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WEEKEND EDITION

12.03.22 - 12.04.22

smdp

Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 22 Issue 15

smdp.com

Neighborhood political activity to come with a disclaimer

GRACE INEZ ADAMS

SMDP Staff Writer

Following a contentious election season, City Council sought to clarify rules surrounding local neighborhood associations' ability to endorse candidates at this week's Nov. 29 meeting, by requiring these organizations provide a disclaimer that their views do not necessarily reflect those of the City of Santa Monica and assert that no City funds were used for their political actions.

Council Member Gleam Davis initially proposed a motion that included removing links to neighborhood organizations' websites from the City website if they chose to make endorsements. However, following pushback from community members and discussion with other council members, this was amended to just requiring a disclaimer and including explicit language in City grant awards– which many of these groups receive– that the funds not be used for electioneering.

"In all honesty the links, to me, are the least important if in fact then when you click on the link there's a disclaimer there," Davis said. "That's really what I think is important because there was, in all honesty, a lot of confusion in this last election about who was endorsing who."

Santa Monica has seven non-profit neighborhood organizations:

SEE **ENDORSEMENTS** PAGE 7

Holiday season begins at DTSM



Anna Sophia Moltke

WINTERLIT: Santa Monicans gathered on the Promenade for the city's official tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 1. The event included a visit from Santa, performances from local musicians and a sprinkling of artificial "snow." Visit https://downtownsm.com/winterlit for a list of Downtown holiday events and locals who missed the Downtown tree lighting can still participate in Main Street's holiday event next weekend.

Boy Scouts welcome holiday season with annual tree lot

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

With Thanksgiving behind us, it's time for many Santa Monicans to put up a Christmas tree and Boy Scout Troop 2 is ready, willing and able to meet all your tree needs.

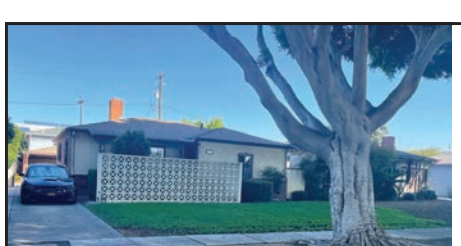
The troop has opened their tree lot in a new location this year, at the corner of 19th and Santa Monica Blvd. Trees are available in all sizes and they stock two varieties, Noble and Douglas Fir.

The lot is a major source of income for Troop 2, which has operated a Christmas tree lot for almost five decades. It was on Montana for many years before a brief stint on Wilshire. The current location was provided by LAcarGuy and is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Weekends and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays. The lot holds more than 200 trees ranging from three to twelve feet tall and they will sell about 1,200 trees over the season. They also sell wreaths, garland and tree stands.

All proceeds from the tree sales benefit the troop who use the money to fund regular camping trips. They go backpacking and canoing everywhere from Catalina Island and Colorado to Minnesota and upstate New York, always learning survival techniques and life lessons along the way.

"We have a very diverse community in the scouts and we

SEE **TREE** PAGE 7



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A top prison expert on the California 'disaster' and how to salvage it

NIGEL DUARA
Special to the Daily Press

At the end of a year in which Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed several bills that would have fundamentally changed how California prisons operate, CalMatters conducted a Q&A with the 2022 recipient of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology, which Stanford University's Institute of International Studies calls "equivalent to the Nobel in criminology."

That recipient, Francis Cullen, is a former president of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and his research has been cited tens of thousands of times. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has brought him in to address its administrators, particularly concerning community corrections programs.

Cullen discussed how California went from being an international model for rehabilitation to being a cautionary tale. Among his thoughts: This state needs to learn the difference between liberal and stupid.

This interview has been condensed for clarity and length.

Q: THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION — IN ITS MOST RECENT UPDATE TO A FEDERAL COURT MANDATE THAT IT REDUCE ITS PRISON POPULATION — REPORTED THAT ITS FACILITIES WERE FILLED TO 112% OF THEIR CAPACITY. EVEN THAT IS A BIG IMPROVEMENT OVER THE DRASTIC OVERCROWDING THAT PROMPTED THE ORDER. CAN YOU HELP PUT IN CONTEXT HOW CALIFORNIA GOT INTO THIS SITUATION?

A: It used to be the model of prisons in the country. Even when Ronald Reagan was the governor of California, he cut the prison population from about 26,000 to 18,000. They used to have a big treatment orientation, they hired social workers, and basically it was at the forefront of a rehabilitative model of incarceration.

And then in the '60s and into the '70s, there was an attack on rehabilitation, for a whole bunch of reasons. But the biggest reason is, if you have a rehabilitation model, then you give a lot of discretion to judges and parole boards. In 1976, California … went to determinate sentencing, and basically gave up rehabilitation as a part of their mission. And you gotta understand, liberals went along with that, because they didn't like parole. They felt the parole boards were keeping in people that were politically active and weren't letting them out.

("Rehabilitation" would be added to the prison system's name in 2006.)

California became punitive with its politics. The things that were done, not just in California, but generally, were all justified on the notion that we want inmates to suffer. The more they suffer, the less likely they will be to reoffend, which actually isn't true. But that was the logic. And the result, I think, was a disaster. When you get rid of rehabilitation, you take the conscience out of the system.

Q: IN CALIFORNIA THIS YEAR, WE HAD WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED THE "NORWAY PRISON BILL," WHICH WOULD HAVE CREATED A PILOT PROGRAM IN PRISONS, WITH CAMPUSES THAT RESEMBLE THE PRISONS IN NORWAY — PRISONERS WHO WERE CHOSEN COULD COOK THEIR OWN MEALS AND LIVE IN COMMUNAL SPACES WHILE GETTING JOB TRAINING. NEWSOM VETOED IT ALONG WITH TWO OTHER MEASURES RELATED TO PRISONS. HIS VETO MESSAGE WASN'T THAT THESE WON'T WORK. HIS VETO MESSAGE WAS WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SPEND THE MONEY RIGHT NOW. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THAT ASSERTION?

A: It was stupid to veto that legislation for this reason: the Norway model works. Now, would it work here in the United States, where you have issues of race and other conflict in prison? We have a different population here, we have racial conflict, we have other issues. But having said that, why not do an experiment?

That is, if you did a Norway unit in our prison, you could have studied it for its effectiveness. Can I say definitively that it would have worked here? No. Do I think it would have? Yes, because the principles make sense.

We have had court cases showing that the medical treatment of inmates is insufficient and the conditions in prison are bad. The recidivism rate is high, and there's a lot of (probation) revocations. It seems to me that arguing that we shouldn't spend money is a pretty weak rationale. We spend money on punishment, building prisons and locking people away for a long time. So why can't we spend money on things that are humane and effective?

The other problem with this is, if you don't invest in people and they come out and they commit crimes, do people understand the cost of that? There was one study that looked at the cost of, if somebody is a juvenile and becomes a serious offender for a number of years, it's like $1.3 million dollars.

Not wanting to spend money, when spending money is the only way you invest in people and make them less criminal — it saves money later on. How much is that worth to you?

Q: CALIFORNIA HAD A MAJOR PRISON REALIGNMENT IN 2011. NOW, THE SHERIFFS WHO RUN COUNTY JAILS SAY THAT REALIGNMENT SIMPLY SHIFTED PRISON POPULATIONS — AND PRISON POLITICS AND PRISON GANGS — INTO JAILS. YOU'VE WRITTEN, SPECIFIC TO REALIGNMENT, THAT "SUCCESSFUL DOWNSIZING MUST BE LIBERAL BUT NOT STUPID." WHAT'S A LIBERAL IDEA HERE, AND WHAT IN YOUR VIEW IS A STUPID ONE?

A: What we're basically saying by liberal is concern for social justice, not focusing on punishment. An attempt to see that crime is rooted in diverse factors, whether it's poverty or mental health concerns, rather than saying that crime is just simply a choice, that we need to get tough.

'Not stupid' meant that whatever we do in the system should be evidence-based, based on the best science, so the interventions we use should be based on what criminology has shown works to change people's behavior.

SEE **PRISON** PAGE 4



Biden sees economy avoiding recession, but risks remain

JOSH BOAK AND AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

President Joe Biden assured Americans on Friday that the U.S. economy is chugging along in the holiday season, but the very strength of a new jobs report showed that high inflation remains a recession threat.

At the White House, the president signed an emergency bill to avert a rail strike that he said could have caused 765,000 job losses in two weeks and plunged the country into a painful downturn. But many voters and economists still fear that a recession is nigh and the price of reducing high prices will be layoffs.

> “The bill I’m about to sign ends a difficult rail dispute and helps our nation avoid what without a doubt would have been an economic catastrophe at a very bad time in the calendar - President Joe Biden

Biden pointed to the addition of 263,000 jobs in November — with the unemployment rate holding steady at 3.7% — as proof that his policies have bulked up the economy. He suggested that the major recession risk was the freight rail strike, a problem the country avoided by having Congress impose an agreement that raises pay but fails to provide the additional paid sick leave that workers demanded.

“Things are moving — they’re moving in the right direction,” Biden said. “As we go into the holiday season, here’s what this all means: The Americans are working, the economy is growing.”

White House officials do see reason for optimism. Gasoline prices are averaging $3.45 a gallon, down sharply from a June peak, according to AAA. The economy is expanding after shrinking in size during the first half of the year. And since July, workers’ average hourly earnings have been rising faster than consumer prices.

But inflation can be a game of whack-a-mole, and Friday’s employment report suggested that wage growth actually could be part of the problem.

Inflation has been something of a moving target during Biden’s presidency. Supply chain challenges and shortages pushed up prices as the country started to recover from the pandemic in 2021. Higher oil and food costs drove up inflation after Russia invaded Ukraine in February. And the jobs report showed that wage growth accelerated sharply, which could fuel inflation going forward.

The Federal Reserve is attempting to reduce inflation by raising its benchmark interest rates. That action reduces economic activity in order to bring down prices.

On Wednesday, Fed Chair Jerome Powell suggested the U.S. central bank might not have to raise rates as aggressively to return inflation to the 2% annual target. That comment caused the stock market to rise, only for the optimism to fizzle out on Friday as the new and revised wage data indicated the Fed might need to do more to cool the economy.

“With these revisions, the pace of wage growth is more consistent with 5% inflation than with 2% inflation,” said Harvard University professor Jason Furman, formerly the top economist in the Obama White House. “In this sense it may take a larger adjustment in labor markets than previously hoped to bring inflation down.”

The president’s key message is that his policies have helped to avoid catastrophes such as a recession caused by a rail strike. The bill he signed Friday binds rail companies and workers to a proposed settlement that was reached between the railroads and union leaders in September but rejected by the workers of some unions.

“The bill I’m about to sign ends a difficult rail dispute and helps our nation avoid what without a doubt would have been an economic catastrophe at a very bad time in the calendar,” said Biden. He said his team helped negotiate a “good product, but we still have more work to do in my view.”

Members of four of the 12 unions involved had rejected the proposed contract as lacking sufficient paid sick leave, setting up the possibility of a strike beginning Dec. 9. Biden acknowledged the shortcoming and said he would continue to push for that benefit for every U.S. worker.

“I’ve supported paid sick leave for a long time,” said the president, a staunch labor union supporter. “I’m going to continue that fight until we succeed.”

He said that Republican lawmakers blocked the inclusion of seven days of paid sick leave in the agreement, and it’s unclear how he would get backing for expanding family leave to all workers with the GOP winning the House majority in November’s elections.

SEE **RECESSION** PAGE 4

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Consumer protection Lawsuit Against Savage X Fenty Resolved With $1.2 Million Stipulated Judgment

Pursuant to a stipulated judgment and injunction entered last week in San Jose’s Superior Court, Lavender Lingerie, LLC., doing business as “Savage X Fenty,” will pay a total of $1,200,000 and undergo changes to its online business model to resolve a consumer protection lawsuit for misleading consumers.

The lawsuit, filed on August 9, 2022, was brought by the Santa Monica City Attorney’s Office along with the Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Diego, and Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Offices, all members of the California Auto Renewal Task Force (“CART”). The complaint alleged that Lavender Lingerie, LLC., did not clearly disclose automatic charges resulting from VIP memberships. Prosecutors led by the Santa Clara District Attorney’s Office also alleged that the lingerie website did not get the proper consent or give proper notices for the automatic renewal charges, falsely advertised the ability to use store credit, and misled the public over the prices of its products, which include bras, underwear, sleepwear, and loungewear.

“Consumer protection is one of our office’s highest priorities,” City Attorney Doug Sloan said. “In protecting consumers from unlawful automatic renewal charges, this case epitomizes that priority.”

California law requires businesses that market to consumers online to clearly and conspicuously disclose all automatic renewal charges, whether it is part of a subscription, membership, or other recurring fee.

Under the stipulated judgment, Savage X Fenty will pay $1 million in civil penalties, $50,000 in investigative costs, and $150,000 in restitution. The restitution will be paid to previous or present California VIP members who did not “Skip the Month” or purchase an item after their initial membership enrollment, canceled their membership and did not receive a refund for the VIP membership charges. Notices will be sent to eligible customers by a third-party claim administrator.

Savage X Fenty cooperated with the investigation and has made changes to its website, automatic renewal notices, and its store credit and advertising practices.

SUBMITTED BY TATI SIMONIAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

Los Angeles

Charges Filed in Connection With Massive Seizure of Fentanyl Pills and Powder

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón has announced that a man was charged with three felony counts in connection with a massive drug seizure at a Compton home that included six kilograms of suspected powder fentanyl and more than 250,000 suspected fentanyl pills.

“My office has a zero-tolerance approach to narcotics dealers who are using children to sell fentanyl, marketing fentanyl to kids and setting up shop near schools,” District Attorney Gascón said. “We know that just one fentanyl pill can kill the most vulnerable users. We will use every tool available to us to protect children and all people from this lethal drug.”

Pedro Ramirez (dob 5/26/90) is charged with three counts of possession for sale of a controlled substance that include special allegations for possession for sale of a controlled substance near a school and for the quantity of the narcotics.

Ramirez is scheduled to appear for arraignment Friday in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

It is alleged that in addition to the fentanyl, more than 5.5 pounds of tar heroin, 10 kilograms of powder cocaine and 6,000 suspected ecstasy pills containing fentanyl were seized on Tuesday at a residence in the 100 block of South Willow Avenue in Compton. The combined estimated street value of the seizure was $4.17 million.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Visit the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health’s website at http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/public/overdose-prevention.htm for fentanyl overdose prevention resources.

SUBMITTED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

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

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

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Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
ARTS COMMISSION
DISABILITIES

UNSCHEDULED VACANCIES

Architectural Review Board:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2023.
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident.

Arts Commission:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2025.
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident.

Disabilities Commission:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2025.
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, January 10, 2023.
Appointments to be made by City Council, Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter. In addition, this position will be required to complete two hours of Ethics Training (AB1234) biennially, as well as attend other city sponsored trainings deemed necessary by the city.

All appointments are conditional on providing evidence of COVID-19 vaccination.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/boards
All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, December 8, 2022

The Board will hold a public hearing on a proposed regulation to allow certain changes to the Adjusted GA to ensure no more than a 3% average General Adjustment ($70 maximum) for the period from September 2022 – August 2023 as prescribed by Measure RC. The hearing will occur at the Santa Monica Rent Control Board meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street. Public comment may be provided in writing or in-person at the meeting.

The agenda and staff report are available on the Board's website at:
www.santamonica.gov/rentcontrol.

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SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
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PRISON

FROM PAGE 2

The question is, when liberals make suggestions about what to do, are they making it based on ideology? Are they making it based on science? Are they looking at the research? Recommending programs that are not rooted in solid science can end up being stupid.

Let's take bail reform. Now, I'm not against bail reform. There's some evidence that it works, right? But some bail laws don't pay enough attention to the risk that people pose. You've had problems in San Francisco, where they recalled the prosecutor (former San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin, who had ended his office's practice of asking for money bail.)

And maybe that was a bad thing to do. But if you implement bail reform that doesn't have the support of the staff, that is going to end up letting people out who inevitably are going to commit serious crimes. That's the kind of thing that can delegitimize liberal approaches. Now bail reform is being attacked all over the country.

So that would be an example of, did they do an empirical investigation of what the effect of bail would be? In other words, you can do bill reform scientifically, or you can do it politically.

Q: IS THAT WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU WROTE, "THE FAILURE OF PAST REFORMS AIMED AT DECARCERATION STAND AS A SOBERING REMINDER THAT GOOD INTENTIONS DO NOT EASILY TRANSLATE INTO GOOD RESULTS."

A: Yeah, one would probably be when we decided to pretty much empty and close down most mental institutions, the hospitals for the mentally ill.

We dumped a lot of people onto the street, and didn't have services for them. And so it was a good thing that people weren't in mental hospitals, right? But we didn't create a system to care for those people in the community, so a lot of those people ended up on the street, homeless, in the jail system, in the criminal justice system. And we still haven't completely dealt with that.

It's one of the sources of homelessness. It's not the only one, but that would be the biggest example of when we essentially de-institutionalized a whole bunch of people and then didn't have any programs to deal with that.

The point is, even today, I mean we do have more (post-prison) reentry programs, but a lot of people we let out of prison, they have mental problems, they don't have medicine, they don't have a place to live, they don't have a job. And it makes no sense to do that.

Q: IT SEEMS, IN CALIFORNIA, THAT THERE'S AN ATTITUDE THAT NOTHING WORKS, AND NOTHING WILL WORK, TO REDUCE THE PRISON POPULATION AND IMPROVE REHABILITATIVE OUTCOMES. YOU'VE WRITTEN ABOUT THAT SENTIMENT IN CORRECTIONS, WHICH YOU DESCRIBE AS A PERIOD OF PESSIMISM. IS THERE A FEELING OF HELPLESSNESS WHEN YOU STUDY THIS ISSUE?

A: (Cullen sighs.)

Corrections is sort of like trying to fight cancer. You gotta chip away at it, look for the small benefits. But over 20 years, it can make a difference.

It's almost like no one whose responsibility it is to change what's happening is doing anything about it. If no one takes responsibility, then it won't change. There needs to be almost a social movement, a demand that we do prisons better. Any other business that was run like the prisons would be out of business. They'd be bankrupt.

We do not hold the wardens responsible for the recidivism rates of the people in their prisons. Think about this, okay: If you look at people who are released from prison, which would include both the people who are in for the first time and people in for the second, third, fourth time, you get 50 percent to 60 percent recidivism rates.

If you're spending that much money and you're having a failure rate of 60 percent, what does that cost us? Not just the money, but people injured and dying or property damaged? I mean, that degree of failure shouldn't be acceptable. Think about a hospital where 60 percent of the people die or get worse.

What's disappointing is that something as small as a Norway experiment can't even be funded. It's just gonna lead to a lot of misery inside institutions and a lot of high recidivism rates.

It's like, you're California! You should want a return to greatness. You should be the best in the world.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

RECESSION

FROM PAGE 3

Republican leaders have tapped into deep doubts about the U.S. economy with party officials noting that higher prices have caused Americans' savings rate to hit the lowest level in 17 years. About three-quarters of voters last month called economic conditions "poor" or "not so good," according to AP VoteCast.

Texas Rep. Kevin Brady, the ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, called the jobs report a "nightmare before Christmas."

"The White House is absolutely clueless about the very real labor shortage still hurting Main Street businesses and driving prices higher," Brady said. "And for many workers, they are struggling with real wage losses and real pay cuts, making sticker shock a big part of this year's holiday gift shopping experience."

Although Biden has said the economy is heading in the right direction, the employment report indicates that it's on a "more muddled path" in which it's unclear whether a downturn and eventual job losses can be averted, said Daniel Zhao, lead economist at Glassdoor, an employment website.

The mixed signals come in part because the employment report comes from two surveys. The survey of employer payrolls shows how many jobs were added, while a separate survey of households determines the unemployment rate.

The two surveys have diverged with the household numbers indicating the economy has actually lost jobs over the past two months, contradicting the gains seen in the establishments survey.

Zhao said the economy doesn't look as though it is about to tip into recession, but the risk is that when job figures are revised next year policymakers could learn in hindsight that the U.S. was shedding jobs as the Fed continued to raise rates.

"These surveys are out of sync at a critical turning point in the economy," he said.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

Opening Reception for the City of Malibu's Next Public Art Exhibition in City Hall Gallery, "Music-Inspired Art," December 4

The City of Malibu Arts Commission invites all of Malibu to attend the opening reception for the City next public art exhibition in the City Hall Gallery, "Music Inspired Art," Sunday, December 4, 12 p.m.

"Malibu has always been home to world-renowned musicians and music industry professionals who have been inspired by Malibu's natural beauty," said Mayor Paul Grisanti. "I hope everyone in Malibu will join us for the opening reception, meet the artists, and enjoy the music-inspired art created by our local artists."

The free event will feature a live musical performance by A Call 2Peace as well as complimentary food and refreshments. RSVPs are not required.

The exhibition features original works by local artists inspired by music, including images of live concerts, thoughts and feelings about music in visual forms, and illustrations of musicians.

"Music Inspired Art" will be on display from December 2022 through January 2023, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission to the gallery is free. The Malibu City Gallery is located at City Hall (23825 Stuart Ranch Road).

For more information on the exhibition or the Malibu Arts Commission, please visit www.MalibuArtsCommission.org/MalibuMusic or email Community Services Deputy Director Kristin Riesgo at KRiesgo@MalibuCity.org.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

LOS ANGELES

10 Los Angeles students appear to OD on cannabis edibles

Ten Los Angeles students appear to have overdosed on cannabis edibles Thursday at their middle school in the San Fernando Valley, officials said.

The students, between 12 and 15 years old, were in mild to moderate distress at Van Nuys Middle School around 10:30 a.m., according to the Los Angeles Fire Department. Seven of them were taken to pediatric medical centers.

LAFD Capt. Erik Scott said the overdoses were possibly from edible cannabis products and investigators are trying to determine whether all 10 students got the substances from the same source.

Christopher Angel, 12, told the Los Angeles Times that three people in his class were affected.

"They were acting weird, tired, high," he said.

Firefighters searched the campus to make sure there were no other ill students, Scott said.

Crews were able to determine that the substance was not related to fentanyl, a highly addictive and potentially lethal drug, and paramedics did not administer the opioid overdose-reversing drug naloxone, officials said.

In a statement, the Los Angeles Unified School District said medical assistance was requested "in an abundance of caution" but that the campus remained "safe and open for instruction."

No other information was immediately available.

SUBMITTED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

LA deputy charged with using stun gun on detained man

A Los Angeles sheriff's deputy has been charged with unlawfully using a stun gun on a man who had been detained and handcuffed for investigation of shoplifting.

Hiraudi Lopez-Romero, a 29-year-old deputy, was charged with one count of felony assault, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office said in a statement late Thursday.

Prosecutors said the charge stemmed from a report of shoplifting in the city of Compton in December 2020.

Authorities detained a man in response to the call but he allegedly resisted going into a deputy's car and was pepper sprayed, the statement said. While inside the vehicle, the man was kicking his feet and broke a window, the statement said.

Lopez-Romero is accused of getting out of the vehicle and using a stun gun on him, the statement said. She is scheduled to be arraigned on Jan. 31.

The sheriff's department had no immediate comment on the charge and could not provide a name for Lopez-Romero's lawyer.

SUBMITTED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

SMC

Santa Monica College Musical Theatre Workshop Presents "We Tell Our Story" Dec. 16-18

The Santa Monica College Musical Theatre Workshop will celebrate live theater with performances of "We Tell Our Story" on Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 17, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, December 18, at 2 p.m.

Performances will be held in the Studio Stage at the SMC Theatre Arts Complex, located on the main SMC Campus (1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica).

The lively, entertaining revue will showcase SMC students — accompanied by SMC pianist Sang Hee Cho — performing solos, duets, and group numbers from current and past Broadway hits.

A joint program of the SMC Theatre Arts and Music Departments, the showcase is directed by SMC Theatre Arts instructor Aric Martin, with music direction by SMC Music instructor Gary Gray.

Advance tickets are $10, plus a modest service charge, and can be purchased at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-4319 (M-F). Tickets are $3 higher at the door. Free parking on premises. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis. No late seating. No video feed offered in lobby area.

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 310-434-4319.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

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Drought-hit California cities to get little water from state

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

California water agencies that serve 27 million people will get just 5% of what they requested from the state to start 2023, water officials announced Thursday.

The news of limited water comes as California concludes its driest three-year stretch on record and as water managers brace for a fourth year with below-average precipitation. But if the winter is wetter than expected, the state could boost how much supply it plans to give out — as it did last year when allocations started at 0% and ended the winter at 5%.

> “Metropolitan is doing everything we can to alleviate the immediate crisis and make investments to provide more tools than emergency conservation alone - Adel Hagekhalil

Absent an end to the drought, water-saving measures are poised to continue, including calls for people to rip up decorative grass, limit outdoor watering, take shorter showers and run dishwashers only when full. Much of California is in extreme or exceptional drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

A storm currently bringing snow and rain to the northern end of the state has been welcome news, but people shouldn't get too optimistic, warned Michael Anderson, the state climatologist. Last year two major storms in October and December were followed by months of bone-dry weather.

“Don't get too carried away by any one storm,” Anderson told reporters.

Much of California's water supply comes from snow that falls in the mountains during the winter and enters the watershed as it melts through spring. Some of it is stored in reservoirs for later use, while some is sent south through massive pumping systems.

The system is known as the State Water Project, and it provides water to two-thirds of the state's people and 1,172 square miles (3,035 square kilometers) of farmland. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which services Los Angeles and much of Southern California, relies on the state for about one-third of its water supply.

Southern California's supply is further threatened by the ongoing crisis afflicting the Colorado River, another major source for the heavily populated region. The district is working on a massive water recycling plant to eventually supplement supply.

“Metropolitan is doing everything we can to alleviate the immediate crisis and make investments to provide more tools than emergency conservation alone,” Adel Hagekhalil, the district's general manager, said in a statement. “But now we need the public's help. We can get through this by working together.”

Some districts with limited water supplies may get additional water if the 5% isn't enough to cover critical health and safety needs, said Molly White, water operations manager for the State Water Project.

Given the uncertainty about how long the drought will last, the state wants to keep water in Lake Oroville, its largest reservoir. Right now, it's about half as full as it usually is at this time of year. So officials plan to tap excess water from winter storms to provide the 5% supply and take some water out of the San Luis Reservoir in Merced County, White said.

“We're all just sort of holding our breath to see what mother nature does,” said Michael McNutt, spokesman for Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, which serves some wealthy suburbs of Los Angeles and relies almost exclusively on state supplies.

The district may completely ban outdoor watering if dry conditions persist, he said.

The federal government also controls some water supply in California, much of which goes to farmers in the vast Central Valley who grow fruits, nuts and vegetables. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation doesn't issue its first water allocations until February but on Monday warned farmers and cities to prepare for limited supplies.

“If drought conditions extend into 2023, Reclamation will find it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to meet all the competing needs of the Central Valley Project without beginning the implementation of additional and more severe water conservation actions,” the bureau said in a news release.

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ENDORSEMENTS

FROM PAGE 1

Friends of Sunset Park, North of Montana Association, Ocean Park Association, Pico Neighborhood Association, Santa Monica Mid City Neighbors, Santa Monica Northeast Neighbors, Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition. While the Ocean Park Association and Pico Neighborhood Association are registered as 501(c)(3)s, a classification which means they cannot legally support or oppose candidates, the other five groups are 501)(c)(4)s meaning they can participate in political activity.

"These organizations are legally allowed to lobby as long as the lobbying is related to the organization's purpose," former Friends of Sunset Park President Kathy Knight said at the meeting. However, as Davis noted, these groups are not allowed to use City funding for this type of activity.

Council Member Oscar de la Torre pointed out that there are already written conditions attached to City grants stating the money cannot be used for political purposes but agreed with the idea of requiring they provide a disclaimer when engaging in political advocacy.

"It's already there, but what isn't there probably is that they have to put a disclaimer…" he said. "To put that in the agreement with the group that's receiving the funding that they should put a disclaimer on their web page is probably also something that's smart to do as well."

He added that he thinks the City should also add a similar disclaimer to the page of its own website which includes links to the various neighborhood associations. He also suggested that the City Attorney look into regulations for other organizations that receive City funding and are politically active to ensure consistency across policies.

The council voted 6-0 to approve the motion in its amended form. Council Member Chrisitine Parra was not present at the meeting.

grace@smdp.com

TREE

FROM PAGE 1

have some families that this money allows us to help," said parent volunteer Stephan Corbel.

However, organizers say the lot has an even stronger impact on the scores of scouts who work volunteer shifts there throughout the month. Indeed, as they rake in money for the troop, they also develop their skills in business, customer service, organization and time management.

At the Christmas tree lot, parent volunteers operate the chainsaw and supervise the cash register but the scouts do everything in between, from assisting with sales and keeping the area clean to helping customers load trees onto their cars and making deliveries (an adult drives the car while the scouts do the lifting and setup).

Joaquin Jackson-Alcanta has been scouting for a year and enjoys working in the lot.

"I get to meet a lot of new people, go on deliveries and pick up trees which I never thought I'd be able to do," he said.

He said the sales skills he's learning will help him outside the scouting world and he enjoys guiding customers through the sale from start to finish.

Visit www.troop2bsa.org for more information.

editor@smdp.com



Matthew Hall

TREES: Joaquin Jackson-Alcanta is one of the scouts selling trees in Santa Monica.





Santa Monica Daily Press

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PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 3)

The way things look and feel matters to you, and you will be guided by your own good taste to truly singular experiences. You'll make the world more beautiful by doing nothing more than witnessing it as such. Highlights include: a surprise journey that stretches your self-concept, a leadership position at work and an oddball-but-lucrative investment. Scorpio and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 32, 5, 8 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a point in which knowledge is not useful, and maybe even wasteful as it clogs the arteries of emotion. What helps the situation won't be knowing more but feeling more. Receptivity is an art, and you're a masterful artist.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll tend to what matters. Knowing what falls into this category is the tricky part for most people, but not for you. You have a sense about what you need most now and what is going to have lasting impact. Opportunities await.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your first instinct may not be the one that's for the highest and best, but maturity has you pausing to consider the other answers instead of rushing in or jumping to conclusions as a younger person might.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's better to figure things out for yourself now. You might make mistakes, but those will be your lessons, and they are far more valuable than what you'll achieve following someone else's prescription.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've already seen a fair share of outcomes on the tried-and-true route. Boredom could cause you to take a novel path. Not knowing what to expect is the thrill that sharpens your senses and quickens your reflexes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You were born with qualities and traits, but they are far less significant than the ones you made. You are once again deciding who you want to be, and it will be so much fun exercising your right to create yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To be able to give generously to those you love is a luxury only affordable to those who have extra. Whatever quantity you have extra of, you give it abundantly and thereby know what it's like to feel rich.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's far better to go solo than to be in bad company. When you're alone, you have options. You can survey the room and figure out who looks interesting to you and where you'd most like to fit in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Good things, when taken to excess, become bad things. There's a certain range to stay inside of now and it's wide enough that it shouldn't be a problem for you, as long as you are aware of the limits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Friends want to influence you. Ultimately your leisure will be the most satisfying when you choose your own pleasures instead of accepting the ones that are imposed on you. You'll be glad you were assertive in this regard.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't waste time in stringing and restringing your instrument or you'll never get the chance to sing the song. Strum what you have and harmonize accordingly. Just because a thing is a little off doesn't mean it won't work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can't help what other people say but you can ignore it. When bad behavior gets a big audience, it sends a mixed message to the one who committed the misdeeds. You're careful not to pay attention to things that don't honor or require your attention.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

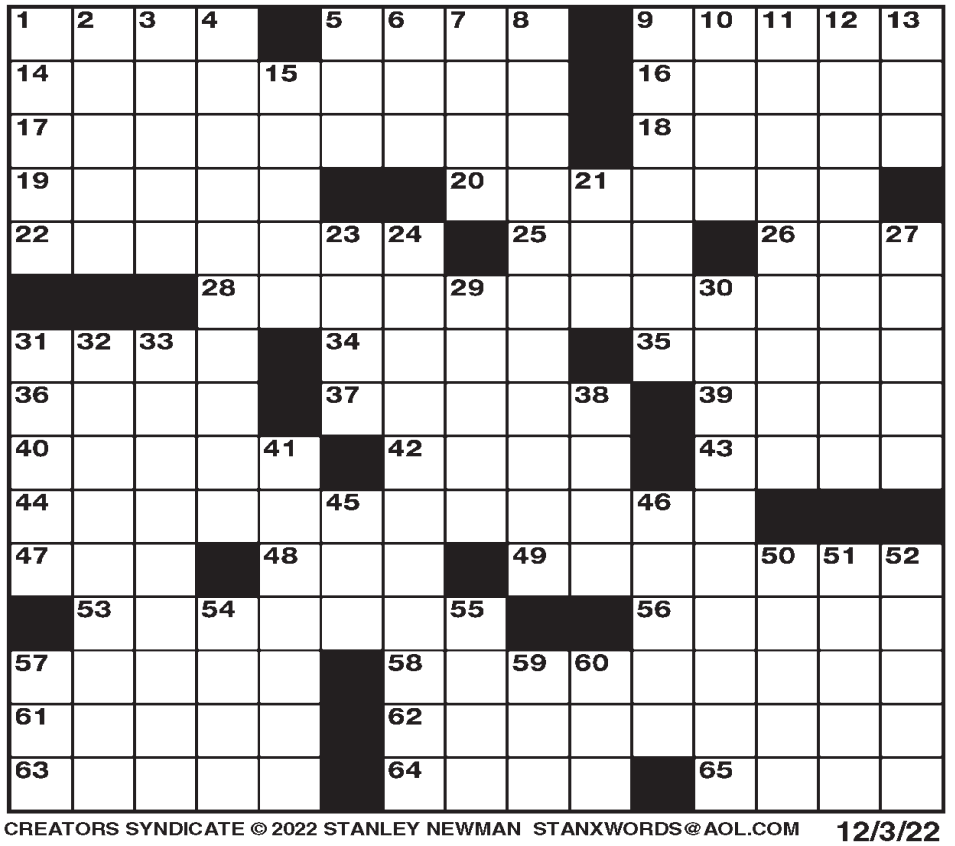
7			6		4			
	2		9				5	
8				3		9		
		1					8	
3	8		7	2	5		6	9
	6					2		
		5		7				8
	7				2		9	
			3		9			6

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Steve Mossberg
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Problems for young pupils
5 Surprise inspiration
9 Nobody you know, these days
14 What follows a collaboration conclusion
16 Harder to navigate, perhaps
17 Many a worker on water
18 Conventions, for instance
19 Admitted
20 Most 35 Across
22 Civic alternative
25 Fishy symbol of good fortune
26 *Asian Favorites* chef since 2018
28 Unfond farewell
31 Lasting effect
34 "Edible" synonym of "noodle"
35 Privileged
36 Common casserole contents
37 More than minimally reasoned
39 Included electronically
40 Another '70s nickname for "Schwartzy"
42 Overgrown
43 Film star name in the Inventors Hall of Fame
44 Early artistic leaf
47 Qualified
48 Annual ABC awards show
49 Do something fatherly
53 Where the current goes out
56 Successor of GM in the DJIA (2009)
57 Way, way out
58 Signoff favored by Stan Lee
61 *Azalée ou narcisse*
62 Dessert Emeril makes upside-down in a skillet
63 Can't hold the lead
64 Have no industry
65 '90s combatant in the console wars

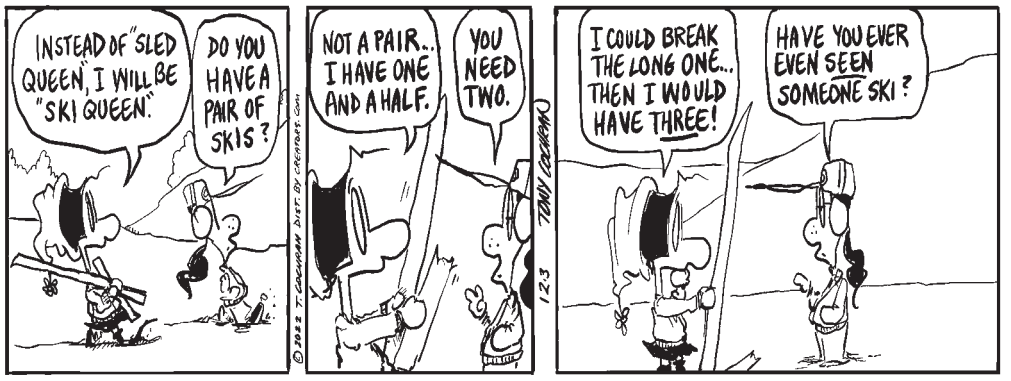
DOWN
1 Hulking, these days
2 Divine colleague of Gabriel
3 Land due north of Libya
4 Seasonal refresher
5 Crack that might break you up
6 It's just below ANT in the IOC country code list
7 Allow to stand
8 *Firestarter* skill
9 Where the current goes out
10 Palm product
11 Overly ingratiating
12 Took away (from)
13 Interns' assignment
15 It's spotted in corrals and kitchens
21 Protective housing
23 Takes away (from)
24 Reply to a would-be reneger
27 High-maintenance
29 Amassed
30 St. Michael's, after renovation
31 Crook or crew
32 All the courses everywhere
33 With a markup
38 Parent of Poseidon
41 Artists in a Works on Paper department
45 Qualification for a comment
46 Life __
50 What kiwifruit is, ultimately
51 Work for a movie
52 What it's not good to be out of
54 Not mock
55 Big show, briefly
57 Racetrack announcer's adjective
59 Expert in attestation and internal controls
60 Fantasy game archer, often



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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



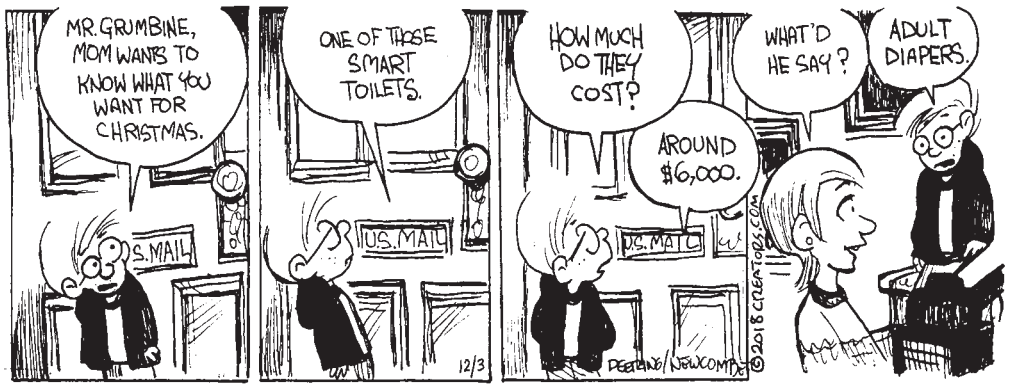
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



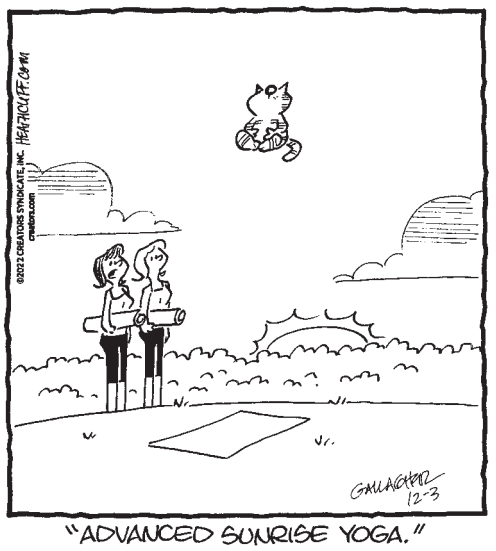
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"ADVANCED SUNRISE YOGA."

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

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Tech talk

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

ADSL
Apple
Bars
Battery
Beta
Binary
Bits
Blog
Broadband
Byte
Card
Chat
Chip
Copy
Cursor
Data
Debug
Disk
Dots
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Edit
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Fast
File
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Flash
Games
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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

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.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Pl.
The whole family is invited to breakfast with Santa! Bring the kids for crafts and activities. Donation required to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. RSVP online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/breakfast-with-santa-benefitting-st-jude-childrens-research-hospital-tickets-460410138117.

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.

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ANTIQUE MARKET
A destination for decorators, designers, boutique owners, families with their friendly dogs and collectors of all ages. Shop for ancient to antique, Victorian to Mid-Century, from vintage to the eccentric. Our dealers bring; shabby chic, architectural salvage and industrial furniture, paintings from listed European and American artists, original vintage prints, posters and lithographs, estate jewelry, vintage to couture fashion, books, candelabras, outdoor furniture and garden accessories, rugs from around the world, tribal and African art, sculpture and beads, exotic plants and more. 2800-3200 Airport Ave 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

MONDAY | DECEMBER 5

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES
An ongoing series of citizenship classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. The classes help students complete and submit their U.S. citizenship applications, and prepare them for the official review. Enrollment is through the SMMUSD Adult Education Center (310) 664-6222, ext. 76203 or osaucedo@smmusd.org. Pico Branch Library. 12:45 - 3:15 p.m.

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 6

GRATITUDE JAR WORKSHOP
Capture the positive things that happen in your daily life! Decorate a jar to keep notes and memories of events and things that make you happy. Open the lid and read what's inside later on. Amy Muscoplat of Joyfestival Industries leads this mindful workshop for adults. Main Library. 2 - 4 p.m.

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **61.0**

SATURDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	Looking like a manageable day between two coastal storms -- surf is just small. Steep-angled NW swell from Friday drops off through the morning. Modest, longer-period new WNW swell fills in through the afternoon.
SUNDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	Day to watch with rebuilding NW swell on tap and a dropping tide through late morning into midday. Wind and conditions remain in question as second coastal low expected to drop into the region. South facing points may be best.

WEATHER

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of rain, mainly after 4pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 63.
Saturday Night: Rain likely, mainly after 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.
Sunday: A 50 percent chance of rain, mainly before 4pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59.
Sunday Night: A slight chance of rain before 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/12/03	Sat	05:56 AM	5.57	H
2022/12/03	Sat	12:39 PM	0.65	L
2022/12/03	Sat	6:31 PM	3.91	H
2022/12/04	Sun	12:00 AM	1.17	L
2022/12/04	Sun	06:28 AM	5.89	H
2022/12/04	Sun	1:23 PM	0.06	L
2022/12/04	Sun	7:28 PM	3.85	H
2022/12/05	Mon	12:35 AM	1.54	L
2022/12/05	Mon	06:58 AM	6.11	H
2022/12/05	Mon	2:03 PM	-0.36	L
2022/12/05	Mon	8:17 PM	3.79	H
2022/12/06	Tue	01:07 AM	1.86	L
2022/12/06	Tue	07:27 AM	6.21	H
2022/12/06	Tue	2:39 PM	-0.61	L
2022/12/06	Tue	9:02 PM	3.72	H
2022/12/07	Wed	01:37 AM	2.14	L
2022/12/07	Wed	07:55 AM	6.21	H
2022/12/07	Wed	3:14 PM	-0.71	L

DAILY LOTTERY

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 11/30
4 19 24 47 66
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 81 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/29
20 23 37 46 52
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 333 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/30
6 18 22 26 34
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 12 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/1
15 17 19 22 26

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/1
EVENING: 1 2 9
Draw Date: 12/1
MIDDAY: 9 3 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/1
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:47.03

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