2 **Sports report**
From local high schools.

4 **Clear the air**
On vaping.

5 **Newsom's budget**
Gets mixed reviews.

6 **Beach quality**
Where to avoid.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 43 | TUESDAY 1/16/24 | smdp.com

Community comes out to celebrate MLK holiday












Photos by Thomas Leffler

MLK: Residents from Santa Monica and beyond joined the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition in honoring the civil rights leader's namesake holiday on Monday. Held at the SGI-USA World Peace Ikeda Auditorium, the 39th annual celebration was themed "Stop the Hate, Start the Healing," and featured several award presentations and performances. Performances included a tribute to activist Harry Belafonte by singer Ryan Washington, as well as a selection from Richard Wesley's "The Talented Tenth," performed by Robey Theatre Company's Ben Guillory and Nick Few. Awards given out by the Westside Coalition were education awards based on creative submissions centered around Dr. King's six principles of nonviolence, as well as the Community Light Award presented to the Jenesse Center and the Nat Trives Service Award given to Trives, the former Santa Monica Mayor dubbed "Mr. Santa Monica." The keynote speech was given by Lisa Holder, President of the Equal Justice Society.

Free telehealth option bolsters district mental health services

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

With students at Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District making a return to class sessions this past week, the stressors of academic and social life came back with it, throwing a host of New Years triggers at youth who were recently in a comfortable holiday break environment.

To combat the seasonal depression and year-round anxieties of school life, the district's mental health resources were bolstered right before the winter break via a telehealth partnership with Hazel Health. One of the nation's top K-12 telehealth providers, Hazel provides student therapy services to district sites with no cost to parents or guardians, giving students the chance to access virtual therapy sessions either during school hours or at home.

The Hazel partnership was offered by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) after the district participated in a LACOE needs assessment, and while telehealth was not the district's top need, SMMUSD Mental Health Coordinator Shuli Lotan notes that it is a complementary option they took on as an extra resource. Outside of Hazel, the district has partnerships with local private nonprofit therapy agencies such as Family Service Of Santa Monica, Providence Saint John's Health Center and Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative.

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7

Rent Control Board follows Council in backing Justice for Renters Act

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Following a recent vote of support for the Justice for Renters Act made by Santa Monica City Councilmembers, the city's Rent Control Board followed suit with a unanimous resolution in a Jan. 11 meeting, putting its confidence in the statewide ballot measure that has qualified for the November 2024 ballot.

The Justice for Renters Act serves as California voters' third chance to expand rent control rules statewide, appealing the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995 which puts limitations on local regulations. Current rules prevent cities from limiting rents between tenants (allowing the units to hit market rate when a new tenant moves in), and prevents

SEE **RENT** PAGE 11

INGLEWOOD REALTOR
FROM YOUR FIRST HOME TO YOUR DREAM HOME

LOOKING TO BUY YOUR FIRST HOME?
LET ME SHOW YOU INGLEWOOD
• Close Proximity to Westside
• Entry-Level Pricing
• Faster Appreciation Rate Than Neighbouring Areas
• Centrally Located

RE/MAX ESTATE PROPERTIES
Shamim Khorsand
310-658-6426
shamim90291@yahoo.com
DRE# is 02042990
scan QR code for more information

City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101

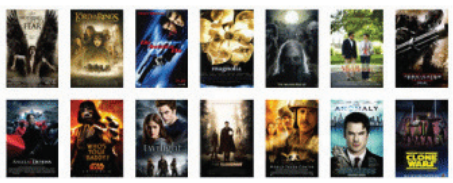
Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.



• 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@santamonica.gov ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

Think Positive |+| for all your printing needs.
positive + existence
PRINTING & DESIGN EXPERTS



We've Moved!
1703 Stewart St., Santa Monica, CA 90404

POSTERS • TRADE SHOW • BROCHURES • MARKETING COLLATERAL
RESTAURANT PRINTING • CALENDARS • BANNERS • STATIONARY • SIGNAGE • VINYL BANNERS

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

Samohi, Saint Monica teams in action



Photo by Thomas Leffler

SPORTS: Sarah Linowes (#6) and the Samohi Girls Water Polo squad picked up multiple wins in the past week, and continue the 2023-24 slate Tuesday against Redondo Union.

SMDP STAFF REPORT

SANTA MONICA BOYS BASKETBALL:
Monday, January 8:
Vikings at Palos Verdes
Palos Verdes win 59-57
Wednesday, January 10:
Vikings at Redondo Union
Redondo Union win 60-35
Friday, January 12:
Vikings vs Mira Costa
Mira Costa win 65-40
Vikings Record: 12-9 (1-3 Bay League)
Next Game: Tuesday vs Culver City, 7 p.m.

SANTA MONICA GIRLS BASKETBALL:
Monday, January 8:
Lady Vikings at Palos Verdes
Palos Verdes win 52-36
Wednesday, January 10:
Lady Vikings at Redondo Union
Redondo Union win 72-25
Friday, January 12:
Lady Vikings vs Mira Costa
Mira Costa win 92-15
Lady Vikings Record: 4-15 (0-4 Bay League)
Next Game: Tuesday vs Culver City, 5:30 p.m.

SANTA MONICA BOYS SOCCER:
Monday, January 8:
Vikings at Palos Verdes
Palos Verdes win 4-0
Wednesday, January 10:
Vikings at Redondo Union
Redondo Union win 3-0
Friday, January 12:
Vikings vs Mira Costa
Mira Costa win 2-1
Vikings Record: 6-7-1 (1-3 Bay League)
Next Game: Tuesday vs Culver City, 6 p.m.

SANTA MONICA GIRLS SOCCER:
Monday, January 8:
Lady Vikings vs Palos Verdes
Palos Verdes win 2-0
Wednesday, January 10:
Lady Vikings vs Redondo Union
Redondo Union win 4-0
Friday, January 12:
Lady Vikings at Mira Costa
Mira Costa win 4-0
Lady Vikings Record: 8-4-1 (1-3 Bay League)
Next Game: Tuesday at Culver City, 3:30 p.m.

SANTA MONICA GIRLS WATER POLO:
Monday, January 8:
Lady Vikings vs Cleveland
Lady Vikings win 21-4
Wednesday, January 10:
Lady Vikings vs Marymount
Lady Vikings win 18-2
Lady Vikings Record: 9-10
Next Game: Tuesday vs Redondo Union, 3:30 p.m.

SAINT MONICA BOYS BASKETBALL:
Wednesday, January 10:
Mariners at Bishop Amat
Bishop Amat win 46-38
Saturday, January 13:
Mariners vs Notre Dame (Sherman Oaks)
Notre Dame win 58-32
Mariners Record: 12-10 (1-2 Camino Real League)
Next Game: Wednesday at Cathedral, 7 p.m.

SAINT MONICA GIRLS BASKETBALL:
Tuesday, January 9:
Mariners vs Mary Star of the Sea
Mariners win 67-27
Thursday, January 11:
Mariners at Bishop Amat
Bishop Amat win 70-61
Saturday, January 13:
Mariners vs Rio Mesa
Mariners win 58-37
Mariners Record: 12-9 (5-2 Camino Real League)
Next Game: Tuesday vs Bishop Conaty-Loretto, 7 p.m.

SAINT MONICA BOYS SOCCER:
Wednesday, January 10:
Mariners vs Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary
Mariners win 1-0
Friday, January 12:
Mariners at St. Bernard
Mariners win 8-1
Mariners Record: 4-5-1 (4-0 Santa Fe League)
Next Game: Wednesday vs Verbum Dei Jesuit, 3 p.m.

SAINT MONICA GIRLS SOCCER:
Tuesday, January 9:
Mariners vs Sacred Heart of Jesus
Mariners win 7-1
Thursday, January 11:
Mariners at Bishop Conaty-Loretto
Mariners win 8-0
Saturday, January 13:
Mariners vs Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary
Mariners win 4-3
Mariners Record: 12-0 (8-0 Santa Fe League)
Next Game: Tuesday vs St. Bernard, 3 p.m.

Fueled by unprecedented border crossings, a record 3 million cases clog US immigration courts

GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO
Associated Press

Eight months after crossing the Rio Grande into the United States, a couple in their 20s sat in an immigration court in Miami with their three young children. Through an interpreter, they asked a judge to give them more time to find an attorney to file for asylum and not be deported back to Honduras, where gangs threatened them.

Judge Christina Martyak agreed to a three-month extension, referred Aarón Rodriguéz and Cindy Baneza to free legal aid provided by the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami in the same courthouse — and their case remains one of the unprecedented 3 million currently pending in immigration courts around the United States.

Fueled by record-breaking increases in migrants who seek asylum after being apprehended for crossing the border illegally, the court backlog has grown by more than 1 million over the last fiscal year and it's now triple what it was in 2019, according to government data compiled by Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.

Judges, attorneys and migrant advocates worry that's rendering an already strained system unworkable, as it often takes several years to grant asylum-seekers a new stable life and to deport those with no right to remain in the country.

"Sometimes hope already sinks," said Mayra Cruz after her case was also granted an extension by Martyak because the Peruvian migrant doesn't have an attorney.

"But here I've felt a bit safer," added Cruz, who said she had to flee with only the clothes on her back with her partner and their children after repeated threats from gangs.

About 261,000 cases of migrants placed in removal proceedings are pending in the Miami court — the largest docket in the country. That's about the same as were pending nationwide a dozen years ago, said Syracuse University professor Austin Kocher.

The backlog includes migrants who have been in the United States for decades and were apprehended on unrelated charges, but most are new asylum seekers who declare a fear of persecution if they are sent back, he added.

Backlogged courts, administered by the Justice Department, often get little attention in immigration debates, including in current Senate negotiations over the Biden administration's $110 billion proposal that links aid for Ukraine and Israel to asylum and other border policy changes.

When migrants are apprehended by U.S. authorities at the border, many are released with a record of their detention and instructions to appear in court in the city where they are headed. That information is passed on from the Department of Homeland Security to the Justice Department, whose Executive Office for Immigration Review runs the courts, so that an initial hearing can be scheduled.

"They're just being released without any idea of what comes next," said Randy McGrorty, executive director of Catholic Legal Services for the Archdiocese of Miami, which has seen hundreds of thousands of migrants join its diaspora communities.

So many migrants go to them for advice that, in the last couple of years, they've largely switched to teaching how to self-petition and represent themselves before judges.

"We help them understand what judges want, and we help judges with efficiency and preserving fundamental rights," said Miguel Mora, a Catholic Legal Services supervising attorney in Miami.

Advocates say that most migrants ask for individual legal representation, something that's becoming increasingly rare given the huge numbers, and how to get work permits, which migrants can apply for 150 days after filing their asylum application.

It's a vicious cycle — without regular work, most can't afford even a low-cost lawyer, so their cases can take even longer.

"We don't have the money," Rodriguéz, 23, told Judge Martyak, who had already granted him an extension for having no attorney at a previous hearing, as his partner rocked the stroller where their U.S.-born baby slept. They fled Honduras after the gang that had killed the father of Baneza's oldest child threatened further violence unless they started paying from the meager profits of their tortilla shop.

"We were left with no other option than get out of the country," Rodriguéz told The Associated Press. "We've already had three court appearances. Time is helping. We're getting a little bit oriented."

But the slow-moving process also means it takes years for asylum-seekers to be able to reunite with families they left behind and integrate fully in American society, said Karen Musalo, an attorney and professor who leads the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies at the University of California in San Francisco.

Time also doesn't help with the backlog, even though government records show judges completed far more cases in the last year than ever before, because their dockets keep growing so fast. Their average caseload is now 5,000 per judge, said Mimi Tsankov, president of the National Association of Immigration Judges.

She cited estimates that doubling the current number of judges to about 1,400 might solve the current backlog by 2032. In the new budget request, the Executive Office for Immigration Review is requesting funds from Congress to hire 150 new judges and support staff, said its press secretary, Kathryn Mattingly.

Experts like retired judge Paul Schmidt, who also served as government immigration counsel while the last major reform was enacted nearly forty years ago, say the broken system can only be fixed with major policy

SEE **IMMIGRATION** PAGE 11



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.4**

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Looking like another cleaner morning window with tiny, leftover steep-angled NW swell mix. The early tide push should help but it's a small wave gear only day.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Some new WNW swell nudging up the waves. Wind is looking favorable for the morning before an onshore sea-breeze looks likely in the afternoon for some texture+. Looks pretty light right now.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 64.
Tuesday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 51. North northwest wind around 5 mph.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 63. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/01/16	Tue	01:09 AM	4.61		H
2024/01/16	Tue	06:54 AM	1.76		L
2024/01/16	Tue	12:36 PM	4.24		H
2024/01/16	Tue	7:07 PM	0.41		L
2024/01/17	Wed	02:00 AM	4.85		H
2024/01/17	Wed	08:31 AM	1.55		L
2024/01/17	Wed	2:01 PM	3.34		H
2024/01/17	Wed	7:53 PM	1.14		L
2024/01/18	Thu	02:56 AM	5.09		H
2024/01/18	Thu	10:17 AM	1.03		L
2024/01/18	Thu	4:02 PM	2.81		H
2024/01/18	Thu	8:51 PM	1.79		L
2024/01/19	Fri	03:55 AM	5.33		H
2024/01/19	Fri	11:39 AM	0.34		L
2024/01/19	Fri	6:07 PM	2.85		H
2024/01/19	Fri	10:03 PM	2.26		L
2024/01/20	Sat	04:52 AM	5.55		H
2024/01/20	Sat	12:40 PM	-0.28		L

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: 1/13
13 31 33 51 58
Power#: 15
Jackpot: 88 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 1/14
1 2 13 19 21

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/12
19 34 35 45 67
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 208 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/14
EVENING: 0 9 9
Draw Date: 1/14
MIDDAY: 0 5 8

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/13
1 2 23 41 44
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 15 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/14
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:46.06

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

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

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

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
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Emeritus Art Gallery to Host Free Online Opening Reception for Anna Conley Art Exhibition Jan. 18

The Santa Monica College (SMC) Emeritus Art Gallery is pleased to present "The Invisible Man," a free exhibition celebrating new works by artist and Emeritus student Anna Conley. The exhibition opens simultaneously on Jan. 18 in the Emeritus Art Gallery at 1227 Second St., Santa Monica, and online at smc.edu/emeritusgallery.



Courtesy image

PRESENT: The painting is one of the works featured in artist Anna Conley's "The Invisible Man" exhibition in the Emeritus Art Gallery at 1227 Second St., Santa Monica. Opening reception will be held online Jan. 18 from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at smc.edu/emeritusgallery.

The solo exhibition of new painted works showcases the artist's rich and gestural painting approach, which creates powerfully expressive imagery and mysterious abstraction as a response to metamorphosis, and to the deepest possibilities of perception and visibility.

A free, live Zoom Virtual Launch Event for the exhibition will be held online from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18. A link at smc.edu/emeritusgallery goes live at event time and takes guests directly to the exhibition's opening reception.

The online opening reception will be hosted by Emeritus Associate Dean (interim) Guadalupe Salgado, and will feature Emeritus Gallery Curator Jesse Benson in conversation with the artist.

"This exhibition promises to be particularly visceral and impactful," said Benson, "both because of Ms. Conley's lush expressivity as a painter, and because the exhibited works involve the prolonged observation of a friend experiencing change. I highly recommend catching this one in person if you can."

In-gallery viewings are available through Mar. 22 during gallery hours, which are posted at smc.edu/emeritusgallery. Viewers who would like to see the artwork online at any time after 5 p.m. on Jan. 18 may go to smc.edu/emeritusgallery and click the exhibition link, available 24 hours a day. The link takes viewers directly to the exhibition album on a Facebook page that is open to public viewing (Facebook account not necessary).

SMC's widely praised Emeritus program — founded by Santa Monica College in 1975 as a noncredit program to serve the lifelong learning interests of older adults — offers more than 120 noncredit adult education classes and special programs that serve more than 3,000 students each year.

More information is available by visiting smc.edu/emeritusgallery or calling 310-434-4306.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Citywide

Dangerous weekend for homeless individuals with one assault and two deaths

Two men died last week and a third was hospitalized in unconnected incidents in and around Santa Monica.

Locally, a body was found in Palisades Park on Jan. 13 near the Santa Monica Pier. Police are investigating the incident but said there's no signs of violence foul play. A body was also found in Venice on Saturday near the 900 block of Ocean Front Walk. While that case remains under investigation, officials said there were no signs of violence or foul play in that case as well.

There was a violent attack just outside Santa Monica's borders on Saturday when a homeless man was slashed by another homeless man on Pico Blvd. just east of Sawtelle Blvd. According to the Los Angeles Police Department, the fight occurred in a known camp under the 10 freeway.

The victim in that case was hospitalized but the suspect escaped.

SUBMITTED BY SMDP STAFF

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4476 Electrical Services - Water Resources

Submission Deadline is February 26, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

A surgeon general report once cleared the air about smoking. Is it time for one on vaping?

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

Sixty years ago, the U.S. surgeon general released a report that settled a longstanding public debate about the dangers of cigarettes and led to huge changes in smoking in America.

Today, some public health experts say a similar report could help clear the air about vaping.

Many U.S. adults believe nicotine vaping is as harmful as — or more dangerous than — cigarette smoking. That's wrong. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and most scientists agree that, based on available evidence, electronic cigarettes are far less dangerous than traditional cigarettes.

> "There have been so many confusing messages about vaping"
> - Lawrence Gostin

But that doesn't mean e-cigarettes are harmless either. And public health experts disagree about exactly how harmful, or helpful, the devices are. Clarifying information is urgently needed, said Lawrence Gostin, a public health law expert at Georgetown University.

"There have been so many confusing messages about vaping," Gostin said. "A surgeon general's report could clear that all up."

One major obstacle: E-cigarettes haven't been around long enough for scientists to see if vapers develop problems like lung cancer and heart disease.

"There's a remarkable lack of evidence," said Dr. Kelly Henning, who leads the public health program at Bloomberg Philanthropies.

SMOKING AND VAPING

Cigarette smoking has long been described as the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts the annual toll at 480,000 lives. That count should start to fall around 2030, according to a study published last year by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, thanks in part to a decline in smoking rates that began in the 1960s.

Back then, ashtrays were everywhere and more than 42% of U.S. adults smoked.

On Jan. 11, 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry released an authoritative report that said smoking causes illness and death — and the government should do something about it. The report is considered a watershed moment: In the decades that followed, warning labels were put on cigarette packs, cigarette commercials were banned, governments raised tobacco taxes and new restrictions were placed on where people could light up.

By 2022, the adult smoking rate was 11%.

Some experts believe e-cigarettes deserve some of the credit. The devices were billed as a way to help smokers quit, and the FDA has authorized a handful of e-cigarettes as less-harmful alternatives for adult smokers.

Vaping's popularity exploded in the 2010s, among both adults but and teens. In 2014, e-cigarettes surpassed combustible cigarettes as the tobacco product that youth used the most. By 2019, 28% of high schoolers were vaping.

U.S. health officials sounded alarms, fearing that kids hooked on nicotine would rediscover cigarettes. That hasn't happened. Last year, the high school smoking rate was less than 2% — far lower than the 35% rate seen about 25 years ago.

"That's a great public health triumph. It's an almost unbelievable one," said Kenneth Warner, who studies tobacco-control policies at the University of Michigan.

"If it weren't for e-cigarettes, I think we would be hearing the public health community shouting at the top of their lungs about the success of getting kids not to smoke," he said.

VAPING'S BENEFITS AND HARMS

Cigarettes have been called the deadliest consumer product ever invented. Their smoke contains thousands of chemicals, at least 69 of which can cause cancer.

The vapor from e-cigarettes has been estimated to contain far fewer chemicals, and fewer carcinogens. Some toxic substances are present in both, but show up in much lower concentrations in e-cigarette vapor than in cigarette smoke.

Studies have shown that smokers who completely switch to vaping have better lung function and see other health improvements.

"I would much rather see someone vaping than smoking a Marlboro. There is no question in my mind that vaping is safer," said Donald Shopland, who was a clerk for the committee that generated the 1964 report and is co-author of a forthcoming book on it.

But what about the dangers to people who have never smoked?

There have been 100 to 200 studies looking at vaping, and they are a mixed bag, said Dr. Neal Benowitz, of the University of California, San Francisco, a leading academic voice on nicotine and tobacco addiction. The studies used varying techniques, and many were limited in their ability to separate the effects of vaping from former cigarettes smoking, he said.

"If you look at the research, it's all over the map," Warner said.

Studies have detected bronchitis symptoms and aggravation of asthma in young people who vape. Research also indicates vaping also can affect the cells that line the blood vessels

SEE **VAPING** PAGE 8

Legislature's analyst gives mixed review of Newsom budget

MIKHAIL ZINSHTEYN
Special to the Daily Press



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

BUDGET: Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses the media during a press conference unveiling his 2024-25 January budget proposal at the Secretary of State Auditorium in Sacramento on Jan. 10, 2024.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's recipe for digging the state out of a multi-billion dollar budget hole has "strengths and weaknesses" while his revenue projections are "plausible, but optimistic," the nonpartisan analyst's office representing the Legislature said today.

The size of the budget deficit is up for debate: Newsom put the number at $38 billion while the analyst's office says Newsom's own math suggests the hole is deeper — $58 billion — for the 2024-25 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Worse, both the governor and Legislative Analyst's Office predict large deficits of about $30 billion annually through 2027-28. But while California has large reserves and a number of spending plans that don't affect the state's core social and public services, "future deficits are likely to require more difficult decisions, like ongoing spending cuts and revenue increases," the analyst's office said in its initial review of Newsom's $291.5 billion spending plan.

Newsom so far has balked at raising taxes on the super wealthy, bristling at the suggestion during his budget press conference on Wednesday. His fellow Democrats in the Legislature are split. One progressive lawmaker sought again to pass a wealth tax for Californians with net assets of at least $50 million, but a committee chairperson shelved that proposal.

Fueling the Legislative Analyst's Office's worry is disagreement with Newsom over just how much more tax revenue the state can collect. Last fiscal year state tax collections fell 20%. Newsom's 2024-25 proposed budget projects an 8% increase in 2023-24, the current budget year. "Halfway through the current year, we are yet to see clear signs of such a rebound," the analyst's office wrote. And while the stock market is experiencing a rebound — a vital source for state revenues — it can just as quickly reserve course.

The analyst's office writes Newsom is right to pull $13 billion from the state's reserves. Doing so leaves about $11 billion in California's rainy day fund; leaving a sizable chunk of cash in reserves is "prudent given the continued budget problems likely for future years," the office wrote.

The office recommends that Newsom and Legislature make more cuts to existing short-term programs that aren't part of the state's core, ongoing educational or social service commitments. Doing so may mean pulling less money from reserves to have more emergency cash on hand for future deficits.

The swirl of competing assessments and early prognostications is par for the course for a budget process that lasts at least through June and often spills into September. The analyst's office, the state's main check on the governor's state-spending math, plans several more detailed reviews of Newsom's plan as legislative budget committees hold dozens of public hearings assessing the governor's proposals.

Newsom will release a revision to his 2024-25 spending plan in May, after the state sees just how much it collected from taxpayers in April to better forecast its revenue picture. By early June, the lawmakers will propose their own budget for 2024-25, setting in motion a furious few weeks of negotiations between Newsom and the Legislature to finalize a budget plan by around June 27.

Legislative Republicans have criticized Newsom's plan as based on gimmicks and accounting tricks. Today, Sen. Roger Niello, vice chairperson of the Senate budget committee, posted on social media that he puts "much more faith in this analysis than the Governor's proposal."

Leaders of the Democratic supermajority, who can pass a budget without any Republican votes, have been generally supportive of the Democratic governor's proposals, however.

SOME COMPLICATED MATH

Even though Newsom said his plan solves a $38 billion budget shortfall for the coming year, the analyst's office said the governor's proposal actually covers closer to $58 billion, underscoring the difficulty in arriving at a precise estimate of how deeply buried the state is fiscally.

Newsom's numbers didn't count $15 billion in funding reductions to K-12 education and community colleges as actual reductions in his $38 billion tally, the Legislative Analyst's Office wrote.

Factor in some other changes in spending in Newsom's proposal that should have been considered part of the deficit picture, and the analyst's office says Newsom's team is dealing with a $58 billion budget problem. This revises the analyst's office's December estimate of California's fiscal woes, when it said the state had to shore up a $68 billion budget hole.

What does this mean for students, teachers and parents? That's hard to assess. State budgets reflect a three-year window. The analyst's office said most of the education-related reductions in Newsom's plan from this week apply to the 2022-23 year — $8 billion.

But the analyst's office said Newsom's team "has not explained how its proposal could achieve $8 billion in savings, given the administration also indicates the proposal would not impact school and community college budgets," it wrote. "The Legislature will need significantly more information before it can assess the proposal — including its potential effects on the state budget after 2024-25."

Elsewhere in education, Newsom's plan to shift a promised $499 million in state support for the University of California and California State University to 2025-26 may hamstring the state even more, according to the analyst's office. Newsom tried to paint a rosy picture of this delay, saying the universities could borrow money in 2024-25 year based on the promise that they'll get state cash the following year.

But the analyst's office wrote: "Not only would this proposal increase the pressure on the state to provide these payments next year — despite continued deficits — but it also would shift fiscal risk to these entities in the event the state does not ultimately make these payments."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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: #393 SMART CENTER VIDEO WALL CONSOLES AND ROOM BUILD-OUT**

Submission Deadline Is February 7, 2024, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

- **RFP: #394 (ALPR) AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM CAMERAS**

Submission Deadline Is January 31, 2024, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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

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

California sues homeless housing contractor for $114 million

JEANNE KUANG
Special to the Daily Press

California's state housing department is suing a Los Angeles developer that last year defaulted on private loans it took out on seven state-funded motel conversions, putting the homeless housing projects at risk of "imminent foreclosure."

The suit — filed Tuesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court by Attorney General Rob Bonta on behalf of the California Department of Housing and Community Development — seeks to claw back $114 million in state grants that Shangri-La Industries received during the pandemic from the department's celebrated Homekey program.

The $3.1 billion program gives local governments grants to convert motels or build new permanent housing for unhoused Californians.

In addition to Shangri-La, the lawsuit names as defendants the cities that applied with the developer to get the grants, the nonprofit Step Up on Second that was to provide services at the housing units and the developer's private lenders.

The seven projects for which Shangri-La won the grants — in San Bernardino, Ventura and Monterey counties — were supposed to result in a total of 500 permanent housing units, complete with social services, for homeless residents.

As CalMatters reported last month, the projects are now in jeopardy, straining several small cities that were depending on them to provide a significant number of housing units in areas otherwise short on services for the homeless.



Photo by Larry Valenzuela for CalMatters

LAWSUIT: A motel turned into housing for homeless residents part of Project Homekey in downtown Los Angeles to look for patients on Feb. 13, 2023.

Three of those properties were already housing formerly homeless Californians as of last December, when the department began investigating the developer for alleged violations of its contracts with the state.

Shangri-La had taken out private loans on all seven of its projects and then defaulted on them, putting the motels in danger of foreclosure, CalMatters and other media outlets reported at the time. Shangri-La's projects were also the subject of several liens filed by contractors alleging they hadn't been paid.

The department was apparently unaware the developer had borrowed against the motels. In December the state sent letters to the developer calling the loans a breach of its contracts, and also took issue with Shangri-La's failure, in six of the properties, to record use restrictions — the legal language attached to deeds that guarantee properties remain used for affordable housing.

The state, in its lawsuit, accuses Shangri-La of contractual fraud, writing that the developer should not have needed additional funds beyond the grants to buy the motels and complete the projects.

The department is asking the court to appoint a receiver to handle the properties going forward. It's also seeking a court order for the projects' local governments to record use restrictions on the properties.

Shangri-La has not yet responded to the suit in court. CEO Andy Meyers could not be reached for comment by email today, and his phone number appears to have been disconnected since December.

Last month in an interview with CalMatters, Meyers blamed the state for being slow to approve the projects' affordability restrictions and said that, along with a cascade of other construction challenges such as high interest rates, caused the defaults. He said "I don't give a s–t" that housing officials had contacted the attorney general, and added he was still planning to finish the projects.

In a statement this week, the housing department's general counsel Ryan Seeley said Shangri-La's problems "are of their own making."

"Shangri-La has misrepresented multiple financial considerations and has yet to cure a number of breached contractual obligations to the state and the Homekey program," he said.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

Beach Water Quality Testing

- Ocean water bacteria level **meets State Standards**
- **Advisory;** Ocean water bacteria level **exceeds State standards** and may cause illness. Also used for all beaches during an ocean water quality rain advisory
- **Closed;** Ocean water **closed** to water contact due to sewage contaminated water or other health hazard
- No recent sample results available



smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

Data gathered at publichealth.lacounty.gov

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

Organized Retail Crime Task Force recovers $300,000 worth of property

On January 9, 2024, the Organized Retail Crime Task Force (ORCTF) served a search warrant in the 400 block of West 7th Street in Downtown Los Angeles. Personnel from the ORCTF, which consists of detectives from Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Burbank, Torrance, and Glendale Police Departments, were involved in the operation.

The focus of the investigation was on a business believed to be selling stolen goods. The ORCTF is actively investigating not only the individuals who steal from retail establishments, but also the individuals or businesses who receive it with the intent to resell the stolen items to consumers.

This operation recovered over $23,000 of US currency, a firearm, and hundreds of items including high-end eyewear and clothing, jewelry, and designer bags. The recovered property was conservatively estimated at a value of $300,000. Detectives are working with retailers to identify their items. Any evidence that is identified as having been stolen will be returned to the victims.

The ORCTF will continue to conduct operations throughout the Los Angeles county region with the goal of identifying, disrupting, and arresting retail thieves and those who sell stolen items.

SUBMITTED BY LAPD

Malibu

Free Screening of "21 Miles in Malibu" Documentary and Community Discussion About PCH Safety

As part of the City's ongoing efforts to improve safety on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), the City's Arts Commission is partnering with Shane Gang Pictures and Santa Monica College (SMC) to host a free public screening of "21 Miles in Malibu" on January 18.

"I encourage everyone in Malibu to join us for this film screening and community discussion about the PCH safety crisis that we have been experiencing and are fighting so hard to overcome," said Mayor Steve Uhring. "This is a safety issue that impacts the lives of every Malibu resident. I hope that this powerful film will help raise awareness about the urgency to improve safety on PCH, help us find more creative solutions, and energize our movement for change."

The powerful documentary was produced by Malibu resident Michel Shane to raise awareness about the need to change the dangerous conditions on PCH after his 13-year-old daughter Emily was tragically killed by a motorist while walking along the highway in 2010.

> I encourage everyone in Malibu to join us for this film screening and community discussion about the PCH safety crisis that we have been experiencing and are fighting so hard to overcome
> - Mayor Steve Uhring

Following the screening, there will be a community discussion on PCH safety with "21 Miles" producer Michel Shane, Malibu-Lost Hills Sheriff's Station Commanding Officer Captain Jennifer Seetoo and City Manager Steve McClary, moderated by Malibu Arts Commission Chair Fireball Lawrence.

The event takes place on Thursday, January 18, 6 p.m. at the SMC Malibu campus, located at 23555 Civic Center Way, Malibu (Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Z2djrd3EGigKnNah8). RSVPs are required. The event is at capacity, and a waitlist has been created. To be placed on the waitlist, register at www.MalibuCity.org/ArtTalks.

The film is a hybrid of personal stories of loss, the history of a beloved community, and a cautionary tale of government indifference and citizen activism. It was created by Shane Gang Pictures, the directors of "Enormous: The George Story" and the executive producer of "I, Robot," and "Catch Me If You Can."

Improving safety on PCH has long been a priority for the community. PCH is a state highway under the jurisdiction of Caltrans, leaving the City with limited ability to make changes to the highway. Nonetheless, the City has taken numerous actions and has invested millions of dollars in recent years to improve PCH safety within its ability.

In recent years, conditions on PCH have grown increasingly hazardous with excessive speeding, reckless and distracted driving, and intoxicated driving. Since 2010, 58 individuals have died on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. During the past 10 years, Malibu has had more than 4,000 traffic collisions, 1,600 of which involved injuries, and more than 100,000 traffic citations have been issued. On October 17, 2023, four Pepperdine students tragically lost their lives after being struck by a speeding motorist while walking on PCH.

To address the crisis, the City Council declared a Local Emergency on November 13, 2023. This proactive measure underscores the urgency and significance of addressing this threat to public safety in our community.

The event is part of Art Talks, a quarterly series presented by the Malibu Arts Commission in partnership with SMC-Malibu. Featured artists discuss their works, creative processes, and art experience during a question and answer session.

The City held a free public screening of the film and community discussion about PCH safety in May 2023 at Malibu Bluffs Park.

For more information about the film, visit www.21milesinmalibu.com and follow @21milesinmalibu on social media.

For more information about the City's efforts to improve safety on PCH, visit www.MalibuCity.org/PCHSafety.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF, MEDIA INFORMATION OFFICER

LIONS ROAR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

After an eventful, but enjoyable holiday season, the Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions Club is gearing up for a busy year ahead with new opportunities and some long-standing traditions.

The new year started off with inspiration as we heard from Maxwell Bull, the recipient of our Santa Monica College Dot Gelvin Memorial Scholarship. A Los Angeles native, he shared his story of growing up in a single parent household, seeking guidance and support outside of his home; his determination to go to college by studying and assuming all financial costs, including application fees; and using his life experiences to guide his choice of a career in dermatology. He has the rare combination of determination, sacrifice, curiosity and patience that will help him succeed.

Next month will be our annual Lions Student Speaker Contest, on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:00 pm, at the Elks Lodge, 1040 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica. The topic this year is, "For a better world, what would you do?"

This district-wide competition is open to all high school students regardless of their school or home-based education program and gives them the chance to earn scholarship money from the Lions Student Speaker Foundation. The winner of the first level, the Club Level, receives $100, with the amount increasing as you progress through the levels. Zone winners receive a $150 scholarship, Region winners receive a $250 scholarship, District winners receive a $4,500.00 scholarship, Area winners receive a $6,500.00 scholarship and the winner of the Multiple District Four Contest receives an additional $10,000.00 scholarship, for a total of $21,500. If you are interested in participating, please contact smpplionsclub@gmail.com.

With the new year, we are going to be changing our meeting schedule, with monthly dinner meetings at the Elks Lodge now on the 4th Wednesday of each month for March, April, and May. All meetings will continue to be at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in possibly becoming a member or joining us in any of community activities, please contact Kingsley at 310-454-2960 or smpplionsclub@gmail.com. You can also learn more about us from our Facebook, Instagram and website (https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/santamonica/).

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

"We wanted to make it very clear to all of our providers that this is not to replace the wonderful services that they provide in person, (this is) a backup option, because at a lot of our schools, we are full, (and) there's a lot of mental health needs … we are thinking this might be a really good backup option for kids who really need something but just can't find it outside of school," Lotan said.

After referral and consent from a parent, Hazel matches students with a therapist and schedules an appointment, which can be done on school grounds in a confidential setting or at home on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Students are able to work out a weekly time to miss class with teachers in order to have a therapy session, much like the district's in-person services.

Each SMMUSD site receives an iPad device for the virtual sessions, and training on the Hazel sessions is given for "referrers" (such as secondary school counselors, school nurses and administration) as well as the "initiator," the person that helps the student enter a session. As of early January, at least two SMMUSD sites have already connected students to Hazel services. The "initiator" can also connect with a therapist if a student says something "concerning" during a session, such as talk of self-harm, and there are protocols in place about who can be contacted in such a reporting situation.

A "pro" of the partnership, Lotan said, was the fact that all Hazel mental health providers are licensed professionals in their field, which she says is a "rare thing" to find. She notes that sessions will likely be most effective for older elementary through high school students, as the "little ones" in the district are better suited for in-person "play therapy" sessions. In a flier shared on the district website, Hazel states that therapists aid students in situations and emotions like anxiety, depression, grief and loss, self-esteem, academic stress and bullying.

One drawback is that the Hazel partnership with students is shorter-term, typically running between six and eight sessions before a discharge from the therapy program. Lotan thinks that this "can work really well for some students who just need some coping skills," but that those with "deeper trauma" may need something longer-term.

Another mental health resource on the horizon will be more tangible than a virtual visit, as the LACOE needs assessment led to the agency offering funding for wellness spaces at school sites. A wellness space is a dedicated room where individual or group therapy can take place, and can also serve as a space where students (or staff) can go for a moment of decompression. Each school site has a different definition for what their wellness space should be, and most sites in Santa Monica have submitted proposals and budgets on either creation of, or improvement upon existing, spaces. Proposal assessment is underway by district officials, with Lotan stating that potential approval on the projects will be heard by March.

"Each of our campuses is going to have a dedicated wellness room, which is really nice," Lotan said. "I think that in terms of just the physical environment of a school or a therapy at school specifically, it can really make a difference to have a nice space … to have funding to really improve those spaces."

thomas@smdp.com

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!
Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

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.

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

VAPING

FROM PAGE 4

and heart, leading to looks for a link to heart disease. Perhaps the most cited concern is nicotine, the stimulant that makes cigarettes and vapes addictive.

Animal studies suggest nicotine exposure in adolescents can affect development of the area of the brain responsible for attention, learning and impulse control. Some research in people suggests a link between vaping and ADHD symptoms, depression and feelings of stress. But experts say that the research is very limited and more work needs to be done.

Meanwhile, there's not even a clear scientific consensus that vaping is an effective way to quit smoking, with different studies coming up with different conclusions.

CLEARING THE AIR

Last month, the World Health Organization raised alarms about the rapidly growing global markets for electronic cigarettes, noting they come in thousands of flavors that attract young people.

In 2016, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy said efforts were needed to prevent and reduce e-cigarette use by children and young adults, saying nicotine in any form is unsafe for kids.

About four months before the report's release, the FDA began taking steps to regulate e-cigarettes, believing they would benefit smokers.

The agency has authorized several e-cigarettes, but it has refused more than 1 million product marketing applications. Critics say the FDA has been unfair and inconsistent in regulation of products.

Meanwhile, the number of different e-cigarette devices sold in the U.S. has boomed, due largely to disposables imported from China that come in fruit and candy flavors. But vaping by youths has recently been falling: Last year, 10% of high school students surveyed said they had used e-cigarettes in the previous month, down from 14% the year before.

Why the decline? "It's hard to say what's working," said Steven Kelder, a University of Texas researcher.

He mentioned a 2019 outbreak of hospitalizations and deaths among people who were vaping products with THC, the chemical that gives marijuana its high.

The illnesses were traced to a thickening agent used in black market vape cartridges, a substance not used in commercial nicotine e-cigarettes. But it may be a reason many Americans think of e-cigarettes as unsafe, Kelder said.

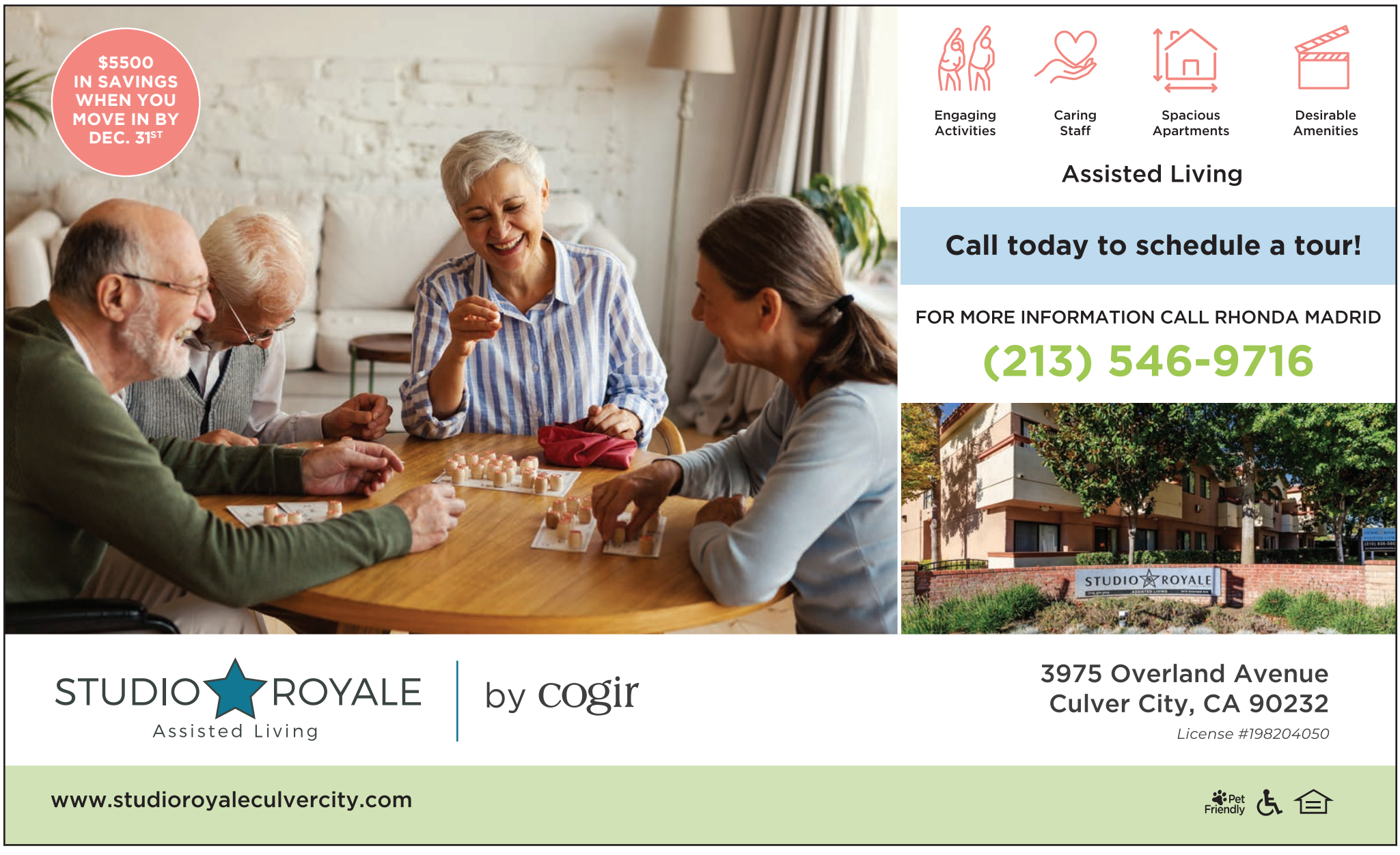
Sherri Mayfield, a 47-year-old postal worker, remembers the 2019 outbreak and reports of rapid illnesses and deaths in youths. Vaping "absolutely" needs to be studied more, Mayfield said last week while on a cigarette break in New York with some co-workers.

"Cigarettes aren't safe" but at least it can take them decades to destroy your health, she said.

The surgeon general's office said in a statement that the 1964 report "catalyzed a 60-year movement to address the harmful effects of smoking" and suggested similar action was needed to address youth vaping.

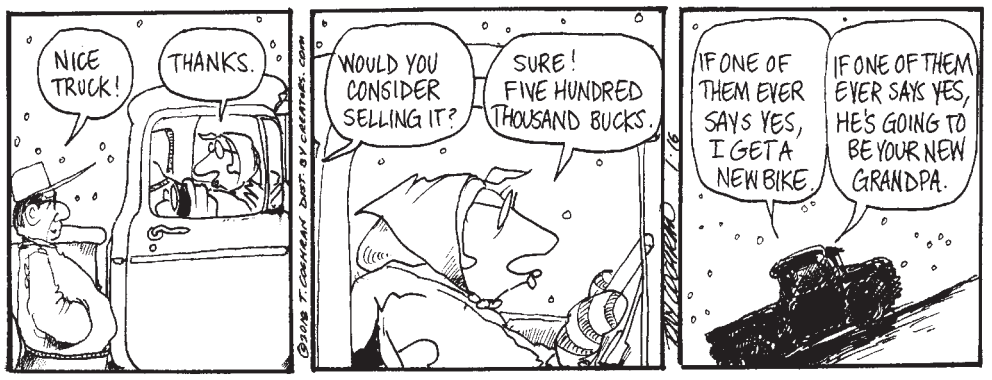
Murthy's website, however, currently lists neither vaping nor smoking as a priority issue.

The AP receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is solely responsible for all content.



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



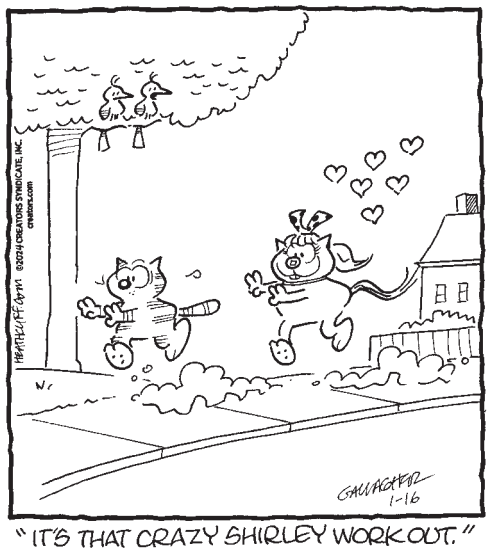
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

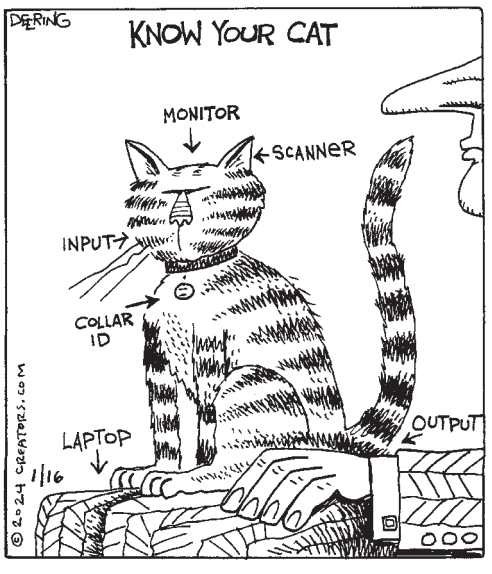
By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S THAT CRAZY SHIRLEY WORKOUT."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6091

Checking the horoscopes

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

Angles	Fixed	Meridian
Bull	Goat	Mutable
Combust	Honest	Natal
Courageous	Joys	Nodes
Crab	Juno	Pisces
Cusp	Jupiter	Progression
Cycle	Kepler	Shy
Dynamic	Ketu	Solstice
Earth	Kind	Star
Elements	Libra	Superficial
Equinox	Lilith	Trine
Fire	Longitude	Versatile
Fish	Luna	Virgin

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Making a masterpiece

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan 16)

Though your generosity is legendary, and you have loving relationships in abundance, this year encourages you to focus on what you want. You'll follow your whims and fancies, pursue your specific interests, and the deeper you get into being so you, the more people need and want what you have to offer. You'll communicate clearly and influence without persuasion. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 24, 7, 10, 30 and 1.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The best opportunities are disguised as work. That's not a problem for you; your work ethic is top-notch. Promotion will be necessary, too, which is simply telling people about the help you offer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). "I'm sorry" should not be followed by the word "but." You'll give and accept only those apologies expressing humility and an intent to do things differently in the future. Any other kind of apology is worse than none at all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Spirited discussion and lively debate enthrall you, but the first time someone loses their temper, you're out. Deal with hotheaded humans as you would a wild animal. Slowly back away, no sudden movements.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). To fight or struggle against problems would be a waste of energy. You're not in competition with everyone around you, only one or two. To win the game, you must first delineate your teammates from your adversaries.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're appreciated by many, understood by few. Focus on those few. They need you as much as you need them. These special people have the insider knowledge to get to the depths of you, even when you don't feel like going deep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People will open their hearts to your warmth. They will tell you their stories and share the intimate details of their lives. More than ambition, this humble approach is the manner of being that will bring you the most success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The butterflies in your stomach tell you when you are close to closing the deal, you are near to the love of your life, or you are so far from the right path the only thing to do is run. Heed the warnings and nervousness works in your favor.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Confucius pointed out how some friendships are honey-thick, but noted that the best friendships are lighter than water. You'll prove your lightness today with casual warmth and humor, though your underlying message is one of devotion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). On certain matters, there is no denying that you are the expert. Don't let go of this position. More than any expert or the sum opinion of any crowd, you can trust yourself. Let no person talk you out of your intuitive responses.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know how to put yourself in a good mood, but those fine feelings that just alight on you for no reason are a gift too precious to waste. The effort-free glee comes to you today and will keep coming when you're around people who are likely to add to it. Avoid the others!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What good is a network you don't tap into? Use those contacts. Connect people with one another. Ask for help whether or not you need it. This is how bonds are forged. You will attract many who would love to support you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You treat everyone as a respectable equal, which is the key to your success in relationships. Today, you'll be reminded that "equal" doesn't mean "the same." You'll be doing something very different for your loved ones than you would do for yourself.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

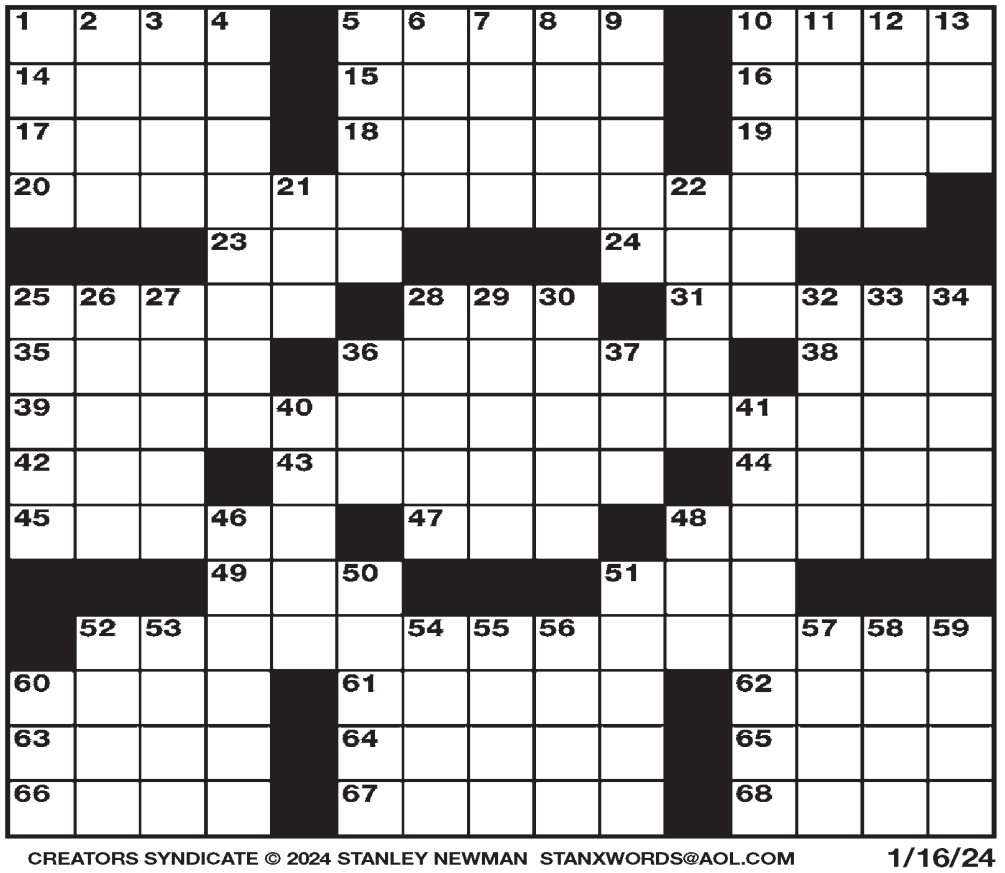
BEGINNINGS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Paper money
5 Untruthful people
10 Urge to scratch
14 Woodwind instrument
15 Gold bar
16 Stubborn farm animal
17 Internet hotspot service
18 Money, slangily
19 School support grps.
20 Players who begin the game
23 Area with parking spaces
24 Curtain holder
25 "Whether you like it ___."
28 UK TV network
31 Underground water sources
35 "Scat!"
36 Spicy sandwich sausage
38 Snakelike fish
39 When diplomas are awarded
42 Tooth doctors' org.
43 Kid's racing vehicle
44 Vacuum's tube
45 Make a hole deeper
47 Where clouds form
48 Casual eatery
49 Pooch
51 Grownup boys
52 Football game beginning
60 Horse-stopping shout
61 More despicable
62 Hay bundle
63 Is sure to
64 Marry secretly
65 "__ no idea!"
66 Misfortunes
67 Small salamanders
68 Courage, informally

DOWN

1 Dairy animals
2 Just slightly
3 Couch
4 Handed-down keepsake
5 Restrict
6 Wise to
7 Overly eager
8 Dice throw
9 Up-or-down walkway
10 Hinder
11 Ballerina's skirt
12 Applaud
13 "For __ a jolly good fellow"
21 Small kid
22 Futile, as a situation
25 Academy Award
26 Providence, __ Island
27 Wanderer
28 Endorses, as a candidate
29 Gloomy
30 Toyota mid-size model
32 Enticed
33 Rental agreement
34 More devious
36 __-cone (frozen treat)
37 Was introduced to
40 Urge to act
41 Have ambitious goals
46 High-minded goals
48 Mo. for caroling
50 Donated
51 Boggy grounds
52 Akron's state
53 Flag holder
54 Egypt's major river
55 Shine softly
56 Hung onto
57 Honolulu's island
58 Airless tire
59 Government agents, for short
60 Beginning of an internet address



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/16/24

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

RENT

FROM PAGE 1

establishing rent control on any unit first occupied after Feb. 1, 1995, in single family homes or condominiums.

In a presentation to his fellow board members, Commissioner Lonnie Guinn said there's "no big mystery" about what the Justice for Renters Act means for the board, but felt the board needed to lend an official motion of support to "meet the mission" and "not just let people assume" that they'll support the measure just because of their subject of expertise.

Guinn added that Costa-Hawkins as currently constructed is hampering the board from its pillars, those being retaining housing stock, making sure rents are affordable in the community, and allowing for fair return to owners.

"Unfortunately (under) Costa-Hawkins, there's one of those we can't meet, and that is keeping things affordable … I think that in order for us to continue to meet our mission, we need to be able to have a little more leniency in the way we establish what we want as our rent control here," Guinn said.

The measure would prohibit the state from limiting the rights of cities and counties across California from maintaining, enacting or expanding residential rent control ordinances. Though similar propositions, Prop. 10 in 2018 and Prop. 21 in 2020, have failed public votes, Guinn feels like they're "in a better climate now" for Justice for Renters to gain support.

Presenting alongside Guinn was Board Vice-Chair Ericka Lesley, who echoed the need for rent control to be put back into the hands of local municipalities, using public concern about the issue of homelessness to bolster her show of support.

"We all homelessness is on the rise … that's one of the things that's on a lot of people's minds," Lesley said. "As rents increase across the United States, you see more and more people out on the streets. (To) decrease this is something that I think we all need to endorse and get behind."

Commissioner Kurt Gonska agreed with opening the statements from both Guinn and Lesley, stating that while a repeal of Costa-Hawkins would not require communities to do anything, it at least gives the board a chance to discuss what a post-Costa world could look like in the city. Currently, the city only sets rent control on units in apartment buildings constructed in or before 1978, and city ordinances cannot be changed without voters instigating a change with a city-wide ballot.

Gonska also pointed to one of Guinn's aforementioned board missions as further reason for backing.

"Within our charter amendment and regulations, it's stated that we are required to ensure that landlords have fair rate of return on their investment … this ballot initiative, if enacted, would still allow landlords within Santa Monica … control on existing units built after (Feb. 1) 1995 to still receive a fair rate of return," Gonska said.

The board has opined in the past about Costa repeals, a discussion Guinn wants revisited so they can decide "sooner rather than later" what changes they could potentially make to rent control laws in the event of Justice for Renters' passage. Board Chair Anastasia Foster noted that past talks on the topic, such as in the wake of Prop. 10's statewide ballot qualification in 2018, fueled subsequent board focuses.

Foster also stated that she's looked towards what legal courses of action could be taken in a potential Costa-Hawkins repeal, but was adamant that the term "rent freeze" has never been used in her prior statements on the topic.

Along with the board, several prominent Santa Monicans have been backing the measure, including former elected officials and community advocates like Tony Vasquez, Sue Himmelrich and Denny Zane. The California Apartment Association opposes the measure, taking the position that Justice for Renters would slow construction of affordable housing and be a detriment in the fight against homelessness.

In an Oct. 31, 2023 City Council meeting, support for the initiative passed with four votes for yes, one vote for no and two abstentions. To that point, Boardmember Danny Ivanov said that the board had a "real opportunity" to show "unity" on the Justice for Renters issue, something the board agreed with the unanimous resolution.

thomas@smdp.com

IMMIGRATION

FROM PAGE 3

changes. An example would be allowing most asylum cases to be solved administratively or through streamlined processes instead of litigated in courts.

"The situation has gotten progressively worse since the Obama administration, when it really started getting out of hand," said Schmidt, who in 2016, his last year on the bench, was scheduling cases seven years out.

In the mid-2010s, families and children from Central America seeking asylum became the majority of illegal crossers at the U.S. southern border. In response, the Obama administration as well as the Trump and Biden administrations started prioritizing some categories of cases they want solved faster to reflect enforcement priorities.

But courts are ineffective deterrents to people desperate to flee their countries, and judges say shuffling cases around only adds to the chaos as they wade through dozens if not hundreds of cases a day.

At the courthouse in Miami last week, one judge went looking for a Haitian family who hadn't shown up, then granted an order of deportation in absentia, just as she had for a Colombian family who also failed to appear at their hearing immediately before.

Another judge found that a Cuban mother, then a Venezuelan man had applied for other forms of protection special to their countries and dismissed their cases, telling them they were done with the court. The woman broke into grateful tears. The man, who had come more than 200 miles for the minutes-long hearing, mumbled "God bless you" in Spanish.

And a steady stream of migrants went to find Catholic Legal Services — one couple directed there by the judge to figure out how to present in court their video of the gang murder that had forced them to flee.

Associated Press reporter Elliot Spagat contributed from San Diego, California.



TUESDAY | JANUARY 16

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. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
This community-led, monthly book discussion group currently meets online/virtually via Zoom. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. January's selection is The Fifth Witness by Michael Connelly

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM
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. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310.458.8688. Drop-ins are also welcome. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 17

COMPUTER CLASS - GOOGLE SHEETS, SLIDES & MORE
Learn about Google's free applications for spreadsheets and presentations, and how to store documents in the cloud. For intermediate level. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

IT'S TIME FOR BIRDWATCHING!
Lu Plauzoles, from the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, discusses the best season for birdwatching and leads a walk to see the birds of Virginia Avenue Park. Binoculars available to borrow. For all ages. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC
Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with HOUSING issues. Third Wednesday of the month 4:30PM-7:00PM at Virginia Avenue Park- Park Center. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

PLANNING COMMISSION
City Hall, 1685 Main Street. 6 p.m. Agenda online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission/

ROOSEVELT REVUP
Roosevelt Elementary School, located at 801 Montana Ave., will hold the first "Roosevelt RevUP" community event at the Roosevelt Big Yard at 10 a.m. The inaugural RevUP will feature BMX Freestylers, who will be treating students to a high-energy, super exciting, and impactful Anti-Bullying BMX rally. The assembly is designed to promote a positive, bully-free school environment and deliver a message that will resonate with students.

AUTHOR TALK:
Film producer Carol Baum will be discussing her new book, "Creative Producing: A pitch-to-picture guide to movie development," at Playa Vista Branch Library, 6400 Playa Vista Dr., beginning at 3 p.m. Barum is the former co-president of Sandollar Productions, Dolly Parton and Sandy Gallin's production company, and she currently teaches at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. For ADA accommodations, call 213-228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event.

THURSDAY | JANUARY 18

LOCALS' NIGHT:
The monthly edition of Locals' Night on the Santa Monica Pier will be held from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Merry Go-Round Building will host Books & Cookies musical story time at 4 p.m., followed by performances from Benedek, Suzanne Kraft, Jamma-Dee and Warehouse Preservation Society. The main stage and parking deck will host Salsa on the Pier from 6-9 p.m., led by Courtney Parisi and Cesar Romer, as well as a car show featuring several prominent Westside car clubs.

VENICE ART MIXER:
The January Venice Chamber of Commerce Art Crawl Mixer will be held at Venice Soleil Salon, 3014 Pacific Avenue, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Connect with artists and possible hosts for the upcoming 2024 Art Crawls. Members $10, non-members $15. Registration can be done at: https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:
The first Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education meeting of 2024 will be held at the SMMUSD offices, 1717 4th Street, beginning at 6 p.m. Contact the Board of Education at brd@smmusd.org for more information or visit the SMMUSD website for agendas.

JOB HUNTING WITH CHRYSALIS
Representatives from local nonprofit Chrysalis provide drop-in resume assistance, job search tips, and on-the-spot orientations for their employment programs. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 3 - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 19

GRILLED CHEESE & BEER NIGHT
This family-style event has been their most popular. Join now and see what the excitement has been all about! The cost is $75 (plus tax). Andrew's Cheese Shop, 728 Montana Ave, 7:30 - 10 p.m. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/january-19th-grilled-cheese-beer-night-tickets-782689293747

STELLAR NUCLEAR FUSION: CAN WE HARNESS ITS POWER?
Every star is a powerful nuclear reactor, and we owe our existence to the energy our Sun provides. Our climate crisis has us searching for alternative sources of energy. Lecturer Sarah Vincent offers ideas in response to the big question: Can we harness the power of the stars to provide clean energy? Free on Zoom. 8 p.m. https://www.smc.edu/community/planetarium/

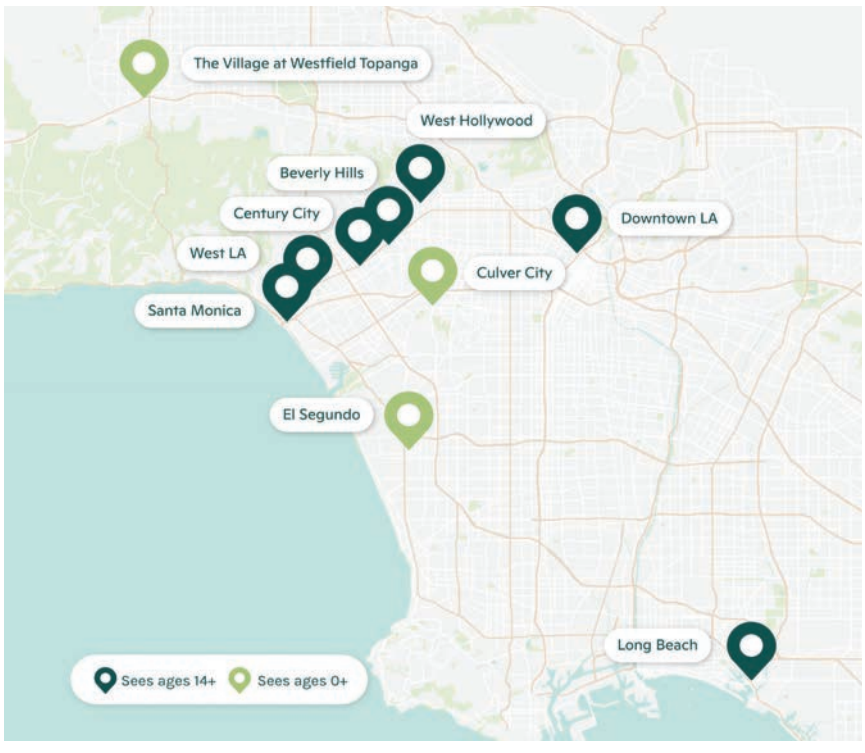
one medical

Avoid the 405 with 10 primary care offices



The doctor's office tailor-made for Los Angeles.

One Medical makes it easy to get in-person primary care and 24/7 virtual care for your body and mind. Visit us in our comfortable, modern offices or right from your phone — our providers will make you feel seen, heard, and cared for.



- 10 primary care offices in the area
- 24/7 on-demand virtual care via message or video
- Improved appointment lengths with minimal wait
- Request prescription refills via our app
- Simple referral process for specialists

Get $55* off your 1st year of membership with code: **SMDPOM**
Learn more at **onemedical.com/smdp**

*Terms & conditions apply