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Santa Monica Daily Press

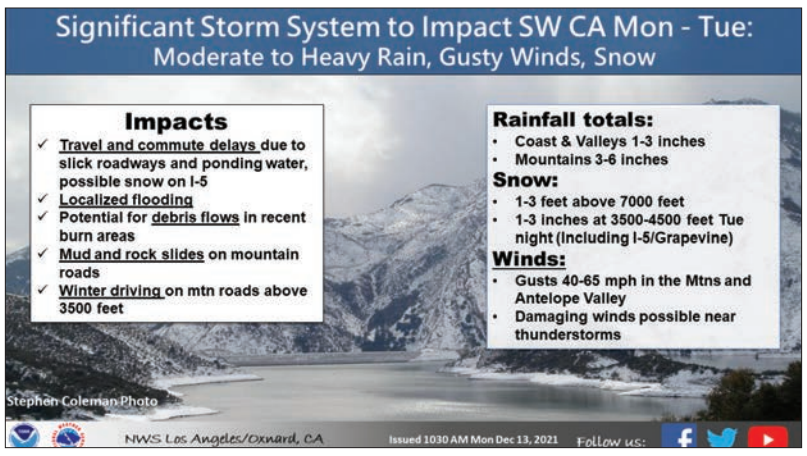
TUESDAY
12.14.21
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Shoplifting at the Ulta.
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New mask mandate
State rules now mirror those already in place in Los Angeles.
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Los Angeles County prepares for rain



Courtesy image

WEATHER: Rain is likely over the next 24-hours.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Los Angeles is preparing for a major winter storm after wet weather drenched the northern part of the state on Monday.

Motorists spun out on whitened mountain passes and residents wielded umbrellas that flopped in the face of fierce winds as Northern California absorbed even more rain and snow on Monday, bringing the possibility of rockslides and mudslides to areas scarred by wildfires following an especially warm and dry fall across the U.S. West.

The multiday storm, a powerful "atmospheric river" weather system that is sucking up moisture from the Pacific Ocean, raised the threat

SEE **WEATHER** PAGE 11

SMMUSD board to vote on $3 million professional development grant

The state funding is designed to "promote educator equity, quality and effectiveness" districtwide.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Over the next five school years, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) will spend an extra $3 million on professional learning for educators and support staff.

The money comes from a massive, $1.5 billion statewide budget allocation designed to provide "professional learning for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and classified staff" with the goal of increasing the "equity, quality and effectiveness" of public and charter education

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 5

Merrihew's celebrates 75 years of gardening glory



Clara Harter

PLANTS: The local garden center is at 1526 Ocean Park Blvd.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

In a town plagued by brick and mortar turnover, longtime, locally owned, community centered stores are a dying breed. Merrihew's Sunset Gardens is one of them, and fortunately at 75 years old, is continuing to flourish and grow.

Now in its 4th generation of local leadership, the store has a new owner Frank Slamka, who looks forward to celebrating the garden center's anniversary with a community event on Dec. 15.

From 12 p.m. to close the store will be open for a come as you wish open air celebration featuring Santa Monica BBQ pop-up The Great Outdoor and some neighborhood musicians. Residents are invited to swing by and enjoy wood fired meat and veggie skewers, join in the jam session and pick out some plants.

"I'm going to bring some instruments out, have some musicians come and we will play pretty much as soon as they start cooking until people disperse," said Slamka. "Anybody can come play or just enjoy it."

The Great Outdoor currently runs as a pop-up at Pico coffee shop and restaurant Kiff Kafe. It's one of Slamka's favorite places to grab a meal, so he invited the team to bring out their grills and cook up their farmers market meat, fish and vegetables at the anniversary.

These casual run-ins are how a lot of local businesses and artisans ended up becoming a part of the offerings at Merrihew's. A chat with Slamka's girlfriend's friend, Lauren Jensen, later yielded a range of colorful hand-dyed Merrihew's totes, t-shirts and hoodies. A trip to Blossom Vietnamese restaurant resulted in ceramist Shoshi Watanabe's beautiful pots being featured at the store.

Another artisan featured at the

SEE **GARDENING** PAGE 7

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California proposes reducing incentives for rooftop solar

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

California regulators proposed major changes to the state's booming residential solar industry Monday, including reducing the discounts homeowners with rooftop solar and storage systems get on their electric bills when they sell extra energy back to the power companies.

California's successful program to get more people to put solar panels on their homes has been at the center of a fierce debate between the state's major utilities and the solar industry, and the California Public Utilities Commission's proposed reforms have been highly anticipated.

The state's three major utilities — Pacific Gas & Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Edison — say the savings solar customers get now are so great that those customers no longer pay their fair share for the operation of the overall energy grid.

The CPUC's proposal would reduce the incentives for going solar and roughly double, to 10 years, how long it takes Californians to make back what they paid to install the systems. Buying rooftop solar panels and a system to store extra power costs about $40,000, according to the solar industry.

The CPUC said the reforms are designed to make the program, known as "net energy metering," more cost effective and to ensure energy grid operation costs are shared fairly. But the solar industry and its allies warned the changes will make it harder for the state to achieve its clean energy targets, including generating 100% of retail electricity from renewable or zero-carbon sources by 2045.

"The proposal will move us backward on clean energy and block many Californians' ability to help make our grid more resilient to climate change," Susannah Churchill, western senior regional director for Vote Solar, a political advocacy group that pushes for clean energy adoption.

California launched the program in 1995 with the goal of encouraging more homes to go solar. It worked. California now has 1.3 million solar systems on homes, far more than any other state, according to the solar industry. That number will only grow because since 2020 all newly constructed homes in California must have solar panels.

But as solar panels proliferated, and the cost of installing them went down, criticism of the program grew. The three major utilities say the current setup allows solar customers to sell their energy back into the grid for more than it's worth. They say more needs to be done to make sure solar customers — most of whom still rely on power from utilities once the sun goes down — are paying for all the parts of the energy grid they use.

Power rates include many costs unrelated to energy generation, like transmission, distribution and even wildfire prevention work. When solar households pay significantly lower electricity bills — or no bills at all — they're contributing less to those things. That means more of the cost is shouldered by other customers, often households and renters without the financial means to install solar.

The utilities and the state peg that cost at $3 billion. The solar industry disputes that number, saying it doesn't take into effect the savings for everyone when the utilities need to build fewer power plants and transmission lines due to more residential solar.

The CPUC's proposal would still allow residential solar customers to sell their excess energy back to the power companies, but at a significantly lower rate. Solar customers would also have to pay a grid charge based on how many kilowatts of energy they produce; it would cost $40 to $50 for most homes.

The charges aren't as great as what the utilities wanted. Pacific Gas & Electric spokeswoman Ari Vanrenen called the proposal a "step in the right direction to modernize California's outdated rooftop solar program." But she indicated the utility — the state's largest — would like to see regulators put higher charges on rooftop solar customers, but she declined to give specifics.

Southern California Edison said the proposal would reduce the burden on non-solar customers. San Diego Gas & Electric declined to comment, with spokesman Anthony Wagner saying the utility needed more time to review the proposal.

CPUC Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves said the reforms are aimed at creating fairness while ensuring the financial benefits are still strong enough to encourage people to go solar. Regulators also proposed creating a $600 million fund to help low income households afford solar and storage.

The changes would apply to new solar customers, but the new charges would be phased in over four years. People who already have panels on their homes wouldn't operate under the new system until they've had their panels for 15 years. If they take advantage of a roughly $3,200 subsidy to build storage systems, they would move onto the new rate structure right away.

Residential rooftop solar reduces the demand on the electric grid up to 25% during the day, according to the CPUC. But California's peak household energy demand is from 6 to 9 p.m., when the state is mostly relying on fossil fuels to power the energy grid.

The CPUC's proposal encourages people who already have solar panels to switch to storage by raising the power rates during

SEE **SOLAR** PAGE 11

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

Dear John

John Moos, MD Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor's note: the following column discusses sexual abuse and may be difficult to read for some people.

TRIGGER WARNING: SEXUAL ABUSE

Dear John,

How do I support my husband's needs being the husband of a woman who was sexually abused by her father?

How can I better understand his experience and not get overwhelmed with the feeling of guilt that it is my fault & that if he weren't married to me he wouldn't have to deal with this...feeling like it's my fault and if I removed myself from the equation, then my husband would be better off...

How do I talk about it with him and not take on his feelings & being triggered?

Continued from last week…

Dear Survivor,

"How do I talk about it with him and not take on his feelings & being triggered?"

We've covered a lot of material and language in Parts I and II, so some of this may feel repetitious. There are two primary components to engaging in safe conversation and avoiding triggers: 1) creating a safe container to discuss these traumatic experiences openly and honestly, and 2) understanding your triggers and integrating them back into a whole concept of self.

There are many facets to the trauma created by sexual abuse, and the lasting consequences. Thus, it makes sense there are many reparations required to restore one's integrity and personal authority. Creating a healthy container requires several factors: trust, safety, transparency, and faith. It requires each participant avoid assumptions, blame, judgments and criticisms. As Brené Brown says, "clear is kind." If something is not clear, ask for clarification from a genuine place of curiosity and compassion. It can be extremely hurtful to diminish, negate or tell the other participants' story or their truth. If this is new or difficult, there are professionals who are available to help facilitate these intimate and deep conversations so they don't result in processing retraumatization.

It is worth exploring the dilemma you may find yourself in when trying to create a safe container. If you are wounded and triggered, how do you trust the container? If you have been lied to repeatedly, how do you know what honesty and transparency looks like? If you have been abused and manipulated, how can you know what safety feels like? In order to offset the grooming, lying, manipulations and gaslighting required to abuse a child, survivors will have to start trusting their intuition, reconnecting and reaffirming their gut instincts, and developing their inner trust and personal authority. This is the first of many early stages to healing the injuries sustained in your childhood. Eventually, a maturation, an inner knowing will emerge to help you intuit who is trustworthy and who is not. Over time, through small, consistent, and repetitive gestures and actions, these people build trust through kindness and compassion. Invariably, there will come a time when there is a gap between trusting and knowing. That is where faith comes in. You have to trust your intuition and rely on faith that you are opening yourself up vulnerably to an individual that will hold your safety with great care. It is a scary place to be, and courageously moving through it can yield great transformation. In those raw moments, it is still possible to be hurt, for your partner to misstep and make a mistake, and it seems justified to retreat and withdraw. If you trust your partner, be open and honest with where you are so they can do better next time. As Maya Angelou once said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

To be continued...check back next week for the finale of this 6 part series.

With love and light, John Moos, MD For More Resources: RAINN - Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse by Ellen Bass and Laura Davis The Courage to Heal Workbook: A Guide for Women and Men Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse by Laura Davis The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma by Bessel van der Kolk, M.D.

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.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2ND 5:19 P.M.

Officers responded to Ulta on Euclid and Wilshire Blvd. regarding a security guard being attacked. The victim relayed that an individual set off the alarms in the store and became aggressive when confronted. The subject then pulled out a rope with metal inside (slungshot) and began to swing it at the security guard, eventually hitting him on the hand and shattering a window. The guard pepper-sprayed the subject and this caused the subject to run across the street. Robert Checote Lowry was arrested for Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Felony Vandalism, and Possession of a Slungshot.

Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

DAILY POLICE LOG

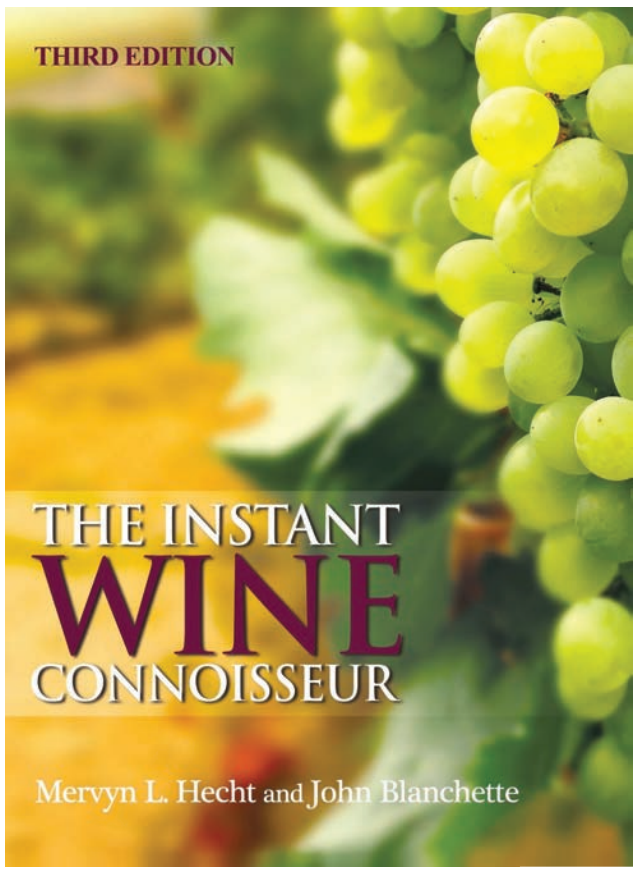
SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 242 CALLS ON DECEMBER 12

Battery 100Blk Broadway 12:04 a.m.
Battery 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:09 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 100Blk Bicknell Ave 12:20 a.m.
Fight 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 1:32 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1600Blk Appian Way 2:14 a.m.
Lewd Activity 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 2:34 a.m.
Domestic Violence Now 900Blk 4th St 2:56 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2400Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:56 a.m.
Battery 2000Blk Main St 3:59 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:06 a.m.
Battery 900Blk Marine St 4:57 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk 10th St 6:19 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 500Blk Pacific St 6:39 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600Blk Ocean Ave 6:49 a.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 7:00 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:13 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900Blk 5th St 8:21 a.m.
Speeding Ocean Ave / San Vicente Blvd 8:47 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:53 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 800Blk 16th St 8:55 a.m.
Auto Burglary 900Blk 3rd St 8:56 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1900Blk Main St 9:06 a.m.
Death Investigation 1500Blk Stanford St 9:09 a.m.
Battery 100Blk Broadway 9:15 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:41 a.m.
Death Investigation 2700Blk The Beach 9:45 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500Blk 20th St 9:49 a.m.
Auto Burglary 900Blk 3rd St 10:01 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Pacific Coast Hwy / State Route 163 10:26 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200Blk Princeton St 10:33 a.m.
Encampment 1700Blk Ocean Front Walk 10:33 a.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 10:38 a.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 10:39 a.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 10:45 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 700Blk Ozone St 10:47 a.m.
Construction Noise 1000Blk 21st St 10:50 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 800Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:51 a.m.
Speeding 1550Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:04 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 11:17 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2500Blk Ocean Front Walk 11:23 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1600Blk 9th St 11:26 a.m.
Person Down 1400Blk Palisades Park 11:33 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 300Blk 4th St 11:35 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2600Blk The Beach 11:42 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1400Blk 24th St 12:01 p.m.
Person Down 2500Blk Main St 12:22 p.m.
Auto Burglary Ocean Ave / Bay St 12:27 p.m.
Person Down 1700Blk Ocean Front Walk 12:34 p.m.
Found Property 800Blk Euclid St 12:38 p.m.
Encampment 18th St / Broadway 12:57 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:16 p.m.
Attempt Auto Theft 100Blk Hollister Ave 1:35 p.m.
Speeding 1300Blk Princeton St 1:38 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 3100Blk Donald Douglas Loop N 2:16 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1100Blk 7th St 2:27 p.m.
Panic Alarm 600Blk Marine St 2:36 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300Blk Barnard Way 2:58 p.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 3:06 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 500Blk Palisades Park 3:11 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1600Blk Appian Way 3:21 p.m.
Speeding 1550Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:23 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Olympic Blvd 3:24 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200Blk 18th St 3:27 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Lincoln Blvd / Wilshire Blvd 3:50 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1100Blk 7th St 3:55 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 700Blk Broadway 3:55 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1600Blk Centinela Ave 4:15 p.m.
Burglary 1100Blk Pico Blvd 4:25 p.m.
Fraud 2500Blk 20th St 4:25 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper 400Blk Santa Monica Pier 4:44 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 200Blk Broadway 4:45 p.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1000Blk 2nd St 4:48 p.m.
Burglary 600Blk Marine St 4:52 p.m.
Child Endangerment 1000Blk 12th St 5:05 p.m.
Found Property 1100Blk Pico Blvd 5:06 p.m.
Fight Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 5:18 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1500Blk 4th St 5:28 p.m.
Speeding 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:29 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 200Blk Santa Monica Pier 5:39 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200Blk 17th St 5:43 p.m.
Petty Theft Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 6:02 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 11th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:03 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 3100Blk Neilson Way 6:14 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1200Blk 7th St 6:15 p.m.
Party Complaint 2400Blk 3rd St 6:36 p.m.
Stalking 1700Blk Sunset Ave 6:43 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2000Blk Colorado Ave 6:48 p.m.
Overdose Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 6:58 p.m.
Battery 200Blk Santa Monica Pier 8:22 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 2500Blk San Vicente Blvd 8:32 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2600Blk 4th St 8:48 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1200Blk 4th St 8:50 p.m.
Construction Noise 2400Blk 22nd St 9:17 p.m.
Fraud Suspect Just Left 1000Blk Wilshire Blvd 10:12 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Main St / Strand St 10:22 p.m.
Attempt Armed Robbery 100Blk Hollister Ave 10:50 p.m.
Attempt Armed Robbery 2300Blk Ocean Ave 11:10 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300Blk 2nd St 11:32 p.m.





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



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

available at amazon

Golden Globes announce nominations to a skeptical Hollywood

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

After widespread criticism forced the organization that puts on the Golden Globes to lose its televised award show and overhaul its membership, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association nevertheless went ahead announcing nominees for film and television awards on Monday despite a skeptical entertainment industry.

Just as it's done for many years, the HFPA gathered reporters at the Beverly Hilton to announce its picks for the 79th Golden Globes. But this time, there was no nationally televised morning-show live spot or any immediate celebrity celebrations. Hollywood mostly shrugged.

The HFPA, which usually has a handful of movie stars make their announcement, turned instead to Snoop Dogg, who read the nominees behind sunglasses and a red hat during a live stream on the Globes' YouTube page. The majority of studios, public relations firms and A-list talent haven't engaged much this year with the group, which dropped its usual requirement that films be submitted for consideration. Critics have said it's too soon for the HFPA to return to business as usual. Some would rather see the Globes be gone for good.

But the press association tried to maintain its perch in awards season on Monday, spreading nominations around to the likes of Will Smith ("King Richard"), Kristen Stewart ("Spencer"), "West Side Story" breakthrough Rachel Zegler, Leonardo DiCaprio ("Don't Look Up"), Denzel Washington ("The Tragedy of Macbeth"), Ben Affleck ("The Tender Bar") and Lady Gaga ("House of Gucci").

The nominees for best picture, drama, went to Jane Campion's gothic Western "The Power of the Dog," Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi epic "Dune," the family drama "CODA," Reinaldo Marcus Green's tennis biopic "King Richard" and Kenneth Branagh's autobiographical "Belfast."

The comedy or musical picks for best picture were: Adam McKay's apocalyptic comedy "Don't Look Up," Paul Thomas Anderson's '70s ode to San Fernando Valley "Licorice Pizza," Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story," Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Tick, Tick ... Boom!" and Joe Wright's "Cyrano."

"Belfast" and "The Power of the Dog" tied for the most nominations with seven apiece. Netflix dominated the film nominees with 17 nods in total. HBO's "Succession" led the TV side with five nominations, including nods for best drama and best actor in a drama series for recent New Yorker profile subject Jeremy Strong.

Normally, such honors would set off a flurry of delight from early-roused nominees and their studios — an awards triumph to be trumpeted on social media and in calls with reporters. On Monday morning, no nominee immediately celebrated — publicly, at least.

The press association claims that in the nine months since its 2021 show, it has remade itself. "HFPA 2.0," recently elected president Helen Hoehne has said. The group has added a chief diversity officer; overhauled its board; inducted 21 new members, including six Black journalists; brought in the NAACP on a five-year partnership; and updated its code of conduct.

"This has been a year of change and reflection for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association," Hoehne said Monday.

All of that came after a Los Angeles Times' expose detailed some of the HFPA's unethical behavior and revealed that its 87 voting members didn't include one Black journalist. Studios said they would boycott the Globes and more than 100 PR films said their clients wouldn't participate until the HFPA swiftly implemented "profound and lasting change." Tom Cruise returned his three Globes to the group's headquarters.

NBC, the Globes' longtime telecaster, has said it won't air the 2022 Globes because "change of this magnitude takes time and work." The Globes have still set a date of January 9 but haven't shared any details about what kind of ceremony that would be.

The Critics Choice Awards have sought to fill the void, even seeking to secure the Globes' usual home at the Beverly Hilton for its telecast. That bid failed but the Critics Choice Awards will likewise take place on Jan. 9, airing on TBS and the CW. The Critics Choice Awards also announced their nominees Monday, with "Belfast" and "West Side Story" leading with 11 nods each.

Much of the Globes' power has always resided in its lively telecast, regularly one of the most-watched non-sports broadcasts of the year. The Globes also serve as a promotional tool for many of the awards-hopefuls hitting theaters in December. But this year, few expect to see ads and TV commercials trumpeting a film's Golden Globes nominations.

But there were also some signs that the Globes boycott was thawing. The Walt Disney Co. promoted "Cruella" nominations from both the Critics Choice Awards and the Globes.

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 31 CALLS ON DECEMBER 12

EMS 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 12:38 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 3rd St 3:03 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk Pearl St 3:29 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 6th St 4:58 a.m.
EMS 700Blk Raymond Ave 6:58 a.m.
EMS 2800Blk Delaware Ave 7:27 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400Blk Montana Ave 7:32 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 700Blk Palisades Park 7:53 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk Stanford St 9:07 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:19 a.m.
Structure Fire 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:19 a.m.
EMS 1000Blk Bay St 10:31 a.m.
EMS 800Blk Grant St 11:29 a.m.
EMS 1800Blk Euclid St 11:31 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 11:49 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 5th St 12:14 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Main St 12:22 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:50 p.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 1400Blk Palisades Park 2:06 p.m.
EMS 800Blk Pico Blvd 3:02 p.m.
Structure Fire 1300Blk Idaho Ave 3:48 p.m.
EMS 800Blk Colorado Ave 4:39 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 4:47 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 5:03 p.m.
EMS 400Blk Expo Line 5:14 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 2nd St 6:26 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 6:59 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 14th St 7:15 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk Chelsea Ave 8:53 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 10:38 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 10:45 p.m.

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

across California. But it comes with strings attached.

Programs covered by the grant must fall under one of 10 categories specified by state lawmakers, which include focus on mental health services, social justice and ethnic studies. The money comes from Assembly Bill 130, passed in July 2021.

Last Thursday, Dec. 9, the SMMUSD board met to discuss how to spend the allocation, with a final approval set for the upcoming board meeting on Dec. 16.

Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services Jacqueline Mora said her team spoke to teachers, principals and union representatives from the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association to determine the most appropriate use for the additional funding. According to Mora, the priorities were informed by the educational environment of the past two years during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school site closures.

"It was important for us to really take in account how we can build off of the learning experiences that have been provided for our teachers and that have been delivered by our teachers, and really think about how we can continue to address the impacts that were experienced due to the physical closures—and that continue to be experienced now, although we are in person," Mora said. "We are still seeing the impacts and the effects of those physical closures and of being in a pandemic."

According to Mora's suggestions, the largest segment, a total of $719,528 over five years, will be set aside to focus on the needs of English language learners and mathematics. Though most of the programs will begin in the 2022-23 school year, additional support for English learners was set to start as early as January. Once the spending is approved, school administrators will be tasked with developing plans during winter break and returning in the new year with programs "that lead to effective, standards-aligned instruction and improve instruction in literacy across all subject areas, including English language arts, history-social science, science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science" — with a focus on English language.

Another $708,000 would be allocated toward "strategies to implement social-emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, suicide prevention, access to mental health services and other approaches that improve pupil well-being," with the third-highest funding allocation, $542,000, allocated toward "focus on supporting the well-being of all educators that will enhance and promote a more meaningful teaching experience for students."

Approximately $500,000 is set aside to educate teachers and staff on "practices to create a positive school climate," which includes restorative justice, preventing discrimination and "transforming a school site's culture to one that values diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds."

Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said the professional development will be assessed through various "metrics" at school sites.

"Ultimately, we are looking to see if these actions result in student success," Drati said during the Dec. 9 meeting. "My goal is to try to get to a place where at least quarterly, or at least three times a year, that we are at the site levels engaging in conversations with the principals where they actually talk about their activity in terms of professional learning and student engagement and how that results in the school, with some metrics."

Drati suggested "community conversations" at each school could inform the effectiveness of the programs.

The final vote is set to take place during the Thursday, Dec. 16 meeting, which begins at 5:30 p.m. and is available to watch on Zoom (meeting ID: 830 2252 9808 ; passcode: 386959 ; call-in number: 669-900-6833).

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California brings back mask mandate as virus cases rise

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California is bringing back a rule requiring people to wear masks indoors, a move aimed at containing a new type of the coronavirus as people gather with family and friends during the holidays.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration announced the new mandate will start Wednesday and last until Jan. 15. The order comes as the per capita rate of new coronavirus cases in California has jumped 47% in the past two weeks.

"We know people are tired and hungry for normalcy. Frankly, I am too," California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said Monday. "That said, this is a critical time where we have a tool that we know has worked and can work."

California lifted its statewide mask mandate on June 15 for people who were vaccinated, a date Newsom heralded as the state's grand reopening. But since then, county governments covering about half of the state's population have imposed their own indoor mask mandates as case rates surged with new variants.

The new mask mandate will cover everyone else, but state officials on Monday were unclear about how it would be enforced. Ghaly said enforcement would likely be stronger in some places than others, but he urged Californians to heed the warnings and wear masks.

"We know that there's going to be people who don't necessarily agree with this, who are tired, who aren't going to mask," Ghaly said. "We hope that those are few and far between, that most people see the purpose of doing this over the next month as something to protect them and their communities during a very tough time."

Newsom has issued lots of other coronavirus mandates, including requiring state employees, health care workers and, soon, public school students and teachers to be vaccinated. The governor can do this because California is still operating under an emergency declaration Newsom issued at the beginning of the pandemic. That emergency declaration will remain in place until either Newsom lifts it or the state Legislature votes to end it.

Republican Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, who ran against Newsom for governor during a an unsuccessful recall election earlier this year, has routinely tried and failed to get the Democratic-dominated Legislature to end the state's emergency declaration.

"I think that people are incredibly frustrated with this notion that these choices should be made by one person rather than in the way that our country and state are supposed to work which is all of us together having a say and having the freedom to make choices for ourselves," Kiley said. "Gavin Newsom is taking actions that go far beyond what any other governor or any other state has done."

California joins other states with similar indoor mask mandates, including Washington, Oregon, Illinois, New Mexico, Nevada, Hawaii and New York. But other Democratic governors have resisted new restrictions, including Gov. Jared Polis of Colorado who told Colorado Public Radio last week that "The emergency is over" and "public health (officials) don't get to tell people what to wear."

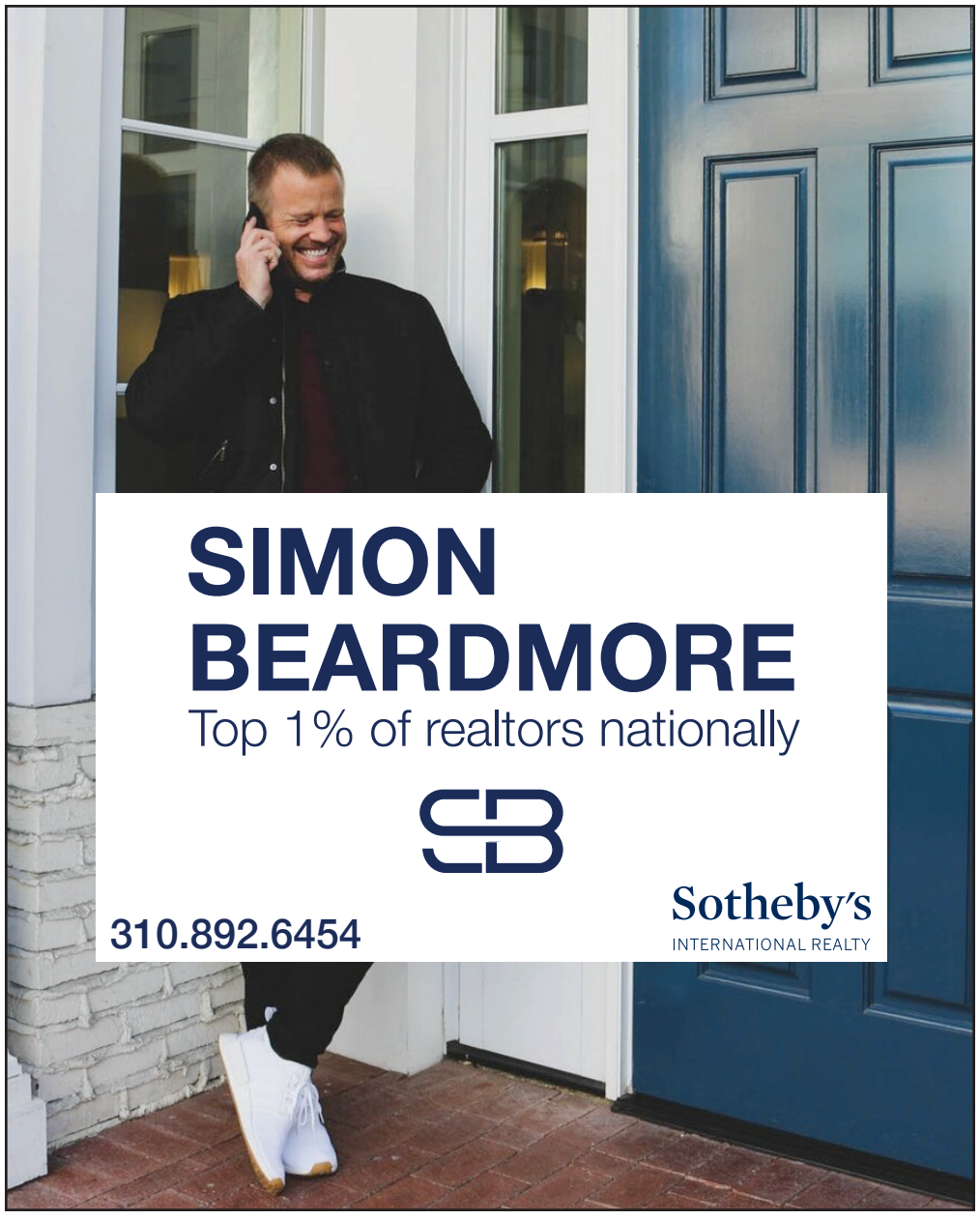
State officials are afraid of a repeat of last winter, when the state averaged more than 100 cases per 100,000 people during a monster winter surge of the virus when nearly 20,000 people died during an eight-week period.

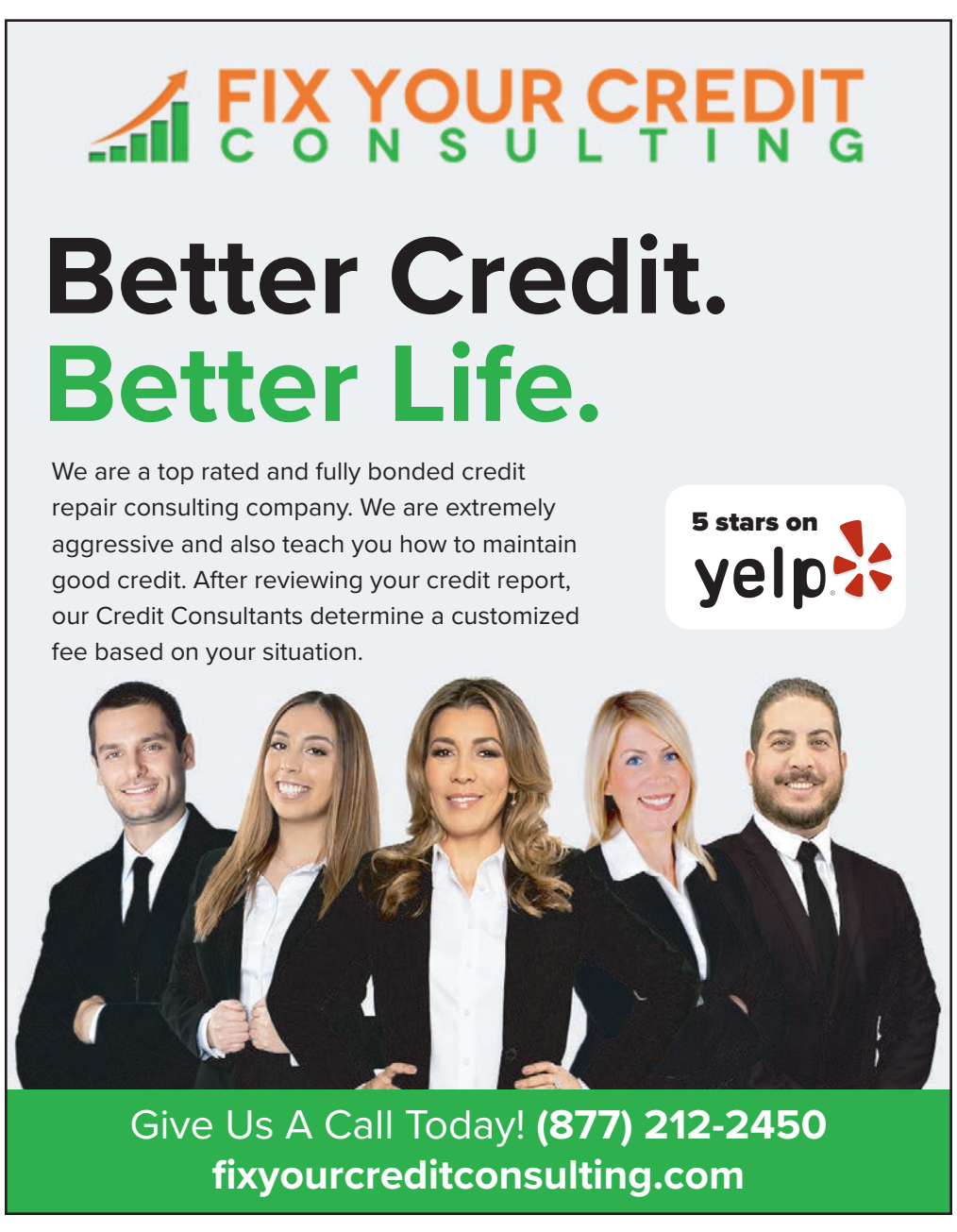
But that surge was before vaccines were available. Today, more than 70% of California's residents who are eligible have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. Even with the recent increase in cases, the state is averaging a little more than 14 cases per day per 100,000 people.

Even so, Ghaly said hospitals in several counties with low vaccination rates are still struggling with lots of patients, including parts of Southern California in Riverside, San Bernardino, Mono and Inyo counties. Ghaly warned coronavirus hospitalizations often increase in the weeks following a jump in new cases.

"We are proactively putting this tool of universal indoor masking in public settings in place to ensure we get through a time of joy and hope without a darker cloud of concern and despair." Ghaly said. "Californians have done this before, and we of course believe we can do it again."

California also is tightening existing testing requirements by ordering unvaccinated people attending indoor events of 1,000 people or more to have a negative test within one or two days, depending on the type of test. The state also is recommending travelers who visit or return to California to get tested within five days of their arrival.





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

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GARDENING

FROM PAGE 1

garden center is Magie D'Anjou, a Compton resident who produces all-natural craft soaps under the moniker Magie's Fine Ugly Soap.

This organic and symbiotic relationship with other small businesses is a natural part of Merrihew's ethos, which has always sought to be closely integrated with the community.

The garden center was founded in 1947 by Don Merrihew, whose granddaughter, according to Slamka, still swings by the store on occasion. Merrihew was an accountant with a deep love for plants and opened up the business later in life when he decided to make his passion his full-time hustle.

While the store started out on Montana Avenue, it moved to its current location at 1526 Ocean Park Blvd. around 30 years later when Norm Patino took over as owner.

In 2005, Patino passed the baton to long time employee and Santa Monica native Dick Lahey. Lahey was a Vietnam veteran and a loyal customer of Merrihew's who decided to purchase the store a few years after returning to the states.

Slamka started working under Lahey in 2016 and took over ownership in May 2021. Slamka inherited his green thumb from his father, who was the last in a long line of family farm owners from upstate New York.

"I was the first generation that didn't grow up on the farm. My dad built the house he grew up in after they got rid of all their land. We always had a veggie garden in the backyard. I just grew up gardening," said Slamka.





Clara Harter

GARDEN: Merrihew's has had several owners over the years and Frank Slamka is the current proprietor of the business.

Just as Slamka acquired his love of plants from his parents, so too did many of store's current customers, who in turn passed down the practice of buying their gardening goods from Merrihew's.

"There was one time actually where I was ringing a lady up and she happened to run into her son who was also shopping here. I was like 'oh that's cool, two generations are here,' and all of the sudden the guy looks in the seed room and goes 'dad?', and all three of them were here shopping at the same time," said Slamka.

There are also some shoppers who have frequented the store since its Montana Ave days. Slamka said an older woman recently came in wistfully recalling how she would save up her allowance to come buy gumballs from Merrihew's long gone gumball machine.

All customers, residents and friends are welcome to stop by the 75th anniversary celebration, whether they have been shopping at Merrihew's for decades or will be walking in for the first time.

Clara@smdp.com



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



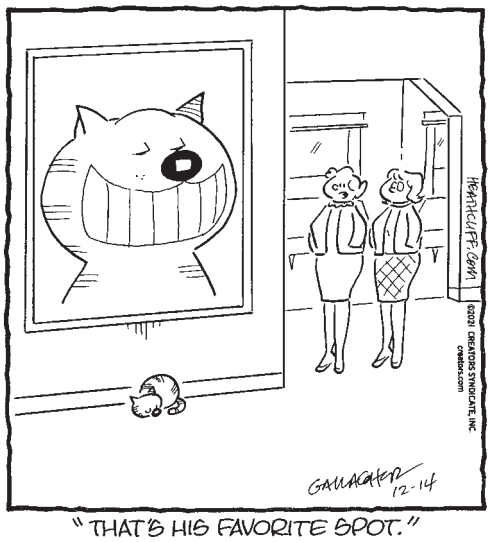
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

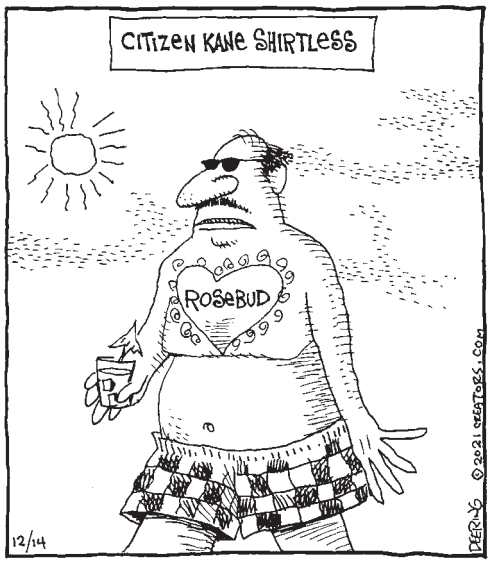
By PETER GALLAGHER



"THAT'S HIS FAVORITE SPOT."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.0°

TUESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 4-5ft Chest to head high occ. 6 ft
Chunky mix of S windswell and NW swell mix. Pretty good size but there's also a decent chance for elevated S trending W winds -- not great.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
Decent pulse of WNW swell gradually trending down through the day. There's increasing potential for better conditions as the early high tide drops -- especially at S facing spots.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4pm. High near 59.
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly clear, with a low around 42.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/12/15	Wed	1:46 PM	0.06	L
2021/12/15	Wed	8:00 PM	3.56	H
2021/12/16	Thu	12:43 AM	1.99	L
2021/12/16	Thu	07:05 AM	5.79	H
2021/12/16	Thu	2:18 PM	-0.25	L
2021/12/16	Thu	8:40 PM	3.57	H
2021/12/17	Fri	01:12 AM	2.17	L
2021/12/17	Fri	07:32 AM	5.89	H
2021/12/17	Fri	2:49 PM	-0.46	L
2021/12/17	Fri	9:17 PM	3.56	H
2021/12/18	Sat	01:40 AM	2.31	L
2021/12/18	Sat	07:59 AM	5.95	H
2021/12/18	Sat	3:20 PM	-0.57	L
2021/12/18	Sat	9:54 PM	3.53	H
2021/12/19	Sun	02:10 AM	2.41	L
2021/12/19	Sun	08:27 AM	5.95	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/11
3 25 44 53 64
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 320 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/10
23 25 40 42 60
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 148 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/11
6 7 10 20 25
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/12
1 2 18 20 30

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/12
EVENING: 1 0 2
Draw Date: 12/12
MIDDAY: 2 0 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/12
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:48.70

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 14)

This solar year, you will make an important sale, a winning impression on someone you admire, and a home of peace, order and loveliness. Also, debts get settled this solar year. What's owed to you will be repaid with interest, and what you owe will be squared away quicker than you thought possible. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 33, 38 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're on the right track. In fact, if you had to live yesterday again, you would make the same choices, only with more gusto -- and you'll get the chance to do just that today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your optimism may cause you to believe the unbelievable or act in foolish faith. By reaching for a slice of heaven, you end up pushing the current reality into a more imaginative and exciting place.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You love who and what you love without understanding exactly why. If pressed, you could come up with reasons, but all of them won't equal the sum of your love with mysterious forces still unaccounted for.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You surround yourself with people who radiate good vibes. They can be easy to find but when they seem to be hiding, just radiate the upbeat energy, and they'll come out of the woodwork.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Most people will follow the protocol automatically and without question. But your mind is so curious, you'll run everything through filters of reason. You'll only do the expected thing when it also makes sense.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The big leaps are cinematic. Baby steps are far less frightening yet every bit as transformational as long as you consistently step in one direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a lot to wrap up before you move along, but you can at least start thinking about your next project. What is not in the world that should be in the world? This is the question you ask as you peer into the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're still not sure if what you're doing will be successful or popular, but confidence isn't about knowing you'll win; it's about knowing you'll be fine either way. Accept yourself and don't worry about whether the world does.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Making money doesn't make character. Doing work builds character, and often the work will bring money. These distinctions are important to today's plot. The riches that earn respect won't be gold.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Should you surprise someone? Consider your options carefully. Not everyone likes surprises. The same unexpected occurrence that excites and delights one person might frighten and unsettle another.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're thankful for problems. They make you better. Just as tackling physical hurdles will help you gain strength, agility and confidence, overcoming mental obstacles will do the same for your way of thinking.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Getting away with a thing doesn't make it right, and getting in trouble doesn't make it wrong. There's a moral or ethical decision to be made, and while it's not exactly deep, it's complex.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

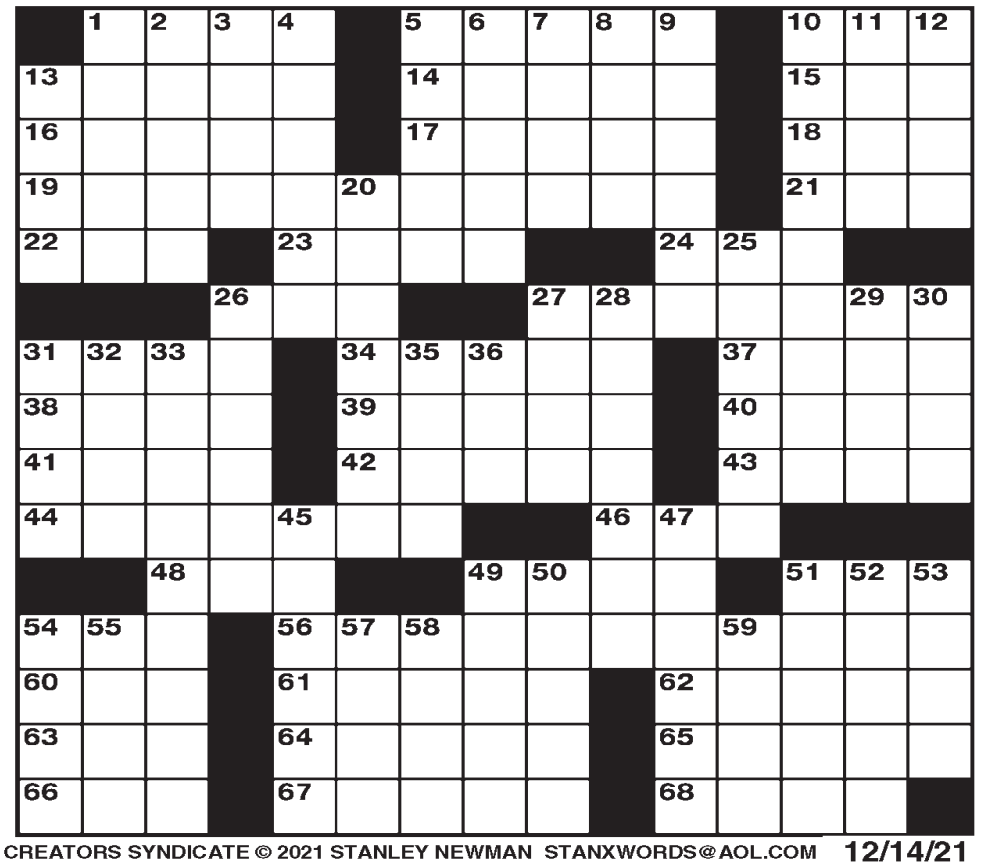
		1	6					
8					1		2	
	2				9		5	1
7	8		4				3	5
		2		3		7		
3	6				2		8	4
1	4		9				7	
	5		2					6
					7	4		

Newsday Crossword

WEAR YOUR FOOD by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Take it easy
5 Sudden outpouring
10 Fitness center
13 Mediterranean island nation
14 France's capital, humorously
15 Large vase
16 Not illuminated
17 Not yet in port
18 Obtain
19 Beef cuts
21 Sailor's affirmative
22 Snaky letter
23 Change for a $5 bill
24 Make a mistake
26 Enemy
27 Discovers, as a clue
31 Rude person
34 Encourage to act
37 Clinton's vice president
38 Song
39 Camera closeup attachments
40 Way of walking
41 Commando weapons
42 Devoured
43 24-hr. bank conveniences
44 Happening first
46 Lincoln nickname
48 __ de plume
49 Agile
51 Poisonous snake
54 Mayo container
56 Salad-bar fare
60 __ Baba (Arabian Nights hero)
61 Shaquille of basketball
62 Sci-fi being
63 One side of a debate
64 Gaze (at)
65 Cola and ginger ale
66 Beer barrel
67 Alphabetizes
68 Flower stalk

DOWN
1 Corporal and captain
2 Historic immigration island
3 Agitate
4 Art on an arm
5 Sudden outpouring
6 Tops of heads
7 __ Major (Big Dipper)
8 Smell bad
9 China used to serve pekoe
10 Make easier to swallow
11 Hunter's quarry
12 Poker-hand starter
13 Artistic inspiration
20 Reacts to ragweed
25 Jamaican music
26 City near Sacramento
27 Rounded roof
28 Catch in a trap
29 Quick haircut
30 Solidifies
31 Air-conditioner measures: Abbr.
32 Greek liqueur
33 Donut-shaped burger topper
35 Barnyard beast with a beard
36 Bought
45 Create, as raised lettering
47 Avoid by going around
49 Get to work
50 Stacks of firewood
51 "All kidding __ . . ."
52 What radiators give off
53 Vessels for frying
54 Tire-changing device
55 Burn-soothing plant
57 Not fooled by
58 Have on
59 Frequently



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

TUESDAY | DEC 14

STORY TIME & CRAFT AT THE MAIN LIBRARY
11 to 11:30 a.m. / Central Courtyard
Celebrate the winter season with stories, songs, rhymes, and fingerplays. Make a snow globe craft. For ages 2 & up. Space is limited. To register, email ingha.chopra@santamonica.gov.

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
We Begin at the End by Chris Whitaker
7 to 8 p.m. Register using the email address below. Thirty years ago, Vincent King went to prison for killing his childhood sweetheart's sister. Now, he's returning to his hometown where his sweetheart still lives, and his best friend is the chief of police. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov.

BOB BAKER MARIONETTE THEATER
This iconic group is back for one night of puppetry, sing-a-longs and holiday cheer. Santa Monica Pier Merry Go-Round Building. 7 p.m. Free and open to the public

WEDNESDAY | DEC 15

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann
7 to 8:30 p.m. / Register using the email address below. This gripping true account of the early 20th-century murders of dozens of wealthy Native Americans and law-enforcement officials. The book cites the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. To register, email stephanie.archer@santamonica.gov.

PLANNING COMMISSION
Agenda is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission. Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.
Live Stream: https://www.youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica or https://www.smgov.net/video
Teleconference: https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/gpgwghcx
Dial-In Number: 1 (415) 466-7000 (US), PIN 3411075.

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.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Arizona Avenue (between 4th & Ocean).

HOLIDAY STORY & CRAFTS TIME
Hosted by Books and Cookies, join as they read books that share the many traditions of the holidays, sing, dance, play musical instruments and create your own under the sea holiday crafts. 5 - 7 p.m. Free. Santa Monica Pier Merry Go-Round Building, 200 Santa Monica Pier.

LIVE BAND KARAOKE AT HARVELLE'S
Come Sing With The Band. The famous "Live Band Karaoke" show comes to Harvelle's every Wednesday night starting 12/15 at 9:00 $2 Tacos $4 PBR Beers $6 Well Drinks. Harvelle's Blues Club
1432 4th Street

THURSDAY | DEC 16

HOLIDAY STORY TIME
Hosted by the Santa Monica Public Library, join as they read books that share the many traditions of the holidays. Santa Monica Pier Merry Go-Round Building, 200 Santa Monica Pier, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY | DEC 17

AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT
6:30 to 8 p.m. Cost: $12.50. And to all a Good Night: an Ever After Take 2 Holiday adventure is an interactive musical where audience members help Cookie Claus set the Fairytale world back on track! You may not know it, but Santa Claus needs the magic of the Fairytales to help him make his rounds each Christmas--and this year, we need YOUR help to save the stories. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th Street. https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/goodnight.html

SOCAL ETSY GUILD
This is a one day event taking place at Third Street Promenade, CA. Southern California handmade artisan vendors, local designers, artist, live art, food, give aways and much more. 2 - 9 p.m. 1351 3rd Street Promenade.

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

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Aussie beaches

W W H T R E P A R A D E E B A
A R I E O A E C A I R N S L N
T D D B E B R O O M E O D U O
E S N O B M M N H A D L A F T
G U O R O A A U C N E A M F H
O E B R U Y I G A L N V P H G
I L T R R E N U E Y O A I A I
L B A D N P S T B B U M E W R
U A L R E P E O L D B A R K B
K C L O R O P E A N D R M S K
A O O B D O A I G V E L L N I
S V W R Y N C D N O L O A E R
O A M A I K A K I K O A P S R
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Harbord
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Iluka
Kiama
Kirra
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Manly
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Noosa
Old Bar
Palm
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Pinky
Play
Robe
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Roebourne
Sale
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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Lots of thrills and spills

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WEATHER

FROM PAGE 1

of flooding and was expected to dump more than 8 feet of snow on the highest peaks in California and Nevada and drench other parts of the two states before it moves on midweek, forecasters said.

The storm will bring much needed moisture to the broader region that's been gripped by drought that scientists have said is caused by climate change. The latest U.S. drought monitor shows parts of Montana, Oregon, California, Nevada and Utah are classified as being in exceptional drought, which is the worst category.

Most western U.S. reservoirs that deliver water to states, cities, tribes, farmers and utilities rely on melted snow in the springtime.

This week's storm is typical for this time of the year but notable because it's the first big snow that is expected to significantly affect travel with ice and snow on the roads, strong winds and limited visibility, said National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologist Anna Wanless in Sacramento.

"Most of California, if not all, will see some sort of rain and snow," she said.

The National Weather Service said there's a slight risk of excessive rain over Southern California Tuesday and into Wednesday morning.

The wet weather developed over the Pacific and swept south throughout the day. Experts said they expect the storm to continue moving south and eventual reach Mexico on Wednesday.

"The moisture will produce coastal rain and higher elevation snow over the Pacific Northwest and Northern/Central California and snow extending eastward to the Northern Rockies through Tuesday," said NWS.

Officials said heavy rain in the area will create mainly localized areas of flash flooding, with urban areas, roads, and small streams the most vulnerable.

"Impacts will include travel delays, including commute times, potential for debris flows in recent burn areas, localized flooding, mud and rock slides on mountain road, and winter driving conditions in the mountains above 5000 feet," said the NWS.

County officials are urging residents to be prepared in the event of significant rain, particularly residents who live in areas where debris or mud flows could be a problem.

"Weather experts are telling L.A. County residents to get ready for heavy rain, and communities located near burn scarred terrain may experience flash floods and mud or debris flows," said Kevin McGowan, Director of the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management. "Our emergency response officials are world-class and will stand ready to defend lives, property and infrastructure if there are emergencies caused by this storm. But, we need collaboration from the public. It is critical for residents to be aware and prepared so that they can help keep themselves safe."

SAFETY TIPS:

If you live in a recent burn area:

Acquire any needed sandbags and instructional materials at your local Los Angeles County fire station. Click here for locations near you.

Have an emergency plan in place that is easy for all family members to understand.

Monitor radio and TV news closely for information about weather conditions and flooding in your area.

If an evacuation is ordered, be prepared to leave immediately. Have alternate evacuation routes out of your neighborhood.

If your neighborhood is evacuated, identify important items to take (e.g., computers, photos, important documents, medications, and other essential items for your family and pets).

Have enough food and water to supply your family for at least a 72-hour period.

Always remember to include a radio and flashlight with fresh batteries in your emergency kit.

Be storm smart! Follow these general storm safety guidelines:

Stay away from flood control channels, catch basins, canyons, and natural waterways which are vulnerable to flooding during periods of heavy rain.

Do not attempt to cross flooded areas and never enter moving water on foot or in a vehicle.

If flooding traps you in your vehicle, stay in your vehicle (if possible) and call 9-1-1. If necessary, wait on top of your vehicle for assistance.

If you see someone who has been swept into moving water, do not enter the water and attempt a rescue. Immediately call 9-1-1 and, if possible, throw a rope or some type of flotation device to them.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

SOLAR

FROM PAGE 2

those peak evening hours. And it would allow anyone with rooftop solar to install panels that provide up to 150% of the power they typically need. That would encourage people to switch to electrical appliances or buy electric cars they can charge at home, CPUC Commissioner Guzman Aceves said.

"How do we transform a program that's about distributed solar — capturing the sun — to a program that has to do with a period when the sun is down?" Guzman Aceves said. "That's what this reform is about."

But the solar industry warned the higher costs will discourage people from going solar in the first place, said Bernadette Del Chiaro of the California Solar and Storage Association, which represents 700 businesses in the industry.

"If you make solar more expensive, you make the battery more expensive. It is that simple," she said.

The CPUC commissioners could change the proposal before voting on it early next year.

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