Seaview HOTEL
1760 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90401
310.393.6711
Parking | WiFi Available
SeaviewHotel.com
Starting from $88 + Taxes

INSIDE THE DAILY PRESS PODCAST
smdp.com/pod
ALSO AVAILABLE ON

smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

NEW YEAR'S EDITION
12.31.20 - 01.01.21
Volume 20 Issue 41

Crime Watch
Did he burn the ticket?
Page 3.

Curious City
We can do this.
Page 4.

@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

UK COVID-19 variant in Southern California, but not L.A. yet

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Shortly after Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the new variant of the coronavirus is circulating somewhere in Southern California, leaders of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health said no trace has been found in L.A. County to date.

"Our public health lab completed genome sequencing on 26 positive test samples, and we did not find any evidence of the U.K. under investigation… But this doesn't mean that the variant is not circulating in L.A. County," Director of Public Health Barbara Ferrer said during a media briefing Wednesday. "We have thousands and thousands of people getting tested every day and we're just able to sample a small number of those tests results and do the gene sequencing. What it means is, as of right now, we didn't find this variant in the first set of samples."

Ferrer said the lab will continue to sequence additional samples and regularly report its findings.

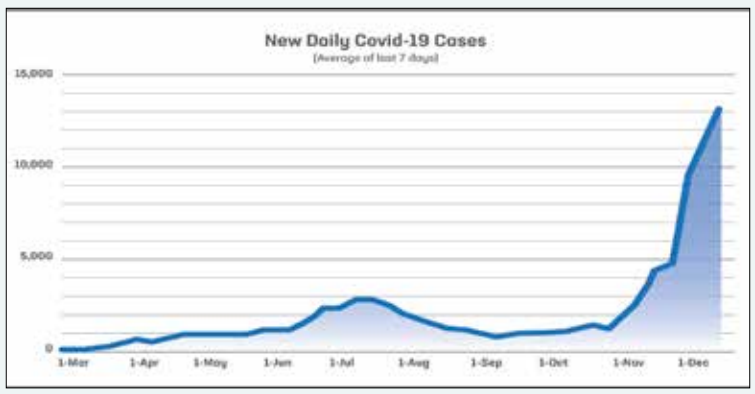
"Whether or not the variant is present or not present here in the county doesn't change the need for all of us to choose the strategies that we have available right now to limit exposure and spread of the virus," she said.

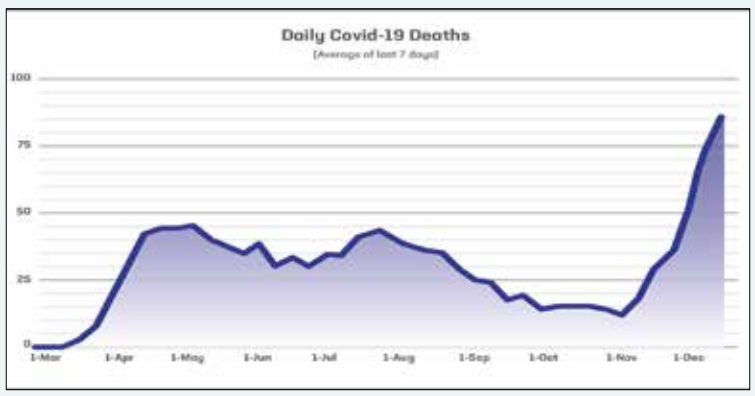
As she detailed the 10,392 new cases of COVID-19 reported throughout Los Angeles County Wednesday, Ferrer noted the lower number of cases seen this week was probably related to the closure of testing centers on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

"Just two months ago, we averaged around 1,200 cases a day," Ferrer said, which means the county has seen a tenfold increase in daily cases in less than two months. It's a

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11

COVID surge





SMDP Image

CASES: Infections and deaths have skyrocketed in Los Angeles County over the past two months and officials continue to say that the worst may yet be ahead of us following holiday travel.

Locals list some bright lights in a dark year

SMDP Staff

Finding good news this year has been tough! There are real public health challenges that surround us and basic unmet needs like rent, food insecurity, and jobs that remain. Everyone has been impacted in small and big ways. In this difficult time, we asked members of the business community to share their good news — glimmers of hope or inspiration — to show how some of the bright spots, even amidst the real challenges in front of us.

ANUJ GUPTA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

The unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic have made this year extremely difficult for our entire community – residents, businesses, and workers. Santa Monica is a resilient city, and we are making every effort to support our local community in a safe and equitable way.

Our focus on accelerating economic recovery over the last year has included supporting vulnerable community members through rent relief and a food pantry, increasing flexibility in using public space, reducing red tape and fees, and implementing a series of innovative programs to make it easier for our businesses to reopen and our community to enjoy life as everyone adjusts to the new public health guidelines. These programs include opportunities for outdoor dining, fitness, retail, and personal services, and a new Art of Recovery program to harness the power of the arts in our City's economic and community recovery efforts.

The City continues to focus on providing essential support to the community during this challenging time including:

Over $2 million in rental relief for over 648 Santa Monica families

Over 4,000 free food boxes for Santa Monica families

Over 90 families have been helped by finding childcare

Over 90 people have received career support

Over 300 businesses have partnered with the City to create fun, safe outdoor parklets-- temporary dining, personal care and fitness areas in accordance with LA County guidelines (which will reopen once "stay at home" health orders are lifted)

We know there is more work to do to deliver on a brighter future for all, and we're committed to working in partnership with our

SEE **BRIGHT LIGHTS** PAGE 2

New California laws address virus, fires, law enforcement

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

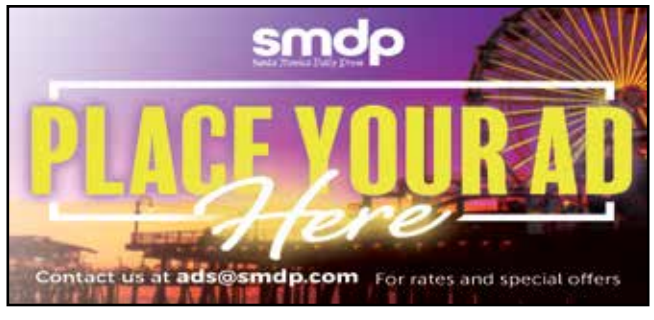
What a strange legislative year it was.

The coronavirus pandemic forced California state lawmakers to twice shut down their sessions for weeks at a time — the first unexpected work stoppage in 158 years. Masked lawmakers tried to limit the number of bills they considered, but still ran out of time on the final night, partly because quarantined Republican senators had to vote remotely.

Yet they still managed to pass hundreds of bills, 372 of which were signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Most take effect with the

SEE **CALIFORNIA** PAGE 7


Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339
In today's real estate climate ...
Experience counts!
garylimjap@gmail.com
www.garylimjap.com
COLDWELL BANKER
CalRE # 00927151



Buy Local SANTA MONICA
buylocalsantamonica.com
Support your community!

School reopening plan released

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom released a plan Wednesday for schools to resume in-person teaching next spring, starting with the youngest students and those who have struggled most with distance learning while assisting with $2 billion in state aid for coronavirus testing, personal protective equipment and increased classroom ventilation.

"Safety is key. Just reopening a school for in-person instruction on its own is not going to address the issue of safety," Newsom said, promising sanctions for schools that don't follow safety rules.

Yet "in-person instruction ... is our default," he said, citing pitfalls from remote learning including increased anxiety, depression and undetected child abuse.

The president of California's largest teachers union said he was glad Newsom is "finally recognizing" the need for tougher safety standards as part of any reopening plan. California Teachers Association president E. Toby Boyd said he hopes the formal guidelines Newsom intends to release next week "will create a coherent statewide plan rather than creating more confusion for parents and school districts."

Newsom, a Democrat, said his administration has been in talks with the influential teachers unions for months and has a "very, very constructive relationship" with the powerful bargaining units.

The administration's pledge to provide frequent testing and contact tracing when outbreaks occur will be crucial to making teachers feel comfortable again in the classroom, said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

California Federation of Teachers President Jeff Freitas noted Newsom's promised state funding, vaccines for educators and priority on safety, calling it "the starting point our state and its schools need to consider for in-person instruction."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious-disease expert, echoed Newsom's contention that schools can be opened safely, noting in an online briefing what he called

SEE **SCHOOL** PAGE 11

After a year like this, expect a strange New Year's Eve

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

If ever a year's end seemed like cause for celebration, 2020 might be it.

Yet the coronavirus scourge that dominated the year is also looming over New Year's festivities and forcing officials worldwide to tone them down.

From New York's Times Square to Sydney Harbor, big public blowouts are being turned into TV-only shows and digital events. Fireworks displays have been canceled from the Las Vegas Strip to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Even private parties in some places are restricted.

The occasion stirs mixed feelings for people like Cesar Soltero, who was taking photos, and taking stock, in Times Square this week.

"I'm going to celebrate that I'm alive, but I'm not precisely too happy for this year," said Soltero, 36, an engineer visiting from Orlando, Florida, after forgoing his usual holiday trip to see family in Mexico.

Simona Faidiga and Alessandro Nunziata strolled through Times Square with their Labrador retriever puppy, Maggie, who has given Faidiga a lift after she lost her tour guide job.

The Italian couple moved to Miami for new jobs in March, just as the pandemic froze tourism. He is working as a sales representative, but she is not back at work yet. And they're not ready to declare 2021 will be better, not wanting to jinx it.

"I mean, I don't think it could be worse than 2020," said Nunziata, 27.

Days ahead of the ball drop in Times Square, it clearly wasn't New Year's as usual at the Crossroads of the World. There was room to roam on sidewalks that would normally be all but impassable.

Vendors' carts and window displays at the area's struggling gift shops flaunted few 2021-themed souvenirs as workers set up a stage for a celebration that will unfold this year without the usual throngs of cheering,

SEE **NEW YEAR'S** PAGE 11

BRIGHT LIGHTS

FROM PAGE 1

entire community in 2021 as we continue the hard work ahead. For a comprehensive update on Economic Recovery efforts in progress, visit santamonica.gov/economicrecovery or santamonicashines.com.

KATHLEEN RAWSON, CEO OF DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA, INC.

Downtown Santa Monica businesses, like many others, have experienced difficult challenges this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It has been encouraging to see our stores and restaurants find ways to reinvent themselves and adapt to the ever-evolving environment.

We are thankful for our partnership with the City of Santa Monica and are proud of the work we have done to implement a number of initiatives for the betterment of the district. These projects include expanded outdoor dining to help businesses continue serving residents and visitors in a clean and safe outdoor environment; an interim zoning ordinance that streamlines business permitting and provides more flexibility around how businesses can use their space and we launched our first Dia de los Muertos celebration with a public art installation on Third Street Promenade in tandem with the Santa Monica Pier.

And finally, we would like to thank all of the Santa Monicans who have supported their downtown throughout this very difficult year. We know life has been tough for everyone and your continued patronage has been a lifeline for our businesses and stakeholders.

These partnerships are emblematic of Santa Monica's spirit as an innovative, welcoming and supportive community. We are truly stronger together.

KARA TAUB, CHAIRPERSON MONTANA AVENUE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION

Although we have lost some businesses this year, new businesses continue to open up on Montana Ave. Retail, services and eateries - it's fast becoming the place for specialist food shops and bakeries. Coming soon: look out for Buena Vida Tea Bar & Garden at 7th St. (formally Fluer Florist), a new bagel shop at Euclid (formally Italian Gelato), a new cafe at 15th (formally Starbucks), acupuncture, jewelry, stationary and more. Montana Ave. continues to be the friendly neighborhood shopping district, eminently walkable, with a low-key vibe.

SHARON TOWN LEE, CHAIR, PICO IMPROVEMENT ORG

The challenging year has made it so clear that we are all in this together, and Pico Improvement Organization has never been closer to the needs of our Pico merchants and community. We relaunched the Pico merchant directory at www.picopassport.com, lined the 3.2 miles of the boulevard with more colorful street banners, opened a vibrant storefront called Pico Pop Up to celebrate the tenacity and spirit of our street with merchant photography, graffiti art, mural maps and free gifts to residents, held a Celebrate Pico promotion with valuable giveaways from dozens of merchants that attracted hundreds of email addresses to our promotional database, welcomed Pico families to a Halloween Costume Contest and put up the Pico Wishing Tree with glowing holiday lights and now dozens of the dreams and hopes of Pico residents hanging on it at the Pico Pop Up! We continue to use the ever-growing reach of our social media channels and website to encourage our followers to Buy Local, and to message gift card purchase for the holidays because 'Everything You Need is On Pico!' from dining, shopping, car care, services and fitness. Look for exciting new murals and more reasons to visit Pico merchants on historic Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica in 2021.

LAUREL ROSEN, PRESIDENT/CEO, SANTA MONICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2020 threw a lot of challenges our way, but it also showed the true giving nature of our community. The day after our downtown was devastated by violence and looting, the Santa Monica Chamber organized an effort with our partners at Morley Builders, the Santa Monica Police Officers Association, and Santa Monica Firefighters Local 1109 to join thousands of residents in cleaning up our streets and taking down plywood boards from our storefronts. We also established a Santa Monica Business Relief Fund, which enabled the Santa Monica Chamber Foundation to distribute over $100,000 in microgrants to help damaged businesses recover. These efforts showed what a giving, inclusive, and caring community we are a part of. We are truly grateful for the generosity and goodwill of our Santa Monica community.

NEGIN SINGH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANTA MONICA PIER

Though the Pier's offerings may be limited and we've had to suffer closures, limited hours, and more: one thing remains- our spirit. When we came up with our reopening campaign, #PierTodayPierTomorrow, we wanted to communicate that no matter what the world is going through, the Pier will always be here as a beacon of hope and fun. And through this year, we've still found ways to bring the fun in a safe way. This includes:

Launching the first ever digital app, The Secret Stour Tour, a 12-puzzle, site specific and immersive game that takes you throughout the Pier.

Creating art installations with the famed Bob Baker Marionette Theater for the holidays and Ricardo Soltero for Dia de Los Muertos

Creating a unique fitness program that has welcomed over 200 classes since October, with more growing every week. Both fitness instructors and their students have called this program "a lifesaver."

Our incredible, resilient Pier Tenants have also been doing their best to keep the fun alive: Heal the Bay has been offering engaging weekly programming through their digital channels, Pacific Park keeps that Ferris wheel lit and beaming, restaurants like The Albright offer the cutest to-go boxes of fresh seafood on the westside (and we're not biased) and so much more. So many of us showed up, and continue to show up everyday to tell our guests that though things may look different, there will always be a #PierTodayPierTomorrow.

Also we got Arnold Schwarzenegger to record the Pier safety message. How cool is that?

STEPHANIE EGLIN, SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER, SANTA MONICA PLACE

Although this was a dynamic year that presented challenges for all, we have much to be proud of here at Santa Monica Place. Our team was able to reimagine our common area spaces to enable socially-distanced outdoor experiences including patio extensions for our restaurants, special family programming for the Cayton Children's Museum, and the addition of a SoulCycle studio to the upper dining deck.

We also worked directly with The Gourmandise School to create a new retail gift shop on Level 1 offering premium bakeware, gourmet ingredients, unique kitchenware, and more for the holidays, while still offering their popular online classes.

As we move towards the end of this monumental year, we are grateful for the resilience of our team members, tenants and community and wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy holiday from all of us at Santa Monica Place.

KIM SIDORIAK, CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER, SANTA MONICA TRAVEL & TOURISM

The Santa Monica Hotel community is a shining star within the city. Considering their business fell nearly 50 percent year over year due to the pandemic, they came together to stay open throughout the Spring and still continue to provide rooms for emergency workers like police, firefighters, doctors, and nurses, as well as essential travelers. In addition, through our nonprofit foundation Santa MoniCARES, tourism supporting the community, we collected an abundance of socks and over 150 blankets for West Coast Care and local homeless shelters, an especially important task during these very challenging times.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 228 CALLS ON DECEMBER 29

Loitering 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:31 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Ocean Ave / Broadway 12:53 a.m.
Loitering 400blk Colorado Ave 1:26 a.m.
Loitering 1300blk 4th St 1:51 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:56 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 400blk Georgina Ave 3:15 a.m.
Loitering 2000blk Ocean Ave 3:25 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 400blk 10th St 5:13 a.m.
Burglary Lincoln Blvd / Pacific St 6:40 a.m.
Construction Noise 1400blk 23rd St 6:45 a.m.
Vandalism 26th St / Broadway 6:54 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Steiner Ave / Marine St 8:14 a.m.
Petty Theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:16 a.m.
Transport Prisoner Lax Court 8:29 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1400blk 4th St 8:33 a.m.
Burglary 1400blk 19th St 8:43 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 10th St 9:17 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Ave 9:45 a.m.
Encampment 1200blk The Beach 9:49 a.m.
Encampment 15th St / Olympic Blvd 10:02 a.m.
Person With A Gun 16th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:35 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1600blk Washington Ave 10:35 a.m.
Burglary 2900blk Glenn Ave 10:39 a.m.
Auto Burglary 800blk Colorado Ave 10:42 a.m.
Encampment 1000blk 6th St 10:47 a.m.
Vandalism 2300blk Virginia Ave 10:51 a.m.
Medical Emergency 00blk Pico Blvd 10:57 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk Washington Ave 11:04 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 900blk 3rd St 11:04 a.m.
Found Property 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:12 a.m.
Assault Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Ave 11:21 a.m.
Burglary 1200blk Euclid St 11:23 a.m.
Information Only Broadcast 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:31 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1600blk 14th St 11:52 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 400blk San Vicente Blvd 12:11 p.m.
Vandalism 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 12:11 p.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 12:13 p.m.
Trash Dumping 1200blk 23rd St 12:17 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 500blk Colorado Ave 12:21 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Lincoln Blvd / Montana Ave 12:34 p.m.
Fraud 1100blk Centinela Ave 12:47 p.m.
Vandalism 2600blk Barnard Way 12:53 p.m.
Identity Theft 700blk Navy St 12:55 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 18th St 1:06 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 18th St 1:11 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 18th St 1:14 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk 20th St 1:15 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 18th St 1:18 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls 300blk Pacific St 1:21 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 18th St 1:21 p.m.
Petty Theft 1100blk 11th St 1:38 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 7th St / Pico Blvd 1:49 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 1:51 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 1:53 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1600blk Michigan Ave 1:55 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 14th St / Pico Blvd 2:24 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1400blk 2nd St 2:25 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 6th St 2:26 p.m.
Burglary 1200blk Euclid St 2:35 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 2:40 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1000blk 14th St 3:03 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 300blk Montana Ave 3:19 p.m.
Found Property 19th St / San Vicente Blvd 3:31 p.m.
Petty Theft 700blk Pico Blvd 3:38 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1000blk Stanford St 3:42 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2400blk Pico Blvd 3:46 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 200blk Palisades Ave 4:00 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1100blk Princeton St 4:24 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1700blk Main St 4:26 p.m.
Vandalism Just Occurred 1500blk 2nd St 4:52 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Ocean Ave / California Ave 5:05 p.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 5:11 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 1400blk Ocean Ave 5:20 p.m.
Encampment Lincoln Blvd / Grant St 5:21 p.m.
Keep The Peace 1800blk 16th St 5:21 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600blk Bay St 5:26 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 5:39 p.m.
Loud Music 15th St / Carlyle Ave 6:00 p.m.
Construction Noise 900blk 15th St 6:08 p.m.
Lost Property 500blk Ocean Ave 6:39 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk 10th St 6:40 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 17th St / Delaware Ave 6:44 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 7:20 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 15th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:57 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 100blk California Ave 8:46 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1400blk 2nd St 9:10 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 400blk Georgina Ave 9:50 p.m.
Forensics Request - Fingerprint 300blk Civic Center Dr 9:52 p.m.
Panic Alarm 2100blk Ocean Ave 10:00 p.m.
Loud Music 1300blk 7th St 11:30 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Cloverfield Blvd / Colorado Ave 11:39 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 25 CALLS ON DECEMBER 29

EMS 1500blk 2nd St 12:16 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1700blk Stewart St 12:20 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 26th St / Olympic Blvd 6:12 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 6:46 a.m.
EMS 2500blk 26th St 7:03 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 7:06 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:03 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Delaware Ave 9:00 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Franklin St 9:07 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 12:16 p.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 12:23 p.m.
EMS 900blk Wilshire Blvd 12:50 p.m.
EMS 32nd St / Pico Blvd 2:26 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 3300blk Barnard Way 3:35 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Arizona Ave 3:37 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 4:17 p.m.
Flooded Condition 2000blk Ashland Ave 5:12 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 5:43 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 6:34 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 23rd St 6:48 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 7th St 7:27 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 7th St 7:30 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 21st St 8:48 p.m.
EMS 400blk San Vicente Blvd 10:08 p.m.
EMS 3100blk 4th St 10:21 p.m.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 7:57 P.M.

SMPD and SMFD responded to an Arson call on the 2400 block of Main St. The suspect had lit grass and other items on fire and walked away. The grass fire was out by the time the call came in, however SMFD units followed the suspect and observed him light a small fire behind a car. The suspect was advised to put the fire out, which he complied with. Nicalo Michael Ciaccio was ultimately issued a citation with a signed promise to appear at LAX Superior Court. The citation was for violation 4.55.100(a) SM MC - Making, kindling, or using a fire, except upon masonry or concrete hearth, bbq grill or fire circle provided by the City for such purpose.







Curious City

Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

We Can Do This

THIS IS MY LAST CURIOUS CITY COLUMN

... of the year. OK, that was a cheap shot, to get your attention. I only hope there were a few "Awwwww"s to go along with all the cheering. For those for whom it was at the top of their Ask Santa list -- well, there's always next year. Be nice, starting now.

But having made it through 2020: three people's slate candidates elected to City Council, incredible! -- putting the brakes on runaway overdevelopment in their first full meeting; ridding ourselves of an ineffective (at best) Acting City Manager and a fatally flawed, unimaginative police chief, both resigned; the worst imaginable nightmare in orange about to be dragged from the Oval Office by his worst imaginable hair after four long years of chaos and destruction; to be replaced by a decent man who believes in democracy and has elevated the first woman, the first black American, the first Asian American, to the lofty position of Vice President... No, I'm not about to bail now. I'm just getting started.

I can't say yet that things are getting good or have even turned around -- we still have a lot of pain to go through, and Mitch McConnell and Kevin McKeown -- but hope is now more than just alive. It is a foundation to build upon.

HAS THERE EVER BEEN A WORSE YEAR?

In the history of our nation? When you add it all up, especially 20,000,000 Americans infected with a deadly coronavirus and one in every 1,000 Americans dead from it, sparking the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression, with millions out of work and going hungry, schools and businesses closed, there is a case to be made. But it does depend on your perspective.

If you were one of the first Africans kidnapped in 1619 who survived the terrible trans-Atlantic voyage only to face the rest of your life in crushing, dehumanizing slavery in America, knowing that the next eight generations of your progeny would live the same hellish existence, and another five or six generations more still not free, brutalized, killed -- that might be the worst year, from where you stand.

A similar despair must be there for the thousands fleeing certain death in Central America, only to be stopped at the U.S.-Mexican border and sent back, refused even the standard, legally required process for seeking asylum. Wouldn't that be their worst moment in American history?

And then we have our own homegrown holocaust of the Native Americans, spanning from Jamestown in 1607 to today's disproportionate devastation from the virus.

YES, 2020 WAS HORRIFIC

In so many ways. So much death, destruction and divisiveness. Much was lost. Our nation is damaged, bruised and battered, as are we as individuals. But we're still here, still standing. Few would ask to repeat 2020. Yet, I know a couple of high-minded friends who embrace it as having been a great opportunity for learning and growing.

This end of 2020 is a perfect time for that reflection. Instead of just celebrating Dec. 31 as Good Riddance Day, thank God I made it, maybe take a long walk (you've been doing that anyway) and ponder what this 2020 school of very hard knocks taught you.

And then -- a determination, a dedication, to change, through action. To doing it differently. We have an unprecedented opportunity to attack our many problems and take the first steps toward solving them, to right the wrongs, especially the ones that have persisted.

BRAND NEW SOLUTIONS

Are what's needed. Way, way outside the box. Let's face it, we have been doing a pretty miserable job as a society on a lot of fronts. What bigger risk is there than to do nothing about the desperately declining environmental state of the entire planet? Isn't 400 years enough time to finally end deadly discrimination in America? How about hunger? Homelessness? Poverty? Lousy education? Lack of affordable or free medical care? -- in the wealthiest nation on earth?

We can do it. There are greed-filled gatekeepers of excessive wealth and power who will fight furiously to hold on to the old ways. Time to move them out of the way. It takes only political will. And that never comes from the top, it comes from regular people, speaking out, marching, and demanding what is just. It will be an uphill battle, mired as we now are in so much willful ignorance and misinformation.

REMEMBER THE FIRST DAYS OF THE PANDEMIC?

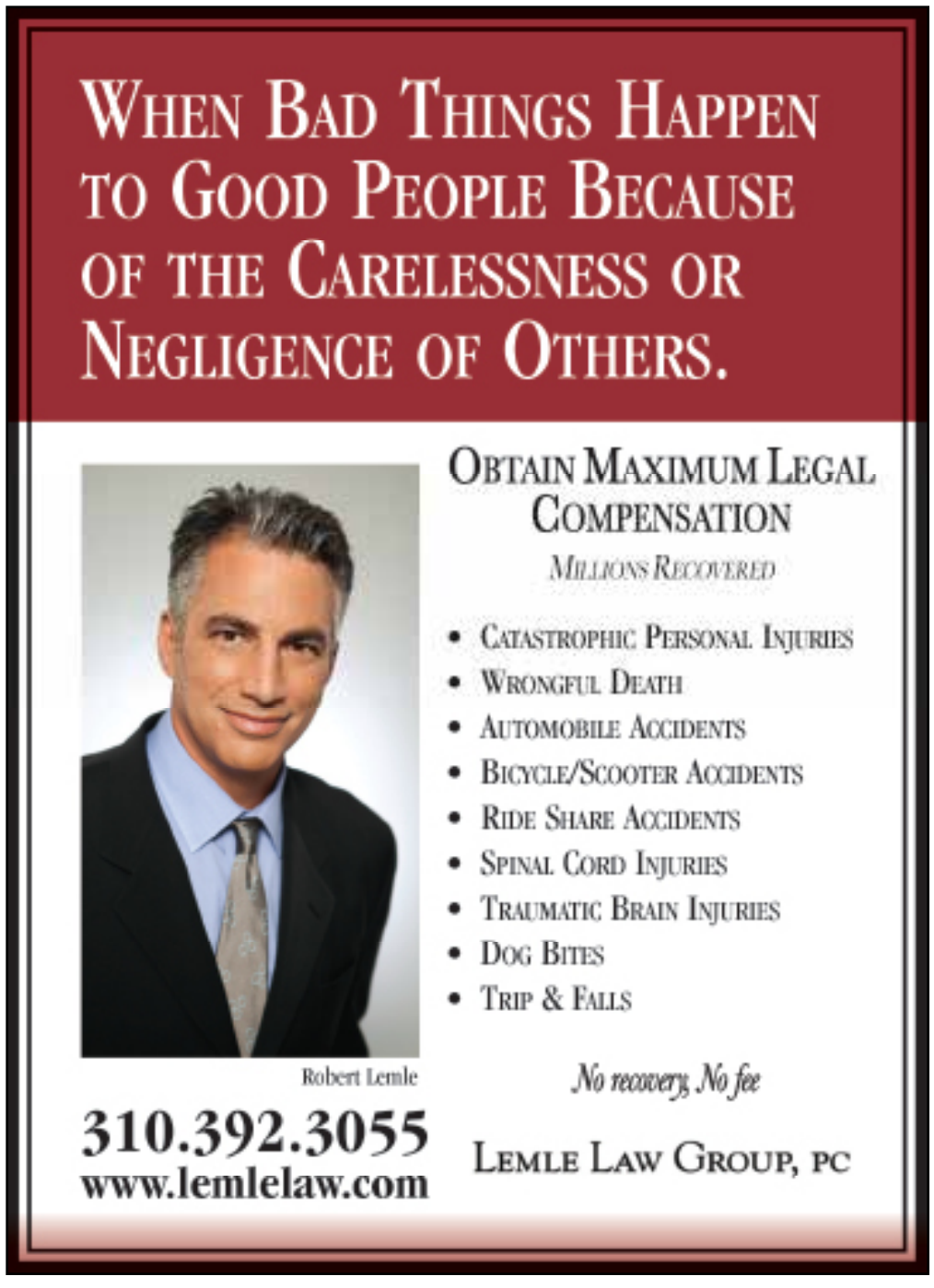
When people stayed home, didn't drive all over town, became more cautious about health and our responsibility to each other? We slowed down, and rediscovered so many simple joys and values that had been lost in modern life. We spent more time with family. Saw more of our neighbors. Sought out sunsets, and sunrises. Listened to the birds we never heard before. Despite the need to keep social distance, we may have actually spent more time with friends. Thank you, Zoom.

We walked. Rediscovered our neighborhoods. The skies were so much cleaner, the freeways nearly empty. We were forced to look at how we spent our time. We cleaned out, reorganized, rethought nearly everything. We acquired less.

I fear a return to normalcy will dim these very valuable lessons and insights. We can't let that happen. We have discovered that happiness is not found in more possessions or a taller, denser city. New buildings or new parks? A new car or more time to walk in your beautiful neighborhood and fill your functioning lungs with fresh seaside air.

We can do this. Now is the time.

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



PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rose Mann
rose@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Brennon Dixson
brennon@smdp.com
Clara Harter
clara@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

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

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

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC
© 2019 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

AWARD WINNER
AWARD WINNER
WINNER

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Eviction Tsunami

The Committee For Racial Justice (CRJ) will be gathering by Zoom on Sunday, Jan. 3, at 6:30 p.m., to kick off the New Year by examining a topic that is most pressing in a number of households. During this time of unprecedented economic upheaval, numerous reports claim that one third of our country's inhabitants will face housing insecurity in the coming months. We know that the moratorium on evictions has been extended to the end of January for most LA County residents and ends March 30 for Santa Monicans, but what then?

Most people will not be in a position to pay back all the past rent or mortgage payments due. And because the corona virus has impacted the Black and Brown communities disproportionately, it is our neighbors in these communities that are at the highest risk of losing their homes, if that hasn't happened already due to illness and job loss.

We want to see what is being done to avert this looming crisis and where we need to be supporting those efforts and advocating for even more solutions. On the night of 1/3/21 a panel of experts will inform and guide us through this treacherous landscape and help us discuss what can be done. Among our panel members will be Commissioners Anastasia Foster and Caroline Torosis, both of whom serve on the Santa Monica Rent Control Board. Another panelist will be Stephano Medina from the Eviction Defense Network in Los Angeles.

Anastasia also serves on the Housing Sub-committee of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights and has been a Landlord and a small business owner, which gives her a unique perspective to understand both sets of stakeholders. She works on a broad range of housing issues and is part of the Right to Counsel Coalition of Los Angeles. She has been a repeat panelist at Housing CA and works with jurisdictions up and down the state on issues surrounding rent control.

Caroline is an attorney who serves as the Director of Economic and Business Development at WDACS (the LA County department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services), where she promotes policy and program development to spur economic mobility and works toward equitable and inclusive community development. She has spearheaded the County's efforts to raise the minimum wage, develop the Center for Financial Empowerment, and negotiate repayment agreements between homeowners and banks to avoid foreclosure.

Stephano grew up in Los Angeles and is the son of Ecuadorean immigrants. He is currently a Skadden Fellow at the Eviction Defense Network in Los Angeles, working on anti-gentrification policy and litigation alongside his sister, another EDN staff attorney handling eviction cases. This past spring, he graduated from UCLA Law with a certificate in Critical Race Theory and Public Interest Law. Before law school, he worked as a community organizer in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

In addition to local issues, the panel will also discuss LA County, CA state, and federal efforts to mitigate a tsunami of evictions and foreclosures. There will time for Q & A after their presentations.

The zoom link for Sun. evening, Jan. 3 at 6:30 p.m. is:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87608169156?pwd=UWRlR2Nld1oxNm5ZNzc4Qko2UjNNdz09
By Phone +1 408 638 0968
Meeting ID: 876 0816 9156
Passcode: 347875
If you are NOT on our email list already, call Joanne at 310-422-5431

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

Your column here

Mayor Sue Himmelrich Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Thank you for going to work so we can stay home

It wasn't so long ago – nine interminable months – that we learned a new concept called "social distancing" and that if we stayed at home, we could save the lives of family, friends, and neighbors with preexisting health conditions and others vulnerable to a new disease called coronavirus or COVID-19.

Now it's the end of a year defined by a pandemic none of us could have ever imagined. And it has gotten worse. Much, much worse. And while the risk has never been greater, our brave essential workers kiss their families and head out the door every day.

They go to work so we can stay home. Our community's frontline workers pick up our trash, repair water pipes, groom our beaches, sanitize public restrooms, and check businesses for COVID-19 compliance. They answer 9-1-1 calls, transfer patients to area hospitals, and patrol our neighborhoods. They transport essential workers on the Big Blue Bus, design safe bike lanes, and keep our beloved farmers markets open.

Now our hospitals are in a life-threatening state with most reporting NO ICU beds available. How about if we make it OUR job to stay home as a holiday gift to our healthcare heroes who are battling a deadly war that grows grimmer by the day. Every decision to have a holiday gathering with people outside our household – no matter how safe we think it may be – is making everyone's situation more dire. People are dying and more will die. So remember, it is in OUR hands. This is a people-driven problem and we, the people, can end it if we follow the advice of scientists and doctors.

I hope you'll join me in closing out 2020 with overflowing gratitude for everyone risking their lives in an essential role. I also am asking for a redoubled effort to do the right thing and stay home for healthcare workers and a healthcare system now stretched far beyond its capacity.

We can never overestimate what the people who are on the frontlines are doing for us. Let's stay home for them, continue to share our gratitude for their heroic work, and hope each of us can continue to kiss those in our household goodnight.

TAXES
ALL FORMS • ALL TYPES • ALL STATES
BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS
(310) 395-9922
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1800 Santa Monica 90401

SAVE THE KITTENS
NKLA

#SAVETHEKITTENS
NKLA.ORG/KITTENS

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE
If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!
WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
OR
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more
SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589

WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

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

Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Turning Over a New Leaf

As I wish you a Happy New Year it's with the caveat if there's ever been a year I'd like to completely forget it would be 2020. From "fifteen cases soon to be zero," to now, a Covid death in L.A. County every 10 minutes and nationwide every 30 seconds. To call 2020 a nightmare is being downright polyannaish. Other than pathetically slow distribution so far, with vaccines there is hope. (Except many people apparently worry a shot will plant a chip allowing George Soros and the late Hugo Chavez to monitor their every move.)

The past four years have been so horrific it has inspired hopeful new age "positivity" thinking from the likes of Deepak Chopra, Marianne Williamson and millions from 55 countries around the world. Rather than hate-filled political attacks, these spiritually inclined souls are turning to nature for answers. (However admirable, I confess, it's definitely over my pay grade of understanding, at least so far.)

But not so for Sheila Laffey, SMC Adjunct Professor who has produced, promoted and screened environmental documentaries for many years. After considerable training, Sheila's just become a certified a "Nature and Forest Therapy Guide." (Sheila quotes the founder of the Association of Forest Nature Therapy, Amos Clifford, "The forest is the therapist. The Guide opens the doors.")

Whether it's walking barefoot on the beach or hikes into the woods to absorb the natural healing chemicals of trees and foliage, statistics document benefits to humans battling stress causing disease and discovering health-oriented alternatives to holding on to animus. (From my years with the U.S. Forest Service some of this resonates about which I'll comment later.)

Over past weeks, I've received "thank you" emails from readers for my break in adding more fuel to the political fires. (The truth is I'm exhausted.) Meanwhile, if it's any comfort, while 2020 was undoubtedly the worst year in our lifetimes, it was far from the worst for the planet. That belongs to 536.

Probably from a gigantic volcanic eruption in Iceland, the year began with ash and dense fog which plunged Europe, the Middle East and parts of Asia into darkness 24 hours a day, for nearly 2 years. (Which at least would have made messy sunscreen unnecessary.)

Global temperatures plummeted, crops failed and famine was rampant. To make matters worse, in 541 A.D., an outbreak of bubonic plague led to the death of 100 million people leading medieval historians to refer to this era as the "Dark Ages." (Which not only sounds like a colossal understatement but also makes ludicrous the "inconvenience" of wearing masks so many bitch about.)

In my still recent experiment of being less partisan in these columns, I won't list what I think Joe Biden's administration will do to restore normal life again, but rather what it's certain he won't do. For example, it's unlikely Biden would refer to any future pandemics as "hoaxes."

It's a certainty he will not make fun of the disabled or insult Gold Star families. Nor will he troll a brilliant female teenager with Asperger's Syndrome who, for years, has been trying tirelessly to save the planet from climate change. For this, in 2019, she was awarded "Time Magazine Person of the Year" outraging a certain narcissist who thought he should have won that prestigious accolade.



Katherine Sye Grover

NATURE: Sheila immerses in "Forest Bathing" originated in 1980's Japan to lift spirits and consciousness.

And if Biden is ever face to face with a murderous dictator and sworn enemy of America and has to decide whom to believe, our intelligence services or the enemy's, it'll be the former every time. (How refreshing.) And until the pandemic is over, Biden would never mock people wearing masks or brag about the size of a super spreader political rally because, following science, he won't ever hold one.

I see no likelihood of Biden boasting, "I'm like really rich," or "I'm like really smart" or refer to himself as a "stable genius." (Did anyone ever hear Einstein say "I'm like really smart?")

I can't imagine Biden humiliating reporters, abruptly walking out of press conferences or looking up into the sky and claiming "I'm the chosen one." Nor will Biden take a sharpie and illegally change an official government weather map rather than admit he made a simple mistake; or recommend nuking the approaching hurricane or suggest bleach to cure Covid.

Hopefully it's been resolved by now, but if Congress passed a stimulus relief bill endorsed by the Biden administration there's no chance at the 11th hour Joe would pull the plug. That would causing suffering to millions of American families and who in their right mind would do that?

In closing, there's one small factor that just might make it easier for me to turn over a new leaf and participate in Sheila's Forest Therapy Guide groups. Going back to my time with the Forest Service, I still have the hiking boots.

For Sheila's Nature Therapy walks email slaffey108@gmail.com. For more info on this approach go Google "ANFT.earth."

CALIFORNIA

FROM PAGE 1

new year. Among them:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

As the pandemic set in, so did nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Police killings of primarily Black and Latino men gave urgency to bills that previously stalled and prompted new efforts at law enforcement accountability, some of which failed in the session's waning hours.

One new law requires the state attorney general to investigate any time police kill an unarmed civilian, while a second gives county supervisors greater oversight of county sheriffs.

Evaluations of peace officers must include assessing bias against race or ethnicity, gender, nationality, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.

Police can't use carotid restraints or chokeholds.

Youths up to age 17 can't be questioned by police or waive their rights until they have a chance to consult with an attorney.

Suspects may be entitled to new trials or sentences if they can show their case was tainted by racial bias. And juries will be picked from all tax filers, a broader pool than the current lists of registered voters and licensed drivers.

Governments can't use software to track a person or object without first getting a warrant.

Former inmate firefighters can quickly apply to have their criminal records expunged after their release, which gives them a shot at becoming professional firefighters or seeking employment in other licensed professions.

WILDFIRES

Record wildfires have scarred California's landscape, spurring a drive for more protections.

Homeowners in fire-prone areas must further reduce vegetation within 100 feet of structures, including eliminating vegetation immediately adjacent to structures, though the rule can't be enforced until the state develops regulations and lawmakers provide money for beefed-up inspections.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services must take into account the needs of the elderly, children, those with language barriers or physical or mental disabilities when updating the State Emergency Plan.

Insurers must prominently notify policyholders if their offer to renew a policy reduces coverage, such as eliminating fire protection, and get it acknowledged in writing.

Emergency vehicles can use a distinctive "Hi-Lo" warning sound to notify the public of an immediate need to evacuate an area in an emergency under a law that took effect in September.

Employers can't force domestic workers to work during an evacuation, whether the danger is from fire or the coronavirus.

HEALTH AND CORONAVIRUS

Employers must quickly notify workers of potential coronavirus exposure.

Hospitals must maintain a three-month supply of personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves and supply it to endangered employees. The state itself must also build a stockpile under a separate law.

Several coronavirus laws already took effect. They include one presuming for the purposes of workers' compensation that the virus was contracted on the job unless employers prove otherwise. Another requires Cal/OSHA to provide agricultural workers and employers, in English and Spanish, the best ways to prevent coronavirus infections. Food facility employees must be allowed to wash their hands every 30 minutes and additionally as needed.

Good Samaritans who rescue children under age 6 from overheating in unattended vehicles can't be held civilly or criminally liable if they first call emergency workers before breaking in.

Insurance companies can't deny life or disability income insurance solely because an applicant has HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

A new law bans the sale of most flavored tobacco products, but the industry says it has enough signatures to block the measure until voters weigh in, which may take until 2022. California officials are delaying the effective date until county clerks decide if a sufficient number are valid.

BUSINESS AND LABOR

California-based companies must have at least one board director by the end of 2021 who is a racial or sexual minority. By 2022, that bumps to two such directors for smaller boards and to three for boards with nine or more directors. It follows a similar California-first requirement for female board directors.

Companies with 100 or more employees must provide the state information on employees' race, ethnicity and gender in various job categories, information that could help the state identify pay disparities.

Leaves of absence under the California Family Rights Act expand to include all companies with five or more employees, instead of the previous limit of 50 or more employees.

Employers can't discriminate or retaliate against workers who take time off for medical care, court proceedings or for other reasons if they are victims of a crime including sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking.

Businesses can't avoid paying back wages just by adopting a new name under a law that says they're liable if have the same owners, facilities or workforce.

Employees have a year, instead of six months, to file discrimination or retaliation complaints with the California Labor Commissioner.

A bill that already took effect exempts about two-dozen more professions from California's landmark labor law designed to treat more people like employees instead of contractors. The law was primarily aimed at ride-hailing giants Uber and Lyft, which won a reprieve on the November ballot.

The minimum wage rises to $14 an hour under another existing law that will bring it to $15 an hour for all employees by 2023. Employers with 25 or fewer workers must pay $13 an hour.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101
Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.



• Traditional Burial • Green/Natural Burial • Cremation
• Funeral Planning & Mortuary Services
ALL IN ONE LOCATION
1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ▪ (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
woodlawn.cemetery@smgov.net ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

A discussion will be held by the Landmarks Commission on the following:

301 Santa Monica Boulevard, Certificate of Appropriateness 20ENT-0287, Zoning: DCP-BCD (Downtown Community Plan, Bayside Conservation District). Consideration of the reconstruction of the previously removed third floor of designated City Landmark, the Junipher Building, in accordance with S.M.M.C 9.27.030 (C). **Applicant:** Kenneth L. Kutcher, Harding Larmore Kutcher & Kozal (HLKK), LLP. **Owner:** RDR Properties, LLC, Robert D. Resnick, Manager.

1436 2nd Street, Certificate of Appropriateness 20ENT-0273, Zoning: DCP-BCD (Downtown Community Plan, Bayside Conservation District). Consideration of expansion to the existing four-story affordable lodging hostel facility on the site of the Rapp Saloon the first building designated as a City Landmark. The expansion includes 40 additional guestrooms, a renovated dining hall, and a central courtyard. The proposed addition is otherwise separate and apart from the Rapp Saloon Building. The Rapp Saloon will be rehabilitated to continue to function as a community amenity at the front of the parcel and provide enhanced accessibility to this important City Landmark

DATE/TIME: **MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 AT 7:00 PM**
LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Landmarks Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The public may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/vkkppekc or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 1171875 #)

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Comments may be sent via email to planningcomment@smgov.net. Written information received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Landmarks Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Written information received after 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read aloud at the meeting for a total of three minutes.

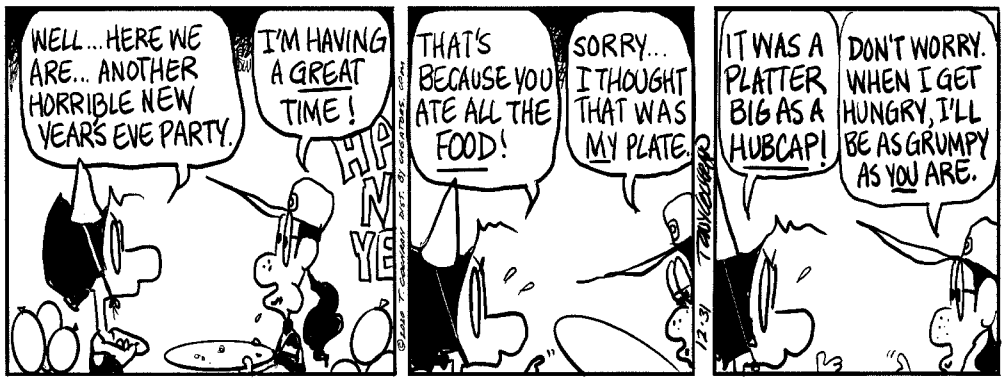
QUESTIONS regarding the project may be addressed to Stephanie Reich, AIA, LEED AP, Design and Historic Preservation Planner at stephanie.reich@smgov.net.

MORE INFORMATION: For disability-related accommodations, please contact planning@smgov.net or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. 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: Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica sobre una solicitud para remodilar un edifecio que tiene valor historico importante. Para más información: planning@smgov.net

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°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
Expecting steeper WNW/NW swell to build through the day as old WNW swell drops out.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-5ft Waist to head high
More WNW/NW swell due. Winds looking pretty light through the day at this point with the best tide window showing in the afternoon.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 64.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 66. North wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/12/31	Thu	02:54 AM	2.30	L
2020/12/31	Thu	09:10 AM	6.12	H
2020/12/31	Thu	4:37 PM	-0.93	L
2020/12/31	Thu	11:18 PM	3.56	H
2021/01/01	Fri	03:31 AM	2.40	L
2021/01/01	Fri	09:46 AM	6.03	H
2021/01/01	Fri	5:15 PM	-0.81	L
2021/01/02	Sat	12:00 AM	3.61	H
2021/01/02	Sat	04:18 AM	2.46	L
2021/01/02	Sat	10:27 AM	5.72	H
2021/01/02	Sat	5:54 PM	-0.59	L
2021/01/03	Sun	12:46 AM	3.72	H
2021/01/03	Sun	05:15 AM	2.53	L
2021/01/03	Sun	11:15 AM	5.24	H
2021/01/03	Sun	6:35 PM	-0.25	L
2021/01/04	Mon	01:34 AM	3.92	H
2021/01/04	Mon	06:27 AM	2.53	L
2021/01/04	Mon	12:11 PM	4.60	H
2021/01/04	Mon	7:19 PM	0.19	L
2021/01/05	Tue	02:25 AM	4.23	H
2021/01/05	Tue	08:04 AM	2.34	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:12/26
10 24 27 35 53
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 363 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/29
1 31 35 48 62
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 401 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/26
4 6 16 19 32
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/29
1 13 14 15 23

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/29
Evening: 3 9 5
Draw Date: 12/29
Midday: 8 3 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/29
1st: 08 - GORGEOUS GEORGE
2nd: 04 - BIG BEN
3rd: 05 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
RACE TIME: 1:48.69

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

RUN YOUR DBAs IN THE DAILY PRESS FOR ONLY $80
INCLUDES RECEIPT AND PROOF OF PUBLICATION. Call us today!
Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

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

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 31)

Normally, you wouldn't consider the pursuit of pleasure a top priority, but this year shows you reordering your internal organization and becoming richly fulfilled. The surprise for you will be in how much your happiness contributes to the happiness of others. You'll cash in an unusual bestowal. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 25, 1, 17 and 36.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Relationships, just like any other endeavor, will roll much easier once momentum kicks in. This never happens from a still position. Things have to be moving to get moving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The words "I love you" translate nicely, though not directly. Anyway, you know when you're loved. You could tell them when it happens and that would be a more accurate and evidence-based approach.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's as though, sign of the twins, you are two people, one being perpetually surprised at what the other wants and equally impressed by what both are willing to do to get it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You wanted it to be very beautiful, and so you saw it as very beautiful. And so it was. Perhaps there are objective standards to be met but they are boring compared with the complex metrics your heart searches to satisfy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll mentally scan through your recent history, which will lead to a broad array of feelings including (but not limited to) pride, satisfaction, gratitude, hunger, compassion, tenderheartedness and ambition.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're self-driven. You still have to answer to people, but ultimately, they are getting the sense that this protocol, while you may follow it, means little to you. Your assessment is the only one that matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may be particularly sensitive to stress triggers, but when you take extra precautions to make yourself feel comfortable and safe, you become quite impervious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). All this talk about expressing one's authenticity and yet many don't realize that each person contains multitudes. You embrace your complexity, which affords you flexibility of expression.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Where you used to have very few choices, you now have options aplenty. So many, in fact, that many are paralyzed by seemingly endless possibilities. Not you. You've an uncanny sense for finding your perfect fit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Maybe you're not consciously willing to let go of your old way of doing things in the name of trying to form a new bond with someone, and yet that is exactly what will happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll make a difference by bringing awareness to issues that matter. Yours is a gentle wake-up call, like an alarm clock that chirps rainforest sounds at progressively higher volumes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're serious about getting what you want -- once you know what that is. Right now, there's no way to tell. You haven't tasted enough of the sample platter yet, but you will in the days to come.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

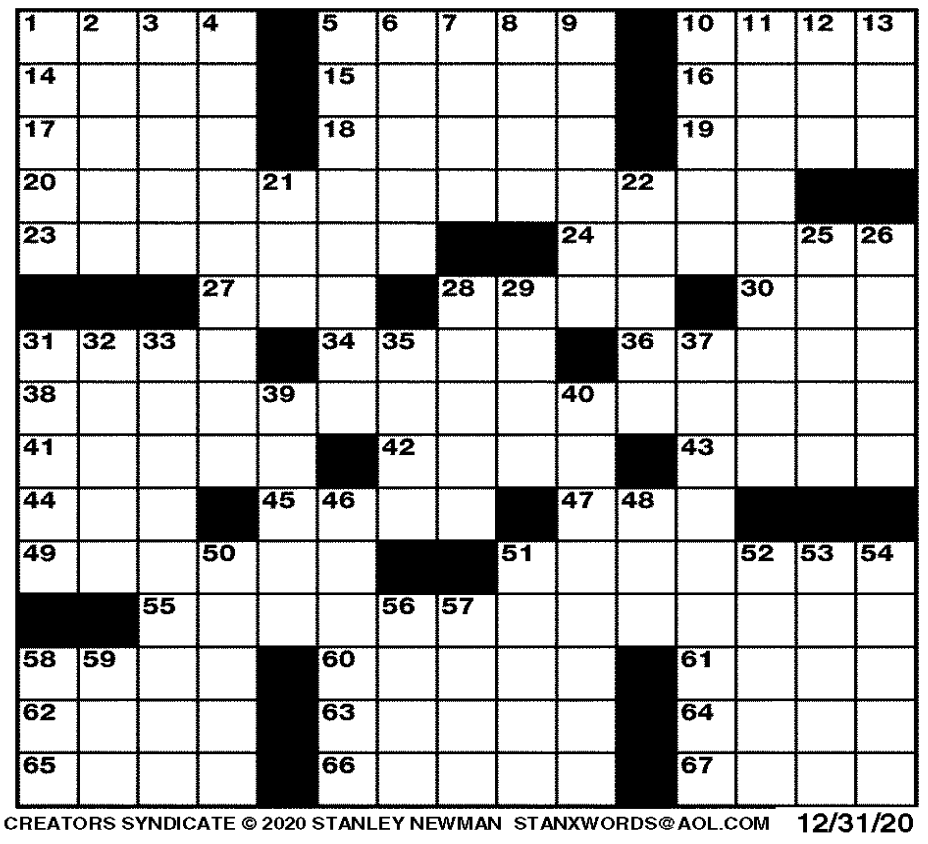
4	5		7	6			1	
1	8	3				6		
		7			5			9
	4		6			5	3	
5				4				7
	3	6			1		8	
8			4			7		
		5				1	9	4
	2			9	7		5	6

Newsday Crossword

BONANZA by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Put on the wall
5 Fruit-filled desserts
10 Imitates
14 Not-so-sweet smell
15 Atlanta campus
16 Objective
17 Strike a stance
18 Group of witches
19 Haywire
20 Montana nickname
23 Former
24 Gives a heads-up to
27 OED entries
28 Street-corner shout
30 Bathwater tester
31 *The West Wing* Emmy winner
34 Panache
36 On display
38 Adam Smith topic
41 Walled Spanish city
42 In the distance
43 Fox musical series
44 Rev.'s speech
45 Physique
47 Old verb ending
49 "Psst!"
51 Shortened, as a board
55 Crunchy message holder
58 Shimmering stone
60 Shout of approval
61 Electee of 1908
62 Chocolate choice
63 Sat around
64 Summer Olympics event
65 Award for a soap
66 Rock guitarist Eddy
67 Military addresses

DOWN
1 "Get cracking!"
2 Deck out
3 Long time follower
4 Chinese tourist attraction
5 Legendary Shawnee leader
6 Dean Martin song topic
7 Wander far and wide
8 Very, in Vichy
9 English-class subject
10 Banded stone
11 Belt sander, e.g.
12 Sideburn neighbor
13 Shifty
21 "Science Kid" of TV
22 Eminent roster
25 Colonial era settlement
26 Good judgment
28 Chewy candy
29 Tolstoy heroine
31 Inundated
32 Flood control structure
33 Milker's workplace
35 Fill with ammo
37 Sopranos hit them
39 Small drum
40 Long-distance requirement
46 Offer more than
48 "Terrible" age
50 Like eggs
51 Early evening
52 Giraffe relative
53 Military band member
54 Big celebrations
56 Language of Pakistan
57 *The Lion King* lioness
58 High-flown verse
59 Country singer Tillis



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/31/20

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



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

Locally owned, and committed to local news reporting since 2001.

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 4979

Love thy neighbour

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

Abut	Dogs	Lane	Roads
Alley	Drains	Lawns	Safe
Arcade	Drive	Lend	Shrubs
Avenue	Eggs	Love	Sister
Birthday	Gang	Mail	Smile
Busy	Garbage	Meals	Society
Cakes	Gift	Nature strip	Supper
Cars	Hello	Oblige	Talk
Cats	Jogger	Older	Tea time
Charity	Join	Oval	Trees
Close	Kerb	Pets	Units
Cordial	Kids	Rely	Visit
Crony	Kiss		

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
A little sugar won't hurt. Will it?

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

SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 2

an "almost counter-intuitive" finding that schools "seem to be doing better when it comes to the level of infection" than the community at large.

"If you really want to get society back to some form of normality, one of the first things you have to do is to get the children back in school," Fauci said.

Many schools are already offering in-person classes, even with surging coronavirus cases, and there have been few outbreaks, said Linda Darling-Hammond, president of the California State Board of Education and an emeritus Stanford University education professor. More than 1,730 schools have received state waivers to reopen classrooms.

"Even in places of high rates of transmission, they are going to school safely," she said.

Newsom said his recommendation was driven by increasing evidence that there are lower risks and increased benefits from in-person instruction particularly for the youngest students. It comes amid increased pressure from parents to reopen campuses.

Though California remains consumed by a growing pandemic crisis, he and Darling-Hammond said it's realistic to expect many schools to start reopening as early as February or March.

Newsom called for a phased approach focusing first on those in transitional kindergarten through second grade, as well as children with disabilities, those who have limited access to technology at home and kids who have most struggled with distance learning.

Other grades would be phased in during the spring, but remote learning would continue to be allowed if parents and students wish, and for those who have health vulnerabilities that make it risky to return to the classroom.

The $2 billion Newsom will recommend in his budget next week averages out to $450 per pupil, weighted up to $750 at schools with more vulnerable populations.

Reaction among state legislators broke along party lines, with GOP Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, one of Newsom's harshest critics, saying the plan "slightly moves the needle in the right direction" but creates more complexity for reopening. The Democratic leaders of the Assembly and Senate education committees pledged to work with Newsom.

COVID

FROM PAGE 1

number that's frankly staggering, Ferrer added. "Unfortunately, given the amount of travel and holiday intermingling that may be happening over this winter holiday, we all need to be prepared for another surge that will start with even higher case numbers."

She said increasing cases always translate to more and more people being rushed to already overcrowded hospitals, and tragically also results in more people continuing to die.

Officials said as a result of the case surge, some who are hospitalized for COVID-19 will spend New Year's Day in the hospital, "and some may not even survive," County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis said during the briefing. "You and your loved ones do not want to catch this virus because if you need a hospital bed, there may not be one available for you right away. In fact, some patients are waiting in ambulances or in a hospital waiting room waiting to be treated and to receive care because there's so little space available in our hospitals. Please don't ring in the New Year from a hospital bed, hooked up to a ventilator."

Ferrer recognized the impact of COVID-19 in Latinx communities.

"The death rate went from about three deaths a day to nearly 16 deaths a day. This is an increase of more than 400 percent," she said.

"While all groups are seeing increases in cases, the gaps are growing between those living in the least resourced communities," Ferrer said, and those who have adequate resources.

"The impact of this current surge continues to overwhelm our healthcare system and it is increasing the number of people dying from COVID-19. We have reached the terrible milestone of exceeding 10,000 deaths from COVID-19 in our community," Ferrer said. "What's most heartbreaking is that if we had done a better job of reducing transmission of the virus, many of these deaths would not have happened. As we come to the end of 2020, a devastating year for countless numbers of people, I know that I, like so many people, hold on to the hope for a brighter and better future. This upcoming year offers us the opportunity to rebuild a more just world after the pandemic and to make sure that we never again witness so much global suffering."

Brennon@smdp.com

NEW YEAR'S

FROM PAGE 2

kissing revelers. Police will block off the area so spectators can't get a glimpse.

"It's almost like a 'Seinfeld' episode," Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said, invoking the 1990s "show about nothing." "This is a ball drop about nothing, where you can't see, so you may as well stay home."

The event's special guests will be first responders and essential workers. But they won't be joining the mayor on stage to lead the countdown. Instead, each guest will watch from a private, well-spaced area.

The night's performances — including disco diva Gloria Gaynor's singing of the apt-for-2020 anthem "I Will Survive" — will be aimed at TV audiences.

New Year's Eve will look different around the world after a year in which the virus killed an estimated 1.8 million people, including more than 330,000 in the U.S.

Germany banned the sale of fireworks, which residents usually set off in on the streets, and a pyrotechnics show at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate is off.

So, too, are the fireworks over the River Thames in locked-down London, where New Year's Eve also marks Britain's final economic split from the European Union. However, Big Ben, which has been largely silent since 2017 while its clock tower is restored, will sound 12 bongs at midnight.

The Netherlands moved the national countdown from an Amsterdam park to a soccer stadium, where spectators won't be allowed in and pyrotechnics will be replaced with "electric fireworks."

In Rome, the fireworks are still on, but customary concerts in public plazas have been scrapped in favor of livestreamed performances and art installations. Pope Francis will skip his typical Dec. 31 visit to the Vatican's life-sized Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square and plans to deliver his New Year's Day blessing indoors, to prevent crowds from gathering.

Rio de Janeiro nixed the fireworks, open-air concerts and rooftop parties that draw crowds of white-clad revelers in the Copacabana neighborhood, where only residents will be allowed in.

New Year's Eve is one of the busiest days of the year at Paulo Roberto Senna's Copacabana beach stand, but the 57-year-old said he was OK with the shutdown: "No money can buy our health!"

Hot dog vendor Fabio Henrique saw it differently.

"They tell us to stay home, but for those who don't have money, where are we going to get the means to live?" asked Henrique, 39.

In Russia, New Year's Eve has been more widely celebrated than Christmas, which is marked on Jan. 7 by the country's Orthodox Christian majority. Public events have been banned or restricted in many regions. But the country's so-called New Year's Eve capital, the city of Kaluga, is luring tourists with a week of festivities, despite pleas from residents to cancel. Officials in Kaluga, 150 kilometers (90 miles) southwest of Moscow, said virus precautions will be taken.

Poland has told residents not to circulate between 7 p.m. on Dec. 31 until 6 a.m. on Jan. 1. Turkey declared a four-day lockdown starting on New Year's Eve, and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that security forces will inspect hotels for illicit parties.

In the U.S., the Christmas morning bombing of the downtown tourist district in Nashville, Tennessee, led the city to cancel its plan to light fireworks and blow up a 2020 sign.

"To say it would have been tone deaf would be an understatement," said Bruce Spyridon, president of the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp.

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa suggested a new way of observing the holiday by lighting candles to honor COVID-19 victims and front-line workers and to hope for a healthy 2021.

Back in New York, yoga and stress-management instructor Allison Richard, 39, wrote up a few New Year's wishes on confetti that will be dropped at midnight in Times Square.

"Freedom," she wrote, and "contentment," "commitment," "connection," "prosperity" and "love."

Classifieds
$12.00 per day. Up to 15 words, $1.00 for each additional word.
Call us today start and promoting your business opportunities to our daily readership of over 40,000.
YOUR AD COULD RUN TOMORROW!*
(310) 458-7737

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2020184196 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/10/2020 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Looking Sharp Aesthetics 1137 2nd Street Suite 119 Santa Monica, CA 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Angela J. Garcia 431 Redwood Street Oxnard, CA 93033 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/: Angela J. Garcia Title: Owner, Angela J. Garcia, Angela J. Garcia This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/10/2020 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 , 12/10/20, 12/17/20, 12/24/20, 12/31/20

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401
MOVIEPOSTERPRINTER.COM
MOVIE POSTER PRINTER WE PRINT MOVIE POSTERS

FREE DELIVERY
NO MINIMUMS

ERBA

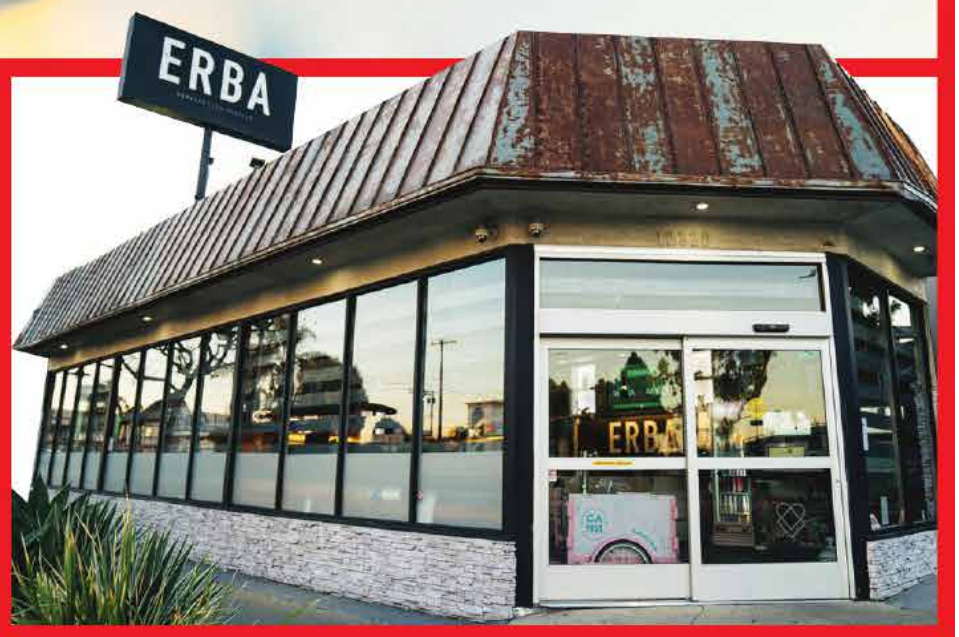
MARKETS | LOS ANGELES

FREE Delivery no minimums
9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Curbside Pickup & In Store
8:30 am - 9:30 pm

12320 WEST PICO BLVD

VENICE | MARINA DEL REY | WEST LA
CENTURY CITY | SANTA MONICA
CULVER CITY | BELAIRE | MAR VISTA
BEVERLY HILLS | BRENTWOOD
MALIBU Now Delivering! | PACIFIC PALISADES Now Delivering!





STAY SAFE - ORDER ONLINE:
ErbaDelivered.com

* Text notifications for when your order is ready and you can remain in your car for express curbside pickup

Thank you to all 1st Responders, Medical Personnel & Essential Service Providers

THOUSANDS OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS TO CHOOSE FROM

CANNDESCENT · dosist · GOLD FLORA · Select · HENRY'S ORIGINAL · CA DISTRO · A GOLDEN STATE · POTTERS · CRU · BLOOM FARMS

C10-0000383-LIC

OBSERVING ALL CDC CONTROLS ERBAMARKETS | P. 310.207.1900 ERBAMARKETS.COM