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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Curious City
Good Days Ahead.
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Police & Fire Logs
See the calls for service.
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Santa Monica weathers storm









Matthew Hall

RAIN: The storm brought 1.56 inches of rain to the city but no significant problems were reported.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Though over an inch-and-a-half of rain was recorded at Santa Monica Airport on Tuesday, Dec. 14, the city rode out the storm without any serious incidents reported.

One non-injury traffic collision took place on Tuesday morning, according to Santa Monica Police Department Public Information Officer Rudy Flores. Flores wrote in an email that he was "happy to report nothing out of the ordinary" took place due to the rainstorm.

Up the coast in Malibu, the National Weather Service (NWS) reported 10-foot breakers at Zuma Beach. Nearly 3,000 customers in Malibu and Topanga were without power in the late morning hours and dozens of vehicles were damaged by debris on the roadway on Malibu Canyon Road. In Orange County, drivers had to be rescued from their vehicles due to mudslides and traffic was jammed on the I-5 over the Grapevine due to snow. But calm reigned in Santa Monica despite 12 hours of near constant rainfall.

The NWS reported the heaviest local rain occurred in the morning from 8-8:15 a.m., when the airport weather gauge recorded 0.3 inches of rain. In the hour from 8 to 9 a.m., nearly 0.6 inches of precipitation was recorded there.

Rain began just before midnight on Tuesday morning, tapering off to a light drizzle by 11 a.m. As of 5 p.m. Tuesday, 1.56 inches had fallen, according to

SEE **RAIN** PAGE 4

UCLA study probes SMPD budget

The report shows 63% of the department's budget is spent on salaries, with more than $10 million going to overtime pay in 2019.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

A UCLA School of Law Criminal Justice Program report claims SMPD overtime calculations are out of step with broader trends but city officials have said the expenses are necessary to provide the quality of service expected by Santa Monica residents.

Key findings, according to a press release provided by study authors, include what they describe as a "unique provision" in the department's budget that allows local law enforcement officers to earn overtime pay based on salaries that factor in "certain additional bonuses and overtime pay."

That provision is "unique among other police departments that we've fetched," one of the report's authors, Leah Gasser-Ordaz, said.

"In the other police departments that we've studied, we've usually seen overtime calculated as a 1.5 time multiplier of the base salary," she added.

SEE **SMPD** PAGE 7

Crudo e Nudo is an ocean to table delight

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

With its 600 square foot footprint, it might be easy to pass Main Street's intimate new restaurant Crudo e Nudo, but doing so would be to skip out on a seafood experience unlike anything else in town.

Born from the turbulent waters of the pandemic, Crudo e Nudo has created a unique and community centered dining experience based on the principles of collaboration, sustainability and seasonality. Their patio parklet dining space offers a curated menu of top quality local fishes, while the indoor store hosts a seafood and natural wine market alongside a morning coffee shop.

The project began with a mid

SEE **CRUDO** PAGE 11



Clara Harter

OWNERS: Brian Bornemann and Leena Culhane operate the eatery.



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Data indicate omicron is milder, better at evading vaccines

ANDREW MELDRUM
Associated Press

The omicron variant is offering more hints about what it may have in store as it spreads around the globe: A highly transmissible virus that may cause less severe disease, and one that can be slowed — but not stopped — by today's vaccines.

An analysis Tuesday of data from South Africa, where the new variant is driving a surge in infections, suggests the Pfizer vaccine offers less defense against infection from omicron and reduced, but still good, protection from hospitalization.

The findings are preliminary and have not been peer-reviewed — the gold standard in scientific research — but they line up with other early data about omicron's behavior, including that it seems to be more easily spread from person to person.

The spread can be seen in Britain, the United States and Denmark, where confirmed omicron cases are increasing at a worrisome pace, said Dr. Jacob Lemieux, who monitors variants for a research collaboration led by Harvard Medical School.

"Omicron is moving extraordinarily fast, faster even than the most pessimistic among us thought it was going to move," Lemieux said.

During past waves of the pandemic, the U.S. could look to Europe and Britain for an early signal of what was coming, Lemieux said. "With omicron, it seems to be happening everywhere all at once with extremely rapid kinetics."

It's unclear whether omicron's rapid spread will overwhelm hospitals. In South Africa, although case numbers are rising, hospital admissions for adults diagnosed with COVID-19 are 29% lower compared to the wave the country experienced in mid-2020, after adjusting for vaccination status, according to the new analysis.

Still, some experts cautioned that it's too soon to draw conclusions since the variant is quite new and hospitalizations can lag weeks behind infections.

When omicron reaches broader populations more useful information will emerge, said Dr. David Dowdy, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"To date, omicron has disproportionately infected young adults — people who probably have more social contacts and are more likely to attend large gatherings," Dowdy said. Young adults may be more likely to be sick without knowing it, have more intense exposures and experience milder disease, he said.

"Our society needs to learn how to wait, rather than either panicking or dismissing early findings," Dowdy said.

U.S. health officials estimate that a small, but growing proportion of new COVID-19 infections are due to omicron, and that the rise is particularly dramatic in some places.

Two weeks ago, omicron accounted for less than 0.5% of the coronaviruses that were genetically sequenced in the U.S. That rose to about 3% last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Tuesday.

But it varies from place to place, and is as high as 13% in the New York/New Jersey area, according to the agency.

The CDC is tracking how fast the percentage doubles, and as more cases come in, it may be better able to predict whether — or when — the omicron variant becomes the dominant version of the coronavirus in the U.S, health officials say.

In Britain, omicron cases are doubling every two to three days. Health officials say the variant will replace delta as the dominant coronavirus strain within days.

In the new South Africa findings, people who received two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine appeared to have just 33% protection against infection, compared to those who were unvaccinated, during the country's current omicron-fueled surge, but 70% protection against hospitalization. The analysis was conducted by Discovery Health, South Africa's largest private health insurer, and the South African Medical Research Council.

The study did not look at booster shots, which are not yet prevalent in South Africa but which data from elsewhere has indicated improves protection.

The Pfizer vaccine's 70% protection against hospital admission during the omicron surge compares to a 93% protection level seen in South Africa's delta-driven wave, according to the new analysis.

That's a big drop in vaccine protection from severe illness requiring hospitalization, said Dr. Eric Topol, head of the Scripps Research Translational Institute.

"What we don't know yet is whether the booster will restore that back to greater than 90% and for how long," Topol said.

The analysis in South Africa was based on examining more than 211,000 COVID-19 test results that date from Sept. 1 to Dec. 7 — 41% of which were for adults who had received two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which is the most commonly used one in South Africa.

Experts now say that omicron accounts for more than 90% of all new infections in South Africa, according to Discovery Health chief executive Dr. Ryan Noach.

Researchers around the world are rushing to figure out what the variant will mean for the coronavirus pandemic, now well into its second year. More information came Tuesday from Pfizer, which announced that its experimental pill to treat COVID-19 — separate from its vaccine — appears effective against omicron.

In the weeks since the variant was detected, South Africa has experienced rapid spread of the virus. The seven-day rolling average of daily new cases in the country rose over the past two weeks from 8.07 new cases per 100,000 people on Nov. 29 to 34.37 new cases per 100,000 people on Dec. 13, according to Johns Hopkins University. The death rate hasn't increased during that same period.

Some say there's still not enough data to draw broad conclusions about hospitalizations and the severity of disease caused by omicron.

"Is omicron milder, or more severe than delta?" said Dr. Michael Head, Senior Research Fellow in Global Health, University of Southampton, wrote of the study. "Time will tell. The world's finest scientists, including many in the global south such as in South Africa, will find out. For now, national-level decision-makers have to consider that discretion is the better part of valor."

Rams resourceful in overcoming COVID-19 issues at Cardinals

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

The Los Angeles Rams' biggest win of the season was even more impressive because of the COVID-19-related chaos they had to overcome to get it.

The Rams (9-4) will take what they learned from their 30-23 victory at Arizona on Monday night into a short week that might be even more difficult because of more problems with their latest virus outbreak.

The Rams placed nine more players on their reserve/COVID-19 list and activated one player Tuesday, leaving them with 13 players on the list. They were missing six starters because of COVID-19 and injuries while beating the Cardinals, and while only two key contributors — leading tackler Jordan Fuller and receiver Odell Beckham Jr. — were among their latest additions, it's too soon to know how many Rams will be absent when they host the Seattle Seahawks (5-8) on Sunday.

"I am very surprised, because you feel like you're behind it when everybody is vaccinated and you're moving in the right direction," an obviously frustrated Rams coach Sean McVay said. "Without a doubt, we have never experienced anything of this magnitude as it relates to COVID. This is definitely something that's been eye-opening."

The Rams played in Glendale with five starters in COVID-19 protocols, including 2020 All-Pro cornerback Jalen Ramsey, right tackle Rob Havenstein and tight end Tyler Higbee. Ramsey and Higbee were ruled out hours before kickoff, which meant Los Angeles had few options except to plug in replacements and play.

"There's no time to say, 'We're going to scrap this and adjust,'" McVay said. "At least if you have an idea of who's going to be available and who's not, you can plan accordingly throughout the course of the week. What they did yesterday gives me confidence."

Those replacements largely performed solidly, with the caveat that probably no player in the league could fill the unique role Ramsey holds on Los Angeles' defense. Backup swing tackle Joseph Noteboom stepped in for Havenstein, and the Rams used a variety of personnel packages to compensate for Higbee's absence.

Los Angeles' overall tenacity in perhaps its toughest game of the season was tremendously encouraging both to McVay and to fans who watched a strong start fall apart during the Rams' 0-3 November.

Just when they appeared to be slipping into the second tier of Super Bowl contenders after traveling to Green Bay and taking their third straight defeat, the Rams showed they're capable of beating another contender on the road.

WHAT'S WORKING

Matthew Stafford came up with one of his biggest performances in years while beating an opponent with at least 10 victories for the first time in his 13-year NFL career. His six-turnover spree during the Rams' losing streak behind him, Stafford was 23 of 30 for 287 yards and three touchdowns while making several jaw-droppingly good throws. Los Angeles needs its new quarterback to be elite, and Stafford delivered this time.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The Rams face a rough week of preparation for Seattle, and the entire team will have to show new levels of resourcefulness. Their adaptability will be tested in the next six days after they shut down their training complex in Thousand Oaks on Tuesday except for treatment for injured players. They will conduct meetings remotely Tuesday and Wednesday without practicing, although McVay likely wouldn't have held a significant practice on a short week anyway.

STOCK UP

Nose tackle Greg Gaines has been on the roster for three seasons, but he only recently got to show what he can do after the offseason departure of Michael Brockers and the in-season injury loss of Sebastian Joseph-Day. Gaines has been a revelation, playing stoutly against the run while showing an athleticism that's nearly shocking from a 312-pound lineman. Gaines had five tackles and a sack against the Cardinals while making several huge plays.

STOCK DOWN

The Rams are trying to reach the playoffs with a secondary in which presumptive backups and practice squad players are getting major responsibilities even before their COVID-19 absences. Kyler Murray passed for 383 yards against a group that included Kareem Orr and Terrell Burgess, who both struggled mightily.

The Rams got away with it this week with David Long Jr. filling in decently for Ramsey, but the shaky depth looms over their season — particularly if they have to face Tom Brady or Aaron Rodgers to get to the Super Bowl.

INJURIES

The Rams' COVID-19 problems are bigger than their football injuries at this point. McVay and the training staff didn't have a meeting about the progress of center Brian Allen, cornerback Robert Rochell and other injured players Tuesday.

KEY NUMBER

5 — The number of consecutive winning seasons for the Rams under McVay. This franchise had endured 13 straight non-winning seasons before McVay arrived in 2017, but it has gone 52-25 in the regular season since. Los Angeles hadn't put together five straight winning records since 1980, when it had eight straight.

NEXT STEPS

A win over the up-and-down Seahawks in their penultimate home game of the regular season would move the Rams close to a playoff spot and keep the pressure on Arizona atop the NFC West.

With cold-weather road trips to Minnesota and Baltimore looming, Los Angeles really doesn't want to slip up against Seattle.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 280 CALLS ON DECEMBER 13

Strongarm Robbery Now 4th St / Pico Blvd 12:02 a.m.
Party Complaint 1200Blk Hill St 12:25 a.m.
Lewd Activity 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 12:30 a.m.
Alcohol & Beverage Code Violation 3100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:41 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:09 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 3100Blk The Beach 1:10 a.m.
Overdose 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:21 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 4th St / Ashland Ave 2:23 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:52 a.m.
Overdose 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:49 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 6:05 a.m.
Grand Theft Now 400Blk Alta Ave 7:48 a.m.
Encampment 1200Blk 12th St 8:00 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 800Blk 20th St 8:01 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Princeton St / Washington Ave 8:24 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 1600Blk 4th St 8:26 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1200Blk Arizona Ave 8:44 a.m.
Arson 600Blk Arizona Ave 9:00 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:01 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1100Blk 2nd St 9:10 a.m.
Burglary Report 2900Blk Neilson Way 9:12 a.m.
Person Down 1300Blk 2nd St 9:24 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200Blk 6th St 9:34 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600Blk 10th St 9:43 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:49 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400Blk Ocean Ave 9:49 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:50 a.m.
Burglary Report 2300Blk Schader Dr 10:02 a.m.
Lost Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 10:11 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1900Blk 6th St 10:30 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800Blk 26th St 10:32 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500Blk 6th St 10:37 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 10:43 a.m.
Found Property 1000Blk Marine St 11:02 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Main St / Pico Blvd 11:09 a.m.
Overdose 600Blk 11th St 11:11 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300Blk 14th St 11:16 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2100Blk 21st St 11:50 a.m.
Expired Registration 800Blk 10th St 11:51 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000Blk Pier Ave 11:55 a.m.
Battery Report 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 12:10 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2900Blk Main St 12:14 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 12:49 p.m.
Lewd Activity Ocean Ave / Washington Ave 12:52 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2200Blk Pico Blvd 1:00 p.m.
Expired Registration 1500Blk 18th St 1:14 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2800Blk Kansas Ave 1:19 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:23 p.m.
Fraud Report 300Blk California Ave 1:26 p.m.
Lost Property 2300Blk Pico Blvd 1:36 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2800Blk Pico Blvd 1:46 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 800Blk Ozone Ave 2:03 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800Blk Bay St 2:16 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:20 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 2:24 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 4th St / Broadway 2:24 p.m.
Encampment 1900Blk Expo Bike Path 2:32 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300Blk 12th St 2:41 p.m.
Burglary Report 1500Blk 6th St 2:45 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:53 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900Blk 5th St 2:54 p.m.
Attempt Auto Theft Report 1500Blk 4th St 3:01 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400Blk 11th St 3:10 p.m.
Encampment 2300Blk Kansas Ave 3:14 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 3400Blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:15 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300Blk Olympic Dr 3:25 p.m.
Burglary Report 1500Blk Franklin St 3:27 p.m.
Found Senile Person 1600Blk 21st St 3:31 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1600Blk Appian Way 3:34 p.m.
Found Property 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 3:37 p.m.
Burglary Report 800Blk Ocean Ave 3:39 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:42 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 600Blk Pico Blvd 3:48 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 3200Blk Airport Ave 3:54 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 15th St / Montana Ave 4:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Yale St / Washington Ave 4:09 p.m.
Lost Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 4:26 p.m.
Trash Dumping 700Blk Ozone St 4:28 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:34 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800Blk Palisades Park 4:38 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2700Blk 6th St 4:47 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2400Blk Arizona Ave 5:28 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2400Blk Ari Oh 375Yxp.Oh 5:28 p.m.
Found Property 1100Blk 3rd St 5:39 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 12th St / Arizona Ave 6:00 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 400Blk

SEE **POLICE LOG** PAGE 4

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 47 CALLS ON DECEMBER 13

EMS 400Blk 23rd St 1:25 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Stewart St 2:20 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:21 a.m.
Structure Fire 600Blk Arizona Ave 3:12 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 600Blk Arizona Ave 3:13 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 4:00 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1900Blk 3rd St 4:23 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:49 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400Blk Montana Ave 7:36 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk Sunset Ave 7:39 a.m.
EMS 300Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:42 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Princeton St / Washington Ave 8:24 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 6th St 8:26 a.m.
Smoke Investigation 3400Blk Pico Blvd 8:40 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 2nd St 9:24 a.m.
EMS 3100Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:40 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 7th St 10:29 a.m.
EMS 600Blk 11th St 11:11 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:20 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 2nd St 11:44 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 2100Blk 21st St 11:50 a.m.
Vehicle Fire 2600Blk 34th St 12:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:15 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 900Blk 3rd St 12:48 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 1:01 p.m.
EMS 3100Blk Neilson Way 1:42 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:03 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Pico Blvd 3:12 p.m.
EMS 600Blk Strand St 4:03 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Yale St / Washington Ave 4:09 p.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 700Blk Ozone St 4:29 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 800Blk Interstate 10 4:43 p.m.
EMS 600Blk Pico Pl 4:50 p.m.
Broken Gas Main 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 4:54 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 15th St 5:11 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:13 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 4th St 5:56 p.m.
EMS 12th St / Arizona Ave 6:00 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 4th St 6:07 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 23rd St 6:35 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 15th St 6:51 p.m.
EMS 300Blk California Ave 7:02 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Franklin St 7:22 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 3rd St 8:01 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1100Blk 14th St 10:55 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Montana Ave 11:06 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 11:21 p.m.

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

RAIN

FROM PAGE 1

NWS records.

Southern California Edison reported two small-scale power outages in Santa Monica on Tuesday that in total affected an estimated 22 customers. The larger of the outages was quickly resolved, but two customers remained without power throughout the day.

The Santa Monica Beach Pico-Kenter storm drain was moving rapidly beginning early Tuesday, carrying with it debris and bacterial contamination. The storm drain and other runoff into the ocean mean surfers and swimmers are cautioned to avoid entering the water for at least 72 hours after rain subsides.

The LA County Department of Public Health issued an Ocean Water Quality Rain Advisory for all Los Angeles County beaches, advising beachgoers to avoid the water through at least 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 17.

"Bacteria levels can increase significantly during and after rainstorms, as contaminants within the runoff enters the ocean. Bacteria levels may remain elevated up to 3 days depending upon the intensity of the rain and the volume of runoff. Elevated bacteria levels in ocean water may cause illness, especially in children and the elderly," the advisory stated, adding that bacteria levels are especially high "near flowing storm drains, creeks and rivers."

emily@smdp.com



LA mayor to Senate: I never saw sexual harassment by adviser

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti told U.S. senators considering his nomination to be ambassador to India that he never witnessed a former top adviser sexually harass one of his police bodyguards, allegations that are at the center of a lawsuit filed against his administration.

The Democratic mayor's statement Tuesday came during questioning from members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which held a hearing in Washington to consider Garcetti's nomination. Garcetti was nominated for one of the country's highest profile diplomatic posts in July by President Joe Biden.

Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire told Garcetti she was concerned about accusations against former political adviser and confidant Rick Jacobs, which include claims that the mayor "did not respond to those allegations in a way that would have stopped the behavior." She noted that women's rights and sexual harassment remain priority issues in India, the world's largest democracy.

"I think it's very important that we model the behavior that we want to see in our allies," she told Garcetti.

The mayor, addressing the Jacobs' case, said: "I never witnessed, nor was it brought to my attention, the behavior that's been alleged. ... If it had been, I would have immediately taken action to stop that."

If confirmed, he said combating sexual harassment and assault would be core issues for him.

The mayor said "persistent action" was needed to support and protect victims. He emphasized that as mayor, he established policies to centralize complaints and permit victims to submit reports of alleged abuse anonymously.

"Harassment and discrimination have no place in the workplace, no place in our society. I have zero tolerance for that. And I also know that words are not enough," he said.

Shaheen then said, "I look forward to your strong stance when you are confirmed."

The exchange stood out in what was largely a drama-free hearing for the two-term mayor. Garcetti promised to strengthen America's ties to India, including working on defense issues, climate change, open markets and the coronavirus.

Garcetti was a strong Biden supporter during the 2020 presidential campaign and was named co-chair for the incoming president's inauguration last January.

He nomination for the ambassadorship comes as he is wrapping up a turbulent two terms, framed by the pandemic and a homeless crisis that has seen encampments spread into virtually every corner of the city. California Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla alluded to "challenges" faced by Garcetti during his time leading the nation's second-most-populous city, but those issues never came into play during the hearing.

The lawsuit against the city charges that Jacobs frequently sexually harassed one of the mayor's police bodyguards while Garcetti ignored it or laughed it off. The mayor has repeatedly denied the claims.

Garcetti needs a majority vote to be confirmed in the evenly divided Senate, which is controlled by Democrats because Vice President Kamala Harris has the authority to break tie votes. Harris is a former California U.S. senator who is close friends with Garcetti.

Garcetti was one of three nominees who appeared before the Foreign Relations Committee during a lightly attended hearing. The others were University of Pennsylvania President Amy Gutmann, Biden's pick to serve as ambassador to Germany, and career diplomat Donald Armin Blome, the president's selection for ambassador to Pakistan.

Gutmann faced sharp questioning from the committee's ranking Republican, Idaho Sen. James Risch, who said federal data shows the university received $86 million in donations and contracts from sources in China since 2014.

"Chinese influence is a problem all over the world," Risch said.

"I was shocked at this number of $86 million, flowing into your institution," he added, saying he was surprised to find out she was not more familiar with the gifts.

Gutmann responded that the school and its hospitals raised over $5 billion during that time, so the amount from China represents a tiny fraction. "It's not surprising that I don't know of specific gifts and contracts," she said, given the size and volume of the contributions. She added that no gifts are allowed to threaten academic freedom or national security.

POLICE LOG

FROM PAGE 3

Montana Ave 6:22 p.m.
Construction Noise 1300Blk Euclid St 6:27 p.m.
Construction Noise 1200Blk 17th St 6:37 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 6:43 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2600Blk Pico Blvd 7:19 p.m.
Death Investigation 1300Blk Franklin St 7:23 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 200Blk Broadway 7:25 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 4th St / Pico Blvd 7:35 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:59 p.m.
Construction Noise 800Blk 16th St 8:28 p.m.
Sexual Assault 1300Blk Ocean Ave 8:40 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500Blk Ocean Ave 9:04 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1200Blk Palisades Beach rd 9:12 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1200Blk Grant St 9:19 p.m.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

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

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

AWARD WINNER

STAFF WRITERS
Clara Harter
clara@smdp.com

Emily Sawicki
emily@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

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

AWARD WINNER

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

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WINNER

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COVID toll hits 800,000 to close out year filled with death

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press

Carolyn Burnett is bracing for her first Christmas without her son Chris, a beloved high school football coach whose outdoor memorial service drew a crowd of hundreds.

The unvaccinated 34-year-old father of four died in September as a result of COVID-19 after nearly two weeks on a ventilator, and his loss has left a gaping hole for his mother, widow and family as the holidays approach.

How, she thought, could they take a holiday photo without Chris? What would Christmas Day football be like without him offering up commentary? How could they play trivia games on Christmas Eve without him beating everyone with his movie expertise?

The U.S. on Tuesday hit another depressing pandemic milestone — 800,000 deaths. It's a sad coda to a year that held so much promise with the arrival of vaccines but is ending in heartbreak for the many grieving families trying to navigate the holiday season.

For its Christmas card photo, the Burnett family ultimately opted to hold up a football presented as a memorial by the Kansas City Chiefs to represent Chris. Carolyn Burnett also set up a special shelf for the holidays, filling it with a drawing of her son, his bronzed baby shoe, a candle, a poem and an ornament of Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

But nothing feels quite right this year.

"These emotions come and go so quickly," she said. "You see something. You hear something. His favorite food. You hear the song. There's just all these little things. And then, bam."

The year began with the COVID-19 death toll at about 350,000 in the U.S., at a time when the country was in the throes of a winter surge so bad that patients were lined up in emergency room hallways waiting for beds.

But vaccines were just getting rolled out, and sports stadiums and fairgrounds were quickly transformed into mass vaccination sites. Case numbers began falling. By spring, nearly all schools had reopened and communities were shedding mask orders. TV newscasters began talking cheerfully about a post-pandemic world. President Joe Biden proclaimed the Fourth of July holiday as a celebration of freedom from the virus.

It didn't last long. The delta variant struck just as vaccination rates were stalling amid a wave of misinformation, devastating poorly immunized portions of the Midwest and South. Hospitals brought back mobile morgues and opened up their pocket books in a desperate bid to attract enough nurses to care for the sick.

"People have no idea," said Debbie Eaves, a lab worker, who grew weary of the wave of death as she collected swabs from patients at Oakdale Community Hospital in Louisiana amid the surge. "Oh, no. They have no idea what it is to look and see, to see it."

In Kansas, Carolyn Burnett begged her son, who went by the nickname Coach Cheese because of his love of cheeseburgers, to get vaccinated.

"He was a part of the group that ... just didn't trust it," she said, pausing and sighing. "They didn't want to be a guinea pig. They didn't want to be experimented on."

She thought maybe he was softening. When his dad got his first COVID-19 shot in August, Chris, a diabetic, told his mother he would discuss it with his doctor. But then one of Chris' children got infected at a family sleepover and soon everyone was sick.

She texted him, "Honey, God's got you." His last text to her said: "Mama, I feel him." He died Sept. 11.

School administrators tweeted heartfelt condolences, praising his passion in coaching running backs at Olathe East High School. Tearful athletes paid tribute in TV interviews. The Kansas City Glory, an all-female football team that Burnett coached, asked fans to contribute to a GoFundMe fundraiser to help his children. And he was honored with an inspiration award at a ceremony that recognizes the region's best high school athletes.

"We had so much support that you would think he was a celebrity," his mom recalled.

Now, as the year ends, the delta variant is fueling another wave of hospitalizations, court battles are brewing over vaccine mandates and fresh questions are swirling about the new omicron variant.

Steve Grove has seen his share of coronavirus deaths in his role as a chaplain at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Recently, one dying patient's family gathered in a conference room. One by one they were taken to the patient's bedside, while the other relatives watched on Zoom.

"It's a huge pain in the butt and the connection drops and it's weird," he acknowledged. "Here's what I'm going to say to COVID: 'Up yours.' I'm getting a Zoom call going, and there you have it. That's what's happening today at least. You're going to do what you're going to do and you're going to kill this person. You get to do that COVID. But what we're going to do today is this. And I'm going to give them a hug when it's done.

"The alternative," he said, "is that you just, you just give up, and I guess most people in this building have too much faith in humanity."

He acknowledged that he sometimes gets mad at unvaccinated patients because it "didn't have to be this way. And now there's a mess that perhaps was avoidable."

"I'll confess to it," he said. "And I know I'm not proud of it, and I swallow it down and then I remember as a human being that my compassion reminds me that it's still somebody's loved one. It is still death and it still stings."

Dr. LaTasha Perkins, of Georgetown University Student Health, is getting ready to take a job in January in a clinic that helps underserved residents of the community. She is Black and said she felt compelled to make the change after watching the virus devastate her family. She has been unable, though, to get through to some of her relatives. It's part of the reason why she started doing hesitancy talks specifically for African Americans in the D.C. area.

"For my own selfish reason, I don't want to go to any more funerals," she said, "and I don't want COVID to come back in my house."

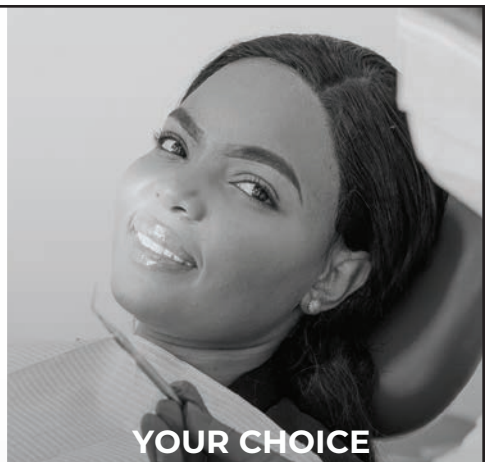
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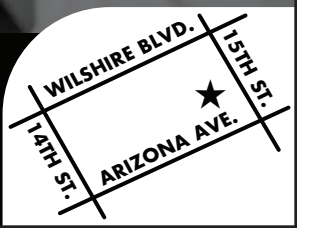
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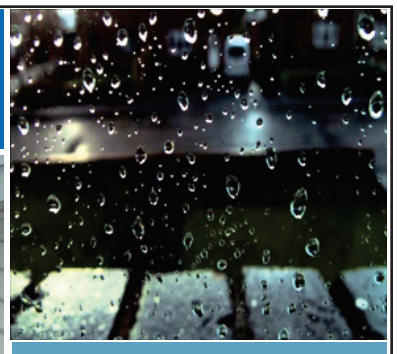
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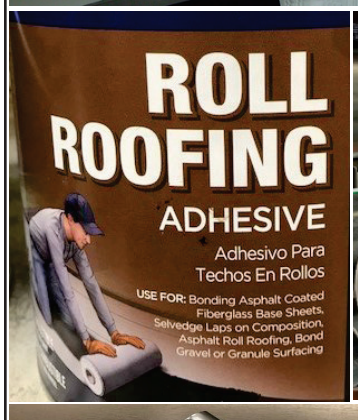
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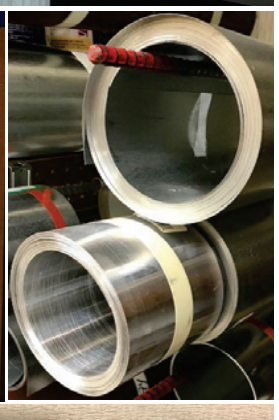
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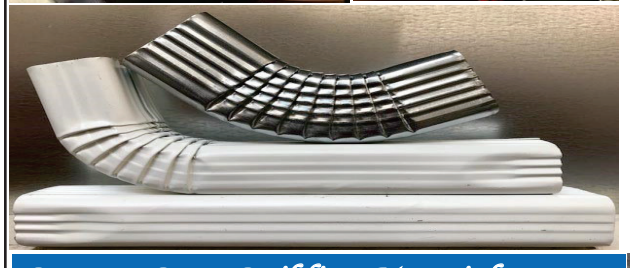


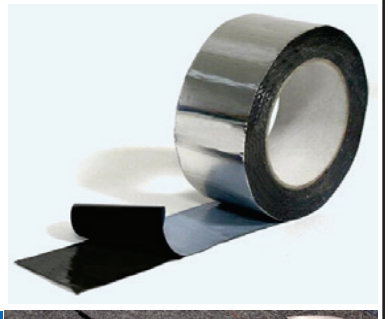




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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Good Days Ahead!

IS 2021 OVER YET?

Almost? I hope so. Not that 2022 looks any brighter. But hope springs eternal, doesn't it? What would we do without hope? No New Year's Eve parties, that's for sure.

BUT FIRST...

A public service message!

Our venerable The Church In Ocean Park needs help. Just as they were poised to reopen, and provide all the many services for our community that often otherwise go neglected, the roof fell in on them. Literally. Large pieces of the ceiling in the main sanctuary room tore loose and crashed to the floor, fortunately when no one was in there.

The historic, nearly century-old building at 2nd and Hill is going to need a minimum $150,000 fix. Rev. Janet Gollery McKeithen just announced that they have received a $35,000 matching fund, so any donations received now will be doubled, up to that amount.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

If you don't belong to that church? It's not just another neighborhood church. It is historically an important part of the very fabric of this unique city, part of our identity. It became a nationwide leader in social activism in the '60s, and the rent control movement was born there. Rev. McKeithen has continued those traditions, even expanded them, very involved with social justice and serving segments of the Santa Monica community who are often ignored, overlooked or shunned. Courageously, despite the displeasure of some leaders in the mother Methodist Church who have threatened to take over the building or defrock her (which would mean loss of her pension for lifelong service), unless she is more... Methodist. (If you ask many people familiar with her shepherding of the church, they will tell you she is following the words and path of Jesus a lot more faithfully than many so-called Christian churches. The established religion in his time didn't care much for his message, either.)

The Church In Ocean Park has been passionately serving the community for nearly a century, in outstanding fashion. Now they need our help. Mail your donation, or go to the website:

https://www.ciop4justice.org/from-the-pastor

NOW, BACK TO NYE

Oh sure, I like a party as much as the next guy, and it is a perfect excuse to drink, drug and dance oneself into oblivion, blotting out the travails of an entire year (... until the next morning, or afternoon), but the frantic celebration of the old year passing ignores what you did exactly 365 days before – the same exact thing, cursing the bad old year and heaping hope and baseless celebration on the new one. The one you are now cursing. Short memory is a wonderful thing, eh?

We thought 2020 was a really bad year. And it sure was, for body and soul, ghastly, gruesome and grim, that may take a generation to get beyond. Because too many are still saying, based on no fact or science, that COVID is no worse than the flu. Yet you get your flu shot every year, no big deal. But get away from me with your Bill Gates chip vaccine (wait! ... the one Trump gave us?) and your Nazi commands to wear a mask!

Yes, sadly, that is the future we are marching into. But –

I ACTUALLY FEEL PRETTY GOOD ABOUT 2022

So why all the moaning about the pandemic and the science deniers who are spreading it and making it likely it may never go away? It is the number one issue that has changed our world. But there's more. Much more.

There's the likelihood of the GOP taking over the House and Senate. Can you imagine? The lunatics running the asylum. The looming comeback of The Donald, because of all the hard work the Republicans have done in the states, to, yes, steal elections.

Here in Santa Monica we have half (at best) the City Council struggling with serious problems plaguing residents, and the other half telling fibs and pulling strings. More office/retail buildings being permitted! Many more in the pipeline. Just what we need. Wait – what happened to righting the imbalance here between work and living spaces?

We've got unpermitted, dangerous vendors taking over the Pier, hurting legitimate businesses there, selling uninspected food, creating fire danger to our Pier. It's been going on for two years. And speaking of hurting legitimate businesses, whose bright idea was that whole Main Street Closure? (I know, but I'll let you guess.) And can we get our $70,000 back?

The school board is set tomorrow night to award a bid to tear down the Muir Woods mural, buried deep in an item that never mentions the word "mural." (But does invoke the name Obama.) And what surprises are in store for new voting districts for the school board? Stay tuned.

OPTIMISTIC?

You bet. Because history shows that when good people are pushed down and pushed around, they finally unite to push back, and I think that will happen, in our city, state, nation and the world.

You saw that terrible tornado day. Incredible. Unprecedented. And yet you still had so many ignoring climate change as a cause and intoning, we need better warning systems. Our tolerance as a political body for children being gunned down in school seems limitless, but now we have the CA governor proposing, if it's fine by the Supreme Court for Texas to take away abortion rights in that vigilante manner, then I guess CA can do the same for the "right" to own assault rifles meant for nothing else but killing as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

I don't know about you but I'm exhausted. Beat up, stressed out, beat down, picked apart, outnumbered, disregarded, disenfranchised, dismissed, lied to, cheated, robbed, fooled,

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 11

SMPD

FROM PAGE 1

Another provision in officers' salaries is an "equity adjustment" in the department memorandum of understanding, or MOU, with the City of Santa Monica attaching their rate of pay to those of 10 other LA County police departments.

According to the report, the median total pay for an SMPD officer in 2019—factoring in base pay, overtime and "other pay"—was $173,714, making it higher than the median total pay of all 10 of the other departments listed in the MOU, including El Segundo, Beverly Hills, Glendale, Pasadena and Redondo Beach. Other pay, the report stated, could mean additional income due to years of continuous service, promotional pay for officers who receive promotions and educational incentive pay. "Police officers, sergeants, lieutenants, and captains are paid an additional amount based on their level of higher education at an accredited college, or by their level of state certification through the Commission on Peace Officer Standards & Training," the report detailed.

In the years from 2015 to 2019, overtime pay increased by 59 percent, while the number of police officers increased by 22 percent. The highest overtime pay went to an officer who made $178,162 in overtime in 2019, with a total salary, excluding benefits, of $335,551.

Out of a department budget of $94,167,032 for 2019, $10.5 million was spent on overtime pay and $8.9 million was spent on "other pay."

The Santa Monica Police Officers Association provided a statement in response to the report.

"The Santa Monica Police Department has been faced with significant labor shortages because of recruitment and other challenges and so the need to do more with less has never been greater to keep our city safe," according to the statement. "The overtime hours put in by our dedicated officers in the face of these labor shortages are needed now more than ever."

The statement also said "substantial and topflight public safety resources and personnel are required to keep our resident and tourist population safe."

In a statement, the City said the report doesn't acknowledge the cost of staffing special events, some of which are reimbursed.

"Overtime is used to fulfill deployment needs to address our City's safety and special needs related to the Santa Monica Pier, beaches and business districts, which includes filming assignments and special events," said the statement. "The time period of 2015 to 2019 highlighted in the report includes the Twilight Concert Series on the Pier and the Los Angeles Marathon, both special events that required considerable direct contributions from the City. Reimbursed costs for filming shoots and events do not appear to be captured in the report findings."

The statement said the report also misses important context related to a period of increased retirements that have impacted vacancies within the department.

"SMPD utilized personnel on overtime to fill those vacancies and to address crime and quality of life issues to keep our city safe," said the statement. "In 2019, Santa Monica experienced a 15% decrease in crime. SMPD is actively recruiting quality new officers who meet our high standards to fulfill base level staffing, which will reduce current overtime."

The UCLA report is the third in an ongoing series of findings compiled by the law school with a goal of spreading public awareness about police budget priorities and how they compare to both other aspects of municipal budgets and other police departments around Los Angeles County.

"What we really wanted to do was kind of uncover some of that data and information and present it in a way that was helpful for the community and the public to understand as they are grappling with questions about budgetary priorities, and 'where should our precious tax dollars go?' essentially," Gasser-Ordaz said. The project has already released reports delving into the budgets of the Pasadena and Culver City police departments, with more planned for 2022.

According to Gasser-Ordaz, a juvenile justice fellow with UCLA Law, she and co-author Alicia Virani (the Criminal Justice Program director) began the project in mid-2020 following the murder of George Floyd and subsequent focus on police reform nationwide.

"[We] saw that there was a dearth of research on police budgets and police memorandums of understanding with local jurisdictions and so we wanted to do a deeper dive and do our research into these budgets and into the types of spending that municipalities are doing on policing locally," Gasser-Ordaz described.

The author said the department cast a wide net, issuing public record requests to cities across Los Angeles County, and that the three studies so far came from cities whose police departments or websites provided the information necessary to draw conclusions. While more individual cities' police department budgets may go under the microscope, Gasser-Ordaz said authors were "also considering doing a bigger report that gathers together all the findings we'd need across agencies, and maybe using some of the data from the agencies that we didn't necessarily feel like we have enough to do a whole report on like Santa Monica's."

When asked if focusing on cities that provided detailed budgetary information was placing pressure specifically on agencies and departments that were cooperating with record requests, Gasser-Ordaz said they were planning to continue making requests and focusing on agencies that had not been immediately forthcoming.

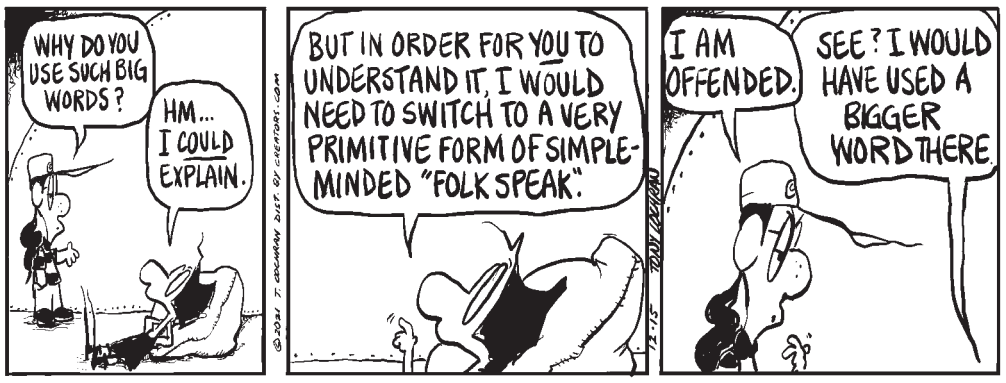
"I think that with these PRA [Public Record Act] requests, they take a lot of time, especially with the bigger agencies," Gasser-Ordaz said. "So, it's definitely a priority to look closely at some of the agencies that maybe haven't been as forthcoming or haven't provided as much data as we need. But a little bit of it has been a capacity issue. In the next year, we anticipate having the ability and the time to sit down and continue doing those requests and continue focusing on those agencies that we maybe haven't focused on so much this year."

emily@smdp.com



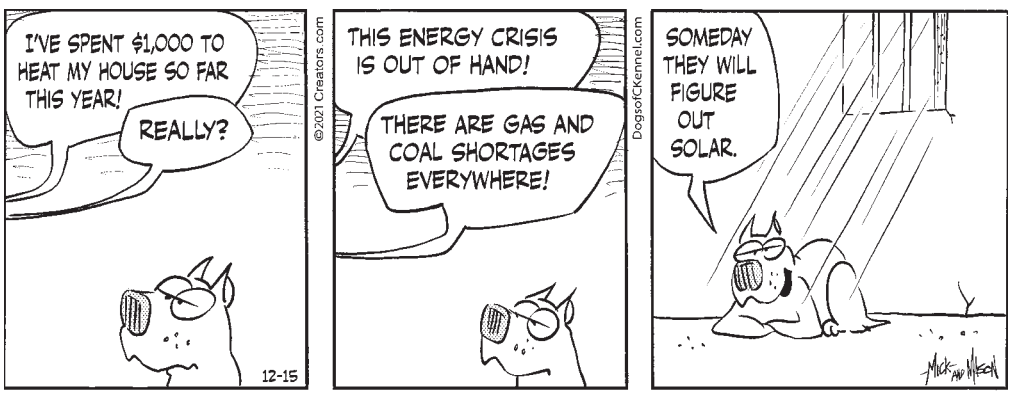
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"A GROUP OF PUGS IS CALLED A GRUMBLE."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.0°

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

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Smaller but could still be kinda fun as WNW swell mix trends down through the day. New little SSW swell mixes in. Winds favorable most of the day, but mind the deep early morning high tide.

WEATHER

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers before 10pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 44.
Wednesday Night: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. North wind around 5 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/12/19	Sun	3:53 PM	-0.60	L
2021/12/19	Sun	10:33 PM	3.48	H
2021/12/20	Mon	02:40 AM	2.50	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/13
10 30 37 53 59
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 333 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: 12/13
19 21 29 34 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/13
EVENING: 0 9 8
Draw Date: 12/13
MIDDAY: 5 2 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/13
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:43.45

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 15)

You don't think of pleasure as something that must be cultivated yet it's what unfolds. You aim yourself toward measures of discipline considered by most to be work and you somehow fall in love with the endeavor. Your habits improve, your skills deepen and your purpose mellows into a powerful boldness. Aquarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 1, 13 and 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What you want requires an investment of time, money, energy or all of the above. But you don't have to bet the farm to make a change happen. Take a small risk and see how that feels before you take another.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Just because you think you can do something doesn't mean you can, but it sure gives you a better start than the alternative. Today, you'll see a boss in action and think, "That could be me!"

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're in the mood for something you're not sure you can afford. "Take care of the luxuries and the necessities will take care of themselves." -- Dorothy Parker

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's demolition day for an idea, illusion or a string of unhelpful thoughts, the absence of which will free you to embrace current circumstances and accept yourself the way you are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're emotionally flexible and can play with modalities and tones until you feel optimism, joy and a general sense of winning. To change your attitude is to change the outcome.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your labor will exceed the benefits of a job -- even more true in the case of jobs that don't pay. The rigors of your role will have you sweating with work that's thankless. Counteract stress by doubling down on self-appreciation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Regret does serve a purpose. It informs the decisions of today. As the Chinese Proverb goes, "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second-best time is now."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll argue your point and argue it well. Not everyone will agree, but at least you'll give them something to think about. This isn't over -- not yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). No person is an island. You cannot possibly reach your goal without the cooperation of others. You'll work with others and give them what they need in order to obtain what you need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's someone you want to impress, but you'll be better off when you resist the urge to do so. You are already attractive to this person, so trying to be attractive will only work against you. Don't sell it when it's already sold.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Three rules of show business will apply today: Read the room. Tell them what you're going to do, do it, then tell them what you did. Leave them wanting more.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Keep moving. To hang out in any environment for too long is unproductive. You can begin again now. Any moment is a valid starting point for doing the thing you want to do and being who you want to be.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

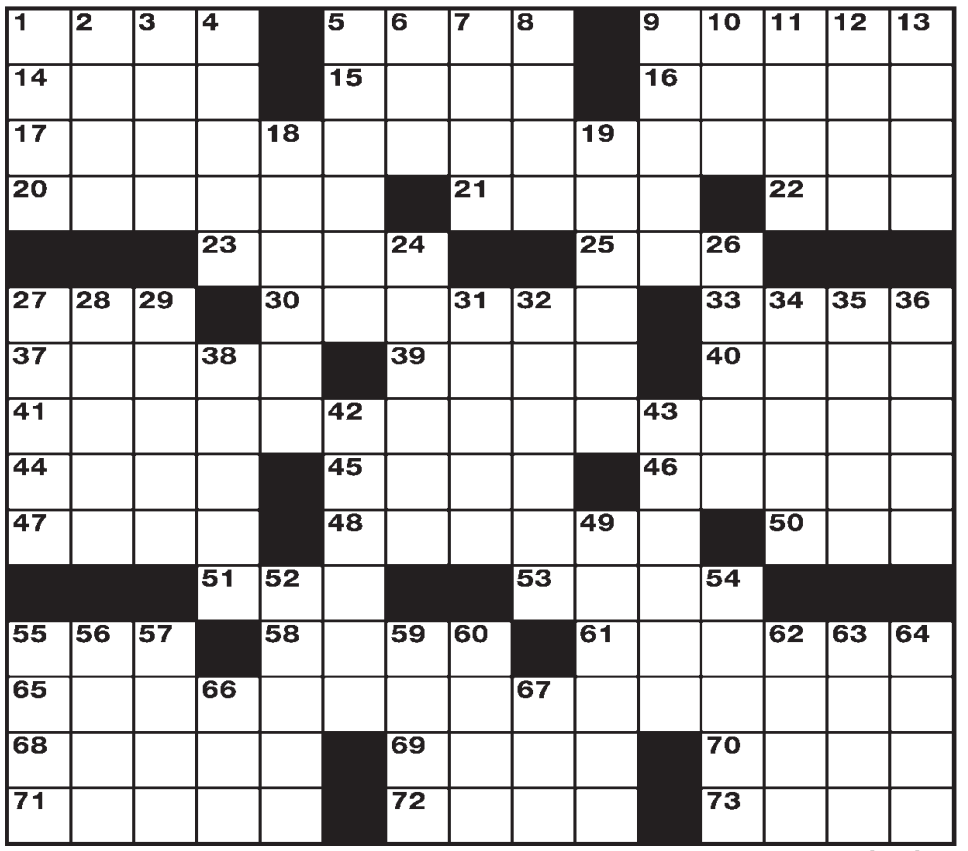
8	1	3		9		2		
9					2		3	
	7			3				
3	2					7		
			9		5			
		7					6	1
				8			4	
	9		7					3
		4		5		8	7	9

Newsday Crossword

COMPOTE by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 June honorees
5 Ear part
9 The States, for short
14 Pennsylvania port
15 Wyatt of the Wild West
16 Cruise ship
17 Major Atlanta thoroughfare
20 Puts into a scrapbook, perhaps
21 Letter starter
22 Cunning
23 Sound of relief
25 Syrup source
27 Bit of butter
30 "Appears" to the ears
33 Leave out
37 Choose, as a candidate
39 Colt's mother
40 Source of ruin
41 Rich vocalization
44 Factual
45 All over again
46 Bring to bear
47 Internet address opener
48 Get back to a task
50 Pen for porkers
51 Smidgen
53 Portions of butter
55 Charged atom
58 Problem-solving aid
61 Halloween costumes made from sheets
65 Seafood in a shell
68 Come next
69 To be, to Marie
70 Green Hornet's aide
71 Pampers, with "on"
72 Four-hand piano piece
73 Male deer

DOWN
1 *Pirates of the Caribbean* series star
2 Sector
3 José's days
4 Religious offshoot groups
5 "C'mon already!"
6 Low-tech propeller
7 Raised, as cattle
8 Sporting blade
9 Prefix meaning "beyond"
10 British knight's title
11 Small bills
12 Know somehow
13 Overly stylish
18 Bank robberies, informally
19 Talked fresh to
24 Sympathetic
26 Part of many business addrs.
27 Distance below the surface
28 Wide awake
29 Lulu
31 What shirt collars cover
32 Drafted, as a contract
34 Horses' hair
35 Not moving
36 Peevish
38 Moved like a tot
42 __ ever (rarely)
43 Get new molars
49 Fridge message holder
52 Lots of land
54 Woolen footwear
55 Chilled with cubes
56 "Horrors!"
57 Cozy retreat
59 Took off the shelf
60 Shakespearean rebuke
62 Venetian-blind part
63 "Bye now!"
64 Urban air pollution
66 Feel bad about
67 Extraction from a mine



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

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.

SMC ART SALE
Santa Monica College's 43rd Annual Holiday Student Art Sale, featuring a wide range of creative works in various media, will be a three-day event again this year. The sale will be held Friday, Dec. 17, through Sunday, Dec. 19. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Santa Monica Performing Arts Center 1310 11th Street

SATURDAY | DEC 18

THE ORIGINAL SANTA MONICA PUB CRAWL
11 p.m. $20. Dust off those antlers and Santa hats, shine up those menorahs and get ready for the 12th Annual SANTA Monica Pub Crawl. Dozens of the city's best bars and restaurants are coming together to raise funds for the Westside Food Bank while celebrating the holiday season together. https://santamonicapubcrawl.com/

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

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Space

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

Achievement	Flare	Mars	Return
Apogee	Gases	Mass	Risks
Atom	Heat	Matter	Satellite
Azimuth	Heliosphere	Mercury	Star
Beam	Ice giant	Moon	Step
Comet	Jansky	NASA	Suns
Crash	Lagrange points	Nova	Time
Cycle	Landing	Orbit	Travel
Data	Lens	Ozone	Venus
Dust	Maps	Poles	Walk
Earth		Radio	Wonder

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
We are surrounded by them

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

CRUDO

FROM PAGE 1

2020 chance run in of two Santa Monicans — Brian Bornemann, the Executive Chef at the then shuttered Michael's, and Leena Culhane, a musician, artist and bartender.

With the world on pause, the pair both faced an uncertain job market and felt a desperate yearning to do something. When outdoor dining reopened in the summer, they spotted an unusual area of opportunity. As bars needed a food partner in order to do business, Bornemann and Culhane began pitching up with an ice box, cutting boards, and some of the freshest local fish available to serve the dish that remains the centerpiece of the restaurant: crudo.

However the duo doesn't only plate a classic hamachi or salmon crudo, they have also brought this style to a range of local fishes like vermillion snapper or halibut that rarely get this elevated treatment. This idea was born from their dedication to supporting local fishermen and only serving sustainably sourced, high-quality fish. Luckily, it has also been a big success and after many popular pop-ups, they sought out their Main Street brick and mortar location.

"We didn't really know how much the crudos would take off, but fortunately it's been our top seller...now we have people who come in and they're bummed when we're out of rock fish or bummed when we're out of abalone, and that was stuff that even just months ago we had to convince people (to order)," said Bornemann.

The restaurant has decided to make its mark as true purveyor of local fish, which is a rarity in Los Angeles and something that has long been a dream of Bornemann.

"Haven grown up here in LA, like on the PCH, I was always just wondering why we had to bring fish from the East Coast, or Alaska, or New Zealand and why we didn't have any kind of common culture around eating fishes from California and Baja and this area," said Bornemann.

Part of the answer, according to Bornemann, comes from the high price point associated with West Coast seafood. He said that when all the other expenses of a restaurant are taken into account, food costs often get pushed to the bottom resulting in the sourcing of cheaper East Coast or foreign fish.

The Crudo e Nudo team has been able to surmount this barrier by making local fish the centerpiece of their restaurant and paring down everything else, with a small menu, a small dining area, and a small team.

"That's why we chose such a small footprint, so that we could really keep that quality very high. I think that's what resonates with people so much," said Bornemann. "It's very rare to have something maintain that higher quality."

They have also been able to rely on the support of the Westside community, where many residents are wealthy enough to afford Crudo e Nudo's fish and prioritize high-quality sustainably produced food.

"I think a big part of what we do is able to be successful because of the privilege that we do have here on the Westside," said Culhane. "For me and Brian, we are also very interested in creating a place where it actually is more approachable for other people."

In order to support this goal, the team launched a $15 weekday lunch special comprised of menu favorites such as the tuna tartare toast on a seeded gjusta loaf with onion confit, shrimp stock and black sesame; and the vegan Caesar salad with kombu, croutons, furikake and avocado.

Ever grateful of the support they received from hosting businesses when Crudo e Nudo was a pop-up, the restaurant continues to collaborate with other small companies.

For example, the female owned fishing company Get Hooked offers fish pick-up at Crudo, while the Echo Park based business Little Fish hosts pop-up dinners there every Tuesday. The coffee shop program called Lenny's that Culhane runs out of Crudo e Nudo in the morning serves treats from Gjusta and small batch coffee from Long Beach roastery Blacklight Coffee, while 50 percent of profits go to local nonprofits.

"It has that collaborative like rising tide floats all boats point of view," said Culhane. "We really don't feel like anybody else being credited with a good thing is ever detracting from what we do."

They also feature several small and sustainable businesses in their natural wine store and marketplace. While the restaurant aspect of Crudo e Nudo is already well known around town, Bornemann and Culhane are encouraging more people to stop by to purchase fresh seafood, canned seafood, wines and pantry items.



Clara Harter

FISH: Fresh fish options define the menu.

To that end they have launched a monthly wine club and tin club, offering a rotating selection of natural, organic or biodynamic wines and of tinned seafood with housemade pickles, preserves and supporting accouterments.

While the business is still very young it has already gained wide recognition and several awards, including being listed as one of 15 restaurants on The Infatuation's "LA's Best New Restaurants of 2021."

"Brian and I really see those accolades as wonderful things that make us feel seen, but also as just the icing on top," said Culhane. "The cupcake is what we do every day and... we feel very grateful for all of the support that we've gotten."

Clara@smdp.com

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 6

toyed with. But never defeated, in the face of demagoguery. Coach Jim Valvano said it, in the midst of a bruising cancer fight he could not win: "Don't give up, don 't ever give up."

I'm not giving up. I'm just getting started.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com




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