blk Barnard Way 10:47 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:02 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 300Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:11 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1400Blk Ocean Ave 11:24 a.m.
Lost Property 1500Blk The Beach 11:28 a.m.
Lost Property Unknown 11:33 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 20th St / Delaware Ave 11:33 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:59 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400Blk 4th St 12:03 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1200Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:03 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 12:08 p.m.
Identity Theft 1300Blk 17th St 12:14 p.m.
Burglary Report 1800Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:25 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report Main St / Hill St 12:27 p.m.
Fraud Report 2900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:21 p.m.
Burglary Report 900Blk 17th St 1:45 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200Blk Broadway 1:49 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1000Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:08 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:43 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800Blk 9th St 2:54 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1000Blk 7th St 3:10 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:15 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1900Blk Alta Ave 3:17 p.m.
Found Property 1300Blk Pico Blvd 3:27 p.m.
Found Senile Person 1300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:50 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 900Blk 4th St 3:57 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800Blk Ashland Ave 4:28 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 900Blk 22nd St 4:33 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 900Blk 22nd St 4:40 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400Blk 7th St 4:54 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report Berkeley St / Wilshire Blvd 4:57 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2100Blk Broadway 4:58 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 32nd St / Pico Blvd 4:59 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 11th St / Pico Blvd 5:08 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1900Blk Euclid St 5:14 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:38 p.m.
Domestic Violence Just Occurred Euclid St / Wilshire Blvd 5:42 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:45 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 6:05 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 800Blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:15 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:58 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:08 p.m.
Panic Alarm 00Blk Sea Colony Dr 7:15 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 900Blk 9th St 7:18 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 700Blk California Ave 7:19 p.m.
Prowler 500Blk Pier Ave 7:46 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 8:02 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 300Blk Olympic Dr 8:07 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 900Blk Washington Ave 8:23 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1700Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:34 p.m.
Loud Music 1800Blk 9th St 9:49 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 10:10 p.m.
Prowler There Now 3100Blk Broadway 10:25 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 42 CALLS ON DECEMBER 8

Odor Investigation 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:30 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:42 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 200Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:53 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:22 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 1:40 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk 4th St 2:32 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:05 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 2nd St 6:11 a.m.
EMS 1700Blk Ocean Ave 6:19 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 5th St 6:27 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 800Blk Ashland Ave 7:38 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Ocean Ave 8:25 a.m.
EMS 2100Blk Stewart St 9:03 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:31 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk 14th St 9:37 a.m.
EMS 7th St / Broadway 10:04 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk 19th St 10:20 a.m.
EMS 11th St / Arizona Ave 10:37 a.m.
EMS 700Blk Montana Ave 11:24 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk 16th St 11:42 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 16th St 11:48 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 15th St 12:17 p.m.
EMS 2300Blk Main St 12:53 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Ashland Ave 1:08 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 2nd St 1:11 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 1:36 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2600Blk Broadway 1:42 p.m.
EMS Stewart St / Olympic Blvd 1:43 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:13 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:17 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 2:22 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 33rd St / Pearl St 2:40 p.m.
Structure Fire 2700Blk 3rd St 2:40 p.m.
EMS 400Blk Raymond Ave 3:12 p.m.
EMS 800Blk Ashland Ave 3:46 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk 14th St 4:12 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 17th St 5:09 p.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:06 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1000Blk Euclid St 7:14 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 900Blk 15th St 9:35 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 9th St 10:32 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 10:54 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Claus is Safely Coming to Town!

On Saturday, Dec. 11, Santa and his helpers will move from neighborhood to neighborhood so residents can come out, wave a socially distant hello and snap some photos.

"This has been a year of recovery and it's comforting to see our traditions begin to return. The Candy Cane Drive always brings a smile to faces young and old," said Santa Monica Police Lieutenant Rudy Flores

This year Santa can be tracked by scanning the QR code pictured here, so people can avoid gathering or waiting for Santa's arrival. Also, he'll be escorted by fire engines, police cars and motorcycles, so listen up for the sirens! An approximate schedule of the procession's timing is below:

10 - 10:20 a.m.
Start on 23rd and Ashland
North on 23rd - West on Ashland - South on 17th – West on Marine
North on 16th- West on Hill Street - South on 14th - West on Ashland - South on 11th - West on Marine West on Navy - Continue West across Lincoln - North on 7th

10:20 - 10:50 a.m.
West on Marine. - North on Main
East on Pico - South on 4th - East on Ocean Park- North on 6th
West on Hollister- South on 5th- East on Ocean Park
North on 11th- East on Pearl- North on 28th- East on Exposition
South on Warwick - West on Delaware - South on Stewart
West on Kansas- North on Cloverfield - West on Virginia- North on 20th - West on Delaware
North on 17th - West on Michigan- North on 11th
West on Broadway- North on Ocean Ave - East on Santa Monica Blvd
North on 5th - West on Wilshire

10:50 - 11:15 a.m.
North on Ocean - East on Montana - South on 4th. - East on California
North on Lincoln - East on Alta - South on 9th
East on Montana Ave - South on 17th
East on Washington- South on Chelsea- East on California

11:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.
South on 25th, West on Wilshire - North on Chelsea. - West on California- North on 20th
North on 20th. -West on Alta
North on Ocean- East on Marguerita
South on 26th - East on Washington
South on Stanford - East on Lipton - South on Centinela
West on Wilshire -South on 14th - East on Ocean Park
Return to North Pole

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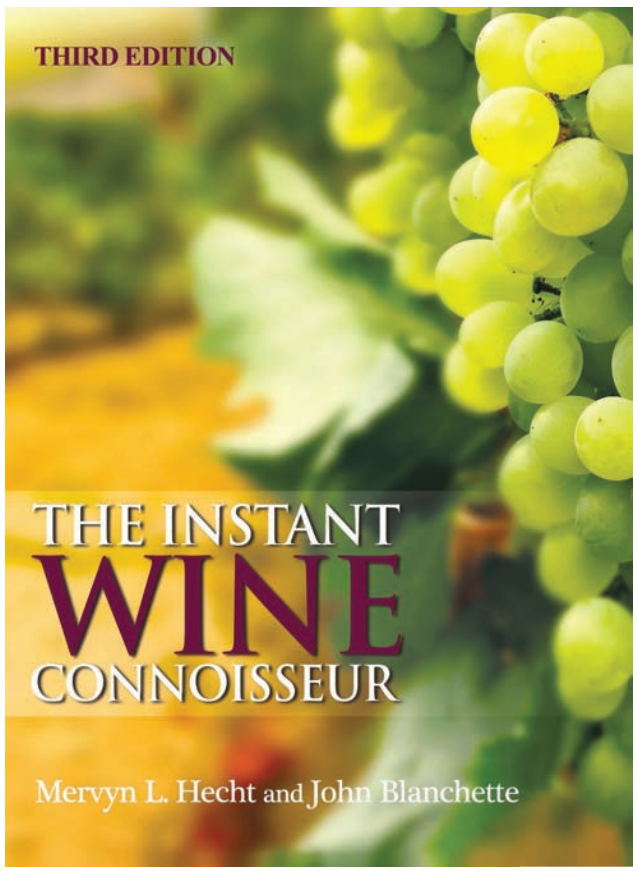
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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com





★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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Miami schools chief named next superintendent in Los Angeles

JOCELYN GECKER AND TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

The Los Angeles Board of Education has chosen the longtime superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools to be the next superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest in the nation, officials said Thursday.

The board announced the appointment of Alberto Carvalho after a unanimous vote Thursday, as Carvalho held a live news conference in Florida, describing his career path as a story "that could only be told in America."

An admired and experienced educator, Carvalho, 57, is credited with improving graduation rates and academic performance at Miami-Dade, the country's fourth-largest K-12 public school district, during a long, stable tenure that started in 2008. Like many students in Los Angeles and Miami-Dade, both large, urban districts, Carvalho grew up in poverty. He came to the United States as an undocumented immigrant, he said. He moved first to New York City and then to Miami.

"I am the poor kid from Portugal whose first job in this country was as a dishwasher, second job was as a day laborer," Carvalho said. On his way to Thursday's news conference, Carvalho said he drove through a Miami neighborhood where he had been homeless 30 years ago.

"My world changed when I became a teacher," Carvalho said. "I still feel this journey is a fairytale."

Carvalho attended Broward Community College and graduated in 1990 from Barry University, a small Catholic school near Miami, with a biology degree. He became a high school science and math teacher before quickly moving up the administrative ranks, becoming a principal before moving to the district office where he was the district's spokesman and an assistant superintendent before becoming superintendent in 2008.

He was named Superintendent of the Year in 2014 by the national superintendents association. In 2018, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio named him as education chancellor of the nation's largest school district, but Carvalho backed out of the deal the next day. He said Thursday that New York's lure was that it was where he arrived in the United States, but it became apparent quickly that it did not have all the elements necessary for him to succeed. He did not elaborate.

Carvalho said Thursday he is proud of his time in Miami. He said when he took over as superintendent, the graduation rate was 58% and dozens of schools received D and F grades from the state. Nine inner-city schools were threatened by the state with closure. The district says its current graduation rate is 93% and has no D or F schools.

"Alberto Carvalho brings the deep experience we need as an educator and leader of a large urban district to manage L.A. Unified's ongoing response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic," Board President Kelly Gonez said in a statement. "As the longtime Miami-Dade Superintendent, he established a clear record of positive student outcomes and has relentlessly worked towards greater equity for historically underserved communities. I know he will continue that focus in Los Angeles, and he is ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead of us."

The school board said it had unanimously voted to select Carvalho as the next superintendent but still needed to finalize his contract, which would be voted on Dec. 14.

In Los Angeles, Carvalho succeeds Austin Beutner, who stepped down as superintendent in June at the end of his three-year contract, after steering the school system through the early stages of the pandemic and a full year of distance learning, while all schools were closed to in-person classes.

Since Beutner's departure the district has been managed by Interim Superintendent Megan Reilly.

Carvalho arrives in Los Angeles at a critical moment, as the district that serves about 600,000 students finds itself flush with funding from state and federal COVID-19 relief money but still struggling with the impacts of the pandemic, including learning losses and declining enrollment.

Carvalho and several other Florida superintendents sparred this year with Gov. Ron DeSantis over their imposition of mask mandates to combat the state's then-rapid spread of COVID-19. DeSantis, through his education commissioner, banned mandates, saying that should be left to parents. He cut funding to some districts that defied him.

But Carvalho and others refused to yield, saying masks protected students, teachers and staff. Carvalho dropped Miami-Dade's mandate last month as the state's infection rate dropped and a judge upheld DeSantis' power to allow parents to decide for their students.

Mask mandates remain in effect in all California public schools, and Carvalho will be arriving in Los Angeles as the school district becomes one of the first in California to put a student vaccine mandate into effect in mid-January for all children 12 and older.

Carvalho said that when he arrives in Los Angeles, he plans to spend some time learning the district and its culture.

"Certainly, I will bring my personal philosophy but at the same time I will listen carefully to the culture, to the tradition, to the practices of Los Angeles," he said.

Spencer contributed from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

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LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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QB Bryce Young of Alabama voted AP Player of the Year

RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

Alabama quarterback Bryce Young is The Associated Press college football player of the year, giving the Crimson Tide their second consecutive winner.

Young received 42 of 53 first-place votes from AP Top 25 voters and 137 points to easily finish ahead of Michigan defensive end Aidan Hutchinson (four first-place votes, 67 points) for the AP Player of the Year honor presented by Regions Bank.

Pittsburgh quarterback Kenny Pickett was third; Alabama linebacker Will Anderson Jr. was fourth; and Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud was fifth.

Young, Huchinson, Pickett and Stroud are the finalists for the Heisman Trophy, which will be presented Saturday in New York.

Later Thursday, during the ESPN College Football Awards show, Young also won the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's top quarterback.

Other winners included Georgia defensive tackle Jordan Davis, who won the Bednarik Award as the nation's top defensive player, and Kenneth Walker III of Michigan State, who became the first Spartans player to win the Doak Walker award as the nation's best running back.

A sophomore and first-year starter, Young passed for 4,322 yards and 43 touchdowns, leading the top-ranked Tide to the Southeastern Conference championship and the No. 1 seed in the College Football Playoff. The Tide will face No. 4 Cincinnati on Dec. 31 at the Cotton Bowl.

Young said he felt well prepared for the challenge of leading a program that has set the standard in college football for more than a decade, but nothing speaks louder than performance.

"Settling in and getting to play in different environments, getting to be put in situations, naturally, makes you more comfortable as leaders," Young told AP. "It's always about what you do in offseason, how you carry yourself, but any time you're able to produce in big moments and you're able to demonstrate a lot, that's always a big part, as well. Because leadership is a lot about action."

Young capped his season with an SEC championship game-record 421 yards passing against Georgia last week.

Alabama receiver DeVonta Smith became the first Alabama player to win AP player of the year in 2020. Young is the 18th quarterback to win the award since it was established in 1998.

Young, a Southern California native and former five-star recruit, said the high expectations are what drew him to Alabama and help motivate him.

"You want to live up to the pressure and to the hype of it all," he said.

Earlier this week, Georgia's Nakobe Dean won the Butkus Award as the nation's top linebacker and Hutchinson took the Lombardi Award as the best lineman.

COVID

FROM PAGE 1

confirmed cases.

Barbara Ferrer, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health said it's very early stages in terms of learning about omicron's characteristics, early data does suggest that this variant is spreading rapidly and it may spread several times faster than delta. She said most cases worldwide are not severely ill although it's much too early to generalize from the available data.

"We will understand a lot more about the kinds of infections omicron can cause when we see how it affects older people, people with underlying health conditions and unvaccinated populations," she said.

The early data also suggests omicron has some ability to blunt parts, but not all, of the immune system response. She said the county is watching the figures to see if it will increase as delta did before it and her office will make some new recommendations next week tightening testing rules for nursing homes and increasing testing capacity at homeless shelters.

"Although we're not yet sure what the impact of omicron will be, we do know how to slow the spread of COVID," she said. "Regardless of the strain, our most effective tool remains vaccination. So we do encourage everyone five and older not yet vaccinated or boosted to do so as soon as possible."

Ferrer said unvaccinated individuals are always more susceptible to disease with unvaccinated individuals reporting a case rate of 165 cases for every 100,000 unvaccinated people. The rate for vaccinated individuals without a booster is 43 per 100,000 and boosted residents have a rate of 7 per 100,000.

She said masks are also an important tool while vaccines adapt to different variants.

"While scientists worldwide are working to determine how effective the vaccines are against omicron, all residents across LA County need to continue adhering to the masking requirements," she said. "So always wear a mask when you're indoors, or you're at large outdoor mega-events regardless of your vaccination status, or that is a requirement we also strongly recommend that individuals wear a mask when they're at any crowded indoor or outdoor events, or they're with people who are unvaccinated or at high risk of severe illness."

The county is tracking omicron as they prepare for a possible winter surge in cases. Early indicators suggest the county could be at the very beginning of a surge and while officials are wary of any increase in cases, the county is better prepared if problems occur.

Barbara Ferrer said the good news is Los Angeles has relatively high vaccination rates and low hospitalization figures as cases climb but she said hospitals remain understaffed and that minority populations continue to lag in vaccination rates making them more likely to catch Covid if transmission increases.

editor@smdp.com

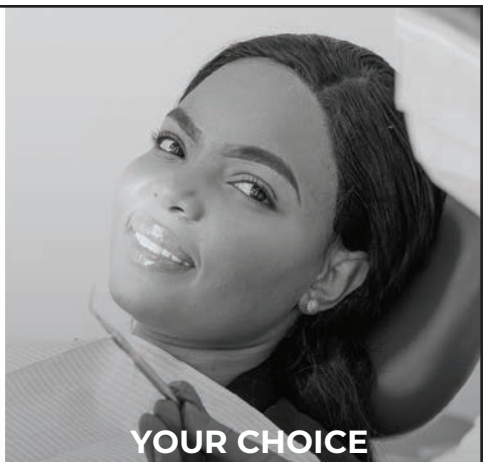
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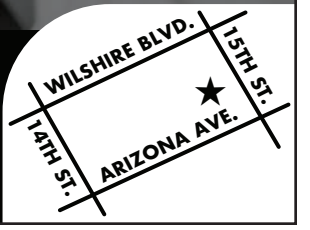
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Roe, Roe, Your Boat, But Not Very Merrily



Courtesy image

COURT: President Trump's dream Supreme Court.

First I better explain my title realizing that means I probably chose the wrong one. When I was seven our family began taking summer vacations in Balboa. As my father drove, to pass the time my mother sang with us kids "Row, row your boat gently down the stream, merrily, merrily, merrily for life is but a dream." (In retrospect it was better than "99 bottles of beer" my sister and I would eventually adopt or spotting out of state license plates.)

Forgive this giant segue but after listening to recent Supreme Court oral arguments of the Mississippi abortion case, court scholars are predicting Roe v. Wade will be overturned. This despite it's been the law of the land for almost fifty years.

Two things come to my mind. One, during oral arguments why do we only hear the justices and not see them? Are they camera shy? And two, though there's been great progress, women have continually gotten the Constitutional short straw.

For example, the Declaration of Independence proclaims "all men are created equal" but says nothing about women. And slaves were counted as 3/5 of a person. To get the right to vote took women 132 years. Which reminds me of Victoria Woodhull, a prominent publisher and women's right activist, who, in 1872, was the first woman to run for president even though she couldn't vote.

Her running mate was former slave Frederick Douglass. Speaking of Freddy, who can forget that Donald Trump, on the first day of Black History Month on February 1, 2017, clearly thought Douglass was still alive. "Frederick Douglass is an example of somebody who's done an amazing job and I notice is being recognized more and more." (Woodhull's choice of Douglass actually caused a firestorm because many women were understandably envious that the slaves had the right to vote but they didn't.)

I know many readers, and Daily Press management for that matter, are tired of my writing about Trump, but Roe wouldn't be this close to becoming toast without him. On the campaign trail in March, 2016, Trump said if abortions were banned women getting them "Would have to be punished." It may even be worse than that.

In Texas this past May, Governor Abbott signed a measure that would prohibit abortions as early as six weeks — before some women know they are pregnant. In addition it could essentially deputize private citizens as bounty hunters tracking women attempting to get abortions in states where it was legal and earn $10,000.

The Texas law sounds like something from a bad western and raises the question how did we go from "Life is but a dream" to, at least for 60% of the country favoring the right to choose, a nightmare? (It's ironic that Anti Vaxers claim "my body, my choice" but many are against a woman's reproductive rights. Go figure.)

Roe v. Wade began to be in most jeopardy when Justice Antonin Scalia died in February 2016, essentially giving Obama 11 months to fill his vacancy. But Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, invoked an unofficial rule that no justice would be voted on during an election year so that it would be left to the voters.

Meanwhile Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away on September 18, 2020, or a mere six weeks before the November election. Giving new meaning to hypocrisy, McConnell completely forgot his "no appointments in an election year" which blocked Obama. So it was Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed Ginsburg's replacement and likely a death blow to Roe. (But, on the bright side, a possible bonanza for abortion bounty hunters.)

The thought of Donald Trump being "pro-life" is hilarious. He has openly bragged

SEE LAUGHING MATTERS PAGE 11

CAFÉ LOVI'S

FROM PAGE 1

her love of Jewish-Italian cooking. Her right hand man is Christopher "Topher" Swall, a chef from Chicago who has worked at a range of Santa Monica restaurants including Birdie G, The Lobster and Native.

According to Guetta, her customer base largely consists of regulars, who rely on Lovi for their morning joe, catch-up session with a friend, or even musical instrument practice venue.

Part of this loyal following stems from the fact that the coffee shop was crafted with the input of residents in mind. Guetta, who had no prior experience running a business, took to the "Ask, Borrow, Give - Santa Monica" Facebook page for advice before opening and received over 100 responses.

Armed with this feedback, every book on coffee shops available on Amazon and a lifelong love of cooking, Guetta launched Café Lovi. In addition to its excellent Italian style espresso, the coffee shop offers a window into the little known culinary world of Jewish-Italian food.

"I truly grew up in a family that loves to cook, but that in Italy is not major breaking news," said Guetta. "I think that coming from a Jewish family, in a way, makes the food more meaningful to us. For us, every holiday has its own traditional food… so the food has this culture and emotional meaning to it."

Guetta grew up with her mother's Jewish Italian cooking, but never thought of it as something particularly unique. It wasn't until launching her own food blog that she realized how much curiosity and little information was out there about this culinary tradition.





Courtesy photos

COFFEE: The store combines Jewish and Italian foods for their signature menu.

"I would write my recipes (on the blog) for myself mostly and my best friend, and suddenly there was all this interest in the Jewish aspect to it because Italy has very few Jews, almost none. It's like 40,000 of us in the whole country," said Guetta.

Although the population is small, it dates back to the time of the Roman Empire and has had a strong influence on Italian cuisine. According to Guetta, the Italian Jewish population can be thanked for introducing the country to ingredients like eggplant and pasta styles like orecchiette.

Several Jewish-Italian dishes were born out of the historic oppression faced by the Jewish community. For example, Jews used to be subject to many economic restrictions and were prevented from buying certain quality ingredients such as large fish. Therefore, there are several traditional dishes based around small fish, which have an enduring popularity in Italy.

After her blog took off, Guetta dove deeper into the world of Jewish-Italian cooking and began traveling to Jewish communities around Italy studying the dishes of elders. These dishes will be presented in her upcoming book "Cooking alla Giudia."

While the culinary pilgrimage she undertook to research the book was full of great food and fun, it was at times a very emotional experience.

"It was also sort of sad, because you can see how, especially younger generations don't care anymore," said Guetta. "You can see how there's a beautiful tradition that does risk getting lost."

Guetta hopes her upcoming book will help preserve this tradition and that the food served at Café Lovi will inspire more interest in Jewish-Italian cooking.

The menu at Lovi centers around sweet and savory challah dishes that are also available in gluten free versions.

Favorite items include the toasted challah pastrami sandwich with lettuce, tomatoes, house-pickled cabbage and homemade mustard; and the toasted challah tuna salad sandwich with celery, red onion, capers, lemon juice and parsley. Sweet lovers will enjoy the cinnamon and raisins or chocolate chip challah buns as well as the bombolone Italian doughnut filled with vanilla custard.

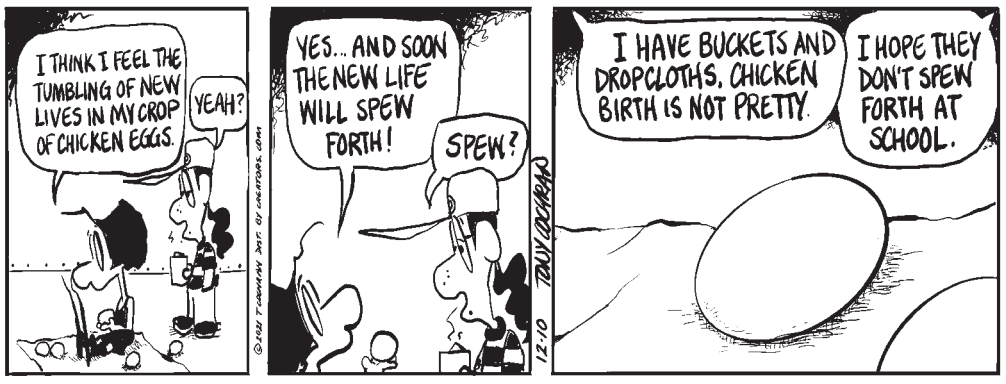
Café Lovi also offers baked goods tied to the Jewish holidays, such as Hanukkah sufganiyot, and is available for catering orders. The cafe is located at 1912 Broadway and open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Clara@smdp.com



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



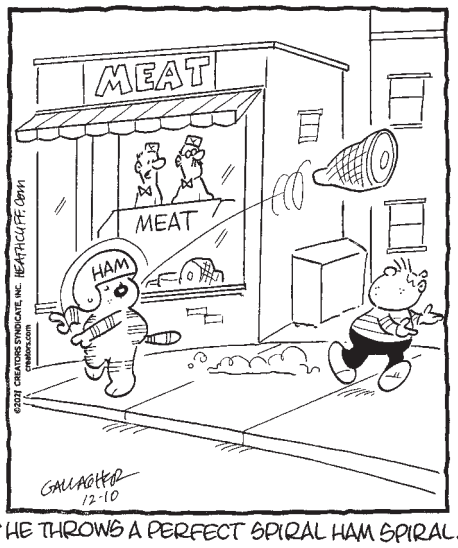
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE THROWS A PERFECT SPIRAL HAM SPIRAL."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.4°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
NW swell mix likely to ease through the day as conditions improve. Small SSW swell in the mix as well.

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Little SSW swell is up a notch further and peaking as small NW swell mix blends in. Should be enough combo for a few peaks at the exposed beachbreaks.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 59. North wind around 10 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. North northeast wind around 5 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 60. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/12/10	Fri	03:27 AM	4.21	H
2021/12/10	Fri	08:43 AM	2.77	L
2021/12/10	Fri	2:06 PM	4.32	H
2021/12/10	Fri	9:17 PM	0.31	L
2021/12/11	Sat	04:20 AM	4.55	H
2021/12/11	Sat	10:25 AM	2.27	L
2021/12/11	Sat	3:39 PM	3.86	H
2021/12/11	Sat	10:12 PM	0.70	L
2021/12/12	Sun	05:03 AM	4.89	H
2021/12/12	Sun	11:35 AM	1.63	L
2021/12/12	Sun	5:02 PM	3.63	H
2021/12/12	Sun	10:58 PM	1.07	L
2021/12/13	Mon	05:39 AM	5.19	H
2021/12/13	Mon	12:28 PM	1.01	L
2021/12/13	Mon	6:14 PM	3.55	H
2021/12/13	Mon	11:38 PM	1.42	L
2021/12/14	Tue	06:10 AM	5.44	H
2021/12/14	Tue	1:10 PM	0.47	L
2021/12/14	Tue	7:13 PM	3.55	H
2021/12/15	Wed	12:12 AM	1.73	L
2021/12/15	Wed	06:38 AM	5.64	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/8
3 7 33 50 69
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 307 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/7
1 7 40 43 68
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 135 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/8
4 6 23 41 46
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 10 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/8
2 8 14 31 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/8
EVENING: 8 4 5
Draw Date: 12/8
MIDDAY: 3 4 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/8
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:49.82

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 10)

Your cosmic gift is one of great presence and magnetism. It allows you to speak with silence and impart messages that suggest more than words allow. You'll use this to lead people, facilitate lucky connections and make it easy for people to create significant, beautiful and helpful things as a group. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 4, 44 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Anger is not like a drug; it is a drug. It alters a person's chemistry more effectively than a lot of other substances. Keep this in mind while dealing with people who seem to lean on this emotion. Maybe it's not about you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even the self-made have teachers, perhaps in the form of books or role models. Why limit your influences or accept the first instructor to come along? You'll love what happens when you proactively choose your mentors.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As character-building as rejection is, there's no reason to get more of it than necessary. Before you put your project or yourself out there, find out what it typically takes to get to yes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Success will seem to take forever and include one near miss after another until you begin to wonder if you're ever going to get there. Push through the dip. When you hit, you'll hit a jackpot.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Small things can have life-changing intensity. One pinch of hot chili pepper changes the dish. One spark lights the fire. One smoldering look can set off a chain affecting generations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Love gives more than it takes. You'll feel enlarged by everything you deliver in love, and others will be bigger for everything they give in the same spirit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In today's case, impulsivity will be a minus. Before you make the move you are contemplating, talk it out with someone knowledgeable and reasonable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Old pictures, past social media posts and historic texts will be part of the texture of this day. Some artifacts make you smile. As for the cringeworthy ones, let them represent how far you've come. Celebrate growth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be asked to handle other people's problems. You'd like to. It would be easier. But then you'll have to do it every time, and when you're not around they'll suffer. The kind way is to help others be self-sufficient.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll win. Stay humble and quiet about the victory for now, if not out of modesty, then for strategy. Competition is everywhere. And even when people don't want to compete with you, success changes the social dynamic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The muses will be tardy. Don't wait on them. Inspiration will start to trickle in after you get working. The principle applies to your social life too. Friends will hop on a train that's already in motion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Adaptability is one of your many gifts. You come across the odd and unexpected, beyond your expertise and outside of your preference. And yet still ... you get used to it, make the most of it, turn it all to your advantage.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

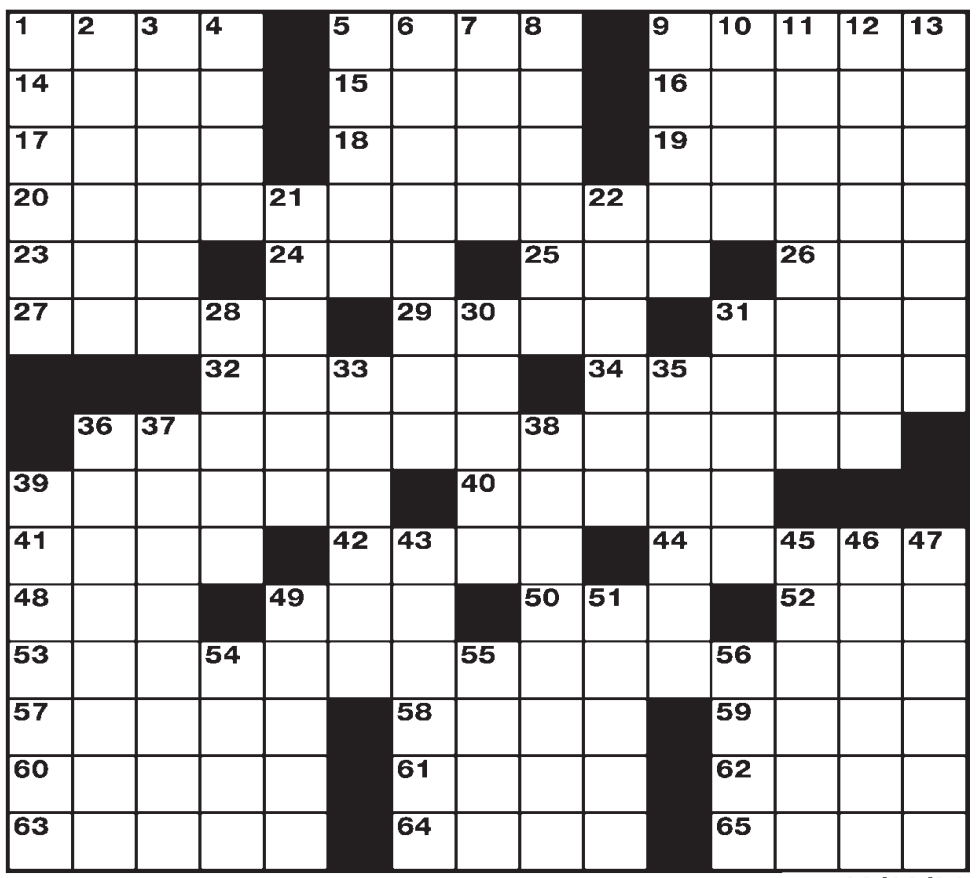
					2	1		
			4			3		9
9	1		3				7	
5				2		7	8	4
	8			5			2	
4	2	7		6				3
	9				1		3	5
1		3			8			
		2	5					

Newsday Crossword

WHERE'S THE BEAST? by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Neighbor of Sudan
5 Prepared, as a bath
9 Menu
14 Set apart
15 Scintilla
16 Luau welcome
17 Synagogue cabinets
18 Paraphernalia
19 *Mal* __ (seasickness)
20 Treacherous one
23 A throw
24 Explosive stuff
25 A person
26 Ultimate degree
27 Beatle in the back
29 Square-dance participants
31 Florentine farewell
32 Roof features
34 '60s UN head
36 Sure thing
39 Shows with sketches
40 Dense gas
41 Uniform
42 A party to
44 Out-and-out
48 MA, e.g.
49 Mob scene
50 Musician's work
52 Medical-ins. system
53 Orator's annoyance
57 Turn toward midnight
58 Unconcealed
59 Don't include
60 Brewmaster's step
61 Scintilla
62 Boar or buck
63 *My Life and Fortunes* autobiographer
64 Hideouts
65 Trade grp.

DOWN
1 Features of some envelopes
2 Pest in a nest
3 City southeast of Istanbul
4 Workstation
5 Start supper
6 X-ray discoverer
7 French state
8 Soup can artist
9 Mooch
10 Oriole or Angel
11 Romance language
12 Stephen King novel
13 Listening range
21 Fidelity.com alternative
22 Followed
28 Second showing
30 Prefix for physics
31 Repetitive cry
33 Anticipatory power
35 Weasel word
36 Liquid refreshment
37 "Thanks for explaining"
38 Parasite
39 Warning sign
43 Fair-to-middling
45 New Testament skeptic
46 Text message alternatives
47 Despicable
49 Full of pep
51 News bits
54 Cultured fellow
55 Extreme aversion
56 Tomato variety



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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | DEC 10

WINDOWS OF ENCHANTMENT
The historic Merry Go-Round windows come to life with a one-of-a-kind festive, iconic and nostalgic holiday installation by the Santa Monica Pier Corporation. Santa Monica Pier Merry Go-Round Building, 200 Santa Monica Pier.

SANTA MONICA MYSTERY QUEST
Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. in partnership with Santa Monica Mystery Quest have launched a free scavenger hunt series on the Third Street Promenade. Lovers of mystery and adventure will enjoy this real-world, immersive experience to solve the case of the missing Promenade dinosaur. Participants will follow clues, collaborate with teammates, collect points and win prizes. 1351 3rd Street Promenade. 7 p.m.

MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE
Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute visits docent tours are available on a walk-up basis, for groups of up to six people on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 – 2 p.m. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. Masks are required while indoors. Schedule subject to change, call (310) 458-4904 to confirm dates and hours.

SATURDAY | DEC 11

18TH STREET COMMUNITY WINTER OPEN HOUSE
Stop by 18th Street Arts Center and join staff, artists-in-residence, friends, and community members in a festive gathering to mark the end of a year and the beginning of another. Join them outside for a warm drink, friendly catch up, some fun tunes, and pick up a special postcard with images made by artists.

MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET
Kids activities starting at 1 p.m., followed by Santa and the tree lighting at 4 p.m. at the Heritage Museum lawn. The holidays are all about tradition, which is why the 40-foot tall Shopping Cart Tree inside the Frank Gehry designed Edgemar building, will be lit up for the 27th year in a row. 84 shopping carts will be staged in the shape of a Christmas tree and lit up with 1,500 lightbulbs, held together with 4,000 zip ties.

PICO FARMERS MARKET
Visit https://www.smgov.net/portals/farmers_market/market_days/saturdays_virginia_ave/saturday_pico.aspx for more information on Santa Monica Farmers Markets. Pico Blvd. & Cloverfield Blvd. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

BOOK LAUNCH
Journalist and peace activist Francesco Da Vinci will host a book launch at Fresh Cafe in Westwood Village, 10923 Weyburn Avenue (between Westwood Blvd. and Broxton Avenue) for his book - I REFUSE TO KILL: My Path to Nonviolent Action in the 1960s. The book promotes social justice and peace through nonviolence. It also honors conscientious objectors to war. 1 p.m. Proof of vaccination required. Contact francescoproductions1@gmail.com for more information.

SUNDAY | DEC 12

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers. 2640 Main Street. 8:30 - 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY | DEC 13

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES
Classes are taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Enrollment is through the SMMUSD Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, 90405. Contact Olga Saucedo at (310) 664-6222, ext. 76203 or osaucedo@smmusd.org to enroll. 12 - 2:30 p.m.

WINTERLIT LIGHTS
Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) brings the holidays to the Third Street Promenade with the return of Winterlit, transforming the downtown district into an immersive, festive experience. Tens of thousands of colorful lights, decor and garland will deck the Third Street Promenade, 2nd and 4th Streets, illuminating convenient shopping and cozy outdoor dining experiences.

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

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 5324

Art and craft

Y	K	C	D	E	R	T	D	E	X	A	W	L	S	L
A	C	R	E	F	N	N	T	O	Y	S	X	A	T	L
L	O	O	T	A	U	I	A	D	N	A	B	L	B	I
C	L	B	I	C	P	O	C	L	E	V	E	R	E	K
N	B	T	E	L	S	P	K	O	S	K	N	I	A	S
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I	S	R	N	K	T	N	V	I	T	I	O	T	S	N
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I	L	I	G	H	T	I	J	E	A	F	E	G	T	R
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X	U	H	D	U	I	A	E	T	O	N	E	R	A	E
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Axle
Band
Basic
Beads
Belt
Blades
Block
Brad
Cafe
Chain
Clay
Clever
Cord
Draw
Edge
Ends
Exhibition
Flowers
Form
Gift
Gold
How to
Image
Inks
Kits
Light
Metal
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HOTEL

FROM PAGE 1

other amenities are unrelated add-ons that the managers sought to improve the hotel.

Much of Council's discussion centered around discussing the Shore Hotel managers as good or bad actors and whether they should be granted the additional amenities when the key issue on the table was a mandate to improve affordability.

The Shore Hotel was originally approved by the city and Coastal Commission as a low-cost hotel in 2008 as it replaced two affordable hotels. The owners let their Coastal Commission permit for the affordable hotel expire and built a luxury hotel that resulted in a $15.5 million fine by the Coastal Commission — the largest in the agency's history — and a requirement to provide rooms at lower rates.

In the Coastal Commission settlement, the Shore Hotel was granted an after the fact CDP on the condition that they provide 72-moderate cost rooms, including a 14-room 34-bed micro-hotel and a youth-lodging program.

While submitting permit applications to construct the micro-hotel, the Shore Hotel also chose to submit applications for additional uses including a cafe, restaurant and massage service. In July, Planning Commission approved the micro-hotel permit but denied the additional amenities citing the past actions of the hotel owners and saying the amenities would further solidify its luxury classification.

The Shore Hotel appealed this decision to City Council, which in a 4-3 vote approved the additional amenities and the micro-hotel. Councilmembers Phil Brock, Lana Negrete, Oscar de la Torre and Christine Parra voted in favor, while Councilmembers Kristin McCowan, Gleam Davis and Mayor Sue Himmelrich voted against.

"They will use the presence of these amenities to raise the rates on the unrestricted rooms, which does not improve coastal access in any way, shape or form," said Davis. "So for me, I find that the micro rooms are fine and consistent with our desire to have affordable lodging and increase accessibility to the Coast. I don't see how having a restaurant or cafe or massage services available on site in any way increases affordability."

Negrete was a staunch proponent of allowing the amenities and drew on her experiences as a local business owner to make a case for supporting businesses.

"Why do we not want this hotel to be successful?" said Negrete. "We talk about affordability, but as a business owner, it's not affordable for business owners to be in business in Santa Monica either. So how can… a business owner be affordable to their customer, if it's not affordable for them to do business?"

Negrete said that the additional amenities could increase access to the hotel as people who may not be able to afford a room can enjoy the facilities by coming to dine at the restaurant or cafe.

Council also approved a text amendment to the Downtown Community Plan in order to accommodate the micro-hotel, which exempts hotel uses in an established building from the 11 foot minimum ground floor height requirement. Himmelrich was the sole dissenting vote and opposed the amendment on the philosophical ground that municipal code should be changed for policy reasons and not specific projects.

Clara@smdp.com

LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 6

about cheating on all three of his wives. So to think that if one of his paramours, to be kind, got pregnant he would gladly welcome the baby and pay child support is beyond ludicrous. In fact, one can only imagine how many abortions Trump has paid for in his life.

Maybe I'm too pessimistic but if Roe is overturned women's reproductive rights will be like education, health care, life expectancy and housing, a case of haves and have nots. Though it might cost more, the rich will always have access to abortions from top doctors whereas the working class might sadly return to back alleys.

If history's any judge, it's likely we won't know the court's ruling until June right before they take their summer break. That way if the decision is highly unpopular, with 60% favoring Roe, the jurists will have skipped town.

I still have fond memories of Balboa vacations and singing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Hoping I'm wrong, I doubt I'll be able to say the same for these past five years and what madness may lie ahead.

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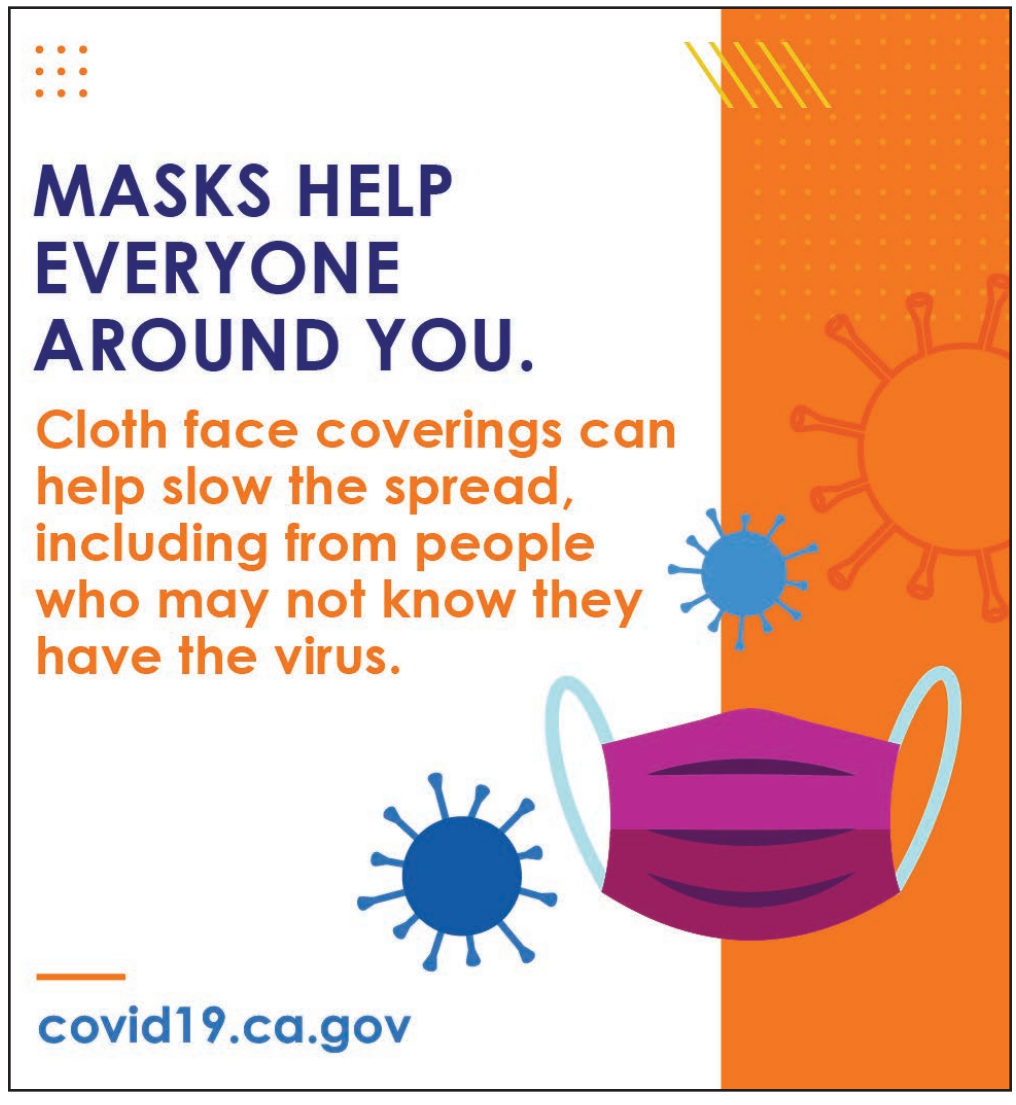
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