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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Safety key in having a happy holiday season

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

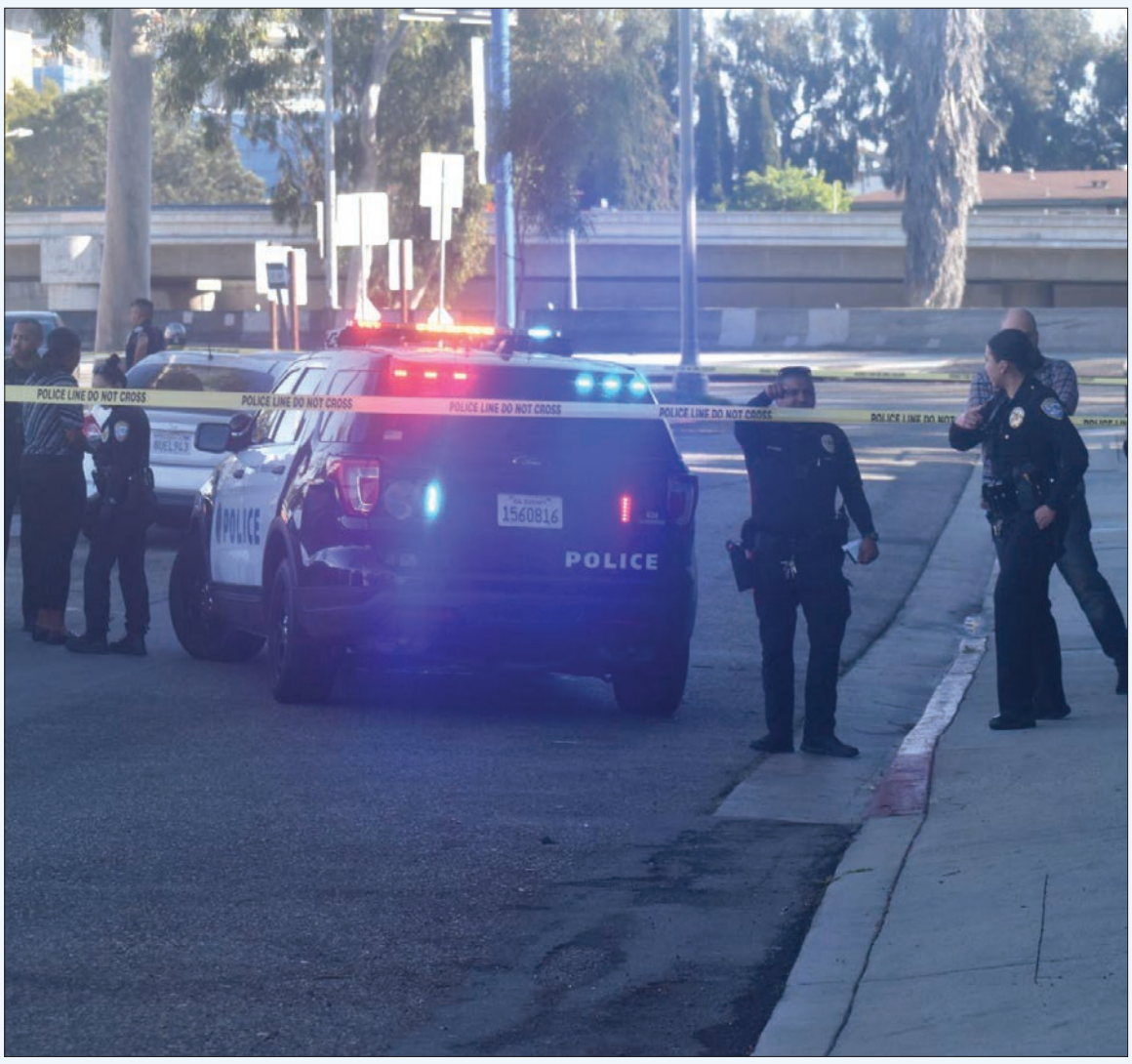
'Tis the season in Santa Monica, as the calendar flip to December has residents running out for holiday purchases and putting up their festive displays. Having fun during the holidays is a time-honored city tradition, but one that cannot be accomplished without keeping a keen eye on safe practices.

Safety in Santa Monica begins before getting back to the house, as retail purchases have been hampered throughout 2023 due a rise in retail theft and robbery rates in California. According to a Public Policy Institute of California report from September, there have been significant jumps in commercial burglaries in Southern Coastal California, with Los Angeles County having the highest commercial robbery rate in 2022.

A commercial burglary incident occurs when an individual intends to steal merchandise from a store worth more than $950, and district attorneys have the discretion to charge the crime as either a misdemeanor or felony. In 2022, Los Angeles County had the highest commercial robbery rate, with 60 incidents per 100,000 residents. To fight this criminal trend, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced in November that California Highway Patrol is increasing statewide efforts to combat organized retail crime for the annual holiday shopping season. As part of Newsom's Real Public Safety Plan, CHP is increasing law enforcement presence in key retail districts across the state, and the state's Organized Retail Crime Task Force is also increasing enforcement

SEE **SAFETY** PAGE 7

Security guard stabbed on 5th Street



Thomas Leffler

ARREST: A homeless man was arrested outside the Daily Press office on Monday after stabbing the building's security guard.

At about 1:50 p.m. the suspect was seen spreading blankets and debris inside a stairwell on the property. The security guard asked the suspect to leave and after the suspect became aggressive, the verbal altercation turned physical.

SMDP staff heard the commotion near the entrance to the building and after exiting the front door, staff saw the building's security guard using a chair and a traffic cone to defend himself from the suspect who was threatening him with a knife. As more witnesses emerged from the building, the suspect fled towards the train station where he was stopped by officers and arrested. The victim reported being stabbed and was seen entering an ambulance with small blood stains on his shirt.

The Daily Press rents offices at 1640 5th Street and while the attack had nothing to do with the paper, several members of the Daily Press staff witnessed the fight and are cooperating with the Santa Monica Police Department in their investigation.

Spirits put a spin on pine purchasing process

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

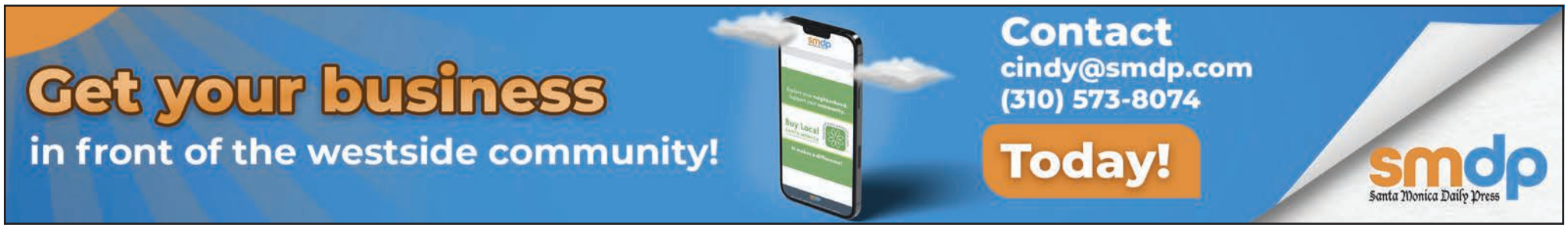
A partnership sprung by the entertainment industry has added a unique boozy flavor to the holiday shopping experience.

Locals Dan Pellar and Paul Helling, both veterans of film and television, are aiming to transform the Christmas tree picking process into a seasonal sip and shop adventure with their Wines & Pines endeavor. The pair transformed their respective lots at 1802 Santa Monica Blvd and 2307 Lincoln Ave into the haunt for holiday hangouts, obtaining permits from the local Alcohol Beverage Control board to sell beer, wine and canned cocktails while customers shop for the finest firs.

Pellar noted that his previous charity work inspired him to partner with San Diego-based organization It's All About The Kids for Wines & Pines, with 10 percent of alcohol sales going to the group that targets childhood food insecurity in impoverished neighborhoods. He noted that he is familiar with the permitting process from his film and television experience, and Wines & Pines is "to his knowledge" the first lot of its kind to offer the boozy business model. Adding alcohol to the holidays was successfully tested during Halloween's "Boos & Brews" pop-up before the Christmas season.

"It seemed like a good opportunity to make some money for a good cause, and then also allow people to have a good time

SEE **PINES** PAGE 4



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Ceremony completes safe biking project









Thomas Leffler & Fran Lyness

OPEN: The weekend began in Santa Monica with a ceremony celebrating the completion of the 17th Street and Michigan Ave bike lane project, held at the 17th St/SMC Metro station parking lot on Saturday morning. The project constructed a protected bikeway, pedestrian scale lighting, curb extensions and upgraded ADA ramps, restriped crosswalks and protected intersections for bikers from Wilshire Blvd to Pico Blvd on 17th St. On Michigan Ave from 14th St to 19th St., the project enhanced streets to be more conducive for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, adding curb extensions and new curb ramps at 14th and 15th St, mini traffic circles on 16th and 18th St for a more predictable flow of traffic, and upgraded curb ramps throughout the area.

Since the opening of the Metro Expo line, 17th Street has experienced a 1600% increase in pedestrian traffic and an 82% increase in bicycle traffic, with the project promoting a safer environment for these groups along with motorists. "I'm thrilled to see such a robust, thoughtful and important multi-modal project come to completion," Santa Monica Mayor Gleam Davis said. "By increasing separation from moving traffic and connecting neighborhoods, this project helps make walking and biking easier, encouraging sustainable practices that lead to healthier communities."

The ceremony featured remarks from Davis and other officials, along with guided bike tours along the bike lane, and performances from the Samohi Marching Band, Academia de Danza BFFM and LA Jugglers. Santa Monica Spoke and reDiscover Center also held bike-themed workshops throughout the morning.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Response to REI leaving

Editor:

REI's decision to "get out of Dodge" is a devastating comment on our City government's spectacular failure, on every level, with regard to Third Street Promenade. I mean, REI is one of the only shops on (or just off) Third Street Promenade that Santa Monica residents actually regularly use. Everyone knows The Promenade is a tourist trap, not really made for locals. Third Street's prime real estate was repurposed by the City and designed to draw in out-of-towners to spend their money here and leave their sales tax revenue behind. And most locals avoid it. The only problem? That experiment is failing! With online shopping and cleaner, safer alternatives all around LA, retailers don't think it is worth it to pay the astronomical rents on Third Street only to have large portions of their inventory stolen, their shops vandalized, and their front doors covered in whatever is being left on the sidewalks in Santa Monica nowadays. This is why Third Street is less of an attraction than it once was. But let's not get it twisted: although REI and other retailers are leaving Third Street partly because of the changing retail market, they are also leaving because of the decay we all know and see is happening in Downtown Santa Monica, and the city as a whole. REI knows and sees it as well, and is voting with its feet. And without all the tourists being attracted to big stores, we now have a space in the heart of our city that no one wants to go to.

And it will keep getting worse as companies like REI, who should want to be in a place like Santa Monica, decide to leave. I only hope that the City government recognizes what is happening and responds. How? I am not a policy expert, but maybe, if the City wants to fill all the open spaces on Third Street and/or attract—I don't know, residents—back to the Promenade, they should make it easier for local businesses to move in? An example; maybe help a great local spot (something like Santa Monica Brew Works) get space on the Promenade? Maybe cut out some of the red tape for local restaurants and/or watering holes to open downtown? More foot traffic will make Third Street safer. Maybe up the police presence around Third Street? That might work too! Maybe strong arm the Third Street landlords and Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. to stop pricing out businesses and sullying the potential Third Street has always had? They just write off their losses, so it doesn't matter to the property owners anyways. If residents come back, big companies and tourists will too.

Or maybe our City government should keep making excuses, keep ignoring Santa Monica's unacceptable crime and vandalism issues, and keep losing sales tax revenue from tourists and residents alike to better planned, cleaner, newer, and safer alternatives that are popping up outside our City. But, if that keeps happening, I hope us residents vote with our actual vote, as opposed to our feet like REI just did, and "clean shop" for elected officials that help keep our City's favorite shops clean and safe and still here!

Kabir Chopram, Santa Monica

CRIME WATCH

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AT APPROXIMATELY 8 P.M.

SMPD officers responded to the 1000 block of 3rd Street for a "Follow Up" Investigation related to an unknown male seen jumping over an alley wall onto their neighbor's property. While on scene speaking to the reporting party, officers observed the subject on top of the neighbor's garage. The subject proceeded to jump from balcony to balcony of neighboring buildings while attempting to open multiple sliding glass doors. The Crisis Negotiations Team attempted to talk the subject down, but he continued to ignore their commands while exhibiting erratic behavior. After approximately an hour, he safely stepped down from the roof and was detained pending further investigation. The subject admitted to using methamphetamines and was evaluated by the Santa Monica Fire Department. The subject, a male transient on County Probation was booked for resisting arrest and being under the influence of a controlled substance. He was issued a citation with a court appearance scheduled for December 22, 2023.

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **61.7**

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Small again but inching up from previous days as some new S swell starts to show. Small, steep-angled NW swell also fills in. AM offshore flow for groomed conditions.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Small but up a bit more. Small S swell pulses up slightly. Steep NW swell fills in through the day, largest in the afternoon.

Weather

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 77. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. North northeast wind around 5 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 68. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/12/05	Tue	04:44 AM	4.13	H
2023/12/05	Tue	10:34 AM	2.72	L
2023/12/05	Tue	3:18 PM	3.54	H
2023/12/05	Tue	10:05 PM	1.10	L
2023/12/06	Wed	05:09 AM	4.45	H
2023/12/06	Wed	11:30 AM	2.10	L
2023/12/06	Wed	4:39 PM	3.41	H
2023/12/06	Wed	10:42 PM	1.32	L
2023/12/07	Thu	05:32 AM	4.80	H
2023/12/07	Thu	12:12 PM	1.44	L
2023/12/07	Thu	5:47 PM	3.39	H
2023/12/07	Thu	11:14 PM	1.54	L
2023/12/08	Fri	05:55 AM	5.18	H
2023/12/08	Fri	12:49 PM	0.79	L
2023/12/08	Fri	6:45 PM	3.44	H
2023/12/08	Fri	11:45 PM	1.74	L
2023/12/09	Sat	06:20 AM	5.56	H
2023/12/09	Sat	1:24 PM	0.17	L
2023/12/09	Sat	7:34 PM	3.51	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: 12/2
28 35 41 47 60
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 412 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/1
12 47 49 52 65
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 377 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/2
4 18 44 45 47
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 20 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/3
3 10 18 23 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/3
EVENING: 9 3 0
Draw Date: 12/3
MIDDAY: 5 9 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/3
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:43.00

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

PINES

FROM PAGE 1

and have a glass of wine while they shop for a tree," Pellar said. "It seems like everybody wins."

The group's namesake required quality wine taken from several sources, with one of the featured bottles being "Blank Canvas," a 2022 Chardonnay vinted and bottled in Napa. Along with a variety of wines, the lots also sell the increasingly popular JuneShine hard kombucha, micheladas, lagers, IPAs and non-alcoholic selections like hot chocolate.

Initially taking up the tree business last year as Hollie's, Pellar received rave reviews for his lot, and felt this was a way to give back to the community he's called home for 15 years during the holiday season.

"I would buy Christmas trees (in the area) for years and years," he said. "I'd always pick (others') brains about how they do it. Being a television and film guy, I can (turn) a parking lot into a really cool thing ... and then the next day, it's like we were never there. So I was always interested in the process, and who doesn't love a good Christmas tree? So we're selling smiles over here, and it's a really fun place to work."

Joining Pellar for the endeavor are first-time lot runners Paul and Josie Helling, who received quite the education in how to transform the long-empty Lincoln lot into a wine-fueled winter wonderland.

"There's a lot (involved) ... just when you think you've bought the trees and secured a lot and rented it, well, then you need chairs and you need a bar, then you need an extra cooler, then you need games," Josie stated. "It kept compiling ... making it more of an experience for people was kind of the fun part, but it was stressful in the meantime learning about all the additional background things."

Both lots blossomed into a sizable tree selection for 2023, with fresh trees from Oregon ranging from 3-foot tabletops to 11-footers in types like Noble Firs, Nordmann Firs and the Christmas classic Douglas Firs. Along with the trees, the lots have other exciting essentials like wreaths in stock, and the scents of the season have Helling excited for the upcoming weeks.

"We have a Christmas tree in our house every year, but I've never had this many Christmas trees that I just (get) to smell all season long. The wreaths, the lights and the colors, I'm a big Christmas person, so it's been great," she added.

The entertainment extends to those who don't drink, as the Santa Monica Blvd lot contains children's activities like a bounce house and a giant "Connect 3" inflatable game. The Lincoln lot also holds tabletop games and plays movies under the lights during the evening hours.

Stating that Santa Monica "knows how to make Christmas happen," Helling has been surprised at the amount of people that buy their trees early, and the Lincoln lot will remain open during the season for drinks and movies even if their inventory is cleared out before Christmas. Wines & Pines lots are open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. throughout December.

The alcohol introduction for customers has them coming back even if their tree is picked out, as the pair of lots have created a fun "vibe" for the season.

"I think people enjoy sipping while they're walking around and deciding on their tree ... it adds to the whole experience," Helling said. "We've seen a lot of people excited to think that out in the middle of a parking lot, they can have a drink."

thomas@smdp.com







Photo by Thomas Leffler

SHOPPING WITH SPIRIT: Local Josie Helling and husband Paul have customers coming in droves at the "Wines & Pines" Christmas tree lot at 2307 Lincoln Ave, selling various alcoholic beverages.

Man charged in killings of 3 homeless people and a suburban LA resident, prosecutors say

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prosecutors charged a man Monday with four counts of murder in the fatal shootings of three homeless men in Los Angeles and a suburban resident last month.

Jerrid Joseph Powell was also charged with one count of residential robbery and one count of being a felon with a firearm, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said in a statement. He also faces special circumstances of committing multiple murders, murder in the course of a robbery, as well as personal use of a firearm allegations, the statement said.

Powell, 33, was scheduled to appear in court for arraignment later in the day. Efforts during the weekend to determine if he had a lawyer were unsuccessful.

Powell was initially arrested last week as a suspect in a deadly shooting during a robbery at a home in the community of San Dimas east of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles resident was then identified as a suspect in the killings of the three homeless men when a firearm found in his car was linked to those shootings, authorities said.

The motive for the killings of the homeless victims was not known, Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said during a weekend press conference announcing the arrest.

Jose Bolanos, 37, was found dead with a gunshot wound around 3 a.m. on Nov. 26 in an alley in South Los Angeles, police said. The following day, Mark Diggs, 62, was shot and killed while pushing a shopping cart around 5 a.m. near downtown, according to officials.

The third shooting occurred Nov. 29 about 2:30 a.m. in the Lincoln Heights area, where the body of a 52-year-old man was found. Police did not immediately identify him pending notification of family.

Meanwhile, Nicholas Simbolon, 42, was shot dead at his home in San Dimas on the evening of Nov. 28. Authorities obtained surveillance images of a suspect vehicle, and the following night a license plate reader in Beverly Hills alerted police who made a traffic stop, resulting in Powell's arrest.

"I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the incredible men and women of law enforcement who worked tirelessly to bring justice to our community and arrest this individual," District Attorney George Gascón said in Monday's statement. "The swift actions of law enforcement undoubtedly saved lives this week."

If convicted on all charges, Powell faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

> I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the incredible men and women of law enforcement who worked tirelessly to bring justice to our community and arrest this individual
> - George Gascón, District Attorney

Los Angeles County is the nation's most populous, with about 10 million people, and was home to more than one in five of the nation's homeless people, according to a 2022 federal tally. As of January, the last official count, more than 75,000 people were homeless across the county on any given night.

Advocates for homeless people say those living on the streets are much more likely to be the victims of violence than the perpetrators.

Five homeless people were shot in Las Vegas on Friday, one of them fatally, and police were searching for a lone suspect, authorities said.

In Orange County, California, a man was charged with killing four homeless men in a series of stabbings from late 2011 to early 2012. Itzcoatl Ocampo, a former Marine, was charged with four counts of murder with special allegations of multiple murders, lying in wait and use of a deadly weapon in the killings. Ocampo died awaiting trial after reportedly eating cleanser he had collected slowly while in custody.

GET IT DAILY...

Tens of thousands still waiting as California COVID rent relief program runs low on cash

BEN CHRISTOPHER
Special to the Daily Press



Cal Matters

RELIEF: The money was supposed to help residents pay necessary bills.

In March 2021, the Los Angeles film industry was just beginning to roar back to life after a prolonged COVID-induced slump, but Michael Addis, a freelance filmmaker, was still deep in the hole. For more than a year he'd been racking up IOUs to his landlord and the tab stood at $43,792.

So Addis turned to an emergency state program designed to help people like him pay down rental debt accumulated during the pandemic.

Later, in the summer of 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom himself had touted the program, Housing Is Key, as the largest of its kind in the nation. "We're laser-focused on getting this assistance out the door as quickly as possible," he said at the time.

Addis heard back 20 months after he applied.

On June 5, 2023 — his 61st birthday — he received an email, which he shared with CalMatters, notifying him that a payment had been approved in full.

But by then it was too late. Addis had already downsized, moving out of his apartment a few blocks from the Marina Del Rey harbor to a smaller spot in the San Fernando Valley. He had also borrowed money from members of his family to pay his old landlord back, hoping that he'd be able to write off the new debt with the relief funds from the state. But once the company that owns his apartment complex, Equity Residential, received a check from the state, they sent it back, citing program guidelines that deemed Addis no longer eligible for assistance.

"It's just painful to think that the money that was allocated to solve my problem was sent back and I'm still in debt and now I have to downsize again," he said, explaining that he's about to move to Simi Valley, even further from his teenage son, who lives with Addis' ex-wife. "I'm not in any way leaning on the state but I had a bad year — a bad couple years — and there was a program to help. And they helped me in the worst possible way."

Addis' long wait for California's emergency rental relief program isn't unusual. Though the application window closed in March 2022, more than 70,000 households still have applications pending on the eve of 2024.

California lawmakers created Housing Is Key with billions of dollars in federal relief money, initially guaranteeing everyone who applied in time and was approved would get paid. The ultimate goal of the program was to stem a flood of evictions, as state and local emergency eviction bans came to an end.

For many Californians, it's been a vital lifeline. The program has sent more than $4.7 billion to nearly 370,000 lower-income households, according to data from the state's Department of Housing and Community Development.

But a sizable, unlucky minority of applicants — tenants and landlords alike — have had to wait…and wait and wait.

In the meantime, many have borrowed money from friends and relatives, pleaded and haggled with impatient creditors, missed monthly payments and turned to online support groups for tips on how to sidestep the program's red tape.

Still others have been evicted, though the state doesn't maintain records on how many.

Tenant rights advocates and anti-poverty groups accuse the state of perpetuating a cruel bait-and-switch on some of the state's neediest. The state's housing department blames some of those same advocates for the delay, pointing to a lawsuit that slowed down the application review process.

For those still waiting, the hold-up has

SEE **COVID** PAGE 8

Outstanding Senior Care Program Comes to the Westside



Los Angeles Jewish Health is bringing their Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to West Los Angeles.

PACE provides coordinated, comprehensive care for those 55 and older with chronic medical conditions who live in our community.

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Los Angeles, CA 90035

SCAN ME



Mariners stopped short of State title appearance

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Already CIF Southern Section Division 13 champions for the first time since 1998, the St. Monica Mariners attempt to reach the Division 6-A State Championship fell one game short on Saturday, dropping the Regional Finals to Sweetwater by a score of 47-27. The Mariners finished the 2023 campaign with an overall record of 11-4, going 7-3 in the regular season and 4-1 in playoff action.

The Mariners attempted to catch Sweetwater off guard right away by attempting an onside kick on the opening kickoff attempt, but the Red Devils recovered the ball on the team's own 42-yard line. After giving up an opening drive touchdown, the Red Devils played copycat, trying an onside kick that the Mariners recovered.

A first offensive drive for the Mariners was cut short after freshman quarterback Bradley Cassier was intercepted, but the young starter made up for it on the next drive, finding Joshua Barnes for an 18-yard touchdown strike.

Down 8-7 in the second quarter, Mariners defender Douglas Guevara recovered a Red Devils fumble, but the ensuing drive ended in the Mariners fumbling the ball inside the Red Devils' red zone. With just under 4 minutes to go in the first half, Red Devils running back Zaryan Crews scored to put the opposition up 14-7, and a subsequent Sweetwater drive culminated in an 8-yard rushing score from Xzavier Crews.

Attempting a comeback, Cassier found Barnes on a long pass that ended at the opponents' 1-yard line, with the half ending after Cassier punctuated the drive with a rushing score.

The Mariners gave up a touchdown on the first Red Devils drive of the second half, as Sweetwater scored on a Zaryan Crews 42-yard touchdown run to go up 28-14. That score would hold throughout the third quarter, as the Mariners again fumbled on a promising drive within the Sweetwater red zone. The squad started the final quarter with an electric play, as Cassier found Barnes for a 67-yard touchdown throw, with the point after making it a 28-21, one-score contest once more.

Another quick trading of scores followed, as Zaryan Crews would take a 53-yard run to the end zone for the Red Devils, followed by Cassier completing a 66-yard touchdown to Christopher Barnes, leaving the score at 35-27 with about 7 minutes remaining. The Mariners would not score again, however, as the Red Devils would add onto an offensive total with 59-yard and 11-yard rushing scores by Izell Wright.

The Mariners' magical season was still one to remember for fans of the preparatory school, who saw a team composed of many underclassmen be one game away from a State Championship berth. The team was recently commended during a meeting of Santa Monica City Council, and the City of Santa Monica wrote on its Facebook page Sunday that officials "were sad to see the postseason come to a close, but (they) can't wait to cheer (the Mariners) on again next year."

SAMOHI BOYS BASKETBALL:
Tuesday, November 28: Vikings vs Santa Margarita, Tournament @ Redondo Union
Santa Margarita wins 62-57 (OT)
Saturday, December 2: Vikings vs Narbonne, Tournament @ Redondo Union
Vikings win 57-55
Vikings Record: 5-3
Next Game: Thursday vs Dorsey

SAMOHI GIRLS BASKETBALL:
Tuesday, November 28: Lady Vikings vs Notre Dame (Sherman Oaks)- Palisades Tournament
Notre Dame (Sherman Oaks) wins 59-38
Thursday, November 30: Lady Vikings vs Simi Valley- Palisades Tournament
Lady Vikings win 49-39
Friday, December 1: Lady Vikings vs Louisville- Palisades Tournament
Louisville wins 55-26
Saturday, December 2: Lady Vikings vs Los Angeles CES- Palisades Tournament
Los Angeles CES wins 47-27
Lady Vikings Record: 2-7
Next Game: December 15 vs Venice

SAMOHI BOYS SOCCER:
Friday, December 1: Vikings at Beverly Hills
Vikings win 4-1
Vikings Record: 1-0
Next Game: Wednesday at Salesian

SAMOHI GIRLS SOCCER:
Monday, November 27: Lady Vikings vs Bishop Montgomery
Lady Vikings win 8-0
Wednesday, November 29: Lady Vikings at West Torrance
Lady Vikings win 2-1
Lady Vikings Record: 2-0
Next Game: Wednesday at Bishop Montgomery

SAMOHI GIRLS WATER POLO:
Wednesday, November 29: Lady Vikings at Garden Grove
Lady Vikings win 17-14
Thursday, November 30: Lady Vikings vs Westlake
Westlake wins 16-12
Friday, December 1: Lady Vikings vs Yorba Linda- Benson Tournament @ Valencia High
Lady Vikings win 17-4
Friday, December 1: Lady Vikings vs El Toro- Benson Tournament @ Valencia High
El Toro wins 13-3
Saturday, December 2: Lady Vikings vs Esperanza- Benson Tournament @ Valencia High
Esperanza wins 11-0
Saturday, December 2: Lady Vikings vs Temple City- Benson Tournament @ Valencia High
Temple City wins 8-2
Lady Vikings Record: 2-4
Next Game: Tuesday at Marlborough

thomas@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

MIGHTY MARINERS: The St. Monica Mariners were unsuccessful in an attempt to reach the State Championship game, but celebrated a CIF Southern Section Division 13 title for the first time since 1998 in 2023.

SAFETY

FROM PAGE 1

efforts with allied agencies through the holidays.

"When criminals run out of stores with stolen goods, they need to be arrested and escorted directly into jail cells," Newsom said. "Leveraging hundreds of millions of dollars in law enforcement investments, the California Highway Patrol - working with allied agencies - is increasing enforcement efforts and conducting and supporting covert and confidential takedowns to stop these criminals in their tracks during the holiday season, and year-round."

Locally, the Santa Monica Police Department Community Affairs Unit offered shopping safety tips for community members and visitors, with the main retail messaging being "take it, lock it, keep it." SMPD tips for shopping include:

-Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you

-Park in well-lighted areas

-Lock your car doors and windows

-Place shopping bags and gifts in the trunk

-Activate your car alarm system

-Avoid carrying large amounts of cash

-Carry purses close to the body, not dangling by the straps

-Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket

-Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard if you are separated

Each year, online shopping has become more prominent, and as such packages delivered to doorsteps have also become a target for theft. The top tip for package delivery from SMPD is to "have packages delivered to where you are, not where you aren't," such as getting items delivered to your place of business instead of a home address if you work throughout the day. Other advice includes setting up alternative delivery and pickup options through local delivery services, discouraging thieves from targeting your residence with strategic home security devices, and keeping an eye out for suspicious vehicles and behaviors in your neighborhood.



Photo by Thomas Leffler

HOLIDAY SAFETY: Those shopping for gifts in Santa Monica should be wary of a rise in retail theft throughout Los Angeles County.

Safe practices can also be applied in the homestead, particularly when it comes to fire hazards. The Santa Monica Fire Department and National Fire Protection Association put together a fire safety protocol list for those wanting to decorate their abodes for the holidays, including:

-Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant

-Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn

-Remember which lights are only for indoor use and which ones are only for outdoor use

-Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections, and read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect

-Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so cords do not get damaged

-Keep decorations away from windows and doors

The fire department also provided notes for entertaining guests during the season, starting with testing smoke alarms and telling others about your home fire escape plan. The department also suggests:

-Keeping children and pets away from lit candles

-Keeping matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet

-Staying in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop

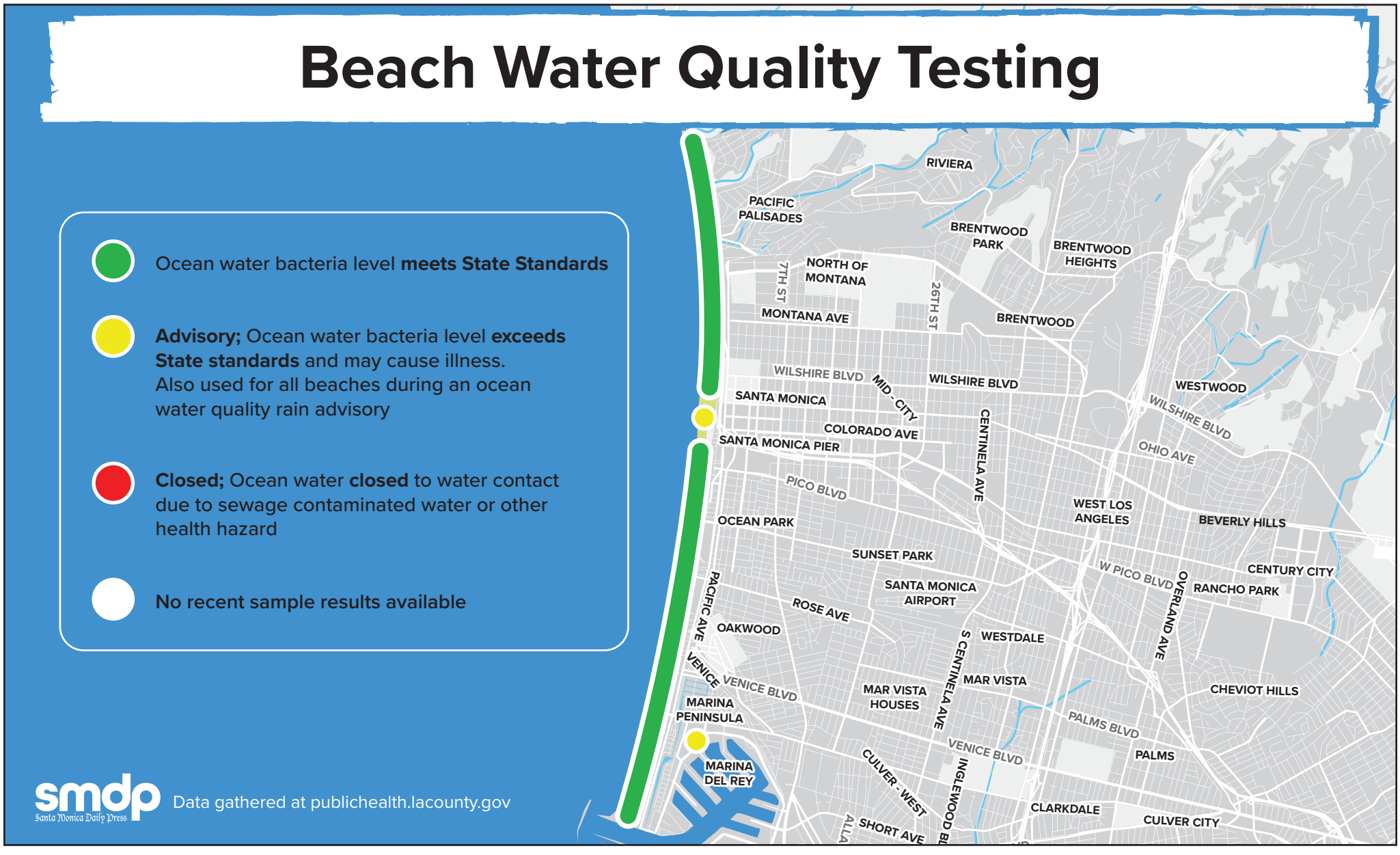
-Asking smokers to smoke outside and reminding them to keep smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them

-Providing large, deep ashtrays for smokers and wetting cigarette butts with water before discarding

-Blowing out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed

-Turning off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed, as more than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.

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COVID

FROM PAGE 5

taken on a new degree of urgency. Housing Is Key might soon be out of cash. Though California's Housing and Community Development department, which oversees the program, recently "identified additional funding," it's unclear whether that will be enough to pay out every last valid claim.

HOW MUCH IS LEFT?

The state's housing department declined to estimate when the program will run out of money or how many people are likely to get help before that happens. That figure depends on two unknowns: How many of the as-yet unprocessed applications will ultimately be approved and, of those, how much rental debt each applicant is owed.

"Given this inherent uncertainty, we remain focused on assisting as many eligible households as possible with the funding we have available," said Pablo Espinoza, the department's deputy communications director.

But the available figures offer a few hints.

As of early November, there were at least 33,658 initial applications still pending, according to data published by the housing department. Another 39,401 applicants were initially denied, but awaiting an appeal review. That's a total of 73,059 applications.

Though CalMatters reported in early October that the department projected the program would soon be out of money, program administrators were able to dig up some more. According to Espinoza, because the program is in its "final wind-down" phase, money initially set aside to pay administrative overhead or leftover from locally-run programs is now available to help renters. That's left a new projected balance of roughly $171 million.

But that's "not nearly enough," said Anya Svanoe, a spokesperson for Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, one of a handful of organizations that sued the department last year over its administration of the rent relief program. "Tens of thousands of people are at risk of being evicted or made homeless, not because they were ineligible, but because the state ran out of money."

Svanoe points to the average pay out, published on the program's online data dashboard: $12,018.

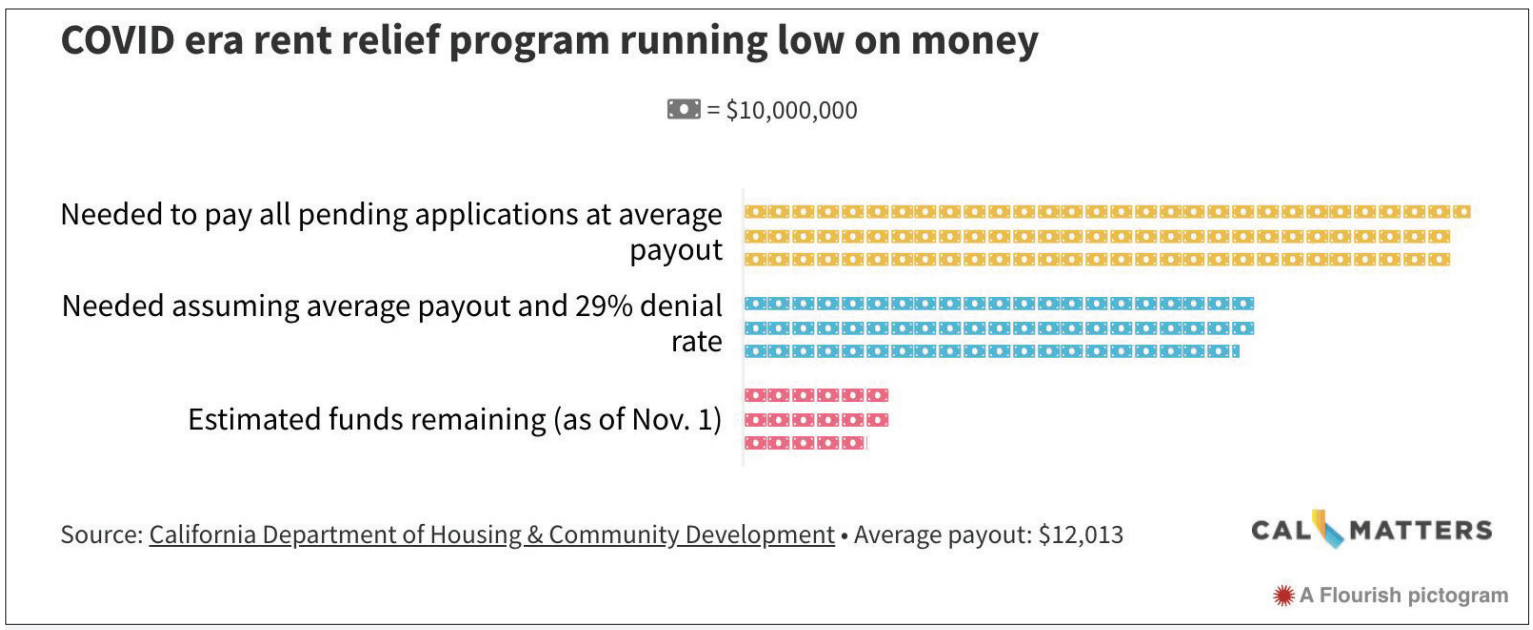
Assuming that same average payment, the program's current funding would only be able to cover a little more than 14,000 people. That would leave the remaining 58,830 applicants, or 80% of the total pool, out of luck.

Such a high denial rate wouldn't be consistent with the history of the program. Housing Is Key administrators only denied 29% of completed applications through mid-2022, according to data provided by the department and shared with a coalition of legal aid groups as part of a court settlement reached earlier this year.

The denial rate seems to be ticking up as the program draws to a close. In early October, a mere 17% of the remaining applicants had been denied. A month later, the figure was up to 38%.

That high denial rate could reflect the fact that applications that have been pending this long are disproportionately complicated and more likely to be rejected.

Asked in October about the possibility that many qualified applicants would not ultimately receive help due to a lack of funds, Espinoza said the program funding was "not infinite" and was never intended to serve all eligible applicants, though he acknowledged that the department and other Newsom administration officials had falsely said otherwise in the past.



Cal Matters

FUNDING: The program does not have enough cash to continue payout out applications.

That realization has started to dawn on some long-waiting applicants. Cassandra Smith, a graphic designer and single mother who lives in Westmorland south of the Salton Sea, said she applied in February 2021.

"I'm trying to find a way to freelance or do whatever I can do to get the money to just pay it myself because I really don't think they're going to have enough money to pay people," she said. "I can't sit and depend on it and wait because it's been two years."

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES?

Anti-poverty organizations have been pressuring the state to speed up the approval process.

"These people have been literally waiting for years for a program that is supposed to be an emergency rental program," said Madeline Howard, a staff attorney at the Western Center on Law & Poverty.

The Western Center and the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment were two of the groups that sued the housing department in June 2022 over what they called an "opaque" application review process that harmed lower income renters and people of color.

A month later, a superior court judge in Alameda County ordered the department to stop denying applications until the court had time to give the program's review process a once-over. That pause lasted until January 2023, at which point the department was once again allowed to start sending out denials, so long as it explained why each request for assistance was being rejected.

The state ultimately settled the case, agreeing to audit its past denials and to make the application process more user-friendly.

The housing department now lays some of the blame for the sluggish administration of the program on that court ruling, which prevented it from issuing full or partial denials.

By early 2023, the program had "approved just about all of the applications we could identify as approvable" and " had let go most of the program staff," Espinoza said. Getting the program up and running after the legal hold was lifted added more time. An amended contract from March 2023 between the state and the Mississippi-based accounting firm Horne LLP that administers the program tacked an additional year to the agreement.

Jackie Zaneri, an attorney with Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, dismissed the suggestion that the lawsuit is to blame for the program's tardiness. Nothing in the legal order halting denials prevented the program from processing applications internally and paying out partial awards.

"They chose not to do that," she said.

THE WORST KIND OF HELP

For renters who do ultimately get help so long after they applied, it may come too late.

Angela Okimoto, a 66-year-old former caregiver in Covina, has been waiting on her application since August 2021. In the meantime, she said she was evicted from the garage she was renting. Now she said she has no permanent home.

The rental debt listed in her application, which she shared with CalMatters, adds up to $15,270. But even if she wins her appeal, that check would go to her former landlord. That might improve her credit history, but it wouldn't secure her a new place to live.

Okimoto said she checks the online portal and calls the hotline nearly every day anyway.

"All they tell me is, 'Yeah, they're working on it…just be patient.'" she said. "I say, 'I'm as patient as can be. It's been two years. You can't get any more patient than that.'"

Landlords are also among those waiting.

Cindy, who lives near Yuba City north of Sacramento and who asked that her surname not be published so as not to jeopardize her pending payment, said she bought her three-bedroom home in early 2020 and took on two tenants to help her with the mortgage. In late 2021, one of her tenants was unable to pay his rent, so she encouraged him to apply to Housing Is Key.

Without his payments, she said she used credit cards to pay her mortgage. "That money is going to come so I'll just use this to pay this bill," she said she told herself.

Her payment for $13,600 wasn't approved for nearly two years. She said she's still waiting on the check in the mail.

Had she known at the outset how long the approval process would take, "I would have probably made different arrangements — I don't know, maybe borrowed money from my parents," she said. "When I moved in, I had great credit," she said. As in the case with Addis, the Simi Valley renter, Housing Is Key has a policy of not reimbursing so-called shadow debt, loans taken out to pay down rental debt. Cindy now says she has $20,000 in credit card debt.

Last month, she said she unexpectedly lost her job of eight years.

TURNING TO STRANGERS FOR HELP

Leslie Pollock, a private chef in Santa Monica, wonders how she'll ever be able to move out of her apartment.

Living in a rent-controlled unit in Santa Monica, Pollock said she initially applied for help while recuperating from cancer treatment after the pandemic shuttered her business. Even so, she considers herself one of the lucky ones. She's working again, cancer-free and only owes three-and-a-half month's rent. No one has threatened her with eviction yet.

But she still feels stuck. Her landlord is reluctant to do upkeep with the debt outstanding, she said, and she worries about being able to rent anywhere else with so much red ink on her record. Most frustrating of all, she said her application was approved a year ago, but the check was sent to the wrong address. She said she regularly calls the hotline to try to explain the situation, but can never get someone with decision-making power on the phone.

"I say, 'Can I email?' and they say 'No, we don't have capacity to get email,'" Pollock recalled. "They would just say 'We can't tell you anything,' 'We can't tell you when that was approved,' 'We can't tell you when that check was cut,' 'We can't tell you…'"

Many of the applicants fed up with the program's hotline or web portal have wound up in a Facebook group created by Bella Allen.

The owner of a property management company in Long Beach, Allen set up the private group in 2021 to help a friend who was trying to navigate the new state program.

Two years later the Facebook group's membership has swelled to more than 3,000. Posts include triumphant screenshots of approval letters and despondent post-denial missives. There are requests for help translating the program's bureaucratese, as well as rants about the state's housing department or, more frequently, about Horne, the company hired by the state to administer the program. There's an occasional meme and no shortage of theories that verge on conspiratorial.

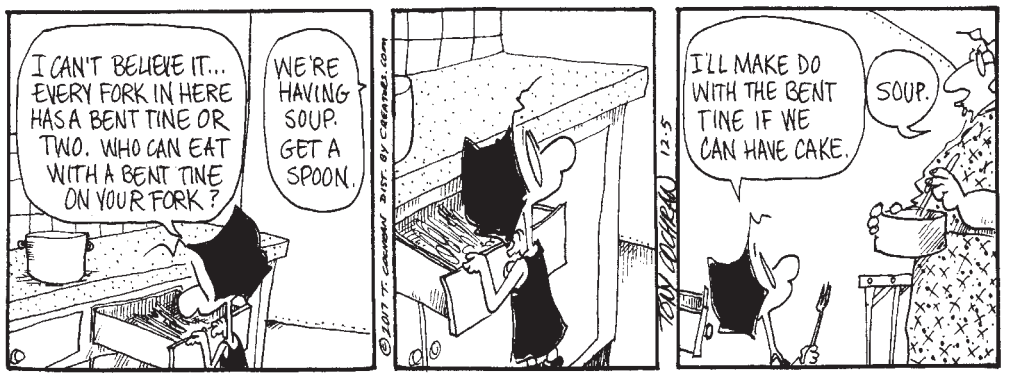
As the months have dragged on, the tenor of the posts have grown more desperate and irate. Allen said she has reached out to lawmakers, lawyers, journalists and legal aid groups, all to no avail. She said she spends hours after work and late into the night moderating the group and fielding questions as best she can. But she acknowledged that she isn't an expert and has no inside knowledge of how the program works.

"I don't know what to tell these people," she said. "And I'm gutted."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

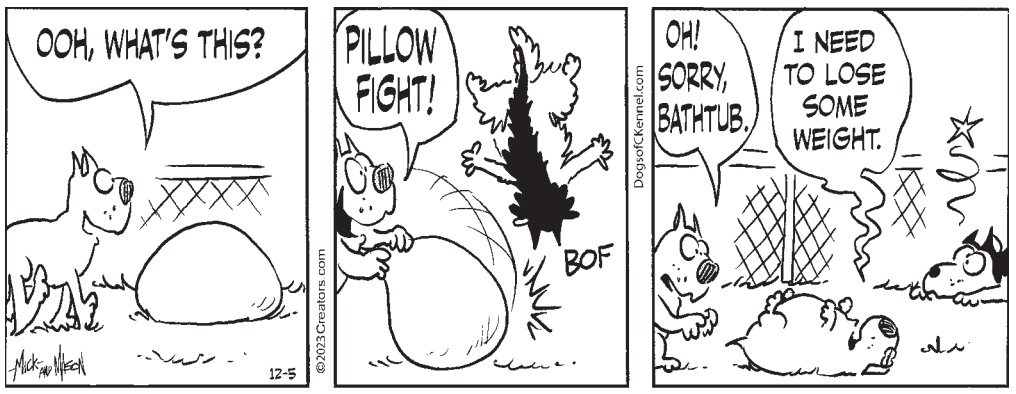
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



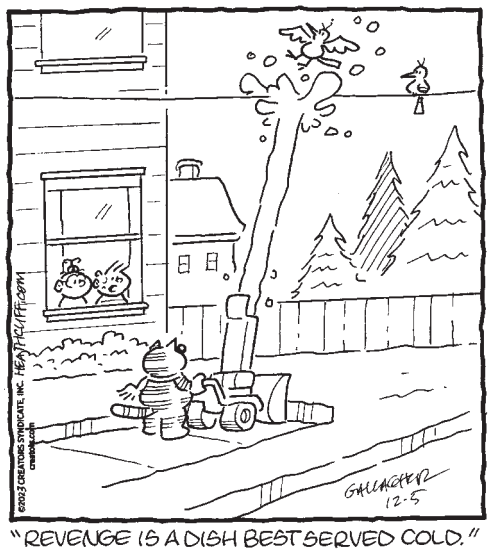
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

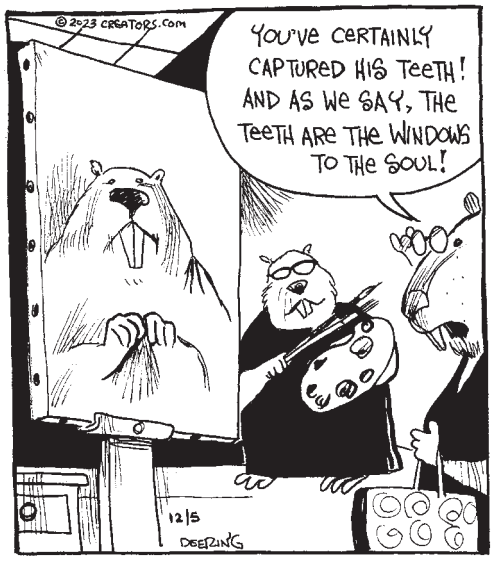
By PETER GALLAGHER



"REVENGE IS A DISH BEST SERVED COLD."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6049

Down time

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

Amble	Dates	Hush	Paths	Trees
Arts	Dodgems	Idle	Peace	Trips
Aunty	Dogs	Indulge	Play	Uncle
Baby	Draw	Lake	Radio	Wade
Ball	Drink	Laps	Restful	Walk
Beer	Dunk	Lawn	Scuba	Weekend
Boat	DVDs	Lonely	Shore	Wine
Book	Farm	Ludo	Sleep	Yacht
Cats	Food	Newspaper	Stereo	
Chess	Happy	Niece	Sunset	
Competitive	Hikes	Open	Surf	
Dance	Hose	Park	Swim	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Important landmark

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 5)

Love is an exhilarating rush of adrenaline and love is also calm, comfort and sweet serenity. The many ways it comes for you will spoil and challenge you, treat and motivate you. More highlights: the community you've dreamed of being a part of, resources to lift your family and give you bonuses, and a daring move that pays off. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 11, 14, 28 and 1.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can tell when people who claim to be seeking the truth are actually fishing for an ego boost. You're a good friend, capable of giving compliments, validation or an honest opinion, as needed and wanted.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People say "I'll try" right before they don't. Where there's a low commitment level, there's low energy. Your best day will involve things you're very committed to accomplishing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If there's one realization that sets apart the children from the grown-ups, it's this: Life isn't fair. If it plays by any rules at all, they are a mystery to the other gamers. To instate your own rules and stick to them is to stand up to life itself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your project will come together like a cleverly edited movie: There's a beginning, middle and end, though not necessarily in that order. Trust the illogical creative process because it will all come together before the credits roll.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There will be an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and expertise, but you may not feel ready. You'll have other chances in the future, so seize this one as a practice run; it's the best way to learn.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't worry who deserves what. Even if you could be the magical omniscient one who actually knows how to serve justice, credit and blame are seldom distributed according to what people deserve. Happiness is optimizing your own scene.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Every story needs some conflict; heroes need an adversary. Since you lean toward a peaceful disposition, your adversary won't be a person. Rather, you'll fight things like the elements, societal injustice or bad ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll live simply and freely following your own rules. You will acquire only what you need. You'll purge possessions periodically. And you'll have a place for things and keep them in their place.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's joy in positive changes, even when they show up in unrecognizable configurations or take your plot in unexpected directions. You'll feel relaxed, despite the fact things aren't exactly how you imagined they'd be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you're off track, the road gets bumpy and your productivity slows or halts. But right now, you're on the right track, and you just need to trust it. It feels like nothing. The road is simply, smoothly there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have an open mind about what you've experienced. What seemed like a loss at the time may be the best thing that ever happened to you. You're thankful for all that might be useful as a steppingstone to your success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You know what you're doing and yet you still ask for input, which makes all the difference. Also, your brilliant interpretations of information mean you can get good answers anywhere. Inexperienced individuals can offer insights as valuable as any expert.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

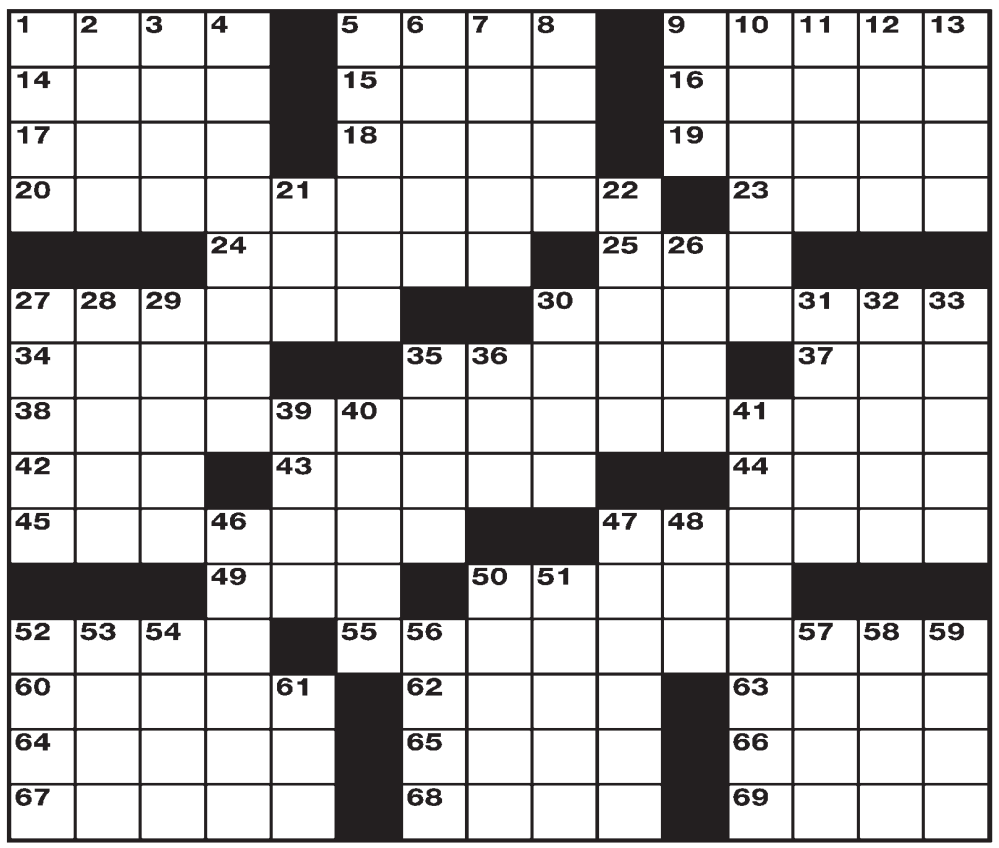
FAIRY TALE FOLKS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Outdoes
5 Coins and bills
9 Lawn growth
14 Horse-stopping shout
15 Honolulu's island
16 Source of ancient fables
17 Get __ the ground floor
18 Word-of-mouth
19 Entangling trap
20 Fairy-tale porridge eater
23 Commentary page
24 Verge
25 Attorney's expertise
27 Horrified
30 Tidings of woe
34 Online journal
35 Headed (for)
37 Hunters' org.
38 Fairy-tale siblings
42 Unusual
43 Feelings, informally
44 Part of a three-piece suit
45 Without difficulty
47 Number of days in April
49 In the style of
50 Turned logs into boards
52 Eve's garden
55 Fairy-tale ball attendee
60 Extra __ (egg size)
62 Italy's capital
63 Lunchtime for many
64 Not fresh anymore
65 Desertlike
66 "You __ be serious!"
67 Artist's stand
68 Keeps after taxes
69 Border

DOWN

1 Tiny branch
2 Cry of dismay
3 Motel's swimming spot
4 Flood protection items
5 "Calm down!"
6 Brother of Moses
7 Castaway's dwelling
8 Clumsy boat
9 Car's tankful
10 Fame
11 "Now!" in a memo
12 Achy
13 Went quickly
21 Income tax agcy.
22 Informal language
26 Mail destination: Abbr.
27 Despise
28 Forest clearing
29 Toyota rival
30 Flowers-to-be
31 Walk inside
32 Take by force
33 Seasoned like bar snacks
35 Infant
36 Small bill
39 Wicked
40 Purple flower
41 Prosecutor's accumulation
46 Hang down loosely
47 Suit fabrics
48 __ Majesty (queen's title)
50 Sleeper's sound
51 Fess up to
52 Otherwise
53 Numbers to crunch
54 Chapters of history
56 Teheran's country
57 Batch of laundry
58 Foot-__ hot dog
59 Poker stake
61 "Electric" fish



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



TUESDAY | DECEMBER 5

HA HA HANUKKAH
The Crow comedy club at the Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave., will host a special two-night fundraiser for Jewish Family Service LA's food and hunger program, JFSLA SOVA. Performances take place at 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 5 and Dec. 7, with doors opening at 8 p.m. The show will feature the best Jewish comedians and half of the proceeds from the show will benefit the SOVA program. The Crow has also partnered with neighbors at Birdie G's on this two-day fundraiser, as part of 8 Nights at Birdie G's, a Hanukkah-ish dinner series presented by Resy. Each night, Chef/Owner Jeremy invites notable chefs from across the country to cook à la carte specials at this restaurant. For those enjoying an early dinner on Dec. 5 and 7, as well as attending our comedy show, Birdie G's will donate 10% of your dinner check to SOVA. When making a dinner reservation or if you've already made one, open the Resy app and add "I'm going to The Crow after!" in the "Any Special Requests" section. This will ensure the Birdie G's team makes a donation on your behalf. For more information, contact jamie@crowcomedy.com. Tickets $35.

AUTHOR TALK
The Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., will host an author talk with Chris Erskine at 6 p.m. in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium. Erskine will share stories from his new book on California's Bear Whisperer, "What the Bears Know." He'll also catch readers up on his latest attempts at parenting and grand parenting, plus offer tips on finding romance in Los Angeles. A book sale and signing follows.

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 6

PLANNING COMMISSION
City Hall, 1685 Main St. 6 p.m. Agenda is posted online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission/

BABY & TODDLER STORYTIME
For participation details, please e-mail akagan@lapl.org or gkim@lapl.org. Lap-sit (or not!) storytime for babies and toddlers and their grown-ups to share together. One child, one lap, please. For ages under 36 months accompanied by a grown-up. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades, 10:15 a.m.

UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER | WEDNESDAYS ON ICE
Over the river and through the sand, to grandmother's house we go! Where else do you think we'd find an ugly sweater to wear to the ice rink? If Grandma doesn't have any she can spare, head to the thrift store or dig out that vest Aunt Millie knitted for you, and embrace sweater weather. 5th and Arizona, $22. https://iceatsantamonica.com/

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 7

JOB HUNTING WITH CHRYSALIS
Representatives from local nonprofit Chrysalis provide drop-in resume assistance, job search tips, and on-the-spot orientations for their employment programs. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

NOMA MEETING
The spirit of the holiday season will be front and center at the North of Montana Avenue Neighborhood Association's meeting this Thursday, December 7 at 7pm, as local non-profits helping those most in need in our community are scheduled to discuss their good works and how residents can participate. The meeting is via Zoom at smnoma.org and the public is invited.

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR WINTER CONCERT
Lincoln Middle School at 1501 California Ave. presents the Lincoln Middle School Choir Concert in the Lincoln auditorium at 7 p.m. The concert will feature performances by the Lincoln Middle School Chorus, Chorale, Concert Choir, and Camber Choir. Tickets are free, but a $5 donation per ticket is suggested.

CARD AND BOOKMARK MAKING WORKSHOPS
Up-cycle old cards into bookmarks or turn them into new holiday cards. Drop-in for fun crafting and a cozy atmosphere. The Library provides additional craft materials to all. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3 - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 8

WILL ROGERS GROUNDBREAKING
Join Will Rogers Learning Community, 2401 14th St., for a school-wide assembly and groundbreaking ceremony at 9:45 a.m. on the big yard. Parents and community members invited. In preparation for Phase 1 of construction, which is set to begin during winter break, more temporary fencing was installed around the trailers to indicate the area is off limits. Students will be directed to play away from this area.

MOVIE FRIDAYS
Join the Third Street Promenade for a showing of the movie "Die Hard" starting at 7:30 p.m. on the 1200 block of the Promenade between Arizona Ave. and Wilshire Blvd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. No advanced registration is required and all ages are welcome. Picnicking is allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Dogs are welcome, tall chairs are not allowed. Public restrooms are available in the nearby Parking Structure 4.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 9

COMPOST GIVEAWAY AT CITY YARDS
Join Resource Recovery and Recycling's quarterly compost giveaway on December, 9th, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue. Please bring gloves and containers if you're picking up compost - a limited supply of bags are available. This is a self-service event so please be prepared to load your own compost. Also giving away FREE food scrap pails. One per household while supplies last. This event is open to all Santa Monica residents with proof of residency.

RECIPES IN THE GARDENS - MAIN STREET OPEN HOUSE
Main Street Community Garden is celebrating the Holidays with an Open House and Recipe Swap. Bring your favorite recipe (Holiday or not) to share and pick up some new ideas from our gardeners. Complete with a cooking demonstration by one of our own! Grab a cup of coffee, enjoy a stroll through the winter gardens, revel in the cool weather crops and get ready to make that Chard Shuffle, Rhubarb Pie or Fava Bean Salad. Hope to see y'all at Main Street Community Garden., 9 - 11 am, Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main Street, https://santamonica.gov/

SOUNDWAVES NEW MUSIC CONCERT
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. Cathy Milliken with Daniel Rothman and Jeff Schwartz. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY CONCERT: 'TIS THE SEASON FOR 'UKULELE!
The friendly 'ukulele invites all to engage in traditional winter holiday songs from around the world. Bring the family and sing along with Heidi Swedberg and Daniel Ward, who love to share their irrepressible energy and mad musical skills. After the concert, decorate a festive musical ornament. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 10

SNOWY PLOVER BEACH WALK
Connect with your inner naturalist! Revel in this guided walk exploring the restored dune habitat and life cycle of the small, white snowy plovers that make this stretch of Santa Monica beach their winter home. Binoculars will be provided, or bring your own! The Snowy Plover Beach Walk with Santa Monica Audubon and Nature Nexus Institute is a free event. Recommended for adults, though all are welcome. Reservations online are requested via Eventbrite (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/snowy-plover-beach-walk-2023-tickets-749465149437). In-person registration will also be available. Comfortable clothing and sun protection are recommended. Gather at Guest Services. The Annenberg Community Beach House is wheelchair accessible and ADA compliant. Two beach wheelchairs will be available for this activity. To reserve a wheelchair or inquire regarding disability related accommodations please call Guest Services at (310) 458-4904 or email beach.house@santamonica.gov. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy 9 - 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY | DECEMBER 11

LANDMARKS COMMISSION
City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7 p.m. Agendas are available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Landmarks-Commission/

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 12

LANDLORD-TENANT FORUM 2023
A joint presentation of the Consumer Protection Division of the City Attorney's Office and Rent Control, this popular event brings together property owners and managers, tenants, and city staff to discuss hot topics. This year's subjects include
Source of Income
Rules for repayment of outstanding COVID-19 rental debt
ADU regulations and tenant rights
CIVICs portal enhancement
Q & A
Attendance is limited and registration in advance is required. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpcaaKJvSxXfBMtRiOSAMJaXIESRMM_co4cpOT6CZ2IxeUaw/viewform
Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 9:30 - 11 a.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. 5:30 p.m. Agenda available online at https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx

SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION
Santa Monica Public Library, Community Meeting Room, second floor, 601 Santa Monica Blvd 5:30 p.m. Agendas available online at https://www.smgov.net/portals/culture/agendas.aspx

TUESDAY TALES: A TRAVELING STORYTIME
This fun and engaging weekly series, featuring stories, songs and rhymes travels to different library locations every week. Limited space; free tickets available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 10:30 - 11 a.m.

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