smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

WEDNESDAY
12.23.20
Volume 20 Issue 35

Crime Watch
Renting a car to call home.
Page 3

Santa Anas return
With maybe a little rain.
Page 6

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Mural taking shape

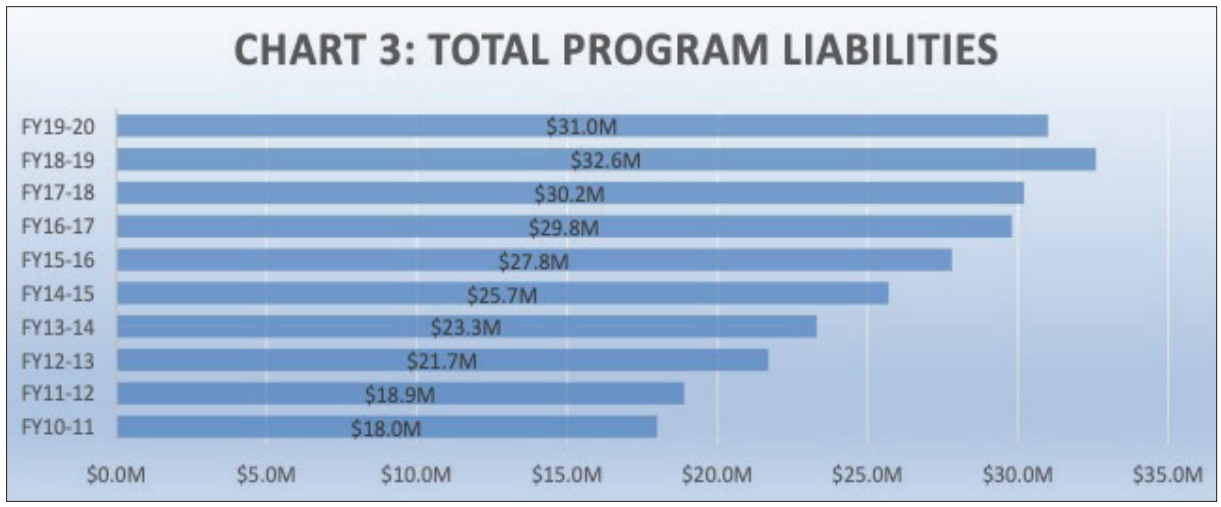




Courtesy photos

ART: Artist Corie Mattie is working round the clock to finish a new mural at 7th and Colorado. The work is a partnership between Beautify Earth and The People Concern. Mattie previously painted a mural titled "From the Plague Came the Renaissance" in Downtown Santa Monica.

Santa Monica Worker Comp claims fall for first time



Courtesy image

CLAIMS: Shutting down some government services due to coronavirus also cut the number of claims filed.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Worker compensation claims in the City of Santa Monica fell for the first time in history this fiscal year.

The value of all open claims (known as total program liabilities) fell by 5 percent this year while the number of new claims (claim frequency) fell by 14 percent. The total program expenses fell by three percent.

The program covers medical and indemnity payments, claim settlements approved by staff and general claim and cost trends as required by law. Staff said the cost reductions were likely a mix of systemic savings generated by cost control efforts and temporary reductions due to COVID-induced cuts to city operations.

According to a report given to Council this week, the city spent approximately $12.5 million on medical treatment and indemnity payments for injured employees this fiscal year, down from $12.8 million in the prior fiscal year. Medical costs increased by about $100,000 to $4.9 of the $12.5 million total. Indemnity payments, covering temporary and permanent disability, dropped from

SEE **CLAIMS** PAGE 11

Californians warned of possible post-holidays virus disaster

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

Californians are being warned it is too risky to celebrate the winter holidays normally and if they don't change plans a deadly explosion of coronavirus cases could follow.

The state has recorded a half-million coronavirus cases in the last two weeks, and Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday that a projection model shows California could be facing nearly 100,000 hospitalizations within a month.

Authorities begged people to stay home, avoid mingling with anyone outside their own households and

SEE **VIRUS** PAGE 7

Local Reps. say federal stimulus bill provides essential but not enough relief

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Southern California Democratic Reps. Lieu, Levin, Peters, and Ruiz laud the eleventh hour passage of a bipartisan COVID-19 relief bill, but said the leaner than desired package leaves many gaps that the new administration will immediately need to address.

"This relief package was far too small," said Rep. Ted Lieu, who represents Santa Monica as part of California's 33rd congressional District. "We had the choice of either doing nothing or passing some relief to the American people, but to me, this is just a downpayment so hopefully we can do additional stimulus when Joe Biden and Kamala Harris come in on January 20."

The $900 billion package which

SEE **STIMULUS BILL** PAGE 11



File photo

TED LIEU



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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013
(213) 576-6600

Public Notice No. 20-021
File No. 20-090
CI No. 10569

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs)
AND WATER RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS (WRRs)

DISCHARGER	RECYCLING LOCATION	RECEIVING WATER
City of Santa Monica	Santa Monica, CA	Santa Monica Groundwater Basin

"The City of Santa Monica (hereinafter Discharger) is developing a recycled water program to achieve long-term water self-sufficiency. When fully implemented, the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project (SWIP) will allow the Discharger to reuse up to 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd) of a mixture of treated stormwater, brackish groundwater, dry weather runoff, and municipal wastewater within the city. The Discharger is building an Advanced Water Treatment Facility (AWTF) at 1771 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, with a production capacity of 1 million gallons per day (mgd). The AWTF will receive up to 1.38 mgd of raw municipal wastewater (currently conveyed to the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant), stormwater, and dry-weather runoff to produce up to 1 mgd advanced-treated recycled water for nonpotable and indirect potable reuse. The AWTF will only treat a portion of the municipal wastewater produced in the city and the remaining flow will continue to be conveyed to the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant for treatment and disposal to the Pacific Ocean, regulated under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0109991. The AWTF advanced-treated recycled water will be mixed with treated water from the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recovery Facility (SMURRF) prior to distribution for nonpotable reuse. The AWTF is currently in the process of being built so the use and distribution for recycled water that will be produced at the AWTF is not yet regulated.

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board), tentatively proposes to issue waste discharge requirements, including effluent limitations and special conditions.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE AND LOCATION
The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing on the tentative WDRs/ WRRs during its regular Board meeting on the following date and time and at the following location:

Date: **February 11, 2021**
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Likely virtual meeting.
Please check the Board's website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/) for the most up-todate public hearing location as it is subject to change.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS
The Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD), other documents relied upon, tentative effluent limitations and special provisions, and other information are on file and are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. by appointment at the following address:"

"Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of the documents may be made by calling the Los Angeles Water Board at (213) 576-6600. Additionally, the agenda and the draft order will be available online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/ under the "Tentative Permits" heading.

The entire file will become a part of the administrative record of this proceeding, irrespective of whether individual documents are specifically referenced during the hearing or contained in the agenda packet. The entire file will not be present in the hearing room. In addition to the materials generated for this proceeding, the file includes the administrative records for the applicable Basin Plan amendments. Should any interested persons desire staff to bring to the hearing any particular documents that are not included in the agenda packet, they must submit a written or electronic request to staff during business hours, not later than five business days before the hearing. The request must identify the documents with enough specificity for staff to locate them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE
Persons wishing to comment on, or object to, the tentative amendment to waste discharge requirements and water reclamation requirements, or submit evidence for the Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing to Steven Webb at the above address, or send them electronically to Steven.Webb@waterboards.ca.gov. To be evaluated and responded to by Los Angeles Water Board staff, included in the Board's agenda folder, and fully considered by the Board, written comments or testimony regarding the tentative must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2021.** Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Los Angeles Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence pursuant to section 648.4, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

NATURE OF HEARING
This proceeding will be a formal adjudicatory proceeding. For such proceedings, the Los Angeles Water Board follows procedures established by the State Water Resources Control Board. These procedures are set forth in regulations commencing with section 647 of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, in particular, Article 2, commencing with section 648.

PARTIES TO THE HEARING
The following are the parties to this proceeding: **City of Santa Monica**

Any other persons requesting party status must submit a written or electronic request to staff no later than 20 business days before the hearing. All parties will be notified if other persons are so designated."

Los Angeles Water Board staff is not a party to the proceeding; their participation in this proceeding exists for the purpose of advising and assisting the Los Angeles Water Board.

HEARING PROCEDURE
The Board meeting, of which this hearing is a part, will start at 9:00 a.m. Interested persons are invited to attend. When the agenda item is called, staff will present the matter under consideration, after which oral statements from parties or interested persons will be heard. For accuracy of the record, all important testimony should be in writing. The Board will include in the administrative record written transcriptions of oral testimony that is actually presented at the hearing. Oral testimony may be limited to three minutes or less for each interested person, depending on the number of interested persons wishing to be heard.

Parties or interested persons with similar concerns or opinions are encouraged to choose one representative to speak and are encouraged to coordinate their presentations with each other. Parties will be advised after the receipt of public comments, but prior to the date of the hearing, of the amount of time each is allocated for presentations. That decision will be based upon the complexity and number of issues under consideration, the extent to which the parties have coordinated, the number of parties and interested persons anticipated, and the time available for the hearing. At the conclusion of testimony, the Board will deliberate in open or close session, and render a decision.

The Board does not generally require the prior identification of witnesses, the cross examination of witnesses, or other procedures not specified in this notice. Parties or persons with special procedural requests or requests for alternative hearing procedures should contact staff, who will endeavor to accommodate reasonable requests. Objections to any procedure to be used during this hearing must be submitted in writing no later than close of business 15 business days prior to the date of the hearing. (Any objections related to the amount of time allocated for parties' presentations must be submitted within two business days of notice thereof, if that date is less than 15 business days before the hearing.) Absent such objections, any procedure not specified in this hearing notice will be waived pursuant to section 648(d) of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Procedural objections will not be entertained at the hearing.

If there should not be a quorum on the scheduled date of this meeting, all cases will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on March 11, 2021. A continuance will not extend any time set forth herein.

STAFF CONTACTS
If you have any questions regarding this proposed action, please contact Steven Webb via email at Steven.Webb@waterboards.ca.gov or Jeong-Hee Lim, Ph.D., P.E., Chief, Municipal Permitting Unit via email at Jeong-Hee.Lim@waterboards.ca.gov.

Date: December 14, 2020

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 195 CALLS ON DECEMBER 21

Loud Music 900blk 12th St 12:38 a.m.
Burglary Report 1100blk 4th St 1:38 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2nd St / Broadway 2:10 a.m.
Domestic Violence Now 2000blk Ocean Ave 2:44 a.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1100blk Pico Blvd 2:55 a.m.
Forensics Request - Fingerprint 2000blk Ocean Ave 3:07 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 400blk California Ave 3:33 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 300blk 14th St 4:04 a.m.
Construction Noise 1400blk Ocean Ave 7:26 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2600blk 34th St 7:45 a.m.
Loud Music 2500blk The Beach 7:51 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 7:52 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 1400blk Ocean Ave 8:16 a.m.
Fraud Report 2000blk Delaware Ave 8:17 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk 15th St 8:37 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1700blk 17th St 8:55 a.m.
Loud Music 2500blk Ocean Front Walk 8:57 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 100blk California Ave 9:12 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 10th St 9:18 a.m.
General Parking Problem 7th St / Navy St 9:31 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 9:36 a.m.
Burglary Report 400blk California Ave 9:51 a.m.
Encampment 800blk Pico Blvd 10:16 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk Colorado Ave 10:36 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2700blk Colorado Ave 10:37 a.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Main St 10:50 a.m.
Fraud Report Unknown 10:51 a.m.
Found Property 2800blk The Beach 10:59 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 20th St 11:02 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Neilson Way / Bay St 11:19 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk The Beach 11:24 a.m.
Found Property 15th St / Olympic Blvd 11:25 a.m.
Burglary Report 2600blk 5th St 11:34 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 11:44 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600blk Ocean Ave 11:49 a.m.
Counterfeit Money Investigation 2900blk Wilshire Blvd 11:51 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk Centinela Ave 12:03 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 5th St / Colorado Ave 12:20 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1100blk Montana Ave 12:31 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 1400blk Ocean Ave 12:31 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 800blk 7th St 12:33 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 2600blk 31st St 1:19 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 3300blk Barnard Way 1:41 p.m.
Encampment 1400blk 6th St 2:13 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 2:28 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1100blk 20th St 2:38 p.m.
Burglary Report 2900blk 4th St 2:42 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200blk 12th St 2:43 p.m.
Vandalism Just Occurred 1600blk Montana Ave 2:49 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 3300blk Donald Douglas Loop N 2:57 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 3:22 p.m.
Pedestrian Stop 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 3:30 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2200blk Marine St 3:31 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 3300blk Barnard Way 3:33 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 600blk 18th St 3:44 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 400blk 14th St 3:45 p.m.
Panic Alarm 3200blk Olympic Blvd 3:48 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2300blk Kansas Ave 3:53 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2000blk Main St 4:07 p.m.
Citizen Flag 2100blk Main St 4:10 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 4:14 p.m.
Fight 2500blk Pico Blvd 4:14 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2000blk Main St 5:22 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1000blk Broadway 5:28 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2200blk 28th St 5:38 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Just Occurred 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 5:52 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1200blk 23rd St 6:02 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk 6th St 6:14 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 2500blk Pico Blvd 6:48 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 6:51 p.m.
Auto Burglary Now 2400blk 3rd St 6:52 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 100blk Broadway 6:55 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:21 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 500blk Colorado Ave 7:31 p.m.
Arson 1400blk 14th St 7:35 p.m.
Vandalism Now 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:51 p.m.
Vandalism Now 1700blk 10th St 8:04 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 8:12 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 8:28 p.m.
Identity Theft 400blk 10th St 8:33 p.m.
Loud Music 1000blk 4th St 8:53 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2800blk Main St 9:42 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:42 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1500blk 19th St 11:31 p.m.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 37 CALLS ON DECEMBER 21

EMS 1500blk 5th St 12:16 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Ocean Ave 2:50 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:15 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Ocean Ave 3:47 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 5:33 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 1400blk Ocean Ave 6:39 a.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:53 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Ashland Ave 7:50 a.m.
EMS 800blk 4th St 8:26 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 8:40 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Pico Blvd 9:33 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 4th St 9:41 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 20th St 12:14 p.m.
EMS 2900blk 4th St 2:01 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 2:22 p.m.
EMS 900blk 7th St 2:40 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 21st St 2:48 p.m.
EMS 300blk 21st St 3:29 p.m.
EMS 800blk Idaho Ave 4:34 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Ocean Ave 5:16 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 5:24 p.m.
Flooded Condition 600blk San Vicente Blvd 5:26 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 10th St 5:28 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Arizona Ave 5:33 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 5:48 p.m.
EMS 400blk Broadway 6:03 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Marine St 6:25 p.m.
Lock In/Out 800blk Navy St 6:34 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 6:43 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 7:02 p.m.
Structure Fire 1400blk 14th St 7:33 p.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1400blk 15th St 7:35 p.m.
EMS 500blk Raymond Ave 7:40 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 6th St 9:17 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk 15th St 9:32 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Euclid St 11:22 p.m.
Structure Fire 800blk 4th St 11:53 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 10 AT 3:53 P.M.

An SMPD Officer was driving southbound on the 1400 block of Ocean Avenue, when his vehicle's Vigilant License Plate Recognition (LPR) software notified him of a stolen vehicle in his vicinity. The Officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop and approached the driver of the vehicle. The driver made several nonsensical statements and showed paperwork that he had rented the vehicle from Hertz Vehicles, however he had not returned the vehicle and was now living in it. John Francis McGavisk was booked for 503 PC - Embezzlement (felony) and later released with a citation.

Letter to the Editor

Matthew Stevens — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What is affordable?

Editor:

I'm curious, do people know what Mayor Himmelrich means when she says she only supports affordable housing?

"Affordable housing" is more accurately described as income-restricted rental housing. It's vitally important and we should build as much as we can but it's not available to everyone. To qualify, you cannot earn more than the income limits.

For a family of four in Santa Monica, the upper most income limit in newly constructed "affordable housing" is $92,750 per year. That's $46,375 per working parent. If you make more, you're out of luck - affordable housing is not available to you.

This excludes *a lot* of people. Many of our most essential workers do not qualify. Our nurses, teachers, firefighters, etc. all earn more than $46,375 per year. Their only option is market rate housing, which Mayor Himmelrich does not support.

That's a big problem. We should want these community members to live in Santa Monica with us. But by saying you don't support more market rate housing, what you're in effect saying is that you don't support housing for them. Our nurses, our teachers, our firefighters – according to Mayor Himmelrich, they don't deserve housing here.

I find this all to be very hypocritical. Mayor Himmelrich lives in market rate housing! In one of the most expensive and exclusive zip codes in the United States. I guess this means that market rate housing is good when it satisfies her needs, but bad when it satisfies the needs of someone else. So, what ends up happening is that many of our nurses, our teachers, our firefighters, and others end up living elsewhere and commute in through horrific traffic every day. This clogs our roads, pollutes our air, and directly harms the quality of life for those we say are so important to our city.

I think housing is a civil right. And like other civil rights, you either support it for everyone or you don't really support it all. We don't get to pick and choose who gets access to the ballot box. Similarly, Mayor Himmelrich shouldn't get to pick and choose who gets access to housing.

Matthew Stevens, Santa Monica



WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS.



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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER



Curious City

Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's Good News Week!

A BAD START GONE GOOD

"Off to a Bad Start" was my headline for last week's CURIOUS CITY column. Boy, a lot has happened since then.

The bad start I referred to was the partisan, tone deaf votes for mayor and mayor pro tem by the old Council members, which went to veteran Sue Himmelrich and brand new kid Kristin McCowan, respectively. But the meaning was in how the votes were cast.

Sue had made it clear in advance that she wanted the top post. Two years, not one, thank you. A lot of what you see done by Council members that you don't like or understand, is done for prestige and ego, not money. For one thing, if you're on the Council, you might become Mayor!

Read 'em and weep. Mayor Kevin McKeown (2x, ouch), Mayor Richard Bloom (3x, yikes), Mayor Pam O'Connor (good gawd, 24 years on Council, 4x Mayor). Then there's Terry O'Day, defeated last election, 10 years on Council, never awarded the mayor mantle by fellow Council members. Sounds right to me.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SUE HIMMELRICH

On becoming mayor. She deserves it, and she can continue to deserve it by continuing to vote on big issues with the new slate we sent to Council to make big changes. The four of them shot down further development of a 12-story hotel complex in the center of our downtown, last Council meeting. Hooray!

But she and the other incumbents should have immediately recognized the mandate the residents of SM declared in the last election, by voting Phil Brock the mayor pro tem title. Instead the remaining four, for probably different reasons, pushed it towards Kristin McCowan, appointed to Council only five months before. McCowan's family is well-known in town for decades, but she herself has been absent for years until moving back recently. Brock and Oscar de la Torre both have decades of service to SM organizations, most of it volunteer. Third slate member Christine Parra has 20 years experience in city government (Culver City). Any of them would have been a better choice, to acknowledge the slate we voted in, against all odds and precedent.

OH YEAH – THE BROWN ACT

But McCowan actively sought that honor. And — she revealed, just before the vote, that she "may have inadvertently" violated the Brown Act in doing so. Inadvertently? The Brown Act is intended to promote transparency in government, to ensure that people get to see and hear what is being decided, in public, not in exclusive private meetings or behind closed doors.

In the case of a seven-member body, like our Council, that means you can discuss a pending matter with two others, but not three, because that would mean soliciting a majority vote. McCowan admitted that she spoke with three other Council members about her desire to be voted mayor pro tem. How is that inadvertent? Pretty easy to count to four, isn't it?

She sought the opinion of our also-new Interim City Attorney, George Cardona. He advised her to disclose it at the Council meeting, which she did. But then what? After seven seconds of pin-drop silence from everyone, he advised that they could "proceed." Shouldn't proceeding mean dealing with the just-revealed possible violation of law? Should Kristin have been asked to recuse herself? Should she have been barred from accepting that position, because of her prejudicial actions? Instead, Sue jumped in to thank Kevin for the honor of his nomination and then it all proceeded without a word about the admission by McCowan.

Nothing will happen. The Brown Act is toothless, with zero successful violation prosecutions since it was enacted in 1953, as far as I could find. But in the spirit of transparency, the City Council should have at least discussed Kristin's admitted violation. She said that what she discussed was already out there in previous public disclosures, but that depends upon where she talked or wrote about it.

That the Council skipped right past it is embarrassing. Phil and Oscar, Kevin and Gleam, at least, should have called a halt, for discussion. They know all about the Brown Act. Shades of Pam O'Connor. Can't our elected officials just follow the law? Part of the "bad start."

BUT TODAY

Everything is coming up roses! We had a terrific, accurate, well-researched, long piece in the Sunday LA Times about our election, by Faith E. Pinho. (https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-12-20/new-guard-santa-monica-city-council) Brock is bringing transparency to Council deliberations by going over consent items with a sharp eye, enlisting his kitchen cabinet to research them, and pulling items off for discussion and sending back to City staff for comment.

This is big. Our staff has had a lot of control, even over Council, in what they do or do not report. This shines a light and demands accountability.

The previous Council dropped the ball by not getting us in on the protest other CA cities have made over the ridiculous number of housing units (8,873 in 8 years for SM, 6000 of them "affordable" — good luck) assigned to each city to be built, by the quasi-governmental SCAG (Southern CA Assoc. of Governments), but that housing element is now being discussed vigorously. In the last Council meeting Gleam Davis tried to cast some aspersion on the process, comparing any move to limit housing here as somehow akin to "Jim Crow." She also was quoted at the end of the Times reporting as saying about the election results, "Not sure I know what the message was, other than, 'We're unhappy.'" That's clueless, disingenuous or

SEE **GOOD NEWS** PAGE 6

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.

US hospitals facing worrisome shortage of nurses, doctors

DAISY NGUYEN
Associated Press

With so many states seeing a flood of coronavirus patients, U.S. hospitals are again worried about finding enough medical workers to meet demand just as infections from the holiday season threaten to add to the burden on American health care.

California, which is enduring by far its worst spike in cases and hospitalizations, is reaching out to places like Australia and Taiwan to fill the need for 3,000 temporary medical workers, particularly nurses trained in critical care.

"We're now in a situation where we have surges all across the country, so nobody has many nurses to spare," said Dr. Janet Coffman, a professor of public policy at the University of California in San Francisco.

Hospitals in some states have enlisted retired nurses and students. In Alabama, more than 120 students and faculty members from the University of Alabama at Birmingham's nursing school began helping with care last week at UAB Hospital.

"I know our biggest concern is staff, even more concerned about that than physical beds and physical ICU units," North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said Tuesday.

Elected leaders and health officials across the U.S. are asking people to stay home for the holidays while also trying show the public that the COVID-19 vaccines trickling out to health care workers and nursing home residents are safe.

A day after getting vaccinated on live television, President-elect Joe Biden said Tuesday that he has full confidence in the vaccine. He also thanked front-line workers, scientists, researchers and clinical trial participants while urging Americans to avoid large gatherings over the Christmas holidays.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, received the initial dose of the newest vaccine, produced by Moderna, alongside other federal health leaders who helped oversee its development.

Fauci told "Good Morning America" on Tuesday that he expects to start vaccinating the general population in late March or early April and that most Americans will have access to the injections by mid-summer.

Also on Tuesday, Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House coronavirus response, said she planned to retire, but she is willing to first help Biden's team as needed. Birx, in an interview with the news site Newsy, did not give a specific timetable on her plans.

The medical worker staffing shortages are happening as some states report a record number of deaths. Both Mississippi and West Virginia surpassed their previous highs for virus deaths reported in a single day on Tuesday while Arizona saw its second-highest daily increase during the pandemic.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster tested positive for the virus and was to receive outpatient antibody treatment for "mild symptoms," his office said Tuesday.

In Tennessee, which is seeing the nation's worst new COVID-19 infection surge per capita, the state health commissioner has warned that combining the Thanksgiving surge with another would "completely break our hospitals."

Deaths in Florida's nursing homes doubled during the Thanksgiving holiday, according to statistics gathered by AARP. The rise drew concern from advocates also worried about gatherings over Christmas and other year-end celebrations.

"There is nothing to celebrate. The national average is a catastrophe," said Dave Bruns, the spokesperson for AARP Florida.

Much of California has exhausted its usual ability to staff intensive care beds. All of Southern California and the 12-county San Joaquin Valley to the north have been out of regular ICU capacity for days.

An emergency room physician in Los Angeles who helped set up a surge hospital last spring said there are no plans to reopen it. "There would be no way to staff it," said Dr. Marc Futernick.

California hospitals typically turn to staffing agencies during flu season, when they rely on travel nurses to meet patient care needs.

But the pool of available travel nurses is drying up as demand for them jumped 44% over the last month, with California, Texas, Florida, New York and Minnesota requesting the most extra staff, according to San Diego-based health care staffing firm Aya Healthcare.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, California's Health and Human Services secretary, said the state is "lucky to get two-thirds" of its requests for travel nurses fulfilled right now.

It's a sharp contrast from the spring, when health care providers from California flew to New York to help their overworked colleagues.

Ghaly said entire areas of California may run out of room even in surge capacity units "by the end of the month and early in January." It's trying to avoid that by opening makeshift hospitals in places like gymnasiums, tents and a vacant NBA arena, and sending patients to parts of the state with empty beds.

While larger hospital systems can stretch their staff, some smaller or unaffiliated hospitals do not have that ability and are a priority for state staffing assistance particularly with nurses and respiratory therapists, he said.

Sara Houze, a traveling cardiac intensive care nurse from Washington, D.C., began a new assignment this week caring for COVID-19 patients on the brink of death in San Bernardino, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) east of Los Angeles.

She said her online community of nurses is offering webinars about moral distress because many of them have had to change the way they care for patients.

"The patients that aren't yet intubated, and even the ones intubated, aren't getting the kind of nursing care that I want to give them because our resources are so limited and time is taxed," she said. "It's really disheartening."

Associated Press reporters from around the U.S. contributed to this report.

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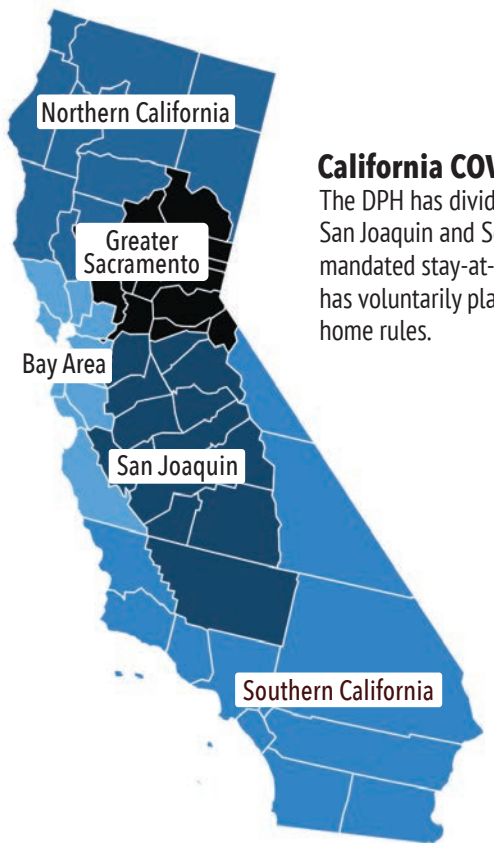
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Primer: Stay-at-home

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

GOOD NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

just plain BS. Davis had better get a clue and start voting with residents' wishes, or get out of the way.

The COVID relief package from Congress swelled overnight from $909B to $2.3T, and hallelujah, contains $15B for struggling live music and theatre venues! That's a direct result of the Save Our Stages campaign reported in my NOTEWORTHY column (https://www.smdp.com/covid-is-killing-live-music/200026), which is tied into the BRING MUSIC HOME book Nicole wrote about last week (you can still order it for Christmas!).

It's looking better and better for two unlikely victories in Alabama Senate races, which would break evil Moscow Mitch's iron grip on our government.

Bill Barr is gone, no voting fraud or Hunter Biden bullpucky investigations (even he has his limits, I guess), soon to be followed by Ivanka & the Defective Gene Pool and the Orange Oligarch himself. The NBA started back up Tuesday. Each day from now on will actually be longer, and brighter.

I do believe that 800-year astral convergence Monday night may have worked some magic.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SILVER SPRING, Md.

During holiday season, US consumer confidence slumps

A closely-watched gauge of U.S. consumer confidence tumbled in December as rising coronavirus cases dragged American optimism to its lowest level since the summer.

However, rising pessimism is now spreading during the crucial holiday season, which could make or break a number of retailers, airlines, restaurants other sector that have been hammered financially during the pandemic.

The December reading of 88.6 released Tuesday by the Conference Board is a sharp decline from last month, which was revised downward to 92.9, and it is far worse than economists had expected.

It may be an ominous sign for an economy in which consumer spending accounts for 70% of all economic activity.

The Commerce Department reported last week that U.S. retail sales fell a seasonally adjusted 1.1% in November, the biggest drop in seven months, and also worse than most were expecting. The drumbeat of weak economic data may be providing a grim preview of Christmas receipts, which can account for a quarter or more of a retailer's annual sales.

The index measuring consumers' assessment of current business and labor market conditions also fell sharply, from 105.9 last month to 90.3 in December. Consumers' short-term outlook for income, business, and labor market conditions ticked up slightly from 84.3 in November to 87.5 this month, possibly because of recent approvals for COVID-19 vaccines.

It remains to be seen how Congress' $900 billion relief bill, which was passed Monday and too late for the survey, will affect consumer behavior this winter.

The bill combines coronavirus-fighting funds with financial relief for individuals and businesses. It would establish a temporary $300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a $600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for hard-hit businesses, restaurants and theaters and money for schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction.

MATT OTT, AP BUSINESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES

California to see gusty fire weather, then Pacific storms

Critical fire danger is likely to return to Southern California at midweek due to a new round of gusty Santa Ana winds, forecasters said Tuesday.

Southern California Edison was considering public safety power shutoffs affecting more than 130,000 customers to prevent fires from being ignited by downed lines or wind-blown debris striking electrical equipment.

Fire weather watches were scheduled to go into effect in the region late Wednesday morning and last through Thursday, the National Weather Service said.

The seasonal offshore winds also will slash relative humidity levels, making vegetation already dried out by the summer months even more susceptible to fire.

The winds also could bring gale conditions to the inner coastal waters, forecasters said.

The first of two Pacific frontal systems will approach the Northern California coast on Friday afternoon, raising potential concern about potential mudslides or debris flows from burn scars.

For Southern California, there's a limited chance of rain Friday and Saturday, but wet weather is expected in all areas of the region late Sunday and Monday.

The Los Angeles-area weather office described the late-weekend event as the "first non-trivial storm" of the season.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



VIRUS

FROM PAGE 1

wear face coverings to prevent a surge upon a surge.

"Another spike in cases in the winter holidays will be disastrous for our hospital system and ultimately will mean many more people simply won't be with us in 2021," Los Angeles County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer bluntly asserted in a briefing.

The current surge is overwhelming emergency rooms in urban centers and in rural areas including along the Mexican border where a small hospital system warns it is quickly running out of patient beds.

Conditions at El Centro Regional Medical Center in the southeast corner of the state are desperate, even worse than during a summer surge that caught the attention of the governor, hospital officials said.

"We don't have space for anybody. We've been holding patients for days because we can't get them transferred, can't get beds for them," said Dr. Alexis Lenz, an emergency room physician at the medical center in Imperial County, home to 180,000 people.

Of the 175 patients at the hospital on Monday, 131 had COVID-19. The facility licensed for 161 beds has erected a 50-bed tent in its parking lot and was converting three operating rooms to virus care.

Newsom, himself in a precautionary quarantine after possible exposure for the second time in two months, said he's likely to extend his stay-at-home order for much of the state next week.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, California's secretary of Health and Human Services, said it's feared entire areas of the state may run out of room even in their makeshift "surge" capacity units "by the end of the month and early in January." In response, the state is updating its planning guide for how hospitals would ration care if everyone can't get the treatment they need, he said.

"Our goal is to make sure those plans are in place, but work hard to make sure no one has to put them into place anywhere in California," Ghaly said.

It hopes to accomplish that by beefing up temporary staffing, opening makeshift hospitals in places like gymnasiums, tents and a vacant NBA arena, and by sending patients to regions of the state that might have precious remaining beds.

California is enduring by far its worst spike in cases and hospitalizations. All of Southern California and the 12-county San Joaquin Valley to the north have been out of regular ICU capacity for days.

California is averaging almost 44,000 newly confirmed cases a day and has recorded 525,000 in the last two weeks. It's estimated 12% those who test positive end up in the hospital. That means 63,000 hospitalizations from the last 14 days of cases. The current figure is 17,190.

The state's public health department in June released crisis planning guidelines for hospitals and other care facilities during the pandemic. It provides detailed guidance for how to manage care decisions when resources are scarce.

The goal is the best possible outcome for the largest number of people, the document says.

The guidelines emphasize the importance of planning for crisis scenarios and of ensuring decisions are not made based on discriminatory factors such as age, race, disability, gender, socioeconomic status, insurance status.

The document outlines best practices for "proactive triage" that must occur when a hospital has exhausted its resources. A basic graphic shows the first consideration should be whether a patient is actively dying or certain to die, in which case they should only be given palliative care.

For patients not in that category, care providers are broadly asked to assess a person's prognosis of survival compared to others when determining how to allocate limited resources.

Los Angeles is among the hardest hit areas of the state but its hospitals aren't there yet, LA County Department of Health Services Director Dr. Christina Ghaly said Monday. They are in the contingency stage, which means shifting around staff and equipment.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said experts have drawn "a straight line" between the current spikes in cases and Thanksgiving gatherings and warned people to stay home in the coming weeks.

"If you gather for the holidays, our hospitals will be overrun," Garcetti said. "This is not a good sign, and it's a recipe for a Christmas and New Year's surge."

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. The governor was tested and his result came back negative.

In a rare bright note, Newsom said federal relief aid and more vaccines are both on the way. The first 110,000 doses of the newly approved Moderna vaccine arrived in the state a week after California hospitals administered the first 70,258 doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

The explosion of cases in the last six weeks has California's death toll climbing. Another 83 fatalities reported Sunday raised the total to 22,676, though Newsom cautioned the daily figure was likely too low because of a normal weekend reporting lag.

The state has averaged 233 deaths each day for the last 14 days.

Associated Press reporters John Antczak and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles, Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento contributed to this report.

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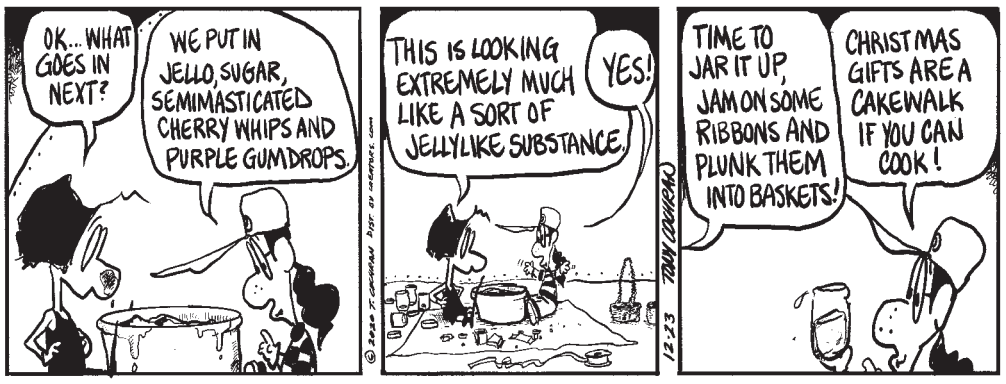




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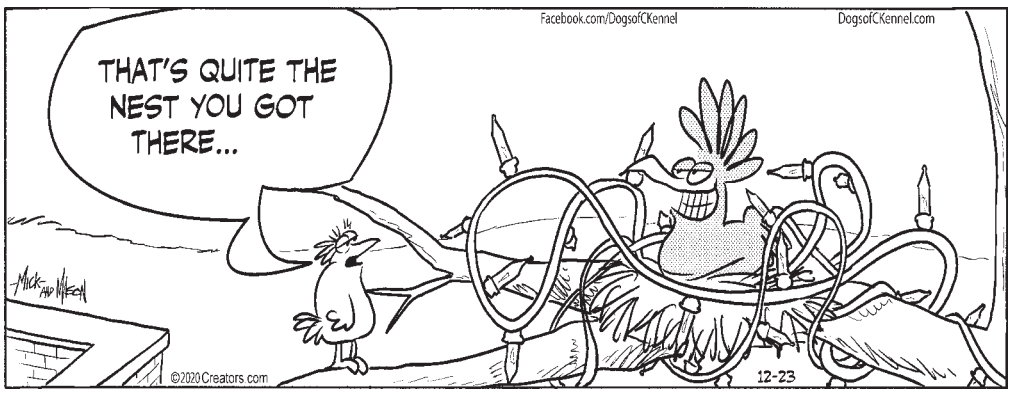
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



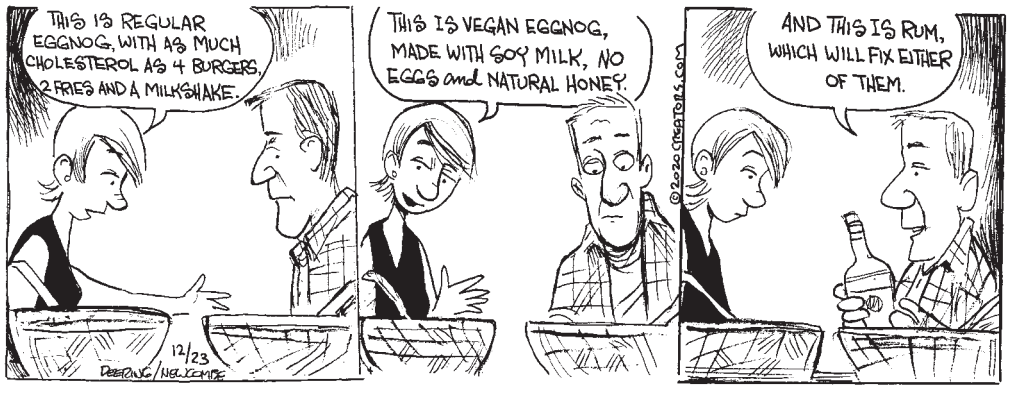
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



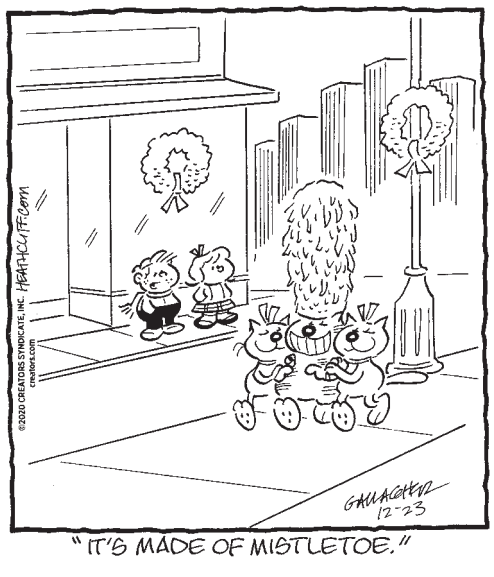
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.7°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Steep-angled NW swell continues.

THURSDAY -**POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Steep-angled NW swell drops.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 68.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Thursday: Cloudy, with a high near 65.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2020/12/26	Sat	1:47 PM	0.03	L
2020/12/26	Sat	8:07 PM	3.44	H
2020/12/27	Sun	12:39 AM	2.11	L
2020/12/27	Sun	07:02 AM	5.73	H
2020/12/27	Sun	2:18 PM	-0.33	L
2020/12/27	Sun	8:43 PM	3.52	H
2020/12/28	Mon	01:12 AM	2.18	L
2020/12/28	Mon	07:32 AM	5.93	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

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

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

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 12/21
2 4 5 31 38

calottery Daily3
Draw Date: 12/21
Evening: 9 9 4
Draw Date: 12/21
Midday:0 1 0

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 12/15
1st: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 02 - LUCKY STAR
3rd: 06 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:47.47

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 23)

The months ahead feature wondrous crossovers between different parts of your life. Aesthetic choices bring about mystical outcomes; spiritual habits physically heal and invigorate; material goals introduce new relationships, etc. When you lead with that special frequency all on your own, you win on multiple levels. Taurus and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 39, 33, 27 and 1.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your body is designed to heal itself, and it will follow through with the potential of that design just as soon as you lift the stress off and let nature work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You know what it's like to go through the motions of life all the while gazing distractedly inward. That is why, when you recognize this in others, your heart extends; your empathy augments; and you offer love.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You recognize that you've been gifted an extraordinary bestowal. You'd like to enjoy it awhile before you get down to the business of giving thanks for it. And in fact, your delight is the best sort of gratitude.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Once upon a time, you gave a heart and then had to take it back, not because it was mistakenly given but because it was just time. Remembering this will help you with today's judicious choice.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You like to go away long enough to miss what you have at home. Such things haven't been as possible, but that has only made your plans for the future more daring. Oh, the buzzy fantasy of wanderlust dreams!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Conversation can flow freely at times, but the important communication shouldn't be left to chance. Give forethought to the important parts and how you'd like to structure it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The dog doesn't wish it was a cat. The cat does not wish it was a bird. The animals embrace their unique creaturehood, and so will you today, by doing something that only you could do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When asked, you'll give your angle on things, though you're also aware that many times, people ask questions not because they want answers but because they want to give their own opinion on the matter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It feels good to be praised, but what feels better is to be engaged, challenged and chosen. You're top tier as a playmate, and someone just keeps picking you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). An experience may be dreamy once, and the next time, it's not the same at all, owing to any one of a dozen variables... which is why it always helps to temper expectations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your next opportunity is coming from an unexpected place. They have to hear about you first, though, so don't be afraid to talk about what you're up to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Once, you were angry about how you'd been wronged. But, wishing to grow, you didn't rest in the bitterness. You kept going until the scene got so comically small in your rearview that you could not help but laugh at it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

T	H	A	W	■	S	T	R	A	Y	■	F	L	O	E
G	A	T	E	■	P	R	O	B	E	■	I	O	W	A
I	D	O	L	■	R	O	L	E	S	■	R	U	N	S
F	I	N	D	F	A	U	L	T	■	A	S	S	E	T
■	■	■	■	L	I	P	S	■	A	L	T	E	R	■
C	O	N	F	I	N	E	■	H	O	O	F	■	■	■
A	D	U	L	T	■	■	W	I	N	E	L	I	S	T
S	O	D	A	■	A	B	A	T	E	■	O	S	L	O
T	R	E	S	T	L	E	S	■	■	B	O	N	E	S
■	■	■	H	O	L	E	■	T	I	E	R	O	D	S
■	L	E	F	T	Y	■	N	O	N	E	■	■	■	■
R	E	E	L	S	■	F	O	O	D	F	I	G	H	T
A	E	R	O	■	A	L	I	K	E	■	S	O	A	R
T	R	I	O	■	B	A	S	I	N	■	L	A	T	E
E	Y	E	D	■	S	P	E	N	T	■	E	L	S	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	7	6	9	2	3	1	4	8
1	3	2	4	7	8	9	6	5
9	4	8	6	1	5	7	2	3
7	5	9	8	4	2	6	3	1
4	2	1	3	6	9	5	8	7
6	8	3	1	5	7	4	9	2
3	1	7	2	9	6	8	5	4
2	6	4	5	8	1	3	7	9
8	9	5	7	3	4	2	1	6

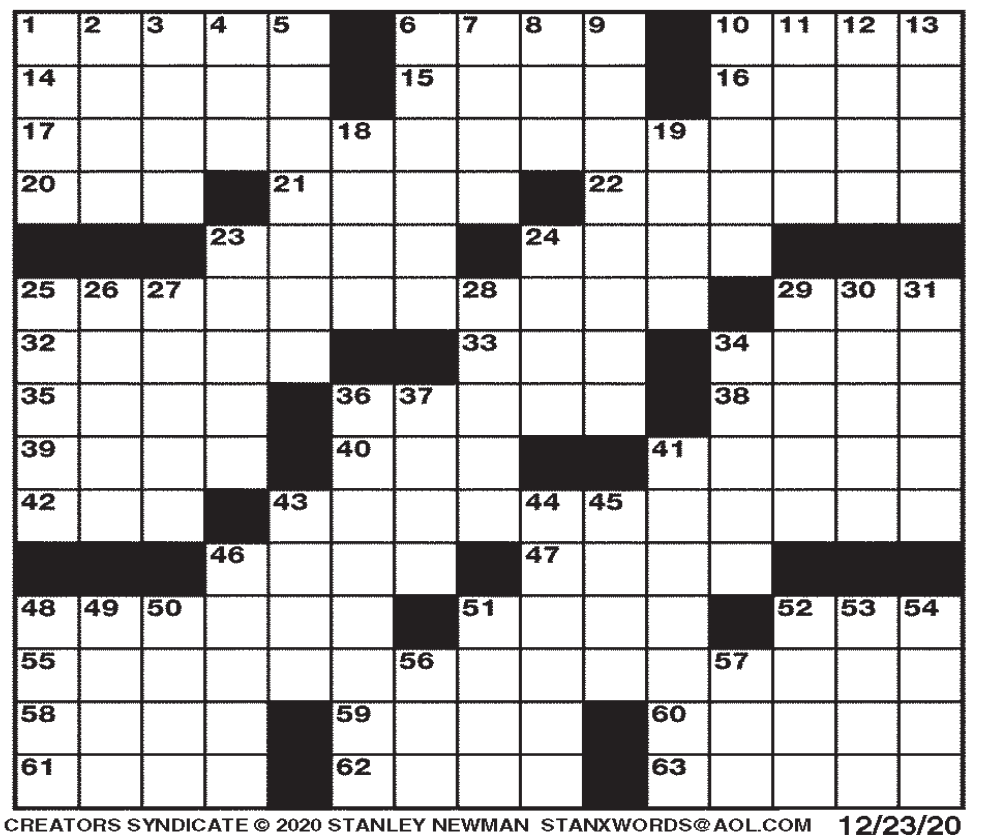
8	7			9			4	
4			2			3		
			5	3		7		
3			9					4
		8		4		9		
9					5			3
		5		6	9			
		4			8			9
	6			7			3	8

Newsday Crossword

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Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS
1 Disney deer
6 Architectural detail
10 Did the butterfly
14 Continental separator
15 Musical postscript
16 Like lipstick
17 25 Across' delight
20 Ready to go
21 Construction locale
22 Banquet ritual
23 Merit-badge holder
24 Pack away
25 Guy with a huge appetite
29 Yak it up
32 Wanders
33 Kyoto cash
34 Soup flavoring
35 Where most of Turkey is
36 Encrypted, as a message
38 Diminutive suffix
39 Home of kings and queens
40 Luau instrument
41 Image consultant guys
42 Superlative suffix
43 25 Across' delight
46 Music genre
47 Online auctioneer
48 Spanish entree
51 Take a survey
52 British battleship letters
55 25 Across' favorite sign
58 Wild guess
59 Sound of a small bell
60 Nemesis
61 Broadway award
62 Peace of mind
63 Take a break

DOWN
1 Short hairdos
2 Square-mile fraction
3 Track-and-field event
4 Sheep sound
5 Octopi organs
6 Criticize severely
7 Prepare for a photo
8 Ft. Lauderdale summer setting
9 Airport curb feature
10 The RAF, to Churchill
11 Mary, to Abe Lincoln
12 Baldwin of *30 Rock*
13 Ancient tale
18 Use rod and reel
19 Conversant with
23 Rascal
24 *Peter Pan* pirate
25 Locksmithing, e.g.
26 Valentine's Day bouquet
27 Oust
28 Actress Winona
29 US base in Cuba, informally
30 Make different
31 Mix together
34 Charlie Chaplin's hat
36 Diploma phrase
37 "Enough, I get it!"
41 Church book
43 Recital performance
44 Patron saint of England
45 Competent
46 Overhead visit
48 Over with
49 Palo ___, CA
50 Enthusiasm
51 Stove-top vessels
52 Command to a canine
53 Tot's cry
54 Underworld river
56 Spy org.
57 Early afternoon



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/23/20

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

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



"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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4970

Discovering a hobby

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

Attach	Edge	Paste	Skill
Awls	Ends	Pelt	Spin
Axle	Excess	Pens	Spun
Band	Form	Plane	Stamps
Cafe	Gift	Relax	Throw
Canvas	Glue	Reward	Tool
Clay	Inks	Rope	Vanishing point
Complicated	Lathe	Sailors	
Cord	Make	Sequins	Vice
Demonstration	Markets	Shape	Weave
Director	Metal	Show	Yarn
Doll	Nature	Silk	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
A delicious meal

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CLAIMS

FROM PAGE 1

$8 million to $7.6 million.

Staff said that during FY 2019-20, the City settled 106 claims with a total value of $2,621,075 compared to 150 claim settlements in FY 2018-19 with a total value of $4,133,833.

The report said that claims were on track to match the previous year prior to the COVID crisis and that the declines are due to fewer city employees being on the job with the Big Blue Bus accounting for the largest share of the reduction (38 fewer claims this year).

While costs fell this year, staff said the prognosis for the future is not good as new claims suggest future cases will be costly. Specifically, 27 percent of new claims were for "cumulative trauma" injuries that resulted from repetitive physically or mentally demanding tasks over long periods of time.

"The cumulative trauma injury claims are common in an aging workforce, and typically involve several body parts and legal representation, making them extremely costly," said the report.

Total costs were projected to increase by 5 percent for the year before the mid-March emergency order shuttered many services. Staff said there was good news in an analysis of temporary disability payments and a 25% reduction in payments made to sworn public safety employees. The report said sworn law public safety employees receive 100 percent of their pay while recovering and often require additional costs to backfill their positions.

Program liabilities fell to $31 million, a $1.6 million reduction that is attributed to a cost management program. According to the report, participants in the program lost 41 days compared to 127 days for non participants and participant payments averaged $29,031 compared to $120,865 for non participants.

"The "Wow, that's Fast" Program is designed to help reduce the number of litigated workers' compensation claims from sworn personnel by providing them with a comprehensive case management service without the fees that attorneys charge," said the report. "This, in turn, helps to reduce program costs by lowering medical expenses, 4850 disability benefits, permanent disability expenses, and legal expenses."

The city also saved money by reassigning some injured workers to jobs that could be accomplished despite their injury.

A pilot program to determine the most cost-effective model for managing claims also bore fruit reducing total liabilities for BBB (the pilot agency) from $7.4 million to $5.6 million.

editor@smdp.com

STIMULUS BILL

FROM PAGE 1

Lieu, Peters and Levin worked to secure in Congress, is much smaller than the $2.2 trillion CARES Act passed in March.

It provides a round of $600 direct payments to adults and children, revives supplemental unemployment benefits to $300 a week for 11 weeks, and provides $280 billion of forgivable paycheck protection loans for small businesses.

The representatives said this was sorely needed aid for their struggling constituents, but emphasized that a lot of benefits will run out in a matter of weeks.

"I suggested, and a lot of the new dems in my caucus suggested, that we committed to smart measures like automatic stabilizers in the beginning. That would have prevented us from having to come together in these fits and starts to reauthorize money," said Rep. Scott Peters.

Peters is Vice Chairman of the New Democrat Coalition and is involved in the push to include automatic stabilizers in relief legislation, which would tie government assistance to economic triggers.

Stabilizers could be tied to relief measures like PPP loans or direct payments to families. For example, extended unemployment benefits could be tied to the unemployment rate, so the level and duration of unemployment benefits would be directly related to economic conditions.

Peters hopes the Biden administration will be more amenable to the concept, which would provide more economic certainty for people and decrease reliance on last minute congressional deals.

The representatives said this bill was passed in the nick of time to avert an impending recession and provide sorely needed relief to families struggling to put food on the table. They hope that more proactive COVID-19 relief legislation can be passed in the new year.

"The HEROES Act was the ideal bill in the ideal moment," said Rep. Mike Levin, referring to the relief act that cleared the Democrat controlled house in May and died in the Republican controlled senate. "This bill was left until there was a worsening public health crisis and economic fatigue in dealing with the pandemic, until the American people were desperate, until there was a political crisis at hand so that they can feed us a half baked sense of recovery."

The federal relief package, despite its limitations, is very welcome in Santa Monica and Southern California as it includes $82 billion for education, $10 billion for child care, $16 billion for vaccine development and distribution, and $13 billion for food stamps. It does not include state and local aid money, which is something the representatives said they intend on pushing for in the New Year.

"We are looking forward to working with a new Biden administration to provide the aid that is necessary for states, local municipalities and also increase the support that's truly necessary, not only to help our struggling families, but also to prevent a great depression," said Rep. Raul Ruiz. "We need this administration to safely and quickly end the pandemic, boost our local economy and build back better."

Clara@smdp.com

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2020182936 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/09/2020 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Daniel Ortiz Clothing Supply Company 817 W 30th St Los Angeles, CA 90007. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Daniel Alejandro Ortiz 817 W 30th St Los Angeles, CA 90007 This Business is being conducted by: An Individual The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Daniel Alejandro Ortiz Title: Owner, Daniel Alejandro Ortiz, Daniel Alejandro Ortiz This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/09/2020 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish, 12/09/20, 12/16/20, 12/23/20, 12/30/20

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION // STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,DAVIDSON COUNTY. In the General Court of Justice, file numbers 20 SP 262 and 20 SP 263 For the-Adoption of Carson J Blair and Corbin Andrew Blair (Petitioner: Christine Alison Blair) TO: UnknownSperm Donor from Cryobank in California, punitive father of Carson J Blair and Corbin AndrewBlair, born July 18, 2015 (mother: Holly Cope Blair). TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for adoption hasbeen filed against you. You are required to make defense to such petition no later than 45 days after12/15/2020 (date first appeared in the newspaper) and upon your failure to do so the party seekingservice against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. 12/15/2020 (date first appeared in thenewspaper). Melissa Sams, Esq., 1208 Eastchester Drive, Suite 101, High Point, NC, 27265 (Attorneyfor the Petitioner)

Santa Monica Daily Press 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Fire destroys 2 buildings in Los Angeles but no injuries

Fire destroyed two buildings housing three businesses in the North Hollywood area of Los Angeles before the flames were brought under control.

Firefighters successfully defended a third building under construction and ventilated a nearby residential building that was impacted by smoke late Monday, the Fire Department said in a statement. No injuries were reported.

The fire began around 9 p.m. and more than 100 firefighters brought it under control just under two hours later.

Arson investigators were on scene to determine the cause. The fire was reported as an outside fire that spread to the building.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Ex-police investigator charged with using crime-scene drugs

A former Huntington Beach police crime scene investigator was charged with stealing drugs from a crime scene, then taking them and driving a police car while under the influence, authorities said Tuesday.

Sean Lotts, 53, was charged with misdemeanor counts of embezzlement by a public official, seizing property under the color of authority and DUI, according to a statement from the Orange County district attorney's office. He could face up to two years in jail if convicted.

It wasn't immediately clear whether he had an attorney to speak on his behalf.

Lotts was assigned to photograph a car belonging to an attempted murder suspect on Jan. 23 when he took at least one of several pills found inside of the car, prosecutors said.

"The pills were later identified as Flualprazolam, a rare designer drug," the District Attorney's office statement said.

Lott then allegedly drove a police Ford Explorer to his home while under the influence of the drug.

He resigned from the department rather than be fired, the District Attorney's office said.

"I am disappointed and angered by this conduct," District Attorney Todd Spitzer said in the statement. "It is ludicrous that someone processing a crime scene would even think of - much less act on - stealing evidence from a crime scene and then using that evidence for their own recreational purposes."

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