2 **Mariner's Choice**
Football star commits

3 **Health tips**
As kids return to school

6 **Eviction protections**
The need for lawyers

11 **What's Up Westside**
Calendar of events

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 38 | TUESDAY 1/9/24 | smdp.com

Santa Monica rolls out mobile mental health unit



Scott Snowden

THERAPEUTIC TRANSPORTATION: (L-R) Community health workers Bryon Williams and Whitley Killian; Lisa Wong, Director of LA County DMH; Lindsey Horvath, LA County Supervisor; Mayor Phil Brock; Community health workers Katy Hammer and Romeo Martinez

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City rolled out its latest tool in its ongoing efforts to deal with mental health issues on Monday morning in front of government officials and gathered press. It's a straightforward solution that's composed of a specially trained team that will eventually be on call 24 hours a day to assist anyone in Santa Monica suffering from mental health-related trauma.

Called Therapeutic Transportation teams, they will be deployed, when appropriate, by the City's dispatch center in an attempt to alleviate some of the pressure currently placed on the local emergency services. The team will have the ability to do a psychiatric transport to an urgent mental healthcare facility or hospital, as well as impose a 72-hour psychiatric hospitalization for a person who is deemed to be a danger to themselves or others.

The team can also assist with lower-level needs for someone in crisis and the pilot program will initially focus on the downtown area, with the goal of quickly expanding the program so that a county behavioral health team, led by a clinical social worker, is available in Santa Monica 24 hours a day,

SEE **TRANSPORTATION** PAGE 8



Mariners captain commits to Idaho for football

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Saint Monica Mariners recent football success continued into the offseason, as one of the squad's standouts will be taking his talents to the Division 1 college stage.

In December, Saint Monica held a special signing ceremony for 2023 Mariners team captain and senior Joshua Barnes, as the wide receiver and cornerback committed to play for the University of Idaho Vandals in the fall. Attending the singing were Barnes' future college coaches, his high school coach and father Thomas Barnes, other family members, Mariners teammates, Saint Monica Athletic Director Jason Bowers and Saint Monica Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson.

Barnes was an integral part of the Mariners capturing the 2023 CIF Southern Section Division 13 championship, the team's first title win since 1998. On offense, he led the Mariners in receiving with 32 receptions for 812 yards and 10 touchdowns, including a massive 203-yard, 5-touchdown playoff performance against Montclair. On the defensive end, Barnes snagged six interceptions, including a pick in the Division 13 title game against Walnut.



Courtesy Photo

MARINERS SIGNING: Saint Monica senior wide receiver and cornerback Joshua Barnes, surrounded by family and friends, committed to the University of Idaho in a December signing ceremony.

WINTER BREAK SPORTS RESULTS:

SANTA MONICA BOYS BASKETBALL:

Tuesday, December 26:

Vikings vs El Camino Real, St. Francis Holiday Hoopfest Tournament

El Camino Real win 64-55

Luke Hecht (#3, Senior)- 14 points

Anton Berge Wells (#32, Senior)- 13 points

Brenton Banister (#1, Junior)- 11 points

Xavier Seldon (#10, Junior)- 6 points

Onieli Thruston (#2, Sophomore)- 3 points

Jayden Xu (#5, Junior)- 3 points

Jaylen Smith (#0, Junior)- 2 points

Holden Hendrickson (#15, Senior)- 1 point

Wednesday, December 27:

Vikings vs Blair, St. Francis Holiday Hoopfest Tournament

Vikings win 69-63

Thursday, December 28:

Vikings vs Oak Hills, St. Francis Holiday Hoopfest Tournament

Oak Hills win 65-48

Friday, December 29:

Vikings vs North (Torrance), St. Francis Holiday Hoopfest Tournament

Vikings win 65-61 (OT)

Anton Berge Wells (#32, Senior)- 14 points, 10 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks

Luke Hecht (#3, Senior)- 13 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists, 2 steals

Friday, January 5:

Vikings vs Peninsula

Vikings win 53-46

Saturday, January 6:

Vikings vs Valley Christian, Take Flight Classic at Redondo Union

Valley Christian win 47-37

Vikings Record: 12-6 (1-0 Bay League)

Next Game: Wednesday at Redondo Union, 7 p.m.

SANTA MONICA GIRLS BASKETBALL:

Tuesday, December 26:

Lady Vikings vs Yeshiva University of Los Angeles, West Coast Holiday Tournament @ Burroughs

Lady Vikings win 42-35

Kyla Cotton (#5, Junior)- 11 points

Kalea Oshidari (#1, Sophomore)- 8 points

Elizaveta Snisarenko (#12, Senior)- 6 points

Inkara Bekbenbetova (#21, Sophomore)- 6 points

Bibi Peterson (#10, Senior)- 5 points

Yadira Lopez (#13, Junior)- 3 points

Priya Mevasse (#20)- 3 points

Thursday, December 28:

Lady Vikings vs Burroughs, West Coast Holiday Tournament @ Burroughs

Burroughs win 49-16

Kalea Oshidari (#1, Sophomore)- 5 points

Yadira Lopez (#13, Junior)- 4 points

Jayla Johnson Lake (#23, Junior)- 3 points

Bibi Peterson (#10, Senior)- 2 points

Inkara Bekbenbetova (#21, Sophomore)-2 points

Friday, December 29:

Lady Vikings vs Arleta, West Coast Holiday Tournament @ Burroughs

Arleta win 57-30

Kyla Cotton (#5, Junior)- 7 points

Bibi Peterson (#10, Senior)- 6 points

Jayla Johnson Lake (#23, Junior)- 6 points

Priya Mevasse (#20)- 5 points

Inkara Bekbenbetova (#21, Sophomore)- 4 points

Lily Garcia (#22, Senior)- 2 points

Saturday, December 30:

Lady Vikings vs Los Angeles CES, West Coast Holiday Tournament @ Burroughs

Los Angeles CES win 51-43

Kyla Cotton (#5, Junior)- 12 points

Priya Mevasse (#20)- 10 points

Inkara Bekbenbetova (#21, Sophomore)- 9 points

Bibi Peterson (#10, Senior)- 6 points

Yadira Lopez (#13, Junior)- 5 points

Jayla Johnson Lake (#23, Junior)- 1 point

Thursday, January 4:

Lady Vikings vs Palisades

Palisades win 66-45

Bibi Peterson (#10, Senior)- 12 points

Kalea Oshidari (#1, Sophomore)- 11 points

Yadira Lopez (#13, Junior)- 10 points

Priya Mevasse (#20)- 7 points

Lily Garcia (#22, Senior)- 3 points

Jayla Johnson Lake (#23, Junior)- 2 points

Friday, January 5:

Lady Vikings vs Peninsula

Peninsula win 49-45

Kalea Oshidari (#1, Sophomore)- 14 points

Bibi Peterson (#10, Senior)- 11 points

Kyla Cotton (#5, Junior)- 9 points

Priya Mevasse (#20)- 4 points

Amber Havel (#15, Junior)- 3 points

Inkara Bekbenbetova (#21, Sophomore)- 2 points

Sofia Moreno Morales (#0, Junior)- 2 points

Lady Vikings Record: 4-12 (0-1 Bay League)

Next Game: Wednesday at Redondo Union, 5:30 p.m.

SANTA MONICA BOYS SOCCER:

Friday, January 5:

Vikings vs Peninsula

Vikings win 3-2

Atreyu Lucas (#9, Senior)- 2 goals, 1 assist

Manu Castagna (#10, Senior)- 1 goal

Asa Colwell (#6, Junior)- 1 assist

William Komlos (#13, Sophomore)- 1 assist

Jesse Howard (#19, Senior)- 1 assist

Vikings Record: 6-4-1 (1-0 Bay League)

Next Game: Wednesday at Redondo Union, 3:30 p.m.

SANTA MONICA GIRLS SOCCER:

Friday, January 5:

Lady Vikings at Peninsula

Lady Vikings win 3-2 (OT)

Kayla Yee (#4, Sophomore)- 1 goal

Matilde Martinez-Navarrate (#13, Senior)- 1 goal

Emilia Siervers (#25, Junior)- 1 goal

Thalia Ryf (#6, Senior)- 1 assist

Rhian Bruce (#20, Junior)- 1 assist

Lady Vikings Record: 8-1-1 (1-0 Bay League)

Next Game: Wednesday vs Redondo Union, 3:30 p.m.

SANTA MONICA GIRLS WATER POLO:

Friday, January 5:

Lady Vikings vs Rosary Academy, Western High School Varsity Tournament

Rosary Academy win 16-6

Lady Vikings vs Crean Lutheran, Western High School Varsity Tournament

Lady Vikings win 10-3

Saturday, January 6:

Lady Vikings vs Pacifica, Western High School Varsity Tournament

Lady Vikings win 7-2

Lady Vikings vs Western (Anaheim), Western High School Varsity Tournament

Lady Vikings win 10-3

Lady Vikings Record: 5-8

Next Game: Wednesday vs Marymount, 3:30 p.m.

SAINT MONICA BOYS BASKETBALL:

Tuesday, December 26:

Mariners vs Hesperia (Tournament)

Hesperia win 51-35

Wednesday, December 27:

Mariners vs Palisades (Tournament)

Mariners win 68-52

Friday, December 29:

Mariners vs Aquinas (Tournament)

Mariners win 57-53

Saturday, December 30:

Mariners vs Serra (Tournament)

Serra win 59-51

Wednesday, January 3:

Mariners vs Salesian

Mariners win 57-41

Friday, January 5:

Mariners vs Paraclete

Paraclete win 55-53

Mariners Record: 12-8 (1-1 Camino Real League)

Next Game: Wednesday at Bishop Amat, 7 p.m.

SAINT MONICA GIRLS BASKETBALL:

Wednesday, December 27:

Mariners vs Culver City (Tournament)

Culver City win 67-48

Thursday, December 28:

Mariners vs Foothill (Tournament)

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 4

District remains vigilant against illness as winter break ends

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

As students at Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District return to classes this week, their respective winter breaks may have subjected them to a host of illness-causing environments, whether that be large family gatherings or trips to colder climates.

District officials are cognizant of this fact, as well as the circulation of respiratory illnesses throughout Greater Los Angeles, with SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton sending out a note before winter break began urging caution to students and their families. "We know for many of our families the end of the year holidays are a time of joyous celebrations full of loved ones and family time," Shelton said in a Dec. 12, 2023 message. "With this in mind, SMMUSD wants to ensure that we take all the proper return-from-break safety measures and start the new year safe and healthy."

Shelton's message included a link to information from the California Department of Public Health, highlighting what parents and families can do to keep children healthy over the winter months. To reduce the risk of catching and spreading respiratory viruses like the flu, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV); the department stated that anyone exhibiting symptoms of these illnesses should stay home and away from others. The department also recommends testing for COVID-19 and the flu if someone exhibits symptoms, and to contact health care providers about prescription treatments in the case of a positive test. At SMMUSD, school offices offer free COVID-19 test kits while supplies last, and the district also provided a link to free COVID-19 and flu vaccines available to children and adults.

The district's messaging comes as Los Angeles County public health officials recently reinstated a mask requirement at health care facilities. For the week ending December 23, 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 10.5 new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 people in the county, a 30% increase from the prior week and enough to put the county into the CDC's "medium" COVID threshold level. The mask requirement applies to health workers and visitors in patient care areas of facilities like hospitals, dialysis centers and primary care clinics.

"Common-sense protections are strongly recommended to help curb transmission and severe illness as the new year begins," the public health department said in a recent press release.

For COVID-19 case numbers, there were 621 in the week ending December 23, 2023, rising by more than 100 from the prior week, with the health department adding that an average of five deaths per day due to COVID-19 was reported in the final week of December. Other respiratory illnesses were also on the rise during the end of December, as for the same week ending Dec. 23, an average of 85 Los Angeles County residents were hospitalized with the flu per day. The CDC's map of national flu activity puts California in the "very high" activity level, joining states like Texas, Nevada, Ohio and Massachusetts.

Along with requiring masking in health care facilities, county health officials also stated that "well-fitted, high-quality" masks can help protect against transmission in "crowded indoor spaces" such as airports and train stations.

thomas@smdp.com



Photo by Thomas Leffler

RETURN TO SCHOOL: Officials at Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are stressing safety against respiratory illnesses as students return to school sites this week.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.7**

TUESDAY — ***POOR TO FAIR***
SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh
Down another peg but still rideable as NW swell mix lingers and some small SSW swell shows. Little combo peaks best west of Dume. Wind looks light in at least the morning, could stay light into the afternoon.

WEDNESDAY — ***POOR TO FAIR***
SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh
Steep-angled NW swell mix could trend back up through the day. Little SSW swell fades. Wind looks most favorable in the morning, could be looking at a windy afternoon.

Weather

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 61. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45. West northwest wind around 5 mph becoming north northeast after midnight.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 61. Breezy, with a northeast wind 10 to 20 mph becoming west southwest in the morning.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. Breezy

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/01/09	Tue	12:26 AM	2.43		L
2024/01/09	Tue	06:57 AM	6.31		H
2024/01/09	Tue	2:28 PM	-1.25		L
2024/01/09	Tue	9:03 PM	3.54		H
2024/01/10	Wed	01:14 AM	2.31		L
2024/01/10	Wed	07:40 AM	6.66		H
2024/01/10	Wed	3:07 PM	-1.58		L
2024/01/10	Wed	9:39 PM	3.68		H
2024/01/11	Thu	02:00 AM	2.15		L
2024/01/11	Thu	08:22 AM	6.87		H
2024/01/11	Thu	3:47 PM	-1.73		L
2024/01/11	Thu	10:17 PM	3.82		H
2024/01/12	Fri	02:48 AM	2.00		L
2024/01/12	Fri	09:06 AM	6.86		H
2024/01/12	Fri	4:27 PM	-1.68		L
2024/01/12	Fri	10:57 PM	3.97		H
2024/01/13	Sat	03:39 AM	1.89		L
2024/01/13	Sat	09:52 AM	6.57		H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/6
4 31 34 38 61
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 46 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/5
5 23 26 38 44
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 165 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/6
5 13 31 38 47
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 13 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/7
5 12 13 14 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/7
EVENING: 3 0 9
Draw Date: 1/7
MIDDAY: 2 1 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/7
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:40.51

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WINNER

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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: # 395 Civic Auditorium - Request for Letters of Interest

- **Submission Deadline is January 31, 2024 at 5:00 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 OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

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: # 391 Rate Study (Water, Wastewater, Recycled Water)

- **Submission Deadline is February 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

RFP: # 392 On-Call Public Affairs & Communications Support for Water Utility

- **Submission Deadline is February 16, 2024 at 5:00 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 OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Proposed Extension of Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Number 2772 (CCS) Authorizing the Establishment of Objective Design Standards for Qualifying Housing Projects that Elect to Use the Streamlined, Ministerial Approval Process Established by Senate Bill 35.**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to extend Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Number 2772 (CCS) authorizing the establishment of objective design standards for qualifying housing projects that elect to use the streamlined, ministerial approval process established by Senate Bill 35. The Council adopted Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Number 2772 (CCS) on December 19, 2023 and will expire unless extended by Council.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 AT 6:30 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT:
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: SB 35 ODS Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Extension

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Steve Mizokami by e-mail at steve.mizokami@santamonica.gov . For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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) 458-2275.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fake issue, real issue

Happy New Year! As my gift to all of you, I'll keep this (sort of) mercifully brief.

THIS IS A FAKE ISSUE:

"Commissioners accuse police union of suppressing racial traffic stop data"

Santa Monica DOES NOT have a police brutality or bias problem. After being attacked twice in a year within a block of my house, I don't care that the first attacker was white and the second one was Black. It was their behavior that was the problem. But if we're clocking immutable and random differences in pigmentation, I did notice that the responding officers were female, Hispanic, and in the second attack, majority Black. I didn't care what their skin color was either; I was just happy to see them.

THIS, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A REAL ISSUE:

"Another scary incident on Ocean Ave."

Santa Monica DOES HAVE a crime, safety and disorder crisis. Stop wasting SMPD's time, energy, and resources to solve a fake issue (police brutality/bias), while ignoring the emergency that's retarding our recovery, driving tourists away in droves, and creating a lot of stress for our residents.

The truth is that the far Left and the Far Right (Libertarians) have horseshoed into the same position, creating a Wild West free-for-all on our streets, with nobody paying attention to the townsfolk who have worked hard to live here, who pay taxes, and who just want to live in a peaceful, safe community.

SOLUTIONS:

Immediately dismantle the "Police Oversight Commission" which is about as necessary as wings on a submarine. This commission, comprised of anti-police activists is also an insult to our extremely professional police force led by an Hispanic chief, and a Black Deputy Chief (not that I care what their skin color is!). They are a distraction and a self-important waste of time.

Dismantle SM's DEI apparatus (a reductive and racist ideology coming under scrutiny from Harvard to Hulu) and use the money to hire more police. Hire on merit only, because we want our police, like our surgeons, to be the best possible people available.

I know the mythical transport van is finally arriving soon. As is Drug Court giving SM the ability to prosecute "misdemeanors" that are destroying our quality of life. So, I'm hopeful. The police department and Attorney's Office needs to go after these minor crimes HARD. Because the truth is that the menacing addict bluff-charging tourists for kicks is destroying our recovery as much as serious crime. People don't want to bring their family to a place where somebody is as likely to drop their pants and flash them as they are to actually attack them. Businesses are failing because of it.

Cops on bikes. Cops on foot. Proactive community policing at the ground level where you can see everything you miss in a squad car. Where you get to know the players, the dealers, the addicts, and the residents.

There are good people working hard on this issue. But what they don't seem to understand is that out-of-control addicts are OUT OF CONTROL. Waiting for them to make the decision to change their behavior is waiting for a non-swimmer who is drowning to learn how to swim—not going to happen. You have to dive in and stop them from drowning, and give them a chance to dry out. This means prison for some where they can avail themselves of all sorts of programs to get clean and start over. For those of you who hate the idea of prison, then you should work in one like I did, and hear how often the incarcerated say it saved their lives.

I am hopeful the new year will bring the change many of have been sounding the alarm about for years. Because despite all the work, on the streets it feels like failure. The second article above is just another day in Santa Monica. We have to come together to change it.

Best,

Arthur Jeon, Santa Monica

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 2

Mariners win 52-33

Friday, December 29:
Mariners vs Saint Francis (Tournament)
Saint Francis win 60-46

Saturday, December 30:
Mariners vs Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary (CSHM) (Tournament)
CSHM win 47-29

Tuesday, January 2:
Mariners at Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary (CSHM)
CSHM win 51-50
Mariners Record: 10-8 (4-1 Camino Real League)
Next Game: Tuesday vs Mary Star of the Sea, 7 p.m.

SAINT MONICA BOYS SOCCER:

Wednesday, January 3:
Mariners at Serra
Mariners win 3-0
Mariners Record: 1-5-1 (1-0 Santa Fe League)
Next Game: Wednesday vs Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary (CSHM), 3 p.m.

SAINT MONICA GIRLS SOCCER:

Thursday, January 4:
Mariners at St. Paul
Mariners win 7-0
Mariners Record: 9-0 (5-0 Santa Fe League)
Next Game: Tuesday vs Sacred Heart of Jesus, 3 p.m.

thomas@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Venice

Venice Family Clinic to build on past year's accomplishments in 2024

Venice Family Clinic will be building on a year of growth and accomplishments as it begins to implement its 2024 plans to expand access to comprehensive, high-quality primary health care and services for people in need from the Santa Monica Mountains through the South Bay.

In 2023, for instance, the nonprofit community health center expanded its free healthy food distributions to locations in Inglewood, Carson and Gardena. In February, the Clinic will further expand its healthy food distributions by launching a biweekly free food distribution at its clinic site in Gardena at 742 W. Gardena Blvd., Gardena, CA. Other program expansions are planned for later in the year.

"Venice Family Clinic had a remarkable 2023 thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners and donors," said Venice Family Clinic CEO Dr. Mitesh Popat. "We look forward to being able to accomplish even more in 2024 as we continue to focus on bringing the high quality health care people need to thrive to communities that are currently underserved."

> "Venice Family Clinic had a remarkable 2023 thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners and donors"
> - Dr. Mitesh Popat, Venice Family Clinic CEO

In 2023, Venice Family Clinic completed the major renovation of its flagship clinic at 604 Rose Avenue in Venice, CA and renamed it the Chuck Lorre Rose Avenue Health and Wellness Center in honor of The Chuck Lorre Family Foundation's generous support for the remodel. The renovations improved access to the pharmacy and other services and made it possible for staff to integrate services more thoroughly. The revitalization also added a separate pediatric waiting room, dedicated pediatric exam rooms, improved spaces for staff and showers for people experiencing homelessness.

In its ongoing effort to innovate to improve access to care for patients, Venice Family Clinic also launched a new same-day care program at this site, and it plans to expand this program to a South Bay location in 2024. With the same-day care program, patients can get medical care for acute ailments from a nurse practitioner on staff at their medical home instead of having to visit an urgent care or emergency room for treatment.

Venice Family Clinic also expanded health education, resource case management, substance use treatment and behavioral health at several clinic sites in its expansive service area and will continue to expand these programs in 2024.

At the end of last year, Venice Family Clinic celebrated the launch of a new partnership with The Midnight Mission to support families with young children experiencing homelessness in Inglewood. The Clinic built a new Early Head Start center onsite for families residing at HomeLight Family Living, a program of The Midnight Mission. The HomeLight facility is Venice Family Clinic's third Early Head Start center in the area.

The Clinic's insurance enrollment staff increased its outreach efforts this past year to ensure that people with Medi-Cal benefits retained their coverage as the federal government rolled back rules that helped people keep their coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Venice Family Clinic's expanded outreach efforts are continuing to support the January 1 expansion that allows adults ages 26 to 49 to enroll in Medi-Cal regardless of their immigration status.

In addition to these services, Venice Family Clinic continued to provide comprehensive health care and other services to more than 45,000 people in need, and it also expanded its street medicine program outreach into the South Bay, providing care to people living in encampments in Gardena and at Bridge of Hope Community Housing in Hawthorne.

Venice Family Clinic is a nonprofit community health center that is a leader in providing comprehensive, high-quality primary health care to more than 45,000 people in need annually, regardless of their income, insurance or immigration status. The Clinic merged with South Bay Family Health Care in late 2021 and serves an area from the Santa Monica Mountains through the South Bay in Los Angeles County. It has 17 sites located in Venice, Santa Monica, Mar Vista, Inglewood, Culver City, Redondo Beach, Carson, Gardena and Hawthorne, plus three mobile clinics and an expansive street medicine program to reach people experiencing homelessness. The Clinic's comprehensive care also includes mental health services, dental care, vision services, substance use treatment, prescription medications, domestic violence counseling, HIV services, healthy food distributions, health education, health insurance enrollment, child development services and more. For more information, visit VeniceFamilyClinic.org.

SUBMITTED BY RYAN WALKER

Malibu

Traffic Shift at PCH and Corral Canyon Road

As soon as Wednesday, Jan. 10, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will shift lanes within the construction zone at Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and Corral Canyon Road to accommodate a temporary southbound U-turn lane.

The U-turn will be installed overnight on PCH just south of the intersection near Malibu RV Park Road. New channelizers and lane striping will provide a designated space for motorists who must pass the intersection and make a U-turn in order to turn left onto Corral Canyon Road from southbound PCH, as the left turn lane at the intersection has been temporarily removed due to construction.

This work will require single lane closures on PCH beginning as early as 8 p.m. on Jan. 10 and ending by 6 a.m. the following morning. Motorists should anticipate potential delays and be alert for crews at work.

Construction at this intersection is part of a $62.2 million project to upgrade stormwater drainage infrastructure along PCH and restore a critical passageway for the endangered Southern California steelhead trout. The project, anticipated to be completed in mid-2025, is funded with $36.8 million from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and more than $22.4 million from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

Construction includes rehabilitating 13 culverts along a 25-mile stretch of PCH between the Pacific Palisades neighborhood in Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Line. In addition, the culvert at PCH and Corral Canyon Road, which currently prevents trout from accessing, rearing habitat and spawning upstream in Solstice Creek, will be converted to a bridge.

Caltrans will maintain two lanes of traffic in each direction throughout the bridge's construction, with the exception of intermittent overnight closures when at least one lane will remain open in either direction.

Schedules are subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Please visit the Caltrans Quickmap for the latest road conditions and closures.

Caltrans reminds drivers to "Be Work Zone Alert" and to "Slow for the Cone Zone."

SUBMITTED BY ALLISON COLBURN

CRIME WATCH

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 JANUARY 7 AT APPROXIMATELY 4:13 PM

Dispatchers began receiving 911 calls regarding an injury traffic collision. The vehicle involved was traveling westbound on San Vicente Boulevard when it struck a pedestrian pushing a stroller with a two-year-old child as they were crossing southbound at 19th Street. Both victims were transported to a local hospital in critical condition and are currently listed in stable condition. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and has been cooperative with the investigation. No signs of impairment were observed by evaluating officers. The investigation is ongoing.

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As California evictions boom, whether tenants get lawyers depends on where they live

FELICIA MELLO

After years of living on the streets and in single-room-occupancy hotels, the cozy studio apartment in San Francisco's Japantown felt like a sanctuary to Corey Lafayette. He'd moved with no furniture, so friends found him a mattress on Craigslist and contributed a massive globe and a mirror framed in wrought-iron leaves. He bought pots and pans and dreamed of decorating.

As he cared for the plants on his sunny patio and walked through the building's tree-lined courtyard, he could feel stress peeling away. No more stops by police. No more neighbors in his business or strict hotel rules. At the apartment, he was free.

But now, three years later, he had received an eviction notice. A building manager had raised concerns about the behavior of Lafayette's guests. The notice said Lafayette had a right to legal counsel and gave a phone number. The streets were scary; he couldn't go back there.

He picked up the phone.

Lafayette was lucky: San Francisco is the only city in California that guarantees tenants access to an attorney in eviction proceedings. The city is one of 17 nationwide, plus four states, that have launched right to counsel programs since New York City pioneered the idea in 2017.

While the Constitution grants all criminal defendants the right to counsel, that doesn't extend to civil cases — even those with unusually high stakes, such as when a person risks losing their home. Nationwide, fewer than 5% of tenants in eviction cases are represented by an attorney, compared to more than 80% of landlords, the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel estimates.

As evictions soar across California now that Covid-era moratoria have expired, tenant advocates are pushing for more cities and counties to follow San Francisco's example. Los Angeles city and county took the first steps toward establishing a tenant right to counsel last year. Having a lawyer, tenant advocates say, can make the difference between a tenant keeping their home — or having the time and money to find a new one — and being put out on the street.

But access to this legal help varies widely depending on where you live, even among cities that are just a few miles apart.



Photos by Manuel Orbegozo for CalMatters

COURT: Jacqueline Patton, senior staff attorney at the Eviction Defense Collaborative, explains to Corey Lafayette the tentative settlement of his eviction case at the San Francisco Superior Court. Last: Corey Lafayette and his attorney, Jacqueline Patton of the Eviction Defense Collaborative, prepare to appear in San Francisco Superior Court on Nov. 20, 2023.

FLOODS, THEN AN EVICTION NOTICE

Across the Bay in suburban Oakley, Nancy Wiles also was facing eviction. She'd lived in The Oaks Apartments, a sprawling low-income housing complex, since 2014. At first, she liked the ample grounds studded with oak trees and the fact that her nephew lived nearby.

But then the 63-year-old hairdresser says, her building suffered a series of floods, starting with a pipe bursting just outside her ground-floor apartment. Ankle-deep water filled the hallway, with tenants trying to block their doorways with trash bags. Another time, she said, water from a third-floor leak cascaded down the stairs like a river.

Apartment managers relocated Wiles to a hotel while they fixed the leaks, but she said the problem never seemed fully repaired. Mold sprouted on her bathroom ceiling, said Wiles, who suffers from asthma and began using her breathing machine three times a day.

The costs also added up, she said. While she paid her normal rent during weeks-long hotel stays, she had to buy takeout food and, eventually, a slow-cooker to make meals. When apartment management failed to make minor repairs, like fixing a sink that wouldn't drain, Wiles would pay a family member to take care of it. Already working less due to the pandemic and a disability, Wiles started falling behind on rent.

By September Wiles had had enough. She and her 23-year-old son were packing their bags to move to a new apartment when there was a knock on the door: Wiles had been served with eviction papers. "My heart went boom," she says.

Then she remembered she was moving out anyway. The paperwork, she figured, could wait. She stuffed it in her purse and kept packing — a decision that would cost her later.

NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM

Evictions can happen fast and are often confusing for tenants. After receiving a first notice that their landlord has filed an eviction case against them, called an unlawful detainer, tenants have five days to respond in writing or they may automatically lose their case. Once a response is filed, a landlord can request a hearing and the court must schedule it within three weeks.

In Contra Costa County where Wiles lives, the vast majority of tenants are unrepresented and face numerous barriers in navigating eviction court, says a 2022 report by the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy.

Without legal counsel, tenants often don't realize they need to respond to an eviction notice and so they lose their cases by default.

Court staff encourage tenants to resolve their cases through mediation, the report found. But in these informal conferences overseen by volunteer mediators, they face off against landlord attorneys who are far more seasoned.

When tenants do make it to court hearings, they often don't realize that the case will be decided then and there. They don't bring evidence that could help their cause, such as proof that they paid rent, or that the landlord refused to accept funds from rental assistance programs.

Eviction "is a very opaque, technically complex and legalistic process," said Alex Werth, a policy consultant who wrote the report. "And it is particularly difficult to navigate — whether you are a tenant or a landlord — without an attorney by your side."

Studies show legal representation increases favorable outcomes for tenants. In Philadelphia, which launched a right to counsel program for low-income tenants in select zip codes in 2022, tenants facing eviction in those zip codes were less likely than others to receive default judgments in favor of the landlord or be locked out of their homes. And eviction cases were more likely to be withdrawn, according to a report by the Reinvestment Fund. (Cases also took longer to resolve, an outcome that might concern landlords.)

CHOOSING TO FIGHT

Back in San Francisco, the city's taxpayer-supported Eviction Defense Collaborative matched Corey Lafayette with Jacqueline Patton, a tenant attorney with six years' experience. A week later, they gathered in Lafayette's apartment along with a social worker for the collaborative to talk strategy.

Unemployed and relying on disability checks, Lafayette had fallen behind on rent during the pandemic. But when he tried to cover the debt, he said, the apartment manager wouldn't accept his money.

Lafayette, who is Black and gay, said he thought discrimination was at play. He recalled a conversation he'd had with the apartment manager two years ago.

"A week after he took over, he told me this is a family-orientated facility and I don't fit in here and he's going to get me kicked out however he can."

The manager denied making that statement when questioned later by a reporter. "I would never say anything like that," he said, declining to comment further.

Lafayette's eviction notice contained a laundry list of complaints, from keeping the unit in an "unsanitary condition," to allowing guests to visit at night, to causing a fire hazard by "putting aluminum foil under the burners of your stove." Patton and the social worker, Brandon Williams, looked around at Lafayette's neatly arranged sneaker collection and sparkly red dinette chairs. They'd seen hoarder apartments; this wasn't one.

Video evidence Patton requested from Lafayette's landlord showed people loitering near the apartment building, Patton said, but no proof any of them were his guests. Lafayette, who walks with difficulty due to an old gunshot wound, said he sometimes relied on a friend to open the gate for him when a delivery arrived, or to help with chores like laundry. He admitted that one of his guests had taken packages belonging to another tenant, an incident mentioned in the complaint, but said he was "devastated" when he found out and told the person to return them.

Williams empathized with Lafayette's complaint of discrimination. "You have to realize you're in San Francisco in 2023 being told by a white man that you don't belong. It's a shame but it's the reality of this city," said Williams, who also is Black.

Eviction disproportionately affects Black people. In a large nationwide study, Princeton University's Eviction Lab found fewer than one in five renters nationwide are Black, but more than half of eviction filings are against Black renters.

Patton had considered proposing a compromise to Lafayette's landlord, the non-profit Chinatown Community Development Center: They could transfer him to another of their buildings. But at the meeting, the three decide that they will push for Lafayette to stay in his home.

"I want to fight this," Lafayette said.

A LAWYER SHORTAGE

They'd have to fight quickly. While San Francisco provides all tenants with representation, only about 75% get the so-called "gold standard" of legal defense — an attorney to carry the case from start to finish. The rest, like Lafayette, get a lawyer for just one mandatory settlement conference; if the case isn't resolved then, the tenant has to go it alone.

It's one of the most often-cited problems with right to counsel programs: There simply aren't enough experienced tenant attorneys to go around. That mismatch has become more obvious this year as eviction moratoria have expired across California, leaving courts clogged with cases in some areas.

In counties like Alameda and Los Angeles, which don't have right to counsel ordinances but have networks of tenant attorneys offering free legal help, it can be difficult to hire for a job that, while potentially rewarding, pays less than the private sector.

Ora Prochovnick, litigation director for San Francisco's Eviction Defense Collaborative, said she needs 50 experienced attorneys to handle the roughly 2,500 eviction cases the city sees each year. She has 45 lawyers now, though some are brand new to the field. The city spends $17 million a year providing free lawyers for tenants and has set up a fellowship program to lure more law school graduates into the work.

The collaborative triages cases, handing them off to a network of attorneys at eight nonprofit groups and deciding who will get full-scope representation based on factors like whether tenants are elderly or have children, a disability or a language barrier.

The effort, which launched in 2019, is paying off, says the Mayor's Office of Housing: About 70% of San Francisco tenants who receive full-scope legal representation end up staying in their homes.

"We are correcting a power imbalance that has existed for way too long," said Prochovnick. "We are preventing displacement to the streets and outside the Bay Area."

AN UNWELCOME SURPRISE

Weeks after getting her eviction notice in Oakley, Nancy Wiles still wasn't sure what to do. She showed it to a friend who is a tenant advocate on the board of the nonprofit Monument Impact. They went to the Pittsburg courthouse to investigate.

At the courthouse, Wiles got discouraging news: Because she hadn't responded to the notice in time, the court filed a judgment against her. She owed nearly $7,000 to her former landlord, the court said. The eviction also could go on her credit history, reducing her chances of landing an apartment in the future.

Wiles, who survives mostly on $1,000 a month in disability benefits, was crestfallen. "I can't afford anything like that."

While she admitted she'd fallen behind on rent, sometimes making partial payments, she pointed to receipts showing she had paid more than The Oaks was alleging. The Oaks' property management team and lawyers for the property owners did not respond to messages from CalMatters seeking comment.

Wiles thought she should be compensated for the cost and stress of living in a poorly-maintained apartment, but without understanding how eviction proceedings worked, she'd never appeared in court to make those arguments.

Contra Costa County last fall began paying nonprofits to run legal clinics at courthouses for tenants like Wiles. But attorneys say court staff barred them from advertising the clinics within the courthouse and many tenants are still falling through the cracks.

"It's the savvy tenants that know how to Google and find resources" that come to the clinics, said Mihaela Gough, an attorney with Centro Legal de la Raza. "When we do go to court, there are always a lot of tenants who aren't represented that we haven't heard of."

RIGHT TO COUNSEL CAMPAIGNS LAUNCH

Elected officials in some California cities and counties are hoping to set up right to counsel programs similar to San Francisco's.

In December the Los Angeles City Council asked its city attorney to draft an ordinance guaranteeing legal counsel to tenants who face eviction and earn 80% or less of the area's median income. Funded by a tax on real estate sales of $5 million or more, the program would phase in as money becomes available. LA County supervisors passed a similar measure in July.

"We're facing at this moment a city that is completely crippled by its housing costs and as a result tenants are facing incredible challenges," said Nithya Raman, the city councilmember who led the effort.

Community groups in Fresno and Bakersfield have unsuccessfully pushed to establish a tenant right to counsel. Both cities, however, have set up eviction protection programs to offer education, mediation, and in Fresno's case, legal help to tenants when the city attorney says their landlords have acted illegally.

The right to counsel is "having a moment" partly because "the pandemic shone a light on tenant housing precarity and the widespread nature of evictions," said Werth.

Landlord groups have opposed some right-to-counsel campaigns. "Providing a taxpayer-funded attorney to a tenant who did not pay their rent does not stop the eviction," said Joshua Howard, an executive vice president of the California Apartment Association. "Those funds would be better used to provide rental assistance to prevent the eviction process from ever starting."

HEADING TO COURT

On a November Monday, Lafayette walked into the San Francisco Superior Court building, his hands trembling.

"I'm nervous. I just want this to be over," he said.

In a courtroom packed with tenants, landlords and attorneys, Patton and the lawyer for Lafayette's landlord told Judge Ronald Quidachay they were close to reaching a deal. He sent them into a hallway to negotiate.

Patton had drafted a settlement agreement in which Lafayette agreed to pay $2,700 in overdue rent, with help from a city program, and ensure his guests do not disturb other tenants. For him to be in violation, the landlord would have to prove that any "guests" were actually there to visit Lafayette. And Lafayette would get two things he'd been requesting for years: access to a parking space and for his name to be added to the apartment's call box.

"One of my goals is to not just stabilize the housing but to make it better for someone," said Patton. If tenants feel they are benefiting from an agreement, she said, they'll be more likely to keep it, avoiding another eviction.

Down the hall, Dylan Tong, the landlord's lawyer, said that as a low-income housing provider, his client was most concerned that Lafayette's guests respect the rules of the complex.

"There has to be a balance between enforcing the rules of a lease and also keeping people housed, giving them a second chance," he said. "So my client doesn't want to evict him but really wants him to know that he has to behave moving forward."

After a tense few minutes, Lafayette learned the landlord had accepted the settlement terms. His shoulders sank with relief. He glanced down the hall at the apartment manager who he'd said made him feel unwelcome.

"I just want him to see that I have people behind me," he said. "I'm not here by myself."

Nancy Wiles' story also had a happy ending: At a legal clinic at Pittsburg Superior Court she met Gough, the Centro Legal de la Raza attorney. Gough wrote a letter to Wiles' landlord, who agreed to dismiss the eviction case against her.

It's still unclear if the short-lived eviction will show up on Wiles' credit report, her attorney said. Added William Goodwin, the friend who helped her, "It burns me a little, because Nancy was fortunate, but how many others are out there being victimized?"

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Photo by Manuel Orbegozo for CalMatters

EVICTION: William Goodwin sits with Nancy Wiles near her former apartment building in Oakley on Dec. 4, 2023. A friend of Wiles', Goodwin is a tenant advocate who helped her through her eviction process.

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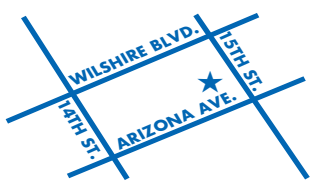
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TRANSPORTATION

FROM PAGE 1

seven days a week, said Dr. Lisa Wong, Director of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH).

"They will go out and help people who are in a mental health crisis using the most moderate methods possible. Our hope is that we can intervene, when and where we can, rather than law enforcement or the fire department, so it frees up the resources for the city to divert to more severe emergencies," Wong said.

This is a collaboration primarily between the City of Santa Monica and Los Angeles County, along with both the police and fire departments and has been three years in the making. The Santa Monica City Council dedicated $464,000 to fund the pilot program, and the county of Los Angeles provided $1.7 million for staffing resources. This new resource builds on council action last year that secured more funding for community mental health resources.

"This has been a long time coming and we're very excited to launch this program and make sure that we're bringing the resources and support that's needed directly to the communities that are asking for it," said Lindsey Horvath, Los Angeles County Supervisor.

According to Horvath, this is the third such unit to operate in Los Angeles County, but the first to roll out in Santa Monica. Moreover, many communities are exploring an alternative behavioral crisis response and the City of West Hollywood is exploring its own program.

"This is an effort to help people in our streets, it will help reassure our residents that there is help on the way for those people that they are wary of and it will help people regain their lives," said Mayor Phil Brock, adding, "Because what's happening right now is in many cases, homeless individuals on our streets get emergency care or no care. And they have no real chance to regain their lives and become productive residents."

> This has been a long time coming and we're very excited to launch this program and make sure that we're bringing the resources and support that's needed directly to the communities that are asking for it
> - Lindsey Horvath, Los Angeles County Supervisor

"The challenge has been that staffing for mental health clinicians who want to do field outreach is challenged right now. But we've worked very closely with DMH to assist them in any way we can," Lindsay Call, Chief Resilience Officer, Office of Emergency Management for Santa Monica said.

While an obvious use of this new service will be to help those also suffering from homelessness, Call stresses the fact that this service is available to absolutely anyone; any individual who is medically stable, non-combative and cooperative. A key part of the new process is that members of the team can remain with the individual until hospital admission is complete.

The vehicle itself is an unassuming white, 2018 Ford T350 HR cargo van with no real branding or signage to speak of, which itself is very deliberate, says Miriam Brown, Deputy Director of Emergency Outreach with the DMH.

"The biggest reason is to ensure that any patient experiencing a mental health crisis retains their privacy and confidentiality and to make sure that they feel more comfortable. Anything we can do to help de-escalate a situation works to everyone's advantage," Brown says.

The inside of the vehicle is pretty sparse and there are no oxygen tanks, intravenous drips or machines that go "ping." Any kind of physical injury would require the assistance of a paramedic unit and emergency medical technicians. There are just some comfortable chairs and lots of space. Two Santa Monica-based teams will staff the van for eight hours per day to start and the three-member therapeutic transport teams include a driver, a peer support specialist and a clinical social worker. The first month of the program will involve team training and integration with first responders.

"This van is specific for mental health emergencies and mental health crises," says Call. "Any member of the community who calls 911, or our non-emergency line and reports an incident, we will dispatch our resources as needed, as per usual. Our first responders will then do a field assessment to determine if the DMH team is appropriate. When DMH arrives on that call, they'll do a warm handoff and DMH can spend as much time as needed with that patient and our first responders can return in service to other calls," Call said.

NOTES

In a little over three weeks, on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, from 8 p.m. to midnight, the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count takes place and when asked about how the results of the Therapeutic Transportation would quantified going forward, Horvath told the Daily Press, "What we're looking for is, did we actually serve someone who's in mental health crisis? Were we able to connect them to services and supports that they otherwise would not have been connected to? Are we able to de-escalate situations and get people into the care that they need? And just like in a 911 call, you expect that somebody is going to show up and help address a crisis that's ongoing. Those will be the expectations," she said.

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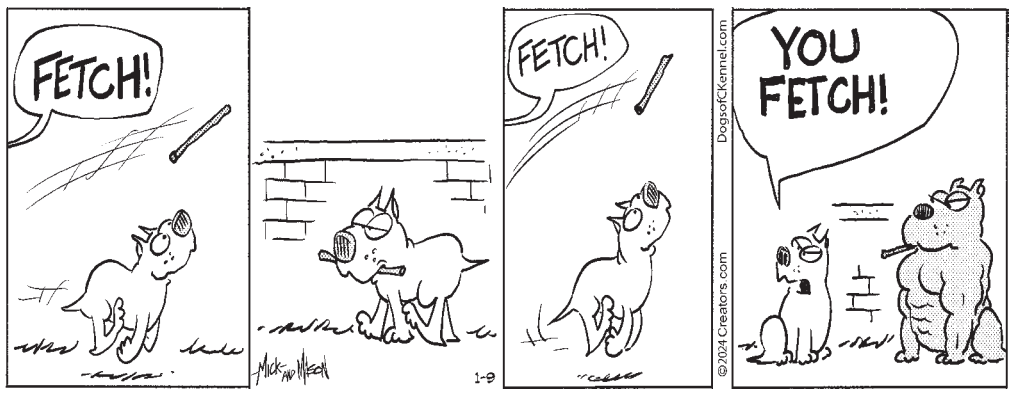
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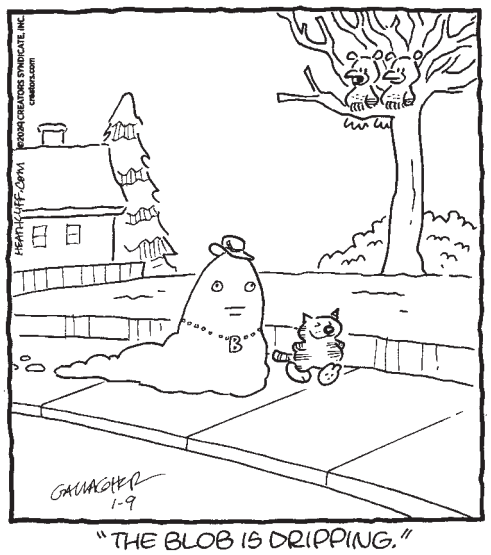
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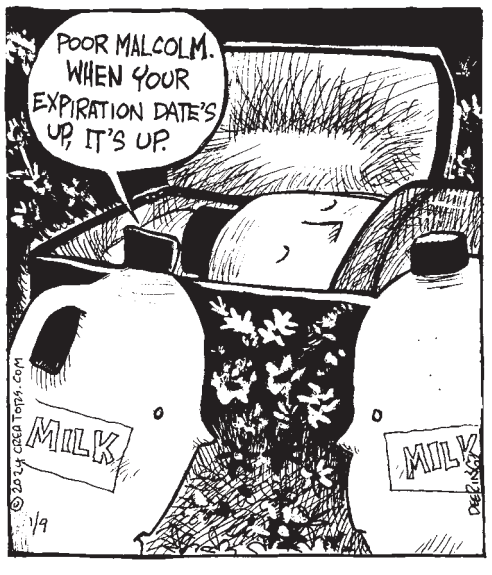
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"THE BLOB IS DRIPPING."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6084

Airport delays

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

Anxious	Decibel	Reunion
Apron	Drinks	Revenue Bonds
Arrival	Fauna	Rush
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 9)

You are an extraordinary influence in the lives of others, a constant source of joy and inspiration. Surround yourself with people who give back and buoy you. Let them do you favors and give you gifts, as they will do all through the year. More highlights: groundbreaking discoveries, adventures in love and friendship, and a hard-won victory. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 4, 7, 19 and 3.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be sampling life, which will be better today when that sample is free. There will be no way to know if the offering is for you until you try a little, but if you have to pay for that trial, chances are it won't be worth it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The motivation to dive in is the hardest part. Once you get going, you'll be unstoppable. "A body at rest will remain at rest, and a body in motion will remain in motion unless it is acted upon by an external force." — Newton's First Law of Motion

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Everything you hear can help you improve. Some comments make you better because you heed them, others because you ignore them. Knowing which way to go comes from deep within you. Trust.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Being status-conscious, to at least some degree, helps you navigate a culture. But as a spiritual creature, you can dissolve all notions of status in an instant, coming back to the truth that we are not only equal, we are one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Expectations work best when you're in a predictable environment where there's much within your control. In a completely new situation, it's best to let go of your ideas of how it should be and just take in what is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're in a position to sell something. The less you care about getting the sale, the better your performance will be. You'll strike a balance between enthusiasm, which is contagious, and over-eagerness, which is repellent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One opinion isn't everybody's opinion, but if the person is powerful, it can certainly seem that way. For the optimum chance at the truth, collect data from a large sample. And by branching out, you'll gain more than just information.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When in water, it's tricky to make a grab for things, as the force can make them float further away. The principle applies to whatever you go for today. Try to draw it to you. Calm, slow movements create a better chance at accuracy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While many endeavors can expand your horizons, none so effectively and completely as relationships. People will not only share their treasures with you but they'll also inspire you to learn, invest and do as they do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You make your bid and seek agreement, even though you know that the best possible outcome isn't always people saying "yes" to you. For instance, a decisive "no" can free you to find a more ideal fit, which is a blessing indeed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's much that could be said, but as you let your goals guide your lips, you find yourself saying just what it takes, which, it turns out, is very little. But a few well-chosen words of truth, necessity and kindness will speak volumes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It is your truest desire to enhance the experience of others, and because this is your aim, you will see opportunities to help, delight and intrigue. Seize your moments to shine. Otherwise, unqualified contenders will step in.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

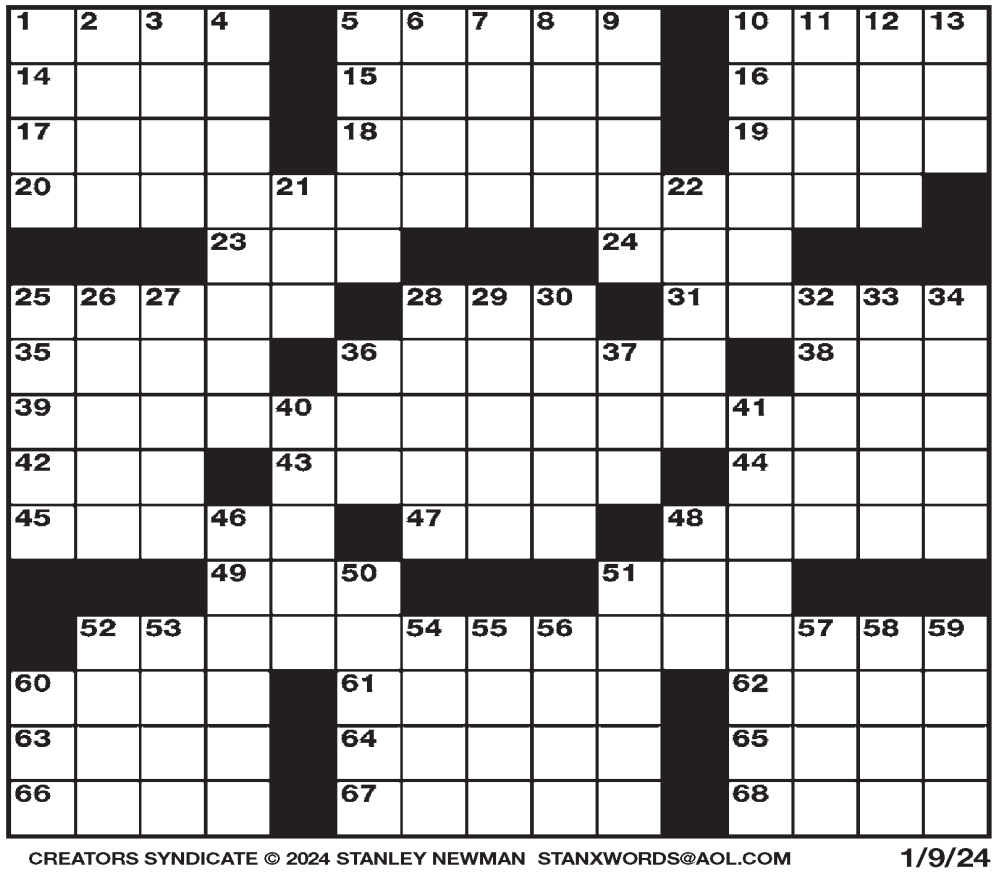
NOT TOUGH AT ALL by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Cain's brother
5 Piece of bacon
10 Sport on horseback
14 Tool to clear leaves
15 Great Wall's country
16 Prophetic sign
17 Help in wrongdoing
18 Send payment
19 WXYZ on cell phones
20 Natural tendencies
23 Toy that spins
24 __ and aah
25 Trophy or medal
28 Cube in Monopoly
31 Main subject
35 Dress of India
36 Interfere (with)
38 Sci-fi saucer, for short
39 Everyday sources of joy
42 Day before a holiday
43 Show up for
44 Tidy
45 Stuffed bear
47 60-min. periods
48 Software purchasers
49 Tummy muscles, for short
51 Baseball hat
52 Monday and Tuesday puzzles in this space
60 Squish, as potatoes
61 Legendary fable teller
62 Boxing win, informally
63 Soft French cheese
64 Lightweight modeling wood
65 At any time
66 "That's a shame!"
67 Utensil for yogurt
68 Bird's tree home

DOWN

1 Typical Saudi
2 "Ali __ and the Forty Thieves"
3 __ out a living (scrapes by)
4 "Go right ahead!"
5 Pharmacy order, for short
6 At that time
7 Edges of cups
8 "What's __ for me?"
9 Backyard party spot
10 Over-the-head cloak
11 Fail to mention
12 Camera glass
13 __ in a million (rare)
21 Cape __, MA
22 Brief memos
25 Desirable feature
26 Give up, as a right
27 Activated, as alarms
28 Swimming pool measure
29 Lazy person
30 Blissful places
32 Make into mush
33 "Sorry to say . . ."
34 Expenses
36 Encountered
37 Young boy
40 Save for the future
41 Not mentioned
46 Short races
48 Detroit-based labor org.
50 Natural bandages
51 Capitol TV channel
52 __ Grey tea
53 Korea's continent
54 Bring in a harvest
55 Norwegian capital
56 Just adequate
57 Rant and __
58 Textile colorings
59 Arrange in some order
60 Graduate deg. in finance



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/9/24

MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

COMMUNITY NEWS

Glendale

Santa Monica College's "Avenue Q" Invited to KCACTF Region 8 Festival

The Santa Monica College (SMC) Theatre Arts production of "Avenue Q" has been invited to present the musical comedy live at the Region 8 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) to be held Feb. 12-17 at Glendale Community College in Glendale, Calif. There are four invited productions overall to be presented at the regional festival, which is in its 56th year. "Avenue Q" is the eleventh SMC Theatre Arts production to be invited to this prestigious festival.

With music and lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, book by Jeff Whitty, and based on an original concept by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, "Avenue Q" is a Tony Award–winning musical comedy about a bright-eyed college grad who comes to New York with big dreams and little money. The play, which comes complete with puppets and creatures galore, is an invitation to meet Princeton, Trekkie Monster, and their neighbors on Avenue Q, the only street the grad can afford to live on—a street not fit for public television. The SMC production was licensed by Music Theatre International (MTI).

The SMC production is directed by Terrin Adair-Lynch with music direction by Gary Gray. The Theatre Arts Department and student actors staged "Avenue Q" Dec. 1-10, 2023 at the SMC Main Stage. The KCACTF is a year-round program in eight geographic regions in the United States; Region 8 is made up of Arizona, Central and Southern California, Hawaii, Southern Nevada, Utah and Guam. Regional activities are coordinated through eight KCACTF regional chairs and eight KCACTF playwriting awards chairs, with funding and administrative support from the Kennedy Center.

Each year the KCACTF Region 8 Festival brings students and faculty together in mid-February to see one another's work and to share ideas. In addition to the four invited productions within Festival 56, various programs will be offered for students to participate in design, technology, stage management, playwriting, performance, musical theatre, devised theatre, directing and more.

"This is a great honor—I am excited to once again team up with Gary Gray, all of our amazing, talented students and staff to bring this production to the festival," said SMC Theatre Arts Professor Terrin Adair Lynch. "We aim to represent the excellence of Santa Monica College—thank you to everyone who supported this production!"

Staff accompanist/musical director Gary Gray stated that the honor is a terrific opportunity for the students, "not only to reprise our wonderful production, but also to experience other festival workshops and performances." Gray stated that having been at the KCACTF regional festival in 2012 as musical director of another selected SMC production, Ed Begley's César and Rubén, he is "really looking forward to performing as a part of KCACTF again!"

For more information on the Region 8 festival, visit kcactf-8.org. Since its inception, KCACTF has given more than 400,000 college theater students the opportunity to have their work critiqued, improve their dramatic skills and receive national recognition for excellence. More than 16 million theatergoers have attended approximately 10,000 festival productions nationwide. For more information on the national program, visit: kcactf.org.

Santa Monica College's Theatre Arts Department offers degree and certificate options in theatre arts and technical theatre. Student crews cast and run all department productions. For more information, visit smc.edu/theatre.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Classifieds

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23SMCP00644 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Gael Macdougall for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Gael Louise Macdougall a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Gael Louise Macdougall to Gael Louise Loewy The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/16/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: – The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23GDCP00240 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Richard Jackson Jacinto for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Richard Jackson Jacinto a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Richard Jackson Jacinto to Jax Jackson Jacinto The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/22/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: E Room: 279 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Glendale Court House 600 E Broadway A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm **LOCATION** 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401



TUESDAY | JANUARY 9

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM
Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The first Tuesday of the month 11:30 am to 7 pm and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 5 pm. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal and Medicare. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

TUESDAY TALES: A TRAVELING STORYTIME
This engaging & fun weekly series of stories, songs and rhymes travels to different library locations. Limited space; free tickets available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2-5. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 - 11 a.m.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
Learn how to play Dungeons & Dragons at the Library, from crafting the perfect character to participating in a short campaign. Materials provided. No registration necessary. For ages 10-18. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 10

BABY & TODDLER STORYTIME
For participation details, please e-mail akagan@lapl.org or gkim@lapl.org. Lap-sit (or not!) storytime for babies and toddlers and their grown-ups to share together. One child, one lap, please. For ages under 36 months accompanied by a grown-up. 10:15 a.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades.

COMPUTER CLASS - INTRO TO GOOGLE DOCS
Create and format text documents using this free online word processor. Google account recommended, but not required. For advanced beginners. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

GERMAN AMERICAN BUSINESS MIXER AT SOLIDARITY
Get ready for a laid-back evening of German American networking and good vibes on the cozy patio of Solidarity Restaurant, 1414 Lincoln Boulevard, 6 - 9 p.m. $10, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/la-business-mixerat-solidarity-tickets-769306555617

K-POP PARTY | WEDNESDAYS ON ICE
Time to slip on your best Jungkook (convince us otherwise) t-shirt and get your K-POP ON! with Ice at Santa Monica! Calling all ARMYs, BLINKs and K-Pop enthusiasts: don't forget your light sticks because we'll be keeping a close eye on which fanbase can own the ice rink and light up the night in style. 7 - 8:30 p.m. https://iceatsantamonica.com/$20.

BEAR SUPPLY HOUR
Bear Supply is a fast-paced sketch and long form improv team, performing at M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater (1323-A 3rd St Promendade) at 9pm. Every show is accompanied by a live DJ, creating a high octane, freakishly entertaining and one-of-a-kind improvised spectacle. $10 https://ci.ovationtix.com/34923/production/976295

THE ART OF IKEBANA WORKSHOP
Discover modern Ikebana, the Japanese art of floral design, with Naoko Zaima. Create minimalist décor to take home with you. Limited spots available. Email library@santamonica.gov for registration. Main Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd.2 - 4 p.m.

THURSDAY | JANUARY 11

NAMI WESTSIDE RESOURCE TABLE
NAMI offers free programs to provide education, stigma reduction, and support for people with mental health conditions and their loved ones. Find resources and referrals for handling stress, anxiety, and depression. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 6 p.m.

SING YOUR SONG: A SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION
Celebrate the shared legacies of nonviolent activists Martin Luther King Jr. and Harry Belafonte with a 5 p.m. screening of the documentary, Sing Your Song, about Belafonte's significant place in the Civil Rights Movement. At 7 p.m., a panel discussion follows with Harry's granddaughter, Maria Belafonte, SMC professor Tim Conley, filmmaker Marq Hawkins, and moderator Cassandra Chase, Director of the Equity & Justice Institute at Crossroads. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 5 - 8 p.m.

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, 7 p.m. Agenda available online at https://www.smgov.net/Current_Board_Meetings.aspx

FRIDAY | JANUARY 12

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FREEDOM CELEBRATION
Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council Presents: 2024 MLK Freedom Celebration "How to Get to Healing" on Friday, January 12th, 2024 from 8:30am-9:30am at Mt. Olive Lutheran. Mt Olive Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean Park Boulevard. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/martin-luther-king-jr-freedom-celebration-tickets-767127207127

SATURDAY | JANUARY 13

RUMMAGE SALE
Join Santa Monica Elks Lodge for their two day multi family Rummage sale extravaganza! Are you looking for some fashion finds, unique home decor, or a vast collection of books, DVDs and vintage magazines we have treasures galore. They will be in-door so the parking lot will have plenty of room for parking. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Santa Monica Elks Lodge, 1040 Pico Blvd.

SANTA MONICA SYMPHONY: ANNUAL MLK HOLIDAY CONCERT
In partnership with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition, the Santa Monica Symphony commemorates the legacy of Dr. King. SGI-USA World Peace Ikeda Auditorium, 525 Wilshire Boulevard 3 - 5:30 p.m. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/santa-monica-symphony-annual-mlk-holiday-concert-tickets-681932326947

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Spring Forward to Success

Classes start February 12
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