

3
Commentaries
New priorities for DTSM.



6
Tax Scam
State issues warning.



7
Fentanyl crisis
Feds respond.

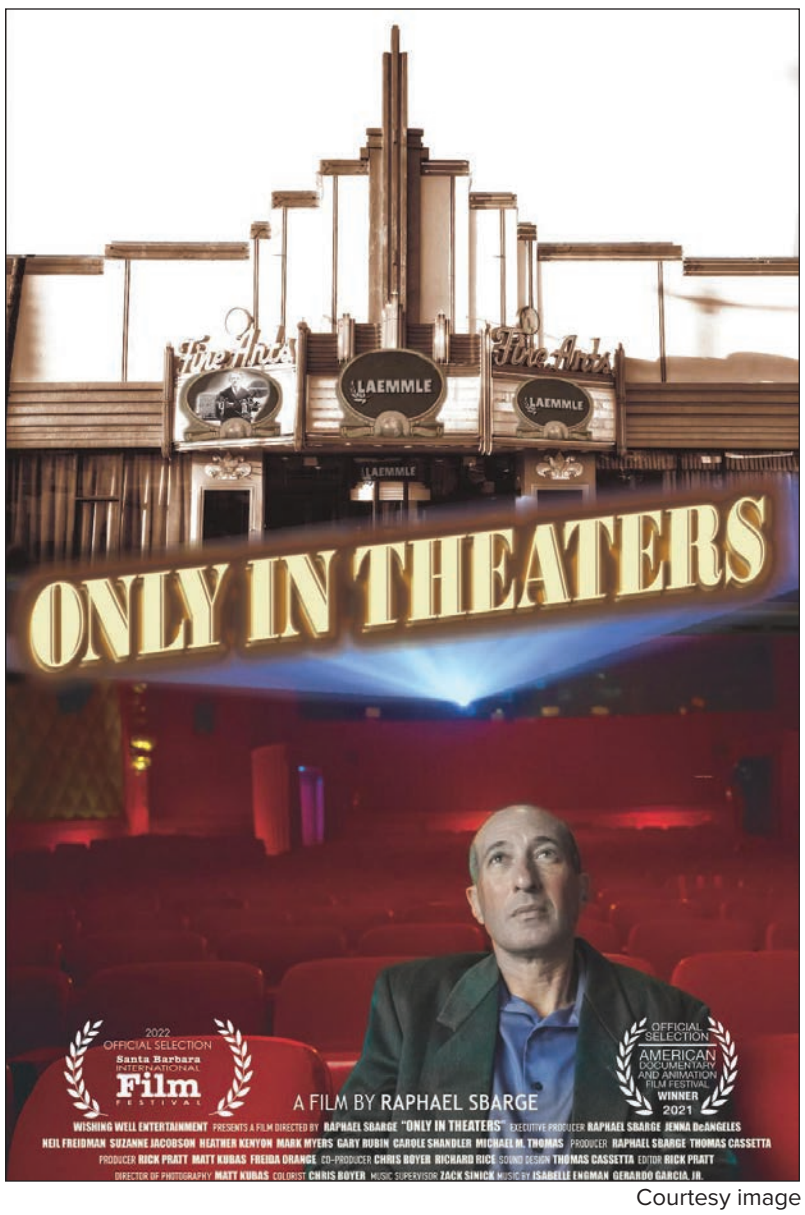
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New film tells the story of Laemmle Theaters



Courtesy image

MOVIE: The local theater company is the subject of its own film that will play at their Santa Monica location starting in December.

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

For 84 years, Laemmle Theaters, a family-run art house cinema chain, has drawn millions of movie-goers from around Los Angeles to watch films in every genre, language and subject matter imaginable. Now, the theater company itself is the focus of a new film directed by filmmaker Raphael Sbarge. Titled 'Only in Theaters,' the documentary dives into Laemmle's storied history and explores the future of movie theaters in a rapidly changing landscape.

Laemmle Theaters President Greg Laemmle, who represents the third generation of his family to run the business, said he hopes viewers of the new film walk away with an appreciation of independent theaters and an understanding of the public's role in supporting and

SEE **LAEMMLE** PAGE 8

Fentanyl's scourge plainly visible on streets of LA

JAE HONG AND BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

In an filthy alley behind a Los Angeles doughnut shop, Ryan Smith convulsed in the grips of a fentanyl high — lurching from moments of slumber to bouts of violent shivering on a warm summer day.

When Brandice Josey, another homeless addict, bent down and blew a puff of fentanyl smoke his way in an act of charity, Smith sat up and slowly opened his lip to inhale the vapor as if it was the cure to his problems.

Smith, wearing a grimy yellow T-shirt that said "Good Vibes Only," reclined on his backpack and dozed the rest of the afternoon on the asphalt, unperturbed by the stench of rotting food and human waste that permeated the air.

For too many people strung out on the drug, the sleep that follows a fentanyl hit is permanent. The highly addictive and potentially lethal drug has become a scourge across America and is taking a toll on the growing number of people living on the streets of Los Angeles.

Nearly 2,000 homeless people died in the city from April 2020 to March 2021, a 56% increase from the previous year, according to a report released by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Overdose was the leading cause of death, killing more than 700.

Fentanyl was developed to treat intense pain from ailments like cancer. Use of fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that is cheap to produce and is often sold as is or laced in other drugs, has exploded. Because it's 50 times more potent than heroin, even a small dose can be fatal.

It has quickly become the deadliest drug in the nation, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Two-thirds of the 107,000 overdose deaths in 2021 were attributed to synthetic opioids like fentanyl, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The drug's toll spreads far beyond the streets.

Jennifer Catano, 27, has the names of two children tattooed on her wrists, but she hasn't seen them for several years. They live with her mother.

"My mom doesn't think it's a good idea because she thinks it's gonna hurt the kids because I'm not ready to get rehabilitated," Catano said.

She has overdosed three times and been through rehab seven or eight times.

"It's scary to get off of it," she said. "The withdrawals are really bad."

Catano wandered around a subway station near MacArthur Park desperate to sell a bottle of Downy fabric softener and a Coleman camping chair she stole from a nearby store.

Drug abuse can be a cause or symptom of homelessness. Both can also intersect with mental illness.

A 2019 report by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority found about a quarter of all homeless adults in Los Angeles County had mental illnesses and 14% had a substance use disorder. That analysis only counted people who had a permanent or long-term severe condition. Taking a

SEE **FENTANYL** PAGE 8

Man dies in PCH accident while two survive unrelated crash over the bluffs

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A pair of traffic accidents left one man dead and another two injured over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The two unrelated accidents occurred on Nov. 24 and 26.

In the first accident, a car hit and killed a bicyclist at about 4 p.m. on the Pacific Coast Highway. SMPD closed the freeway from Entrada to the Incline for about four hours to investigate the accident.

The driver remained on scene, was cooperative and was not impaired according to SMPD.

Two days later, a drunk driver failed to make a turn when reaching the intersection of Montana and Ocean sending the car through Palisades Park and over the bluffs.

The car came to a stop several feet below the park but did not travel down to the PCH below.



Todd James

CRASH: A car drove through the cement barrier at Palisades Park and onto the bluff but the occupants had only minor injuries.

The driver and a passenger were transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was subsequently cited for felony DUI.

A crane was requested and responded to remove the vehicle from the scene.

editor@smdp.com

COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New priorities downtown

Over the past 30 years, Downtown Santa Monica and the Third Street Promenade have served as a beloved iconic public space for our residents and visitors from all over the globe to enjoy. It has thrived in times of economic prosperity, weathered economic uncertainty, and now is entering a phase of economic revitalization and renewal. Our downtown has been through a great deal over the past several years and the combination of the national economic downturn, retail and office market shifts, the pandemic, the homeless and mental health epidemic, and restructuring of City services have all made sizable and tangible impacts on our 30-block downtown. Throughout all of this, our vision for downtown has remained the same: a vibrant downtown for the community and beyond.

In this time of recovery, the board at Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM), a 13-member body charged with stewardship for the downtown core, is focused on laying a strong, united foundation for the future, starting with the basics.

Recently, our Board of Directors adopted the following six focus priorities for 2023. We created the DTSM Services Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the DTSM, Inc. Services Agreement with the City and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. Our services agreement details the unique commitments and obligations for our district, staff and the City. The ad-hoc committee will set the Board up for success in negotiating a revised services agreement with the City. In addition, we are building support and confidence from our Downtown stakeholders through communications, outreach, and coalition-building.

When we are talking about the importance of a strong foundation, we mean a literal strong foundation. Our priority for next year is to address infrastructure needs such as painting street fixtures such as light poles and railing, repairing electrical issues, and upgrading landscaping. We also plan to relaunch the Promenade Vending Cart Program and curate a downtown entertainment program, the basic programs that put Downtown Santa Monica and Third Street Promenade on the map. In addition, we are prioritizing improving the downtown parking structure experience. We will conduct a full evaluation of the parking structure management, maintenance strategies, and revenue streams to determine what short- and long-term improvements are feasible. This will help us in our advocacy to the City for capital improvements, maintenance, custodial, and revenue management.

Safety has always been, and will continue to be, a top priority for DTSM. For next year, we will expand our efforts to establish ourselves as a leader in informing the City and County on resource deployment and policy recommendations on public safety Downtown. Our next steps will be to develop metrics and compile data while maintaining our safety services like ambassadors and a centralized service center, while also considering private security. Safety in our downtown lays the foundation for us to reactivate public spaces through events, activations, and improving the process in which businesses can open and thrive. The possibilities for Downtown's public spaces are endless. Through increasing the number of engaging community events, family-friendly programming, and alley upgrades, we can reimagine the economic, physical, and social future of Downtown.

It's clear we have a great deal of work ahead. Some results will be immediate, while others will take time and require the effort and collaboration of many stakeholders. Yet, the most important aspect of these priorities is that they are achievable. We cannot accomplish these milestones alone. The success of Downtown Santa Monica is not singular to celebrate individually but rather, our sight is set on a collective effort for our Santa Monica community to accomplish and celebrate together. Our hope is that you, the Santa Monica community, embraces our board's efforts, remains engaged, and joins us as we roll up our sleeves and tackle the work ahead.

Eric Sedman, Chair of the Board, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. and Andrew Thomas, CEO, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Will California meet the moment on homelessness?

California Gov. Gavin Newsom is fond — perhaps overly so — of the phrase "meet the moment."

It translates roughly into willingness to handle pressing issues and, of course, he uses it mostly to describe his own resolve.

So, one might ask, are Newsom, the Legislature, and city and county officials truly willing to confront California's worst-in-the-nation epidemic of homelessness that gives its cities a third world ambiance?

Whether or not Newsom intends to pursue his political career beyond the state, he knows that its squalid urban images undermine his oft-voiced characterization of California as a shining model of progressive governance.

The harsh reality is that despite spending billions of federal, state and local taxpayers' dollars on programs aimed at sheltering the unsheltered and ameliorating underlying factors, the number of homeless people on the streets, sidewalks and parks of California cities continues to climb and at a minimum approaches 200,000.

Repeatedly, California voters disgusted by the filth and/or moved by compassion tell pollsters that homelessness is a crisis that politicians must address. Los Angeles voters just elected a new mayor, Karen Bass, on her promise to clean up the city and passed a new tax on real estate transactions that would raise hundreds of millions of dollars to make it happen. A newly re-elected Newsom says it will be the highest priority of his second term.

The specifics of what they or other political figures might do are murky, since there's little, if any, consensus on what approaches would be most effective, and the lines of responsibility among the various levels of government are equally blurry. One obvious problem is that while homelessness is most evident within cities, health and welfare programs are largely administered by counties, using state and federal funds.

That conflict is very evident in Sacramento, the state capital, where city and county officials have sparred constantly over who's responsible. Sacramento city voters just passed a new law banning homeless encampments on public property — but only if the city and county can agree on new shelters or campgrounds.

It's one of a slew of new laws passed by either voters or local officials to restrict where the homeless can camp. Newsom, meanwhile, is clamping down on encampments along state-owned roadways.

Intergovernmental wrangling surfaced publicly just before the election when Newsom rejected all plans to reduce homelessness submitted by local officials who were trying to qualify for a new pot of state money.

He complained that the plans would seek only a 2% decline in homelessness, adding, "Everyone has to do better — cities, counties and the state included. We are all in this together."

He was even more pointed in a Los Angeles Times interview, saying, "Deliver damn results. … It's a crisis. Act like it. Everybody step up. I'm not the mayor. You want me to come in? I'll do the job. I'll do it. Happily. I've been going into cities cleaning up encampments. Has anyone gotten the hint? If someone did that to me when I was mayor, I'd be like, 'OK, I got it.'"

Later, he met with a delegation of local officials and they emerged with pledges to become more aggressive in dealing with the issue. However, local officials are still reluctant to make commitments for programs without assurances of long-term financial support.

California officialdom could be poised for a big crusade on homelessness. But will it meet the moment, or continue to throw money at the problem — a little here, a little there — without coordinated and sustained action while the squalor, the human misery and the political finger-pointing continue?

Dan Walters is a writer for CalMatters where this article was originally published.





Santa's back in town with inflation, inclusion on his mind

LEANNE ITALIE
AP Entertainment Writer

Don't look for plastic partitions or faraway benches when visiting Santa Claus this year. The jolly old elf is back, pre-pandemic style, and he's got some pressing issues on his mind.

Santa booker HireSanta.com has logged a 30% increase in demand this Christmas season over last year, after losing about 15% of its performers to retirement or death during the pandemic, said founder and head elf Mitch Allen.

He has a Santa database of several thousand with gigs at the Bloomingdale's flagship store in New York, various Marriott properties and other venues around the U.S. Most of Allen's clients have moved back to kids on laps and aren't considering COVID-19 in a major way, he said, but Santa can choose to mask up.

Another large Santa agency, Cherry Hill Programs, is back up to pre-pandemic booking numbers for their 1,400 or so Santas working at more than 600 malls and other spots this year, said spokesperson Chris Landtroop.

"I can't even explain how excited we are to see everyone's smiles at all locations this season without anything covering up those beautiful faces," she said.

Cherry Hill Santas are also free to wear masks, Landtroop said.

Among standout Santas still keeping their distance? There will be no lap visits at the Macy's flagship store in New York's Herald Square. Santa is seated behind his desk.

Some Santas who stayed home the last two years out of concern for their health have returned to the ho ho ho game, but Allen is desperately trying to refill his pipeline with new performers.

Inflation has also taken a bite out of Santa. Many are older, on fixed incomes and travel long distances to don the red suit. They spend hundreds on their costumes and other accoutrements.

"We're charging the clients slightly more and we're also paying our Santas slightly more," Allen said.

Bookings for many Santas were made months in advance, and some work year-round. Allen's Santas will earn from $5,000 to $12,000 for the season.

A few Santas told The Associated Press they're unbothered by the cost, however. They're not in the Santa profession to make a buck but do it out of sheer joy.

Allen and other agencies are juggling more requests for inclusive Santas, such as Black, deaf and Spanish-speaking performers. Allen also has a female Santa on speed dial.

"I haven't been busted yet by the kids and, with one exception, by the parents, either," said 48-year-old Melissa Rickard, who stepped into the role in her early 20s when the Santa hired by her father's lodge fell ill.

"To have a child not be able to tell I'm a woman in one sense is the ultimate compliment because it means I'm doing Santa justice. It cracks my husband up," added Rickard, who lives outside Little Rock, Arkansas. "I know there are more of us out there."

By mid-November, Rickard had more than 100 gigs lined up, through Hire Santa and other means.

"A lot of it is word of mouth," she said. "It's 'Hey, have you seen the female Santa?'"

Rickard charges roughly $175 an hour as Santa, depending on the job, and donates all but her fuel money to charity. And her beard? Yak hair.

Eric Elliott's carefully tended white beard is the real deal. He and his Mrs. Claus, wife Moeisha Elliott, went pro this year after first taking on the roles as volunteers in 2007. Both are retired military.

They spent weeks in formal Claus training. Among the skills they picked up was American Sign Language and other ways to accommodate people with disabilities. Their work has included trips into disaster zones with the Texas-based nonprofit Lone Star Santas to lend a little cheer.

The Elliotts, who are Black, say breaking into the top tier of Santas as first-time pros and Clauses of color hasn't been easy. For some people, Eric said, "We understand that we're not the Santa for you."

The Santa Experience at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, is staffing up with six Saint Nicks, including two who are Black and its first Asian Santa. Visits in Spanish and Cantonese are provided.

Working smaller jobs, including house visits, the Elliotts have seen how rising prices have hit some people hard. They've lowered their rates at times when they sense that people are struggling.

"People are having issues just eating, but they don't want to miss out on the experience," Eric said. Sometimes, he said, "You'll meet them and be like, 'You go ahead and hold on to that. I know you worked hard for that.'"

For other clients, the Elliotts charge anywhere from $150 to $300 an hour.

Charles Graves, a rare, professional deaf Santa in New Braunfels, Texas, said through an interpreter that he was inspired to grow his beard and put on the suit in part by awkward encounters with hearing Santas as a child.

"As a child, I was very excited to receive a gift, but then you just kind of go away and you're like, there's no connection there. Children look at me now and they're like, wow, you know, there's a connection there with the deaf culture. And I can always connect with the hearing kids as well," said Graves, a spry Santa at 52.

Graves, who has a day job at a school for deaf children, also received training to be Santa. He works as Santa with interpreters. Breaking in has been difficult and expensive, he says, but "this is something really, really important to me."

By mid-November, he had more than a dozen gigs, including a parade in Santa Paula, California, a mall in Austin, Texas, and at Morgan's Wonderland, a nonprofit accessible theme park in San Antonio. He's also doing some Zoom visits.

Among Santa's rising costs this year are his duds. The price of suits, from custom to ready-to-wear, is up about 25%, said 72-year-old Stephen Arnold, a longtime Santa who heads the more than 2,000-strong International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas.

SEE **SANTA** PAGE 4

COMMUNITY NEWS

LOS ANGELES

Former federal agent sentenced to more than 10 years in prison for accepting bribes to help figure associated with organized crime

A former special agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) was sentenced today to 121 months in federal prison for accepting cash payments and other benefits to help an organized crime-linked person, including taking official action designed to help two foreign nationals gain entry into the United States.

Felix Cisneros Jr., 48, of Murrieta, was sentenced by United States District Judge R. Gary Klausner, who also ordered him to pay a fine of $30,000. Judge Klausner also entered a forfeiture order of $133,000 against Cisneros.

On May 3, at the conclusion of a five-day trial, a federal jury found Cisneros guilty of 30 felonies: one count of conspiracy to commit bribery of a public official, one count of bribery, 26 counts of money laundering and two counts of subscribing to a false tax return. Cisneros been in federal custody since the trial's conclusion.

Over an 18-month period that started in September 2015, Cisneros accepted cash, checks, private jet travel, luxury hotel stays, meals and other items of value from a person identified in court documents as "Individual 1," who was associated with a criminal organization. Cisneros received approximately $100,000 in checks and gifts from Individual 1 in 2015 and 2016.

Cisneros accepted the cash and other bribes while employed as a special agent with HSI, which is an agency within the United States Department of Homeland Security. In exchange for the bribes, Cisneros performed a series of official acts at the behest of Individual 1, including:

Accessing a DHS database for information about a German national identified as W.R., and telling Individual 1 he removed a "hit" on W.R., "thus indicating derogatory information had been removed";

Placing an alert in a law enforcement database for an address associated with an illegal marijuana grow operation so Cisneros could learn of law enforcement interest and warn Individual 1;

Obtaining an official DHS letter signed by an HSI assistant special agent in charge to allow the parole of Individual 1's brother-in-law into the United States from Mexico, and later providing updates about the brother-in-law's asylum application; and

Collecting information on an associate of Individual 1 whose home had been searched by law enforcement and later providing Individual 1 with information about the investigation.

Cisneros also underreported his total income on his federal income tax returns by at least $20,000 for the year 2015 and at least $73,404 for the year 2016.

The FBI, IRS Criminal Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General investigated this matter.

Assistant United States Attorneys Michael J. Morse and Juan M. Rodriguez of the General Crimes Section prosecuted this case.

SUBMITTED BY CIARAN MCEVOY, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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‘Gaslighting’ is Merriam-Webster’s word of the year for 2022

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

“Gaslighting” — behavior that’s mind manipulating, grossly misleading, downright deceitful — is Merriam-Webster’s word of the year.

Lookups for the word on merriam-webster.com increased 1,740% in 2022 over the year before. But something else happened. There wasn’t a single event that drove significant spikes in curiosity, as it usually goes with the chosen word of the year.

The gaslighting was pervasive.

“It’s a word that has risen so quickly in the English language, and especially in the last four years, that it actually came as a surprise to me and to many of us,” said Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster’s editor at large, in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press ahead of Monday’s unveiling.

“It was a word looked up frequently every single day of the year,” he said.

There were deepfakes and the dark web. There were deep states and fake news. And there was a whole lot of trolling.

Merriam-Webster’s top definition for gaslighting is the psychological manipulation of a person, usually over an extended period of time, that “causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories and typically leads to confusion, loss of confidence and self-esteem, uncertainty of one’s emotional or mental stability, and a dependency on the perpetrator.”

More broadly, the dictionary defines the word thusly: “The act or practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one’s own advantage.”

Gaslighting is a heinous tool frequently used by abusers in relationships — and by politicians and other newsmakers. It can happen between romantic partners, within a broader family unit and among friends. It can be a corporate tactic, or a way to mislead the public. There’s also “medical gaslighting,” when a health care professional dismisses a patient’s symptoms or illness as “all in your head.”

Despite its relatively recent prominence — including “Gaslighter,” The Chicks’ 2020 album featuring the rousingly angry titular single — the word was brought to life more than 80 years ago with “Gas Light,” a 1938 play by Patrick Hamilton.

It birthed two film adaptations in the 1940s. One, George Cukor’s “Gaslight” in 1944, starred Ingrid Bergman as Paula Alquist and Charles Boyer as Gregory Anton. The two marry after a whirlwind romance and Gregory turns out to be a champion gaslighter. Among other instances, he insists her complaints over the constant dimming of their London townhouse’s gaslights is a figment of her troubled mind. It wasn’t.

The death of Angela Lansbury in October drove some interest in lookups of the word, Sokolowski said. She played Nancy Oliver, a young maid hired by Gregory and told not to bother his “high-strung” wife.

The term gaslighting was later used by mental health practitioners to clinically describe a form of prolonged coercive control in abusive relationships.

“There is this implication of an intentional deception,” Sokolowski said. “And once one is aware of that deception, it’s not just a straightforward lie, as in, you know, I didn’t eat the cookies in the cookie jar. It’s something that has a little bit more devious quality to it. It has possibly an idea of strategy or a long-term plan.”

Merriam-Webster, which logs 100 million pageviews a month on its site, chooses its word of the year based solely on data. Sokolowski and his team weed out evergreen words most commonly looked up to gauge which word received a significant bump over the year before.

They don’t slice and dice why people look up words, which can be anything from quick spelling and definition checks to some sort of attempt at inspiration or motivation. Some of the droves who looked up “gaslighting” this year might have wanted to know, simply, if it’s one or two words, or whether it’s hyphenated.

“Gaslighting,” Sokolowski said, spent all of 2022 in the top 50 words looked up on merriam-webster.com to earn top dog word of the year status. Last year’s pick was “vaccine.” Rounding out this year’s Top 10 are:

— “Oligarch,” driven by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

— “Omicron,” the persistent COVID-19 variant and the 15th letter of the Greek alphabet.

— “Codify,” as in turning abortion rights into federal law.

— “Queen consort,” what King Charles’ wife, Camilla is newly known as.

— “Raid,” as in the search of former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago home.

— “Sentient,” with lookups brought on by Google canning the engineer who claimed an unreleased AI system had become sentient.

— “Cancel culture,” enough said.

— “LGBTQIA,” for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and asexual, aromantic or agender.

— “Loamy,” which many Wordle users tried back in August, though the right word that day was “clown.”

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SANTA

FROM PAGE 3

“Most of the performers I know are raising their rates, mostly due to the costs of transportation, accommodation and materials,” he said. “Personally, I’m raising my rates a bit for new clients but I’m holding prices this year for my repeat gigs.”

Arnold, who’s in Memphis, Tennessee, charges $250 to $350 an hour. Others in his organization, depending on location and experience, charge anywhere from $100 to $500 an hour, the latter in big cities like Los Angeles. Some, he said, don’t know their worth and lowball it at $50 or $75 an hour.

As for the pandemic, Arnold hasn’t heard a word about it from his clients, compared to last year and 2020, when he worked inside a snow globe. The Santas he knows seem unflustered.

“I’m surprised how few people are concerned about it,” Arnold said. “I visit my wife twice a day in a nursing facility. I’m diabetic. I mean, most of us are old fat men.”

Democrats kept the Senate this year, but 2024 may be harder

MICHELLE L. PRICE
Associated Press

Democrats celebrating a successful effort to keep control of the U.S. Senate this year will soon confront a 2024 campaign that could prove more challenging.

The party enters the next cycle defending 23 seats, including two held by independents who caucus with Democrats. That's compared with just 10 seats that Republicans hope to keep in their column.

Adding to the potential hurdles is that some 2024 contests are in states that have become increasingly hostile to Democrats, including Montana, Ohio and West Virginia. Other Democratic-held seats are in some of the same hotly contested states that were at the center of this year's midterms, such as Pennsylvania, Arizona and Nevada. And while Democrats carried each of those races, they did so at great cost and with sometimes narrow margins. In Nevada, for instance, Democratic incumbent Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto won by less than 1 percentage point, or about 9,000 votes.

For now, both parties insist they're laser focused on coming out on top in the Dec. 6 Senate runoff in Georgia. But Democrats who are on the ballot in 2024 know that they could face fierce headwinds and are studying the results of this year's election, when the party outperformed expectations.

For Nevada Sen. Jacky Rosen, a Democrat facing her first reelection campaign, that means staying focused on kitchen table issues and touting legislation like the infrastructure law and gun violence legislation signed by President Joe Biden.

"We know that races are always close," Rosen said in an interview. "We never take anything for granted."

The dynamics of the next Senate campaign could be influenced by a variety of outside factors, particularly the presidential election and the attention it generates. Biden, who turned 80 this month, has said his "intention" is to run for reelection and that he will make a final decision early next year. Former President Donald Trump has already announced a third White House bid, and multiple other Republicans are lining up to launch campaigns. The eventual nominee in each party could have a profound impact on down-ballot races, including those for Senate.

But perhaps the biggest question for Senate Democrats seeking reelection will be who Republicans nominate as their opponents. The GOP lost several Senate elections this year, including those in Arizona, Pennsylvania and Nevada, after Trump-backed candidates struggled to raise money and connect with a broader, more moderate range of voters during the general election.

In Nevada, the Republican field to challenge Rosen has not begun to shape up but is expected to attract several contenders. One name receiving attention is Sam Brown, a former U.S. Army captain who was awarded a Purple Heart after being severely wounded in Afghanistan. Brown ran for Senate this year and put up a strong challenge in the Republican primary before losing to Adam Laxalt, who lost in the general election to Cortez Masto.

Richard Hernandez, who was Brown's campaign adviser, said, "He has committed to his supporters that he will never stop fighting for their issues, but he has not made any decisions as to whether that involves a future run for office."

Also in the southwest, Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, a centrist Democrat, will be up for reelection. The race, like other recent statewide contests in Arizona, is expected to be very competitive. But Sinema is likely to first face a well-funded primary challenger after angering much of the Democratic base by blocking or watering down progressive priorities like a minimum wage increase or Biden's big social spending initiatives. She has not said whether she plans to run for reelection.

Sinema's most prominent potential primary challenger is U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, who has a long history of feuding with Sinema. Gallego has not announced his plans for 2024 but has made it no secret that he's thinking about challenging Sinema. He even raised money on the prospect he might oppose Sinema.

An independent expenditure group is also raising money, saying it will support grassroots organizations committed to defeating Sinema in a Democratic primary.

Republicans hope a bruising Democratic primary might give them an opening to win the seat after losing Senate races in Arizona in three consecutive elections.

Sinema is among a trio of moderate Senate Democrats who have sometimes used their leverage in an evenly divided chamber to block or blunt some of Biden's plans and nominees. They will also be among the party's most vulnerable incumbents in 2024.

The other two senators, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Jon Tester of Montana, will be running as Democrats in states that Trump handily carried in 2020.

Manchin has already drawn a GOP challenger in U.S. Rep. Alex Mooney, who declared a week after winning reelection that he was setting his sights on higher office. Manchin has not yet said whether he'll run for reelection.

Republicans see Tester, a three-term senator, as vulnerable, and the opportunity to run for the seat could draw a fierce primary contest between former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Rep. Matt Rosendale. Zinke, who won a House seat in this year's midterm elections, said he will decide whether to run next year, and Rosendale declined to answer.

Tester has not announced if he will seek another term but has said he anticipates 2024 will be just as tough as his last race in 2018, when he beat Rosendale in a close contest.

In Pennsylvania, Democratic U.S. Sen. Bob Casey has not said whether he intends to run for a fourth term. Casey easily won reelection in 2018, but Pennsylvania has been competitive for Republicans, including in this year's Senate race won by Democrat John Fetterman.

One potential Republican challenger whose name has been floated in Pennsylvania is former hedge fund CEO David McCormick, who narrowly lost the Republican primary in this year's race to celebrity heart surgeon Dr. Mehmet Oz. McCormick advisers declined to comment on that prospect. Conservative activist Kathy Barnette, who finished a close

SEE **SENATE** PAGE 8

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COMMUNITY NEWS

11th Street

Santa Monica College Jazz Ensemble in live concert Dec. 5

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present a performance by the SMC Jazz Ensemble on Monday, December 5, at 7 p.m. in the East Wing Music Hall at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard), Santa Monica.

Conductor Frederick Keith Fiddmont will lead the talented musicians — and a special surprise guest — in a program of music from legendary saxophonist and composer Oliver Nelson, in addition to great music from arrangers John Clayton and Dan Radlauer. Pieces include "Stolen Moments," "I Hope in Time a Change Will Come," "Kilimanjaro," and "For All We Know..."

Tickets are $10 general admission (plus a modest service charge); free for students with any student I.D. Advance tickets can be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005 (Monday-Friday; limited hours). Tickets may also be purchased — starting 45 minutes before the performance begins — at The Broad Stage Box Office at the SMC Performing Arts Center. Free parking on premises. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis.

Masks are currently required at all indoor events. Guests should visit smc.edu/coronavirus before heading to the performance for up-to-date details on vaccine and mask requirements, as the requirements are subject to change.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Statewide

Attorney General Bonta warns of scammers targeting middle-class tax refund

California Attorney General Rob Bonta has issued a consumer alert warning Californians of scammers targeting the state's middle-class tax refund. Californians eligible for this one-time refund will automatically receive a payment by January 2023 by direct deposit or on a debit card. Below, Attorney General Bonta provides tips to help Californians waiting for their tax refund protect themselves from scams.

"The Middle-Class Tax Refund is meant to provide one-time relief to Californians struggling to make ends meet as the cost of living continues to rise," said Attorney General Bonta. "Unfortunately, there are some bad actors hoping to take advantage as Californians patiently wait for their direct deposit or prepaid debit card to arrive. Do not be fooled. Know what to expect and when, and take precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones from falling victim to a scam."

Tips to Help You and Your Loved Ones Avoid Being Scammed:

Check with the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to see an estimate of how much you should receive. While some people with a high income will not receive any money, many people will receive a payment of $200-$350 per person, with additional funding for those who are married or with children. To see how much you should receive, you can go to the FTB website at https://www.ftb.ca.gov/about-ftb/newsroom/middle-class-tax-refund/index.html.

Don't provide your personal information or pay money to receive your refund. You do not need to take any action or pay any money to receive the refund. The FTB already has the information needed to make a direct deposit into your checking account or to send you a prepaid debit card. To see if you will receive a debit card, visit the FTB website. Do not provide anyone else with your personal information, such as your bank account information, Social Security number, or credit card information.

Don't be fooled by scammers who say they can speed up your payment. The FTB stated that the first middle-class refunds were made by direct deposit on October 7, 2022; payments by debit card began on October 24, 2022. Payments are expected to continue through January 14, 2023. Anyone who claims they can get you your money quicker is a scammer.

Don't fall for text messages, emails, or calls asking you to "activate" or "reactivate" your prepaid debit card. The FTB will not contact you by text, email, or phone. Do not share personal information with anyone who is contacting you this way, even if they claim to be with the government. Scammers may send you phishing texts or emails that are made to look like government emails or websites. Do not click on any suspicious links. Be aware that scammers can replicate or "spoof" the phone number of a government agency. If you get a call, hang up the phone.

Know what to look for if you receive a prepaid debit card. You'll receive your prepaid debit card in an envelope such as the one shown online at https://www.ftb.ca.gov/about-ftb/newsroom/middle-class-tax-refund/help.html. The envelope states, "Not a bill or an advertisement. Important information about your Middle Class Tax Refund." Envelopes that do not include this information are likely a scam.

Submitted by California Department of Justice

SUBMITTED ROB BONTA'S OFFICE



COMMUNITY NEWS

LOS ANGELES

Federal law enforcement responds to fentanyl crisis

Federal authorities held a news conference this week to inform the public of their ongoing efforts to stem the widespread damage caused by fentanyl, the extremely dangerous synthetic opioid that has contaminated nearly every corner of the illicit drug market and is killing Americans at an unprecedented level.

"The fentanyl epidemic is a crisis that demands our full attention," U.S. Attorney Estrada said. "This poison is targeting our young people, causing untold damage to families, neighborhoods, and our entire nation. We are fighting back. We have dramatically ramped up our efforts to stem the flow of narcotics, to vigorously prosecute those directly responsible for peddling this poison, and to respond in innovative ways to improve public safety and educate the public."

Federal law enforcement has ongoing efforts to eliminate organizations that are mass-producing fake pills containing fentanyl that are sold on the darknet and through dealers openly operating on social media sites. Other active programs in the Southern California region target street-level dealers who sell products that lead to fatal fentanyl poisonings, as well as those trafficking wholesale quantities of bulk fentanyl and counterfeit pharmaceutical pills produced by drug cartels.

United States Attorney Martin Estrada, DEA Special Agent in Charge Bill Bodner, FBI Special Agent in Charge Brian Gilhooly, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Acting Special Agent in Charge Eddy Wang, and United States Postal Inspection Service Assistant Inspector in Charge Larry Hirose outlined these enforcement initiatives and highlighted specific cases that demonstrate the severe danger fentanyl poses to public health, as well as the consequences criminals face by putting their customers' lives at risk. These officials also outlined significant public outreach and education efforts, such as the "One Pill Can Kill" campaign.

"Violent drug cartels, specifically the Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco New Generation Cartel, are deliberately pushing deadly fentanyl into our communities with complete disregard for human lives in an effort to maximize their profits," said DEA Los Angeles Special Agent in Charge Bill Bodner. "Drug poisonings and drug-caused deaths are affecting families across the nation and killing Americans, teens and adults, at historic rates. We are targeting any individual responsible in the drug supply chain – from high-level drug traffickers to street level dealers – who deceptively sell this poison and create further addiction."

Officials announced that on Friday, November 18, a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging a Cerritos man with heading an organization that obtained bulk fentanyl, operated labs in Inglewood and Compton that used high-speed pill presses to create fake pills containing fentanyl and methamphetamine, and sold millions of pills to thousands of customers on the darknet. Christopher Hampton, 36, was named in an 11-count indictment that charges him with various narcotics and weapons offenses that could result in a sentence of life in federal prison.

Hampton – who was active on at least nine darknet marketplaces, where he typically used the moniker "Narco710" – was arrested on November 2, at which time agents with the FBI, DEA, HSI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, along with U.S. Postal Inspectors, executed search warrants. Those searches led to the discovery and seizure of 450 pounds of suspected narcotics; six pill press machines, some of which were capable of producing thousands of pills per hour; and illegal firearms that included assault rifles and a suspected machine gun. Agents also recovered from Hampton's residence more than 20,000 multi-colored pills containing fentanyl – so-called "skittles" manufactured to resemble oxycodone pills.

The indictment alleges that Hampton sold nearly $2 million worth of narcotics on just two darknet marketplaces that he and his co-conspirators controlled.

The investigation into Hampton was conducted by the FBI-led Joint Criminal Opioid Darknet Enforcement Team (J-CODE) and the DEA HIDTA Tactical Diversion Squad. J-CODE targets darknet vendors by using sophisticated, high-tech techniques to identify drug traffickers who wrongly believe the dark web allows them to engage in criminal conduct with anonymity.

Assistant United States Attorneys Ian Yanniello of the General Crimes Section and James A. Santiago of the International Narcotics, Money Laundering, and Racketeering Section are prosecuting this case.

Hampton, who is being held without bond, is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment Wednesday in United States District Court.

"Every parent and guardian must educate themselves and their children of all ages about poisonous fentanyl-laced drugs being sold on social media applications and via the darknet," said Don Alway, the Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office. "The FBI and our partners operate the Joint Criminal Opioid and Darknet Enforcement Team (J-CODE) to disrupt and dismantle illicit marketplaces facilitating the distribution of fentanyl and other opioids on the Darknet. Since its inception, J-CODE efforts have led to the arrests over 300 darknet drug traffickers and the seizure of $42 million and 800 kilograms of narcotics, as well as 145 firearms. These enforcement efforts, as well as educating buyers, will have an impact on this scourge to society which is taking lives in unprecedented numbers."

Another important facet of the response to the fentanyl epidemic is the ongoing efforts of the Overdose Justice Task Force, a DEA-led project designed to investigate fatal fentanyl poisonings and identify the dealer who sold the drugs that caused the death. Under the Overdose Justice program for the DEA's Los Angeles Field Division, DEA agents collaborate with local law enforcement to analyze evidence to determine if there are circumstances that might lead to a federal criminal prosecution, and, if so, target the drug trafficker.

Since the project's launch about four years ago, the U.S. Attorney's Office has filed charges against 51 defendants who allegedly sold drugs that resulted in a fatal poisoning. Nearly all of these cases involve fentanyl, and some of the cases involve multiple deaths, including two pending cases filed earlier this year in Santa Ana.

In court documents filed earlier this month, Jason Amin Soheili, 27, of Laguna Hills, agreed to plead guilty to two counts of distribution of fentanyl resulting in death. Soheili, who is expected to formally enter his guilty pleas early next month, has agreed to serve a federal prison sentence of at least 20 years.

SEE **FEDERAL LAW** PAGE 8

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SENATE

FROM PAGE 5

third in the Republican primary, didn't respond to messages about whether she's considering a 2024 campaign.

Wisconsin, which saw Republican Sen. Ron Johnson narrowly win reelection this year, is also expected to have another competitive Senate race in two years.

Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin is widely expected to seek a third term but has not officially announced. There are no official Republican candidates, but U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher has been talked about as a possibility.

Gallagher brushed off a query about whether he was considering challenging Baldwin, saying in a statement that he was focused on tackling issues like inflation and the border over the next two years after having just won reelection.

"Any talk of the next election, especially since we just had an election, distracts from the serious work we need to do," he said.

A number of high-profile Republican senators will also be up for reelection in 2024, including Ted Cruz of Texas, Josh Hawley of Missouri and Rick Scott of Florida.

On the Democratic side, a number of the party's former presidential candidates will face voters. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar and New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand have all said they plan to seek another term.

Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, who caucuses with Democrats and is one of the most influential progressives in Congress, has not said if he intends to run for reelection.

In Utah, former presidential candidate Mitt Romney will face his first Senate reelection bid — if he chooses to run. Romney remains popular with many residents in Utah but has faced backlash from his own party for being the only Republican who voted twice to remove Trump from office after his two impeachments by the House.

When asked if Romney planned to run for reelection, his spokesperson Arielle Mueller did not offer any detail on his plans, saying instead that the senator was focused on tackling "significant challenges facing the country."

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, a Republican who has been a Trump ally, is one of the GOP figures who has been seen as a potential 2024 Senate candidate in the state. Reyes' longtime political consultant Alan Crooks wouldn't say whether the attorney general will launch a campaign but argued he was getting pressure from within Utah and outside the state to have him run.

"He's certainly set up to run, but it does not mean he's considering it," Crooks said.

Associated Press writers Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin; Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Jonathan J. Cooper in Phoenix; Sam Metz in Salt Lake City; and Kevin Freking in Washington contributed to this report.

LAEMMLE

FROM PAGE 1

maintaining them – especially in the wake of the COVID 19.

All of Laemmle's eight LA area theaters closed for over a year during the pandemic and he said reopening has been a "battle" in many ways.

"The public has a role in that battle," he said. "The last few years have shown certainly there can be some worry on the part of people about what is going to happen with movie theaters, what is happening with movie-going … We're trying to use the film as a way to say, you know, exhibition is still here and there's time and reason to re-engage with that process."

Greg Laemmle runs the business with his father Robert Laemmle who took it over from founders Kurt and Max Laemmle, the nephews of Universal Pictures founder Carl Laemmle.

"There really has been a Laemmle in the film business ever since there has been a film business," Greg Laemmle remarked in the trailer for the documentary.

He said he thinks the film does a good job of highlighting not only the history of his family, which it traces from Germany to the US, but also the role he feels the company plays today.

"It's pretty rare to have a three generational family business and I think we occupy a unique, interesting place in Los Angeles: being the family that has been bringing foreign films to LA for generations, and those films educate and inspire people," he said.

Laemmle said he was approached by Sbarge with the idea to turn his family's theater industry saga into a documentary. He said he was familiar with Sbarge's previous work, which includes directing multiple LA-focused films, and felt he was the right person to translate the story to the big screen.

"I thought of him as somebody who shared an interest in the history of Los Angeles," Laemmle said. "Laemmle Theaters has been a part of that history of Los Angeles."

Laemmle said he is pleased with how the film turned out and has received positive feedback from viewers since it premiered on Nov. 18.

"It's informational but also emotional," he said. "And that's not always one's reaction to a documentary."

Only in Theaters will be playing at the Monica Film Center (1332 2nd St.) starting on Dec. 2 for two weeks and Laemmle said it could remain longer depending on demand.

"We really do hope people show up for the film and in that way demonstrate their support," he said.

For information and to buy tickets visit: https://www.laemmle.com/film/only-theaters.

FENTANYL

FROM PAGE 1

broader interpretation of the same data, the Los Angeles Times found about 51% had mental illnesses and 46% had substance use disorders.

Billions of dollars are being spent to alleviate homelessness in California but treatment is not always funded.

A controversial bill signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom could improve that by forcing people suffering from severe mental illness into treatment. But they need to be diagnosed with a certain disorder such as schizophrenia and addiction alone doesn't qualify.

Help is available but it is outpaced by the magnitude of misery on the streets.

Rita Richardson, a field supervisor with LA Door, a city addiction-prevention program that works with people convicted of misdemeanors, hands out socks, water, condoms, snacks, clean needles and flyers at the same hotspots Monday through Friday. She hopes the consistency of her visits will encourage people to get help.

"Then hopefully the light bulb comes on. It might not happen this year. It might not happen next year. It might take several years," said Richardson, a former homeless addict. "My goal is to take them from the dark to the light."

Parts of Los Angeles have become scenes of desperation with men and women sprawled on sidewalks, curled up on benches and collapsed in squalid alleys. Some huddle up smoking the drug, others inject it.

Armando Rivera, 33, blew out white puffs to attract addicts in the alley where Smith was sleeping. He needed to sell some dope to buy more. Those without enough money to support their habit, hovered around him, hoping for a free hit. Rivera showed no mercy.

Catano couldn't sell the chair, but eventually she sold the fabric softener to a street vendor for $5.

It was enough money for another high.

FEDERAL LAW

FROM PAGE 7

Soheili has been in custody since May 2021, when he was arrested on charges alleging he mailed at least two fake oxycodone pills containing fentanyl to a man in Fillmore, Utah. That victim died on February 21, 2021. Only five weeks later, Soheili provided cocaine laced with fentanyl to another victim who died of fentanyl poisoning in his bedroom at his parents' home in Aliso Viejo.

Assistant United States Attorney Kristin N. Spencer of the Santa Ana Branch Office is prosecuting this case, which was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

"It is our duty as postal inspectors to go after those individuals who attempt to ship through the U.S. mail illicit drugs like fentanyl or the components used to manufacture them," said Assistant Inspector in Charge Hirose. "We remain steadfast in our resolve to seek justice to the end and to keep communities safe. This goal is achieved through collaborative investigative efforts with other law enforcement agencies."

Other pending cases brought as a result of the Overdose Justice project include one against Jonathan Limas-Reyes, a 26-year-old Downey man, whom DEA agents arrested in August on a charge of selling fake pills containing fentanyl to a 17-year-old high school student who suffered a fatal poisoning. The Downey Police Department provided significant assistance in this matter. The trial in this case, which is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David W. Williams of the General Crimes Section, is scheduled for June 6, 2023.

Federal authorities continue to use traditional law enforcement techniques to interdict dangerous narcotics being transported and delivered in wholesale quantities. There are numerous ongoing investigations targeting large-scale operations trafficking fentanyl, most of which is produced by Mexico-based drug cartels that are marketing fentanyl in ever-increasing quantities.

"With Los Angeles' close proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border, it has become one of the largest fentanyl distribution hubs," said HSI Los Angeles Acting Special Agent in Charge Eddy Wang. "As such, HSI Los Angeles has prioritized the targeting of fentanyl traffickers and will work tirelessly with our federal, state, local, and international partners to remove this deadly poison from our streets."

During 2022, law enforcement officials have seized massive shipments of both bulk fentanyl and fentanyl-laced fake pills. In July, in an operation in Inglewood, authorities seized a shipment of nearly 1 million fake pills containing fentanyl. This matter is the subject of an ongoing investigation.

In late October, after several months of discussing a potential transaction involving 2 million fentanyl-laced pills, DEA agents working with investigators from the Hawthorne Police Department, conducted an operation in which they seized more than 800,000 fake pills containing fentanyl. The person who delivered that shipment – George Ramirez, 34, of San Diego – was taken into custody on October 28, and he is currently being held without bond on charges of possession with intent to distribute controlled substances.

The Fullerton Police Department and the Hawthorne Police Department provided significant assistance during the investigation into Ramirez.

The case against Ramirez is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Afia Bondero and Alix McKenna of the General Crimes Section.

In relation to all of the pending cases noted above, indictments and criminal complaints contain allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

SUBMITTED BY THOM MROZEK DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 29)

You'll live a paradox. You'll have a good time because you don't expect to have a good time. Your attitude is what makes things beautiful for you. People plot to support and champion you. You will be raised up to greet what challenges the group. You'll be trusted and put in charge, and you'll manage your power well. Gemini and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 5, 19, 2 and 13.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The silliness of life will be apparent to you. You will feel that you are in your most natural state when you are playfully interacting with the inherently nonsensical aspects of daily life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even though you get an immediate feeling about your next move, you still take the time to think things through. Assumptions are the downfall of smooth operations. Instead of summing up the situation, ask questions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Things look different in the rearview mirror, which seems to give fickle favors. Some things look better back there and other things look worse. Just know that memory is a story we tell ourselves, and it doesn't always serve the facts.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Hunger is a powerful driver that can sharpen and power us to do things we wouldn't typically think to do under more satiated circumstances. You might be surprised at what you're hungry for today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll turn sadness into joy. It's not a pancake-flip move that happens all at once and then you're suddenly on the other side. This is the slow but sure cake bake. Give it time and all will rise, lighter and sweeter for the transformation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). While it would be convenient to give everyone the same automatic responses, it's almost impossible for you to do this. You care too much. You see people as individuals, each with a unique need deserving of personal attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Oscar Wilde said that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught. Surely, it depends on the lesson, the teacher and the student. Today, you'll be keenly aware of how learning styles, like values, vary widely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Offense will be forgiven, injury pardoned, wrongs made right. You don't have to agree on things to make them better. Silence is the perfect expression for a multitude of messages today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Make sure everyone has the same information. Let the doubters try and poke holes in the plan. The plan can only get stronger for having been put to the group mind. The best groups are as respectful as they are diverse.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As you go about your duty, you leave room for life to take things in a different direction. Your spirit of openness changes the plot. There's no such thing as too many supporters. You'll pick them up everywhere you go.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The lovely things are made better through the people who can see them and celebrate them. Nothing is inherently beautiful, rather it's made that way in the mind of a person who experiences it as beautiful. You are such a person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The people who happen to be around you now are there for a reason. Some of them are attracted to the same things, or could be responding to the pull of your energy. You're all in it together.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

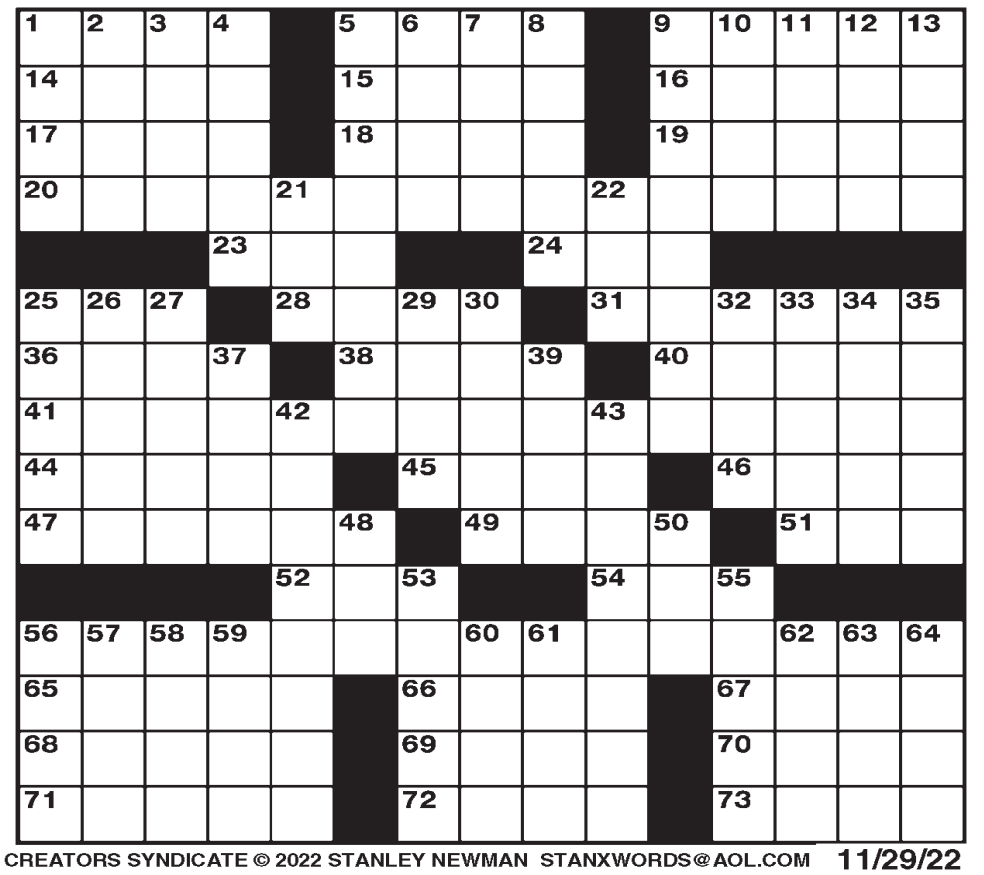
2	3					8	7	5
	9	6					1	
		7	5	4		6		
			7			5	4	
9				1				2
	2	5			8			
		9		7	1	2		
	6					3	5	
4	7	2					8	1

Newsday Crossword

HOW'S THE WEATHER? by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Boats like Noah's
5 Clumsy person
9 Sized up for a robbery
14 Penny
15 Ready for harvesting
16 Amazon's speaker voice
17 Doe or stag
18 Prophetic sign
19 Electricity supply
20 Guilt-free feeling
23 Chinese stir-fry pan
24 Have lunch
25 Campaign funding grp.
28 Shed tears
31 Synagogue leaders
36 Rebounding sound
38 Take a __ check (politely decline)
40 Camel's South American cousin
41 Unfriendly welcome
44 Seoul, South __
45 Read digitally
46 Buttonlike earring
47 Absorbs, as with a sponge
49 Roof overhang
51 Pigpen
52 Hunters' org.
54 Suffix meaning "adherent"
56 Uncertain chances for success
65 Remove suds from
66 Mortgage adjustment, for short
67 Open-handed smack
68 Western movie
69 __ time (very quickly)
70 Ballet skirt
71 Walk to the other side of the street
72 Lake bird
73 12-month period

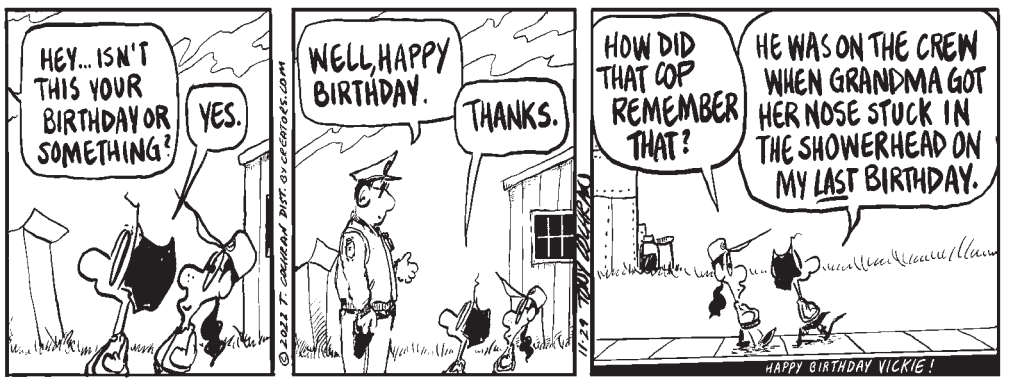
DOWN
1 Letters on an electrical adapter
2 Fishing rod's spool
3 Leg joint
4 Sipper's tube
5 Earthenware plates, cups, etc.
6 VIP's auto, for short
7 Make the first bet
8 Tightly packed
9 What "Pennsylvania" starts with
10 Spiny houseplant
11 Stitched up
12 Company bigwig, for short
13 Take a bold risk
21 Line of seats
22 Sedan or coupe
25 Quick kisses
26 Sneeze sound
27 Cricket's sound
29 Corncob servings
30 Slice of cake
32 Crispy sandwiches, for short
33 Prepares, as a fishhook
34 Poker quitter's comment
35 Like a beach surface
37 Spanish cheers
39 March Madness org.
42 Cleans in a washing machine
43 Imagine for the future
48 Be nosy
50 Abbr. for clairvoyance
53 First full month of spring
55 In an irritable mood
56 Gator's relative
57 One telling falsehoods
58 Not tricked by
59 Takes advantage of
60 Casino city near Lake Tahoe
61 __ importance (insignificant)
62 Hint in a whodunit
63 "Bye-bye!"
64 Spiked wheel on a Western boot



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 11/29/22

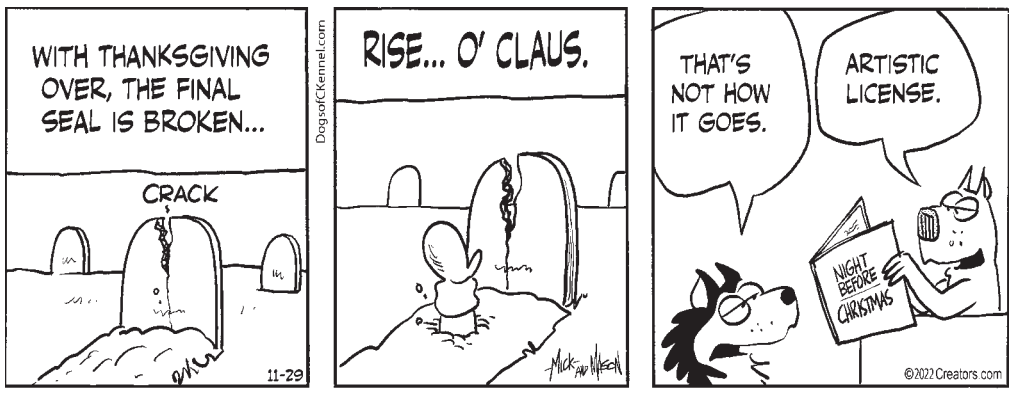
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



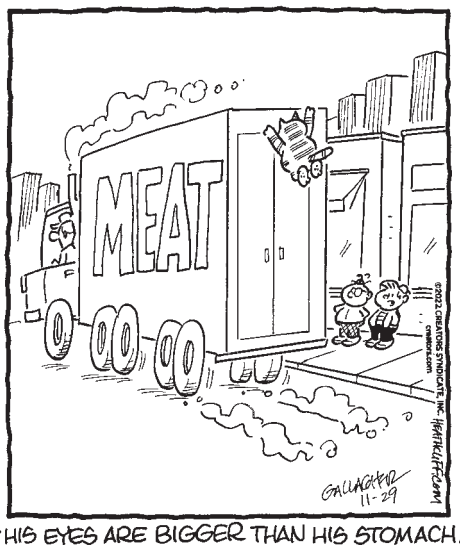
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HIS EYES ARE BIGGER THAN HIS STOMACH."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 5678

Agricultural show

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

Action	Cha cha	Groom	Rope
Animals	Cows	Lost	Roulette
Arena	Crowd	Music	Scary
Bands	Displays	Order	Sheep
Best	Dodgem	Pass	Show
Birds	Dogs	Pigs	Skylink
Booth	Dust	Raft	Sore
Broke	Exhibit	Rams	Tents
Cakes	Fish	Real	Toboggan
Cats	Flume	Rides	Train
Corn on a stick	Fruit	Ring	Tube
	Gates	Rodeo	Waffles

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Make the most of it

WISE & Healthy Aging
(310) 394-9871
Adult Day Service Center
Your trusted source for adult day care for your loved one. Let us give you the break you need.
Somos Amigos
"Somos Amigos" (we are friends) is our Spanish Language Program offering mental stimulation, exercise-strength training and recreation.
Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds
A Veterans Benefit!

What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 29

CINEMA SERIES AT AERO THEATRE
See a screening of "Women Talking." In 2010, the women of an isolated religious community struggle to reconcile with their faith after a series of sexual assaults. Directed by Sarah Polley, based on the 2018 novel of the same name by Miriam Toews, and starring Rooney Mara, Claire Foy, Jessie Buckley, Ben Whishaw, and Frances McDormand. A pre-recorded Q&A immediately following screening with two-time Academy Award-winning producer Dede Gardner ("Moonlight," "12 Years A Slave"). 7 p.m. $15. 1328 Montana. www.kcetcinemaseriesfall2022.eventive.org/welcome

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 30

MAIN STREET FOOD TRUCKS
California Heritage Museum's weekly food truck event. Come taste delicious food located one block from the beach, in the parking lot of the California Heritage Museum. 5-9 p.m. at 2612 Main Street

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 1

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING
Santa comes to the Promenade for the annual lighting of the official City of Santa Monica 24-foot-tall holiday tree. Join us for performances by local school groups, free photos with Santa, and a snowy surprise. Free. 6-8 p.m. on the Third Street Promenade

NOMA MEETING
Daniel Mick, Santa Monica's new Code Enforcement administrator, will discuss the mission of his department and its challenges, and Beat #4's Neighborhood Resource Officers will provide their crime and safety update at the North of Montana Avenue Association's membership meeting Thursday, Dec.1, at 7 pm on Zoom. Nominations for NOMA's Board are also on tap, as is presentation of a homeowner's petition to 'Save Santa Monica.' How to join the meeting can be found at www.smnoma.org and all residents are invited.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 2

APOLLO 17: THE LAST HURRAH
In December 1972, the final Apollo lunar landing was made by Gene Cernan and Jack Schmitt as they brought LM Challenger down for three days of scientific and philosophical investigation in the Valley of Taurus-Littrow. Keenly aware they were the last people who would walk on the Moon for some time, and watched over by their crewmate Ron Evans overhead in Command Module America, Cernan and Schmit tried their best to remind the world how remarkable Apollo was. Join SMC Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon for a free online educational event to learn about Apollo 17. 8-9 p.m., following The Night Sky Show at 7 p.m. Online only. www.smc.edu/community/planetarium.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 3

CITY HALL MURAL SERIES
This first event in the Reframe: City Hall Mural series brings speakers together to discuss Native representation in public art and civic space. The City of Santa Monica has embarked on a public process to consider the meaning, impact and potential responses to the WPA-era mural by Stanton Macdonald-Wright in the lobby of historic City Hall. Help amend and celebrate Santa Monica history by taking part in Reframe! For more info, visit santamonica.gov/programs/acknowledge-and-reframe-together. 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at SMC Barrett Gallery, 1310 11th St.

HOLIDAY WALK ON MONTANA AVENUE
It's the most wonderful time of the year and the festive spirit has arrived to Montana Avenue. Gather on Dec. 3 for live music, carolers strolling up and down the street and meet Santa and the gang at Montana Avenue's biggest event of the year! Listen to live music and hear an upbeat klezmer band to get friends and family in the dancing mood, and feel the good cheer viewing shop windows dressed for the season. Free. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

BRUNCH WITH SANTA PAWS
Put on your pup's holiday best and join us for Breakfast with Santa Paws, in partnership with the Healthy Spot organization. Located at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel on the Venice Garden Terrace, enjoy photos with Santa, cookie decorating, puppachinos, create your reindeer antlers, goodie bags, breakfast for you and your pup and more. Guests will be entered to win a two-night #LoewsLovesPets Winter escape. $50 donation per person, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, 1700 Ocean Ave

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 4

SANTA MONICA SYMPHONY
Santa Monica Symphony's winter concert – Fantasy, Firebird, and Fabiola – will have you soaring to new heights with music that lifts hearts and spirits. Music Director Troy Quinn embarks on an emotional flight conducting Powell's suite from the heart-warming family film, How to Train Your Dragon, Stravinsky's powerful Firebird Suite, and Vaughn Williams' transcendent The Lark Ascending featuring violin virtuoso Fabiola Kim. Pre-registration recommended. Free. 7-9 p.m. at John Adams Middle School, 2425 16th Street

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **61.5**

TUESDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-5ft Waist to head	Fresh NW windswell in morning, along with some longer-period NW swell. Shape should be peaky and fun - may trend Fair-Good in next update. Clean conditions with E/SE wind.
WEDNESDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest	Lingering to slowly easing NW swell mix. Could see offshore flow for the morning.

WEATHER

Today: Sunny, with a high near 62. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. Calm wind.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 62. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast in the afternoon.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/11/28	Mon	01:39 AM	3.61	H
2022/11/28	Mon	05:26 AM	2.95	L
2022/11/28	Mon	11:47 AM	5.67	H
2022/11/28	Mon	7:36 PM	-0.52	L
2022/11/29	Tue	02:55 AM	3.85	H
2022/11/29	Tue	07:04 AM	3.07	L
2022/11/29	Tue	1:03 PM	5.05	H
2022/11/29	Tue	8:43 PM	-0.19	L
2022/11/30	Wed	03:55 AM	4.25	H
2022/11/30	Wed	09:09 AM	2.79	L
2022/11/30	Wed	2:34 PM	4.51	H
2022/11/30	Wed	9:44 PM	0.12	L
2022/12/01	Thu	04:41 AM	4.70	H
2022/12/01	Thu	10:41 AM	2.13	L
2022/12/01	Thu	4:05 PM	4.18	H
2022/12/01	Thu	10:37 PM	0.45	L
2022/12/02	Fri	05:21 AM	5.16	H
2022/12/02	Fri	11:46 AM 1	.36	L
2022/12/02	Fri	5:23 PM	4.00	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: 11/26
15 30 47 50 51
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 56 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 11/25
29 31 46 54 67
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 305 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/26
1 8 9 44 47
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/27
4 5 18 19 23

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/27
EVENING: 9 8 2
Draw Date: 11/27
MIDDAY: 2 4 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/27
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:45.59

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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