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Thanksgiving Grant
To support donated meals.
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Voting not to settle.
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Homeless count to return, community volunteers needed

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

After a one year hiatus due to the pandemic, Santa Monica's annual homeless count will take place again on Jan. 26 and provide invaluable information to help guide the City's homelessness response.

As Santa Monica community members set out at midnight with clipboards in hand, thousands of Angelenos will be doing the same to create a tally of individuals experiencing homelessness across the County.

The count is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and regionally overseen by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

At a local level this data is used to understand the number of unhoused individuals in the city, the type of shelter they are utilizing (car, tent, open air) and where they are located. This in turn drives the distribution of resources and signals to the city if more outreach needs to be deployed to certain areas.

"When we saw a large increase on the beach, for example, we really spent the year (2019) working with our nonprofit partners that do outreach and with our Santa Monica Police Department homeless liaison team to coordinate outreach and engagement in that area, which reduced the number of people experiencing homelessness on the beach in the next year (2020)," said Maggie Willis, Human Services Administrator, Community Services.

The upcoming count is especially important given the dearth of 2021 data and general trends of increasing homelessness seen across Los Angeles during the pandemic.

The 2022 count will also look a little different.

Keeping Covid-19 precautions in mind the training will be done virtually by video. On the night of the count materials will be distributed in a drive-up format.

Typically teams of three to four travel by car to their designated count location, so this year people are strongly encouraged to form their teams in advance to ensure they are comfortable sharing a car together. Individual volunteers are still welcome to participate, but will be assigned team members and asked to drive separately.



Courtesy photo

COUNT: The count was suspended this year due to Covid concerns but will resume in 2022.

"We know people are tired and we know it's the middle of the night and we noticed there's a lot of nervousness about what the winter might bring in terms of another surge or not," said Willis. "We just want to assure people that we're going to take all the steps we can

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 4

LA mayor, recovered from COVID, warns of winter virus surge

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

Mayor Eric Garcetti, who just returned from quarantine overseas after developing COVID-19 in Scotland, warned Wednesday that a coronavirus surge was likely during the upcoming holiday season and urged residents to get vaccinated to keep case numbers and hospitalizations down.

"The answer to who should get the vaccine is simple: everyone," Garcetti said. "If you have family members who are coming for Thanksgiving or Christmas or the holidays, get them vaccinated."

Garcetti noted that vaccination protection diminishes over time and used himself as an example of a breakthrough infection. The mayor said he had put off getting a booster shot and came down with COVID-19 while attending a United Nations climate conference in the United Kingdom.

He had a mild fever for a day, flu-like symptoms and lost his taste and smell for a few days "but then was fully recovered, probably thanks to the vaccine that I got earlier this year," Garcetti said.

"The United Kingdom is experiencing a surge. They've often been ahead of our surges, and we can expect this to hit us here in the coming weeks and months," he said during an evening briefing.

Los Angeles County case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths are much better than during a surge in July, the last time Garcetti gave a COVID-19 briefing. But he warned that colder

SEE **COVID** PAGE 4

Shots fired after robbery leads to car chase

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) is searching for a pair of suspects who opened fire on a victim after a robbery.

According to SMPD, the incident occurred on Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. on the 2600 block of 34th Street.

The victim was parked when a black sedan stopped in front of him. The suspect exited the passenger side of his vehicle, pulled out a handgun and demanded the victim's cellphone and wallet.

The suspect returned to his vehicle and fled but the victim followed behind the suspects.

"While traveling eastbound on Pico Blvd the suspect leaned out the passenger side window and fired multiple rounds at the victim," said Lt. Rudy Flores. "The victim continued to follow until the suspects were last seen driving eastbound on the I-10 freeway on-ramp at Centinela Ave."

Lt. Flores said the department does not recommend following suspects in the event of a crime.

"It is important that we remind our community that we do not encourage anyone to endanger

SEE **CHASE** PAGE 3


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City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361**

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021 AT 6:30 PM

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), only members of the City Council and City Staff will participate in person at City Hall. Members of the public may participate via telephone. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal at https://www.youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica or https://www.smgov.net/video. Members of the public may also dial in at 1-800-520-9950 (PIN: 1244893#).

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following requests:

1515 Ocean Avenue/1530 2nd Street, Text Amendment and Appeal of Conditional Use Permits (21ENT-0116, 21ENT-0163, 21ENT-0167, and 19ENT-0397). Appeals of the Planning Commission's partial approval of a Conditional Use Permit request by Shore Hotel for amendments to its existing Conditional Use Permit (05CUP-009) to establish a "Micro-Hotel" and to expand hotel amenities to include an ancillary café with patio seating and alcohol service, an ancillary restaurant with a bar and patio, and ancillary personal service (massage) onsite.

The City Council will also consider a Text Amendment amending Section 9.10.060 of the Downtown Community Plan to exempt Hotel uses that are established within an existing building from the minimum ground floor height requirement. On July 7, 2021, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council approve the proposed Text Amendment. **APPLICANT & PROPERTY OWNER:** Sunshine Enterprises LP/Jon & Siroos Farzam LLC **APPELLANTS**: Sunshine Enterprises LP/Jon Farzam & Ellis Raskin, Planning Commissioner.

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Written public comment can be submitted via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov. Written public comment submitted before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.
If you want to speak on a particular agenda item, please call (310) 312-8173 once the caller queue for the agenda item opens. Please note that the caller queue for each agenda item will not open until just before the item is called and will close after the first five public comments (from other callers) are heard.

Please see the December 7, 2021 City Council Agenda for more detailed instructions. Address your comments to: **City Clerk Re: 21ENT-0116 (Text Amendment), 21ENT-0163, 21ENT-0167 (Appeals), 19ENT-0397 (Conditional Use Permit)**

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Scott Albright, Senior Planner at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at scott.albright@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica College Foundation Receives Surprise $10,000 Grant from Gelson's Markets on NBC's TODAY Show

On Thursday, November 18, Lizzy Moore, the president of the Santa Monica College Foundation and Santa Monica College's dean of institutional advancement, received the surprise of a lifetime when, while appearing on NBC's TODAY show, Gelson's Markets gave the foundation a $10,000 grant in the form of gift cards for deserving Santa Monica College (SMC) students. Santa Monica College Foundation works to eliminate barriers to ensure the academic success of SMC students, including through its Meal Project that works to reduce the escalating rates of food insecurity, now being exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic and high food costs.

An essential program of the Meal Project is the annual GIVING THANKS(giving) Holiday Grocery Drive-Thru Giveaway, now in its second year. On Tuesday, November 23, 2021, the foundation together with its legion of supporters and volunteers will provide fresh, holiday groceries to 1,500 food insecure students.

"I am truly humbled by this experience and am so grateful to the TODAY show for shining a spotlight on the startling rates of food insecurity among college students everywhere," said Lizzy Moore, president of the Santa Monica College Foundation and Santa Monica College's dean of institutional advancement "And we are so thankful for the generous $10,000 donation by Gelson's markets. Those monies will benefit so many students here at Santa Monica College."

The day-long, drive-up, contactless outdoor event will take place, rain or shine, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the main campus located at 1900 Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica. Each student will receive their choice of a turkey or vegetarian protein, fresh organic vegetables including green beans, potatoes, carrots, onions, plus dinner rolls, a pumpkin pie, and recipes and online tutorials to help prepare the meals at their homes. The only eligibility requirement is current enrollment.

Event sponsors this year include SMC's Associated Students, KCRW 89.9FM, Santa Monica College Foundation, Santa Monica College, and We Are Santa Monica. Partners include Everytable, Jacmar Foodservice Distribution, Not Impossible Labs, Suja Juice, The Coffee Spot, Vicente Foods, Violet Organic Foods, Vintage Grocers Malibu, Westside Food Bank, and Whole Foods Markets. Donations can be still be made online at: https://santamonicacollegefoundation.org/thanksgiving.php, or interested individuals, companies and organizations can contact Cheryl Ward at (310) 434-4293 or ward_cheryl@smc.edu.

"At Santa Monica College, an estimated 59% of students are experiencing food insecurity this year, and that rate is expected to increase as the pandemic continues and food costs rise at an alarming rate," said Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery, Superintendent/President, Santa Monica College. "The annual GIVING THANKS(giving) event is part of a comprehensive food security program portfolio intentionally designed to address the basic needs of all SMC students. Coordinating with the Santa Monica College Foundation, the college strives to remove barriers and provide clear access to basic needs security, such as stable, safe housing and healthy food."

"In 2021, nearly three out of five college students across the country lacked access to food, housing and transportation," said Margaret Sohagi, Santa Monica College Foundation Board Chair. "We are so grateful for our supporters – generous individuals, businesses, and California's elected officials – who continue to prioritize these basic needs of our students. Students should not have to choose between food and an education, which can translate into degrees and careers that can change their lives forever."

New to the event this year, Santa Monica College's Office of Sustainability and Associated Student government will provide free, one-way Lyft ride vouchers to students, who do not have personal transportation. For students, who may not have the means to prepare a meal or are homeless, Santa Monica College Foundation will extend the event with a holiday hot meal distribution on Wednesday, November 24.

GRACE SMITH, PIO, SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Citywide

SMC Screens Free Performance of The Tale of A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Department presents a free video of its performance of The Tale of A Midsummer Night's Dream November 30 through February 13.

A YouTube link to the new production is available for viewing starting November 30 at smc.edu/theatreperformances. The video is free to view at any time of day until midnight February 13, 2022.

The Tale of A Midsummer Night's Dream – adapted and abridged by Dr. Adrianne Harrop from the amusing play by William Shakespeare first performed in 1596 – is the story of four lovers who find themselves banished by fairies. The comedy is a sly and raucous reckoning with love, jealousy, and marriage. Dr. Harrop directed the SMC production.

More information is available at smc.edu/theatreperformances or by calling 310-434-4319.

GRACE SMITH, PIO, SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

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

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 281 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 17

Battery Just Occurred 800Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:32 a.m.
Attempt Burglary Just Occurred 2800Blk Neilson Way 12:35 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:07 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2000Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:08 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2700Blk Neilson Way 5:24 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 300Blk Pico Blvd 5:49 a.m.
Encampment 1200Blk Palisades Park 6:14 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200Blk Stanford St 7:11 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 2700Blk Virginia Ave 7:24 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 2700Blk Arizona Ave 7:52 a.m.
Encampment 1000Blk 4th St 8:06 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved Euclid St / Wilshire Blvd 8:10 a.m.
Lost Property 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 8:14 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 700Blk Idaho Ave 8:20 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 300Blk Bay St 8:47 a.m.
Lost Property 1400Blk 4th St 8:48 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1800Blk 20th St 8:49 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 800Blk 3rd St 8:57 a.m.
Identity Theft 800Blk 6th St 8:57 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 200Blk 25th St 9:20 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 400Blk 4th St 9:23 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200Blk 18th St 9:37 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 1600Blk 18th St 9:44 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2200Blk 26th St 9:52 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2500Blk Ocean Front Walk 9:55 a.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 10:08 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1000Blk 14th St 10:15 a.m.
Found Property 1200Blk 10th St 10:21 a.m.
Encampment 500Blk Bay St 10:52 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 14th St / Oak St 10:54 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 2500Blk Ocean Front Walk 10:58 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500Blk 20th St 11:04 a.m.
Rape Report 1300Blk 2nd St 11:52 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2700Blk Main St 12:03 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 2200Blk Virginia Ave 12:09 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2500Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:45 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 26th St / Colorado Ave 12:49 p.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 1:00 p.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 1:02 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Now 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:21 p.m.
Stalking Report 800Blk Broadway 1:22 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 900Blk 6th St 1:23 p.m.
Fight 1400Blk 4th St 1:27 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:55 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 700Blk Copeland Ct 1:56 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 7th St / Pico Blvd 1:57 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1500Blk Palisades Park 1:58 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2300Blk 26th St 1:59 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 800Blk 19th St 2:00 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 900Blk Princeton St 2:03 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 800Blk 19th St 2:12 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1800Blk Colorado Ave 2:18 p.m.
Fight 600Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:29 p.m.
Burglary Report 1100Blk 9th St 2:32 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1700Blk Olympic Blvd 2:39 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000Blk 5th St 2:49 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Ocean Ave 2:50 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200Blk 14th St 3:09 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1000Blk 25th St 3:27 p.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Ocean Ave 3:32 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 3300Blk Delaware Ave 3:39 p.m.
Encampment 800Blk 2nd St 3:41 p.m.
Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 1800Blk Washington Ave 3:47 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 1100Blk Yale St 3:55 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 400Blk Colorado Ave 4:07 p.m.
Fraud Report 1400Blk Franklin St 4:11 p.m.
Burglary Report 2000Blk Main St 4:22 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1000Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:45 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Stewart St / Virginia Ave 4:57 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2200Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:02 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2200Blk 5th St 5:06 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2200Blk 5th St 5:06 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2400Blk Main St 5:38 p.m.
Fight 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:39 p.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Montana Ave 6:45 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1300Blk 18th St 6:49 p.m.
Person Down 1700Blk 4th St 7:22 p.m.
Party Complaint 2600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:43 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 14th St / Olympic Blvd 7:46 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:55 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1100Blk 16th St 7:57 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 15th St / Olympic Blvd 8:01 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400Blk Ocean Ave 8:05 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:12 p.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Montana Ave 8:14 p.m.
Identity Theft 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:14 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 8:31 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 9:07 p.m.
Loud Music 1400Blk Ocean Ave 9:22 p.m.

SEE **POLICE LOG** PAGE 4

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 27 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 17

EMS 2000Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:09 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Wilshire Blvd 12:37 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 12th St 6:07 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 9:40 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 17th St 9:58 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600Blk Stanford St 10:34 a.m.
EMS 600Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:13 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 17th St 11:59 a.m.
EMS 2200Blk Pico Blvd 12:22 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 26th St / Colorado Ave 12:49 p.m.
EMS 3200Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:02 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk Euclid St 1:25 p.m.
EMS 600Blk Idaho Ave 3:16 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600Blk Pico Blvd 3:18 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Ocean Ave 4:34 p.m.
EMS 1600Blk Oak St 5:20 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 6th St 5:38 p.m.
EMS 600Blk Bay St 5:55 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 5th St 6:02 p.m.
Flooded Condition 3200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:08 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Exposition Blvd 6:28 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:38 p.m.
EMS 1800Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:46 p.m.
EMS 1700Blk 4th St 7:22 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 8:48 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk 3rd St 9:00 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 10th St / Pico Blvd 10:20 p.m.

CHASE

FROM PAGE 1

themselves further by trying to follow or chase a suspect involved in a serious crime," he said. "We ask that they focus on being a good witness and try to obtain a detailed description of the vehicle and parties involved then immediately contacting the police for assistance."

The suspect vehicle is described as a black Nissan Versa (or similar) four door sedan with dark tinted windows, black and chrome wheels.

The suspect is a White or Hispanic man in his late twenties with straight shoulder-length brown hair, brown or grey eyes, wearing a hoodie and a black bandana that covered the lower half of his face.

Anyone with any information is strongly encouraged to contact Detective Tavera at 310-458-2256 or the Watch Commander at 310-458-8426.

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: #295 HANGING LARGE-SCALE PANELIZED ARTWORK IN STAIRWELL

- **Mandatory pre-proposal inspection is required. December 8, 2021 10:00am (alternative dates can be arranged for those who cannot make this date by emailing culture@santamonica,gov)**

- **Submission Deadline is January 18, 2022 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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

City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA INVITES SEALED PROPOSALS FOR

RFP: # 297 Organics Processing and Recycling Services

- **Submission Deadline is January 6, 2022 at 9:00 AM 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.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press **editor@smdp.com**

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

to make sure that we do this in a way that's safe and adheres to the best public health standards."

Santa Monica has been leading the way by running its own homeless count since 2009 and developed several strategies that have now been recognized and adopted by the County as best practices.

One of these is noting the geographic location of each individual or encampment or car sheltering an individual. This provides a helpful data point beyond just a total number as it allows local communities to better understand their unhoused communities and where to direct assistance.

Seeing the success of Santa Monica's locally run count, LAHSA now asks other cities to opt-in and do the same.

According to Willis, there are a number of benefits to locally run counts.

"Because it is their community going out and counting… that community has a much higher threshold of trust in what the numbers look like, and it has been a really positive change in the way that the County has done the count," said Willis.

This also allows communities to adapt the manner in which they conduct their count to the nuances of their local unhoused community.

For example, in Santa Monica there are many unhoused individuals who transit through the city during the day but do not necessarily live here at night. This is why the local count begins around midnight, a couple hours later than other counts, in order to more accurately capture homeless individuals living in Santa Monica.

The last key benefit is the manner in which it rallies the community around the shared problem of homelessness.

"When you spend time with your neighbors in your community to do this event to do this work, it carries through the year and helps people feel connected to the issue in a very tangible real way," said Willis. "I cannot understate how important it is that the community comes together."

Willis strongly encourages all residents to volunteer for the upcoming count and to visit www.santamonica.gov/santa-monica-homeless-count for more information and registration details.

Clara@smdp.com

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AWARD WINNER
AWARD WINNER
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WINNER

Letter to the Editor

Laurie Lieberman Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dear Editor,

Since the district's settlement of the pupil fees' lawsuit is in the press now (https://www.smdp.com/schools-settle-supplies-lawsuit/210525), I would like to state publicly that I voted against the settlement and briefly explain my "no" vote.

While I am trained as a lawyer, I'm not a litigator, and that is by choice. My first preference is always to work collaboratively to solve a problem; lawsuits are a last resort.

I have believed from the beginning that this lawsuit was filed in bad faith, deliberately ignoring and bypassing state law and our Board policy, which establish a complaint process for addressing unlawful school-related fee claims. The existing law is clearly intended to prevent this type of lawsuit unless absolutely necessary. Dr. Drati's press statement has properly emphasized this point.

Had the appropriate legal process been pursued, legitimate claims could have been addressed and paid out long ago, as they should have been. Instead, our district has been dragged down a completely unnecessary, lengthy and expensive path that was never about addressing the underlying issue or claims. That could have been achieved quickly and at little to no cost to families or the district. No one in this district wants to, or has ever, or will ever, condone charging unlawful pupil fees. That certainly includes me.

This lawsuit has unnecessarily led to spending money on legal fees instead of on the education of students. Reimbursement for any unlawfully charged fees could easily have been accomplished if that were truly the goal.

In reality, actions taken in this case have mocked justice under the guise of promoting it. To cite an example, one of the claims filed by the plaintiffs' attorney on behalf of claimants sought $550,000 for allegedly bringing a student to school via helicopter, private school tuition, private tutoring and other private counseling services.

Without describing every twist and turn of this lawsuit, suffice it to say that I followed my moral conscience and did not vote to support this settlement. I don't question the judgment of my colleagues who voted the way they did. I know they voted in good faith and for reasons articulated in the district's press release. But this case never should have been filed, never should have proceeded in this manner and could have been resolved in a much more productive, straightforward and fair manner, at far less expense to the district and the students we serve.

As a lawyer, I am painfully aware that our legal system contains many imperfections. Lawsuits are a last resort when genuinely trying to solve a problem. This case represents one of several that never should have been filed.

Sincerely,

Laurie Lieberman, Vice president, SMMUSD Board of Education

COVID

FROM PAGE 1

temperatures and more time spent indoors raises the risk of spreading the infection.

The city has ample vaccine supplies for residents and for visitors, he said.

Garcetti reported a high rate of compliance by customers required under new rules to show proof of vaccination at a wide variety of businesses in the city. The SafePass LA mandate to guard against renewed virus spread went into effect last week for restaurants, theaters, gyms and salons.

It was about this time of year in 2020 when the worst spike of the pandemic was just beginning in California. By January, the state averaged 500 deaths per day. Los Angeles County became the state's epicenter, with overloaded hospitals and more than 300 daily deaths.

Among LA county's roughly 10 million people, 81% of eligible residents now have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, health officials said this week.

Garcetti said a vaccine mandate for city employees was working, with workers "overwhelmingly" getting their shots. He said there are 77 city employees on unpaid leave under the mandate, and that number could hit around 700 over the next couple of weeks. The city will begin testing its employees starting Friday and plans are in place to cover shifts for police and firefighters who miss work.

At 98 cases per 100,000 residents, the county is on the verge of being downgraded out of the federal Center for Disease Control's "substantial" transmission category to "widespread."

"Getting vaccinated, getting boosters, and masking up indoors and in crowded outdoor spaces remains critical as we confront the real possibility of a winter surge," Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said in a statement Monday.

Associated Press writer Robert Jablon contributed to this report.

POLICE LOG

FROM PAGE 3

Lewd Activity 2700Blk Main St 9:31 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1800Blk Euclid St 9:43 p.m.
Public Intoxication 3rd St / Bicknell Ave 9:44 p.m.
Alcohol & Beverage Code Violation 1900Blk Main St 9:49 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1900Blk Main St 9:56 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Report Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 10:05 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 400Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:51 p.m.
Loud Music 1300Blk 2nd St 11:55 p.m.

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Scant fraud reported among U.S. rental assistance programs

ADAM BEAM AND MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

After watching scammers make off with more than $20 billion in fraudulent California unemployment benefits during the pandemic, state housing officials were wary of a repeat when the federal government poured money into the state and told them to use it to pay off people's unpaid rent.

But in the eight months since California's rental assistance program began, fraud has been virtually nonexistent. The Department of Housing and Community Development has identified 1,800 fraudulent rental assistance applications out of nearly 500,000 statewide — 0.0036% — and none was paid.

Geoff Ross, the agency's deputy director, said it was "mindful" of California's unemployment benefits debacle that has become the most expensive government fraud case in state history.

"All of those were detected pretty easily and early," Ross said of the fraudulent rental assistance applications. "We learned a lot from previous programs."

Congress approved trillions of dollars in aid during the pandemic — including more generous unemployment benefits and rental assistance — often leaving it up to state and local governments to get the money out the door.

For unemployment benefits, many states last year rushed to approve checks for millions of people who suddenly lost their jobs because of government shutdown orders. The frenzied approvals made it easy for criminals to file and collect on fraudulent claims in states large and small, even collecting benefits in the names of tens of thousands of state prison inmates.

Earlier this year, Congress approved $46.5 billion in rental assistance, and most states are distributing the first tranche of $25 billion. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, more than $10 billion has gone out through Sept. 30, and officials credit that with helping avert a wave of evictions.

It's been difficult to determine if scammers are targeting federal rental assistance money nationwide with the same gusto they had while going after expanded unemployment benefits. Many states, including Missouri, Texas, Louisiana and Rhode Island, won't say if they have had any fraud, claiming doing so would compromise their security.

The Treasury Department, which oversees compliance with federal spending programs, says it is monitoring various state programs for fraud but has nothing to report yet.

But among states that have disclosed information, there has been little fraud.

In Arizona, where a staggering 30% of unemployment benefits paid during the pandemic went to scammers, state officials have received nearly 8,300 rental assistance applications so far. A computer program they use to verify people's identities has stopped more than 9,900 people from filing potentially fraudulent applications. It's the same program many states adopted to stop fraud in their unemployment claims.

In New York, state officials say potentially fraudulent applications account for "less than a fraction of 1% of the total number of applications submitted," according to Anthony Farmer, director of public information for the New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

"While several instances of potential fraud have been referred to law enforcement for further investigation and action, and several other potential instances remain under review by OTDA and its vendor, there have been no final determinations of fraud made at this time," Farmer said in an email.

In Utah, only about 1% of applications have been fraudulent, "and an even smaller amount of those have been paid out," according to Christina Davis, communication director for the Utah Department of Workforce services.

Unemployment benefit systems are much larger and more complex than rental assistance programs. In California, state officials have processed more than 25 million unemployment claims and paid more than $178 billion in benefits. By comparison, California has received just over 507,000 rental assistance applications and paid out more than $1.1 billion.

Unemployment benefits also have strict eligibility rules that require people to document their employment status every two weeks and confirm they are still looking for work — requirements that were temporarily suspended early in the pandemic but have since been reinstated.

Most rental assistance programs, while requiring proof of a certain income to be eligible, only require people to check a box certifying they have been impacted by the pandemic — something the federal government has encouraged states to do.

The rollout of the federal program was plagued early on by a lack of clear guidelines and later by burdensome rules that some housing advocates argued put too much emphasis on preventing fraud. Treasury tweaked the guidance and encouraged states to allow tenants to self-report their income and risk of becoming homeless, among other things, rather than requiring them to provide piles of documents.

State housing officials also benefited because they had more time to prepare. While agencies that handle unemployment benefits were suddenly overwhelmed by millions of claims at the start of the pandemic, state housing officials had months to get ready before the money came to them and people could apply for it.

To root out fraud, California officials cross-checked applicants against death certificates and lists of prison inmates.

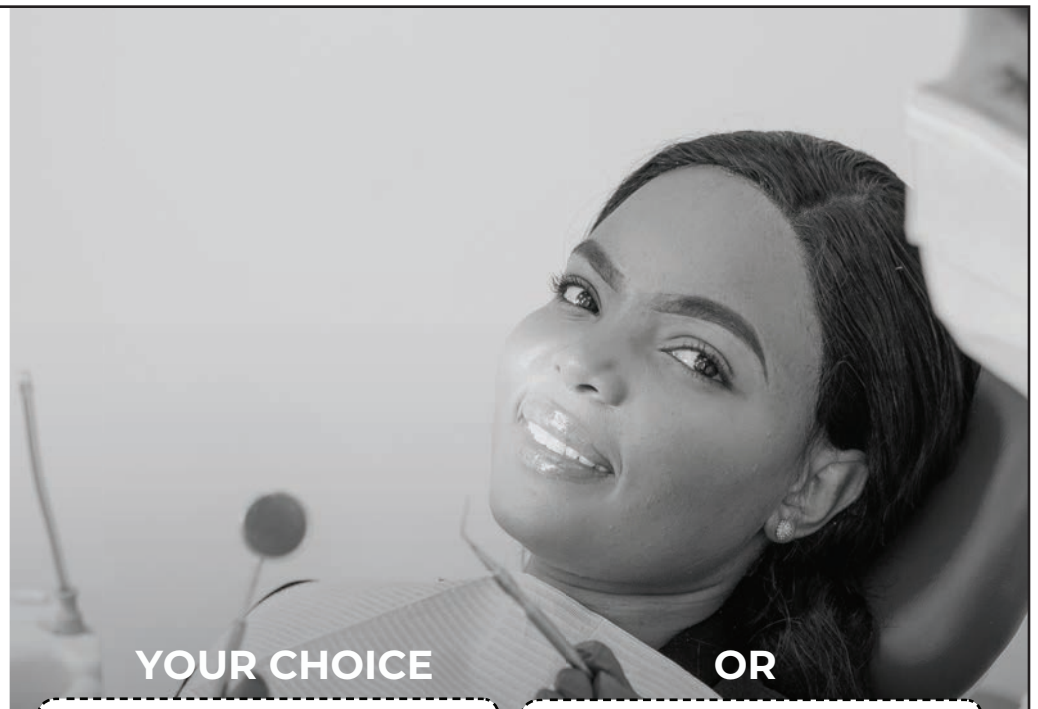
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• Zoom bleaching
• and more

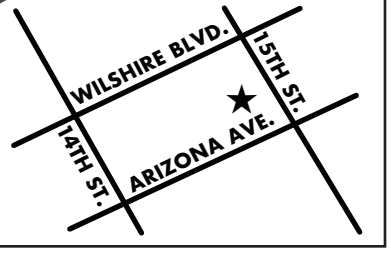


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Downtown Santa Monica
THIRD STREET PROMENADE

House moves toward OK of Dems' sweeping social, climate bill

ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

A divided House moved toward passage of Democrats' expansive social and environment bill on Thursday as new cost estimates from Congress' top fiscal analyst suggested that moderate lawmakers' worries about spending and deficits would be calmed, giving the bill the votes it needs for passage.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told lawmakers in a letter Thursday evening that the chamber would soon begin final debate on the sprawling legislation. That would put the House on the doorstep of finally approving the package, a top priority for President Joe Biden that would bolster child care assistance, create free preschool, curb seniors' prescription drug costs and beef up efforts to slow climate change.

"At the close of the debate, all that remains is to take up the vote — so that we can pass this legislation and achieve President Biden's vision to Build Back Better!" Pelosi wrote, using Biden's name for the measure.

An initial batch of key figures released by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office showed that its projections were aligning closely with earlier estimates from the White House. That included tax credits to spur clean energy development, a new required paid family leave program, bolstered child care assistance and caps on seniors' drug costs.

Two weeks after centrists' objections forced Democrats to delay the measure, the bill began moving amid optimistic signs from leaders and lawmakers that their divisions were all but resolved — for now. Facing uniform Republican opposition, Democrats can lose no more than three votes to prevail in the House.

The CBO was expected to estimate that the bill's overall cost would be modestly higher than the 10-year, $1.85 trillion price tag Democrats have been citing. It was also expected to project the measure would produce deficits of perhaps $200 billion over the coming decade.

Biden and other Democratic leaders have said the measure would pay for itself, largely through tax increases on the wealthy, big corporations and companies doing business abroad. Early signs were that CBO's numbers were unlikely to derail the legislation, which exceeds 2,100 pages.

"Each of these investments on its own will make an extraordinary impact on the lives of American families," said House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky., ticking off the bill's initiatives. Noting that savings would come from higher levies on the rich and corporations, he added, "It's a helluva deal."

Republicans said the legislation would damage an economy already racked by inflation, give tax breaks to some wealthy taxpayers and make government bigger and more intrusive. Missouri Rep. Jason Smith, the Budget Committee's top Republican, used alliteration from Biden's name for the measure — Build Back Better — to mock it.

"Bankrupts the economy. Benefits the wealthy. And it builds the Washington machine," Smith said.

The debate came with Democrats hoping to move toward delivering a badly needed victory for Biden. For months, the bill has been delayed by infighting between party moderates and progressives over the measure's cost and the policies it should include.

Biden this week signed a $1 trillion package of highway and other infrastructure projects, which he's spent recent days promoting around the country. But he's been battered recently by falling approval numbers in polls, reflecting voters' concerns over inflation, supply chain delays and the persistent coronavirus pandemic.

After months of talks, lawmakers appeared eager to wrap it up, shelving lingering differences to begin selling the package back home. House Democrats said they were planning 1,000 events across the country by year's end to pitch the measure's benefits to voters.

Democrats have struggled to explain the scope of the bill, with its health, child care and other provisions affecting millions of Americans. The internal battling has often overshadowed the actual bill, weighing down Democrats as they prepare for potentially difficult midterm elections next year.

House passage of the social and environment bill would send it to the 50-50 Senate, where Democrats have zero votes to spare. Significant changes there are likely due to cost-cutting demands by moderate Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va.

Senate talks could take weeks, and the prospect that Manchin or others will force additional cuts in the measure was making it easier for House moderates to back the legislation Thursday. The altered bill would have to return to the House before going to Biden's desk.

Even as lawmakers debated the legislation, Democrats were set to change it before the House votes to make sure it doesn't run afoul of Senate rules. Democrats are using special rules that would let the bill pass the Senate by a simple majority, not the usual 60 votes, but such legislation must follow certain budget constraints.

When moderates delayed House passage of the bill two weeks ago, they said they wanted to make sure the CBO's projections for its costs were similar to White House numbers, which showed the measure essentially paid for itself.

Some differences, however, were expected between the CBO and White House estimates.

A chief discrepancy was expected to be over a White House estimate that giving the IRS an additional $80 billion for stepped-up enforcement would yield $480 billion in new tax collections over a decade, a net gain of $400 billion. The CBO, using stricter estimating guidelines, was expected to envision half that amount in new revenue.

The House's addition of a paid family leave program was also expected to increase the legislation's cost. That program faces objections from Manchin and seems likely to be dropped by the Senate.

Some moderates have already said projections over IRS savings are always uncertain and would not cause them to oppose the measure. Others have said the measure's roughly $555 billion in tax credits and other costs to encourage cleaner energy need not be paid for in the bill because global warming is an existential crisis.

US overdose deaths topped 100,000 in one year, officials say

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

An estimated 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in one year, a never-before-seen milestone that health officials say is tied to the COVID-19 pandemic and a more dangerous drug supply.

Overdose deaths have been rising for more than two decades, accelerated in the past two years and, according to new data posted Wednesday, jumped nearly 30% in the latest year.

President Joe Biden called it "a tragic milestone" in a statement, as administration officials pressed Congress to devote billions of dollars more to address the problem.

"This is unacceptable and it requires an unprecedented response," said Dr. Rahul Gupta, director of National Drug Control Policy.

Experts believe the top drivers of overdose deaths are the growing prevalence of deadly fentanyl in the illicit drug supply and the COVID-19 pandemic, which left many drug users socially isolated and unable to get treatment or other support.

The number is "devastating," said Katherine Keyes, a Columbia University expert on drug abuse issues. "It's a magnitude of overdose death that we haven't seen in this country."

Drug overdoses now surpass deaths from car crashes, guns and even flu and pneumonia. The total is close to that for diabetes, the nation's No. 7 cause of death.

Drawing from the latest available death certificate data, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 100,300 Americans died of drug overdoses from May 2020 to April 2021. It's not an official count. It can take many months for death investigations involving drug fatalities to become final, so the agency made the estimate based on 98,000 reports it has received so far.

The CDC previously reported there were about 93,000 overdose deaths in 2020, the highest number recorded in a calendar year. Robert Anderson, the CDC's chief of mortality statistics, said the 2021 tally is likely to surpass 100,000.

"2021 is going to be terrible," agreed Dr. Daniel Ciccarone, a drug policy expert at the University of California, San Francisco.

The new data shows many of the deaths involve illicit fentanyl, a highly lethal opioid that five years ago surpassed heroin as the type of drug involved in the most overdose deaths. Dealers have mixed fentanyl with other drugs — one reason that deaths from methamphetamines and cocaine also are rising.

Drug cartels in Mexico are using chemicals from China to mass produce and distribute fentanyl and meth across America, said Anne Milgram, administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This year, the DEA has seized 12,000 pounds of fentanyl, a record amount, Milgram said. But public health experts and even police officials say that law enforcement measures will not stop the epidemic, and more needs to be done to dampen demand and prevent deaths.

The CDC has not yet calculated racial and ethnic breakdowns of the overdose victims.

It found the estimated death toll rose in all but four states — Delaware, New Hampshire, New Jersey and South Dakota — compared with the same period a year earlier. The states with largest increases were Vermont (70%), West Virginia (62%) and Kentucky (55%).

Minnesota saw an increase of about 39%, with estimated overdose deaths rising to 1,188 in May 2020 through April 2021 from 858 in the previous 12-month period.

The area around the city of Mankato has seen its count of overdose deaths rise from two in 2019, to six last year to 16 so far this year, said police Lt. Jeff Wersal, who leads a regional drug task force.

"I honestly don't see it getting better, not soon," he said.

Among the year's victims was Travis Gustavson, who died in February at the age of 21 in Mankato. His blood was found to show signs of fentanyl, heroin, marijuana and the sedative Xanax, Wersal said.

Gustavson was close to his mother, two brothers and the rest of his family, said his grandmother, Nancy Sack.

He was known for his easy smile, she said. "He could be crying when he was a little guy, but if someone smiled at him, he immediately stopped crying and smiled back," she recalled.

Gustavson first tried drugs as kid and had been to drug treatment as a teenager, Sack said. He struggled with anxiety and depression, but mainly used marijuana and different kinds of pills, she said.

The morning of the day he died, Travis had a tooth pulled, but he wasn't prescribed strong painkillers because of his drug history, Sack said. He told his mother he would just stay home and ride out the pain with ibuprofen. He was expecting a visit from his girlfriend that night to watch a movie, she said.

But Gustavson contacted Max Leo Miller, also 21, who provided him a bag containing heroin and fentanyl, according to police.

Some details of what happened are in dispute, but all accounts suggest Gustavson was new to heroin and fentanyl.

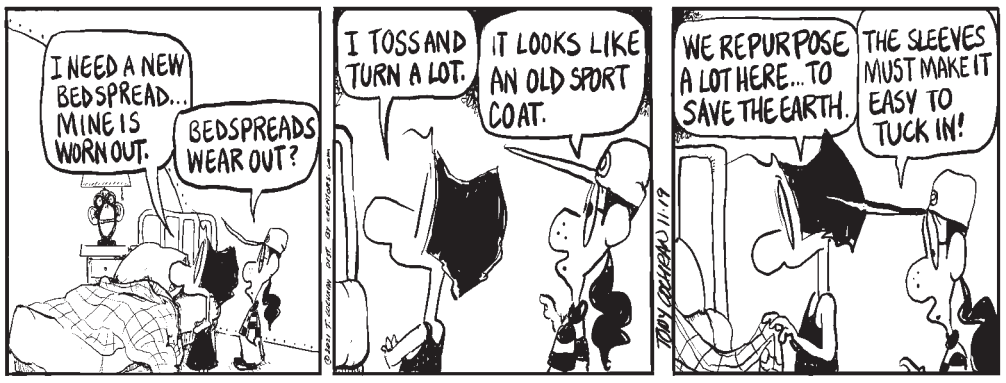
Police say Gustavson and Miller exchanged messages on social media. At one point, Gustavson sent a photo of a line of a white substance on a brown table and asked if he was taking the right amount and then wrote "Or bigger?"

According to a police report, Miller responded: "Smaller bro" and "Be careful plz!"



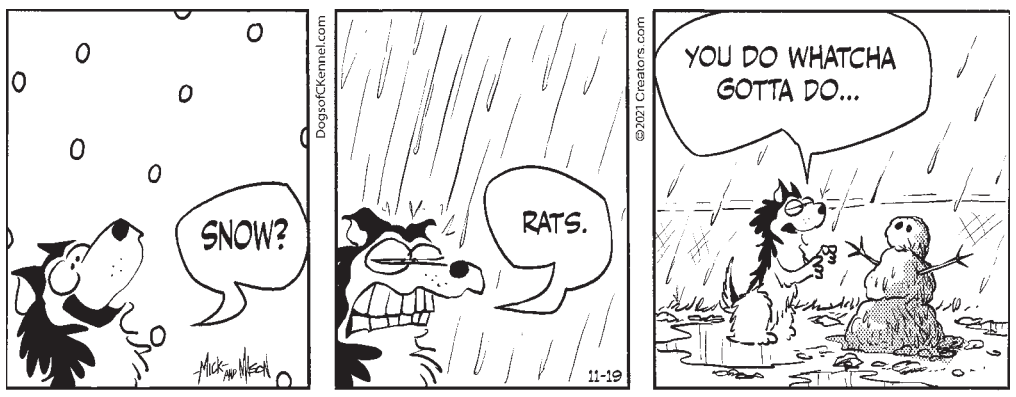
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



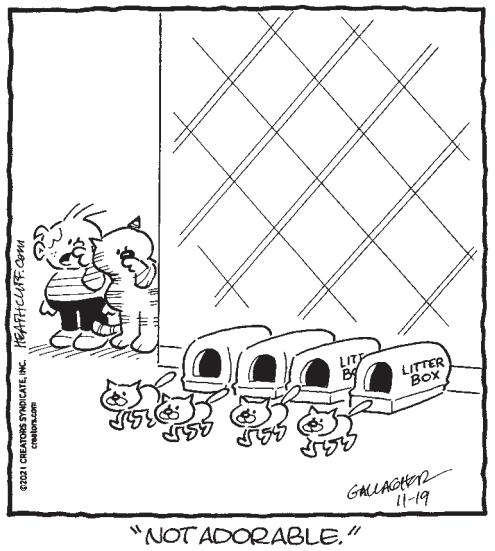
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



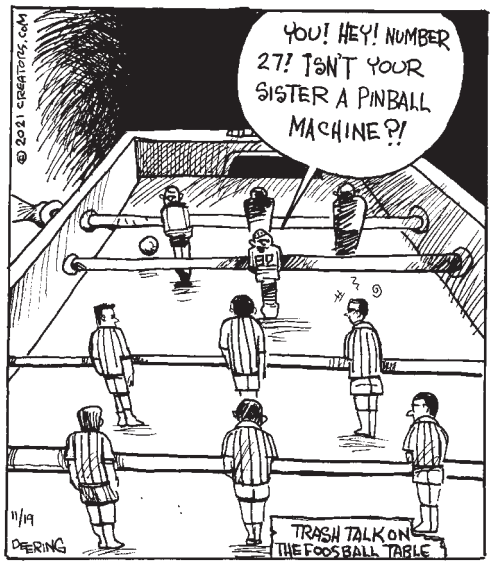
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.8°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Another day of relatively peaky surf in the cards -- SSW swell holds, NW swell mix is down but should still muster enough energy for some open corners. Wind looks light early.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
SSW swell starts to come down, blending with a touch more NW energy for peaky surf at combo spots. Deep high tide early/mid-AM that you'll need to plan around, but wind looks light as it drops.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 60.
Friday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 53.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 63.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/11/19	Fri	02:05 AM	1.97	L
2021/11/19	Fri	08:21 AM	5.95	H
2021/11/19	Fri	3:28 PM	-0.25	L
2021/11/19	Fri	9:51 PM	3.71	H
2021/11/20	Sat	02:28 AM	2.23	L
2021/11/20	Sat	08:45 AM	5.89	H
2021/11/20	Sat	4:03 PM	-0.25	L
2021/11/20	Sat	10:35 PM	3.53	H
2021/11/21	Sun	02:51 AM	2.48	L
2021/11/21	Sun	09:11 AM	5.76	H
2021/11/21	Sun	4:40 PM	-0.16	L
2021/11/21	Sun	11:26 PM	3.37	H
2021/11/22	Mon	03:15 AM	2.70	L
2021/11/22	Mon	09:39 AM	5.56	H
2021/11/22	Mon	5:22 PM	0.01	L
2021/11/23	Tue	12:29 AM	3.24	H
2021/11/23	Tue	03:40 AM	2.93	L
2021/11/23	Tue	10:12 AM	5.30	H
2021/11/23	Tue	6:09 PM	0.20	L
2021/11/24	Wed	01:55 AM	3.23	H
2021/11/24	Wed	04:07 AM	3.15	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 11/17
3 16 48 52 60
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 205 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/16
6 22 44 53 65
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 74 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 11/17
11 13 42 43 44
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 36 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/17
4 7 14 19 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/17
EVENING: 3 2 4
Draw Date: 11/17
MIDDAY: 4 2 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/17
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:46.79

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (NOVEMBER 19)

You'll dedicate yourself to learning and see destiny come full circle. You'll lift your own teachers then learn from your students. You will accomplish what those before you wanted to do but couldn't. You'll work hard, so to keep your energy strong it's important to schedule regular breaks and fun events you look forward to. Leo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 14, 3, 27 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're analytical and thorough, and yet you don't have to know why everything works the way it does to solve today's problem. You just need the remedy that allows you a productive day. You'll find it, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Grudges are too costly to keep alive. It takes a certain amount of strength to hold on to an unpleasant memory -- energy you could be using somewhere else.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You yawn when someone else yawns, wince when someone hits his finger and when someone ducks. Your sympathetic responses are automatic, but today you'll back them up with deliberate help.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll see the charm in things. Voice your praise and you'll find you're not the only one. The kindred souls are out there for you and once you connect, you'll be amazed at how much you agree upon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Manipulative behavior can be a playful game or a serious strategy, a reflex or a signal of bad intentions. Pay attention to the ways people try to motivate one another. Try to understand underlying motives.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Love can be wrapping your fingers around the thing and holding on tight. Love can also be letting the thing fall out of your open palms. But mostly love is matching your response to the other person's needs of the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People sometimes ask questions out of habit, then don't listen to the answers. It's a sign of a busy or nervous mind, but it's still rude. Genuine curiosity is a rare gift. You'll give it to loved ones and strangers, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You trust your intuition, so you'll act on it. Not everyone has to see your moves, though. What's called for is a strategy of subtlety, and you'll be outstanding in this regard.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Timing sends a message. Promptness is a show of respect. Delays are not always avoidable, but because you anticipate them you have the best chance at making a successful impression.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You work at relationships. Maybe there's no such thing as perfecting your act in this context, but you can certainly improve aspects of your style and take things to a masterful level. You're in it to be the best.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you have to convince yourself that you're right, you're probably not. Of course, there are gray areas to navigate, best done with someone you trust who's coming from a different point of view.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The way to a productive day is to pick your high priority and give it all to that. Otherwise, it's like you're on an elevator with all the buttons pushed, stopping at every floor and taking forever to get to the top.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

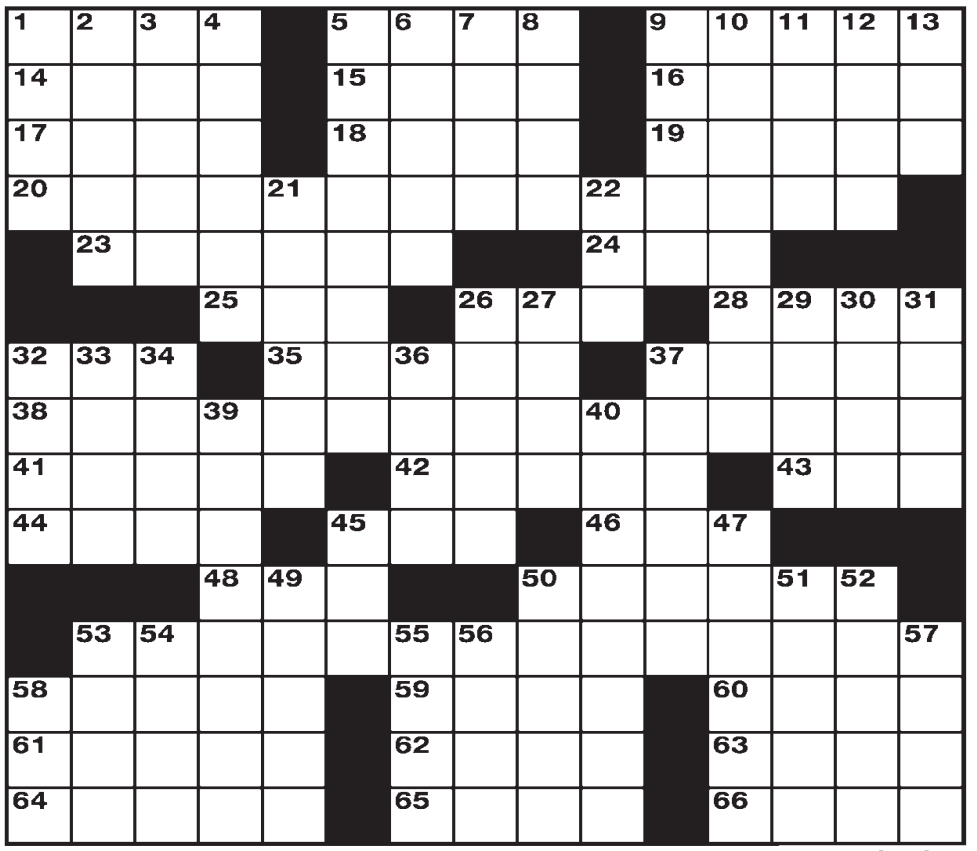
	8		7				5	
9	5				3		7	
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	4		5		1		6	
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6		5	4				9	
	3		8				1	4
	9				5		3	

Newsday Crossword

CATCH THE CROOKS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Lose energy
5 Belabor, with "on"
9 Dance around
14 Graceless
15 It's due north of Pittsburgh
16 '90s Israeli leader
17 Hearty affirmation
18 Told tales
19 Advil alternative
20 Northernmost Michigan
23 Pabst Brewing brand
24 Dragonfly prey
25 Downed
26 DVR button
28 Student's pad
32 Bed covers
35 Backstreet
37 Major Web portal
38 Extremely avid love of country
41 Histrionic
42 Stock analyst's discovery
43 WWII intelligence gatherer
44 Mil fraction
45 Prefix for thermal
46 Complication
48 Cruise ship facility
50 Snake-haired woman of myth
53 Green mousse dessert
58 Abdul of pop
59 Dirt cup ingredient
60 Ankara cash
61 __ sea (bewildered)
62 Can't keep up
63 Taiwanese tablet maker
64 Lawn interlopers
65 Apart from that
66 Whom to catch in the three longest answers

DOWN
1 Lady of the *haus*
2 Sugar shapes
3 Expert (in)
4 Groups of species
5 Melodramatic cry
6 It's a sign
7 French *nada*
8 Cure preceder
9 Completely clear
10 Worth
11 Genesis 4 arrival
12 Tempestuous talent
13 Compass reading
21 Able to turn
22 Where *Friends* was first found
26 Cool again
27 Brit lit governess
29 It's due south of 15 Across
30 *Friends* fellow
31 Some suburban chauffeurs
32 "Over here!"
33 Coffee sack material
34 Reach over
36 Delinquent, as debt
37 Bro's greeting
39 Sandwich spread
40 Resting
45 Empty talk
47 Coffee sack material
49 HS exams
50 Digital video files
51 Zing
52 Any radio station
53 Flag flapper
54 Dominion
55 Metaphor for debt
56 Said aloud
57 Wild West icon
58 Boxer's offering



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | NOV 19

WINTERLIT HOLIDAY LIGHTS: TREE LIGHTING
Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) brings the holidays to the Third Street Promenade with the return of Winterlit, transforming the downtown district into an immersive, festive experience. Tens of thousands of colorful lights, decor and garland will deck the Third Street Promenade, 2nd and 4th Streets, illuminating convenient shopping and cozy outdoor dining experiences. Santa comes to the Promenade on Friday, November 19 at 6 p.m. for the annual lighting of the official City of Santa Monica 24-foot-tall holiday tree.

DEBBIE ALLEN'S HOT CHOCOLATE NUTCRACKER GALA
Emmy Award winner and Kennedy Center Honoree Debbie Allen and the Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA) in association with The Annenberg Foundation presents its award-winning family spectacular "Hot Chocolate Nutcracker" on Friday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Drive-Up Santa Monica Airport. Keeping in the spirit of giving, 100 percent of the show's proceeds will benefit arts education for youth in the greater Los Angeles area. Gala tickets start at $500. For more information or to purchase tickets visit http://thehotchocolatenutcracker.com/ or call (310) 202-1711.

LITTLE WOMEN, THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, Little Women follows the adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March who live in New England during the Civil War with their beloved Marmee. Jo is trying to sell her stories to publishers but they are not interested. She takes her friend Professor Bhaer's advice and starts writing about herself and her sisters and their experiences. This timeless, captivating story is brought to life in this glorious musical filled with personal discovery, heartache, hope, and everlasting love. 9:30 p.m. $16-$25, Morgan-Wixson Theater, 2627 Pico Blvd. https://www.morgan-wixson.org/

SATURDAY | NOV 20

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION: APEIROGON BY COLUM MCCANN
Two fathers, a Palestinian and an Israeli, navigate the checkpoints of their conflicted world before losses bring them together to use their grief as a weapon for peace. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov. 11 a.m.

SUNDAY | NOV 21

ORCHESTRA SANTA MONICA: "MUSICAL RETURN AND GATHERING"
Orchestra Santa Monica and Music Director Roger Kalia return to live performance with a special admission-free concert. The orchestra will present an early preview of its collaborative film, "We Gather: Black Life in Santa Monica told through Music, Visuals, and Narrative". A novel arrangement of Mahler's Symphony No. 1 for 15 musicians will also be performed, providing an intimate feel to the listening experience and revealing Mahler's chamber-like writing as each musician is treated as a soloist. 7:30 - 9 p.m. Calvary Baptist Church 1502 20th Street. Free. Register at https://www.OrchestraSantaMonica.org.

MONDAY | NOV 22

REGULAR MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION
6 p.m. Agenda available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/Commission. Meeting will be available online at https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/fgcyrgwx

STORY TIME AT THE MAIN LIBRARY: THANKSGIVING IS COMING
Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays for ages 2 & up. Space is limited. To register, email ann.wilson@santamonica.gov. Main Library. 11 - 11:30 a.m.

THANKSGIVING ON THE PIER
The Pacific Wheel will be lit orange, yellow, dancing turkeys and fun harvest themes on Monday, November 22 to Thursday, November 25 in recognition of Turkey Day 2021. Pacific Park is celebrating Thanksgiving in a big way with a fun, festive light program on the Pacific Wheel that features a 90-foot-tall Thanksgiving Turkey.

WINTERLIT LIGHTS
Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) brings the holidays to the Third Street Promenade with the return of Winterlit, transforming the downtown district into an immersive, festive experience. Tens of thousands of colorful lights, decor and garland will deck the Third Street Promenade, 2nd and 4th Streets, illuminating convenient shopping and cozy outdoor dining experiences.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

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

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Reading a book

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

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Dawe
Economics
Enjoy
Epic
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Fact
Fiction
Files
Foster-Blake
French
Funder
Gibbs
Gleeson
Johns
Kent
Lette
Lindsay
Lurie
Magazine
Malouf
Marr
Memoir
Moss
Music
Myth
Nunn
Nursery
Play
Plot
Rodda
Romance
Rowe
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Tsiolkas
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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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Thanksgiving: If the feast is back, so are the leftovers

KATIE WORKMAN
Associated Press

We've all learned more than we bargained for about how to celebrate the holidays during uncertain times. Last year, many of us cooked smaller Thanksgiving feasts and celebrated by Zoom. This year, with the proper precautions, we might see more real-life gatherings, and plates full of most -- if not all -- of the trimmings.

The good news: More leftovers, perhaps, to go around.

The not-so-good news: Prices for turkey and other food are higher than in past years. So we want to make smart use of every bite.

Turkeys will generally be bigger this year too because of labor shortages and delays at processing plants, Butterball President and CEO Jay Jandrain told the AP.

So put those leftovers to work:

TURKEY

There are many, many ways to use up that leftover turkey. Think about soups, tetrazzini, pot pies (recipe below) and, of course, sandwiches. Anywhere you would use leftover or cooked chicken is fair game (pun slightly intended) for leftover turkey. Swap it into your favorite pasta dish or salad. Shred it and add to a lasagna instead of ground meat. Use it up in quesadillas, enchiladas or quiches. Add chopped turkey to chili, or make turkey hash.

And don't forget to save the carcass and the bits and bobs to make turkey stock.

CRANBERRY SAUCE

Of course you want to layer it into a turkey sandwich, but it's also a great pairing for roasted chicken the following week. (Cranberry sauce usually keeps for a couple of weeks in the fridge).

Spoon some into a blender for a post-Thanksgiving fruit smoothie. Puree it and mix into a cocktail, like a Cranberry Orange Shrub. Serve it up with meatballs, maybe sweet and sour.

GRAVY

Leftover gravy can be stirred into a soup or stew for added depth of flavor. Drizzle it over French fries or roasted potatoes with some melted cheese for a makeshift poutine. Add it to a sauce when making a turkey pot pie or casserole post-holiday.

Note that leftover gravy can be frozen in an airtight container for up to three months. Drizzle it over biscuits. Stir it into your chicken and dumplings. Pour some over slices of meatloaf.

VEGETABLES

Roasted vegetables like butternut squash, sweet potatoes, turnips or brussels sprouts are a gold mine of meals waiting to happen. Puree them and turn them into soup with the addition of some broth and perhaps a little cream, maybe some of those extra fresh herbs you have lying around. If you use a smaller amount of broth, you can make a vegetable puree instead of a soup.

Add the vegetables as is to pastas, soups and stews. Reheat them but add a sauce, like a creamy, sour cream-based sauce or an olive tapenade vinaigrette. Chop them and include them in frittatas.

MASHED POTATOES AND STUFFING

Surplus mashed potatoes are begging to be put to use as a topping for Shepherd's Pie or Cottage Pie (shake things up by using mashed sweet potatoes!). Use them as a springboard for moussaka. Make turkey and mashed potato croquettes. Flatten mounds of them in a hot pan with a bit of butter and make mashed potato pancakes.

Try the same with leftover stuffing.

If you have a waffle maker, you can transform leftover mashed potatoes and stuffing into crispy savory patties. This or an indoor grill are also a great way to "panini" up those leftover sandwiches. Or fill portobello mushroom caps with stuffing, sprinkle a bit of cheese over them and roast until hot and cooked through.

BREAD

Leftover bread, even if it's become a little stale, can be used for croutons,breadcrumbs, bruschetta, bread pudding or French toast. If you're using it for sandwiches, consider toasting the slices to bring out their best flavor and texture. Make sure any seasonings in the bread match up with its new use.

PUMPKIN

Extra cans of pumpkin? Use some to make pancakes, pumpkin bread or muffins, pumpkin cream cheese brownies or pumpkin gingerbread.

LEFTOVER TURKEY POT PIE

One sample recipe for leftovers:

Serves 6

1 sheet (half of a 17.3-ounce package) frozen puff pastry, defrosted in the refrigerator
¼ cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
1 cup roughly chopped fresh mushrooms
½ cup chopped onion
½ cup chopped carrots
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon kosher salt
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
2 cups turkey or chicken broth
½ cup heavy cream, half and half or whole milk
3 cups shredded cooked chicken or turkey
½ cup corn (fresh, canned or frozen; they don't have to be thawed)
1 cup peas (fresh, canned or frozen; they don't have to be thawed)

Preheat the oven to 425°F. In a large saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the mushrooms, onion and carrots and cook for 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the mushrooms have released their liquid, and that liquid has evaporated. The vegetables should be just starting to turn golden.

Stir in the flour, salt and pepper and continue to stir until the vegetables are well coated with the flour and everything turns blondish. Gradually add in the broth and cream, stirring frequently, until the mixture is thick and bubbly, about 5 minutes.

Add the turkey, corn and peas and stir to combine. Fill a 9-inch pie pan with the pot pie mixture.

Roll out the puff pastry dough slightly on a lightly floured surface. If you have a small cookie cutter, you can cut 4 to 6 shapes from the crust and then use a brush of cream or milk to adhere the shapes to the top of the crust for decoration (I used a little leaf cookie cutter).

Place the puff pastry over the filling, and trim off the corners if they hang below the bottom of the pan. If you didn't cut out shapes from the crust, use a sharp knife to make several slits in the crust so steam can escape.

Bake for 20 to 30 minutes until the crust is golden brown and everything is bubbly. Let the pie sit for about 10 minutes before slicing and serving, or you can serve with a large serving spoon instead. (The pie won't cut neatly; that's part of the charm.)

Katie Workman writes regularly about food for The Associated Press. She has written two cookbooks focused on family-friendly cooking, "Dinner Solved!" and "The Mom 100 Cookbook." She blogs at http://www.themom100.com/about-katie-workman.

U.S. jobless claims drop for seventh week

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell for the seventh straight week to a pandemic low of 268,000.

U.S. jobless claims dipped by 1,000 last week from the week before, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

The applications for unemployment aid are a proxy for layoffs, and their steady decline this year — after topping 900,000 one week in early January — reflects the labor market's strong recovery from last year's brief but intense coronavirus recession. The four-week average of claims, which smooths week-to-week volatility, also fell to a pandemic low just below 273,000.

Jobless claims have been edging lower, toward their prepandemic level of around 220,000 a week.

Overall, 2.1 million Americans were collecting traditional unemployment checks the week that ended Nov. 6, down by 129,000 from the week before.

Until Sept. 6, the federal government had supplemented state unemployment insurance programs by paying an extra payment of $300 a week and extending benefits to gig workers and to those who were out of work for six months or more. Including the federal programs, the number of Americans receiving some form of jobless aid peaked at more than 33 million in June last year.

The coronavirus slammed the U.S. economy early last year, forcing many businesses to close or reduce hours of operation and keeping many Americans shut in at home as a health precaution. In March and April 2020, employers slashed more than 22 million jobs.

But the economy began to recover last summer. Consumers, pocketing government relief checks and gaining confidence as COVID-19 cases fell, resumed spending. With the rollout of vaccines this year, they began to return to shops, restaurants and bars.

Suddenly, many employers were struggling to keep up with an unexpected surge in demand. They are scrambling to fill job openings — a near-record 10.4 million in September. Workers, finding themselves with bargaining clout for the first time in decades, are becoming choosy about jobs; a record 4.4 million quit in September, a sign they have confidence in their ability to find something better.

Since April 2020, employers have hired more than 18 million people.

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

Help Wanted

GoodRx, Inc. seeks Director of Engineering, Pricing to build and maintain several critical services that powers multiple products and internal systems within GoodRx. Travel: 10 to 15% domestic travel required. Worksite: Santa Monica, CA office and various unanticipated worksites throughout the US. Email resumes to jobs@goodrx.com.

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