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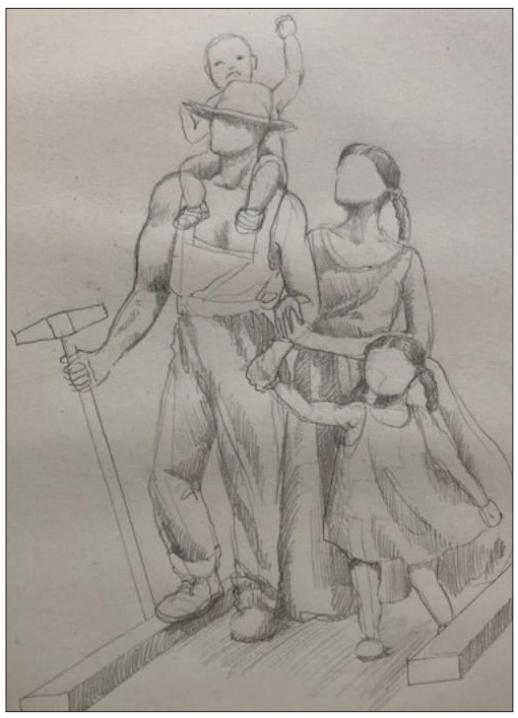
smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY
12.22.20
Volume 20 Issue 34
@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

Letter to the Editor
The Man in the Middle.
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An aggressive coffee order.
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Traquero sculpture would bring first Mexican American monument to Westside





Courtesy image

MONUMENT: Residents are working to install a monument to Mexican Americans in Venice.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Mexican Americans have deep roots in the Westside but no monument acknowledging their history or contributions to the community. A group of local residents intends on changing that.

The Venice Mexican American Traquero Monument Committee and the American Veterans Post 2, led by Venice resident Laura Ceballos and Santa Monica resident Frank Sr Juarez, received approval from the Venice Neighborhood Council on Dec. 15 to place a Mexican American monument at Windward Circle.

Renowned Mexican sculptor Jorge

SEE **SCULPTURE** PAGE 11

Holiday Chalk Art





Courtesy photos

ART: Locals take to the streets for some seasonal fun. See page 6 for more information.

Biden gets COVID-19 vaccine, says 'nothing to worry about'

ALEXANDRA JAFFE AND JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

President-elect Joe Biden on Monday received his first dose of the coronavirus vaccine on live television as part of a growing effort to convince the American public the inoculations are safe.

The president-elect took a dose of Pfizer vaccine at a hospital not far from his Delaware home, hours after his wife, Jill Biden, did the same. The injections came the same day that a second vaccine, produced by Moderna, will start arriving in states. It joins Pfizer's in the nation's arsenal against the COVID-19 pandemic, which has now killed more than 317,000 people in the United States and upended life around the globe.

"I'm ready," said Biden, who was administered the dose at a hospital in Newark, Delaware. The president-elect rolled the left sleeve of his turtleneck all the way up to his shoulder, then declined the option to count to three before the needle was inserted into his left arm.

"You just go ahead anytime you're ready," he told the nurse practitioner who administered the shot.

Biden emphasized the safety of the vaccine, and said President Donald Trump's administration "deserves some credit" for getting the vaccine distribution process "off the ground."

"I'm doing this to demonstrate that people should be prepared when it's available to take the vaccine," he added. "There's nothing to worry about."

SEE **COVID-19** PAGE 2

McClure Tunnel to close for upgrades

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

The McClure Tunnel and several nearby ramps will temporarily close in January to facilitate upgrades to the freeway.

According to The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the work zone runs from Lincoln Blvd. to the Broadway Pedestrian bridge with closures expected to start on Jan. 4. Ramp closures associated with the project will occur mostly overnight between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. and the tunnel itself will be closed for a week from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Workers will be installing new lights, a high friction road surface, speed warning system and the county's first queue warning system.

Caltrans Public Information Officer Eric Menjivar said a field investigation team looked at the McClure Tunnel and chose it as the site of the first system for several reasons. He said the transition from a traditional freeway system to a

SEE **UPGRADES** PAGE 11

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 34 CALLS ON DECEMBER 20

EMS 1400blk 25th St 1:29 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 3:40 a.m.
EMS 900blk 9th St 4:16 a.m.
EMS 300blk California Ave 6:40 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Physical Rescue Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 7:56 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Yale St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:52 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 8:53 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:54 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 9:25 a.m.
EMS 600blk 26th St 9:34 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 9:59 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Colorado Ave 10:13 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Wilshire Blvd 10:13 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire Stewart St / Kansas Ave 10:30 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 12:11 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:26 p.m.
Vehicle Fire Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 1:38 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100blk 4th St 2:21 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 2:32 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 2:35 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 3:18 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 3:46 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 4:02 p.m.
EMS 1100blk San Vicente Blvd 4:13 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 4:56 p.m.
EMS 400blk California Ave 5:26 p.m.
EMS 400blk California Ave 5:34 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 5:53 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1300blk 11th St 8:23 p.m.
Flooded Condition 1000blk Broadway 8:42 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 9:16 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:48 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 2nd St 10:34 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 23rd St 11:43 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.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT 12:27 P.M.

SMPD Officers were dispatched to Starbucks on the 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk regarding a battery that just occurred. Officers were told that a woman had aggressively slammed the front doors open, walked up to the cashier and ordered a coffee while using a derogatory term, and thrown money at her before walking away. The cashier had given the woman her coffee, in order to avoid further confrontation. A few minutes later the woman came back inside, this time management had been told about the earlier scenario and had walked up to her stating she had to leave due to the earlier encounter. The woman slapped the manager and left the store. A separate police unit heard the description of the suspect over the radio and spotted someone matching the description. Upon making contact, the individual attempted to flee and push away from the officer. Ultimately, Kinda Aleid was booked for a 243(a) PC- Battery and a 148(a)(1) PC- Resisting Arrest, she was later cited out.

COVID-19

FROM PAGE 1

He noted, however, that distributing the vaccine is "going to take time," and urged Americans to take precautions during the holiday season to avoid the spread of the virus, including wearing masks.

"If you don't have to travel, don't travel," he said. "It's really important."

Biden also thanked health care workers, and offered praise and an elbow bump to Tabe Mase, the nurse practitioner who administered his first dose of the vaccine.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and her husband are expected to receive their first shots next week.

Other top government officials have been in the first wave of Americans to be inoculated against COVID-19 as part of the largest vaccination campaign in the nation's history.

Vice President Mike Pence, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and other lawmakers were given doses Friday. They chose to publicize their injections as part of a campaign to convince Americans that the vaccines are safe and effective amid skepticism, especially among Republicans.

President Donald Trump is discussing with his doctors the timing for taking the vaccine, the White House has said. He tweeted earlier this month that he was "not scheduled" to take the vaccine but that he looked "forward to doing so at the appropriate time."

The White House has offered another reason for waiting, saying Trump was showing support for the most vulnerable to get the vaccine first.

Trump was hospitalized with COVID-19 in October and given an experimental monoclonal antibody treatment that he credited for his swift recovery. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory board has said people who received that treatment should wait at least 90 days to be vaccinated to avoid any potential interference.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert, and other experts have recommended that Trump be vaccinated without delay as a precaution.

Colvin reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 200 CALLS ON DECEMBER 20

Trespassing 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:53 a.m.
Vandalism Just Occurred Lincoln Blvd / Ashland Ave 4:44 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1700blk Ocean Ave 6:05 a.m.
Loud Music 1800blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:09 a.m.
Death Investigation 300blk California Ave 6:46 a.m.
Trespassing 300blk Ocean Ave 6:57 a.m.
Vandalism Report 1200blk Ashland Ave 7:08 a.m.
Vandalism Report 1200blk Ashland Ave 8:03 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 8:19 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 11th St 8:36 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk Ashland Ave 8:45 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 6th St 8:47 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 8:51 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Yale St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:52 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 15th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:53 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Yale St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:02 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 2nd St 9:04 a.m.
Sexual Assault 500blk Ashland Ave 9:37 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 100blk Ashland Ave 9:59 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk Georgina Ave 10:01 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 300blk Pacific St 10:15 a.m.
Public Intoxication 900blk Franklin St 10:26 a.m.
Loud Music 1200blk 10th St 10:54 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Ocean Ave 11:00 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 11:19 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 400blk Washington Ave 11:42 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 1600blk The Beach 11:42 a.m.
Encampment 800blk Pico Blvd 11:56 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 11:59 a.m.
Family Disturbance Lincoln Blvd / Michigan Ave 12:02 p.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 12:12 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 3rd St 12:19 p.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk 5th St 12:36 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 900blk 16th St 12:46 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 12:48 p.m.
Vandalism Report 3000blk Glenn Ave 12:55 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800blk Montana Ave 1:26 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2300blk 3rd St 1:28 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2600blk Barnard Way 1:38 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk 10th St 1:50 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 1:52 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 100blk Fraser Ave 2:01 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 7th St / Pico Blvd 2:04 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 11th St 2:35 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 2:41 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1200blk 11th St 3:06 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk Marine St 3:57 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk 6th St 4:04 p.m.
Trespassing 1400blk 7th St 4:10 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2400blk La Mesa Dr 4:12 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 4:15 p.m.
Fight Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 4:19 p.m.
Domestic Violence Now 1700blk California Ave 4:47 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 200blk Santa Monica Pier 5:03 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Ocean Ave / Pacific St 5:22 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Barnard Way 5:52 p.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk 7th St 5:52 p.m.
Fight Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 5:57 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 6:04 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 6:04 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 6:37 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 6:45 p.m.
9-1-1 Hang Up 2800blk Donald Douglas Loop N 7:05 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2nd St / Colorado Ave 7:16 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:19 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2100blk Main St 7:24 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 7:32 p.m.
Vandalism Just Occurred 2000blk Main St 7:35 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2700blk Airport Ave 7:47 p.m.
Burglary Now 1400blk 7th St 7:53 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2800blk Pico Blvd 8:23 p.m.
Loud Music 1000blk 4th St 9:02 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 2100blk Stewart St 9:31 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 9:53 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 10:09 p.m.
Public Intoxication 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:11 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 600blk California Ave 10:23 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk 4th St 10:32 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1500blk Ocean Ave 11:32 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:35 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600blk 11th St 11:54 p.m.

The holidays could make or break struggling stores

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

Clothing stores and specialty retailers are offering big discounts and heavily promoting curbside pickup in hopes of rescuing a lackluster holiday shopping season in which surging coronavirus cases have kept many shoppers at home.

For some, it could be their last chance at survival. And even a last-minute sales boost could be too late to save them.

The holiday season, which accounts for about 20% of the retail industry's annual sales, has always been make-or-break for struggling stores. But it's even more important this year as they look to make up for sales lost since the pandemic forced them to temporarily close locations.

That's a big challenge given that the deadline to order online and get items in time for Christmas has passed. Retailers also can't rely on big crowds of procrastinators because of restrictions on how many people can shop at once.

Big box retailers like Walmart and Target, which have been deemed essential and mostly allowed to remain open throughout the pandemic, have done well by attracting shoppers with safety concerns who don't want to go to multiple stores. Supermarkets, home improvement stores and online retailers have also seen strong sales.

But many clothing and department stores have struggled, especially those in shopping malls, some of which were already in trouble even before the coronavirus upended the retail landscape.

"People are spending money. It's just falling in pockets of areas like home improvement and food," said Ken Perkins of RetailMetrics LLC, a retail research firm. "You have to worry about the mall-based retailer. When the dust settles after the fourth quarter, you've got to wonder what kind of position some of these chains are going to be in."

Perkins expects fourth-quarter earnings for the roughly 100 chains he monitors to be down 2.1%, with mall-based retailers down nearly 30% and stores located outside of malls up 3.4%. A recent report from S&P Global highlighted seven publicly traded mall landlords who are facing a brutal winter.

Already, more than 40 U.S. retailers have filed for Chapter 11 since the pandemic started forcing shutdowns in March. And more than 8,600 stores have closed this year, according to Coresight Research. Just in the last month, music chain Guitar Center Inc. and clothier Francesca's Holdings Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Meanwhile, retailers like Neiman Marcus and J.C. Penney that emerged from bankruptcy this past fall are looking to regain their footing.

Neiman Marcus is among the companies heavily promoting curbside pickup in the final days before Christmas. The luxury department store chain is offering customers a $25 gift card if they use the service.

The worst could still be ahead, with COVID-19 cases on the rise in the U.S. and the possibility of more store closures and restrictions in 2021.

"Without this extra boost that they normally get, we are going to see an uptick in bankruptcies and store closures in the first quarter," said Natalie Kotlyar, a national leader of BDO's Retail & Consumer Products practice. "I think many retailers were holding out filing bankruptcy to see how the holiday season is going to go."

Retail sales fell a seasonally adjusted 1.1% in November, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. It was the biggest drop in seven months, with many types of retailers seeing declines. The biggest drop was at department stores, down 7.7%.

There's also other evidence of growing consumer caution: Overall spending from roughly Oct. 30 through Dec. 14 is down 5.4%, from the equivalent period last year, according to JPMorgan Chase, which tracks activity on 30 million of its debit and credit cards.

Still, the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, expects holiday sales to increase between 3.6 percent and 5.2 percent compared to 2019, mostly due to strong sales at the big box stores. Those numbers, which exclude automobile dealers, gasoline stations and restaurants, compare with last year's gain of 4%.

The holiday season is also the time when stores typically get a chance to attract new customers. Nearly 90% of customers polled by America's Research Group in recent years said that when they shop at a new store for the first time, it's during the holidays. That's not happening this year. Shoppers are cutting back the number of stores they visit to four or five, from six to eight, says C. Britt Beemer, chairman of the group.

Liana Pai, who co-owns clothing store Liana in Manhattan, says her family business used to be bustling with customers during the holiday season. But with restrictions and people nervous about shopping, she has just a few people coming in per day. After being forced to close in the spring, Liana reopened in July, but she's only recaptured about one third of her typical sales. She's been on the verge of closing her business three times

"It's definitely been rough, "said Pai, who has been stepping up FaceTime with her customers , marketing her shop on Instagram and offering fat discounts during the final days of the season. She noted that she needed to do well during the holidays because it helps her get through the slow period of January through March.

"We're scraping by," she said.

Others have managed a successful transition to online sales. Camp, a small chain that designed its toy shops to be places kids wanted to play, had to temporarily close all five of its locations in the spring. It regrouped, shifting activities like birthday parties online and launching a holiday gift exchange 10 days ago.

Online sales increased 40% compared with last year and overall sales have tripled. Since stores reopened, traffic has increased an average of 17% each week. Tiffany Markofsky, Camp's chief marketing officer, says an outdoor location outside of a Manhattan store and ticketed shopping times have helped shoppers feel comfortable.

"We are in a much better place than last year," said Markofsky, noting a strong holiday season. "A lot of this stuff we were thinking about in our minds. But COVID crystallized it."

Cut off: Britain hit with travel bans over new virus strain

PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

Trucks waiting to get out of Britain backed up for miles and people were left stranded at airports Monday as dozens of countries around the world slapped tough travel restrictions on the U.K. because of a new and seemingly more contagious strain of the coronavirus in England.

From Canada to India, one nation after another banned flights from Britain, while France barred the entry of trucks from Britain for 48 hours while the strain is assessed.

The precautions raised fears of food shortages in Britain if the restrictions drag on.

After a conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he understood the reason for the new measures and expressed hope for a swift resumption in the free flow of traffic between the U.K. and France, perhaps within a few hours.

He said officials from both countries were working "to unblock the flow of trade as fast as possible." Macron said earlier that France was looking at establishing systematic testing of people for the virus on arrival.

Over the weekend, Johnson imposed strict lockdown measures in London and neighboring areas where Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the new strain is "out of control." Experts said the early evidence indicates the strain is not more lethal, and they expressed confidence that the vaccines now being rolled out would still be effective against it.

After France announced Sunday night that it was closing its borders to trucks from Britain, hundreds of vehicles, mainly operated by drivers from continental Europe, became stranded outside the English Channel port of Dover. The lines shrank over the course of the day from 500 trucks to about 175 before rising again in the evening to 945, authorities said. Vehicles are being redirected to the disused Manston Airport nearby, which is being prepared to accommodate up to 4,000 trucks.

Around 10,000 trucks pass through the port of Dover every day, accounting for about 20% of the country's trade in goods.

Meanwhile, the European Union gave the go-ahead to the coronavirus vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, setting the stage for the first COVID-19 shots across the 27-nation bloc to begin just after Christmas.

"This is a very good way to end this difficult year and to finally start turning the page on COVID-19," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The approval came just hours after the EU's drug regulatory agency said the vaccine meets safety and quality standards. It is already being dispensed in Britain and the U.S.

The virus is blamed for 1.7 million deaths worldwide, including about 68,000 in Britain, the second-highest death toll in Europe, behind Italy's 69,000.

While the French ban does not prevent trucks from entering Britain, the move stoked worries about shortages at a time of year when the UK produces very little of its food and relies heavily on produce delivered from Europe by truck.

Many trucks that carry cargo from the U.K. to the continent return laden with goods for Britain's use. The fear is that the ban will lead to a drop in such deliveries. Also, some drivers or their employers might decide against entering Britain for fear they won't be able to get back home.

Supermarket chain Sainsbury's warned that some products, such as lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli and citrus fruits, could soon be in short supply if the crisis not resolved in the coming days.

Canada, India, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden were among the countries that suspended flights from Britain for various lengths of time.

In the United States, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has been calling on the U.S. to halt flights as well, said he asked airlines flying into his state from the U.K. to make all passengers take a coronavirus test before boarding. He said at least one carrier, British Airways, agreed to do so.

At Germany's Berlin and Frankfurt airports, passengers arriving from Britain had to spend Sunday night in the terminals as they awaited test results.

SEE **TRAVEL** PAGE 11

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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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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

Letter to the Editor

By Jason K. Feldman

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Man in the Middle

Editor

This is in response to the recent article in the Santa Monica Daily Press entitled "City Council Member De La Torre Refuse to Step Down from School Board." I ran for SMMUSD School Board and finished fourth for three seats in a competitive field of eight candidates. I was part of the Slate of 8 that produced the historic election of three newcomers to City Council including Mr. De La Torre. I met Councilman De La Torre early in the campaign. We bonded over our shared commitment to equity and anti-discrimination. I appreciate his 18 years of service on the School Board as well as his ongoing support for my candidacy.

However, I do not welcome being placed in the middle of Councilman De La Torre's feud with the School Board. Nor do I endorse my appointment to his vacated seat as a condition of his resignation. There is a process to an appointment. That process is dictated by California's Government and Election Codes.

I believe I am uniquely well-qualified for the appointment. I have been fully vetted by the voters and finished next in line. I have two daughters attending elementary schools in different parts of the district – Franklin and John Muir Elementary. My background as an attorney will be an asset to the Board. My significant work in civil rights will help the district fulfill its commitment to equity and anti-discrimination. My deep knowledge of special education will bring immediate help to the district's neediest students, many of which are minority and socio-economically challenged.

It is for these reasons that I am seeking appointment to the vacant School Board seat on the merits. I am seeking a vote by the School Board, free of politics and free of bias and based on what our esteemed Board believes in the best interests of the district giving deference to the expressed preference of the voters in our recent election.

LA Rams embarrassed, uncertain after loss to winless Jets

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

For really the first time since Sean McVay arrived four years ago, the Los Angeles Rams are the laughingstocks of the NFL.

The Rams' 23-20 loss to the winless New York Jets on Sunday was an utter humiliation for a franchise and a coach that have been largely beyond serious reproach since 2017. While Los Angeles hasn't won a title, it has put together four winning seasons for the first time since the 1980s while remaining remarkably free of major drama or severe dips in play.

Nothing in those four seasons — not even a Super Bowl defeat that was ugly, but comprehensible — was as discouraging as inexplicably losing at SoFi Stadium on extra rest to a depleted 0-13 opponent with the worst offense in the league. The Rams' subsequent thrashing from pundits and social media jackals was harsh, but they agree it was deserved.

While McVay and a few available players said all the usual things afterward about respecting every opponent and understanding the unpredictability of their sport, it was still clear they were chagrined, angry and uncertain about a playoff future that looked bright just a few hours earlier.

"They showed up, and we maybe overlooked them," Rams kicker Matt Gay said Monday. "There's a natural inclination there, when you have a team you're playing that hasn't had a great year, and you're coming off some good wins, (to) take them lightly."

The Rams (9-5) are all but certain to make the postseason. They still can win the NFC West or make a significant playoff run. Their path to redemption starts this weekend in Seattle (10-4), where the Seahawks can clinch the division by beating LA.

But this loss shakes the foundations of what McVay has painstakingly built. If the Rams can't execute well enough to clinch a playoff spot by beating the easiest opponent in the league, it's impossible to anticipate what team will show up Sunday with their division hopes on the line.

"Certain teams, you've got that knack for winning," Rams safety John Johnson said after the game. "We're still working on that. We've had success in the past. But games like that, you've got to come away with a win. You've got to build that culture."

WHAT'S WORKING

The Rams still finished Sunday with the NFL's No. 1 defense by yards allowed after giving up 289 to New York. While it's embarrassing that the defense didn't dominate the Jets, or even force any turnovers, coordinator Brandon Staley's group hasn't regressed in any significant way this season. The defense needed one extra stop to save the offense from itself yet again, but couldn't get it.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

McVay's history of baffling play-calling decisions. Faced with third-and 4-from the Jets 37 while trailing by three points in the

SEE **RAMS** PAGE 11

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

Barr undercuts Trump on election and Hunter Biden inquiries

MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

Undercutting President Donald Trump on multiple fronts, Attorney General William Barr said Monday he saw no reason to appoint a special counsel to look into the president's claims about the 2020 election or to name one for the tax investigation of President-elect Joe Biden's son.

Barr, in his final public appearance as a member of Trump's Cabinet, also reinforced the belief of federal officials that Russia was behind a massive hack of U.S. government agencies, not China as the president has suggested.

Barr is leaving the Justice Department this week, having morphed from one of Trump's most loyal allies to one of the few members of the Cabinet willing to contradict the president openly. That's been particularly true since the election, with Barr declaring in an interview with The AP that he had seen no evidence of widespread voting fraud, even as Trump continued to make false claims about the integrity of the contest.

The president has also grown particularly angry that Barr didn't announce the existence of a two-year-old investigation of Hunter Biden before the election. On Monday, Barr said that investigation was "being handled responsibly and professionally."

"I have not seen a reason to appoint a special counsel and I have no plan to do so before I leave," he said, adding that there was also no need for a special counsel to investigate the election.

A special counsel would make it more difficult for Biden and his yet-to-be-named attorney general to close investigations begun under Trump. Such an appointment could also add a false legitimacy to baseless claims, particularly to the throngs of Trump supporters who believe the election was stolen because Trump keeps wrongly claiming it was.

Barr's comments came at a press conference to announce additional criminal charges in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which killed 190 Americans, an issue he had worked on in his previous stint as attorney general in the early 1990s. He'll step down on Wednesday and be replaced by acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen.

Barr's statements on the special counsel may make it easier for Rosen to resist pressure from the White House to open any special counsel investigation.

In his 2019 confirmation hearing for deputy attorney general, Rosen said he was willing to rebuff political pressure from the White House if necessary. He told legislators that criminal investigations should "proceed on the facts and the law" and prosecutions should be "free of improper political influences."

"If the appropriate answer is to say no to somebody, then I will say no," he said at the time.

Trump and his allies have filed roughly 50 lawsuits challenging election results and nearly all have been dismissed or dropped. He's also lost twice at the U.S. Supreme Court.

With no further tenable legal recourse, Trump has been fuming and peppering allies for options as he refuses to accept his loss.

Among those allies is Rudy Giuliani, who during a meeting Friday pushed Trump to seize voting machines in his hunt for evidence of fraud. The Homeland Security Department made clear, however, that it had no authority to do so. It is also unclear what that would accomplish.

For his part, Barr said he saw no reason to seize them. Earlier this month, Barr also told AP that the Justice Department and Homeland Security had looked into the claims "that machines were programmed essentially to skew the election results" and ultimately concluded that "we haven't seen anything to substantiate that."

Trump has consulted on special counsels with White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, White House counsel Pat Cipollone and outside allies, according to several Trump administration officials and Republicans close to the White House who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized discuss the matter publicly.

Trump was interested both in a counsel to investigate the younger Biden's tax dealings and a second to look into election fraud. He even floated the idea of naming attorney Sidney Powell as the counsel — though Powell was booted from Trump's legal team after she made a series of increasingly wild conspiratorial claims about the election.

Federal law requires that an attorney general appoint any special counsels.

Barr also said Monday the hack of U.S. government agencies "certainly appears to be the Russians."

In implicating the Russians, Barr was siding with the widely held belief within the U.S. government and the cybersecurity community that Russian hackers were responsible for breaches at multiple government agencies, including the Treasury and Commerce departments.

Hours after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a radio interview that Russia was "pretty clearly" behind the hacks, Trump sought to undercut that message and play down the severity of the attack.

He tweeted that the "Cyber Hack is far greater in the Fake News Media than in actuality." He also said China could be responsible even though no credible evidence has emerged to suggest anyone other than Russia might be to blame.

Monday was also the 32nd anniversary of the Pan Am explosion over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 259 people in the air and 11 on the ground.

The Justice Department announced its case against the accused bombmaker, Abu Agela Masud Kheir Al-Marimi, who admitted in an interview with Libyan officials several years ago that he had built the bomb and worked with two other defendants to carry out the attack, Barr said.

Calling the news conference to announce the charges underscored Barr's attachment to that case. He had announced an earlier set of charges against two other Libyan intelligence officials in his capacity as acting attorney general nearly 30 years ago, vowing the investigation would continue.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

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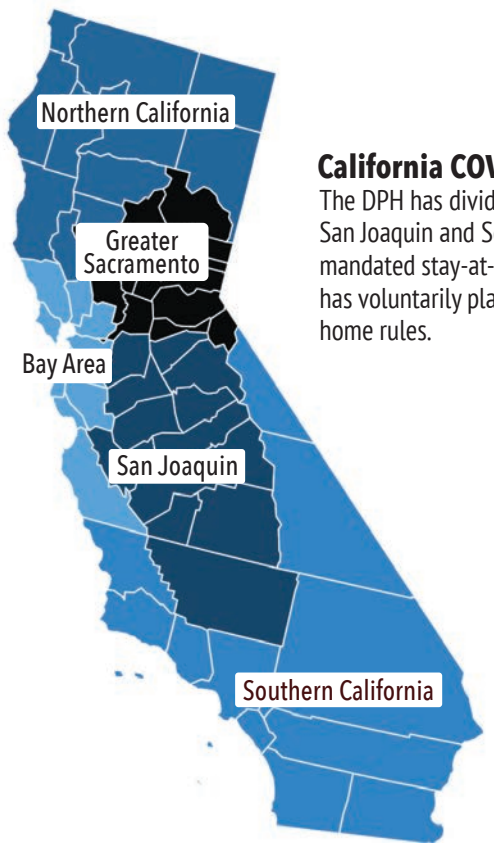


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Primer: Stay-at-home

On December 3, the California Department of Public Health issued a regional stay-at-home order in response to rapidly increasing COVID-19 infections Implementation of the order occurs when a region's ICU capacity drops below 15%. Southern California has been under the stay at home order since December 7.

Below is a map of the 5 regions, as well as a color coded list of activities that are allowed, allowed with restrictions or prohibited.



California COVID-19 Stay-at-home regions
The DPH has divided the state into 5 regions. San Joaquin and Southern California are under mandated stay-at-home orders. The Bay Area has voluntarily placed itself under stay-at-home rules.

Activities Impacted by Stay-at-home order

KEY: Open / Limited / Closed	
Open	Child care/pre-K, subject to local rules
Limited	Gyms & fitness centers, outdoor services only
Closed	Hair salons and barbershops
Limited	Hotels, only to house critical infrastructure workers
Closed	Indoor recreational facilities
Closed	Indoor use of libraries
Closed	Movie theaters, family entertainment centers and casinos
Closed	Museums, zoos & aquariums
Open	Non-urgent medical and dental care, subject to local rules
Limited	Restaurants, breweries and wineries, take/delivery only, no onsite dining
Limited	Parks (except some amenities)
Closed	Personal care services
Limited	Places of worship, outdoor services only
Open	Playgrounds (reopened Dec 11)
Limited	Retail stores & shopping centers, open but limited to 20% capacity

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Michigan Ave

Locals create holiday chalk art

Santa Monica's 12th Street and Michigan Avenue residents are finding their daily walk becoming a little more whimsical this week, since local artist Heidi Neilson started adding some festive flair to their street. We're not talking on a house like a string of lights, but actually on the street, in chalk. Her 20' long temporary scene features a variety of larger-than-life seasonal candies, including a scattering of gumdrop "seats" where little ones can be part of the merry photo op.

The scene is what they call "anamorphic" in the chalk art world – it's painted on the street in a distorted way that looks, frankly, strange from most angles, and then springs to life, appearing to leap off the pavement, once you reach the intended viewpoint. Neilson, who usually paints walls, rather than streets, was inspired to try her hand at this style of painting after working on a mural with international chalk artist Gary Palmer this summer.

"It's the interactions with real people that are the magic of pavement art," Palmer said.

That's a magic that Heidi's been happy to step into.

"I love getting to share in the curiosity and delight of our neighbors, as I work. I'm told that the half-finished candy cane was a big hit at the preschool around the corner," the artist said.

The gradual development of this kind of art leaves lots of time for those happy connections. Heidi has been working on it throughout the week, and expects to continue working at least through the weekend.

Visitors are welcome to head to the 1700 block cul-de-sac of 12th street, where they might get to watch the finishing touches get put in place, in between taking their own holiday photos. It's cheerily open for all to enjoy, but only until weather and traffic wash it away.

SUBMITTED BY HEIDI NEILSON

Citywide

Calling on Santa Monica to Donate to Virginia Avenue Park Food Pantry to Meet Matching Grant from Council

The Santa Monica City Council unanimously voted to immediately contribute $10,000 in discretionary funding, and to commit up to another $10,000 in discretionary funding to match contributions made by others through December 31, 2020, to support the Virginia Avenue Park Food Pantry. The Council made the contributions in recognition of City staff who have served as frontline workers throughout the pandemic, and invited matching donations from the Santa Monica community to provide fresh food to families in need.

"We know Santa Monica community members are struggling and we want to rally around them with nutritious food this holiday season," said Mayor Sue Himmelrich. "We invite you who are not struggling to join us in lifting up our fellow community members by donating to the We Are Santa Monica Fund. Your donation will help more families with food boxes through December and into the new year. The Council's contribution honors the heroic and dedicated work of our City staff who have gone above and beyond to deliver excellent service despite our 2020 challenges."

Recent restrictions on business operations to stop the spread of COVID-19 are impacting more Santa Monica families as we near the holidays. Every donation is appreciated and contributes to community resiliency. Thank you to everyone who has donated and who donates through December 31, 2020, to reach the $10,000 matching fund goal set out by Council last night.

To make a donation, visit calfund.org/wearesantamonica/ and select "Holiday Food Pantry" through the area of support drop down. Through generous donations from the Santa Monica community, the City has been able to provide 2,000 food boxes to Santa Monica families since November 1 experiencing food insecurity each week through the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL

Los Angeles County awarded $6.4 million to help house homeless veterans

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded $46 million to Public Housing Agencies (PHA) across the country to help veterans at risk of experiencing homelessness. The award will help fund 4,875 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) received the largest allocation of funds to a PHA, totaling $6,418,080, or 500 vouchers.

This allocation is a result of Los Angeles County's need for more assistance to house veterans experiencing homelessness. The 2020 Los Angeles County Homeless Count found that 2,918 veterans remained unsheltered. Each veteran encounters challenges to maintaining housing – disabilities, substance abuse, mental illness, and a limited supply of affordable supportive housing. Los Angeles County is on a mission to help veterans overcome challenges by obtaining the additional vouchers to secure stable housing and pair it with supportive services, such as health management, personal and financial counseling, and employment services.

Emilio Salas, LACDA Acting Executive Director, said, "We are grateful to HUD for this additional allocation and for helping us address the continuing need. Especially during this uncertain time, we are glad to help 500 more veterans find a safe, affordable home."

The LACDA partners with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) of Greater Los Angeles to administer the VASH program, which is designed to improve each veteran's physical and mental health, enhance his/her ability to remain stably housed, and integrate in their local community. The VAMC screens applicants for program eligibility and service needs and refers clients to the LACDA for rental assistance.

Homeless veterans are encouraged to contact the VAMC to determine eligibility by calling (310) 478-3711.

SUBMITTED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

California could see 100,000 hospitalizations in January

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California has recorded half a million coronavirus cases in the last two weeks and could have nearly 100,000 hospitalizations in the next month.

Gov. Gavin Newsom acknowledged Monday that a state projection model shows hospitalizations in that range and that he's likely to extend his stay-at-home order for much of the state.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, California's secretary of Health and Human Services, said the state fears some hospitals "may go beyond the existing surge capacity that they currently have planned."

In response, the state is updating its planning guide for how hospitals would ration care if everyone can't get the treatment they need, Ghaly said. It still hopes to avoid reaching that stage by beefing up staffing, makeshift hospitals and mutual aid with regions that might have precious remaining beds.

Some of the cases heading inevitably toward overtaxed hospitals are already in the pipeline based on the 525,000 cases the state has recorded in the last two weeks. A projected 12% are likely to wind up in the hospital — 63,000 people.

Newsom gave Monday's briefing from his home as he began a 10-day quarantine Sunday for the second time in two months after a staff member tested positive for the virus.

Newsom was tested and his result came back negative, as did the tests of other staffers who were in contact with the person.

Last month, members of the governor's family were exposed to someone who tested positive for the virus. Newsom, his wife and four children tested negative at that time.

As of Sunday, more than 16,840 people were hospitalized with confirmed COVID-19 infections — more than double the previous peak reached in July.

More than 3,610 COVID-19 patients were in intensive care units. All of Southern California and the 12-county San Joaquin Valley have exhausted their regular intensive-care capacity, and some hospitals have begun using "surge" space. Overall, the state's ICU capacity was just 2.1% on Sunday.

The explosion of cases in the last six weeks has California's death toll climbing. Another 161 fatalities reported Sunday raised the total to 22,593.

In hard-hit Los Angeles County, Nerissa Black, a nurse at Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital, estimated she's been averaging less than 10 minutes of care per patient every hour. That includes not just bedside care, but donning gear, writing up charts, reviewing lab results and conferring with doctors, she said.

"And the patients who are coming in are more sick now than they've ever been, because a lot of people are waiting before they get care. So when they do come in, they're really, really sick," Black said Sunday.

The governor has said California is experiencing "some of the darkest days of our COVID-19 surge," but there was some light Sunday as a second vaccine got the greenlight, this one from Moderna. The step clears the way for the drug to be distributed throughout California and other Western states. Doses of the first vaccine, by Pfizer, are already being administered to California medical workers.

Until vaccinations become widespread, hospitals are preparing for the possibility of rationing care. A document recently circulated among doctors at the four hospitals run by Los Angeles County calls for them to shift strategy: Instead of trying everything to save a life, their goal during the crisis is to save as many patients as possible. That means those less likely to survive won't get the same kind of care offered in normal times.

"Some compromise of standard of care is unavoidable; it is not that an entity, system, or locale chooses to limit resources, it is that the resources are clearly not available to provide care in a regular manner," the document obtained by the Los Angeles Times reads.

The county's Health Services director, Dr. Christina Ghaly, said they were essential to develop given that the surge has arrived and "the worst is yet to come."

Many hospitals already have implemented emergency procedures to stretch staff and space.

Corona Regional Medical Center southeast of Los Angeles has converted an old emergency room to help handle nearly double the usual number of ICU patients. It's using space in two disaster tents to triage ER patients because the emergency room is filled with patients who need to be hospitalized.

In hard-hit Fresno County, a new 50-bed alternate care site opened recently near the community Regional Medical Center. The beds for COVID-19-negative patients will free up space in area hospitals, where just 13 of some 150 ICU beds were available Friday, said Dan Lynch, the county's emergency medical services director.

Lynch said he expects they will have to use the Fresno Convention Center, which can accommodate up to 250 patients.

Fresno and three neighboring counties also have taken the unprecedented step of sending paramedics on emergency calls to evaluate people. They won't be taken to the emergency room if they could go to an urgent care facility or wait a few days to talk to their doctors, Lynch said.

Some hospitals have canceled nonessential elective surgeries, such as hip replacements, that might require beds that may soon be needed for COVID-19 patients. Others are increasing staff hours or moving patients to free up space.

Associated Press reporter John Antczak contributed to this report.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

The City Prevails in a Legal Challenge by DoorDash for Violations of COVID-19 Emergency Order

In a written decision issued earlier this month, an administrative hearing officer ruled in favor of the City of Santa Monica for violations of Santa Monica's COVID-19 emergency order challenged by DoorDash this summer. In August 2020, the City's Code Enforcement Division issued eight citations to DoorDash, citing a total of 23 violations of the City's emergency order capping maximum fees that a third-party delivery service can charge a local restaurant for delivery fees, with fine amounts totaling $11,500.

On May 19, 2020, in the midst of Governor Newsom's Stay at Home Order and the Los Angeles County Department Public Health's Safer at Home Order prohibiting restaurants from offering dine-in service and limiting restaurants to delivery and takeout offerings, the City issued the Sixteenth Supplement to its local emergency imposing a 15% cap on delivery fees and a 5% cap on other fees charged to restaurants by third-party food delivery companies.

In July 2020, a local restaurant, Sushi King, filed a complaint that DoorDash was charging a 20% delivery fee in violation of the City's emergency order. Code Enforcement investigated the complaint and confirmed the violations. The City issued citations to DoorDash, which DoorDash appealed. DoorDash argued that there was no violation of the order, and that DoorDash and Sushi King "[had] agreed . . . that going forward, a total commission of 20% will be applied to delivery orders placed with Sushi King while Santa Monica's temporary cap is in place, which combines the 15% cap on delivery fees and the 5% cap on the other fees. . ."

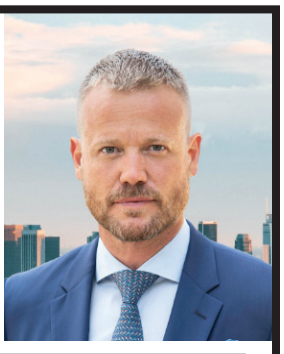
The hearing officer, after having reviewed the factual and legal arguments presented by the City and DoorDash, rejected DoorDash's argument and upheld the citations.

"The Code Enforcement Division is dedicated to protecting the Santa Monica community through the public health emergency by ensuring our municipal code and emergency orders are understood and followed," said Code Enforcement Manager Sharon Guidry. "We received a complaint, discovered the facts, and in partnership with the City Attorney's Office, were able to achieve a positive outcome for this business and many others who use third-party food delivery services."

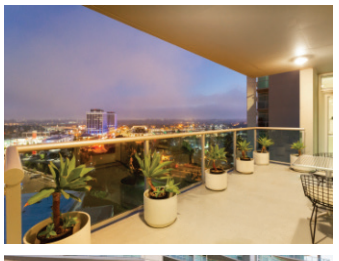
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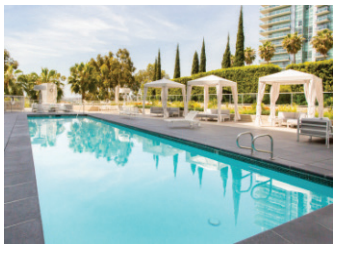
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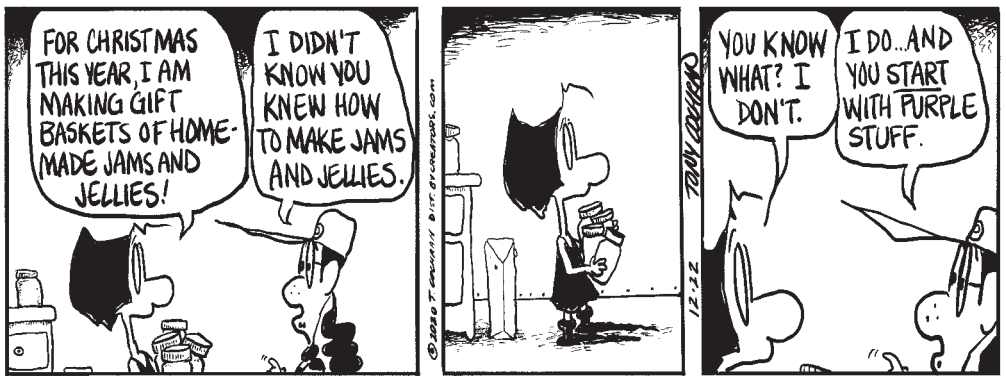




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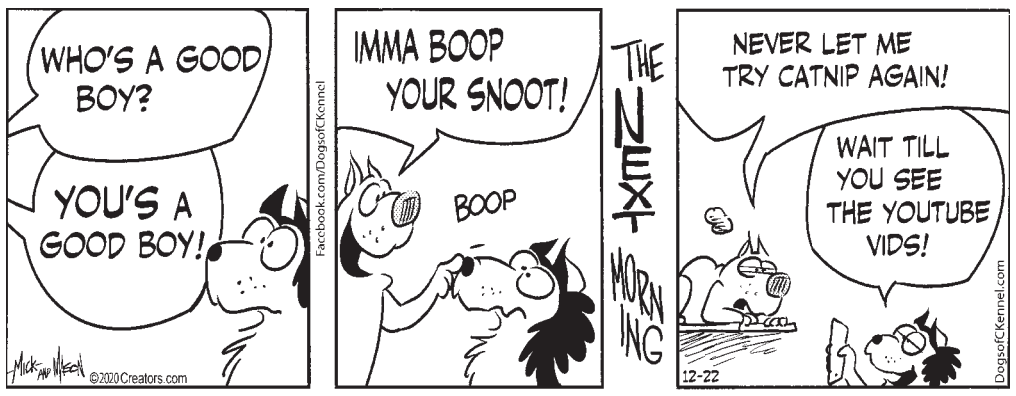
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.6°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Fresh, steep-angled NW swell may top out. Predawn high tide settles into a mid tide most of the day which keeps things sluggish – still enough push for the small wave gear.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Steep-angled NW swell continues. Early high tide slows down the dawn patrol – look for more rideable surf (still small) as the tide drops towards a midday low.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.
Tuesday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 48.
Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/12/21	Mon	03:39 AM	4.15	H
2020/12/21	Mon	09:30 AM	2.67	L
2020/12/21	Mon	2:26 PM	3.62	H
2020/12/21	Mon	9:18 PM	0.93	L
2020/12/22	Tue	04:25 AM	4.40	H
2020/12/22	Tue	10:57 AM	2.16	L
2020/12/22	Tue	4:01 PM	3.28	H
2020/12/22	Tue	10:09 PM	1.29	L
2020/12/23	Wed	05:03 AM	4.67	H
2020/12/23	Wed	11:56 AM	1.57	L
2020/12/23	Wed	5:25 PM	3.19	H
2020/12/23	Wed	10:53 PM	1.58	L
2020/12/24	Thu	05:35 AM	4.95	H
2020/12/24	Thu	12:39 PM	0.99	L
2020/12/24	Thu	6:34 PM	3.24	H
2020/12/24	Thu	11:31 PM	1.82	L
2020/12/25	Fri	06:05 AM	5.22	H
2020/12/25	Fri	1:15 PM	0.48	L
2020/12/25	Fri	7:26 PM	3.34	H
2020/12/26	Sat	12:06 AM	1.99	L
2020/12/26	Sat	06:33 AM	5.49	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:12/19
27 32 34 43 52
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 321 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/18
7 15 25 51 60
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 330 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/19
10 15 25 31 33
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 17 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/20
1 4 19 22 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/20
Evening: 5 4 4
Draw Date: 12/20
Midday: 5 3 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/20
1st: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 04 - BIG BEN
3rd: 09 - WINNING SPIRIT
RACE TIME: 1:40.26

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 22)

Doors open this year, doors to opportunity, adventure, friendship, and doors to where the money is. Each opening is remarkable in its way, though none so much as the opening of the innermost door, which happens solely at your discretion (though with consent partly unconscious) because love is worth it. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 38, 2, 25 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's something you're better at than anyone around. The fact that it's offbeat makes it all the more exciting. Acknowledge, praise, celebrate this unique manner in which you can't be outdone, champ!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The reason to be confident isn't so that you can feel better about what you're doing. The confidence is for them. It will help them feel stable. From that stability, all can do their best work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). One reason you strive to listen and observe keenly is because you realize the power that lends. To see something in a person they cannot seem to and relay it with gentle clarity — this is a rare and life-changing gift.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). And if you can't seem to drum up confidence in your message, say nothing. Do more research, formulate your opinion, write it out, check it. The high level of care you give to communication will pay off in interesting ways.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Maybe you're not the one making a decision, but if you're pretty sure you're not going to rebel, then get on board as quickly as possible. The reward will be the thrill of momentum, which is lost on those who hesitate and vacillate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People around you have had enough of superficiality. They long for the kind of fresh depth that you so readily offer in even the most casual of interactions. It's no wonder you're so popular.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Act practically; act now. To dilly-dally is to fall prey to the perils of doubt and inertia. Consider that most of the evil in the world is not a product of active malevolence but of stagnation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The key to change isn't anything particularly magical. Instead, it's in creating different rhythms and patterns in your days. Experiment with it. How can you make healthy habits more addicting so they'll catch on?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be the initiator of wonderful things, for instance connecting with friends, perhaps remotely. Bonds will be strengthened through laughter and sharing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Certain forces gain intensity as they lose visibility. Persuasion is like this. Influence is most effective when it is unfelt. Love is the opposite. It's strongest when demonstrated visibly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A solitary mood sets in for part of the day, providing a chance to hear quiet messages from your own heart. Out of caring and curiosity, people will check in whether you want them to or not.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As for rock-solid stability, there is very little of it in the civilized world. However, if you can promise to be there for yourself and accept yourself as you are, the trouble (which springs from insecurity) will avoid you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

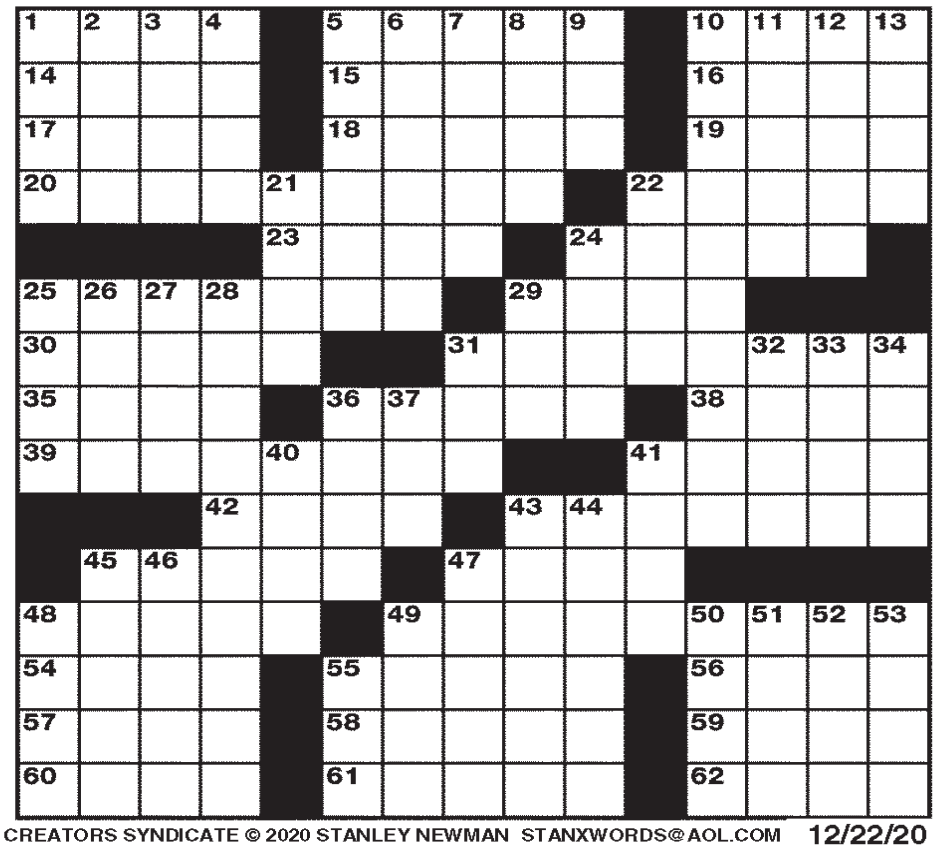
	7		9			1		8
1				7			6	
9		8			5		2	
					2		3	
4		1		6		5		7
	8		1					
	1		2			8		4
	6			8				9
8		5			4		1	

Newsday Crossword

FOR FUN by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Start to melt
5 Wandering animal
10 Big sheet of ice
14 Fence opening
15 Thorough investigation
16 Where Des Moines is
17 Much-admired celebrity
18 Actors' parts
19 Participates in a marathon
20 Criticize
22 Balance-sheet plus
23 "My __ are sealed!"
24 Take up a hem, perhaps
25 Keep in a cage
29 Horse's foot
30 Grownup
31 Handout in a fine restaurant
35 Fizzy drink
36 Lessen
38 Capital of Norway
39 Railroad bridge supports
41 Dog treats
42 Putter's target
43 Steering system components
45 Southpaw's nickname
47 Nary a soul
48 Is knocked for a loop
49 Cafeteria brawl
54 Prefix for dynamic
55 Similarly
56 Fly like an eagle
57 Duet plus one
58 Washbowl
59 Not punctual
60 Peered at
61 Paid out
62 Otherwise

DOWN
1 Employee's end-of-week shout
2 "__ but known!"
3 Oodles
4 Fuse, as metal
5 Ankle injury
6 Band of traveling actors
7 Breadbasket items
8 Assist in a crime
9 "Absolutely!"
10 Building's ground level
11 Contemptible one
12 Deed holder
13 Sunrise direction
21 Move like a butterfly
22 Skin-cream ingredient
24 Top-notch
25 Throw out a fishing line
26 Air freshener target
27 Hosiery shade
28 Result of a sudden downpour
29 Best-seller
31 Used to be
32 "Money __ object"
33 Winter coaster
34 Mix, as salad
36 Wartime partner
37 Stinging insect
40 Little kids
41 Butcher shop buy
43 Adopted, as a pet
44 Start a paragraph
45 Skeptical
46 Very strange
47 Library no-no
48 Hotel room fee
49 Envelope part
50 Speck of land in the sea
51 Soccer score
52 Berets and bonnets
53 Elm, for one
55 Tummy muscles, for short



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/22/20

Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0

		0				1					
						0		1			
		1		1							1
		1					0	0			0
	1				1					1	
1			0			0				1	
								0			0
	0	0									
							1				
0					1		1	1		1	1
					1	1				1	1



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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4975

What's for dinner?

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

Bake
Beat
Beef
Blanch
Broil
Burnt
Cook
Cure
Deglaze
Dice
Dust
Eggs
Entree
Fatty
Fold
Fork
Fruit
Garnish
Grind
Kidneys
Lamb
Lean
Microwave
Mince
Mutton
Oven
Pan-fry
Pare
Peel
Pie
Poach
Rabbit
Reduce
Render
Results
Roast
Satay
Saute
Sear
Sift
Skillet
Snags
Souffle
Sterilize
Stir
T-bone
Toss
Tripe
Vegetables

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Hello sunshine

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SCULPTURE

FROM PAGE 1

Marin created a design for the monument, which honors the traquero workers who built the Main Railroad Transportation System and the Pacific Electric Interurban System on the Westside.

The monument will be a bronze statue of a traquero on the railroad holding his daughters hand, with his son on his shoulders, and his wife by his side. The sculpture will be placed in a 15 foot water fountain surrounded by a brick layered Mexican Style pathway. To the right there will be an American Flag flying on a 25 foot pole with the Mexican flag beneath.

"We have reached a milestone. The Mexican and Mexican American Community have been marginalized, and this is an opportunity to reverse that discrimination by advancing this important historical education," said Laura Ceballos.

The group still has a ways to go before their monument is installed, including gaining approval from the L.A. City Council. However, they are confident that their work and the endorsements from prominent community leaders—including Senator Ben Allen, civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, Council Member Mike Bonin, and Representative Ted Lieu—have paved the way for the project to move ahead.

"We have a long history here and it's not recognized currently. Our history is being erased with all this gentrification that's taking place on the Westside," said Ceballos.

Long before Venice became known as Venice it was part of Mexico. The land was sold to California in an 1839 land grant from the Machado and Talamantes family. The grant transferred a 13,920 acre region known as Rancho La Ballona that encompassed present day Ocean Park, Pico neighborhood, Venice, Mar Vista, Marina Del Rey, Playa Vista, and Playa Del Rey.

The traquero railroad workers, who the monument is dedicated to, worked in this region during the 1870 to 1930s building critical transportation infrastructure for often very low wages.

"They contributed to a lot of things, not just the tracks across the nation I might add, but to the bricks that were made for the buildings here. Having a monument that at least points out the traqueros would be a plus for a very tired and downtrodden part of society here. Not a lot of accolades to go to the Mexican American community and we just came out of an administration where Mexicans were called rapists and criminals, so this approval is like a breath of fresh air" said Frank Sr Juarez.

Juarez's family first came to Southern California to work in the brickyards in 1906. They relocated to the Santa Monica area in 1928 and have lived in the community ever since. Many fellow Mexican Americans, including his wife, have grandparents who worked as traqueros.

The Pacific Electric Railway was one of largest electric railways systems in the world and remains famous for its red railway carts. However, the traqueros who built this system and often lived in repurposed rail carts with their families, have received little historical attention.

"We're not recognized on the Westside, so this would be the first monument honoring Mexican and Mexican Americans," said Ceballos. "We are the backbone of the economy in the workforce, yet it's not in our history books nor taught in our school, so I think this is a very important historical education."

Ceballos is thankful to all the local schools including Venice High School, Santa Monica College, and UCLA who actively support the monument and the organization's mission to provide a better education of the community's history.

The Venice Mexican American Traquero Monument Committee has created a Go Fund Me fundraising campaign to help make the project possible. Those wishing to donate can do so at: https://www.gofundme.com/f/venice-mexican-american-traquero-monument

Clara@smdp.com

RAMS

FROM PAGE 4

final minutes, the Rams threw two long, incomplete passes instead of playing a short game or running the ball.

Both passes fell incomplete and weren't even close. Whether Jared Goff made the wrong progression read or not, McVay's schemes didn't match the moment at all.

McVay also didn't try a 55-yard field goal on fourth down with Gay, who has enough leg to hit from that distance, particularly under a roof in perfect weather.

"I was ready to go," Gay said. "Warming up, I felt like if they called on me, I could go out there and make that, but I have full confidence in Sean to call the plays. Our team was rolling."

STOCK UP

Rookie Cam Akers had another strong game on the ground, rebounding from an in-game ankle injury to rush for 63 yards. His day should have been much bigger, too: He had three runs that went for 50 combined yards and a touchdown, but all three were called back by penalties on Joe Noteboom, Austin Corbett and Tyler Higbee.

STOCK DOWN

McVay always blames himself for whatever goes wrong with the Rams, but in this case he's largely right. The offense is his responsibility, and it's in two straight seasons of regression from its 2018 form. The young coach also had another game of head-scratching timeout decisions and curious play-calls with nearly no moments of inspiration to counter them. McVay and Goff are responsible for most of what happens with LA's offense, and it is sputtering.

INJURED

The Rams still appear to be remarkably healthy, and backup safety Nick Scott should be off the reserve/COVID-19 list by next week.

KEY NUMBER

6 — The number of game results in the final two weeks that would have to go against the Rams to keep them out of the playoffs. Los Angeles would have to lose out while Chicago wins out, Arizona beats the 49ers this week and Tampa Bay wins at least one more game.

WHAT'S NEXT

The season-defining trip to cold, possibly rainy Seattle on Sunday. After blowing their layup against the Jets, the Rams must win their final two games to be guaranteed their third NFC West title in four years.

TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 3

Eurotunnel, the rail operator that carries passengers and freight between Britain and mainland Europe, also suspended service out of the U.K.

Sophie Taxil, a Frenchwoman who lives in London, caught a train back home from Paris and urged everyone in Britain to follow the rules.

"I live there and I need to go back there; my family is there," she said. "I think that phlegmatic British nature suits these COVID times: Stay calm and carry on, fair play."

Over the weekend, Johnson said early indications are that the variant is 70% more transmissible and is driving the rapid spread of infections in the capital and surrounding areas.

As a result, he scrapped a planned relaxation of rules over Christmastime for millions of people and imposed other tough new restrictions in the affected zone. No indoor mixing of households will be allowed, and only essential travel will be permitted. Stores selling nonessential goods were ordered closed, putting a crimp in Christmas shopping.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said that while preliminary analysis suggests the new variant is "significantly more transmissible," there is no indication that infections are more severe. Still, experts have stressed that more infections will lead to more hospitalizations and deaths.

The Stockholm-based agency said a few cases of the variant have been reported by Iceland, Denmark and the Netherlands. It also cited news reports of cases in Belgium and Italy.

With the rollout of coronavirus vaccines set to pick up speed in early 2021, countries are clearly worried about the new variant.

"I think the vaccine will be fine," said Dr. Julian Tang, a clinical virologist at the University of Leicester. But the new strain "is spreading so fast we may not be able to reach the vulnerable population, the elderly, in time with the vaccine before the virus does."

The chaos at the border comes at a time of huge uncertainty for Britain, less than two weeks before it completes its exit from the EU and frees itself from the bloc's rules. Talks on a post-Brexit trade relationship between the two sides are deadlocked.

The retail industry played down fears of food shortages in the short term but warned of problems if the travel bans last for a while and if Britain and the EU fail to reach a trade deal. Trade association Logistics U.K. urged people to stay calm and resist panic-buying in supermarkets.

"If freight gets moving again today, then the overall impact on fresh produce arriving to supermarkets should be fairly minimal," said Kevin Green, the association's director of marketing and communications

Associated Press writers Frank Jordans and Geir Moulson in Berlin, Thomas Adamson in Paris and Susie Blann in London contributed to this report.

UPGRADES

FROM PAGE 1

highway with possible traffic hazards made it an ideal location for the warning.

"So we do want the traffic to flow down there in that transition because you're coming off the freeway and now you're going into a highway, where there are traffic signals so that's one reason why," he said. "The other is because Santa Monica is a popular area. People want to want to go visit there ... people are also trying to find parking nearby on the lots so that backup does happen on weekends or during sunset."

In addition to the queue warning, he said the new road surface and speed warnings will be installed to improve safety. While the speed notices will tell drivers if they're coming in too fast, the new road surface will help keep cars in their lanes.

"In tunnels, we add kind of more grit to the pavement so cars don't slip or anything like that. It makes sure the tires have traction and the motorists are sticking to the road."

Construction is scheduled to start the first week of January 2021. Overnight full closures of the McClure Tunnel will occur to facilitate a safe work zone and detour signs will be posted for all full closures.

Closures are weather-permitting and subject to change. Motorists should expect delays and are advised to use alternate routes during construction hours. Additionally, motorists can view current traffic closures before they leave for their destination by visiting the Caltrans Quickmap. Residents and businesses located near the freeway are advised to anticipate noise, vibrations, and dust associated with construction activities.

Aldridge Electric is the contractor on this $6.3 million project, which is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2021.

editor@smdp.com



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