smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY
12.16.21
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Council reforms commissions with consolidations and civility policy

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's 24 different commissions, committees, and boards can create a bit of a civics soup, which is part of why Councilmembers voted on a series of reforms for these bodies.

Following motions passed in a Dec. 14 City Council meeting, three commissions will be consolidated into one, staff will research more cost-effective ways to support boards and commissions and a new civility policy and training process will be developed.

Councilmembers also voted to have staff write a resolution to enact several reforms previously approved by Council. These include reducing the Urban Forest Task Force from nine to seven members, reducing the Arts Commission from eleven to nine members, and establishing Councilmember liaisons to support the work of boards and commissions.

Both the old and new recommendations came out of a City Council ad hoc committee, composed of Councilmembers Gleam Davis, Kristin McCowan and Phil Brock, who have met repeatedly since spring 2021 to study ways to improve boards and commissions.

The biggest new change coming out of the meeting is the decision to consolidate the Social Services Commission, Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on the Senior Community.

While Councilmembers noted that there may be collaborative benefits from these commissioners working together on human services related issues, the key motivation was the budget challenges of assigning staff to support these groups.

Councilmemembers did, however, reject a recommendation to also combine the Disabilities Commission into this new body.

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 11

Los Angeles schools delay student COVID-19 vaccine mandate

JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

The Los Angeles school district, which was among the first to announce mandatory COVID-19 vaccines for students, has become the latest in California to delay a plan that would have forced thousands of unvaccinated students to return to distance learning.

The board of the Los Angeles Unified School District voted Tuesday night to postpone a Jan. 10 deadline for students 12 and older to be vaccinated to attend classes on campus, moving the deadline to the fall of 2022.

So far, 87% of Los Angeles Unified students in that age group have shown proof of vaccination or qualified for a medical exemption, which interim Superintendent Megan K. Reilly called "a major milestone."

But enforcing the January deadline would have disrupted the education of too many students, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, officials said. It would have barred about 27,000 unvaccinated students from campuses and overwhelmed the district's independent study program, which was already

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11

Rain flushes debris and bacteria to the beach



Andrew McNab

RAIN: This week's wet weather was needed but still brought pollution to local shores.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Everyone's heard the advice: "Stay out of the water for a few days after it rains."

From trash to oil to pet poop, the water off the coast of Santa Monica is swirling with bacterial, chemical and solid pollutants thanks to Tuesday's rainstorm. Elevated levels of dangerous (and gross) bacteria like e.coli and Enterococcus can be tracked in coastal water for around 72 hours following any amount of rain, but even more so during an early-season deluge like the 1.56 inches that came down in Santa Monica this week.

While bacteria and trash are generally flushed out into deeper water after three days, some other pollutants, such as heavy metals and pesticides, tend to sink to the seafloor and remain in sediment for "a long period of time," Heal the Bay water quality scientist Luke Ginger said.

"A lot of these contaminants just stay there, unfortunately," Ginger described. But whereas bacteria pose immediate health threats, for metals and pesticides "it takes more chronic, long-term exposure in certain concentrations in order to become sick." Still, giving more time for them to settle also helps protect you from exposure.

Ginger cautioned would-be beachgoers to consider skipping the visit this weekend or showering immediately after swimming.

Though all of coastal California deals with pollutant runoff during rain storms, Santa Monica's storm drains have become notorious for delivering much of the county's debris onto local beaches, particularly the Pico-Kenter Storm Drain.

"The first few big rainstorms, we call them 'first flush' events because they tend to wash pollutants that have built up over the dry season," Ginger said. "They wash all those pollutants out in the ocean. All the pollutants that have accumulated over the summer get washed out in those first few storms. So, water quality in the ocean is actually a lot worse during the first few storm events than one you might get in February or March."

The storm drain systems you can see gushing water out onto the beach during rain events are tied to the grates you'll find on most street corners across Los Angeles and Santa Monica, Ginger described. The grates collect rainwater (as well as motor oil and organic and inorganic debris) throughout Los Angeles County, stretching like branches of a massive, 2,700-square-mile tree that culminate in one of the many storm drains dotted along the coast.

SEE **WATER** PAGE 6

NICK THE GREEK
SOUVLAKI & GYRO HOUSE
@NICKTHEGREEK

AUTHENTIC GREEK STREET FOOD



219 Arizona Ave Corner of 3rd Street Promenade Santa Monica, CA 90401

Southern California Locations
Santa Monica
Westwood UCLA
Westlake/Thousand oaks
Woodland Hills
Ventura
Newport Beach
Fullerton
San Diego
www.nickthegreek.com

Colleges go back to drawing board – again – to fight COVID

COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

Facing rising infections and a new COVID-19 variant, colleges across the U.S. have once again been thwarted in seeking a move to normalcy and are starting to require booster shots, extend mask mandates, limit social gatherings and, in some cases, revert to online classes.

The threat of the omicron variant comes as a gut punch to schools that were hoping to relax safety measures this spring. Now, many are telling students to prepare for another term of masking, testing and, if cases get bad, limits around social life.

Cornell University abruptly shut down all campus activities on Tuesday and moved final exams online after more than 700 students tested positive over three days. In a campus message, President Martha Pollack said there was evidence of the omicron variant in a "significant" number of samples.

"It is obviously extremely dispiriting to have to take these steps," Pollack wrote. "However, since the start of the pandemic, our commitment has been to follow the science and do all we can to protect the health of our faculty, staff and students.

Hours later, Princeton University moved its exams online and urged students to leave campus "at their earliest convenience" amid a rise in cases. On Wednesday, New York University canceled all non-academic events and encouraged professors to move finals online.

Cornell, Princeton and NYU all report student vaccination rates of more than 98%.

After a fall with few coronavirus cases, officials at Syracuse University were "feeling pretty good" about the spring term, said Kent Syverud, the upstate New York school's chancellor.

"But omicron has changed that," Syverud said. "It has made us go back and say, until we know more about this variant for sure, we're going to have to reinstate some precautions."

Last week, Syracuse announced that all eligible students and employees must get COVID-19 booster shots before the spring term. Students will also face a round of virus tests when they return, and officials are weighing whether to extend an existing mask mandate.

Much is still unknown about the omicron variant and how big of a threat it poses. In the United States and many other nations, the delta variant is currently responsible for most COVID-19 cases.

But as colleges brace for the worst, many see boosters as their best hope. More than 30 colleges have issued booster shot requirements in recent weeks, and others say they're thinking about it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is encouraging boosters for people ages 17 and older, and Pfizer last week announced that a booster of its COVID-19 vaccine might offer important protection against omicron even though the initial two doses appear less effective.

Hundreds of colleges already require COVID-19 vaccines, and some say boosters are an obvious next step.

Most booster mandates so far have come from small liberal arts colleges in the Northeast, but the list includes some as big as Boston University and NYU, and as far away as the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and the University of New Mexico.

The University of Massachusetts in Amherst was among the first to require the booster for students, saying all students must get shots unless they have medical or religious exemptions.

"The boosters are our best protection," said Jeffrey Hescock, co-director of the university's Public Health Promotion Center. "This demonstrates that we take public health seriously, and our students do too."

A recent online petition arguing against the booster mandate — citing 97% of students vaccinated and few on-campus cases — has attracted a few dozen signatures. But Emily O'Brien, a freshman at UMass, said the booster shot is a reasonable demand. She was already planning on getting a booster but said the mandate will probably increase uptake among students and prevent future lockdowns.

"If the past six months have shown anything, it's that lots of people won't bother to get vaccines — especially younger healthy people — if they don't have a requirement to," said O'Brien, 18, of Bedford, New Hampshire.

UMass will also require masks at the start of spring term, and it's sending students home with a rapid test to be taken near the end of winter break.

Many colleges are planning for potential disruption next semester even as they contend with outbreaks now.

Middlebury College in Vermont switched to remote instruction last week amid a surge in cases and urged students to leave early for winter break. Rising cases at the University of Pennsylvania led to a ban on indoor social events last Thursday.

On Friday, Tulane University in New Orleans warned that a campus spike includes probable cases of the omicron variant, confirmed in at least one student last week. In response, school officials reinstated a mask mandate and expanded virus testing.

Some other schools are already postponing the return to campus next month to avoid outbreaks. Southern New Hampshire University and DePaul University in Chicago recently said students will take classes remotely for two weeks before returning to campus after the holidays.

In a letter to students, DePaul's president, A. Gabriel Esteban, said the school will "cautiously start winter quarter so we can sustain a robust college experience the remainder of the academic year."

When students at Stanford University return to campus in January, they will be barred from holding parties or other big gatherings for two weeks. They'll also be tested once a week and continue to wear masks indoors as requirements to attend in-person classes. The measures aim to limit virus transmission without going too far in limiting the college experience, said Russell Furr, associate vice provost for environmental health and safety.

"This is something we've grappled with

SEE **COLLEGE** PAGE 4

Letter to the Editor

Larry Arreola
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Softball needs a field

Santa Monica High School Softball and Baseball share the same field on campus. An unfair and unsafe situation. How did this happen? The following is a brief history of how this came about.

In the late 1980's until circa 2005, the Softball Team played at Memorial Park Little League Field, being non-compliant with the 1972 Title 9 Law. The law states; No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Although most institutions are not in compliance with Title 9, no institution has actually lost any federal money. Schools have, however, had to pay substantial damages and attorney fees in cases brought to court.

Title 9 says that athletic program components mandate equal treatment in the provisions of coaching, equipment, game and practice times, practice and competitive facilities, travel and per diem allowances, and tutoring opportunities.

In 2005 a new softball field was built on 7th and Michigan on a student parking lot. In 2010 the field was demolished to make room for the new three-story Innovation Building. At that time, the plan and promise was to build a new 4-million dollar softball field north of the old Technical Building on another existing parking lot. This plan was never intended to be executed, nor the promise intended to be kept. The softball team played at Memorial Park for the next six years while waiting for the field to be built. In 2014 the school district officials decided that "to build the field would be an inefficient use of taxpayers money" and plans for the field were halted.

To become compliant with Title 9, the School District decided to put a softball field in the center field of the baseball field. In 2016 the field was reconfigured and redone and the field was ready for use in 2017. As one player on the 2017 softball team said "I'm excited we are finally getting our own field, but it's kind of a bummer that we have to share one when we waited for years for our own."

The field's drainage system wasn't done correctly and when it rains, the softball infield becomes a pond. Practicing on the field is unsafe as baseball players can hit into the softball field.

The field at Memorial Park is a well maintained city field with fences, dugouts, scoreboard, parking and stands for fans. The only problem was that players and coaches had to arrange for rides or walk from Samohi (around 11 blocks). Samohi student attendance at weekly games was meager, especially for softball teams that were perennial league champions.

Both parents and players don't like sharing a field, but the alternative because of Title 9 is problematic. The Samohi Baseball Team has played on that field (Sealy Field named after a former Samohi Baseball Coach) for decades. Through fundraising it has built a coaches office/storage building, batting cages and a scoreboard. It would be sad if the baseball team had to play off campus. It is also difficult to have the softball team have to play off campus after waiting so long for their own field. Obviously the School District has broken promises and messed this up. There are no easy answers, but the existing situation isn't fair or safe.

Where there is a will there is a way but there doesn't seem to be a will at the School District to write this wrong.

Larry Arreola is a Santa Monica resident.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Three Companies Face Charges of Negligent Conduct During Offshore Oil Leak that Coastline

A federal grand jury today accused three companies with illegally discharging oil during a pipeline break in early October by acting negligently in at least six ways, including failing to properly respond to eight separate leak alarms over the span of more than 13 hours and improperly restarting the pipeline that had been shut down following the leak alarms.

An indictment filed this afternoon charges the companies that own and operate the 17-mile-long San Pedro Bay Pipeline with one misdemeanor count of negligent discharge of oil. The charged defendants are Amplify Energy Corp.; Beta Operating Co. LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of Amplify doing business as Beta Offshore); and San Pedro Bay Pipeline Co. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Amplify).

The pipeline, which was used to transfer crude oil from several offshore facilities to a processing plant in Long Beach, began leaking on the afternoon of October 1, but the defendants allegedly continued to operate the damaged pipeline, on and off, until the next morning. As a result of the allegedly negligent conduct, what is estimated to be about 25,000 gallons of crude oil were discharged from a point approximately 4.7 miles west of Huntington Beach from a crack in the 16-inch pipeline.

The indictment alleges that the defendants acted negligently by:

Failing to properly respond to eight alarms from an automated leak detection system that were activated between 4:10 p.m. on October 1 until the final alarm at 5:28 a.m. the following day;

Shutting down and then restarting the pipeline five times after the first five alarms were triggered on October 1, resulting in oil flowing through the damaged pipeline for a cumulative period of more than three hours;

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 11

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 281 CALLS ON DECEMBER 14

Strongarm Robbery Now 4th St / Pico Blvd 12:02 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.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:52 a.m.
Overdose 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:49 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200Blk Broadway 5:52 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 6:05 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 800Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:03 a.m.
Grand Theft Now 400Blk Alta Ave 7:48 a.m.
Encampment 1200Blk 12th St 8:00 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Princeton St / Washington Ave 8:24 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.
Red Zone Violation 1700Blk Appian Way 9:44 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400Blk Ocean Ave 9:49 a.m.
Burglary Report 2300Blk Schader Dr 10:02 a.m.
Lost Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 10:11 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 900Blk 21st St 10:14 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.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1000Blk Montana Ave 3:31 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 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.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk Montana Ave 9:17 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 1200Blk Grant St 9:19 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 47 CALLS ON DECEMBER 14

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.

CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 2:28 A.M.

Officers responded to Seven-Eleven on the 600 block of Wilshire regarding a subject who had broken the front window. Officers spotted a subject matching the description in the comments of the radio call waking northbound on 5th St and subsequently detained him. The Officers spoke to a sales associate at the location and learned that the individual had attempted to enter the store via the locked front doors and shortly after the window was smashed. The employee walked out and saw the subject next to the window. Nathan John Surakus was arrested for Vandalism.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Plumbing Contractors to complete and submit statements of qualification for the:

Glass and Glazing Contractor Services Pre-Qualification List
SP2657

Statements of Qualifications shall be submitted via ProcureNow, not later than **3:00PM on January 31, 2022.**

Request for Qualification documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have a **Class C-17** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Statements containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Qualifications.

Another storm heading into already drenched California

JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press

Another storm pushed into California on Wednesday as the state cleaned up from a powerful weather system that coated mountains with much-needed snow and set rainfall records in the drought-stricken state.

The new storm was expected to impact Northern California with widespread rain, gusty winds and snowfall in coastal mountains and the Sierra Nevada, where the snowpack normally supplies about 30% of the state's water needs.

The latest tempest followed on the heels of a multiday atmospheric river — a long plume of moisture from the Pacific Ocean that delivered remarkable rainfall, including more than 11 inches (28 centimeters) over 72 hours at Mount Tamalpais, north of San Francisco.

By Tuesday afternoon, 8.1 inches (20 centimeters) of rain had fallen in one area of the central coast's Santa Barbara County. Downtown Los Angeles got 2.16 inches (5.4 centimeters), more than doubling the date's old record set in 1888.

More than 4.6 inches (11.8 centimeters) fell within 24 hours in Orange County's Silverado Canyon, south of LA, where sheriff's deputies rescued residents after mud inundated homes in the area scarred by wildfires. No injuries were reported.

Firefighters searched the surging Los Angeles River on Tuesday after discovering two submerged vehicles wedged against a bridge pillar south of downtown LA and learning that a third vehicle had been swept past the bridge. No victims, if any, were immediately located and firefighters were waiting for the water level to fall.

"The circumstances surrounding these three separate vehicles and their journey down the LA River remain unclear," a Fire Department statement said.

Earlier, a man was rescued after being swept into a covered stream channel in the San Fernando Valley. The man called for help on his cellphone and firefighters reached him through a maintenance hole on the street above. He suffered bruises and hypothermia, fire officials said.

The storm prompted officials to shut down a 40-mile (64-kilometer) stretch of the iconic Highway 1 in the Big Sur area to repair damage and clean up rocks in lanes. The coastal route south of the San Francisco Bay Area got more than a foot (30 centimeters) of rain in 24 hours. It frequently experiences damage during wet weather.

The storm began over the weekend in Northern California and brought heavy precipitation as far inland as Nevada, where more than 6 feet (1.8 meters) of snow fell at the Mt. Rose ski resort just southwest of Reno. Avalanche warnings were in effect in the Mono and Inyo county areas of California's eastern Sierra.

Residents near the Alisal Fire burn scar in Santa Barbara County were ordered to evacuate over concerns that heavy rains might cause flooding and debris flows. The order was lifted Tuesday afternoon.

Similar orders were issued for people living near burn scars in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles, where rockslides were reported. A mountain route into the resort town of Big Bear was closed until Wednesday morning while crews cleared several feet of mud and debris.

It was too soon to know how much of a dent the rain would make in the state's drought. The system built on the progress of a massive rain storm in October, particularly in Northern California, said Michael Anderson,

SEE **RAIN** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

Partnerships with Community Based Organizations is Key to Addressing Vaccine Equity Issues

As cases of COVID-19 continue to rise, efforts to improve vaccine equity across the county's most diverse communities remain a top priority for Public Health and community organizations across the county. Community organizations have employed hundreds of health educators and health workers to provide residents in hard hit communities with resources and information. As of December 14th, these efforts have resulted in more than 350,000 outreach activities, including support for 2,000 in-person vaccination events and 11,000 virtual COVID educational sessions. Combined, these efforts have reached more than 2.3 million residents to date.

Over four hundred local faith-based organizations have also been critical partners, reaching out to their congregants and neighbors to sponsor more than 813 mobile vaccination clinics throughout the county, including mobile clinics at churches, mosques, and temples. To date, nearly 53,000 doses of vaccines have been administered at faith-based clinics, and an estimated 50,000 additional doses are expected to be administered at these clinics through early 2022.

There are unique initiatives, including the TRAP Medicine's barbershop outreach in South L.A, that are tailored to provide information to younger Black and Latinx men, many who are not yet vaccinated. These partnerships and various other strategies have enabled in-person engagement with nearly 45,000 men in South L.A. since November 1 of this year. Countywide, these targeted efforts have reached 300,000 men either virtually or in person over the last few months.

"Longstanding inequities in access to health affirming opportunities have played an important role in contributing to the higher case, hospitalization and death rates experienced by Black and Latinx communities over the course of the pandemic," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "To overcome these inequities, we need to work to address multiple challenges in the equitable distribution of the very resources we each need to be healthy: clean air and water, healthy foods, safe parks, affordable housing, good jobs, and quality healthcare. This is the work that we will need to do if we are serious about building trust with residents and workers across our communities. Our partnerships with community organizations have taught us the importance of strengthening relationships and aligning resources with those who have often been marginalized and left behind."

Public Health confirmed 18 additional deaths and 1,850 new cases of COVID-19. Of the 18 new deaths reported, three people who died were between the ages of 30 and 49, five were between the ages of 50 and 64, four were between the ages of 65-79 and six were over the age of 80 years old. Of the 18 newly reported deaths, 14 had underlying conditions. To date, the total number of deaths in L.A. County is 27,369.

Public Health has identified a total 1,551,117 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County. Today's positivity rate is 1.2%.

There are 751 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized. Testing results are available for more than 9,628,444 individuals, with 15% of people testing positive.

Public Health would like to remind residents that getting vaccinated or boosted remains critical as holiday traveling and gatherings begin.

Additionally, all residents across LA County should continue:

Getting tested to help reduce the spread, especially if you traveled for the holidays, have had a possible exposure, or have symptoms

Adhering to masking requirements when indoors or at large outdoor mega events, regardless of vaccination status

Residents are also reminded that they are legally required to be isolated if they have a positive COVID test result and that vaccinated close contacts with symptoms and unvaccinated close contacts need to be quarantined.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and are recommended for everyone 5 years old and older to help protect against COVID-19. Vaccinations are always free and open to eligible residents and workers regardless of immigration status. Appointments are not needed at all Public Health vaccination sites and many community sites where first, second, and third doses are available.

To find a vaccination site near you, or to make an appointment, please visit:
www.VaccinateLACounty.com (English) or www.VacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish).

As of Dec. 15, Santa Monica had reported a total of 7,329 cases. '

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH

COLLEGE

FROM PAGE 2

throughout the pandemic — how do we get a balanced approach?" Furr said. The goal is to avoid the strict lockdowns seen early in the pandemic, when student mental health "really suffered," he added.

At some colleges, there's still cautious hope for a normal semester. Leaders at the University of Central Florida told professors they can require in-person attendance in the spring, which had been discouraged this fall amid a surge in delta cases.

In a campus message, interim provost Michael D. Johnson warned that if the omicron variant takes off, "we may need to change direction yet again."

Another concern is omicron's timing — even without a new variant, there were worries of more outbreaks as colder weather drives people indoors, said Anita Barkin, co-chair of a COVID-19 task force for the American College Health Association.

The association recently recommended that colleges focus on increasing vaccination rates to avoid a new wave of cases.

"The message in all of it is, we need to remain vigilant," Barkin said. "There is certainly pandemic fatigue and people are tired of the pandemic — but it appears that the pandemic is not quite tired of us."

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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WINNER

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US faces a double coronavirus surge as omicron advances

LAURA UNGAR AND CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

The new omicron coronavirus mutant speeding around the world may bring another wave of chaos, threatening to further stretch hospital workers already struggling with a surge of delta cases and upend holiday plans for the second year in a row.

The White House on Wednesday insisted there is no need for a lockdown because vaccines are widely available and appear to offer protection against the worst consequences of the virus. But even if omicron proves milder on the whole than delta, it may disarm some of the life-saving tools available and put immune-compromised and elderly people at particular risk as it begins a rapid assault on the United States.

"Our delta surge is ongoing and, in fact, accelerating. And on top of that, we're going to add an omicron surge," said Dr. Jacob Lemieux, who monitors variants for a research collaboration led by Harvard Medical School.

"That's alarming, because our hospitals are already filling up. Staff are fatigued," leaving limited capacity for a potential crush of COVID-19 cases "from an omicron wave superimposed on a delta surge."

Most likely, he and other experts said at a press briefing Tuesday, an omicron surge is already under way in the United States, with the latest mutant coronavirus outpacing the nation's ability to track it.

Based on specimens collected last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said omicron accounted for about 3% of genetically-sequenced coronaviruses nationally. Percentages vary by region, with the highest – 13% – in the New York/New Jersey area.

But Harvard experts said these are likely underestimates because omicron is moving so fast that surveillance attempts can't keep up.

Globally, more than 75 countries have reported confirmed cases of omicron. In the United States, 36 states have detected the variant. Meanwhile, delta is surging in many places, with hot spots in New England and the upper Midwest. The five states with the highest two-week rolling average of cases per 100,000 people are New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Michigan, Minnesota and Vermont.

Universities are abruptly closing classrooms during finals week with infections multiplying at a fast rate. The NBA is postponing games and the NFL had its worst two-day outbreak since the start of the pandemic, with dozens of players infected.

Outside the U.S., the president of the European Union said omicron will become the dominant variant in a month and declared that "once again, this Christmas will be overshadowed by the pandemic."

Scientists around the world are racing to understand omicron, which has a large number of worrisome mutations in important regions of its genetic structure that could affect how well it spreads from person to person. How quickly the number of cases doubles, known as "doubling time," can give a preview of what the disease burden could be in a few weeks.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said Wednesday that early data suggests omicron is more transmissible than delta, with a doubling time of about two days.

In Britain, where omicron cases are doubling every two to three days, the variant is expected to soon replace delta as the dominant strain in the country.

"The data out of the UK are quite alarming at this point," and foreshadow what's to come in the United States, said Bronwyn MacInnis, director of pathogen genomic surveillance at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. For example, she said, by Tuesday afternoon, omicron was already the most common variant in London.

In many ways, omicron remains a mystery. Hints are emerging from South Africa, where it was first reported, indicating it may cause less severe disease than delta but be better at evading vaccines.

But, MacInnis warned: "There's much more that we don't know about this variant than we do, including the severity."

At the same time, Lemieux said, there seem to be fewer tools to fight it. Some monoclonal antibody treatments don't work as well against omicron in lab tests, Lemieux said. Vaccines appear to offer less protection, although CDC officials said booster shots strengthen that protection.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said Wednesday there is no need, for now, for an omicron-specific booster shot. The two-dose mRNA vaccines, the Pfizer and Moderna shots, still appear to offer considerable protection against hospitalization from omicron, Fauci said.

"If we didn't have these tools, I would be telling you to really, really be worried," Fauci said.

Jeff Zients, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, said the U.S. has the tools to fight the virus, including omicron, and "there is no need to lock down." With vaccines available now for 95% of Americans, "we know how to keep our kids in schools and our businesses open. And we're not going to shut down."

Health officials called on Americans to get vaccinated, get their booster shots, wear masks indoors and get tested before traveling and before holiday gatherings.

"Hospital capacity is already at a breaking point in many states because of severe cases of COVID-19," Michael Fraser, CEO of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, said in a statement.

Given the high level of transmission, MacInnis said there will undoubtedly be severe cases.

"No matter how severely it affects healthy, fully-vaccinated and boosted populations, it will hit the most vulnerable among us the hardest still," she said. "So the elderly, the immunocompromised, other vulnerable populations will still be at greatest risk and still bear the brunt of this."

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

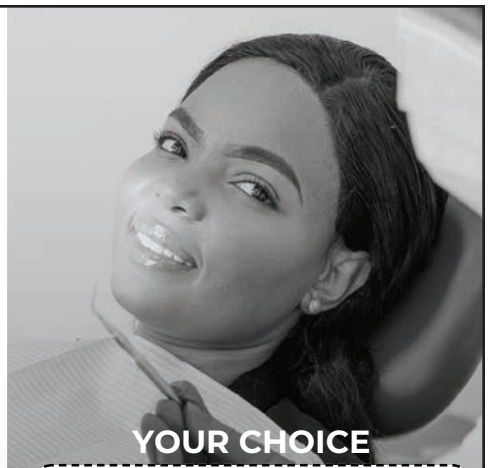
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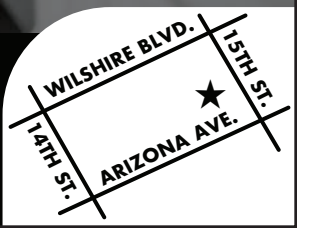
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NYC moves to stop new buildings from using natural gas

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

New York City is poised to bar most new buildings from using natural gas in six years, after lawmakers voted Wednesday to make the nation's most populous city a showcase for a climate-change-fighting policy that has been both embraced and blocked elsewhere.

If Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio signs the measure, as expected, most construction projects submitted for approval after 2027 would have to use something other than gas or oil — such as electricity — for heating, hot water and cooking. Some smaller buildings would have to comply as early as 2024. Hospitals, commercial kitchens and some other facilities would be exempt.

Supporters see the proposal as a substantial and necessary move to combat global warming. Heating, cooling and powering buildings accounts for nearly 70% of emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases.

Although new buildings' stoves and furnaces would use electricity generated partly from burning natural gas and other fossil fuels, backers say the change still would keep millions of tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere over time and would boost momentum ahead of a statewide requirement to use 70% renewable energy by 2030, up from about 30% now.

"We can't keep expanding gas if we have any prayer of hitting the state's climate goals," said Alex Beauchamp of Food & Water Watch, an environmental group.

"This is a huge, huge step forward," he said, calling the legislation "a real game-changer on the national scene."

San Francisco, Seattle and a few dozen other U.S. cities — mainly in California — have moved to end gas hookups for heat, hot water and sometimes cooking in at least some new buildings since Berkeley, California, debuted the idea in 2019. A federal judge rejected a restaurant association's challenge to the Berkeley law, but the group is appealing.

It's too early to gauge the impact of California cities' measures, said Amy Rider of the Building Decarbonization Coalition, which advocates for such laws.

The town of Brookline, Massachusetts, has passed one twice. It was retooled and reapproved this summer after the state attorney general blocked the first version, saying it intruded on state authority. The AG hasn't taken action against the new effort to date.

At the same time, states including Arizona, Oklahoma and Texas have barred cities from enacting such laws, saying that consumers should have their choice of energy sources. In Texas, the effort began before, but gained all the more steam after, a February storm spawned massive power outages that left many households shivering without electricity, heat or drinkable water for days.

In New York, shifts toward electric vehicles, furnaces and appliances are "expected to create long-term upward pressure" on electricity use, according to the New York Independent System Operator, which oversees the state's electricity supply.

The organization said in a recent report that it's still studying how those trends will affect the power system, but it forecasts that electricity demand could start peaking in winter, instead of summer, by about 2040.

The state envisions big increases in wind and solar power, among other approaches to meet its renewable energy targets and growing demand. Some projects are in the works.

Still, some building interests, including a big landlords' lobbying group called the Real Estate Board of New York, raised concerns at a City Council hearing last month about whether banning new natural gas hookups would strain the electrical grid. It already struggles during heat waves in the city, sometimes resulting in sizable neighborhood outages.

REBNY President James Whelan said Wednesday the group gets the importance of moving away from fossil fuels, but "these policies must be implemented in a way that ensures that New Yorkers have reliable, affordable, carbon-free electricity."

Real estate groups also pressed to push back the deadlines for nixing gas, saying that alternative technologies — such as electric heat pumps that transfer heat between indoors and outdoors — need more time to develop, particularly for skyscrapers.

Utilities, meanwhile, said they supported the goal but sounded economic alarms.

"We have real concerns that, as envisioned, these (proposals) may result in increased energy costs for customers," said Bryan Grimaldi, a vice president of National Grid, which provides power in some parts of the city. Con Edison, which serves much of it, called for making provisions to help poorer renters with what it characterized as increased costs of electric heating.

Con Ed said Wednesday that it supports "an orderly energy transition that prioritizes reliability, affordability and economic development," and that its power system is ready for the coming demand.

Environmental groups say electric doesn't necessarily mean more expensive. In fact, they say it's just the opposite in some new, energy-efficient buildings. They also note that natural gas prices fluctuate, having risen notably this year before recently dropping somewhat.

Considering that residents have been told to forgo plastic bags and straws and take other steps to preserve the planet, it's time for legislators to look beyond individual behavior to building emissions, legislation sponsor Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel told her colleagues Wednesday.

The Democrat, who represents an overwhelmingly Black Brooklyn district, said the legislation also aims to fight air pollution, particularly on behalf of communities of color. Researchers have found that non-white people are exposed to more air pollution than whites across the country.

Associated Press writers Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California, and David Klepper in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

Tree Lighting



Eleni Tadross

MAIN STREET: Santa Monica's holiday season is officially in full swing. Tree lightings were held earlier this month including on Main Street.

WATER

FROM PAGE 1

"If you were to start on the beach and walk–you know, tunnel–your way up a storm drain, it would quickly branch out in a bunch of different directions and you couldn't really follow it to one specific place," Ginger described, later adding that, in theory, "let's say you've dumped your coffee out at the Hollywood Sign. That coffee would make its way into the storm drain system and out into the ocean. So, it's all connected throughout the entire LA area."

The Santa Monica-based nonprofit Heal the Bay tracks both wet and dry season beach bacteria levels and publishes information in its annual beach report card. According to Ginger, whose role includes studying pollution levels in ocean- and freshwater, California as a whole is showing slight improvement in its ocean water quality, although numbers fluctuate on a beach-by-beach basis–"The coastline is just so dynamic."

"Unfortunately, we've seen some beaches get worse over time. And we've seen some beaches improve over time," Ginger said. "But, but one thing we can say for sure is that in beaches that improve, we've seen the process of new regulations and restrictions put in place that lead to an improvement in water quality. We've seen that multiple times."

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Noteworthy

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sleighsful of Swingin' Holiday Cheer

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - BILLY GIBBONS Birthday Jam with Robby Kreiger, Joe Bonamassa, others — I have to report they say it is sold out because who worth their rock and roll salt wouldn't stand one more time in front of the beyond-legendary ZZ Top guitar slinger to hear whatever explodes out of his axe, especially now that Dusty Hill has passed over that hill and the Z is no more, so this is for those determined souls who view "sold out!" as a sign to bring cash, cunning, charisma and charm. Good luck. Thurs 9 p.m., Troubadour, W Hollywood, $$$?

LA SANTA CECILIA – Maybe the best band and vocalist you've never heard of. I've not yet seen them live but just listen or watch a video and you will be hooked. The three guys are absolute virtuosos who sound like a much bigger band, and I can't say enough about singer La Marisoul. A voice that can kill any song , she is the perfect one for their mission of LA cultural identity. Most songs are in Spanish – rumbas, boleros, bossa nova, , cumbia, tangos – plus jazz, klezmer, some songs in English, all with a modern sensibility. Just like LA. They knock me out. Fri 8 p.m., The Novo, DTLA, $25.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN LA with Snoop Dogg, Al Green, YG, George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic, 50 Cent, Ice Cube, Isley Brothers, The Game, War and on and on – I've rarely seen a lineup this packed. Amazing. The '90s in LA returns with a vengeance, with lots of modern juice thrown in. Three stages, I think, and you'll have to keep moving for all 12 hours to not miss someone special. Sat 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Banc of CA stadium, Expo Park, DTLA, $160-549.

STEVIE WONDER's 23rd House Full of Toys Benefit Concert – One of the best concerts I ever saw in my life was Stevie Wonder in a small room with a killer band, playing and singing his songs for more than two hours. Just him. What else do you need? There will likely be other stars show up but that's just frosting, Frosty. And such a good cause, for 23 years, toys for kids at Christmas who probably wouldn't get anything but coal otherwise, Stevie is a wonder. Sat 8 p.m., Microsoft Theater, DTLA, $33-155.

EM THE MASTER — I've been giving EM's show a HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for months now and still do. She sings, dances, has dancers. She crawls across the floor like a reptile, gripping the mic and never missing a beat. She doesn't play the piano, she attacks it. Uses her voice as an instrument in creative ways. Her energy is nonstop and seemingly limitless. Writes terrific songs perfect for her act. More talent than anyone has a right to. Every Tues 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, DTSM, $10.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - "HAMILTON" — 'Nuff said. Tonight - Thurs, Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed, next Thurs 8 p.m., Sun 1 p.m., 6:30 p.m., also Sat 2 p.m., Pantages Theater, Hollywood, $49-3000+, depending on date/time.

DON CARLOS – That long white beard, is it Santa? Lovers' rock, roots reggae, he's been doing this nearly 50 years, straight outta Kingston (the posh part, but deep in music territory too), praise Jah the righteous folks at Echo snag these stars for us so often. They won't shine forever. Fri 9 p.m., Vub Club/Echo, $20.

JOSE FELICIANO – I was not much of a fan for many years but I've come to appreciate his unique pop-jazz-Latin style that did break down so many music barriers, and that is always a good thing. He pours out some pretty heavy, swinging energy with just a fiercely strummed guitar and that remarkable voice. At 76 he can still light your fire, and isn't this a perfect time to hear "Feliz Navidad" from the one and only? Fri 8 p.m., The Saban, Beverly Hills, $38-68.

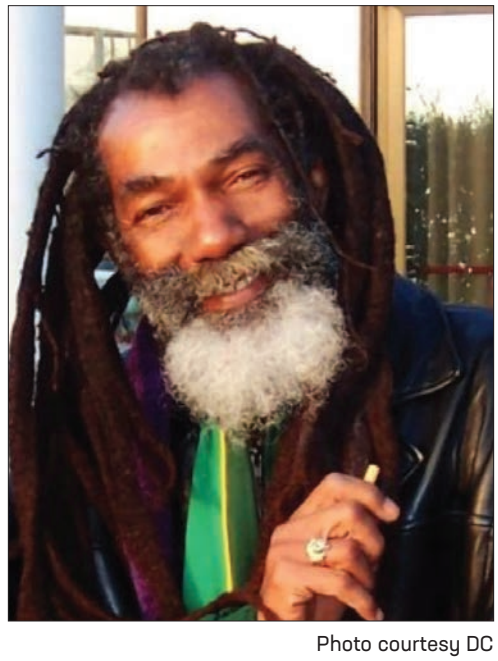


Photo courtesy DC

REGGAE: DON CARLOS

TOLEDO DIAMOND — Have you gone to catch his unique show yet, every Sunday night at Harvelle's, here in SM? I've been recommending him for... decades. Trust me. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, DTM, $12.

ARTURO SANDOVAL BIG BAND: Swinging Holiday – I've been privileged to see Sandoval a few times and he blows you away with being equally proficient on both piano and trumpet (Dizzy Gilespie met him in cuba

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11



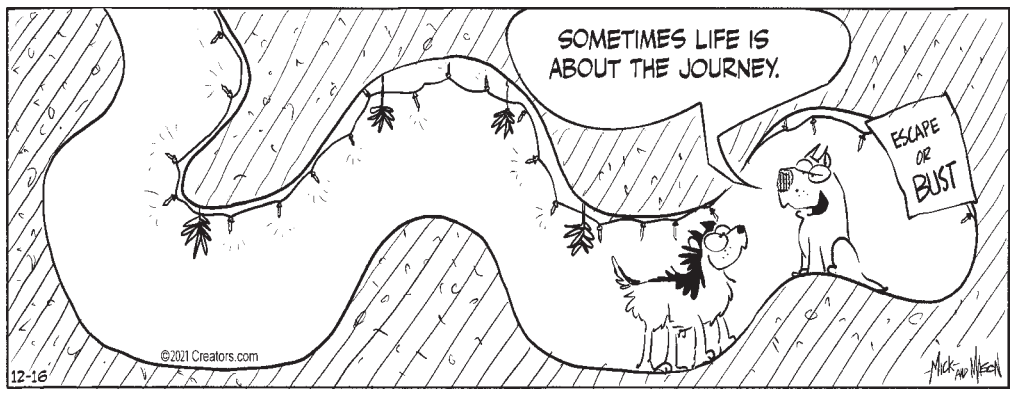
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By TONY COCHRAN



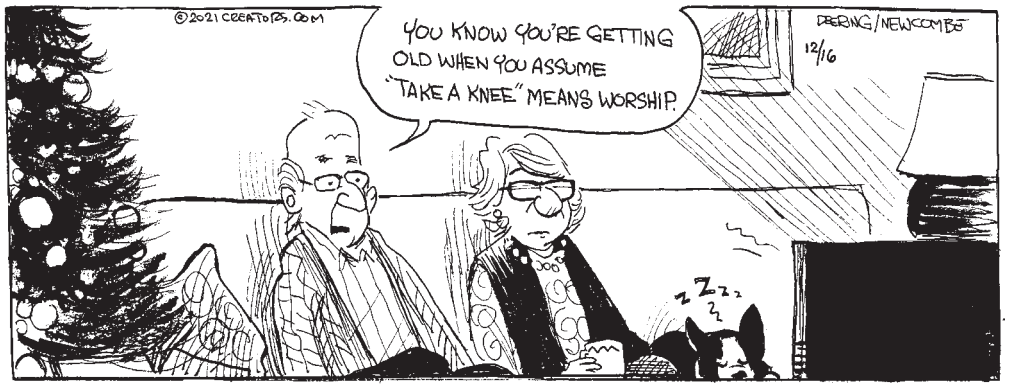
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IS IT TOO LATE TO FLY SOUTH FOR WINTER?"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.1°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Smaller but still 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.

FRIDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Leveling off in size as reinforcing WNW swell shows. Small SSW swell. Early high tide slows down many areas with the size of the swell mix but expect improving size/shape as it drops.

WEATHER

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of rain after 10am. Partly sunny, with a high near 52.
Thursday Night: Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly clear, with a low around 45.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 59. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/12/20	Mon	08:58 AM	5.88	H
2021/12/20	Mon	4:28 PM	-0.55	L
2021/12/20	Mon	11:14 PM	3.44	H
2021/12/21	Tue	03:12 AM	2.59	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/13
10 30 37 53 59
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 333 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/14
33 35 44 55 69
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 160 M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/14
2 8 21 29 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/14
EVENING: 9 4 4
Draw Date: 12/14
MIDDAY: 8 1 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/14
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:48.03

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 16)

You're channeling muses of organization and you've a checklist of things you want to accomplish. You'll hit many, miss a few and along the way stumble into scenarios that make you deeper and more exceptional than any listworthy qualification could. You're a networking genius and relationships will lead to work. Gemini and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 33, 19, 44 and 28.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The new you will sail into the world on a plan. Think far ahead and then work backward to determine the steps it will take to get there. Imagine what you might like to encounter along the way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If the fun event isn't there, invent it. You need something to look forward to. Anticipation of delight makes the whole day go better. Hard tasks get easier; easy ones are quickly completed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No one will give you time for things like self-reflection, hobbies and just decompressing. That's the kind of time you'll have to make, steal or carve out. Once you do, you'll need to protect and honor the appointment.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are some sorts of trouble that squarely fall into a "luxury" category. When you were younger, you looked up to people with such quality problems. There's a strange satisfaction in today's inconvenience.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While it's easier to start something new from scratch than it is to alter an existing relationship, some relationships are worth the extra work. People can change, and when they do, their relationships change too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't let unexpected turns deter you. Think of this as a test. Don't hesitate or wonder. Like a cowboy breaking in a new horse, once thrown you get right back in the saddle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Small gestures and casual talk will teach you who a person is. You're an astute listener and will learn the most through conversations about nothing in particular.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's too awkward to wrestle with what's out of reach, so get closer. What will it take to get in the game? If you need to train longer or harder, this match will be worth the effort.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're no victim. If anything, you're the hero. Head for a change of scenery. A new environment will require you to take on a different role.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's about time you were spoiled rotten. And if there is no one around to do something nice for you, make sure to do something nice for yourself, and others will catch on soon thereafter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Someone is getting increasingly attached to you. If you'd like to change an aspect of the relationship, this is the time to do it while you're still learning each other.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). For the sake of mystery, you don't always tell people your plans or your whereabouts. Also, isn't it privileged information? Let people earn their place on your inside track.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

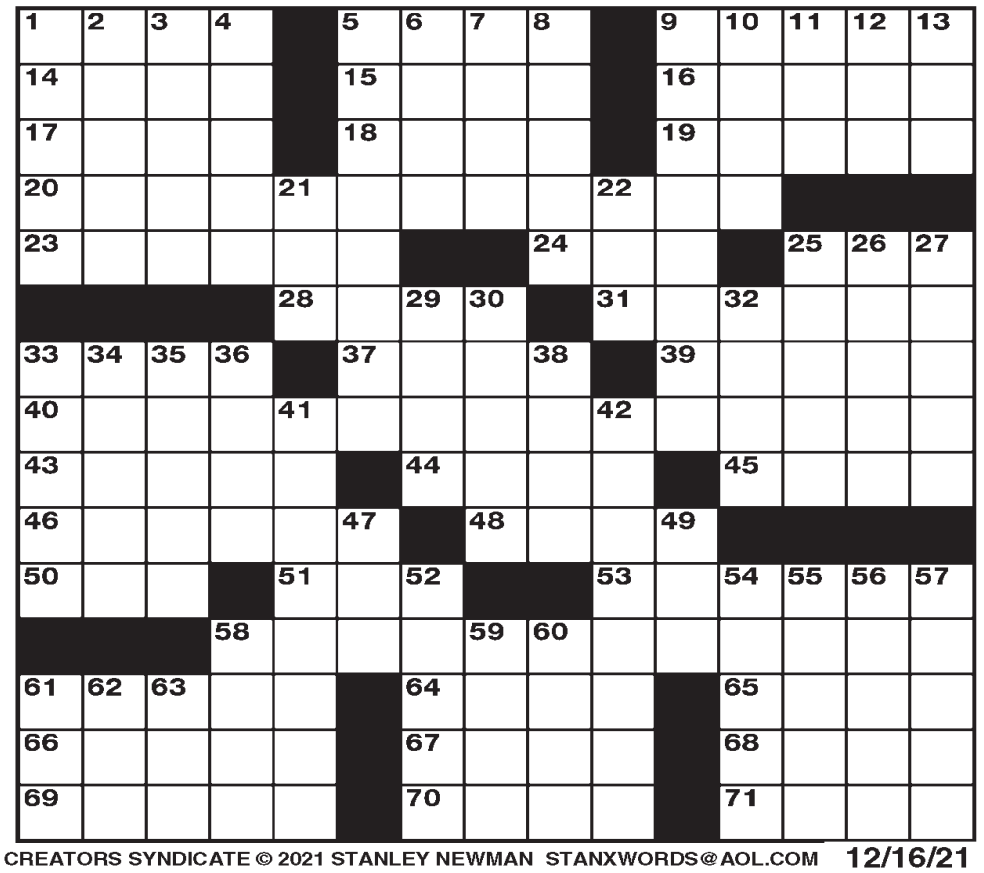
		8				9		3
7		5			9		4	
	9			6			5	
9		1		3	8	7		6
			6	2	1			
8		6	7	9		3		5
	3			7			8	
	8		9			5		1
5		9				4		

Newsday Crossword

CRAFTSMANSHIP by Robert Doll
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Petty quarrel
5 Edifice complex
9 Dot-commerce
14 Llama land
15 *Et* __ (and others: Lat.)
16 It may be humble
17 Hosp. tests
18 Gets the picture
19 Light lunch, perhaps
20 Kitchen device
23 Security system part
24 What "fi" often follows
25 Spring summer, for short
28 Unconventional poet
31 Not too hip
33 Not many
37 One G
39 Kid's transport
40 Symbol of pioneer days
43 Grocery feature
44 Oscar __ Renta
45 "Over here!"
46 Monty Python member
48 "Rats!"
50 Right-angle shape
51 Profs.' helpers
53 Good things to have
58 Historic West Virginia town
61 Captain's superior
64 Some long-term investments
65 Ballgame spoiler
66 Be wild about
67 Lose energy
68 Grp. at Iwo Jima
69 Designer Karan
70 Sleep, symbolically
71 Sticky situation

DOWN
1 Contractor's creation
2 "Orange" drink
3 Noble gas
4 Pachyderm projections
5 Auto with a trident logo
6 First Obi-Wan portrayer
7 In __ of (instead of)
8 Wears well
9 Enter carefully
10 Ski lift device
11 Venerable email provider
12 Mont. neighbor
13 Was first
21 Tiny charged bit
22 Ft. Worth school
25 Some change
26 Prods with a pointer
27 Wide-awake
29 Discard
30 Rinsed, with "off"
32 Soybeans or sorghum
33 Lickety-split
34 Superfluous extra
35 Studio stand
36 Apt rhyme for "guile"
38 Pac-12 team
41 Place to take a break
42 Pesters
47 Cup handle
49 Bad-check letters
52 Curly-tailed dog
54 __ cholesterol
55 Clear, as a slate
56 Cuts back on
57 Aligns
58 Sound from a sedan
59 Cleveland's lake
60 Very infrequent
61 Steaming
62 Hoo-ha
63 *Garfield* guy



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

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/

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. / Register using the email address below. Engaged to marry a socialite, Newland Archer is forced to decide between happiness and the social code of the era. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov.

FARMERS MARKETS
Downtown Santa Monica. Arizona Ave. (between 2nd & 4th). 8 a.m. - 1 p.m
Pico. Pico Blvd. & Cloverfield Blvd. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SUNDAY | DEC 19

SANTA MONICA PLACE HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES
This holiday season, Santa Monica Place will offer an array of festive activities for the whole family to enjoy. Visitors and shoppers will catch special performances by the dancing sensation, Santa Monica Beach Belles, ballerina performances inside the 14-foot larger-than-life Snow Globe, live DJ holiday sets, as well as festive light displays and a 50-foot iconic Christmas tree in Center Plaza. DJ sets begin at 3 p.m.

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

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

MONDAY | DEC 20

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA by Brenda Maddox. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register using the email address below. This award-winning biography recovers the life and work of a brilliant scientist whose contributions to the discovery of DNA had gone largely unrecognized. To register, email jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov.

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5330

For the birds

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

Avian	Cuckoo	Hawk	Raven
Beak	Diet	Hens	Seeds
Bowerbird	Dove	Kite	Skylark
Bush	Eagle	Koel	Soar
Camouflage	Eggs	Latch	Song
Canary	Egret	Mirror	Stilt
Cheep	Emu	Myna	Stork
Chook	Erne	Ostrich	Swan
Claw	Fantail	Peewee	Swing
Clip	Fowl	Pigeon	Teal
Coot	Galah	Pipit	Temperature
Crow	Gull	Professional	Tree

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Our feathered friends

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER
Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

"It's my perception that people with disabilities pose peculiar and special problems," said Mayor Sue Himmelrich. "I think the City needs a Disabilities Commission to advise us about issues relating to disabilities… I understand combining some commissions, but I just believe this one is separate and unique."

According to the staff report, it would cost $238,881 in additional funding in order to maintain four separate commissions and $300,048 to also offer remote public participation at these meetings.

"Who do I look in the eye and say you no longer have a quarter of a million dollars to actually do programs for homelessness, programs for youth, programs for seniors, because we have to have staff people staffing commissions? So for me, it was staffing versus real work being done and it was a hard decision," said Davis, explaining why she supports the consolidation.

In response to this funding challenge, Davis made a motion to direct staff to research more cost effective ways to support Boards and Commissions, which was passed unanimously.

Councilmembers also unanimously agreed to direct staff to develop a new civility policy for boards and commissions and an accompanying training program for chairs and vice chairs.

"Certain members of boards and commissions were not being civil to their colleagues," said Davis, explaining the impetus for such a policy. "That and second, there were members of the public, who have every right to attend meetings and have every right to express themselves, but chose to do so in such a way that derailed the commissions (from) achieving the goals that they had set forth."

Separate from the ad hoc committee's reform recommendations, Council also voted to alter the powers and structure of the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission. This was part of a previously approved settlement agreement with the Santa Monica Police Officers Association.

On July 23, the SMPOA filed an unfair labor practice charge against the City alleging that the City was legally bound to consult with them before creating the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission (PSROC).

At the Dec. 14 meeting, Interim City Attorney George Cardona said that the City does not agree with SMPOA's claim but believes that settlement is in its best interest.

Per the settlement, the SMPOA will be able to appoint a non-voting member to join the PSROC, as long as this member is selected jointly with the Police Chief and is not an active SMPD officer.

Other changes include clarifications that neither commissioners nor the PSROC's Inspector General may participate in disciplinary actions or investigations; a requirement that new appointees complete training within 6 months; and a requirement that the PSROC's reports are submitted to City authorities 72 hours prior to Commission or Council meetings.

Clara@smdp.com

RAIN

FROM PAGE 4

the state climatologist. Heavy rains moistened the ground, which will ensure more water stays packed in the snow, he said.

Last year, the mountain snow lost a lot of moisture into the ground because it was so dry, he said.

December, January and February are typically the wettest months of the year in California; about half of the state's annual precipitation falls in that window, he said. If storms don't continue through the winter, the effect of this storm on the drought will be "muted," Anderson said.

Any moisture is much-needed in 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.

Associated Press writers Christopher Weber and Robert Jablon in Los Angeles; Terence Chea in Oakland, California; Janie Har in San Francisco; Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California; and Scott Sonner in Reno, Nevada contributed to this report.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 7

and they became friends), two very different instruments. Worried about "Jingle Bells" instead of "serious Latin jazz? Don't. You'll be swingin' and jivin' with him so hard you won't even realize they're playing "Frosty the Snowman." Tues 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA, $49-117.

SARAH SILVERMAN & Friends – She's definitely one of those love her or don't get/don't like her at all comedians. I love her and think her casual delivery works on some deep levels. And she is a fearless and very visible social activist, so, that too. Wed 8 p.m., Largo Theater, LA, $? (seems to be sold out – hey, I've had it listed in COMING ATTRACTIONS for weeks, sorry but ya gotta MOVE on this stuff or get left out).

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BARBARA MORRISON QUINTET, Vibrato, 122/24; SARAH SILVERMAN,, Rory Albanese, Brian Monarch, Hollywood Improv, 12/30; FISHBONE, Venice West, 12/31; ORIANTHI, Venice West, 1/7; Lenore Raphael Trio featuring BARBARA MORRISON, Vibrato, 1/9; LA PHIL with Michael Tilson Thomas, EMANUEL AX Ax plays BRAHMS, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/13, 14, 16; RACHAEL & VILRAY, Troubadour, 1/16; LA PHIL with Michael Tilson Thomas, GERALD CLAYTON plays Symphonic ELLINGTON, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/20, 21; COLIN BLUNSTONE, Joe Wong, The Downtown Palace Theatre, 1/22; ITZAK PERLMAN, Rohan De Silva, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/26; BJORK, Shrine Auditorium, 1/26, 29; 2/2; NATHANIEL RATELIFF & The Night Sweats The Novo, 1/28; THE ENGLISH BEAT, The Bourbon Room, 1/28, 29; RAUL MALO, The Canyon Agoura Hills 1/28, The Canyon Santa Clarita 1/30; MUSICARES honors JONI MITCHELL, LA Convention Center, 1/29; FEE WAYBILL, Troubadour, 1/29.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He 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

COVID

FROM PAGE 1

struggling with staff shortages, but also affected classrooms across the district that stood to lose teachers due to the exodus of unvaccinated students.

The meeting was punctuated with an emotional and angry plea for the unvaccinated to get their shots from board member Jackie Goldberg, 77, who said the importance of vaccinations was personal for her.

"I grew up with polio, I saw classmates of mine die," Goldberg said, her voice quivering. The polio vaccine "saved thousands of thousands and thousands of lives and it kept hundreds of thousands more from losing use of arms and legs."

To the parents who say they are worried about the mental health of children who don't get in-person learning, Goldberg said, raising her voice: "Get them vaccinated. It's really very simple."

She and other board members said they were not bowing to the pressure of parents who oppose the vaccine, but acknowledging the significant impact of the mandate to students.

"This change is not about conceding to a vocal minority of anti-vaxxers," said board President Kelly Gonez.

In September, Los Angeles became the largest school district in the U.S. to issue a mandate for student vaccinations.

The nation's second-biggest district, with 630,000 students, has moved more aggressively than most in enacting COVID-19 safety measures. It tests all students and employees every week, requires masking indoors and outdoors and was among the first to order employees to be vaccinated. Last week, nearly 500 school district employees, including seven that held teacher credentials, lost their jobs as a result of the staff mandate.

In other states, mandates have been more limited.

New York City's school system, the nation's largest, has only required student vaccinations for high-risk extracurricular activities, like band, orchestra, dance and certain sports like football, basketball and wrestling. School staff there were required to be vaccinated by October.

Several other states have gone in the opposite direction, including Florida, Texas and Alabama, which have measures that could restrict officials or school districts from imposing coronavirus vaccine mandates for students.

In Los Angeles, the new deadline of fall 2022 is more closely aligned with the state's own vaccine mandate.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced in October that California will require all public and private school students to have the COVID-19 vaccine, which will be added to the list of 10 immunizations required to attend schools. But the state mandate will only kick in after federal regulators give full approval for the shots. Newsom's office has said it is not expected to take effect until July at the earliest, and officials had urged school districts to impose their own rules.

Many districts did that, but are now reconsidering or pushing back initial deadlines, faced with the reality of large numbers of unvaccinated students.

The Oakland Unified School District recently pushed back by a month its Jan. 1 deadline for students to either prove they are vaccinated or get approval for an exemption. Its vaccination dashboard says that 38% of students, or about 5,700, remain unvaccinated or have not reported their status.

The numbers are higher in Sacramento, which has a deadline of Jan. 31 for students 12 and older to show proof of vaccination.

More than 55% of eligible students in Sacramento, or more than 10,000, are unvaccinated or have not reported their status, the school's dashboard said. Those students could be assigned to independent study if they don't get vaccinated or fail to apply for an exemption by the Jan. 31 deadline, said Alexander Goldberg, a district spokesman.

"We have a long way to go but we're seeing positive trends," Goldberg said. The district set an initial date of Nov. 30 for reporting a first dose of the vaccine, and after contacting families who were not in compliance, the numbers have almost doubled in the past two weeks, he said.

West Contra Costa's mandate does not allow for religious or personal belief exemptions, making it among the strictest in the state. The school board will decide Wednesday whether to extend its Jan. 3 deadline to Feb. 18, said district spokesman Ryan Phillip.

As of last Friday, nearly 5,000 students, out of some 12,000 who come under the mandate, had uploaded their vaccination cards but that leaves more than half who haven't.

"We are working to secure responses from 6,743 students," said Phillips.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 11

Despite the sixth and seventh alarms, pumping oil for three additional hours late on October 1 into the early morning hours of October 2 while a manual leak test was performed;

Despite the eighth alarm, operating the pipeline for nearly one hour in the predawn hours of October 2 after a boat they contacted failed to see discharged oil in the middle of the night;

Operating the pipeline with crewmembers who had not been sufficiently trained on the automated leak detection system; and

Operating the pipeline with an understaffed and fatigued crew.

An indictment contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

For a corporate defendant, the charge of negligently discharging oil carries a statutory maximum penalty of five years of probation, as well as fines that potentially could total millions of dollars.

The Coast Guard Investigative Service; the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division; and the FBI are investigating the oil leak.

Assistant United States Attorneys Matt O'Brien and Brian Faerstein of the Environmental and Community Safety Crimes Section are prosecuting this case.

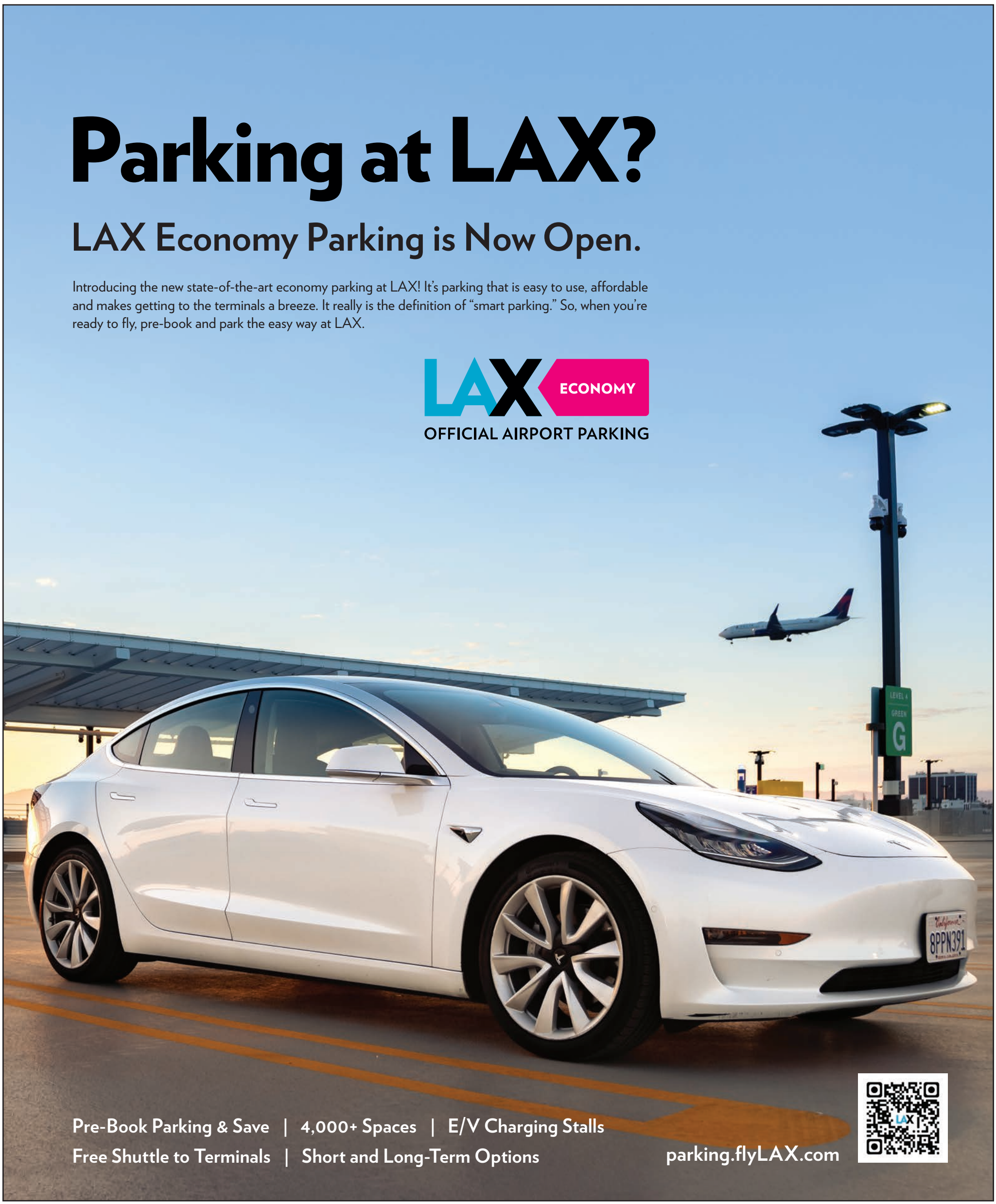
SUBMITTED BY THOM MROZEK, USDOJ

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