smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY
12.23.21
Volume 21 Issue 34

Covid-19
What to do if you test positive.
Page 5

Happy Holidays
From Noteworthy.
Page 4

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SMMUSD may be forced to consider district-based voting





SMDP Image

DISTRICTS: Under the proposal, the northern half of Malibu and Sunset Park would become a single voting block.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

In the face of pressure from a small group of stakeholders in Malibu and Santa Monica, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is set to consider a move toward district-based voting in 2022.

On Thursday, Dec. 16, the school board voted to initiate a series of public hearings to discuss the formation of voting districts in which various neighborhoods could each vote for one representative to sit on the school board, rather than each voter selecting various candidates from across the SMMUSD. The decision was not a confirmation that districts would be enacted; rather, it was the first step in what could be a months- or years-long process of implementing voting districts.

During the hearing, board members discussed a November petition filed by Santa Monica and Malibu residents to enact their own map dividing SMMUSD into seven voting districts. SMMUSD attorney David Soldani named the chief proponents of that petition as Jennifer deNicola (a Malibu resident), Santa Monica councilman Oscar de la Torre and Tricia Crane, chair of the Northeast Neighbors Association.

According to Soldani, Voting Rights Act advocate and attorney Kevin Shenkman delivered the petition to the LA County Office of Education in November.

The petition was initiated in response to SB 442, a California senate bill that was signed into law in July and is set to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. The bill outlines new processes for creating voting districts, which includes a pathway for districts to be formed without a public vote; rather, petitioners may appeal directly to the county board of education.

"This bill would authorize the county committee, by resolution, to approve a proposal to establish trustee areas and elect governing board members using district-based elections without submitting the resolution to the electors of the district for approval," SB 442 states. "The bill would require such a resolution to include a declaration that the change in the method of electing members of the governing board

SEE **SB442** PAGE 5

The Omicron surge is here as officials warn of tough weeks ahead



Courtesy image

COVID: Cases doubled in a single day this week.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

With new case counts reaching 6,509 on Dec. 22, more than double the number reported the previous day, it is clear that the Omicron surge has arrived in Los Angeles County.

"This steep increase, one of the steepest rises we've ever seen over the course of the pandemic, reflects the increased circulation of Omicron," said Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer. "These numbers make it crystal clear that we're headed into a very challenging time over the holiday."

If numbers continue to increase at this rapid pace, the County could

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11

Judge grants halt on Parking Structure 3 demolition until Jan. 7 court date

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Local business owners have obtained a temporary order from the courts to prevent demolition and redevelopment of a Downtown parking structure.

The City of Santa Monica would like to demolish Downtown Parking Structure 3 and build affordable housing on the site but a coalition of property owners believe the project is ill-conceived.

The Santa Monica Bayside Owners Association (SMBOA) filed a lawsuit to try and stop it earlier this year and on Dec. 17, the judge granted a temporary restraining order blocking the project from moving forward until the next hearing on Jan. 7. At that time, a trial judge will consider whether to grant a preliminary injunction preventing demolition until a final judgment is made.

If a preliminary injunction is made in January, the project will be halted until the trial judge makes a judgment over a permanent

SEE **LAWSUIT** PAGE 11

NICK THE GREEK
SOUVLAKI & GYRO HOUSE
@NICKTHEGREEK

AUTHENTIC GREEK STREET FOOD



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

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Newport Beach
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www.nickthegreek.com

Democrats appear to gain edge in California House districts

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

California Democrats appear to have come away with the advantage in a recasting of the state's congressional districts, with boundaries that could strengthen their hold on the delegation and play into the fight for U.S. House control next year.

Still, the new maps left a string of competitive seats that make California something of an outlier in a nation of deeply divided politics: Even though it's a Democratic stronghold, the new maps suggest Republicans might pull off surprises.

Democrats are defending a fragile eight-seat House majority in a midterm election, when the party that controls the White House typically loses seats in Congress and President Joe Biden's approval ratings have been shaky.

Redistricting fights have been playing out across the country, as Democrats and Republicans look for an edge in future elections. The Justice Department recently sued Texas over its new redistricting maps, saying the plans discriminate against Latinos and other minority voters.

While California is losing one seat for the first time in its history because the population in other states is growing faster, Texas, Florida, Colorado and North Carolina are among the states gaining seats.

An analysis by Sacramento research firm Redistricting Partners found that 44 of the new California House districts would have been carried by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom in his 2018 election, and 45 of the districts tilted to then-candidate Biden in the 2020 presidential race.

That's an encouraging sign for Democrats, who hope to gain ground in California in 2022 after surrendering four House seats to Republicans in 2020. Democrats hold 42 of the state's 53-seat House delegation — the largest delegation by far in Congress.

The revised lines were endorsed Monday by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, which was tasked with drawing new districts to account for shifts in population, a requirement that happens once a decade. Each district must represent 760,000 people.

Republican National Committee spokeswoman Hallie Balch said the panel had created "cakewalk districts" for most Democrats.

"California's redistricting committee has entirely lost track of the people who reside in the districts they have drawn," Balch said in a statement. "These lines are a disappointing end to a long-fought battle for representation."

Rep. Mike Garcia, a Republican who saw his district north of Los Angeles stripped of the Republican-rich community of Simi Valley, said, "The commission has shown they were not acting independently when they drew all the Democratic incumbents into safer seats while making five out of the 11 Republican districts more vulnerable."

"I know we will win in this new district regardless," Garcia wrote on Twitter.

First-term Democratic Rep. Sara Jacobs announced Tuesday that she will seek re-election in the new 51st District next year, while Rep. Darrell Issa, a Republican, said he'll seek election in the new 48th District.

The 51st District in San Diego County includes portions of both representatives' current districts.

The shuffling of the district borders already has resulted in changes in the delegation.

Long-serving California Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, the first Mexican-American woman elected to Congress, announced Monday she will not seek reelection in her Los Angeles-area district. The decision by the 80-year-old Democratic congresswoman came as her district was largely dismantled by the commission.

Shifting district boundary lines appear to have played a role in other House departures. Among them: Republican Rep. Devin Nunes, who was one of former President Donald Trump's most ardent loyalists in Congress, is leaving the House at the end of this year to join Trump's fledgling media company, and Democratic Rep. Alan Lowenthal, who represents a district anchored in Long Beach, south of Los Angeles, announced he would retire at the end of his term.

The ripple effects continue, and some candidates in key races could shift to nearby districts in search of a more favorable political climate. Republican U.S. Reps.

SEE **DISTRICT** PAGE 4

City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: # 309 GIS CONSULTING SERVICES

- **Submission Deadline is January 21, 2022 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 281 CALLS ON DECEMBER 21

Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 12:03 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:37 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1700Blk Appian Way 12:56 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 1:22 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1900Blk Pico Blvd 2:07 a.m.
Battery 7th St / California Ave 2:19 a.m.
Lost Property 2600Blk 34th St 2:22 a.m.
Missing Person 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:24 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200Blk Broadway 4:05 a.m.
Vandalism100Blk Broadway 4:19 a.m.
Person Down Olympic Blvd / 26th St 5:58 a.m.
Encampment 2100Blk The Beach 6:43 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2700Blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:51 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Cloverfield Blvd / Michigan Ave 7:07 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 600Blk 9th St 7:47 a.m.
Encampment 700Blk Ozone St 7:50 a.m.
Petty Theft 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:55 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 3000Blk Pico Blvd 7:55 a.m.
Elder Abuse 00Blk Sea Colony Dr 8:27 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1800Blk 20th St 8:34 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2200Blk 26th St 8:40 a.m.
General Parking Problem 7th St / Pico Blvd 8:42 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2900Blk Main St 8:53 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:01 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 7th St / Georgina Ave 9:09 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000Blk 19th St 9:16 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Cloverfield Blvd / Pico Blvd 9:19 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000Blk Euclid St 9:25 a.m.
Overdose 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 9:25 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 200Blk The Beach 9:40 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk Euclid St 9:51 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800Blk 11th St 9:51 a.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 9:57 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 10:00 a.m.
Encampment 700Blk Ozone St 10:03 a.m.
Battery 600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:04 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2300Blk 34th St 10:11 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:16 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2600Blk Barnard Way 10:53 a.m.
Burglary 1100Blk 15th St 11:09 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:14 a.m.
Burglary Now 1900Blk Euclid St 11:31 a.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 16th St 11:38 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500Blk 2nd St 11:44 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 2300Blk Pico Blvd 11:49 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1400Blk Ocean Ave 11:54 a.m.
Vandalism2500Blk 3rd St 12:17 p.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Broadway 12:27 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 600Blk California Ave 12:49 p.m.
Found Property 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 1:00 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 700Blk 18th St 1:02 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 400Blk Raymond Ave 1:07 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1000Blk 9th St 1:14 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2800Blk Ocean Front Walk 1:18 p.m.
Auto Burglary 900Blk 21st St 1:53 p.m.
Public Intoxication 2300Blk Main St 1:54 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1500Blk Ocean Ave 2:09 p.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 2:11 p.m.
Lost Property 1700Blk Ocean Ave 2:17 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2400Blk 11th St 2:31 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 300Blk Civic Center Dr 2:44 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:47 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 2600Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:51 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 2:56 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1700Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:05 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000Blk 6th St 3:18 p.m.
Grand Theft 900Blk 9th St 3:19 p.m.
Petty Theft 2600Blk Kansas Ave 3:33 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:44 p.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Alta Ave 3:47 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1100Blk 7th St 3:58 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1700Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:04 p.m.
Expired Registration 200Blk Hollister Ave 4:06 p.m.
Encampment 800Blk Pine St 4:10 p.m.
Lost Property 1100Blk The Beach 4:55 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1100Blk Palisades Park 5:01 p.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Arizona Ave 5:11 p.m.
Encampment 2100Blk The Beach 5:32 p.m.
Found Person Main St / Marine St 5:52 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1700Blk Cedar St 6:29 p.m.
Person Down 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:08 p.m.
Battery 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:08 p.m.
Burglary Now 1800Blk 9th St 7:46 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 800Blk 11th St 8:10 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 17th St / Broadway 8:12 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 17th St / Pico Blvd 8:23 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk Montana Ave 8:44 p.m.
Fight Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 9:24 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk 14th St 9:32 p.m.
Petty Theft 1600Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:07 p.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 1100Blk 3rd St 10:10 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2700Blk Pico Blvd 10:15 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 26th St / San Vicente Blvd 10:20 p.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Pico Blvd 10:28 p.m.
Armed Robbery 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:45 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:05 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2000Blk 17th St 11:20 p.m.

State sets Feb. 1 deadline for health worker boosters

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California's roughly 2.5 million health care workers have until Feb. 1 to get a coronavirus vaccine booster shot or risk losing their jobs, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Wednesday.

Newsom gave more details on the booster mandate during a Wednesday news conference at a vaccine clinic in Oakland. He had initially announced new rule on Tuesday afternoon.

California was the first state to require health care workers to be vaccinated, a rule that took effect in September. Most workers have complied. But thousands of others have either lost their jobs or been suspended.

Now, California joins New Mexico as at least the second state to require a booster shot for its health care workers. Also this week, two of the nation's largest public university systems — California State University and the University of California — announced students must have a booster shot for the spring semester.

California also requires other groups to either be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing, including state workers and, eventually, teachers and students. But Newsom said Wednesday there is no plan to require those other groups to get a booster shot.

Instead, he said California would provide up to two take-home coronavirus test kits for each of the state's more than 6.1 million public school students while also expanding hours at the 6,288 state-run testing centers.

However, Newsom said rules about booster shots could change.

"Hopefully we won't have to consider that if all of our interventions are successful," Newsom said.

California is doing a lot better compared to other states in terms of the virus' spread. Of everyone tested for the virus in California, just 3.3% test positive — the lowest rate in the nation, Newsom said. California has the sixth-lowest case rate, with 13.6 new cases for every 100,000 people over seven days.

As of Tuesday, California had 3,589 coronavirus patients in the hospital, a 12% increase since Dec. 1. But that's far less than the peak of last winter's surge, when the state had nearly 22,000 coronavirus patients back before vaccines were widely available. Today, more than 70% of California's roughly 40 million residents are fully vaccinated.

Much about the omicron coronavirus variant remains unknown, including whether it causes more or less severe illness. Scientists say omicron spreads even easier than other coronavirus strains, including delta. Early studies suggest the vaccinated will need a booster shot for the best chance at preventing an omicron infection but even without the extra dose, vaccination still should offer strong protection against severe illness and death.

Federal officials said Monday omicron is now the most common form of the virus in the U.S., accounting for 73% of all cases. In California, state officials estimate omicron accounts for about half of cases, but Newsom said the true number is likely much higher and will be released on Thursday.

California reported more than 10,900 new cases on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Los Angeles County — the nation's most populous with nearly 10 million residents — reported more than 6,500 new cases, more than double the amount from Tuesday. Local health officials said the county could have more than 20,000 cases per day by the end of the year.

Barbara Ferrer, the county's public health director, said officials are not considering any booster requirements beyond the state's new rules for health care workers. More than 2 million residents in Los Angeles County who are over the age of 5 remain unvaccinated. And 62% of residents who are eligible to receive a booster shot have not done so.

Statewide, more than 8.8 million Californians have gotten a booster shot so far.

"We need to increase that number if we're going to hold the line and decrease the growth for hospitals," Newsom said.

While hospitals have far fewer coronavirus patients than they did a year ago, most are struggling with a shortage of health care workers. A recent study by the University of California, San Francisco estimated a statewide nursing shortage would persist until at least 2026.

A new mandate for booster shots could convince more workers to quit. But the California Hospital Association on Wednesday said it supported the new rule "to further protect health care workers and hospital patients."

"While we don't yet know enough about Omicron to determine its precise impact on the need for hospital care, we do know that booster shots offer an additional layer of protection — something that will be vital to ensuring care for all in need as California and the nation as a whole continue to face a persistent shortage of health care workers," California Hospital Association President and CEO Carmela Coyle said.

The California Nurses Association said it is reviewing the new booster mandate for health care workers. In a news release, the group said it strongly supports everyone getting vaccinated while respecting medical and religious exemptions. But they said other measures are needed to protect health care workers.

"Science shows that a multiple-measures approach to infection control is the most effective, and vaccination is just one, albeit critical, component," the group said in a news release calling for more personal protective equipment and proper staffing levels at hospitals.

Associated Press Reporter Stefanie Dazio contributed reporting from Los Angeles.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361

SUBJECT: 19ENT-0473 (Fence Wall Hedge Height Modification)
21ENT-0279 (Reasonable Accommodation)
21ENT-0280 (Minor Modification)
905 Centinela Avenue
APPLICANT: Peter Gonzalez, SC Planners
PROPERTY OWNER: Laurie Shearing

A public hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator to consider the following request:

The applicant requests approval of a Fence Wall Hedge Height Modification for a perimeter fence within the front setback approximately 6' in height measured from the elevation of the adjacent sidewalk and a retaining walls within the front and north side setbacks with approximate maximum heights of 8'-2" and 13'-6", respectively, measured from the lowest adjacent grade; a Reasonable Accommodation to allow for an accessible parking space and an additional driveway within the front setback; and a Minor Modification to retain an existing enclosed garage with a reduced interior width dimension of 19'-6".

Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050(A), a fence or wall within the front setback cannot exceed 42" in height and within the side setback cannot exceed 8' in height as measured from the lowest grade adjacent to either side of the fence or wall. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.050(D), in the cases of fences, walls, or hedges that are parallel to and within 5 feet of a public sidewalk, grade shall be the elevation of the closest point on the sidewalk. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.28.070(A)(1)(a), parking is not permitted within the front setback, and pursuant to SMMC Section 9.28.120(B)(1)(a), no more than one driveway to a public street is allowed on a parcel with less than 100 linear feet of street frontage. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.28.120(C)(1)(b), the minimum interior width dimension of an enclosed garage shall be 20'.

SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a discretionary modification to this height limitation in the front setback. SMMC Sections 9.49.040(B) and 9.43.060(C) require a request for a Reasonable Accommodation and a Minor Modification submitted in conjunction with an application for another entitlement to be reviewed and determined by the authority reviewing the discretionary land use application.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 AT 10:30 AM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Zoning Administrator and City Staff will participate via teleconference. Participants may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/erjtkjhz or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 7933565 #).

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received later than 5:30 p.m. the day before the meeting will be read aloud at the meeting (with time limitations) and must be received prior to the Zoning Administrator's consideration of the item. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Those wishing to provide oral public comment shall dial the following number when the item begins: (888) 240-2560, enter Meeting ID: 431733781# and Passcode: 0128#. You will be unmuted when it is your turn to speak. Please state your name for the record and begin your comments. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item.

Address your comments to: Ross Fehrman, ACIP, Associate Planner
Re: 19ENT-0473, 21ENT-0279, and 21ENT-0280

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Ross Fehrman at ross.fehrman@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL:
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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



Noteworthy

Charles Andrews Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Happy Holidays

NOTEWORTHY columnist Charles Andrews, hit hard by the flu, wants to wish all our SMDP readers family a

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

(you could make this really BIG and slanted and colorful, with wreaths and candy canes etc...)

We will see the fate of live music in 2022, so here's the COMING ATTRACTIONS to keep you informed.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: ORIANTHI, Venice West, 1/7; LIBRARY GIRL. Susan Hayden's Birthday celebration, Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO; Lenore Raphael Trio featuring BARBARA MORRISON, Vibrato, 1/9; LA PHIL with Michael Tilson Thomas, EMANUEL AX Ax plays BRAHMS, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/13, 14, 16; RACHAEL & VILRAY, Troubadour, 1/16; LA PHIL with Michael Tilson Thomas, GERALD CLAYTON plays Symphonic ELLINGTON, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/20, 21; COLIN BLUNSTONE, Joe Wong, The Downtown Palace Theatre, 1/22; ITZAK PERLMAN, Rohan De Silva, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/26; BJORK, Shrine Auditorium, 1/26, 29; 2/2; NATHANIEL RATELIFF & The Night Sweats The Novo, 1/28; THE ENGLISH BEAT, The Bourbon Room, 1/28, 29; RAUL MALO, The Canyon Agoura Hills 1/28, The Canyon Santa Clarita 1/30; MUSICARES honors JONI MITCHELL, LA Convention Center, 1/29; FEE WAYBILL, Troubadour, 1/29.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Sunday Schedule During Christmas Holiday (12/24 & 25)

In observance of the Christmas holiday, Big Blue Bus will operate a Sunday schedule on Friday, December 24 and Saturday, December 25, 2021.

Blue: The Transit Store and Customer Service will be closed beginning at noon on Thursday, December 23 through Friday, December 24. Normal hours of operation for Blue: The Transit Store and Customer Service will resume Monday, December 27.

Please note:

Express 7, Rapids 3, 7, and 10, and Routes 5, 15, 16, 41, 42, 43, and 44 will not be in service.

Hilgard Terminal will be closed. Routes 1, 2, and 8 will serve Charles E. Young/P2 Hub instead. Click below for alternate boarding information.

Route 17 will serve Macgowan Hall Terminal as usual.

Rapid 12 and Route 18 will serve Gateway Plaza as usual.

SUBMITTED BY BBB

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 41 CALLS ON DECEMBER 21

EMS 1200Blk 20th St 12:57 a.m.
EMS 7th St / California Ave 2:27 a.m.
EMS 2300Blk Kansas Ave 5:12 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 6th St 5:32 a.m.
EMS Olympic Blvd / 26th St 5:58 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Hill St 6:14 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:18 a.m.
EMS 2100Blk Main St 8:14 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 6th St 8:30 a.m.
EMS 900Blk Pico Blvd 8:36 a.m.
EMS 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 9:56 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:25 a.m.
EMS 3100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:34 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk 3rd St 11:49 a.m.
EMS 800Blk Franklin St 11:52 a.m.
Smoke Investigation 400Blk Interstate 10 12:08 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 1:03 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:09 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 1:17 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Colorado Ave 1:22 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Bicknell Ave 1:41 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 2:29 p.m.
EMS 2900Blk Pico Blvd 2:41 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 2:48 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:44 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Ashland Ave 4:11 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Ocean Ave 4:19 p.m.
Structure Fire 1300Blk 26th St 5:24 p.m.
EMS 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:05 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 5th St 6:08 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600Blk Copeland Ct 6:33 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 26th St 6:43 p.m.
EMS 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:08 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 7:08 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:45 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk 19th St 7:51 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 500Blk Pico Blvd 8:48 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100Blk 4th St 9:09 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 5th St 10:46 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Stewart St 11:01 p.m.
EMS 2900Blk 10th St 11:18 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

Paulette Rochelle-Levy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Green Waste

I am very disappointed in this program which so far is nothing. We have one green barrel for the whole alley of multiple dwellings. The mix of yard clippings which forces the can open and food waste is an invitation to dine for rats and unwanted insects.

In addition, I have read that we are supposed to start composting our kitchen waste starting January 1. However there has been no promotion for this. There has been no announcement of green barrels for every dwelling. Does the Resource and Recovery Division believe that residents will call to request the green barrels. I requested ours over five years [ago].

Paulette Rochelle-Levy, Santa Monica

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AWARD WINNER

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Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

DISTRICT

FROM PAGE 2

Young Kim and Michelle Steel, who captured Democratic seats all or partly in Orange County in 2020, have yet to announce their plans.

However, the shifting lines had little effect on the state's marquee names in the House. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's overwhelmingly Democratic district anchored in San Francisco remained overwhelmingly Democratic. House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy's district, anchored in Bakersfield, became more solidly Republican in the new maps.

While most attention has focused on California's loss of a congressional seat, analysts said the legislative maps drawn for 40 state senators and 80 state Assembly members mark big wins for Democrats.

The maps essentially lock in Democratic supermajorities for the next 10 years, said Rob Pyers, research director of the nonpartisan California Target Book, which closely tracks redistricting.

Republicans have been teetering on the brink of irrelevance in the heavily Democratic state for years, and Democrats control every statewide office and dominate the Legislature and congressional delegations. Republicans make up less than a quarter of registered voters, and have lost support in what used to be Republican-leaning suburbs, said Mitchell, of Redistricting Partners.

The new lines will have a "chilling effect" on Republican hopes of gaining ground in the Legislature, Mitchell said.

The new lines also recognize the state's increasing diversity.

Mitchell said Latinos, the largest racial or ethnic group in California, now represent majorities in 16 House districts. Three districts group together areas with large Asian populations, and two do the same for communities with large numbers of Black residents.

The borders of Fresno area districts represented by Democratic Rep. Jim Costa and Republican Reps. David Valadao and Devin Nunes shifted significantly. Costa on Tuesday announced he would run in the new 21st District, anchored in the Central Valley.

Associated Press Writer Don Thompson in Sacramento contributed.

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.

EXPLAINER: What to do if you test positive for COVID-19

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

You've tested positive for COVID-19. Now what?

The short answer for those in the U.S.: Stay home and avoid others. Tell the people you've been in close contact with that you tested positive. And if you have trouble breathing or develop other serious symptoms, see a doctor immediately.

COVID-19 diagnoses have been soaring since the recent arrival of the omicron variant. That means Americans should prepare for the possibility that they or someone they plan to see will suddenly be diagnosed with an infection.

ISOLATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people who test positive stay home or isolate for 10 days. If you live with other people, that means staying in a separate room and using a separate bathroom, if possible. You should also wear a mask if you come into contact with others.

It's important to plan for this possibility and be ready to delay holiday gatherings, "so you don't make it up on the fly and don't cause a lot of confusion and unhappiness," advised Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious diseases specialist at Vanderbilt University.

MONITOR SYMPTOMS

You should get care if you develop worrisome symptoms. But there are many people with certain conditions — including heart diseases, diabetes and weakened immune systems — who should seek care even if they have mild illness, because of their elevated risk for developing serious complications.

TELL OTHERS

You should tell your doctor about your test, who may prescribe medications depending on your situation and health.

If you get tested at a clinic or doctor's office, the staff is supposed to notify health authorities about your positive result. Some health departments conduct contact-tracing investigations to identify the people an infected person has been in contact with.

You should also tell your close contacts that you tested positive and that they may have been exposed to the coronavirus. Remember, an infected person can begin spreading the virus as many as two days before developing symptoms or testing positive.

SB442

FROM PAGE 1

is being made in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001."

The bill appears designed to speed up the process of initiating district-based elections by circumventing a public vote to approve new districts.

District officials drew comparisons between the petition and the Malibu fight for school district independence.

"It's important to note that some of the same special interests and individuals behind the one-sided unification proposal that would strip funding Santa Monica students and some of the same special interests and individuals behind the recent attempt to recall certain board members are also behind this petition," Soldani told the board. "It is simply the latest avenue of attack against the school district from familiar sources." In Soldani's view, the petition, which combines western Malibu with Sunset Park and eastern Malibu with an area west of Wilshire, while creating five additional Santa Monica-only districts, represents "gerrymandered special interests."

In response, Shenkman said at the meeting that the true "special interests" were the proponents of SB 442.

"The special interests that he's referring to that supported this legislation was the California Teachers Association and civil rights groups," Shenkman said. "I'm OK with those special interests."

Shenkman is representing de la Torre in a voting rights lawsuit to enact district-based voting for City of Santa Monica elections. His law partner, Milton Grimes, has also threatened to sue the City of Malibu over alleged violations to the Voting Rights Act.

The LA County Office of Education rejected the petition outright, which proponents said was due to its timing, since SB 442 was not yet law. According to Shenkman, the petition will be re-submitted in early January.

The California Voting Rights Act of 2001 "prohibits an at-large method of election from being imposed or applied in a political subdivision, as defined, in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class, as defined, to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or the abridgment of the rights of voters who are members of a protected class," according to the text of SB 442.

Some board members took umbrage with the idea that Malibu represented a "protected class," as outlined in SB 442.

"Malibu residents, to state the obvious, do not fall within a protected class," Board Member Laurie Lieberman said.

The board's consensus was that, whether or not they personally believed that voting districts were necessary to the district, it was up to voters to decide.

"There's an absence of public engagement here," Board Vice President Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein said. "I would look forward to developing a resolution to ask the people of Santa Monica if they would prefer districts … there would be a robust, democratic–small D–conversation in the community."

emily@smdp.com

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2021 on track to surpass last year as nation's deadliest

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

U.S. health officials say 2021 is shaping up to be even deadlier than last year.

It's too early to say for sure, since all the death reports for November and December won't be in for many weeks. But based on available information, it seems likely 2021 will surpass last year's record number of deaths by at least 15,000, said Robert Anderson, who oversees the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's death statistics.

Last year was the most lethal in U.S. history, due largely to the COVID-19 pandemic. A CDC report being released Wednesday shows 2020 was actually even worse than the agency previously reported.

The report presents a final tally for last year of about 3.384 million U.S. deaths, about 25,000 more than a provisional count released earlier this year. Such jumps between provisional and final numbers are common, but 2020's difference was higher than usual because of a lag in death records from some states that switched to new electronic reporting systems, Anderson said.

The CDC this week also revised its estimate of life expectancy for 2020. Life expectancy at birth that year was 77 years, a decrease of 1.8 years from 2019. The agency previously estimated the decline at 1.5 years.

Anderson said it's likely that the nation will see more than 3.4 million deaths in 2021. Other experts said they think deaths for the year will end up either about the same as in 2020, or higher.

"It's really sad," said Ali Mokdad, a mortality statistics expert at the University of Washington.

A large reason is COVID-19, which hit the U.S. hard around March 2020 and became the nation's No. 3 cause of death, behind heart disease and cancer.

Last year, COVID-19 was the underlying cause in about 351,000 deaths. This year, the number is already at 356,000, and the final tally could hit 370,000, Anderson said.

Experts also think the 2021 numbers will be affected by a drug overdose epidemic that is expected to — for the first time — surpass 100,000 deaths in a calendar year.

An increase in annual deaths is not unusual. The annual count rose by nearly 16,000 from 2018 to 2019 — before COVID-19 appeared.

But the coronavirus clearly had an impact. The nation had the smallest population gain rate in history between July 2020 and July 2021, primarily because of the COVID-19 deaths, said Kenneth Johnson, a University of New Hampshire researcher.

Officials had hoped COVID-19 vaccines would slash the death count. But vaccinations became available gradually this year, with only 7 million fully vaccinated at the end of January and 63 million at the end of March.

Since then, many Americans have chosen not to get vaccinated. The CDC says 204 million Americans are fully vaccinated — or about 65% of the U.S. population that are age 5 and older and eligible for shots.

Indeed, that's a big part of why COVID-19 deaths could climb despite the availability of effective vaccines, Mokdad said. The appearance of new, more transmissible variants of the coronavirus only made the problem worse, he added.

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‘We have stock’: Smaller stores aim for last-minute shoppers

MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

After a wearying nearly two years of the pandemic, independent retailers are cautiously hoping their holiday seasons will be bright, despite the challenges this year ranging from supply chain snags to shortages of hot holiday items.

Many businesses ordered decorations, toys, stocking stuffers and other items well in advance this year and have turned to smaller vendors to fill in any gaps in their inventory. They’ve reached out directly to customers on social media. And they’re hoping that shortages at bigger stores stemming from supply chain issues this year will lead to a burst of last-minute shopping in their stores.

So far, worries about omicron and rising cases haven’t made a measurable dent on holiday shopping. For the week that ended Dec. 18, store traffic was up nearly 20% from a year earlier, though down 23% from the same week in the pre-pandemic year of 2019, according to Sensormatic Solutions. But there are still a few crucial shopping days left.

Small retailers are hoping they can capture some of the expected growth in holiday sales. The holiday shopping season is crucial because it can account for 20% or more of annual sales for retailers, and boosts store traffic and new customers. The National Retail Federation predicts a sales increase of 8.5% to 10.5% for all of November and December, after 8% growth in those months in 2020.

American consumers, flush with cash from government stimulus, rising stock prices and increases to their home equity, have kept spending despite high inflation and the ongoing pandemic. That’s put pressure on the global supply chain, leaving business owners scrambling to stock up on the products consumers want.

Last December, vendors warned Teresa Pries that shipping costs would be on the rise. So Pries, owner of two Revival 23 clothing and gift boutiques in Fresno and Clovis, California, took a gamble for this year: She ordered about four times what she normally would before the price increases kicked in. She also rented storage units for the first time to have room for the extra inventory.

“It’s a little scary being a small business investing so heavily, but it has really paid off, our customers are thrilled,” she said. “We thought okay, let’s go for it. It’s probably one of the best business decisions we had. Scary but good.”

That gamble has paid off big time for Pries; her sales are up 90% compared with the same period last year. Now, her worry is less whether she bought too much, but the fact that she’s selling out of items.

“I’m nearly sold out of every single candle, which has been a big gift item,” she said.

As far as any worries about omicron putting a damper on store traffic: “We haven’t seen anything that would indicate that is a factor,” she said.

Other businesses are keeping up practices they started during the pandemic. Ann Cantrell has owned Annie’s Blue Ribbon General Store in Brooklyn for 14 years. She said social media promotions to reach out to customers during the pandemic are still boosting sales, including a video of new items each Friday.

“When something new comes in we put it in our (Instagram and Facebook) Story online,” she said. “We really relied heavily on that video every Friday, it started during pandemic and got an immediate reaction.”

Still, she fears some sales will be hampered by the supply chain. For important items she ordered from multiple vendors. For example, she ordered Hanukkah gelt – chocolate coins wrapped in foil — from three vendors and got two out of three.

“I think this is the year when you see it you buy it, on some levels with the supply chain” she said. “We’re grateful for what we have in store, and waiting for exciting things we ordered months ago and are still waiting for.”

Corey O’Loughlin and Nina Vitalino co-own Prep Obsessed in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, an online boutique that also has a brick-and-mortar location. Black Friday sales jumped more than 30% over last year, a relief for the owners.

“I think that our biggest takeaway (from the Black Friday shopping weekend) is we’re limited only by the inventory we can get, and speed of shipping product,” Vitalino said. “If we’re able to get more great product we can sell it.”

They’ve had some delays problems getting items from some larger suppliers, such as clothing, gift and home decor merchant Mud Pie. So they’ve gotten creative, sourcing “smaller vendors, mom and pop wholesalers that we haven’t done big business with before,” Vitalino said.

“Customers are regularly commenting about how pleased they are with our inventory levels and selection,” O’Loughlin said. “Most large retailers are completely picked over at this point, but we have full stock of our items.”

Businesses are hoping for a surge during the last few days before Christmas. Guido Campello, co-CEO of Journelle, operates four lingerie stores, three in Manhattan and one in Chicago, Illinois. Journelle also has its own lingerie line. They stocked up about 35% more for the holidays. So far it has paid off, with sales up 30% over the Black Friday shopping weekend compared with a year ago.

Having product in stock will boost last-minute shopping, Campello expects.

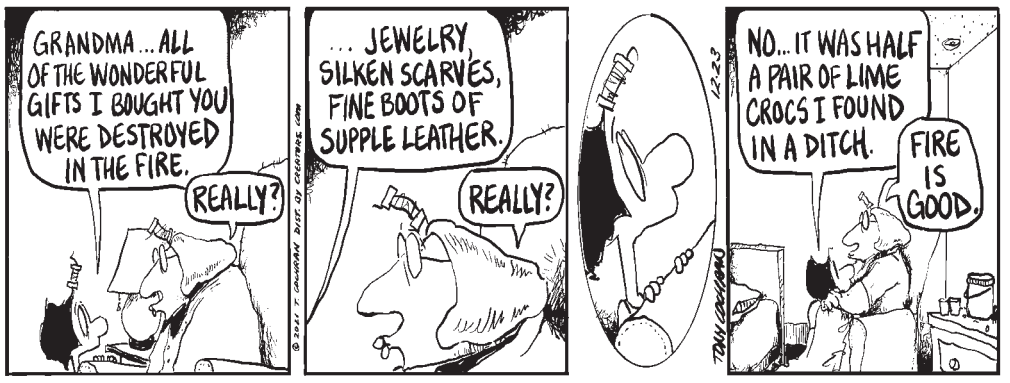
“It’s very clear, my team has all been calling each other, going out to stores to shop for ourselves,” he said. “Nobody has inventory, nobody has sizes. This is a size driven category. Every single bra has to have 14 sizes and different colors.”

While sellouts are always an issue at the last minute, Campello says they’re putting the word out they’ll have plenty of offerings. The store’s social advertising leading up to Christmas is communicating: “We have stock, we’ve got you covered.”



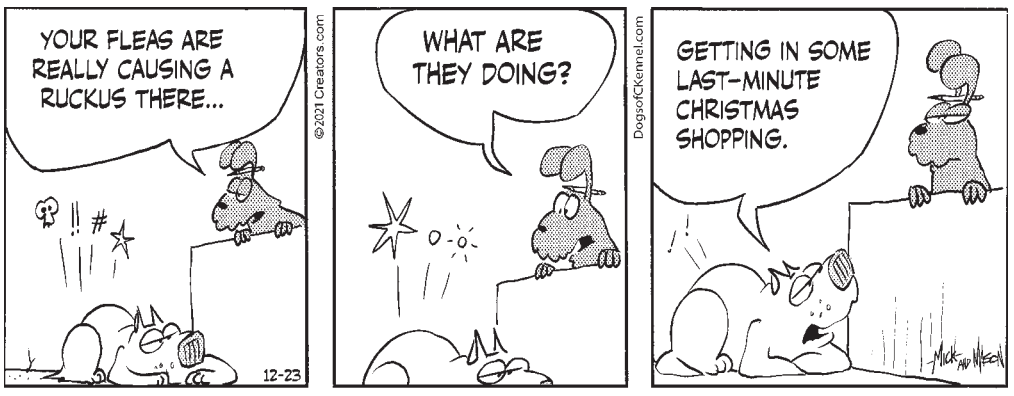
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S THAT GARBAGE APE CAROL."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.3°

THURSDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 0.5-1ft Shin to knee high
NW swell mix may drop off before a rebuild late week. AM high tide still an issue and there's potential for rising southerly winds.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
The trend in the models has been a significant shift towards less swell potential. NW swell mix creeps up through the day. Onshore W/NW wind increasingly likely.

WEATHER

Thursday: Rain, mainly after 10am. High near 57. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Rain. Low around 51. East wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Friday: Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 58. East wind 10 to 15 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/12/23	Thu	12:46 AM	3.43	H
2021/12/23	Thu	04:34 AM	2.83	L
2021/12/23	Thu	10:42 AM	5.18	H
2021/12/23	Thu	6:22 PM	-0.06	L
2021/12/24	Fri	01:37 AM	3.53	H
2021/12/24	Fri	05:33 AM	2.94	L
2021/12/24	Fri	11:27 AM	4.75	H
2021/12/24	Fri	7:04 PM	0.21	L
2021/12/25	Sat	02:28 AM	3.74	H
2021/12/25	Sat	06:55 AM	2.95	L
2021/12/25	Sat	12:25 PM	4.23	H
2021/12/25	Sat	7:50 PM	0.53	L
2021/12/26	Sun	03:14 AM	4.07	H
2021/12/26	Sun	08:49 AM	2.67	L
2021/12/26	Sun	1:48 PM	3.69	H
2021/12/26	Sun	8:41 PM	0.85	L
2021/12/27	Mon	03:54 AM	4.51	H
2021/12/27	Mon	10:22 AM	1.99	L
2021/12/27	Mon	3:31 PM	3.34	H
2021/12/27	Mon	9:34 PM	1.16	L
2021/12/28	Tue	04:33 AM	5.03	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/20
2 13 23 34 66
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 378 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/21
25 31 58 64 67
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 187 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/18
26 33 35 37 42
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 8 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/21
2 5 13 17 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/21
EVENING: 0 6 6
Draw Date: 12/21
MIDDAY: 6 5 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/21
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:42.42

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 23)

You'll wield well the powerful magnetic force called expectation. Anticipate felicity in a wide range of forms. You'll know it when you feel it. You will be the recipient of much amorous attention. You'll have something to teach in a methodical, organized way. Loved ones will blossom under your tutelage. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 10, 22, 24 and 28.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You wouldn't mind things staying the way they are for a while. There's comfort in knowing what's likely to happen next. You'll pick the option that makes you feel relaxed and secure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's an important conversation on the horizon. Think of it as an interview, as it will dictate the future of a relationship. To prepare, consider the best way to talk about and highlight your strengths.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Being completely engaged in an endeavor produces a state of flow powerful enough to dissolve negative emotions, stave off hunger and delay the need for sleep. The longer you can stay in flow, the happier you'll be.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The one who helps you isn't waiting for acknowledgement, however if that help goes on for a while without recognition, it won't last. Your enthusiasm will be someone's sweet reward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll apply diligence to finish a job before the day is done. And if you also apply some laziness, you'll likely think of the smartest and most painless way to get it done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The way you view people will impact your experience. Lean into sunshine, trust and positivity. Because whatever you think of people, they will prove you right.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you now think of as a need will soon be reduced to a want or a mere preference. Realizing that you can happily get by with much less will liberate you and make room for interesting new developments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Simple measures like backing up your work will go a long way toward giving you a sense of security. It's not because you think things will go wrong, it's because you're more confident when you know your bases are covered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your sharp wit delights people and makes them feel safe. You'll notice what's going on and your comments are on-point. Among your many attractive qualities is your ability to live in the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Things seem out of order. There will be advance praise and more oddly, hope for the past. Expectations sent backward won't change what happened, but it can change how the story is told.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have a talent for seeing past your own anxieties and into a deeper empathy with others in the world, an exercise in perspective that brings ease in when you need it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your heart is not an uncharted sea — it's been charted. The map is tested and it's sound. You know where you are and where you're going. Still, the experience of it can be disorienting. Keep an eye trained to your lodestar.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

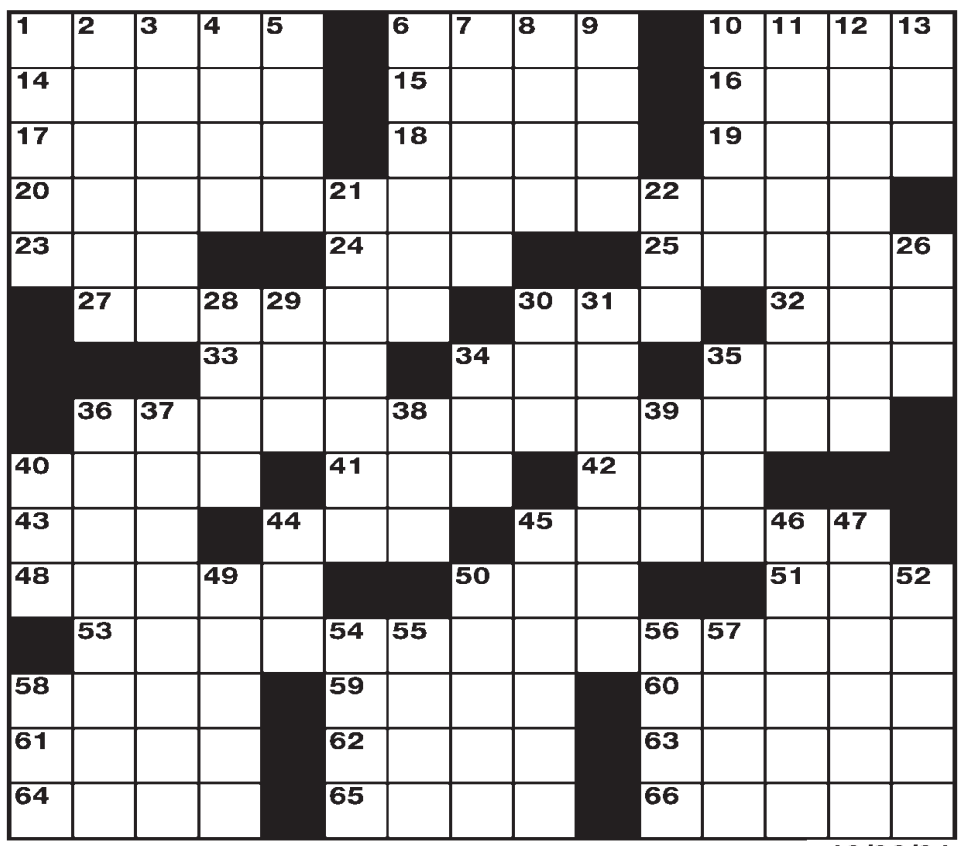
	2	1		8	3	9		
3				7			2	1
	6		2			5		8
		6			7	2		3
	4			9			1	
1		7	4			8		
9		2			8		5	
6	7			1				2
		8	7	2		1	6	

Newsday Crossword

GET OUTTA HERE! by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Common grad-student job
6 Bleach holders
10 Admin. __
14 Give your address
15 Peace Prize city
16 Words on some jackets
17 Bank customers: Abbr.
18 Branch of Islam
19 Old Testament prophet
20 Engage in idle chatter
23 Cook of Apple
24 Yonder yacht
25 Wherein the world is flat
27 Hounded
30 DC-based network
32 State of anger
33 Loan document stat.
34 Needle hole
35 "I'll pick that up!"
36 Popular diner breakfast
40 Elitist
41 Wood used in wineries
42 Cable service add-on
43 Gehrig of baseball
44 Barbecue by-product
45 Fails to be alert
48 Shareholder
50 Pool tool
51 __ Baba
53 Far from logical
58 What we have here
59 Saudi, more than likely
60 Scold slightly
61 Merry monarch of rhyme
62 Cleanser scent
63 Pacific island monarchy
64 Cuisine for corporals
65 Plant's origin
66 Seekers of secrets

DOWN
1 Tinkly tribute
2 Young rascal
3 Puget Sound city
4 Comics canine
5 What's left over
6 Kidded around
7 Ballpark employee
8 Smooth-talking
9 Reach great heights
10 Red as __
11 Torrid
12 Pitchers' woes
13 Bag checking agcy.
21 Bottle-brand anagram of MOTHERS
22 Dumbo's wing
26 Get the point
28 Attire
29 Admissions Dept. concern
30 "Saves the World" scientist
31 Itinerant merchant
34 Deer cousin
35 Fearsome employer
36 Winter footwear
37 Advisory boards
38 Scrooge's scoff
39 Festival precursor
40 __-mo replay
44 Creative skill
45 Filled in (for)
46 Sort of sandwich
47 Wall-busting tool
49 Slacks off
50 Girder lifter
52 "Any __?"
54 Siphons off
55 Niagara Falls feeder
56 Doesn't stall
57 Denny's alternative
58 Channel for film buffs



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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

I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O
I	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
O	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I
O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	I	O
I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I
O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I
I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O
O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O
O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I
I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O
O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I
I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I

I					O				I		
			O				O			I	
					I						
			I			O		O	O		O
						O				I	
		O	O				I				I
					I						
O			O					I		O	
					O			I			I
I			I							I	I
	I		I		I					I	
	I				I		O	O			



"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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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

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 5337

Insects

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

Abdomen	Damage	Larva	Pupa
Ants	Earth	Legs	Roach
Aphid	Eggs	Lice	Subterranean
Balance	Flea	Locust	Thrip
Bees	Flowers	Louse	Trap
Bite	Gnat	Mealworm	Type
Bugs	Grubs	Midge	Walk
Carrier	Hatch	Moth	Wasp
Cicada	Head	Nectar	Weevil
Colony	Hive	Nymph	
Cricket	Honey	Pests	
Crops	Horse	Pollen	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Waiting for my lunch break

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COVID

FROM PAGE 1

be recording case counts of well over 20,000 a day by the end of the year. This would surpass the levels seen in the winter surge of 2020, and represent the largest Covid surge seen in L.A. County to date.

Ferrer balanced this alarming prediction with reassurances about what is different this year from last, namely the widespread availability of vaccines, boosters and rapid tests.

"I do not at this point anticipate that we move into a lot more restrictions across the board," said Ferrer. "I don't think it's necessary right now, because we do have these new tools that we didn't have last year."

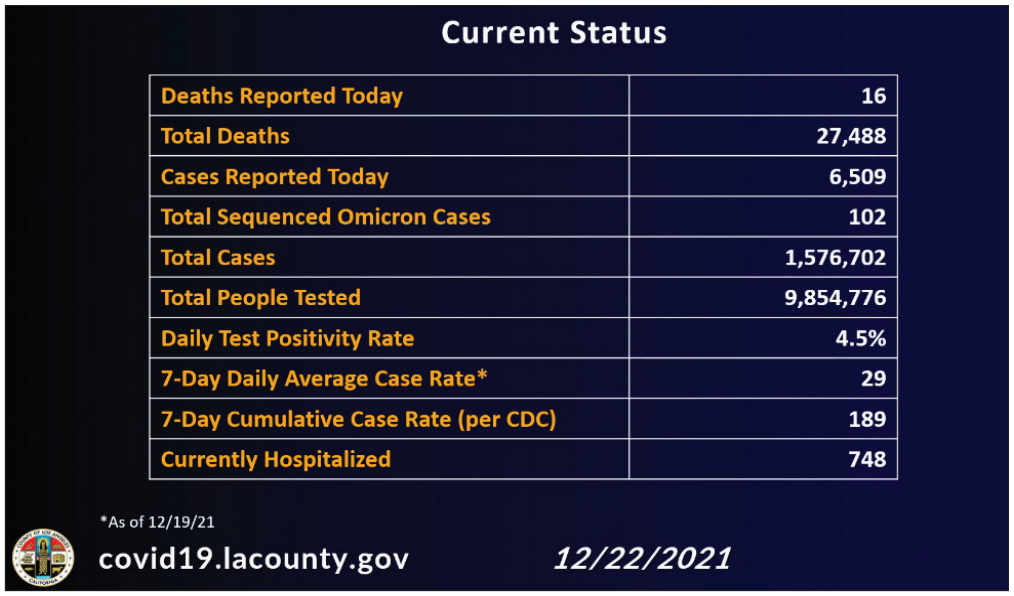
In order to stave off the worst effects of the surge, Ferrer urged all residents to get vaccinated, get their booster, mask up indoors and test before and after attending group events.

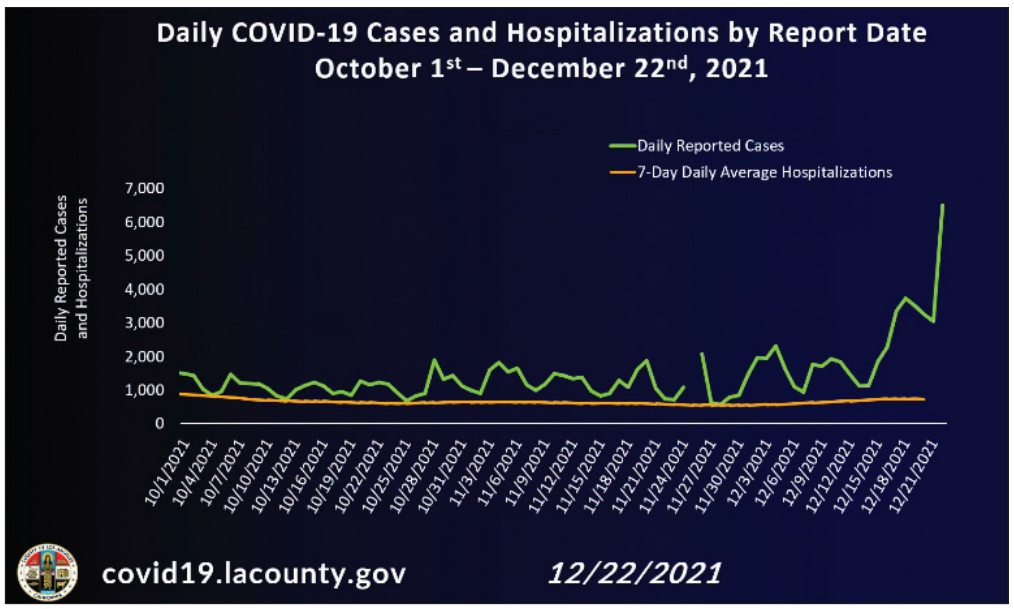
"While many will be protected in this round against the most severe illness from Omicron because they are fully vaccinated and they're boosted where eligible, very high case numbers can easily cause significant stress to our healthcare system, if even a small percent of those infected experience and require hospital care," said Ferrer.

While hospitalizations and deaths have yet to spike, Ferrer said it is too soon to tell what Omicron's impact on the healthcare system will be as these indicators lag behind surges in case counts.

Glimmers of hope can be gleaned from initial studies on Omicron that indicate that vaccines do still provide protection against severe illness and suggest that in general Omicron may be less likely to cause severe illness.

Early data from the United Kingdom showed that while the risk of reinfection with the Omicron variant was five times higher than other with variants, the Omicron variant infections more often result in mild illness. Ferrer said that it is too early to definitively conclude that Omicron causes less severe illness as there is not sufficient data on the effect of Omicron on unvaccinated and high risk individuals.





Courtesy image

CASES: County officials say unvaccinated residents are vastly more likely to need care.

A study out of South Africa, where Omicron originated, found that two doses of the Pfizer vaccine had a 34 percent effectiveness at preventing Omicron infection and a 70 percent effectiveness at preventing Omicron hospitalization.

The South Africa study also supported a growing body of data indicating that booster shots provide increased protection against Omicron, in this case increasing the rate of the Pfizer vaccine's effectiveness against infection from 34 percent with two doses to 75 percent.

Initial data out of L.A. County aligns with this finding. As of Dec. 11 the rate of infection for unvaccinated residents was 272 per 100,000 residents, compared to 68 per 100,000 for vaccinated residents and just 12 per 100,000 for boosted residents.

"This data supports other findings from around the world, suggesting that boosters offer a layer of protection that's critical to maintaining high levels of antibody defense," said Ferrer.

In light of these findings, Governor Newsom recently announced a mandate that all healthcare workers receive their booster dose by Feb. 1, 2022. Newsom also announced plans to distribute around 6 million at-home tests, so that every student K-12 can be tested when they return from winter break.

"I know that we're all exhausted and we're depleted by this long lasting pandemic. We're going to need to find our reserves and be realistic about what it'll take to get through the latest challenge," said Ferrer. "When this winter break comes to an end, we want our most vulnerable loved ones and friends to be healthy and safe."

Clara@smdp.com

LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 1

injunction. According to City Public Information Officer Constance Farrell, this final judgment would likely not take place until mid-2022.

The suit was filed by SMBOA against the City and California Coastal Commission. The SMBOA is a not for profit 501(c)(6) organization made up of property owners and business owners in and around the Third Street Promenade.

In addition to granting the temporary restraining order on Dec. 17, the judge also ordered the SMBOA to post a $125,000 bond to cover the City's damages in the event the City wins the suit.

SMBOA's lawsuit alleges that the City unlawfully received a Coastal Development Permit from the Coastal Commission by claiming an inapplicable exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act. The lawsuit further alleges that the City and Commission did not complete an adequate environmental review of the project and did not consider evidence presented showing the negative environmental and community impacts the proposed demolition would have Downtown.

SMBOA also takes issue with the fact that the demolition was approved without a plan in place for what developer will build the affordable housing project and what the development will look like.

"The truth is that the City has purposefully evaded the basic requirements for environmental review in order to push through an unapproved, speculative, infeasible and undefined mixed-use affordable housing project," states the lawsuit in the initial August filing.

The City and Coastal Commission deny the allegations and are fighting the petition for a permanent injunction in court.

The demolition of Parking Structure 3 was approved by the Coastal Commission on May 13. Commission staff primarily based their recommendation on a study by Walker Consultants, which concluded that the loss of Parking Structure 3's spaces would not adversely impact parking availability and coastal access in the surrounding area.

The structure is located at 4th St and Arizona Ave, in close proximity to the Promenade, and contains 337 spaces. In 2013 the City rebuilt Parking Structure 6 with an additional 400 spaces, which proponents of the demolition say will account for spaces lost in Parking Structure 3.

The SMBOA disagrees and believes that the Parking Structure 3 is a necessary parking resource.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Holiday Pet Tips for a Happy and Safe Celebration

New and seasoned pet parents alike can safeguard their pets to ensure the holidays are merry and bright. Here are some holiday pet safety tips from Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA).

Holiday plants such as poinsettias, holly, mistletoe, and hibiscus are toxic to pets so keep them out of reach.

Be on the lookout for tiny decorations and tinsel that look very appetizing to pets, but can be lethal if ingested.

Use ribbon or yarn instead of hooks to hang ornaments instead of metal that can be harmful if chewed or swallowed.

Deck the halls with tape and cord covers. Pets can suffer burns and electrocution from chewing through electrical cords. Place cords out of sight, cover with tape, or use plastic tubing available at hardware stores to cover the cords.

Dogs and cats should wear a collar with I.D. tags at all times, in addition to being microchipped. Make sure information is current. This is important throughout the entire year, but especially during the holidays as there may be a greater risk of your pet escaping due to increased visitors.

Bells may ring and children may sing, but your pets may need a quiet place to retreat. During holiday parties, secure your pets in a separate room with favorite toys, a cozy pet bed, and soft music. Pets that have their own room will feel safer, less stressed and won't be able to accidentally escape out the front door.

Be careful of candles as curious pets can tip them over or may be burned by the flame.

Never give your pets leftover bones from meals you are making. Cooked bones splinter and can be fatal to pets.

Turkey and gravy makes a festive feast for humans but not for pets. Over time, fatty foods such as gravy and turkey skin can cause your pet to develop pancreatitis which can be deadly. Instead consider buy a holiday meal just for them from the spcaLA Marketplace.

Chocolate is a great treat, but is toxic to your pet. Instead get yummy treats just for them.

Teach your dog to "come when called." spcaLA Animal Behavior & Training Department offers a variety of obedience classes for dogs of all ages.

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