2 **Local company fined**
For false advertising

6 **Ready to Succeed**
Helping foster youth.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

7 **Encampment crackdown**
Across the country.

8 **Gas Prices**
Where to fill your tank.

Volume 23 Issue 11 WEDNESDAY 11/29/23 smdp.com

Desperate businesses seek new coalition to tackle crime and homelessness



Scott Snowden

CRISIS: Businesses in Santa Monica are struggling with the impact of homelessness and a new group is forming to push for changes at the local level.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A group of more than thirty local businesses have formed a new coalition under the auspices of the California Restaurant Association (CRA) to advocate for businesses facing what they describe as a crisis driven by homelessness and crime.

CRA is a statewide organization that provides advocacy, advice, support and resources for the hospitality industry. They traditionally operate regional chapters that work on the full spectrum of issues impacting restaurants but the Santa Monica initiative is a new model for the group with a tighter focus, both geographic and topical.

CRA said Hospitality Santa Monica, a CRA coalition, has grown out of the frustration felt by local businesses.

"Our Santa Monica members have reached a breaking point as they face a barrage of crime and homelessness issues," said Jot Condie, California Restaurant Association President and CEO. "The safety of their guests and team members is at risk every day

SEE **RESTAURANT** PAGE 11



Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

In today's real estate climate ...
Experience counts!
garylimjap@gmail.com www.garylimjap.com

COLDWELL BANKER
CalRE # 00927151

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE

If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge

DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!

WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
- Nitrous Oxide available.
- No interest payment plans.
- Emergencies can be seen today.
- Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to.

AND OF COURSE WE DO
- Invisalign
- Periodontist on Staff
- Oral Surgeon on Staff
- Cosmetics and Implants
- Zoom bleaching
- and more

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN (310) 736–2589
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703 WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

Ice AT SANTA MONICA
PRESENTED BY NETFLIX

WEDNESDAYS ON ICE
Don't miss these weekly themed events every Wednesday, with skating sessions at 7 and 8:30 p.m.









LEARN MORE
@DTSantaMonica
ICEATSANTAMONICA.COM

Genetic testing company fined for false advertising

Santa Monica-based CRI Genetics, LLC (CRI) will pay a $700,000 civil penalty and will be barred from a wide range of deceptive practices to settle charges from the Federal Trade Commission and the California Attorney General that the company deceived users about the accuracy of its DNA reports.

In a joint complaint filed in federal district, the agencies say that in marketing its DNA-based ancestry and information reports, CRI deceived consumers about the accuracy of its test reports compared with those of other DNA testing companies, falsely claimed to have patented an algorithm for its genetic matching process and used fake reviews and testimonials on its websites.

According to court documents, CRI engaged in deceptive marketing tactics by creating websites that resembled independent platforms offering unbiased reviews of DNA ancestry testing companies. Failing to disclose ownership, the company posted fake consumer reviews and utilized a false scarcity message about test kit availability. Consumers were pressured into immediate purchases through misleading pop-up pages labeled as "special rewards." The defendant misrepresented these pop-ups as transaction steps, claiming orders were incomplete and allowing review before charging. However, consumers were charged immediately, leading many to seek refunds. These manipulative practices, described as "dark patterns," deceived consumers about product quality and popularity, compelling them to make unplanned purchases.

> "CRI Genetics could have found legitimate ways to market its services. Unfortunately, in its pursuit of growth and profits, the company repeatedly misled consumers"
> - Rob Bonta

"CRI Genetics could have found legitimate ways to market its services. Unfortunately, in its pursuit of growth and profits, the company repeatedly misled consumers. The FTC and my office took notice, we investigated, and we are delivering results today," said California Attorney General Rob Bonta. "Our settlement not only holds CRI Genetics accountable for its past misconduct — it also aims to ensure that CRI Genetics doesn't engage in similar misconduct going forward. I want to thank our federal counterparts at the FTC for their continued partnership and commitment to ensuring that all businesses play by the same rules."

The settlement, which is subject to court approval, requires CRI to pay the state $700,000 in civil penalties and restricts CRI and its founder from engaging in future deceptive conduct. CRI's customers will also receive greater privacy protections as a result of the settlement.

"Today's action continues the FTC's crackdown on deceptive reviews, dark patterns, and baseless claims around algorithmic solutions," said Samuel Levine, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "We are proud to partner with California on this important matter and will continue to carefully scrutinize claims around biometric information technologies."

This action follows the Commission's Biometric Policy Statement, which states that unsubstantiated marketing claims relating to the validity, reliability, accuracy, performance, fairness, or efficacy of technologies using biometric information violate the FTC Act.

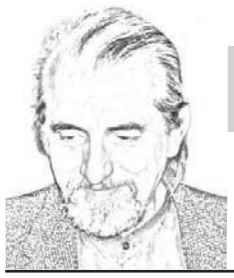
CRI, also doing business as OmniPGX, advertises, markets, distributes, and sells DNA test kits and ancestry and health and wellness reports to consumer nationwide. Since at least 2017, CRI has marketed and sold DNA saliva swab test kits on its website, along with reports generated from the kits processed by a third-party laboratory. The reports provide consumers with information about their genetic ancestry, potential health and wellness traits and conditions, and paternity.

The complaint charges that CRI violated the FTC Act, California's Unfair Competition Law, Business and Professions Code, and the state's False Advertising Law, Business and Professions code in several ways. First, CRI allegedly made false claims on its websites and social media that its ancestry reports were more accurate and detailed than other major DNA testing companies, such as Ancestry DNA and 23andMe.

The agencies say that CRI also misrepresented that its ancestry testing reports would show consumers exactly where their relatives are from and when they were there dating back 50 plus generations, with an accuracy rate of more than 90 percent. The company ran ads featuring a prominent genetic scientist who developed CRI's algorithm for matching DNA, which it falsely claimed was patented, according to the complaint.

Further, CRI posted fake reviews from supposedly "satisfied customers" on its websites and falsely claimed they only had a limited supply of the tests to entice consumers to buy them quickly. The company also published star rating reviews comparing CRI's reports to other companies on the market on what appeared to be independent and unbiased websites, without disclosing

SEE CRI PAGE 11



OPINION **CURIOUS CITY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ready for Part III

READY FOR JERRY RUBIN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY?!

Everyone is invited, he says, Monday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m., at the Gaslight, 2030 Wilshire.

Hard to believe that old goat is finally... old. But wait - isn't 80 the new 60? Joni Mitchell just hit 80. Mick Friggin' Jagger is 80! And still touring, still looking for satisfaction, along with fellow Stone Keith Richards, who will hit 80 a week after Jerry's party. (I hope you invited them, Jerry.) Willie Nelson turned 90 (on stage at the Hollywood Bowl) this year, as did John Mayall, Quincy Jones, Yoko Ono.

Joe Biden is 81 and despite the right wing Fox propaganda, is doing quite well, thank you. (Those speech fumbles? He's always had them, since he was a kid, after overcoming stuttering.) The Queen was 96 when she died, her queen mother 101. President George H. W. Bush was 94. President Jimmy Carter is still with us at 99, diplomat Henry Kissinger at 100.

De Niro is 80, Scorsese 81. (Don't miss "Killers of the Flower Moon.") Laker superfans Jack Nicholson and Dyan Cannon are 86, as is Morgan Freeman. Robert Redford is 87. Donald Sutherland is 88, as is my mom Julie Andrews – just kidding, she's too young for that. Michael Caine is 90, James Earl Jones 92.

Dick Gregory is 84, Carol Burnett 90, Bob Newhart 94. Dick Van Dyke and Mel Brooks are 97, still cutting up. Comedy creator Norman Lear is 101. George Burns and Bob Hope were both 100 when they told their last joke, Betty White just 17 days short of that century mark.

I think Jerry knows about those long-lived comedians, because he's been doing stand-up lately. I haven't had the courage to go. His humor is so dry not even Sahara Desert Bedouins get it. Pope Francis is 86, the Dalai Lama 88, so being a man of peace apparently keeps you alive too.

I get to tease Jerry because he is my good friend of many years. Some are surprised at that. After all, Jerry never saw a new tall building in Santa Monica he didn't love, and always showed up to tell the City Council so. But we agree on almost everything else, from trees to murals to the Lakers and Bruins to the clowns in DC.

Jerry Rubin is a truly remarkable human being. At one point his life was so out of control he wondered if he'd even make 40. He flipped a switch and has been focused and steadfast ever since, in loving everyone and working for peace, starting with himself. I don't know how he does it. And he has not wavered even in the face of the devastating loss to cancer of his dear wife and partner Marissa, a year ago. I can tell you, it has been very rough for him, and still is. But he has remained – Jerry.

OK – he doesn't love Donald Trump. For all the right reasons. Same for Putin. But it's a pretty small group, of leaders who work against peace, against the environment, against human rights. Which makes sense. Most of us parse issues pretty finely but Jerry loves a lot of people who, to be honest, I don't love. I understand, and I admire his dedication. He really is a hero. Most of us say we are for peace and love, but Jerry Rubin actually lives it. Every day, maybe every minute. I am only one of many here locally who disagree with him on some issues, but acknowledge his greater personal crusade. Jerry may be born Jewish but he's more of a real Christian than almost anyone I know.



Courtesy photo

NEW VONS: Coming Soon!

Jerry, I know you seem tireless in your life's work, but the world needs you around for another 80 years. You don't mind, do you?

PART III

If you recall (or even if you don't), I set out two CURIOUS CITY columns ago to offer a primer on Santa Monica politics, for those mystified by what goes on in this town, especially that which has been destroying its character and history. Why would anyone want to do that, to such a special, historic, irreplaceable city?

Lots of reasons, and it's not all money (but a lot of it is). Lots of players, lots of groups, with diverse agendas, but nearly all of them circling back to development. Overdevelopment. Those of us who want to develop slowly, reasonably, of necessity not greed, those of us who want to preserve our history, our low rise skyline, our historic buildings, our trees, our parks and beach, our mom and pop businesses, the character of our neighborhoods, our diversity of population – sorry, that's a minority group that has little power right now. Big money and established power channels want something different, and Santa Monica is already nearly unrecognizable from the city it was just 10 years ago. Improvements? Not in my book.

A LOT OF MOVING PARTS

It does take years to figure this all out. But we don't have years. Look around at the construction. Do all these buildings belong in a city of less than 100,000? Are they necessary? Do they improve the quality of life for those of us who live here?

Every buck stops at the City Council.

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 4



Surf report WATER TEMP: **62.2**

WEDNESDAY *FAIR* | **SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist

Fresh WNW swell joins lingering NW swell mix with small/rideable surf across the region. Another morning of light wind and semi clean surf is on the cards but the AM high tide slows many breaks.

THURSDAY *POOR TO FAIR* | **SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh

Playful pulse of W/WNW swell looks likely -- storm is developing off the California coast now. Wind looks favorable in the morning just account for the higher tide. Low tide spots with NW wind blockage in play in the afternoon.

Weather

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of rain after 10am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62.
Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly before 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 62. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers after 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2023/11/29	Wed	03:04 AM	2.56		L
2023/11/29	Wed	09:23 AM	6.20		H
2023/11/29	Wed	5:00 PM	-0.73		L
2023/11/29	Wed	11:56 PM	3.49		H
2023/11/30	Thu	03:40 AM	2.81		L
2023/11/30	Thu	10:00 AM	5.80		H
2023/11/30	Thu	5:46 PM	-0.40		L
2023/12/01	Fri	01:02 AM	3.42		H
2023/12/01	Fri	04:21 AM	3.03		L
2023/12/01	Fri	10:41 AM	5.34		H
2023/12/01	Fri	6:35 PM	-0.03		L
2023/12/02	Sat	02:17 AM	3.46		H
2023/12/02	Sat	05:16 AM	3.23		L
2023/12/02	Sat	11:27 AM	4.84		H
2023/12/02	Sat	7:28 PM	0.32		L
2023/12/03	Sun	03:27 AM	3.62		H
2023/12/03	Sun	06:43 AM	3.35		L
2023/12/03	Sun	12:25 PM	4.33		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: 11/27
2 21 38 61 66
Power#: 12
Jackpot: 374 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/24
6 15 45 59 68
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 335 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/25
3 8 26 43 44
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 18 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/27
2 9 19 23 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/27
EVENING: 8 3 4
Draw Date: 11/27
MIDDAY: 0 8 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/27
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:40.26

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

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

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 3

(Though they do not have the power to control a lot of things.) But I say it was voting for the wrong City Councils that got us here, for the most part, and our only chance of making this a great city to live in again is voting, voting. The election is less than a year away, and we don't even have good candidates yet (except some incumbents). We don't have a PAC to fund their campaigns. Those on our Council now who have tried to reverse course, to stand up for residents, have been treated terribly. It's a national problem, in this day of threats rather than discourse. But, a handful of good souls with thick skins and a strong desire to see the right things done, must step up.

The establishment power brokers, SMRR, Forward and others, had a stunning setback when a slate of three "residents candidates" (Parra, Brock, de la Torre) did something never done before, won election without their endorsements. Then Lana Negrete was appointed to fill a vacancy, and she wound up voting with the slate many times, forming a majority. Of course the power establishment is not at all pleased with this, and is determined to undo it in the next election. Like the prospect of a second Trump presidency, be prepared, you ain't seen nothin' yet.

So at least peruse those first two columns, Nov. 1 and Nov. 15. Some things will start to fall into place for you. You will still have many questions (send them to me), but you will be on the path to some understanding, and informed voting. And informing your neighbors about what you think is going on. We have the numbers, of voters and we love our city and have a passion to save it from further destruction. Yeah, I know, I preach, but polite supplications don't get the job done. It's now or never, and I don't want to have to move.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

City of Santa Monica

COURTESY NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Proposed Interim Zoning Ordinance to Extend Interim Zoning Regulations Adopted by Interim Zoning Ordinance 2764 (CCS) Amending the Text of the Zoning Ordinance to Replace the Term "Medical Marijuana Dispensary" with "Medicinal Cannabis Retailer", to Remove Certain Requirements for Medicinal Cannabis Retailers for Consistency with State Law, and to Permit Medicinal Cannabis Retailers to Sell Adult-Use Cannabis or Adult-Use Cannabis Products to Persons 21 Years of Age and Over

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to introduce and adopt an Interim Zoning Ordinance extending Interim Zoning Ordinance 2764 (CCS) originally adopted by the City Council on November 14, 2023, that amended the text of the Zoning Ordinance to replace the term "Medical Marijuana Dispensary" with "Medicinal Cannabis Retailer", removed certain requirements for Medicinal Cannabis Retailers for Consistency with State law, and permitted Medicinal Cannabis Retailers to sell adult-use cannabis or adult-use cannabis products to persons 21 Years of Age and Over.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 AT 7:00 PM**

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

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

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

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: Extension of Interim Zoning Ordinance 2764

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

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

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2275.

COMMUNITY NEWS

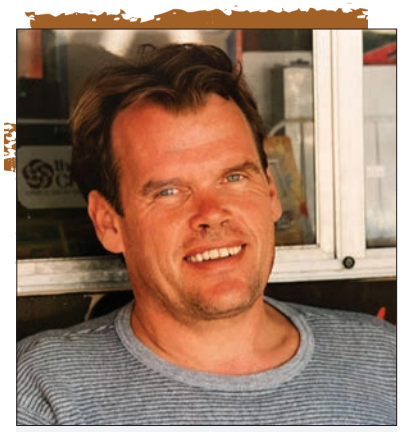
Citywide

Lars Gusaf Soderbergh April 7, 1952 – November 1, 2023

Lars Gustaf Soderbergh, 71, a long-time resident of Pacific Palisades and a renowned, award-winning architect, passed away surrounded by his loving family and friends on November 1 after a courageous, two-year battle with cancer.

A kind and gentle man. That's how people who knew Gustaf Soderbergh describe him.

Born in Sweden in 1952 and the son Karin and Lars Soderbergh, Gustaf spent his formative years growing up in Sweden, Italy, Japan and England, and before coming to the U.S. He received an associate of arts degree from the United States International University in Sussex, England, and a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Southern California.



Courtesy Photo
LARS GUSAF SODERBERGH

ECLECTIC TALENTS

A LEED-certified architect, Gustaf was a founding principal of Van Tilburg, Banvard & Soderbergh (VTBS), a prominent Santa Monica-based architecture, planning and urban design firm, where he worked for more than 40 years. His innovative designs are apparent in many of the residential and commercial buildings and the mixed-used developments he managed for VTBS clients. These include Talaria and Venice Renaissance, mixed use developments in Burbank and Venice, respectively, and the San Diego Design Center.

His design concepts and efficient land use insights will live on in his beloved Palisades community. As a member of the Palisades Park Advisory Board, Gustaf's design plan for the Palisades Recreation Center's parking area was the key catalyst for securing approval from the Coastal Commission for the development of the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero which opened In December 2022.

In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Gustaf's legacy lives on through his family and many friends. An excellent cook and foodie, Gustaf was known for his open dinner table where he prepared elaborate meals and engaged in conversation that left a lasting impression on guests long after the night was over. He was an avid reader, loved to explore the Santa Monica mountains on foot; say a friendly hello to people he met on his daily walks; and travel with family and friends. His international upbringing was also apparent in his love of music, especially rock and roll artists from the late 1960s and 1970s rock scene in London. (His iPod playlists were always a staple at events in his home.)

He is survived by his "darling bride" Melinda, his wife of 22 years, his children Erik, Karl, Marie, and Evan, and brothers Bo and Carl.

A memorial reception celebrating Gustaf's life will be held on December 4 from 2 – 5 p.m. at the William Turner Art Gallery located at 2525 Michigan Ave. E-1, Santa Monica. Refreshments and light appetizers will be served.

SUBMITTED BY FRANK POLLARE

11th Street

SMC Piano Ensemble to Perform Concerts Dec. 5

The Santa Monica College (SMC) Piano Ensemble is going contemporary with a concert of musical selections from the 20th and 21st centuries, featuring original and arranged works by Melody Bober, William Gillock, Aaron Copland, and other major composers of our time.



Photo by Brian Driscoll
MUSIC: The Santa Monica College Piano Ensemble will perform two live concerts featuring original and arranged works by major composers of the 20th and 21st centuries on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 11:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the Music Hall at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard).

Under the direction of SMC music instructor Dr. Yulia Kozlova, intermediate and advanced SMC piano students will demonstrate the uniqueness and diversity of four-hand piano and piano duo compositions. The concerts are guaranteed to be more than twice as much fun as a solo piano performance.

A free concert will be held at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5. Complimentary tickets for the morning concert are available at the SMC Music Office (PAC 211) or at the door.

An evening program will be presented at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5. Tickets for the evening concert 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. Tickets may also be purchased — starting 45 minutes before the performance begins — at The Broad Stage Box Office at the SMC Performing Arts Center.

Both concerts will be held in the Music Hall at the SMC Performing Arts Center (Santa Monica Boulevard at 11th Street, Santa Monica). Free parking on premises. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis.

With mask requirements subject to change, guests should visit smc.edu/coronavirus for up-to-date details before heading to the concert.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323. Concert is subject to change or cancellation without notice.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Lady Vikings rout opponent in home opener













Photos by Thomas Leffler

SOCCER: The Samohi Lady Vikings soccer squad was back in action for the team's opening contest of the 2023-24 season Monday, defeating Bishop Montgomery by a score of 8-0. The team looked fresh and ready for the new season, controlling the pace of the game and giving the Bishop Montgomery goalie a wide variety of shots to defend. The team will be back in action on Wednesday, heading on the road to face West Torrance.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email **cindy@smdp.com**

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023235592 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 10/31/23. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as DECAFLIFE.com 8605 Santa Monica Blvd #539106 West Hollywood, CA 90069 Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/ are Wordly Enterprises LLC 8605 Santa Monica Blvd #539106 West Hollywood, CA 90069 If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/ Organization: CA This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Wordly Enterprises LLC Title: Managing Member Sean WestThis statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/31/2023 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 11/15/23, 11/22/23, 11/29/23,12/06/23

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

Tool Repair & Servicing

Bourget Bros. offers Expert Repair on all of your tools:

- Compressors
- Rotary Hammers
- Strip Nailers
- Cordless Tools
- Pneumatic Tools
- Demolition Hammers & More



Blade Sharpening
Saw Blades
Gardening Tools
Knifes and Scissors



Bourget Bros. Building Materials
1636 - 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404
bourgetbros.com • (310) 450-6556

All repair work meets factory regulations and comes with a 90-day warranty. Stop in or call us to schedule service.

Underserved scholars become ready for success with local program

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer



Courtesy Photo

READY TO SUCCEED: Scholars in the Ready to Succeed program are bridging the opportunity gap by working with education and career readiness mentors.

This time of year can be a stressful one for high school students, who are weighing their future options when it comes to college education. Some are still studying for last-second SAT or ACT exams, some are nervously awaiting scores from those tests, and others are busy with college essays and campus tours.

Those stressors can take quite the toll, and all of them are amplified for students who lag behind in the opportunities provided to most youth their age. Underserved youth, particularly those that come out of the foster care system, need an extra boost of visibility to bring their considerable skills and intelligence to the spotlight. Ready to Succeed, a local group challenged with providing that visibility, continued to transform the lives of underserved youth in 2023.

Started in early 2016 by co-founders Romi Lassally and Patrick McCabe, Ready to Succeed is committed to "bridging the opportunity gap" for foster youth and underserved populations by providing resources and relationship-building opportunities throughout the high school experience. Beginning with youth as rising sophomores, the organization guides students towards graduation, college attendance and career success.

Lassally noted that Ready to Succeed began because her and McCabe saw there "was a real need" to support foster youth up to and throughout college and career beginnings.

"It's actually a very small percentage that make it that far, (foster youth) overcome tremendous odds," Lassally said. "Foster youth have some of the worst outcomes of any group of young people, so it's incredible that they make it to college … we thought we could put together a very career-focused program … where we would work with the student as early as possible."

In the first seven years of the program, Ready to Succeed has served almost 500 scholars, including enrolling 130 youths into the three-year program in 2023. Of the students that already experienced the program, 92% graduate college in under six years, and 85% of students transitioned into a career track job within six months of graduation.

While the methodology has evolved since 2016, the group's three pillars remain the same: Making sure students have career-readiness skills, giving access to people to start building a network, and teaching students how to nurture relationships and build social capital. To achieve this, Ready to Succeed gives each student a career navigation mentor throughout the program, not only to coach but to teach students how to increase their confidence in telling their own story.

"We've been able to kind of craft the program so students realize how valuable they are," Lassally said. "So it's not just telling them what to do, but that they have a story to tell, they have strength and skills to bring, and that they are worthy of (a future). A lot of the students we work with … have had some level of trauma, and it manifests itself in different ways. It's trust issues, lack of confidence, imposter syndrome, so many things emotionally, physically, financially, that we've learned that we have to kind of convince them that they're worthy first."

Ready to Succeed has implemented confidence-building activities throughout its first seven years, with its newest facet being "Camp Ready," a two-day summer camp where new scholars can meet their advisors for the first time and start to build a strong foundational relationship. Over the summer, scholars who attended Camp Ready received a visit from Congressman Ted Lieu, who shared that each student would receive a $5,000 scholarship for the next school year to cover their needs.

Financial aid is another piece of bridging the gap, and in 2023 the program gave $704,000 in targeted financial aid to Ready to Succeed scholars. Lassally noted that foster youth have the same talent, drive and motivation as their peers, and that their job is to "connect the dots" when it comes to networking and educational opportunities.

Another success of 2023 for the group was the growth of its alumni network, which was exciting for Lassally because some alumni end up becoming mentors themselves for current Ready to Succeed scholars.

"It was an unexpected benefit to see that the alumni could become the network we start to tap into for our students … the individual success stories are thrilling to see them doing well … it's thrilling to see them all kind of pursuing dreams, and then realizing they could make them happen, and it's equally thrilling to see them give back," she said.

For more information on the group, visit readytosucceedla.org.

thomas@smdp.com

TAXES
ALL FORMS • ALL TYPES • ALL STATES
BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS
(310) 395-9922
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1800 • Santa Monica 90401

City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101
Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.



• Traditional Burial • Green/Natural Burial • Cremation
• Funeral Planning & Mortuary Services
ALL IN ONE LOCATION
1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ▪ (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
woodlawn.cemetery@santamonica.gov ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

Cities crack down on homeless encampments. Advocates say that's not the answer

CLAIRE RUSH, JANIE HAR AND MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press



Courtesy Photo

CAMPS: Los Angeles is among the places struggling with homeless camps on city streets.

Tossing tent poles, blankets and a duffel bag into a shopping cart and three wagons, Will Taylor spent a summer morning helping friends tear down what had been their home and that of about a dozen others. It wasn't the first time and wouldn't be the last.

Contractors from the city of Portland had arrived to break down the stretch of tents and tarps on a side street behind a busy intersection. People had an hour to vacate the encampment, one of more than a dozen cleared that July day, according to city data.

Whatever they couldn't take with them was placed in clear plastic bags, tagged with the date and location of the removal and sent to an 11,000-square-foot (1,020 square meter) warehouse storing thousands like them.

"It can get hard," said Taylor, 32, who has been swept at least three times in the four years he's been homeless. "It is what it is. … I just let it go."

Angelique Risby, 29, watched as workers in neon-yellow vests shoveled piles of litter into black garbage bags. Risby, who has been homeless for two years, said she was prepared for a drill she's done multiple times.

"Everything that I own," she said, "can fit on my wagon."

Tent encampments have long been a fixture of West Coast cities, but are now spreading across the U.S. The federal count of homeless people reached 580,000 last year, driven by lack of affordable housing, a pandemic that economically wrecked households, and lack of access to mental health and addiction treatment.

Records obtained by The Associated Press show attempts to clear encampments increased in cities from Los Angeles to New York as public pressure grew to address what some residents say are dangerous and unsanitary living conditions. But despite tens of millions of dollars spent in recent years, there appears to be little reduction in the number of tents propped up on sidewalks, in parks and by freeway off-ramps.

Homeless people and their advocates say the sweeps are cruel and a waste of taxpayer money. They say the answer is more housing, not crackdowns.

The AP submitted data requests to 30 U.S. cities regarding encampment sweeps and received at least partial responses from about half.

In Phoenix, the number of encampments swept soared to more than 3,000 last year from 1,200 in 2019. Las Vegas removed about 2,500 camps through September, up from 1,600 in 2021.

But even officials at cities that don't collect data confirmed that public camping is consuming more of their time, and they are starting to track numbers, budget for security and trash disposal, and beef up or launch programs to connect homeless people to housing and services.

"We are seeing an increase in these laws at the state and local level that criminalize homelessness, and it's really a misguided reaction to this homelessness crisis," said Scout Katovich, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, which has filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of sweeps and property seizures in a dozen cities, including Minneapolis, Miami, Albuquerque, Anchorage and Boulder, Colorado.

"These laws and these practices of enforcement do nothing to actually alleviate the crisis and instead they keep people in this vicious cycle of poverty," she said.

But California Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose state is home to nearly one-third of the country's homeless population, says leaving hazardous makeshift camps to fester is neither compassionate nor an option.

He is among Democratic and Republican leaders urging the U.S. Supreme Court to take up a controversial 9th Circuit appellate court ruling that prohibits local governments from clearing encampments without first assuring everyone living there is offered a bed indoors.

San Francisco, which was sued by the ACLU of Northern California last year for its sweeps and property seizures, is under a court order to enforce the ruling.

"I hope this goes to the Supreme Court," said Newsom, a former mayor of San Francisco, in a September interview with news outlet Politico. "And that's a hell of a statement coming from a progressive Democrat."

Earlier this month, crews in Denver erected metal fencing as police officers called to residents to leave an encampment covering several downtown blocks. A bonfire blazed against temperatures in the teens and snow covered the ground around tents.

"The word 'sweep' that they use ... that's kind of how it feels, like being swept like trash," said David Sjoberg, 35. "I mean we're not trash, we're people."

He said he and his wife would "wander a couple blocks from here and see if we get yelled at for being there."

David Ehler Jr., 52, left the encampment with his toiletries, a sleeping bag, tent and a propane heater.

Ehler has been homeless in Denver for about two years after a friend kicked him out. He said work was hard to come by in Connecticut, where he lived before Colorado, and the public has no idea how big a problem homelessness is.

"It started ever since the COVID, people losing their jobs, losing their houses, losing their apartments, losing everything," he said. "And this is where they end up."

Sometimes, numbers can't explain what a city is doing.

The city of Los Angeles said its sanitation department responded to more than 4,000 requests a month from the public at the end of 2022 to address homeless encampments, double the amount the previous year.

But the agency would not explain whether that meant the encampment was dismantled or simply cleaned around or how large the encampments were, directing AP to the city attorney's website for definitions. The city defines an encampment as a place where at least one person is living outdoors.

In contrast, Portland clears some 19 encampments every day on average, according to the mayor's office. Crews have shut down nearly 5,000 camps in the city of 650,000 since November 2022, but residents continue to report new clusters that need to be dismantled.

Crews have even found bodies of overdose victims in tents, said Sara Angel, operations manager for the contractor that clears encampments for the city.

"If we never cleaned a camp in the city of Portland, I just don't know what Portland would look like," she said. "I don't think that we're making it better by moving them, but I don't think that we're making it worse."

Removing encampments is costly — an expense more cities, counties and states have to budget for. Several cities queried by the AP provided some cost breakdowns, but officials at others said comprehensive costs were difficult to get given the multiple departments involved, including police, sanitation and public health.

Denver reported spending nearly $600,000 on labor and waste disposal in 2021 and 2022 to clean about 230 large encampments, some more than once. Phoenix said it spent nearly $1 million last year to clear encampments.

Despite all that spending, said Masood Samereie, little seems to change on the streets. The San Francisco real estate broker has seen businesses lose customers because of people camped on sidewalks, some clearly in mental distress, and he wants tents gone.

"It's throwing money at it without any tangible or any real results," Samereie said.

Being homeless is supposed to be a temporary event, he added. "Unfortunately, it's becoming a way of life, and that is 100% incorrect."

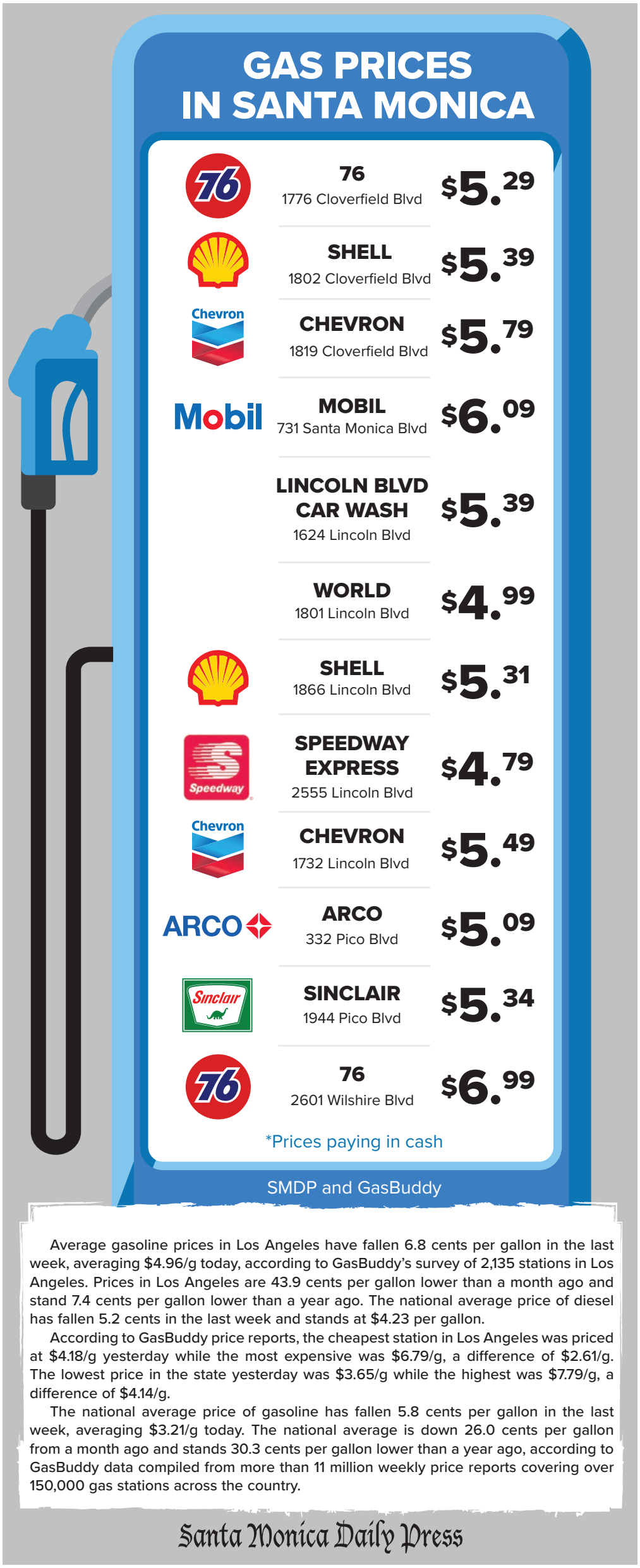
For homeless people, sweeps can be traumatizing. They often lose identification documents, as well as cellphones, laptops and personal items. They lose their connection to a community they've come to rely on for support.

Roxanne Simonson, 60, said she had a panic attack during one of the four times she was swept in Portland. She recalled feeling dangerously overheated in her tent. "I started yelling at them, 'Call an ambulance, I can't breathe.' And then I changed my mind, because if I go, then I would lose all my stuff," she said.

And yet, cities can't stand by and do nothing, said Sam Dodge, who oversees encampment removals for the city of San Francisco. His department, created by the mayor in 2018, coordinates multiple agencies to place people into housing so crews can clear tents.

"Saying, 'This is not working, this is dangerous, you can do better than this, you have a brighter future than this,' I think that's caring for people," said Dodge, who has worked with homeless people for more than two decades. "It seems immoral to me to just ... let people waste away."

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 8



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 6.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.96/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 43.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 7.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 5.2 cents in the last week and stands at $4.23 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $4.18/g yesterday while the most expensive was $6.79/g, a difference of $2.61/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $3.65/g while the highest was $7.79/g, a difference of $4.14/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 5.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.21/g today. The national average is down 26.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 30.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 7

One August morning, Dodge and his crew surveyed about a dozen structures and tents, some inches away from vehicles zipping by.

Four outreach workers fanned out, asking people if they had a case manager or wanted shelter indoors. Police officers stood by as Department of Public Works employees, masked and wearing gloves, hauled away a rolled-up carpet. The block was crammed with bicycles, ladders, chairs, mattresses, buckets, cooking pots, shoes and cardboard.

City officials are particularly frustrated by people who have housing, but won't stay in it.

Michael Johnson, 40, has been homeless in San Francisco for six years. Before that, he lived with his pregnant girlfriend and was a driver for a commuter van tech start-up. But he lost his job, and their baby died.

He was assigned a coveted one-room prefabricated structure with a bed, desk and chair, a window and locking door. But his friends aren't there and to him, it feels like jail, so he's sleeping in a tent.

At his tent, friends hang out, including Charise Haley, 31, who says shelter rules can make grownups feel like children. She left one shelter because residents weren't allowed to keep room keys and had to ask staff to get in.

"Then you get pushed somewhere else," she said. "There's too many directions. But never an end solution."

There are many reasons why someone might reject shelter, say homeless people and their advocates. Some have been assaulted at shelters, or had their belongings stolen. Sometimes, they don't want to pare down their belongings, or follow rules that prohibit drugs and drinking, officials say.

Of the 20 people at the San Francisco encampment, six accepted temporary housing and seven declined, said Francis Zamora, a spokesperson for the Department of Emergency Management.

Two people already had housing and five wouldn't communicate with outreach workers, Zamora said. The city has connected more than 1,500 people to housing this year. It's unclear, however, if they remain housed.

Many cities say they link camp residents to housing, but track records are mixed. Homeless people and their advocates say there are not nearly enough temporary beds, permanent housing or social services for drug or behavioral health counseling so people caught up in sweeps just get kicked down the road.

In New York City, more than 2,300 people were forcibly removed from encampments from March to November 2022, according to a June report from Comptroller Brad Lander. Only 119 accepted temporary shelter, and just three eventually got permanent housing. Meanwhile, tent encampments had returned to a third of the sites surveyed.

"They just totally failed to connect people to shelter or to housing," Lander, who opposes sweeps, told the AP. "If you're gonna help them, you have to build trust with them to move them into housing and services. The sweeps really went in the opposite direction."

A spokesperson for Democratic New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Charles Lutvak, disagreed. He said 70% of camp sites cleared were not re-established and homeless residents accepted offers of shelter at a rate six times higher than under the previous administration.

"Despite the inherent difficulty of this work, our efforts have been indisputably successful," Lutvak said in a statement.

The city of Phoenix cleared out a massive downtown homeless encampment by a court-ordered deadline this month, and said it had helped more than 500 people find beds in shelters and motels.

Encampments were not a serious issue in Minneapolis until the pandemic, when they became more commonplace and much larger, drawing thousands of complaints. In response, the city closed down more than two dozen sites where 383 people were camped from March 2022 until February.

At the same time, Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis, launched a program last year aimed at finding short- and long-term housing for homeless people, including some living in encampments.

"We are hyper-focused on housing," said Danielle Werder, manager of the county's Office to End Homelessness. "We're not walking around with socks and water bottles. We're walking around saying, 'What do you need?'"

In Portland, the encampment dismantled in July was cleared again, in September and November. Two dozen newly installed boulders helped keep the camp from being reestablished along parts of the sidewalk.

Kieran Hartnett, who's lived in the neighborhood for seven years, said there was fighting, drug use, open fires and vehicle break-ins around the encampment. Some tents were on grass just outside his house, which was particularly stressful when people started acting in erratic ways.

He hopes the people moved from the site are getting help.

"I understand the argument that clearing them just moves them to somewhere else, and they don't really have a better place to go," he said. "On the same account, I feel like you can't allow things to just fester."

"There's not a good solution to it," he said.

SANTA MONICA POLICY

The City of Santa Monica does not conduct homeless sweeps of the kind tracked by the Associated Press due to a combination of local laws and local policy.

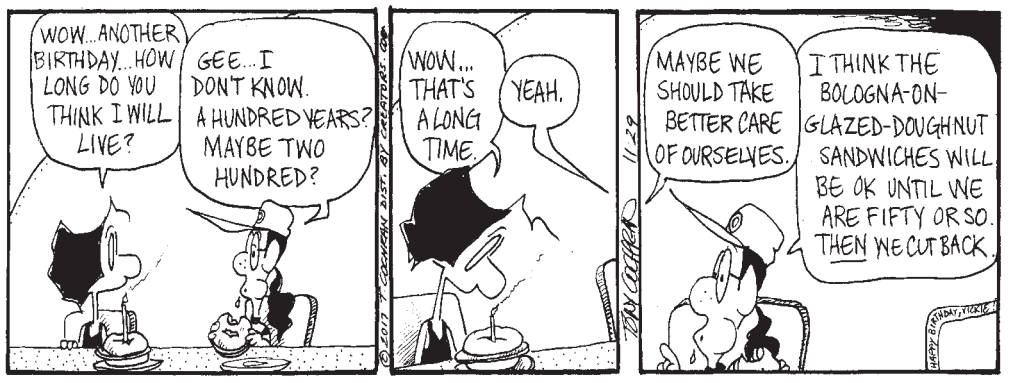
Many cities, including neighboring Los Angeles, are unable to enforce prohibitions on camping due to past lawsuits and that allows individuals to establish the kind of large and entrenched encampments that prompt sweeps. However, Santa Monica's anti-camping ordinance survived a legal challenge. Instead, local officers contact individuals who are seen or reported to have set up camps. Those contacts are documented and instead of blanket warnings followed by removal of property, individuals are given the opportunity to remove their property following one-on-one contact with officials. If items are abandoned in the public space, they can be retrieved from SMPD by their owner.

While SMPD can enforce bans on camping, they cannot prohibit individuals from sleeping in public and the definition of an encampment requires more than just an individual with some personal items.

However, some parts of town are not under local control. Property adjacent to the train line or the freeway are under either county or state jurisdiction. Encampments that occur inside city limits but outside SMPD jurisdiction are subject to patrol, cleaning and enforcement by other agencies including CalTrans, Metro, LAPD, the Sheriff or CHP.

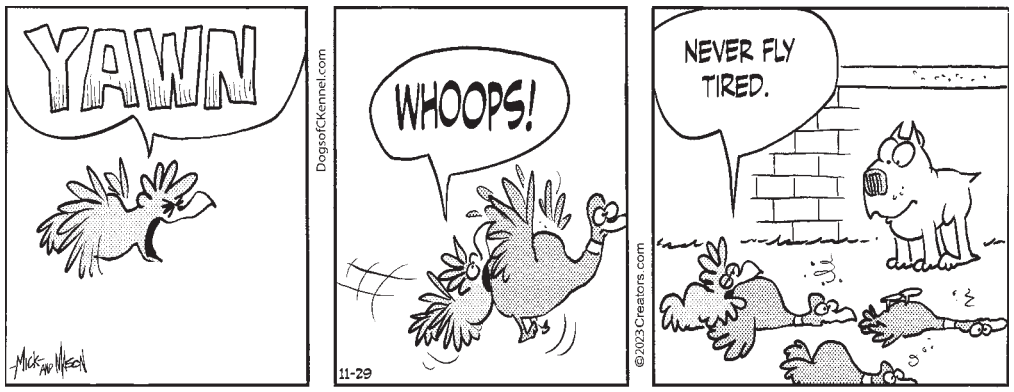
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



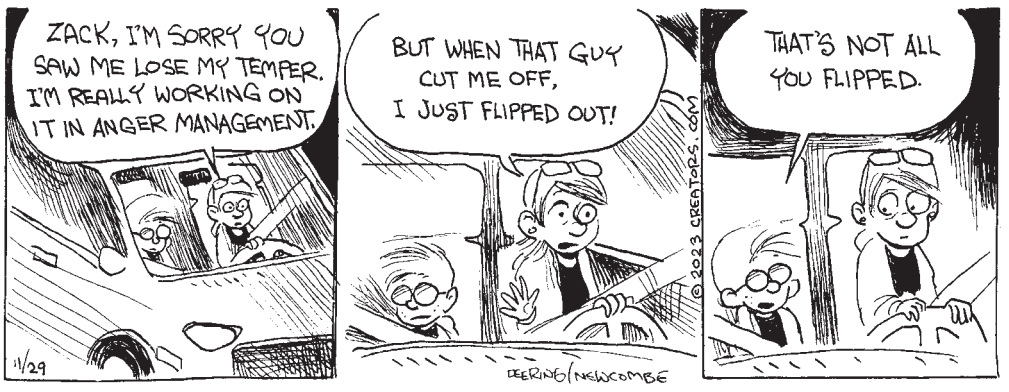
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"PUPPET HEATHCLIFF IS GETTING ANGRY."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6043

Mass transit

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

Airy	Early	Miss	Seat
Amphibious	Empty	Music	Sedan
Boat	Exit	Opel	Sled
Book	Fare	Paddle	Slow
Buggy	Ferry	wheeler	Start
Bumpy	Golf	Pass	Stop
Canoe	Graders	Plane	Taxi
Celica	Headphones	Preparation	Tram
Chat	Jets	Queue	Vans
City	Late	Rest	Visa
Coach	Liner	Roads	Volvo
Cold	Mile	Route	Wait
Doors	Minibus	Sail	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Weather report looks good

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

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 29)

You are a source of wisdom and guidance, offering insights that enlighten and empower. Your generosity of spirit will have a ripple effect, spreading joy and goodwill to all who encounter you. Your talents will include a way with words that captivates minds and a way with food that captivates stomachs, making you envied and celebrated. Aquarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 4, 44, 49 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As the warrior sign, you don't necessarily seek conflict, but you're not afraid of it either. Even without a fight, it takes courage to love and live. In the words of Mr. Miyagi, "It's OK to lose to opponent. Must not lose to fear!"

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll proceed without worrying what people think about you -- which is why they like you so much. You'll move past the things that impress others and home in on a wonder no one else is noticing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll relieve someone's suffering. Maybe that someone is you, and this still counts. Creating peace in any corner improves the world. It only makes sense to start where you are.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It doesn't take much to make you happy today -- just showing up to life, ready to help and willing to go at the natural pace of the action. Everything is a process. Healthy perspective is a function of patience.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If prayer is speaking to the great force of the universe, meditation is listening to that force. Today is like one long walking meditation. You won't have to do anything formal to connect with big energy and let it speak through you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You make things look easy, which is a talent that usually serves you, but not always. If you're too accommodating, people grow to take you for granted. Sit out a turn. Your absence illuminates the fullness of your presence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While physical assets can be protected by an insurance policy or alarm system, your emotional assets, like joy and generosity, require a different kind of protection. You'll have your choice of company. You'll choose the sort who care about your feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You won't dwell on problems, but you'll note them, prioritize and decide how to address top issues of concern. You feel super capable and strong, which makes this a perfect day for fixing things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Aristotle suggested it over 2,000 years ago and it's just as true today -- excellence is a habit. This is why you don't let the little things slide. Even if no one else is watching, you'll practice good form so you'll be ready when it matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is no need to reach or struggle for your contentment; you only need to claim what you want. If you don't, that is fine, too. It will be waiting for you either way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may not be able to affect the measurable impact of a thing, but you can still alter the immeasurable elements, the most important of which is what a thing means to you. You're the only one who can determine that.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Always looking to expand your horizons and enlarge your worldview, you're drawn to interesting people you can learn from. Furthermore, you've an instinct for asking the one question that blows the story wide open.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

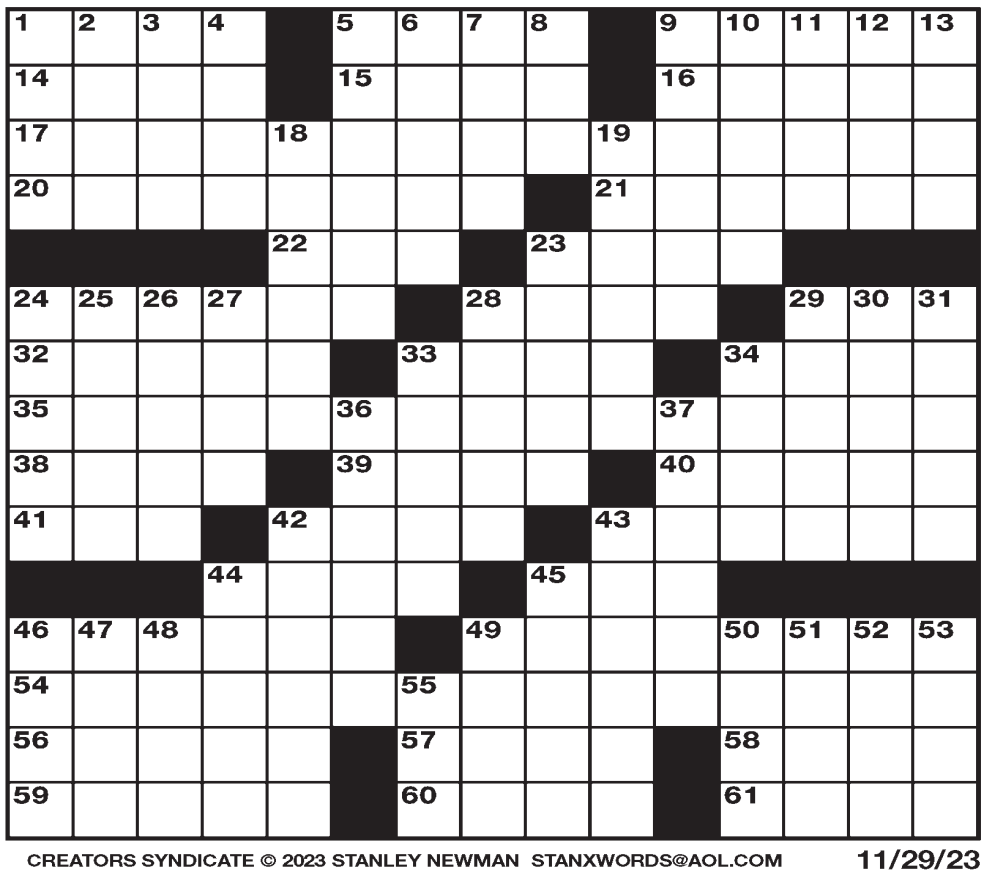
FINAL MEASURES by Bill Weber
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Far from certain
5 Dress of India
9 Out of alignment
14 Sandwich cookie
15 Author unknown: Abbr.
16 Size above Medium
17 On a stroll without shoes or socks
20 Person in the audience
21 Puts up, as a building
22 Sedan, for instance
23 Lab maze runners
24 Otter or orangutan
28 Snake's sound
29 Vaccine measures: Abbr.
32 Creative thoughts
33 *Othello* villain
34 Person from Bangkok
35 Resort spot off Cape Cod
38 Gatherings from henhouses
39 Escaped in a hurry
40 Backbone
41 Meet with
42 Small songbird
43 Mall tenants
44 Falsehoods
45 Caviar source
46 Bandleaders' sticks
49 House's cellar
54 Device placed in a cooking roast beef
56 Compose an email
57 Southwestern wolf
58 At any __ (nevertheless)
59 Powered by sunlight
60 Cry of victory
61 Besides that

DOWN

1 Corn Belt state
2 Campus club
3 Had the opinion
4 Ox harness
5 Beach shoe
6 Make furious
7 Judge's gown
8 __ manner of speaking
9 Warning signals
10 Strongboxes for valuables
11 Ray who franchised McDonald's
12 Show-biz honor acronym
13 Moistens
18 Paid with currency
19 Motive
23 Unwilling to compromise
24 Silent performers
25 Wise saying
26 Combine together
27 Gym's floor pads
28 Sheltered spot
29 Seat for a musician
30 Chili con __
31 Competing teams
33 Oahu and Maui
34 Keyboarding mistake
36 All over again
37 High regard
42 Snowy season
43 "Already?"
44 Bunch of, informally
45 Stallone commando character
46 Mercedes rivals
47 Flying-related prefix
48 Tip of a comet
49 Ridge about the eyes
50 Insignificant
51 List-shortening abbr.
52 Basketball targets
53 Squirrel's hangout
55 Quarterback Manning



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 11/29/23

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

RESTAURANT

FROM PAGE 1

that the city doesn't do more to turn things around."

Jeremy Adler, of Cobi's and Lanea, said while crime and homelessness are present everywhere, they are having a disproportionate impact in Santa Monica.

"I want my employees to be able to walk back to their car without fear and I want my guests to be able to sit on the sidewalk unencumbered by externalities," he said.

Adler said the reality of crime and homelessness hits hospitality workers harder than others due to the already stressful nature of their work and the reality of working hours late at night.

"I don't want to lose my people and I love them, feel responsibility to them and the families they are taking care of. I take that responsibility humbly, responsibly and seriously," he said. "I want to make sure their physical mental health wellbeing is cared for as much as the financial."

He said a recent incident with an individual trying to tamper with his restaurant's gas line is the kind of problem that wears on the mental health of employees.

"I want that person to get support and get housed and whatnot but that could have been a catastrophe if one of our employees wasn't aware and prevented this person from affecting a main gas line to a restaurant," he said.

Coalition members said workers who do not feel safe will find work in other places and the cost of providing basic security is making it difficult to do business in Santa Monica.

"Due to the lack of action in ensuring safe and clean streets, we've had to allocate additional labor to secure the hotel perimeter. This is essential for the protection of both our team members and guests," said Diego Ruiz de Porras, General Manager of Hotel Oceana in a statement. "Unfortunately, we frequently face the need to evacuate homeless individuals sleeping in the back alley and the safety of our guests on the Palisades Promenade is a growing concern."

Condie said the first step is organizing like-minded businesses. From there, he said the group would expand to education with outreach efforts to customers, politicians and residents regarding the issue.

"It's about engagement," he said. "Those that are involved here are members of the community, they love Santa Monica and want the best for Santa Monica. What they've been seeing and how it's impacting their customers, their employees, it's just reached a crisis level. This is about organizing. The quality of life, preserving the unique experience that Santa Monica offers, that seems to be — based on discussions with restaurants — the sheen is wearing off as they talk to a lot of their customers and they want to do something about it, we're responding to what we're hearing from our members."

Members of the new group said they are not trying to replace any of the existing organizations in Santa Monica but they said the hospitality industry has unique challenges that require a focused approach.

"We joined this coalition effort to affect positive change through better policies that will clean up our streets and lower the cost of staying in business here," said Lucian Tudor, CEO of Global Dining Inc., which includes 1212 Santa Monica in a statement. "We aren't standing by because we believe in Santa Monica."

Adler said the industry needs to feel its value and a priority for city leaders.

"You know, anytime anyone needs a donation and they come and ask a restaurant, we always help out and set them up for success. We just want to be set up for success too. We want to be able to focus on hospitality, we want to be able to focus on quality of service and quality of product, it's very hard to take care of others when you yourself don't feel taken care of."

Anyone interested in joining can visit https://hospitalitysantamonica.com/ for more information.

editor@smdp.com

CRI

FROM PAGE 2

that CRI owned the websites, which also provided links to purchase the company's test kits.

The complaint states CRI forced consumers to click through a maze of pop-up pages on its websites, falsely promising "special rewards" and then trapped consumers by saying their order "was not complete." CRI also deceptively told consumers that they would have a chance to review their orders before being charged for them, but instead immediately charged them, forcing consumers to return the unwanted products.

In addition to paying a $700,000 civil penalty to California, the order will prohibit CRI from making the misrepresentations alleged by the agencies and bars it from misrepresentations made in connection with the advertising, offering for sale, or sale of any DNA information testing product or service. Next, it prohibits CRI from misrepresentations related to endorsements, reviews, and ratings and requires the company to disclose any material connection with social media or other endorsers.

The order also will prohibit CRI from misrepresenting when product orders are final or complete, when charges will take place, and whether consumers can change the services they choose before being charged. CRI must also disclose the total cost of all products or services to consumers, when they will be charged, and whether they can confirm, edit, or delete products before they are charged.

In addition, the order will require CRI to obtain consumers' consent and to describe to consumers how it may share their DNA information. The company will also be required to delete the genetic and other information of those consumers who previously received refunds and requested that their data and other personal information be deleted.

The Commission vote authorizing the staff to file the complaint and stipulated final order was 3-0. The FTC filed the complaint and proposed final order in the U.S. District Court for the District of Central District of California.

The lead staff attorney on this matter was Nadine Samter of the FTC's Northwest Region.

The Commission files a complaint when it has "reason to believe" that the named defendants are violating or are about to violate the law and it appears to the Commission that a proceeding is in the public interest. Stipulated final injunctions/orders have the force of law when approved and signed by the District Court judge.

Submitted by the FTC and CA Dept of Justice.



WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 29

HOLIDAY PET PAGEANT- WEDNESDAYS ON ICE

Get your pup ready to sashay down the runway at the pet paw-rade! Ice at Santa Monica is on the lookout for the most stylishly dressed pooch. Contestants will be judged on costume, strut and overall holiday spirit. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. Every Wednesday from November 15 through January 10, 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. sessions. Ice at Santa Monica, presented by Netflix, invites guests to join Wednesdays on Ice themed skate nights during the 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. sessions throughout the season. For more information on each themed night, visit iceatsantamonica.com

KID'S CLUB AT SANTA MONICA PIER

Come play on the first Wednesday of every month for a fun, family-friendly musical morning hosted by Twinkle Time, a bilingual, Billboard pop-artist for kids, and featuring special guests each month. This is an all ages event and free to attend for parents and children. To find more information and to view upcoming artists, contact 310-260-8300.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Located at the Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., beginning at 10 a.m.

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 30

TECH & TASKS

Need a little help? Visit our Tech & Tasks program to receive one-on-one assistance from our volunteer tutors and build your skills. Staff and volunteers can assist with reading, writing, and technology related tasks. Drop-in between 2-4pm every Thursday to get help with completing online forms and applications, resume writing, device help, improving reading skills, email, downloading eBooks, and much more. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 1

LA COUNTY VACCINE CLINIC

The LA County Department of Public Health will be available to administer COVID-19, Mpox, and Hep. A vaccines along with STI/Tb tests.

Before your appointment:

If you have health insurance, please bring your health insurance card to your appointment.

A consent form for COVID-19 Vaccines is required for minors to be vaccinated at sites run by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Minors are not eligible for the Monkeypox Vaccine at this time.

Note: You do not need to show ID to get a vaccine at a site run by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: However, it is recommended that when you get a vaccine, you provide the name that is on your ID.

Make an appointment at Myturn.ca.gov or just drop in.

Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard, Venice

HUMAN BODIES IN SPACE – WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

The goal of NASA's Artemis mission is to establish longterm habitation on the Moon. Every human was born in Earth's gravity, but just under 700 humans have ever gone beyond Earth's atmosphere, and only 24 humans have gone beyond the protection of Earth's magnetic radiation shield. How will our bodies react to the harsh reality of living in space? Lecturer Sarah Vincent explores our current knowledge and the unfilled gaps that remain. Free on Zoom. https://www.smc.edu/community/planetarium/

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 2

PICO HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Kick off the holiday season at the Pico Holiday Celebration! The event will feature tree lighting, complementary sweets and hot chocolate, gingerbread cookie decorating and opportunity to add a wish to the Gratitude Tree. In addition, local non-profit agencies will be sharing health and wellness information as well several artisans will be selling their wares. And a surprise visitor bearing seasonal treats will be stopping by! Be sure to come check it out! Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

17TH STREET & MICHIGAN AVENUE RIBBON CUTTING

Please join organizers in celebrating the completion of the Safe Streets for 17th Street and Michigan Avenue project on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 9 a.m. at 1610 Colorado Avenue (Metro E line parking lot). Enjoy donuts, local musicians and performers, remarks from the Mayor, giveaways, and bike rides along the project. Hope to see you there! 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDER CLUB: MUSIC

Sing and dance with Mr. Gabe from LoveBug & Me Music. For ages 2-5. Limited space. Registration required. Email library@santamonica.gov to register. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10:30 - 11 a.m.

SOUNDWAVES NEW MUSIC CONCERT

Ben Goldberg, Todd Sickafoose, and Scott Amendola. Soundwaves celebrates LA's diverse history of innovative underground music with free performances by world-class artists. Started in 2016 by librarian, author, and musician Jeff Schwartz with composer Daniel Rothman, and funded by the Santa Monica Public Library, Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library, and the Amphion Foundation, Soundwaves has collaborated with presenters including the Angel City Jazz Festival, Microfest, PianoSpheres, Jacaranda Music, the Dog Star Orchestra Festival, the Santa Monica Department of Cultural Affairs, and Cold Blue Music. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

EAST PICO SAFETY PROJECT POP UP AT VIRGINIA AVENUE FARMERS MARKET

The East Pico Safety Project Team will be at the Santa Monica Mobile Food Pantry at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., collecting feedback about people's lived experiences on East Pico Boulevard between 28th Street/Stewart Street and Centinela Avenue. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

FIX YOUR CREDIT CONSULTING

Better Credit. Better Life.

We are a top rated and fully bonded credit repair consulting company. We are extremely aggressive and also teach you how to maintain good credit. After reviewing your credit report, our Credit Consultants determine a customized fee based on your situation.



5 stars on yelp

Give Us A Call Today! **(877) 212-2450** fixyourcreditconsulting.com

ALL BIKES ON SALE



E-bike exclusive brand
now only
$1499

310.581.8014 BikeShopSantaMonica.com **10**am-**5**pm
2400 Main Street. Santa Monica, CA 90405 - Across from Urth Cafe

THE BIKE SHOP SANTA MONICA