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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Rent Control Board amends regulation on security deposits, aligning with state lawmakers

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Insights into more lax legislation regarding security deposits came to light in a seemingly minor, administrative agenda item for the Santa Monica Rent Control Board.

At the end of the board's August 8 meeting, the board unanimously revised regulations to align with a new state law, prohibiting landlords from collecting a security deposit on an apartment "in an amount of excess of a month's rent." The California legislature recently revised the state's civil code on deposits, with AB 12 taking effect on July 1 that limits the amount that a landlord can collect for a deposit to one month's rent, regardless of if a unit is furnished or not.

Previously, landlords could require up to two months of rent as a security deposit for unfurnished units, and up to three months of rent for a furnished unit. Under the new law, the only time a two-month security deposit is allowed is if a landlord owns no more than two rental properties with a total of four units or less (unless the prospective tenant is a service member).

Requiring two or three months of rent as a deposit has been one of the many barriers preventing apartment hunters from finding their abodes. According to ApartmentList, the median rental on a one-bedroom apartment in Santa Monica is $2,307. If a landlord at that average price were to demand two months of deposit, that would increase move-in costs from $4,614 to $6,921, a herculean hurdle for many.

Assemblymember Matt Haney

SEE **DEPOSIT** PAGE 5

Santa Monica Rugby Club plays with pride despite tough sevens tournament



Travis Prior Photography

RUGBY SEVENS: SMRC's Dylan James tries to navigate a landing after catching a kick off from National Athletic Village, who went on to win.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Following qualification for the USA Rugby National Sevens Championship for the first time in six years, the Santa Monica Rugby Club (SMRC) traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, over the weekend to play the best in the country. Despite not progressing beyond their group stage, the team finished two places above their seeded position and given the semi-pro standard of some of the squads they faced, that should still be considered a victory.

"The men's bracket was tough, the overall level at the tournament was very high, I felt," Steven Johnson, President of SMRC said.

Santa Monica's very first game was against number one seeded

SEE **RUGBY** PAGE 15

Santa Monica doctor charged in connection with Matthew Perry's fatal overdose

MICHAEL BALSAMO & ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

Five people have been charged in connection with Matthew Perry's death from a ketamine overdose last year, including the actor's assistant and two doctors.

US Attorney Martin Estrada announced the charges Thursday, saying the doctors supplied Perry with a large amount of ketamine and even wondered in a text message how much they could charge him.

"These defendants took advantage of Mr. Perry's addiction issues to enrich themselves. They knew what they were doing was wrong," Estrada said.

Among the defendants are: Jasveen Sangha, 41, aka "The Ketamine Queen" of North Hollywood and Dr. Salvador Plasencia, 42, aka "Dr. P" of Santa Monica.

Sangha and Plasencia are charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute ketamine. Sangha also is charged with one count of maintaining a drug-involved premises, one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, one count of possession with intent to distribute ketamine, and five counts of distribution of ketamine.

The superseding indictment alleges that Sangha's distribution of ketamine on October 24, 2023, caused Perry's death. Plasencia is charged with seven counts of distribution of ketamine and two counts of altering and falsifying documents or records related to the federal investigation.

The three other defendants — charged separately — are: Eric Fleming, 54, of Hawthorne, who

SEE **MATTHEW PERRY** PAGE 10



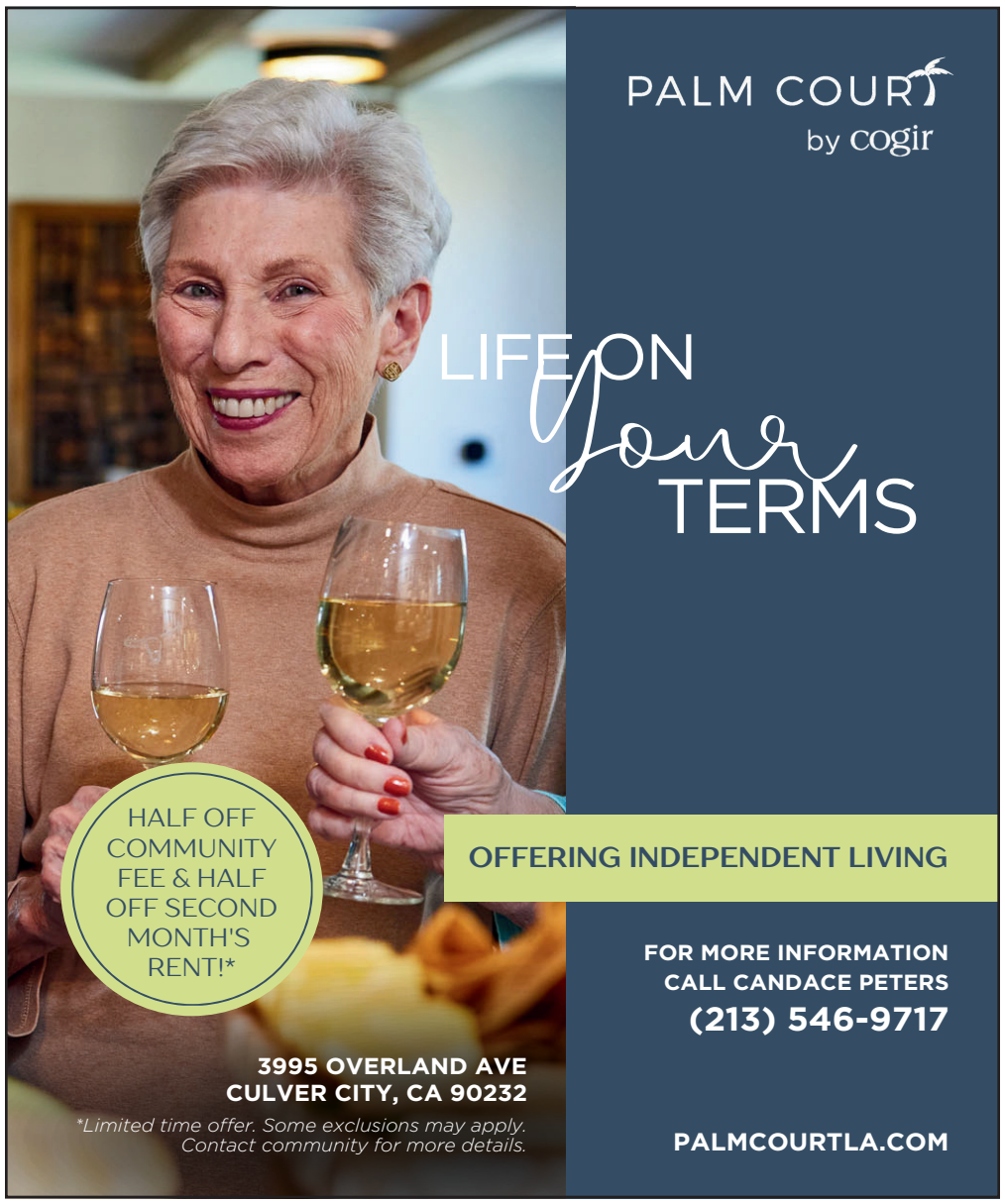
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This big city mayor swore not to criminalize homelessness. A new report says she did anyway



Photo by Jules Hotz for CalMatters

CAMPS: An encampment sweep by the City of Los Angeles along a block of Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles on Feb. 22, 2024.

MARISA KENDALL
Special to the Daily Press

When the Supreme Court and then Gov. Gavin Newsom gave the green-light to crack down on homeless encampments this summer, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass loudly took issue with that approach — setting herself apart from other big-city leaders.

But despite Bass' public stance against it, Los Angeles has done plenty to criminalize homelessness over the past few years, according to a new report from a prominent human rights organization.

In the report, Human Rights Watch chronicles how it says Los Angeles has prioritized moving its homeless residents out of public view (and sometimes citing or arresting them) over helping them. Police and city workers use the threat of punishment to force people to move out of encampments, and Bass has prioritized temporary hotel rooms and other shelters over permanent housing, according to the report.

"Mayor Bass has done some very good things on this issue," John Raphling, associate director in the U.S. program at Human Rights Watch, said in an interview with CalMatters. "But the sweeps continue. The encampment clearances continue. And the criminalization by the police continues."

Human Rights Watch also took issue with Bass' hallmark solution to homelessness: her Inside Safe initiative, through which the city moves homeless residents from encampments into hotels. Human Rights Watch said the program, which has served more than 2,400 people since it launched at the end of 2022, is "unsustainably expensive, plagued by inconsistent and inadequate support services, and stymied by the lack of permanent housing for people to move on to."

In compiling the report, Human Rights Watch says investigators interviewed more than 100 unhoused or formerly unhoused people and analyzed data from police, the Los Angeles Department of Sanitation, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and the mayor's office.

CalMatters shared key findings of the embargoed report with the Los Angeles Police Department, Mayor Karen Bass' office and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Human Rights Watch said they also reached out to those agencies to discuss the results.

"LAHSA's outreach teams attend the City's CARE and CARE+ clean-ups to provide client-centered, trauma-informed help to our unsheltered neighbors," Christopher Yee, spokesperson for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, said in an emailed statement. "During our work at all CARE and CARE+ locations, we keep with our principles and best practices in providing connections to shelter, documents, and other services people may need."

The mayor's office did not respond to CalMatters' questions by deadline. The police department said it wouldn't comment until the report was made public.

MAYOR BASS' PUBLIC STANCE ON HOMELESSNESS IN LOS ANGELES

The accusations contrast sharply from the way Bass' administration says it handles homelessness. When the U.S. Supreme Court in June ruled it's legal for cities to ban homeless encampments — even if they have no shelters available — Bass was the most prominent city leader to take a stand against the decision. Even as Newsom and other local leaders applauded the ruling in Grants

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 4



Californians will vote on a $18 minimum wage. Workers already want $25 and more



Photo by Zaydee Sanchez for CalMatters

WAGE: Hotel workers and Unite Here Local 11 supporters sit-in during a protest at one of the main entrances to LAX airport, on June 22, 2023.

JEANNE KUANG
Special to the Daily Press

California touted a victory for working people in 2016 when it enacted a sweeping series of minimum hikes, making sure the lowest-wage workers would earn at least $15 an hour by 2022.

Then-Gov. Jerry Brown, while signing the law, spoke of "giving people their due;" then-Senate leader Kevin de León spoke in Spanish of making it possible to achieve the American dream.

Now, California voters are being asked to boost the statewide minimum wage again, just two years after the landmark $15 wage championed by unions and embraced by Democratic politicians nationwide took effect.

But when Proposition 32 — the measure to raise the minimum wage to $18 next year — was confirmed for Californians' ballots in November, it wasn't with the same fanfare.

That's because a lot has changed:

The current law came with boosts tied to inflation, which has pulled the statewide minimum wage steadily up to $16 this year — and which will bump it up to $16.50 in January.

The skyrocketing cost of living has prompted local officials in more than two dozen cities to enact their own, faster-growing minimum wages since 2016. Now, 40 cities and counties have a higher minimum wage than the state. Most are in the Bay Area or Los Angeles County, covering an estimated one-third of California's low-wage workers. Several are already above $18, or just one inflationary bump away.

Unions in California took a different approach. They've won industry-specific wage floors for fast food, health care and, in some cities, hotels that are well above the statewide minimum. Fast food workers, who got a raise to a minimum of $20 in April, are seeking an inflationary bump for next year. In Los Angeles, hotel and airport workers are demanding a $25 minimum wage and a raise to $30 in time for the 2028 Olympics.

Many low-wage workers received more amid a tight labor market during the pandemic, marking the first economic recovery in two decades in which they got raises faster than higher-wage workers.

This year in the Legislature, business and labor groups focused on other fights, and it was uncertain whether the measure would even stay on the ballot. Some proponents argued it wasn't nearly ambitious enough to help the working poor afford California, where MIT researchers estimate the average single, childless adult needs $27 an hour to be "self-sufficient."

One of them, the workers' advocacy group One Fair Wage, asked the sponsor to pull it from the ballot in favor of advocating for a $20 wage; the organization's president, Saru Jayaraman, now says Prop. 32 is needed but only a "first step."

And though the sponsor, investor-turned-anti-poverty advocate Joe Sanberg, said he believes the measure will make a difference in workers' lives, even he openly agrees $18 "is not enough."

"In some ways, at the point where this measure is heading to the ballot, it's kind of

SEE **MINIMUM WAGE** PAGE 12



Surf report — WATER TEMP: **67.3**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Could be a fun day of waves if wind can cooperate for the AM. Currently looking like they will. Old SSW swell down a notch but a fresh round of SW/SSW swell is creeping in. NW windswell is up and shape is peaky west of Dume.

SATURDAY
FAIR
SURF: Thigh to waist 2-3FT

New SSW swell moving in as NW windswell starts to fade. AM window looking best at the summer points.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 74.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/08/16	Fri	02:17 AM	-0.22	L
2024/08/16	Fri	09:02 AM	3.74	H
2024/08/16	Fri	1:04 PM	2.82	L
2024/08/16	Fri	7:26 PM	6.23	H
2024/08/17	Sat	02:52 AM	-0.65	L
2024/08/17	Sat	09:23 AM	4.01	H
2024/08/17	Sat	1:54 PM	2.44	L
2024/08/17	Sat	8:12 PM	6.65	H
2024/08/18	Sun	03:26 AM	-0.94	L
2024/08/18	Sun	09:49 AM	4.30	H
2024/08/18	Sun	2:40 PM	2.02	L
2024/08/18	Sun	8:55 PM	6.90	H
2024/08/19	Mon	04:00 AM	-1.03	L
2024/08/19	Mon	10:17 AM	4.62	H
2024/08/19	Mon	3:26 PM	1.62	L
2024/08/19	Mon	9:39 PM	6.88	H
2024/08/20	Tue	04:34 AM	-0.91	L
2024/08/20	Tue	10:49 AM	4.95	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: 8/14
8 9 23 29 62
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 35 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/13
34 55 59 65 70
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 464 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/14
3 6 17 42 45
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 14 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/14
7 10 17 21 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/14
EVENING: 7 2 4
Draw Date: 8/14
MIDDAY: 4 9 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/14
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:45.04

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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.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of August 8, 2024, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board amended regulation Chapter 14, 14002, **Ceiling on Security Deposit and 14003, Landlord and Tenant Agreement as to Additional Security Deposit** to comply with changes to state law.

These changes will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
CALLING FOR BIDS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 080924SH
TITLE : LIBRARY RENOVATION FLOORING PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as:

LIBRARY RENOVATION FLOORING PROJECT

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: August 19, 2024, at 10am, sharp

BIDDER'S ATTENDANCE AT THE JOB WALK IS MANDATORY. COVID 19 PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT; SOCIAL DISTANCING, FACE COVERING OVER NOSE AND MOUTH REQUIRED. SIGN-IN IS REQUIRED. LATE ARRIVALS NOT PERMITTED. BIDDERS ARE TO MEET OUTSIDE OF THE SMC LIBRARY 1900 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. THE BID PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY A BIDDER WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE(S) DID NOT ATTEND THE ENTIRETY OF THE MANDATORY JOB WALK WILL BE REJECTED BY THE DISTRICT AS BEING NON-RESPONSIVE.

PROJECT ESTIMATE:	$120,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS:	18 WORKING DAYS DURING THE WINTER SESSION (DEC 20, 2024-JAN 31, 2024)
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES:	NONE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: 09/03/2024 at 2pm. All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

The Contractor is required to have a C-15 license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the District's Request for Bids.

Substitute Security- In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this contract.

Postings: August 9 & August 16, 2024

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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 2

Pass v. Johnson, Bass called it "disappointing" and said it "must not be used as an excuse for cities across the country to attempt to arrest their way out of this problem."

A month later, when Newsom issued an executive order directing state agencies to clear encampments and pushing cities to do the same, a coalition of mayors from the state's 13 biggest cities cheered the move. But Bass again was critical. "Strategies that just move people along from one neighborhood to the next or give citations instead of housing do not work," she said in a statement emailed July 25.

But according to Human Rights Watch, moving people along and handing out citations instead of housing is exactly what Los Angeles has been doing. From 2016 through 2022 (the most recent data available in the report), nearly all of the citations issued by the Los Angeles Police Department went to unhoused people — and unhoused people comprised more than 42% of misdemeanor arrests, according to the report. Police cited and arrested unhoused people for violating ordinances that prohibit sitting or lying on public sidewalks, as well as for infractions such as drinking alcohol in public, littering, loitering and violating park regulations.

While the number of arrests and citations issued in the city have declined from 2016 to 2022, Human Rights Watch said police continue to use the threat of arrest to force unhoused people to move out of encampments, and then destroy their belongings.

Yee disagreed, saying that during the past couple of years, the role of police at encampment cleanups has been "limited" and mostly occurred at camps with a history of violence.

Sonja Verdugo experienced the city's sweeps policy first hand in 2018 when she lived in an encampment in downtown Los Angeles while also holding down a temporary job as a receptionist. Every Tuesday the city made the camp residents pack up all their belongings and move — though everyone would just come right back a few hours later.

"It was horrible," Verdugo said. "It was really stressful."

It also prevented her from landing a permanent job, as she had to leave work every week to move her belongings.

"How do you explain that to an employer?" she asked. The city helped Verdugo find permanent housing two years ago through its Project Roomkey program, and she now works as an outreach worker helping other people on the streets. She says she continues to witness the city sweeping encampments and throwing away people's belongings.

INSIDE SAFE

As an alternative to criminalizing homelessness, Bass has touted her signature Inside Safe program, which clears camps and then puts the camp residents up in hotels with the ultimate goal of moving them from there into permanent housing.

"There are a lot of problems with it," Raphling said. "It's a huge, huge amount of money for a very small amount of people for a very temporary situation handled in a coercive way."

From December 2022 through March 2024, Inside Safe cleared 42 encampments and moved 2,482 people into hotels, according to Human Rights Watch. Of those people, just 440 had moved on to permanent housing as of March 2024, while 504 had returned to the streets. Most of the rest were still living in the hotels, while a handful had died or been jailed or hospitalized.

While the number of unhoused people living in Los Angeles remained about the same this year compared to 2023, the number of unhoused people living on the street — as opposed to in shelters — decreased 10%. Bass has pointed to that drop in people living on the street as proof Inside Safe is working.

But the program is expensive. It cost the city more than $300 million to run Inside Safe for its first year, which included a cost of more than $3,500 per month for each hotel room, according to the report.

Inside Safe participants also have complained about conditions in the hotels, pointing out issues ranging from dirty sheets and malfunctioning appliances, to leaks and mold — even violence and poor security, according to the report.

One participant, who Human Rights Watch identified as Andrea S., moved into an Inside Safe hotel last year after the city cleared her encampment on the median of a busy street in Los Angeles. The sweep itself was traumatic, and Andrea told Human Rights Watch that the authorities made her give them permission to destroy her belongings as a condition of giving her a hotel room.

The city cleared 51 people and removed nearly 42,000 pounds of material and possessions during that sweep — including more than 700 pounds of hazardous waste, according to the report. The city didn't store any items for occupants to retrieve later, according to the report.

Once she moved into the hotel, Andrea told Human Rights Watch that the room was dirty and the shower didn't work. Then, the city moved her multiple times between different rooms and even different hotels. One week she moved five times, according to the report, which she said exacerbated her anxiety and stress. Now, she's worried about how long she'll be allowed to stay in the program — which also worsens her anxiety, according to the report.

A 2023 CalMatters investigation found similar issues with the program. It determined that while Inside Safe succeeded in getting many people indoors and removing numerous encampments, it struggled to provide the mental health and other services participants needed, while also struggling to move them into permanent housing.

Human Rights Watch also criticized the way the city doles out hotel rooms. It prioritizes people from prominent encampments instead of reserving rooms for people who need them the most, such as those who are elderly, disabled or sick, according to the report. As a result, while residents from camps targeted by Inside Safe end up in hotel rooms, people displaced from less-prominent encampments often do not, according to the report.

"When LAHSA conducts outreach ahead of CARE and CARE+ operations, it offers shelter to those in the encampment if it is available in that area," Yee said in an emailed statement to CalMatters. "However, due to the high occupancy of the LA region's shelter system, shelter placements are not always available."

As city officials decide how they will respond to Newsom's push to clear encampments, Bass has a chance to change Los Angeles' policies and become an example of how to do it right, Raphling said.

"I think she's saying the right things about not criminalizing," he said. "Now she's got to really back that up."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

DEPOSIT

FROM PAGE 1

(D-San Francisco) was the point man on AB 12, stating that 53% of California renters indicated that they were able to afford rent on a prospective apartment, but couldn't afford to pay two months of rent as a deposit. The bill now puts California as the 12th state in the nation to limit deposits in this manner.

"Massive security deposits can create insurmountable barriers to housing affordability and accessibility for millions of Californians," Haney stated before AB 12 went into effect. "Despite skyrocketing rents, laws on ensuring affordable security deposits haven't changed substantially since the 1970s. The result is that landlords lose out on good tenants and tenants stay in homes that are too crowded, unsafe or far from work or school. This new law is a simple common sense change that will have an enormous impact on housing affordability for families in California, while also balancing a landlord's need to protect themselves against potential liability."

Other moves on the deposit topic are currently making their way through the state legislature, including AB 2801 introduced by state assembly member Laura Friedman (D-Burbank). The bill would make several changes on the actual return of security deposits from landlord to renter after their tenancy, such as requiring that landlords withholding deposits under the guise of apartment repairs provide photographic evidence of such repairs, along with proof that repairs were completed.

Friedman said that the bill would protect youth "starting out on their own" as frequent renters.

"Security deposits can be prohibitively expensive and tenants' ability to get them back can vary from landlord to landlord," Friedman wrote in the Pasadena Star-News. "My bill, AB 2801, will ensure that landlords can't keep security deposits just because they want to or to pay for upgrades for their next tenant."

The bill also states that a landlord "shall not require a tenant pay for" professional carpet cleaning or other professional cleaning services associated with post-tenancy, "unless reasonably necessary to return the premises to the condition it was in at the inception of tenancy." Under the bill, tenants cannot have their deposit taken via "ordinary wear and tear" of an apartment.

Earlier in the year, legislative advocate Brian Augusta gave a presentation on state dealings to the Rent Control Board explaining the bill's effectiveness in retaining tenant deposit money.

"There's a lot of abuse in that area, some believe that landlords assume that they're going to get most of the security deposit back, they're going to retain most of the security deposit at the end of a tenancy," Augusta said.

The bill was ordered to a third reading in the State Senate on June 13, with the final day for bills to be passed looming on August 31.

thomas@smdp.com

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SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 072624SF SMC Corsair Stadium Concrete Restoration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Work of the Project generally described as: SMC Corsair Stadium Concrete Restoration in accordance with all bid documents, specifications, drawings.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: 09/03/24 by 2:00pm

All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: 08/19/24, 9:30am sharp. Meet outside the SMC Facilities Trailer at Receiving Parking Lot by bleachers 2121 16th St. Santa Monica CA 90405. Bidder attendance at Job Walk is mandatory. Sign-In required & late arrivals not permitted.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $420,000.00

CONTRACT DAYS: 90 calendar days

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: N/A

The Bidder is required to have at time of bid submission and throughout the duration of the project a CSLB B license, CADIR registration, CA Dept Public Health Lead Abatement Certification; Lead training; Ongoing BLL data, respiratory fit test, physician written opinion. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the District's Request for Bids.

Substitute Security- In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this contract.

Post Dates: 08/09/24 & 08/16/24

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
CALLING FOR BIDS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 073124SH
TITLE : SANTA MONICA COLLEGE MALIBU CAMPUS FENCING PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as:

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE MALIBU CAMPUS FENCING PROJECT

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: August 19, 2024, at 1pm, sharp

BIDDER'S ATTENDANCE AT THE JOB WALK IS MANDATORY. COVID 19 PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT; SOCIAL DISTANCING, FACE COVERING OVER NOSE AND MOUTH REQUIRED. SIGN-IN IS REQUIRED. LATE ARRIVALS NOT PERMITTED. BIDDERS ARE TO MEET OUTSIDE OF THE SANTA MONICA COLLEGE MALIBU CAMPUS
23555 Civic Center Way Malibu, CA. 90265. THE BID PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY A BIDDER WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE(S) DID NOT ATTEND THE ENTIRETY OF THE MANDATORY JOB WALK WILL BE REJECTED BY THE DISTRICT AS BEING NON-RESPONSIVE.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $31,300.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 15 Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: NONE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: 09/03/2024 at 2pm. All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

The Contractor is required to have a C-13 license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the District's Request for Bids.

Substitute Security- In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this contract.

Postings: August 9 & August 16, 2024

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: Monday, August 19, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

CONTINUED ITEMS:

2501 Wilshire Boulevard – 24ARB-0030: Residential/Mixed-Use
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of an eight-story, 85' tall, mixed-use housing development consisting of 170 residential units and 17,438 square feet of ground floor commercial space above 4 levels of subterranean parking in the Mixed-Use Boulevard (MUB) Zoning District.
This project was previously reviewed on May 20, 2024

2025 Wilshire Boulevard – 24ARB-0035: Residential/Mixed-Use
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of an eight-story, mixed-use building with 150 residential units, and 8,556 square feet of ground floor commercial space, and four levels of subterranean parking. The project is located in the Mixed-Use Boulevard (MUB) Zoning District.
This project was previously reviewed on April 29, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING:

901 -913 Pico Boulevard – 24ARB-0109: Residential
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of a Tier 1, five-story, 47' tall, residential housing project consisting of 45 residential units with one level of subterranean parking located in the General Commercial (GC) Zoning District.
This project was a Preliminary Review on May 6, 2024

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ (en espanol tambien at (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431#).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation.

All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting.

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: Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica sobre una solicitud para remodilar un edifecio que tiene valor historico importante. Para más información: planning@santamonica.gov

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Newsom tries shifting blame for homelessness crisis to local officials



Photo by Mike Blake, Reuters

HOMELESS: Gov. Gavin Newsom helps cleanup a homeless encampment along a freeway in San Diego in 2022.

DAN WALTERS

Last week Gov. Gavin Newsom donned blue jeans and a t-shirt to participate in a well-choreographed cleanup of a squalid encampment in Los Angeles, declaring that homelessness is the "biggest scar on the reputation of California."

That it is, and it's an image that former President Donald Trump is weaponizing in his presidential duel with a Californian, Vice President Kamala Harris.

However, California's seemingly intractable homelessness crisis is also the biggest scar on Newsom's governorship, one he wants to erase by blaming city and county officials for a lack of evident progress.

Thursday's media event, chronicled by Newsom's $200,000-a-year personal photographer, was clearly aimed at portraying him as diligently working to solve the problem, while locals drag their feet.

"I'm here on behalf of 40 million Californians who are fed up," Newsom said, adding, "I'm one of them. I want to see results.

"We have cleared every hurdle," he said, referring to a recent Supreme Court decision making it easier for local officials to clear encampments. "We're done with excuses."

For the umpteenth time, Newsom threatened to "redirect" money the state has been sending to local governments for homelessness programs if he doesn't see progress.

However local officials have said those threats are the biggest impediment to creating permanent facilities and services to move California's homeless residents — approaching 200,000, by far the most of any state — off the streets.

Most of the state money has been in the form of one-year grants and without guarantees of long-term funding; the mayors and other officials say they cannot maintain ongoing programs.

"Now is not the time to play politics when people's lives are at stake," Carolyn Coleman, CEO of the League of California Cities, replied in 2022 to one of Newsom's periodic threats. "Failing to release state funding will not put roofs over the heads of Californians or deliver desperately needed supportive services."

Moreover, while Newsom has talked a good game about reducing homelessness, his own administration has been less than efficient.

Earlier this year, state Auditor Grant Parks sharply criticized Newsom's Interagency Council on Homelessness, saying that in the three years since a previous audit found the state was not effectively coordinating homelessness efforts, the agency still "has not continued to track and report on this information since that time."

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 15

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Anyone but SMRR

Editor:

I live on 9th street, a block from three boulevards—Wilshire, Santa Monica, and Lincoln. This means I'm literally surrounded by 8-story "stack and packs," while being told the fiction that this grotesque sop to developers "won't affect the neighborhoods of Santa Monica" and will help "solve homelessness." Ha!

This is, like so much that we hear from SMRR, a lie flown in on the wings of money—in this case Hedge Funds (Cypress Equity, I'm looking at you). While we were sleeping, the city was sold out from under us by SMRR, who took us from 1,000 state mandated RNHA units to almost 10,000, not out of altruism, but out of pure politics. You see RNHA, in truly Soviet language, stands for Regional Housing Needs Allocation. And more apartments, equals more power for Santa Monica For Renters Rights (SMRR!). Forget about supporting generational wealth by helping people into starter condos, (which would turn citizens into investors in the city and give them the ultimate rent control). Sorry, that takes them off government teat and makes them too independent.

The reality is that SMRR, our establishment government, has presided over everything that's gone wrong in Santa Monica the last ten years, from the train, the riots and looting, the sneaky overdevelopment deals, the starving of our police force of funding due to their aversion to law enforcement, the trenchant criminality, and supporting the braindead "harm reduction, care in place" model for our endless supply of addicts. Oh, those addicts and drug dealers are living carefree in place alright! And now SMRR wants to take control of the council with the new SMRR Four running in November. These living examples of the Peter Principle include Barry Snell, Natalya Zernitskaya, Dan Hall, and my favorite, Planning Commissioner Ellis Raskin. Great planning Ellis—you've really done a perfect job destroying the vibe of our city!

Anyway, several neighborhood groups have reached out to me about the two towers of supportive housing smack in the middle of a neighborhood that's only divided by Wilshire. They are rightly outraged to have so many deeply ill people foisted on their quiet neighborhood. Below is their information. Pass it on, get on their mailing list, sign the petition, write the council, join a neighborhood group, and get involved.

Do you think Santa Monica has gone off the rails? Then remember, vote for anybody but the SMRR Four this fall. They are not the people I would trust to run my HOA, never mind turn the city around and prepare us for the Olympics.

Arthur Jeon Santa Monica

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Brocken Promises

Editor:

Daily Press columnist Charles Andrews ("Curious City," August 14) asks "Wonder why the 'retired mayor' seems to have it in for the current mayor?"

Glad you asked, Charles!

Both the Council incumbents running for re-election have a full-term achievement gap. All their failures are recorded for posterity in Council video archives on the City website.

After four years, Phil Brock leaves a record littered with Brocken promises.

In 2020, Brock pledged his effort to cut homelessness by 50% during his first year in office. How's that going in your neighborhood?

Brock's original campaign website promised to protect renters and existing affordable housing. Instead, landlord Phil indulged in a 2am Council discussion that would have destroyed rent control. Another Brocken promise.

After pledging to protect Santa Monica from overdevelopment, Brock voted for a Housing Element that City staff warned would be rejected by the state of California. That made us vulnerable to oversized "builder's remedy" developments all over town. Thanks, Phil.

Perhaps the most telling Brocken promise has to do with integrity. Phil has twice voted to block a Council ethics investigation, covering up serious leaks of legally protected information that began only after he and his change slate colleagues were elected.

Some of us knew four years ago that Phil was blowing smoke. Nonetheless, his promises and pledges contrast sharply with his lack of achievements, and voters have every right to demand accountability.

No more Brocken promises!

Kevin McKeown, Retired former Mayor

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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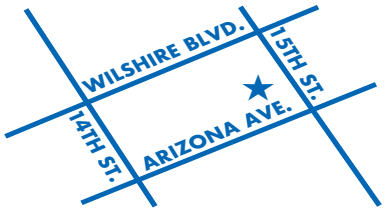
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$1,525,000

900 Euclid St #404,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 BR 2 BA 1,213 Sq Ft

Listed by Alexandra Rubow •DRE #02094757 • Douglas Elliman of California, Inc. •949-735-9704 (agent) •alexandra@thealtmanbrothers.com (agent) Listed by Joshua Altman •DRE #01764587 • Douglas Elliman of California, Inc.

SANTA MONICA

$1,049,000

201 Ocean Ave Unit 810B,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

2 BR 2 BA 1,216 Sq Ft

Listed by Sebastian Wolski •DRE #01947480 • Compass •818-554-2199 (agent) •sebastian.wolski@compass.com (agent) Listed by Raymond A. Lyon •DRE #01875162 • Compass

SANTA MONICA

$1,895,000

1705 Ocean #208,
Santa Monica, CA 90401

2 BR 2.5 BA 1,589 Sq Ft

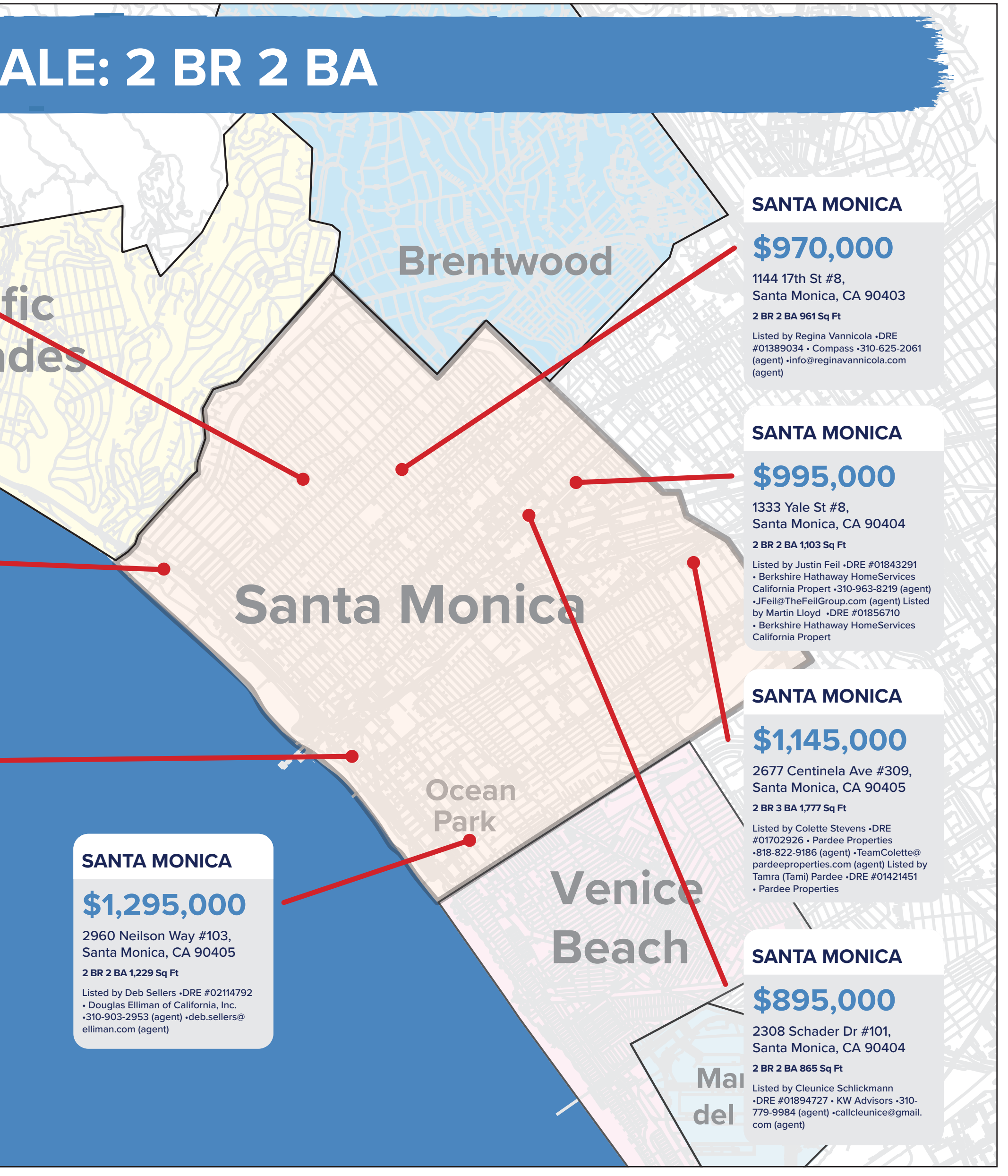
Listed by Mary Cronin •DRE #01424865 • Urban Living Real Estate •310-633-4257 (agent) •m1cronin@aol.com (agent)

● FOR SALE

All data gathered at redfin.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

ALE: 2 BR 2 BA



SANTA MONICA

$970,000

1144 17th St #8,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 BR 2 BA 961 Sq Ft

Listed by Regina Vannicola •DRE #01389034 • Compass •310-625-2061 (agent) •info@reginavannicola.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$995,000

1333 Yale St #8,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

2 BR 2 BA 1,103 Sq Ft

Listed by Justin Feil •DRE #01843291 • Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Propert •310-963-8219 (agent) •JFeil@TheFeilGroup.com (agent) Listed by Martin Lloyd •DRE #01856710 • Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Propert

SANTA MONICA

$1,145,000

2677 Centinela Ave #309,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

2 BR 3 BA 1,777 Sq Ft

Listed by Colette Stevens •DRE #01702926 • Pardee Properties •818-822-9186 (agent) •TeamColette@pardeeproperties.com (agent) Listed by Tamra (Tami) Pardee •DRE #01421451 • Pardee Properties

SANTA MONICA

$1,295,000

2960 Neilson Way #103,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

2 BR 2 BA 1,229 Sq Ft

Listed by Deb Sellers •DRE #02114792 • Douglas Elliman of California, Inc. •310-903-2953 (agent) •deb.sellers@elliman.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$895,000

2308 Schader Dr #101,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

2 BR 2 BA 865 Sq Ft

Listed by Cleunice Schlickmann •DRE #01894727 • KW Advisors •310-779-9984 (agent) •callcleunice@gmail.com (agent)

MATTHEW PERRY

FROM PAGE 1

pleaded guilty on August 8 to one count of conspiracy to distribute ketamine and one count of distribution of ketamine resulting in death. Fleming admitted in court documents that he distributed the ketamine that killed Perry. He further admitted to obtaining the ketamine from his source, Sangha, and to distributing 50 vials of ketamine to Perry's live-in personal assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa – half of them four days before Perry's death.

Kenneth Iwamasa, 59, of Toluca Lake, who conspired with Sangha, Fleming, and Plasencia to illegally obtain ketamine and distribute it to Perry. Iwamasa, who pleaded guilty on August 7 to one count of conspiracy to distribute ketamine causing death, admitted to repeatedly injecting Perry with ketamine without medical training, including performing multiple injections on Perry on October 28, 2023 — the day Perry died. Iwamasa, is the one who found Perry dead later that day

Dr. Mark Chavez, 54, of San Diego, a physician who has agreed to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute ketamine. Chavez admitted in his plea agreement to selling ketamine to Plasencia, including ketamine that he had diverted from his former ketamine clinic. Chavez also obtained additional ketamine to transfer to Plasencia by making false representations to a wholesale ketamine distributor and by submitting a fraudulent prescription in the name of a former patient without that patient's knowledge or consent.

Iwamasa's attorneys did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

According to the superseding indictment, in late September 2023, Plasencia learned that Perry, a successful actor whose history of drug addiction was well documented, was interested in obtaining ketamine. Ketamine is a general anesthetic whose medical risks require a health care professional to monitor a patient who had just been given the drug.

After learning about Perry's interest in ketamine, Plasencia contacted Chavez — who previously operated a ketamine clinic — to obtain ketamine to sell to Perry. In text messages to Chavez, Plasencia discussed how much to charge Perry for the ketamine, stating, "I wonder how much this moron will pay" and "Lets [sic] find out."

During September and October of 2023, Plasencia distributed ketamine to Perry and Iwamasa outside the usual course of professional practice and without a legitimate medical purpose on at least seven occasions. He did so by teaching Iwamasa how to inject Perry with ketamine, selling ketamine to Iwamasa to inject into Perry, leaving vials of ketamine with Iwamasa for self-administration, personally injecting ketamine into Perry without the proper safety equipment — including once inside a car parked in a Long Beach parking lot — and failing to properly monitor Perry after Plasencia injected Perry with the drug. Plasencia knew that Iwamasa had never received medical training and knew little, if anything, about administering or treating patients with controlled substances.

The superseding indictment also alleges that Plasencia conspired with Chavez about inventory, price, and availability of ketamine to sell to Perry and Iwamasa. Chavez, in turn, sold Plasencia orally administered ketamine lozenges that he obtained after writing a fraudulent prescription in a patient's name without her knowledge or consent, and lied to wholesale ketamine distributors to buy additional vials of liquid ketamine that Chavez intended to sell to Plasencia for distribution to Perry.

Beginning in mid-October 2023, Iwamasa also began obtaining ketamine for Perry from Fleming and Sangha. After discussing prices with Iwamasa, Fleming coordinated the drug sales with Sangha, and brought cash from Iwamasa to Sangha's stash house in North Hollywood to buy vials of ketamine. On October 24, 2024, while waiting for Sangha's ketamine to arrive, Fleming advised Iwamasa that the ketamine was "on its way to our girl," referring to Sangha. Sangha has distributed ketamine and other illegal drugs from her stash house in North Hollywood since at least 2019.

Sangha was aware of the danger of ketamine: In August 2019, Sangha sold ketamine to victim Cody McLaury in the hours before his overdose death. After a family member of McLaury's sent Sangha a text message saying that her ketamine had killed McLaury, Sangha conducted a Google search for "can ketamine be listed as a cause of death[?]" The superseding indictment alleges that Sangha nonetheless continued to sell ketamine from her stash house.

Using the Plasencia-provided instructions and syringes, Iwamasa injected Perry with the ketamine that was sold to him by Fleming and Sangha, including on October 28, 2023, when Perry died at his Pacific Palisades home after receiving multiple ketamine injections. Plasencia sold the ketamine to Iwamasa despite being informed at least one week earlier that Perry's ketamine addiction was spiraling out of control. After Perry's death was reported in the news, Sangha texted Fleming, "Delete all our messages."

Los Angeles police said in May that they were working with the US Drug Enforcement Administration and the US Postal Inspection Service with a probe into why the 54-year-old had so much of the surgical anesthetic in his system.

Iwamasa found the actor face down in his hot tub on Oct. 28, and paramedics who were called immediately declared him dead. His autopsy, released in December, found that the amount of ketamine in his blood was in the range used for general anesthesia during surgery.

The decades-old drug has seen a huge surge in use in recent years as a treatment for depression, anxiety and pain. People close to Perry told coroner's investigators that he was undergoing ketamine infusion therapy.

But the medical examiner said Perry's last treatment 1½ weeks earlier wouldn't explain the levels of ketamine in his blood. The drug is typically metabolized in a matter of hours. At least two doctors were treating Perry, a psychiatrist and an anesthesiologist who served as his primary care physician, the medical examiner's report said. No illicit drugs or paraphernalia were found at his house.

Ketamine was listed as the primary cause of death, which was ruled an accident with no foul play suspected, the report said. Drowning and other medical issues were contributing factors, the coroner said.

Perry had years of struggles with addiction dating back to his time on Friends, when he became one of the biggest television stars of his generation as Chandler Bing alongside Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer for 10 seasons from 1994 to 2004 on NBC's megahit sitcom. much the former Friends star would be willing to pay.

Eric Uller sexually abused hundreds of children over almost 30 years while masquerading as a police officer at Santa Monica PAL.



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FRIDAY | AUGUST 16

FREE PRODUCE MARKET
12 - 2 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Come pick up refreshing summer fruits and vegetables at Seeds of Hope Free Produce Market at Virginia Avenue Park in the Patio Room. Strawberries, watermelon and much more available. Supplies limited to the first 150 families. For questions, call 310-458-8688.

SATURDAY | AUGUST 17

BEST TOMATO COMPETITION
9 - 11 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd. The monthly Ishihara Park Learning Garden community event, always free and open to all the public, will have locals bring their homegrown tomatoes and put them to the test against others around Santa Monica. Join in the fun and be a guest judge to help determine the best tomato in Santa Monica. Participate in Garden Bingo for your chance to win some fun prizes. Tomato entries must be received by 9:30 a.m., with testing starting promptly at 10 a.m.

UC MASTER GARDENERS AT PICO FARMERS MARKET
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. The booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis. Market attendance is subject to change based on weather and holidays.

ENDLESS SUMMER C.A.M.P.
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tongva Park, 1615 Ocean Ave. This family-friendly celebration invites attendees to pack a picnic, blankets and beach chairs and enjoy an afternoon showcasing artists from across Santa Monica and the LA region sharing their culture through unique performances and hands-on crafts. This week's showcases are a puppet show from Bob Baker Marionette Theater, Grammy-nominated family artists Andrew & Polly and a puppet-making workshop with reDiscover Center.

WRITE A SONG IN ONE HOUR
2 - 3:15 p.m. MLK, Jr. Auditorium, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Matt Collette leads this unique and engaging workshop. The founder of HRA Studios in West LA, Matt has mentored musicians now touring the world and composing for film and television. For adults and teens.

BOOK PARTY
4 - 6 p.m. Mystic Journey Bookstore, 2923 Main St. Mystic Journey Bookstore in Santa Monica will be a destination for food, drink, live music, a brief book discussion with "High Priestess and Empress" author Susan Wands, and a tarot reading give-away. Come join for a celebration of this second book in a series based on Pamela Colman Smith, mother of the modern tarot deck. Book signing will also take place. Free event, to RSVP visit: https://www.mysticjourneybookstore.com/events/high-priestess-and-empress.

DOGTOWN EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION
4 - 7 p.m. Venice Arts Gallery, 13445 Beach Ave., Marina del Rey. Venice arts is excited to celebrate the release of Dotan Sage's latest monograph "Dogtown: The Pups of Venice Beach." Venice Arts will be exhibiting photographs from Dogtown, a documentation of the lively and humanistic essence of the dogs of Venice Beach. Published by Kehrer Verlag, Dogtown is Sage's third monograph, with the monograph and select prints will be available for sale during the opening of the exhibition. The artist is donating a percentage of all sales from the opening to support Venice Arts' free photography programs for low-income young people.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT
5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Cayton Children's Museum, 395 Santa Monica Pl. Enjoy a night out while kids play at the Cayton after-hours. Three hours of playtime including games, activities and free play along with dinner, snack and drink is a great play date for all. Children ages 4-10 years can take part in activities like life-size Connect Four, bean bag tosses, floor bowling and more. Cost $50 per child, $45 per sibling. To reserve a spot, visit: https://www.caytonmuseum.org/programs/parents-night-out.

LA BRISK FESTIVAL
6:15 - 11 p.m. Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd. The Brisk Festival is an international theater festival with short plays of up to 10 minutes. The official selection includes 51 plays this year, 31 original shorts lays in English and 20 in Spanish from an open submission process. Three free workshops, a master class, one feature full play and one live concert music will also be included in the program. Tickets $18-$28. For more information, visit: https://briskfestival.com/.

DEBUT ALBUM LAUNCH PARTY
6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Famecast Creator Brand Accelerator, 1533 26th St. Get ready to experience the most massive, mind-blowing and unforgettable album launch party of the year from the talents of Joshua Triplett and his daughter Jaidyn Triplett. The night includes a red carpet with top-notch press outlets, a mouthwatering taco truck, a fully stocked open bar, a dazzling Photo Booth, a live DJ and exclusive previews of never-before-heard music. General admission $27.36. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/debut-album-launch-party-for-joshua-jaidyn-triplett-tickets-962645918857.

CABARET SOIRÉE
7 - 10 p.m. Westside School of Ballet, 1709 Stewart St. A celebration of a multitude of bellydance styles, including the American Cabaret Style, this show will feature group and solo guest artists and students, and will culminate with a full-length improvised cabaret solo by master instructor and superstar performer Ansuya. General admission $33.85, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cabaret-soiree-tickets-914923680357.

SUNDAY | AUGUST 18

MBA BEACH BOWL
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 1200 Pacific Coast Highway. UC Davis, UCLA Anderson and USC Marshall students and alumni will go head-to-head in a showdown of beach soccer, beach volleyball and flag football. Come for the games, stay for the networking and a chance to connect with fellow MBAs while soaking up the summer vibes. This event is for UC Davis Graduate School of Management, UCLA Anderson and USC Marshall students and alumni only. A plus-one is allowed to register as non-alumni. No pets or kids allowed. General admission $28.52, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-mba-beach-bowl-tickets-933602158187.

CHESS SUNDAYS
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. 1200 block of the Third Street Promenade. Chess players of all ages and levels are invited for weekly casual play. Some chess sets (including a few giant ones) will be provided, but you're welcome to bring your own. Chess Sundays are free and open to all, no sign-ups or advance resignation required. This event is a partnership between the Santa Monica Chess Club and Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

SUNSET AT THE BURNS HOUSE
5 - 8 p.m. 230 Amalfi Dr. Docomomo Southern California invites you for a sunset drink by the pool and organ at the Charles Moore-designed Burns House in Santa Monica Canyon. Event for ages 16 and up. The property is located on a steep lot and accessed via stairs, limited parking available. Refreshments will be served. Tickets $33.85, free for Docomomo US members. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunset-at-the-burns-house-with-the-charles-moore-foundation-tickets-948411774147.

DANCE JAM WITH DAVIS PROTTAS
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Westside School of Ballet, 1709 Stewart St. A fundraiser for Westside School of Ballet. An all levels follow along move and groove. Event for ages 16 and up. Tickets $10, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dance-jam-with-david-prottas-tickets-953027881047.

POOLSIDE CINEMA AT FAIRMONT MIRAMAR
7:30 - 10 p.m. Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Blvd. Hulu brings movies to Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows for the return of its annual poolside "Swim-ena." Angelenos can splash into cinema with curated screenings from Hulu paired with themed cocktails and bites. This week's selection is "Super Troopers." Reserved seating is complimentary for hotel guests and a pre-purchased ticket, $45 per person, is required for visitors which includes admission, free popcorn and a 3-course, pre-fixe dinner menu. Children under the age of 5 are free. For more information, visit: https://www.fairmont-miramar.com/experiences/#!/e/summer-poolside-cinema-625415f9.

MONDAY | AUGUST 19

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
Join a community-led online discussion of a wide range of books, chosen by the members. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. August 19, 2024: The Universe in a Nutshell by Stephen Hawking. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
The Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment shall act in an advisory capacity on sustainability, environmental programs and policy issues. The Commission closely monitors the Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan and advises the Council on plan implementation. Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr, 7 - 10 p.m.

SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION
Santa Monica Arts Commission meetings generally start at 6:30pm, preceded by the monthly Public Art Committee meeting at 5:30pm. Meeting times and location subject to change, please check the posted agenda. 6:30 - 8 p.m.

TAKE & MAKE KIT: SHARING STORIES WITH READY ROSIE
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MINIMUM WAGE

FROM PAGE 3

underwhelming," said Chris Tilly, a UCLA professor of urban planning who studies labor markets.

It's not that workers, and their advocates, are uninterested.

The campaign estimates 2 million workers would still get a raise under the ballot measure — but that's significantly fewer than the 4.8 million calculated by UC Berkeley economist Michael Reich in 2022, when the measure was first proposed and then delayed because Sanberg missed an administrative deadline. Under the measure the minimum wage would be $18 in January, with a delay until 2026 for employers with fewer than 26 workers.

Gustavo Miranda is one worker who would benefit. The 32-year-old Pomona resident makes $16.50 an hour sorting packages and loading trailers at an Inland Empire warehouse. Rent — $1,000 a month — swallows nearly 40% of his income, and he said grocery prices have risen. To make ends meet, he spends weekends refereeing youth sports. A raise, he said, would help him with car payments and sending money to support his daughter.

In the Central Valley, Stockton retail worker Donna Bowman said she's been left behind by the state's raising wages for other industries. The 55-year-old works part-time nights at a Dollar General to supplement her Social Security payments, and said the price of gas has forced her to cut back visits to her grandchildren.

"I don't know how, with the way things are right now, and inflation, the government expects you to live on $16 an hour," she said.

Proponents are banking on that simple message to convince voters. "From the standpoint of people who are going to be voting, the question is very clear," Sanberg said.

After Sanberg poured more than $10 million into gathering signatures for the measure in 2022, the proponents have hardly spent anything. They don't have a campaign account after Sanberg shut it down earlier this year.

But organizers including Ada Briceño, co-president of the Southern California hotel workers' union UNITE HERE Local 11, say the measure is naturally popular and could turn out votes for other races.

The most powerful proponent, the California Labor Federation, which represents 2.3 million union members, isn't yet sure how much effort it's going to put toward passing the measure. While the federation was not involved in qualifying the measure, it endorsed it in July and plans to include it on other statewide campaign materials.

"I just don't know how much opposition there will be, quite honestly," said Labor Federation president Lorena Gonzalez.

Gonzalez sees the ballot measure as a "way to move things forward" at a time lawmakers are unlikely to take up the minimum wage. "When we jumped to $15 and did it legislatively, that was really profound," she said.

But $18 today?

"Sure," it makes a difference, she said, but "it's not really a living wage."

Opposition is still organizing.

A legislative deal and a state Supreme Court ruling resolved what would have been the biggest ballot fights between business and labor — a law allowing workers to sue their bosses and a ballot initiative that would have asked voters to make it more difficult to raise taxes.



Photo by Adriana Heldiz, CalMatters

WAGE: Cook Tony Peña prepares food at El Rincon restaurant in the San Ysidro neighborhood of San Diego on April 16, 2024.

So business groups say they're now turning their sights toward Prop. 32. Three major employers' groups with deep pockets — the Chamber of Commerce, the California Grocers Association and the California Restaurant Association — are leading the opposition.

Chamber CEO Jennifer Barrera said employers will also focus on a simple message: the threat of price hikes.

"There is a heightened sensitivity to the impact of increasing these labor costs on businesses and what that ultimately does for the cost of living," she said. "Our belief is that the cost of living is directly impacted when you raise these costs on businesses. There's only so many places where they can make adjustments."

That warning could resonate with voters pessimistic about an uncertain economy.

Opponents point out Gov. Gavin Newsom this year, facing lower-than-expected tax revenues and a yawning budget deficit, delayed the state's new $25 minimum wage for health care workers until the fall out of concern the state could not yet afford it. Private employers, they said, should be given the same time to adjust. Newsom has not taken a position on Prop. 32, and several spokespeople did not respond to inquiries from CalMatters in the last two weeks.

Unemployment in California is 5.2%, higher than the national 4.1%, and youth unemployment is worse. Business groups contend that increases in the minimum wage cause employers to offer fewer opportunities to less-experienced workers, though many economists disagree wage hikes directly lead to unemployment.

Reich, of UC Berkeley, last fall published a study with other academics finding the ramp-up to a $15 minimum wage in California and New York had little effect on employment in fast food and among youth — and in the post-pandemic years that industry even added jobs.

But employers point to recent local minimum wage hikes as test cases — particularly the small, relatively wealthy community of West Hollywood, which last year set what was the nation's highest wage floor of $19.08 and required generous paid sick leave. (This year, Emeryville surpassed that with an inflation-induced $19.36, in another display of cities leaving $18 in the rearview.)

West Hollywood officials this year commissioned surveys in which 42% of business owners said they laid off staff or cut workers' hours, and city council members agreed to pause the next wage increase until January. Part of the city's challenge was that business owners had to compete with employers just down the street in Los Angeles, where the minimum wage is $17.28, and Beverly Hills, which uses the state minimum of $16.

Walter Schild, owner of a West Hollywood restaurant, said the policy forced him to raise the wages of servers who were making the minimum wage but received substantial extra income in tips, leaving little room to also give raises to back-of-house staff, who were making about $19 to $21. He said he eliminated three jobs, including a baker and a barista, and cut a third of the restaurant's hours, but the business is "barely surviving."

Schild called minimum wage hikes a "misguided" decision that makes little dent in the cost of living. A wage of $18 or $19 hardly makes rent affordable in West Hollywood anyway, he said.

"I don't think the minimum wage is supposed to make sure everyone can afford rent in their area," he said. "This is not supposed to support a family ... We ought to have an environment where people can gain skills."

The restaurant industry, still recovering from pandemic-induced losses and food price inflation, is likely to make up the bulk of the pushback to the measure. Many were already shaken up by the $20 minimum wage for fast food workers that started in April.

It may be too soon to tell the actual effects of the fast food increase, though proponents and opponents have both touted monthly jobs figures at convenient times. The latest seasonally adjusted federal employment numbers — recommended by experts because the restaurant workforce typically peaks in the summer and shrinks in the winter — show California fast food jobs have dipped since a high point in January, but remain close to last summer's levels. Overall, the industry has about 20,000 more jobs than before the pandemic.

Still, stories of job cuts have spread, and some workers report having hours cut after receiving the raises. Some chains have hiked prices, too.

Erik Freeman, CEO of the Sacramento-based 40-restaurant chain Jimboy's Tacos, said he's worried restaurants are reaching a tipping point where increasing labor costs will force them to raise prices to a level consumers can't afford.

Most of the chain's nearly 500 workers make $16 to $20, Freeman said. Because of its relatively smaller number of stores, Jimboy's was not subject to the fast food wage hike. But the restaurants still saw decreased sales, and Freeman suspects it's because price hikes at other chains changed consumers' habits. He estimated in his restaurants, there's a 3% decrease in sales for every 5% increase in prices, which he said may have to happen if wages are raised.

"Any price increase that we do at this point, we're concerned about pricing ourselves out of the market," he said. "There's never been a time that (restaurant owners are) as worried about it as they are now."

Other business owners say they're more or less prepared for a rising minimum wage.

"It has been on this path for the last several years," said Katya Christian, co-owner of her family's cabin-leasing resort in the Sierra Nevada. "We try to anticipate it."

The seasonal business hires a handful of college students during the summers to maintain the property and accommodate guests. Christian pays most of them the minimum wage, and this year raised the cabin's rates to make up for the past few years of wage hikes.

She said she'll likely vote for the ballot measure, acknowledging if it passes her business is more able to absorb such increases because her customers can typically afford higher prices. Then, perhaps a year after a new wage kicks in, she said, she would likely raise the cabins' rates.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

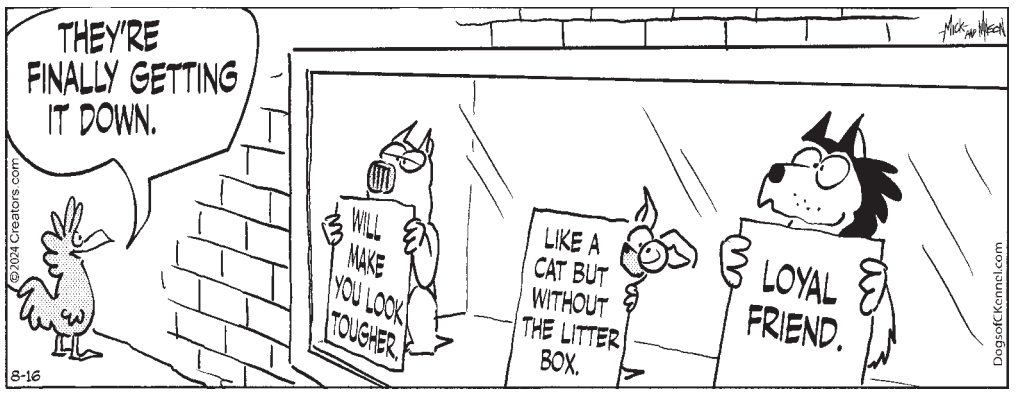
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6304

Cellar door samples

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

Ales
Basic
Beer
Booze
Bottle
Brut
Cake
Casks
Club
Crop
Fermentation
Fizz
Flavour
Friends
Fruit
Games
Grape
Hock
Jatz
Kegs
Kids
Lees
Mull
Negus
Oak barrels
Orange
Pleasant
Rage
Reds
Rich
Rose
Ruby
Sauterne
Screwcap
Seppelt
Seve
Sherry
Singing
Steaks
Still
Sulphur dioxide
Sweet
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Tokay
Treat
Urns
Vino
Woody

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 16)

Your cosmic gift is a fiery inner drive and a clear purpose: to give your loved ones, community and society at-large something utterly unique. The light of your heart will illuminate a path that seems plotted just for you. More highlights: Your work will find its audience. Your friendship will find ardent fans. Your love will find a soft place to land and much good will grow from it. More highlights: Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 33, 14 and 6.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You feel lucky to enjoy hobbies that are inexpensive and readily available, like reading or walking. Contentedness is like a ticket to relaxation, giving you the option to bow out of the constant chase for more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A polite smile here, a nod there -- all part of the social dance, which often involves a mask. You'll consciously decide what you'd like to show and what you'd like to keep hidden and you've every right to be as private as you wish.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Every skill you acquire gives you a new way to get to your goal. You're in the process of adding another arrow to your quiver. Keep sharpening this one until it's your favorite. You'll eventually sail it right to the bull's-eye of your goals.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your likes, dislikes, flaws and idiosyncrasies are precisely what make you unique and attractive. The right group for you is one you can fit into without having to subvert your superpowers, i.e., your talents, flaws and preferences.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You declare your intention and then follow through, even when doing so is much more difficult than projected. This simple tenet of your character will be the source of your greatest pride, joy and victory.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a need to impress someone, and you may even employ a facade, which would make you either human with normal human instincts, or perhaps a diplomat of advanced skill. Either way, it's all part of the social dance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As much as you'd like to bond through shared leisure, with so much on your plate, it would take a week to decompress. Until that happens there's no bonding like the bonding that happens when you work hard together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't be too quick to change your offering based on the feedback. This is like a movie. Sometimes there's a bonus bit after or during the credit roll. You'll never know if you bail too early. Sit with the information a while. Let things settle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What you do in the name of love and duty often goes unacknowledged upon completion. However, someday, when your loved ones look back at how you cared for them, they'll note the activities you executed so selflessly today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're wise to depart from the crowd and seek tranquility. Good fortune bubbles out of humble, quiet scenes. Your energy will be restored in stillness and solitude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though you're not entirely surprised by a realization springing from your subconscious, you might be surprised at how much easier it is to solve problems once the truth has set you free.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A relationship doesn't fit the mold, and that's a good thing. A quirky connection will serve the needs of both parties and have other good effects as the positivity spills into other areas of life.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

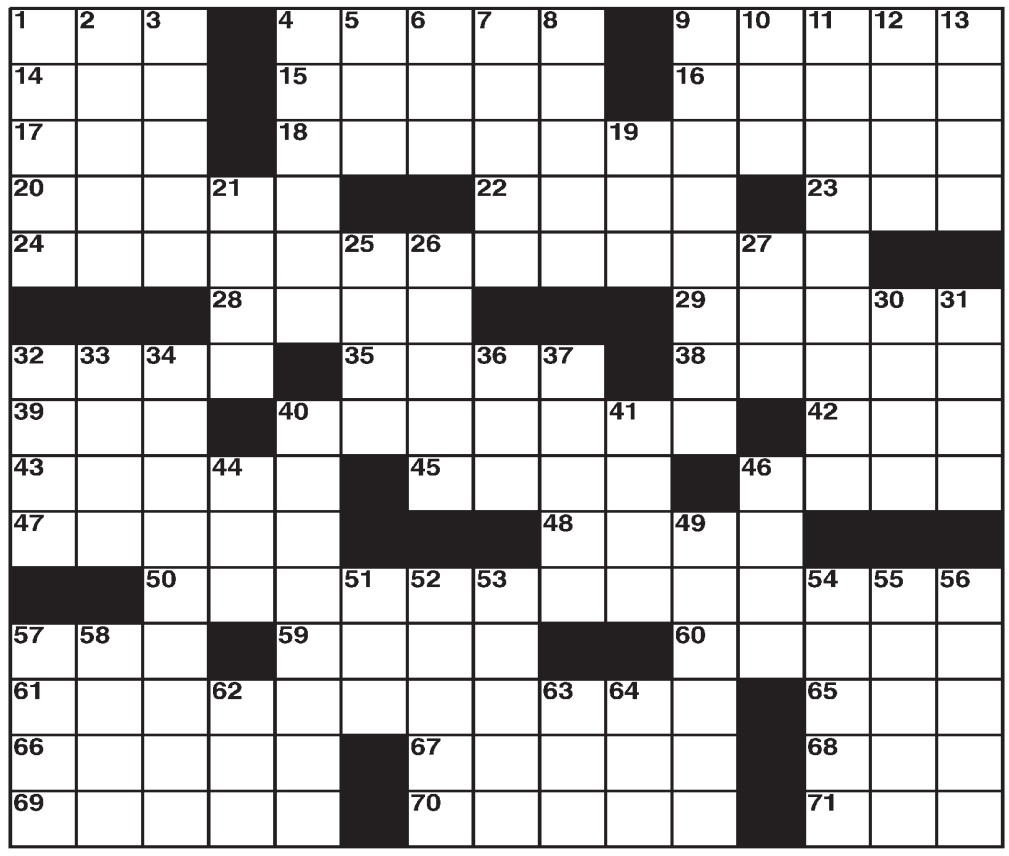
BAT MAN'S BANES by Winston Emmons
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Hare hair
4 Packs (down)
9 Advil alternative
14 Luau tuna
15 Big name in chips
16 Restaurant, or its patron
17 Type of trophy
18 Interested party
20 Special pleasure
22 Telltale sign
23 DJ's assortment
24 Phrase on Southern plates
28 Casino match game
29 Hem in
32 What srs. sit for
35 Mountain goat's perch
38 Roundup gear
39 "Need __ on?"
40 The bat man in question
42 BP checker
43 Mumbai money
45 Tuscan river
46 Seasonal song finale
47 Studio stand
48 Ornamental band
50 Conflicting objectives
57 Minimally plural
59 "Later!"
60 Crisp snack
61 Crisp order with orecchiette
65 Pass easily
66 Clinch a deal
67 Don't take
68 Cell phone's __ card
69 Third tennis point
70 These: Sp.
71 BP checkers

DOWN

1 They're all true
2 Freedom, in Swahili
3 Mature
4 "__ season to be jolly..."
5 Grasshopper's fable associate
6 Many cities' commuter train org.
7 See 19-Down
8 Rides without wheels
9 "So cute!"
10 Rapper's short nickname
11 Always
12 Subordinate exec
13 Goes awry
19 With 7- and 27-Down, brewed beverage
21 Calls upon
25 Ancient South American
26 Designer Kamali
27 See 19-Down
30 *NFL Live* airer
31 Tuning fork production
32 Lordly address
33 *Isla* surrounder
34 Annual NHL trophy winner
36 National Humor Mo.
37 Informercial knife name
40 NASA measure
41 React with laughter or anger
44 Poetic 11-Down
46 Compare wares
49 Small ground breakers
51 Disclaimer in brackets
52 Mink cousin
53 Sponge features
54 Hiccup, for instance
55 Castilian hero
56 Is apparently
57 Weekly declaration
58 It's south of Fort Worth
62 Fiction study, for short
63 Refuel oneself
64 Director DuVernay



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

RUGBY

FROM PAGE 1

National Athletic Village (NAV) from North Carolina and two-time defending national champions that actually ended up winning the weekend for a third consecutive Championship.

As Johnson explains, unlike most teams in the tournament, NAV is not a "club team." They are a summer academy based out of North Carolina where they bring in select players from all over the country every summer. "There are only three Charlotte guys on the whole team and they only play sevens, not the more traditional 15-aside game," Johnson said.

Santa Monica started off well, scoring first and putting NAV on the defensive. However, then SMRC got a yellow card (a two-minute suspension for that player) for a penalty that often raises eyebrows, even in 15s, when a player attempts an interception, but has little chance of catching the ball and it's determined to be a "slap down." NAV ran in two scores while SMRC were short-handed to make the score look worse than it might have been otherwise, 10-29.

The second group game against Austin was within Santa Monica's grasp, but discipline let SMRC down and with penalty kicks, the Texas-based team edged ahead 17-19.

The third and final pool game was against Detroit. Interestingly, Detroit beat Austin, and NAV had beaten Detroit by the same margin as Santa Monica, so SMRC were still in contention to advance to the quarterfinals, if SMRC could win by 7.

Unfortunately, the game did not go well and the final score was 10-35, which eliminated Santa Monica from any chance of advancing to the next round. A couple of missed-tackles that led to tries resulted in the boys from SMRC feeling discouraged and they spent the rest of the game trying to catch up. Detroit ended up finishing fifth overall in the tournament.

As a result of losing their pool, Santa Monica had to play one more game against Washington Athletic Club (WAC) from Seattle. Frankly, this was another game that Santa Monica should've dominated, but a poor performance at the breakdown allowed WAC to edge ahead. However, by half-time SMRC had clawed their way back to within two points. Visibly energized, SMRC pulled ahead and took the lead, before giving away a try in the very last minute, giving the game to WAC 17-21.

Sunday was about playing the bottom four teams to determine the outcome of what's called the Shield Division. First up was a familiar west coast foe, the Olympic Club from the Bay Area. They too had endured a rough Saturday, so it was a very even match up. However, the boys from Santa Monica put together a solid performance, winning 26-12, despite losing a couple of players to injury.

The Shield final was played against Life College from Atlanta. "For those who don't know American rugby, Life Chiropractic College in Marietta Georgia has been a powerhouse for decades," Johnson said, adding "They're one of the few places that give full scholarships for rugby … so it was surprising to have Life be the team we were playing for 13th place."

The game started well for Santa Monica, but they couldn't successfully adapt to the style of game Life was forcing them to play. With a chance to tie it at the end, Santa Monica fell short and lost 7-14 to finish 14th in the tournament.

"Overall, I'd say we had the youngest team at the tournament, with only three guys having been to a nationals 7s tournament before and as a 16th seed – out of 16 – to finish above our initial placing, with some solid performances against name-brand teams, it was still an extremely positive outing and something to build on for next year," Johnson said.

Saturday
Game #1
SMRC 10 - 29 NAV
Game #2
SMRC 17 - 19 Austin
Game #3
SMRC 10 - 35 Detroit
Game #4 Bowl/Shield Quarter
SMRC 17 - 21
Sunday
Game #5
SMRC 26 - 12 Olympic Club
Game #6
SMRC 7 - 14 Life

scott.snowden@smdp.com

HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 6

Clearing encampments, as Newsom and state workers did last week at a state-owned site, is the easiest aspect of the crisis. But what happens to residents when their camps are cleared?

"We gotta be somewhere," Tré Watson, who lives in a tent in Santa Cruz, told CalMatters. Watson said he and others are running out of options. "We can't hover. We come here, they run us away. We go to any park and they run us away. We go to the Pogonip (nature preserve), and they bring bulldozers."

A situation in Sacramento, just a few minutes from the Capitol, illustrates that difficulty.

For the past two years, about 50 people have lived in city-issued trailers parked in a vacant lot dubbed Camp Resolution. However the lease on the property expired this month and the city wants to close the camp, labeling it "a failed experiment" with unsanitary conditions.

Lawyers representing the residents are trying to block closure, but a judge refused to intervene. City officials say camp residents have rebuffed efforts to be moved to other sites or into housing.

It's virtually certain that encampments of some kind will still be very visible when Newsom's governorship ends 29 months hence. Will they continue to be part of his legacy, or by then will he have shifted the onus onto others?

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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