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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 18 | THE WEEKENDER 12/08-12/10 | smdp.com

Seasonal events engulf entire area this weekend

Holiday cheer is already alive and well in Santa Monica, with several events this weekend poised to spread the spirit of the season.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Those looking to liven up their Saturday can take part in the "Miracle on Main Street," a festive afternoon for all ages that starts at the California Heritage Museum, 2612 Main St., at 3:30 p.m. From that time until 5:30 p.m., the area will be full of children's activities at the "Holiday Kid Corner," which includes free face painting, an "instrument petting zoo," a soft play area, games, and a holiday bake sale courtesy of Cub Scout pack 67. For parents, cocktails and appetizers will be available to purchase from the Victorian.

At 4 p.m., the man and woman of the month will make their way into town, as Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus arrive in a fire truck decked out for the occasion. As the sun begins to set on Santa Monica, the lights will remain bright via a 5:30 p.m. candlelight walk to the iconic Edgemar Shopping Cart Tree lighting ceremony. At the Edgemar, the party keeps going with Santa himself available for a visit, a performance by the Off the Jingle Bell Rockers, and a variety of holiday treats.

For those on the eastern end of the city, Saturday is also the date for the Annual Holiday Book Sale at the Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library, located at 11820 San Vicente Boulevard. Along with a large selection of gently-used books, saved from donations for purposes of the annual sale, there will be a variety of vinyl records for sale in genres like classical, movie soundtrack, Broadway musicals and jazz. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Locals who may be busy on Saturday can also pick up the priceless experience of the Santa Monica holidays with the annual "Meet Me Under the Fig Tree" event, held at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Open free to the public, the event gathers around the Fairmont's historical landmark, the Moreton Bay Fig Tree, for a celebration with complimentary festive drinks, food and activities. Food vendors include FIG, The Butter End, Fia, Milo + Olive and Lunetta; and activities include photos with Santa Claus, live music, a festive cookie decoration station, a kid-friendly bounce house and a fire truck showcase. The gathering is in partnership with local non-profit Santa MoniCARES, the Westside Food Bank and Chrysalis. Guests are

SEE **HOLIDAYS** PAGE 10



Courtesy Photo

SEASONAL SPIRIT: Main Street will celebrate the holiday season with its double tree lighting this weekend. After illuminating the traditional tree, they will move on to the Shopping Cart Tree at Edgemar.



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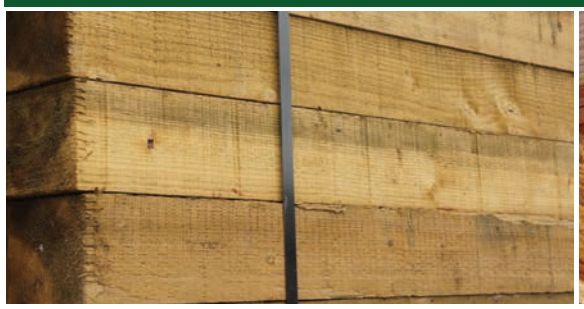
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Metro makes move to increase Expo Line frequency



Photo by Thomas Leffler

INCREASED FREQUENCY: The Metro Expo Line will undergo service changes in December, upping the frequency of service operations.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

With a 2023 full of recovery for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), officials continue to tinker with various improvements to light rail lines during the year's final month.

Metro recently announced that effective Sunday, it is heightening the frequency of light rail service during both weekday peak hours and middays, including for the Expo Line that runs through Santa Monica at 4th and Colorado, 17th and Colorado and 26th and Olympic. Furthermore, Expo Line trains will have what officials called "restored" later train service during the evening hours.

In a first-time move for Metro, the Expo Line from Santa Monica to East Los Angeles will operate every eight minutes during "weekday peak" hours, an increased frequency from the typical 10-minute operation. Peak hours are defined by Metro as from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Another new endeavor is a change in train operation during weekday midday hours from every 12 minutes to every 10 minutes, also applying for Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Expo Line changes also apply to the A Line from Downtown Long Beach to APU Citrus (Azusa), and are a result of both rider feedback and an increase in rail operation workforce.

"Over the past 18 months, Metro has worked hard to hire more than a thousand new people to support bus and rail operations," Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said. "We can now increase rail operator staffing to support an expansion of our rail service to meet increasing demand … the new 10-minute off-peak rail frequency is a level of rail service we haven't ever offered in the past, which we hope will drive even more people to (use) Metro."

For evening service, two additional trains will be added to the Expo Line's service, extending operations by an extra 40 minutes each night on both weekdays and weekends. The final Expo train of the evening will now depart Downtown Santa Monica at 11:54 p.m., and in East Los Angeles at the Atlantic Station at 12:18 a.m. nightly.

Metro Senior Executive Officer responsible for Scheduling and Analysis Joe Forgiarini, who puts together the service plan for the Metro bus and rail network, says the December service change is an improvement Metro has been "looking forward to doing for a while now." The move from 10-minute to eight-minute frequency, he notes, can provide for an extra one or two trains per hour, cutting down on the average rider wait time and making more seating available on the 400-person capacity rail.

"This time is so important for our customers," added Metro Media Relations Communications Manager Jose Ubaldo. "The customer experience is better, they travel faster to (their) destinations. Especially when (riders) have to work, (this change is) going to make a lot of difference. If they go to a medical appointment, or they go to school, (this) will try to make (their) life easier."

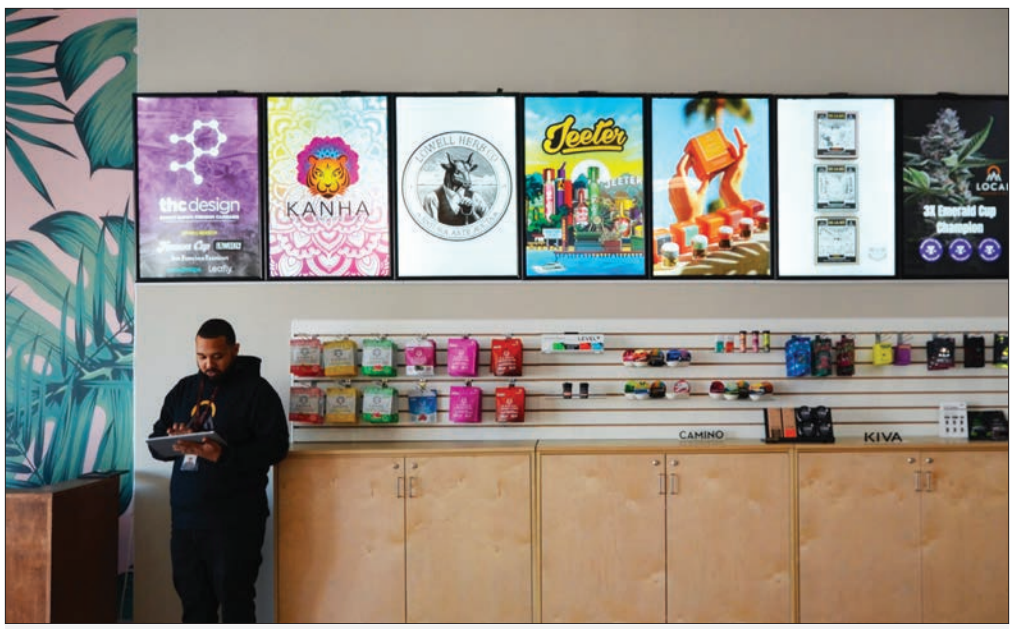
Forgiarini concurs with the crucial timing of the move, stating Metro wanted to start "dialing back up" light rail frequencies after an uptick in 2023 ridership. He states that the organization is at 70% recovery from pre-pandemic levels, and Expo Line ridership in particular has jumped from 30,000 monthly as of October 2022 to 42,000 in October 2023, credited to the introduction of the line's regional connector through Downtown.

"It just gives us extra capacity to accommodate more riders who are coming back to riding our system," Forgiarini said. "(The Expo Line and A Line) are the two lines that the regional connector … also was very much a focus on. So it's the perfect timing … to really start boosting the capacity on these lines."

Evening service additions are a restoration after the restructuring of the Expo Line resulted in an earlier finish time for Santa

SEE **METRO** PAGE 11

Sale of recreational cannabis in Santa Monica set to start on December 14



Scott Snowden

LOCAL CANNABIS COMPANY: The Local Cannabis Company on 925 Wilshire Blvd is currently the city's only marijuana dispensary.

Seven weeks and two days after Council voted to approve changes to the City's zoning code, recreational marijuana will be available for the very first time in the city of Santa Monica this week.

The first cannabis dispensary actually opened in the city of Santa Monica back in June, more than a year and a half after the permit was granted in October 2021, six years after the application was requested in December 2017 and over 26 years since medical marijuana was made legal in the state of California.

Called the Local Cannabis Company, it's located at 925 Wilshire Blvd and there will be an opening ceremony of sorts on the morning of Thursday, December 14. At the time of writing, a ribbon cutting ceremony was in the process of being planned.

"The store is going to carry every major brand in the cannabis industry. We have 33 parking spots out back and plenty of access points for public transportation," Howard Keum, Co-Founder and CEO of Calyx Peak, the parent company of the Local Cannabis Company told the Daily Press, adding, " We're going to be opening up at 10 a.m. on Thursday for the official launch and we'll have giveaways for customers, goodie bags, first time discounts and brand promotions over the whole weekend, plus if there's a brand you like that we don't have, we'll try and order it in."

Per the previous Santa Monica municipal code, only two dispensaries were allowed in the city and they are limited to medical use only, which means that customers will be required to have a doctor's recommendation to purchase products. A second dispensary, Harvest of Santa Monica, which was set to be situated at 1416 Wilshire Blvd was also approved, in January 2022, but that hasn't materialized yet

During the October meeting it was mentioned that the Local Cannabis Company — the only dispensary in Santa Monica — was losing the interest of the majority of walk-in customers who, upon learning they need to apply for a medical card, simply leave without purchasing anything.

"Since we've opened, we've only had about a 20% conversion rate. I think it's closer to 10%, but you can see how far off that is, it's people just not wanting to wait," Erin Carachilo, CEO of Calyx Peak, told the Daily Press back in June.

"We have approximately $3million invested so far," Keum said. "It caught us off guard on how long the process took. We have done everything that we said we would regarding opening on time ... And we've done everything to comply with the city, the permitting process, the construction, so we did all of that."

"Was I disappointed with how long it took? Yes, but we were working through the issues of the appeals process, we were working through COVID, during that shutdown, and after all is said and done, it took a lot to open and we had to work under the medical only program, but now we're able to move forward," Keum said.

"When the industry expands, the ability for the city to benefit from taxation depends on a well run cannabis business industry being operated here. In order for us to have a fighting chance to be able to provide the tax dollars the city wants, we also have to be profitable. And so far, over the last six years we have been formally unprofitable."

However, the recently amended ordinance that has allowed this to take place is set to expire on February 12, 2024. In the Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, City Staff will propose an extension of the interim zoning regulations that would continue until February 12, 2026.

According to the City Staff report, of over 11,000 Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) business licenses in California, 1,360 are for medicinal cannabis only (12%). The rest are for either adult-use or for both medicinal and adult-use. Among the state's 1,891 retailers (including microbusinesses)

SEE **RECREATIONAL CANNABIS** PAGE 11



Surf report — WATER TEMP: **62.2**

FRIDAY
POOR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Easing NW swell mix — strongest surf is less selective with fun size for the regions winter exposures as the somewhat more westerly energy from the swell continues and some short period NW blends in. Top breaks are 3-4'.

SATURDAY
POOR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Smaller, fading surf with offshore wind through at least the AM. Looks like enough NW and SSW swell to be rideable but most spots will be below waist high.

Weather

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 67. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 73. Northwest wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2023/12/10	Sun	12:17 AM	1.92	L
2023/12/10	Sun	06:47 AM	5.93	H
2023/12/10	Sun	2:00 PM	-0.37	L
2023/12/10	Sun	8:18 PM	3.58	H
2023/12/11	Mon	12:50 AM	2.07	L
2023/12/11	Mon	07:18 AM	6.26	H
2023/12/11	Mon	2:37 PM	-0.80	L
2023/12/11	Mon	9:01 PM	3.61	H
2023/12/12	Tue	01:25 AM	2.19	L
2023/12/12	Tue	07:52 AM	6.50	H
2023/12/12	Tue	3:17 PM	-1.11	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: 12/6
2 12 37 56 65
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 468 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/5
18 35 40 64 67
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 395 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/6
2 4 13 35 39
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 21 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/6
1 3 20 27 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/6
EVENING: 7 9 4
Draw Date: 12/6
MIDDAY: 9 0 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/6
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:45.31

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Legal

INVITATION FOR BIDS BEACH CONCESSION LICENSES

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors is issuing an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for concession licenses to provide various services at Los Angeles County-owned and operated beaches. The Authorized Activities include Mobile Food Preparation Units (Food Truck), Concession Stand, Bike & Skate Rentals, and Hang Gliding. The Term of License will commence on May 1, 2024, and terminate on March 31, 2029, with five one-year options.

Please visit our website at https://beaches.lacounty.gov/request-for-proposals/, and click the "Request for Proposals" link to download the IFB. For a hardcopy of the IFB (fee applies), contact Arnulfo Delgado at (424) 526-7738, or E-mail ADelgado@bh.lacounty.gov. The deadline for receipt of bids is January 2, 2024, at 3:00 PM (PST).

The County reserves the right to cancel or modify any and all terms and conditions, including minimum requirements, of the IFB without further notice.

INVITACIÓN PARA OFERTAS LICENCIAS PARA CONCESIONES DE PLAYA

El Departamento de Playas y Puertos del Condado de Los Ángeles está emitiendo una Invitación para Ofertas (IFB, por sus siglas en inglés) para licencias de concesión para ofrecer diversos servicios en las playas operadas por el Condado de Los Ángeles. Las Actividades Autorizadas incluyen Camión de Comida, Puesto de Comida, Alquiler de Bicicletas y Patines, y Ala Delta. El plazo de la licencia comenzará el 1 de mayo de 2024 y terminará el 31 de marzo de 2029, con cinco opciones de un año.

Por favor, visite nuestro sitio web en https://beaches.lacounty.gov/request-for proposals/, y haga clic en el enlace "Solicitud de Propuestas" para descargar el IFB. Para obtener una copia impresa del IFB (se aplica una tarifa), contacte a Arnulfo Delgado al (424) 526-7738, o por correo electrónico a ADelgado@bh.lacounty.gov. La fecha límite para recibir ofertas es el 2 de enero de 2024 a las 3:00 PM (PST).

El Condado se reserva el derecho de cancelar o modificar cualquier y todos los términos y condiciones, incluidos los requisitos mínimos, del IFB sin aviso adicional.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

After one year, the daily focus remains the same for Mayor Karen Bass: tackle L.A. homelessness

JIM NEWTON

As Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and I discussed her first year in office and the tension between goal-setting and responding to crises, she was interrupted with an update from an aide: The Los Angeles Police Department was analyzing a string of recent murders, and officials suspected that a serial murderer might be responsible.

At that moment, the issue was revealed: Bass spent most of her first year in the very hard struggle to house this city's enormous population of homeless people. That's difficult enough, but the city never lets up. Crime, strikes, struggling businesses – even a hurricane – pulled Bass from her central mission time and again.

And yet, she ends the year as she began it on Dec. 12, 2022: waging a daily campaign to improve life for those without a place to live.

"I do not have to act impulsively," Bass said of the job's competing demands that tug at her time. Experience working in emergency rooms helped her to appreciate that, she added. "If somebody is actively bleeding or not breathing, I'm OK ... I can be calm."

That has served her well, but how should one evaluate the work of a mayor? By grace under pressure? By the capacity to stay the course? Or by the effectiveness of responding to crises? And how does one gauge progress on homelessness, a problem that hardly seems solvable in one year under one mayor.

To explore those questions, I sought out the wisdom of two of Los Angeles' most experienced leaders. Robin Kramer, chief of staff for mayors Richard Riordan and Antonio Villaraigosa, told me L.A. chief executives historically considered it a victory to be able to spend half their time on their agenda, with the other half spent responding to the issue of the day.

By that measure, Bass has been admirable, Kramer said.

Zev Yaroslavsky, who was first elected to the City Council in 1975 and later served on the Board of Supervisors until he termed out in 2014, echoed her appreciation for Bass' steadfastness – both for the tenacity of her campaign to tackle homelessness as well as for her courage in taking it on. He noted that Bass' first official act, declaring a state of emergency on homelessness, gave her access to additional tools for responding – and even bigger symbolic ones.

Bass put her reputation on the line, Yaroslavsky said, announcing that "I'm in charge, and hold me accountable for the results.

"That's what leaders do," he added. "They lead."

Bass both claims credit and acknowledges frustrations in her pursuit to put roofs over the heads of her city's most desperate residents. External inputs – the expiration of eviction bans enacted during COVID, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's busing asylum seekers to Los Angeles and elsewhere – have put new pressure on an already overwhelmed system.

The result is that the overall number of unhoused people in Los Angeles – roughly 46,000 – may be larger today than it was a year ago, Bass' efforts notwithstanding.

That's a disappointment, and there have been others. Getting people off the street or out of encampments has been effective, Bass and others said, but moving those same people from interim housing to permanent solutions

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 15



Photo by Rod Lamkey, CNP/Sipa USA via Reuters

BASS: Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass speaks during the ninth Annual Conference of the African American Mayors Association (AAMA) at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington D.C., on April 21, 2023.

California budget rollercoaster: Analyst predicts $68 billion deficit



Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

NEWSOM: Gov. Gavin Newsom unveils his revised budget proposal for 2023-24 during a press briefing at the state Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento on May 12, 2023.

ALEXEI KOSEFF
Special to the Daily Press

With tax revenues in a free fall comparable to the Great Recession and the dot-com bust, California faces a projected $68 billion budget deficit next year that will require spending cuts and reserve funds to close, state finance officials said today.

The new estimate from the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office, released as Gov. Gavin Newsom finalizes his January budget proposal, reflects a substantially delayed tax-filing period this fall where collections came in far below what lawmakers expected when they adopted a spending plan over the summer.

> Both the Governor and the Legislature have a substantial challenge before them in closing a very large revenue gap in this budget,
> - H.D. Palmer

This projected deficit would be a record for California. But officials noted that it is partly because the budget has grown so much in recent years — the most recent was more than $300 billion — and that the state has closed similar or worse spending gaps, by percentage, in the past.

Legislative analyst Gabriel Petek cautioned that California is better prepared to respond to the situation than during the economic recession 15 years ago, because it has since built several multibillion-dollar rainy-day funds, though the state is also looking at a structural deficit of about $30 billion annually going forward.

"I go with the word 'serious.' A serious budget problem," Petek said during a briefing with journalists. "I would stop short of calling it a crisis."

H.D. Palmer, a spokesperson for Newsom's Department of Finance, said the administration will have different numbers when the governor presents his 2024-25 spending plan next month, but Newsom is preparing to address a significant deficit.

"Both the Governor and the Legislature have a substantial challenge before them in closing a very large revenue gap in this budget," Palmer told CalMatters. "The IRS, with the best of intentions, created a situation this year that is entirely new territory."

Severe winter storms prompted the federal government to delay the income tax filing deadline for most Californians from April until November, and the state followed suit, giving an incomplete picture when legislators and the governor crafted the budget this summer.

It already accounted for a $30 billion deficit, after two years of record surpluses driven by economic recovery and federal aid related to the coronavirus pandemic. But those collections were ultimately another $26 billion below estimates — a drop of 25% from the prior year — digging a financial hole based on money the state committed in its spending plan.

This year looks weak as well, according to finance officials. California has been hit particularly hard by inflation, which pinched the housing market; a stock market downturn, affecting capital gains; and a drop in investments in the tech industry, which has pulled back on initial public offerings. Overall tax revenues are projected to be $58 billion below assumptions in the multi-year budget window.

Though the Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that tax revenues will begin growing

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 11

Biden is heading to Hollywood for a major fundraiser featuring Steven Spielberg and Shonda Rhimes

BRIAN SLODYSKO
Associated Press

President Joe Biden will head to Los Angeles today for a big-dollar event that will be his first since strikes by writers and actors effectively ground his fundraising to a halt in the heart of the entertainment industry, which has long served as the ATM for the Democratic Party.

The event at the home of Michael Smith, a celebrity interior designer, and his partner James Costos, a former HBO executive who was President Barack Obama's ambassador to Spain, is expected to raise millions and draw a star-studded crowd. Rocker Lenny Kravitz is slated to perform.

> We are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm. We don't do many events, but when we do, we do it out of a great passion
> - Michael Smith

Director Steven Spielberg and his wife, Kate Capshaw, who starred in "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," are among the hosts of the event, as are recording industry mogul David Geffen, "Scandal" showrunner Shonda Rhimes and "This is Spinal Tap" director Rob Reiner, according to an invitation obtained by The Associated Press.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is also a co-host. Barbra Streisand is set to attend.

"We are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm. We don't do many events, but when we do, we do it out of a great passion," Smith said.

The event is part of a broader fundraising swing by Biden and comes as the Democratic president tries to stockpile cash for what will likely be a grueling rematch against Republican Donald Trump.

With a cash haul from elite party donors expected to reach into the millions, the Los Angeles event could help ease concerns among Democrats about Biden's reelection chances. He already has drawn one primary rival, Minnesota Rep. Dean Phillips, whose candidacy is a symbolic challenge to national Democrats trying to project the idea that there is no reason to doubt Biden's electability, even as many Americans question whether the 81-year-old Biden should serve another term.

As of the last fundraising reporting deadline at the end of September, Biden and his party reported $91 million cash on hand. He is helped by the fact that as the party's leader he has entered into a joint fundraising agreement with the Democratic National Committee, as well as state parties, which enables him to receive a check from a single donor that is in the range of $1 million.

This being Hollywood, there is a bit of intrigue and melodrama playing out.

For decades, Jeffrey Katzenberg, a co-founder of DreamWorks Pictures, has served as an arbiter of presidential fundraising in Los Angeles, usually dictating the terms of who gets to host the first premier event — often himself.

Katzenberg, now co-chairman of Biden's campaign, will be hosting his own fundraising "meeting" during Biden's California visit, according to three people with direct knowledge of the event who insisted on anonymity to provide details.

Should Katzenberg be outshined, it could help reshuffle a Hollywood pecking order that has been in place since Bill Clinton was president.

A Katzenberg spokesman declined to comment.

During the 2020 Democratic primary campaign, Smith and Costos hosted Biden's first major fundraiser in the area, during a Los Angeles swing that raised over $1 million.

At the time, Katzenberg was involved in planning events for another Democratic candidate, Pete Buttigieg, who is now Biden's transportation secretary. Buttigieg emerged as a top candidate and there was a tug of war among Hollywood donors over who could host his first event.

Katzenberg's former business partners at DreamWorks, Geffen and Spielberg, will be at the Smith and Costos event.

GET IT DAILY...

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Santa Monica College Musical Theatre Workshop Presents "LARGER THAN LIFE – A Celebration of Musical Theatre Through the Eras"

The Santa Monica College Musical Theatre Workshop will celebrate live theater with performances of "LARGER THAN LIFE – A Celebration of Musical Theatre Through the Eras" on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 17, 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 feature SMC students, with direction and music direction by SMC Theatre Arts and Music instructors Aric Martin and Gary Gray, performing solos, duets, and group numbers showcasing a wide range of musical theatre genres.

Advance tickets are $10, plus a modest service charge, and can be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets at any time or by calling 310-434-3005 Monday through Friday. Tickets purchased on performance weekends at the Events Box Office (at the Theatre Arts building) are $3 higher. Parking is free, and information on parking, transportation, and directions can be found at smc.edu/transportation. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis. No late seating. No video feed is offered in the lobby area.

Performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Citywide

SMMUSD Presents Holiday Visual and Performing Arts Events 2023

Visual and performing arts programs at secondary schools in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District schedule several concerts and events throughout the holiday season that are open to the public at little or no cost. Please note if advance tickets or reservations are required as some events do sell out. Contact the sponsoring school for further information as noted. School addresses are on the district's website www.smmusd.org. The events are listed by date:

December 12 – Santa Monica High School Orchestras Winter Concert. The Santa Monica High School Orchestra presents the 2023 winter concert at 6 p.m. in Barnum Hall. Performances will include the Samohi String, Concert Sinfonia, Intermezzo Philharmonic, Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. Tickets are on sale now, $10 for adults and $5 for students and senior citizens. More information and tickets can be found here: https://bit.ly/Samohi-OrchestraWinter2023.

December 13 – John Adams Middle School Choir Concert. The JAMS Winter Choral Concert is at 7 p.m. in the JAMS Performing Arts Center Auditorium. This concert includes performances by Tenor/Bass Chorus, Treble Chorus I, Concert Choir, Treble Chorus II, Honor Choir, Madrigal Singers and other student-led a cappella ensembles. Tickets are available at the door. Admission is free but donations of any amount are welcome with a suggested donation of $5 per ticket. More information can be found here: https://bit.ly/JAMS-ChoirWinter2023.

December 14 – Malibu Choirs Concert. As Buddy the Elf says, "the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!" The Malibu Middle and High school choirs winter concert will be at 6 p.m. and they have invited elementary choir students from Webster and Malibu Elementary to sing with them for their last song, Christmas on the Beach in Malibu. Admission is free. Everyone is welcome.

December 14 – Lincoln Middle School Band Winter Concert. The Lincoln Middle School Band winter concert is taking place at 6:45 p.m. in the Lincoln auditorium. The concert will feature performances by the Lincoln Middle School Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Wind Symphony, and Wind Ensemble. Concert Tickets are free, but a $5 donation per ticket is suggested. More information and tickets can be found here: https://bit.ly/LMS-BandWinter2023.

December 15 – Santa Monica High School Motus Perpetuus Concert. The Santa Monica High School Choir presents their winter concert: Motus Perpetuus at 6:30 p.m. in Barnum Hall. This concert will include students singing and moving throughout Barnum Hall. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students and senior citizens. Tickets can be purchased here: www.samohichoir.org/.

December 19 – SMASH Middle School Concert. The SMASH Middle School winter concert is at 2 p.m. in the Obama Center auditorium. The concert will feature performances by the SMASH Middle School Band, Choir and Orchestra. Admission is free.

Elementary schools throughout SMMUSD are also in the spirit of the season with holiday events and shows. Please check your school site for information.

SUBMITTED BY GAIL PINSKER, SMMUSD COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER



Citywide

'Tis the Season to be at Santa Monica Public Library!

Santa Monica Public Library invites you to celebrate the season with a host of festive activities for all ages. Bring your family and friends to enjoy holiday crafts, music, and treats, then check out books, music and movies to relax with at home.

Holiday Concert: 'Tis the Season for Ukulele! Saturday, December 9 / 11 a.m. to Noon / Main Library, Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium / 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 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. For all ages.

Computer Class: How to Buy a Computer or Smartphone. Wednesday, December 13 / Noon to 1:30 p.m. / Main Library, Computer Training Room / 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Learn what to look for when buying a device this holiday season.

Winter Tales, Snacks & Craft. Wednesday, December 13 / 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. / Main Library, Children's Activity Room / 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Enjoy cozy winter stories read by the library's teen volunteers while enjoying winter-themed snacks and a craft. For families.

Lyric Chorus: Songs of the Season. Thursday, December 14 / 11 a.m. to Noon / Main Library, Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium / 601 Santa Monica Blvd. The Lyric Chorus of SMC Emeritus College puts you in the holiday mood with their seasonal favorites and festive Broadway tunes.

Happy NOON Years Storytime. Saturday, December 30 / 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m./ Main Library, Youth Activity Room / 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Make some noise for the new year by practicing the countdown at noon! For ages 2-5.

These programs are free and open to the public. For more information on this and other Library programs, visit smpl.org. Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, call (310) 458-8600 one week prior to event. Ride your bike or Big Blue Bus. Bicycle parking racks are available at all Library locations.

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA CHANG FLEEMAN

Downtown

Soundwaves Presents Cathy Milliken

The Santa Monica Public Library's acclaimed Soundwaves new music series welcomes oboe virtuoso Cathy Milliken to the Main Library's Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. on Saturday December 9, at 3:30 p.m..

Originally from Australia, Milliken was a founding member of Ensemble Modern, one of Europe's major new music groups. She appeared on their landmark recordings of works by contemporary composers from Adams to Zappa and is also a soloist, composer, and improviser. She is currently a resident fellow at Villa Aurora in Pacific Palisades, working on a piece for the Arditti Quartet.

For Soundwaves, Milliken will present an improvisation using English horn, voice, and percussion. She has invited series organizers Jeff Schwartz and Daniel Rothman to join her: Schwartz on upright bass and Rothman using environmental recordings from the Ballona Wetlands.

Since 2016, Soundwaves has presented free concerts at the Santa Monica Public Library, supported by the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library and the Amphion Foundation. It draws on Los Angeles' broad history of creative music and has included collaborations with the Angel City Jazz Festival, Piano Spheres, Jacaranda, Microfest, Cold Blue Music, and the Dog Star Orchestra. Visit soundwavesnewmusic.com for more information, including videos of many past shows.

All Library programs are free and open to the public. Parking is available underneath the Main Library, several bus lines and the Metro E line stop nearby, and there are bike racks. The MLK Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. Please call (310) 458-8600 to request additional accommodations.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF SCHWARTZ

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The City of Santa Monica Black Apology - One Year Later

One year ago this month, Santa Monica's Mayor Sue Himmelrich, along with the entire City Council, issued a formal Apology to its Black American residents for past injustices caused by the City.

After a year's time there has been nothing either in furtherance of, a follow up to, or even a communication about the above said Apology in terms of actions to be taken. It was never imagined that the Apology would be a collection of words, with no action attached to them.

A number of community residents feel that there is an insensitivity to, or an apathy towards, or a lack of leadership concerning the needs of the Black American community, and the harms done specifically to us.

Furthermore, in times where hatred, intolerance, and bigotry are on the rise in this nation, the good citizens of this city not only deserve better, but should feel aggrieved because people who we entrust to positions of representation not only lack careful planning skills but also a commitment to things promised.

To conclude we can therefore only hope that reason, and a sense of honor to one's commitment(s) be taken more seriously. We demand of the City Council – REPAIR THE DAMAGE.

The Committee for Racial Justice, Black Santa Monica Advocates, Universal Human Rights Initiative

HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Dozen Long-Term HOA Challenges

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

Dear Readers: This marks the 700th "HOA Homefront" column since it debuted in 2005. At this milestone, I would like to share with you twelve significant challenges for HOAs.

1. Neighborhood alienation. As technology advances with increasing use of computers to communicate and attend meetings (and someday even vote), meaningful interpersonal contact between neighbors decreases. Finding points of social connection is more important than ever.

2. Lack of acceptance of differing views. The societal rifts built and grown by social media bedevils HOAs (and governments and even families). Intolerance of opposing views weakens communities and increases conflict. Finding a common ground of respect (not unanimity) is critical for community health.

3. Aging buildings. HOAs exploded after the 1970's. Thousands of buildings are now 30, 40, or 50 years old. Major renovations are inevitable, with the accompanying inconvenience and expense to communities.

4. Increasing insurance costs. The major contraction in the HOA insurance market is not over. HOAs that struggled with major emergency assessments in 2023 to meet unexpected major insurance premium hikes are likely to face the same or even greater insurance costs in coming years.

5. Inadequately funded reserves. Without diligently accumulating reserve funds over the course of years, aging communities are at risk of major special assessments and/or long-term bank loans to repair major building components (roofs, plumbing, balconies, and the like).

6. Shortage of qualified managers. Despite the lack of any barriers to taking up HOA management as a career, management companies struggle to find competent managers. The lack of legal requirements to become an HOA manager results in a massive disparity of qualifications in the profession, and many HOA boards gravitate toward cost instead of credentials and service level. Until the state takes up manager licensing, homeowners are largely unprotected.

7. Struggling mixed use complexes. The "mixed use" condominium, combining residential and business units into a single building, creates built-in conflict. Urban planners often insist that all new multi-unit buildings in urban areas are mixed use, but many such HOAs have ongoing controversy as the business owners have different priorities than the residents.

8. Failure to accept the tradeoffs. In HOAs, owners trade independence for shared benefits. Our American culture has always prized private property ownership, but the real estate industry has increasingly moved past pure private ownership into shared ownership – the HOA. Many homeowners do not embrace the shared model, chafing against their loss of individual control.

9. Sparse consumer and real estate professional education. Most consumers and even their real estate agents do not understand the importance of reviewing governing documents carefully before closing a purchase. The Community Associations Institute has substantial educational resources but its resources are insufficiently used.

10. Increasingly noncompliant smaller HOAs. HOAs less than ten units in size rarely have professional management or legal counsel. As the law becomes increasingly complex, they fall further behind, often operating more as partnerships than HOAs.

11. Unreasonable legislative views. Many legislators see HOAs as mini-governments that should be regulated like public agencies. However, HOAs are neighborhoods run by unpaid volunteers and governed by private covenants.

12. HOAs are governed by people... and people are fallible.

One begins to solve problems by first acknowledging their existence. Let's work together toward that end. Maybe by column #800, we can see solutions!

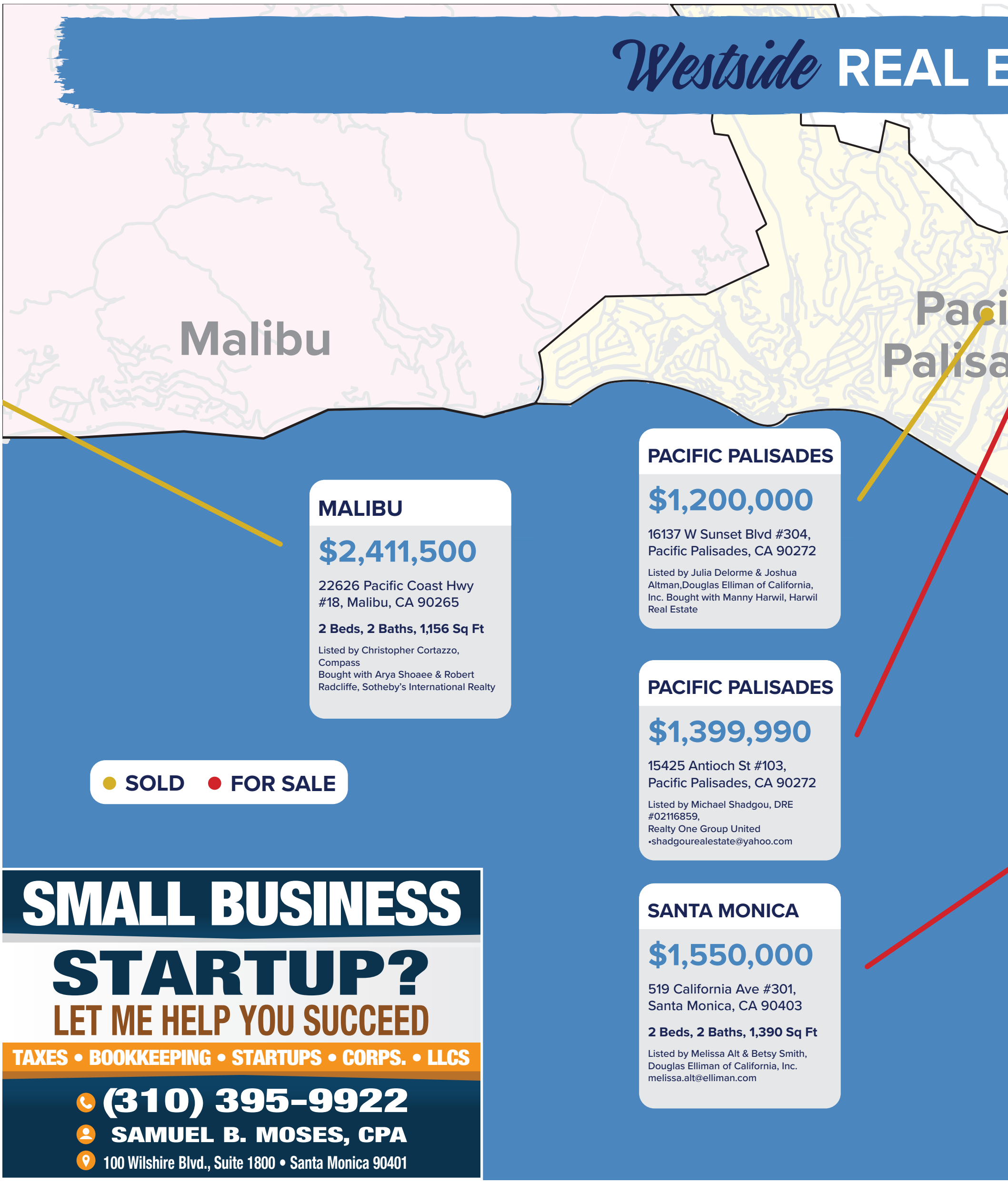
Kelly G. Richardson, Esq. is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Submit column questions to kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



Westside REAL E



MALIBU

$2,411,500

22626 Pacific Coast Hwy #18, Malibu, CA 90265

2 Beds, 2 Baths, 1,156 Sq Ft

Listed by Christopher Cortazzo, Compass
Bought with Arya Shoaee & Robert Radcliffe, Sotheby's International Realty

PACIFIC PALISADES

$1,200,000

16137 W Sunset Blvd #304, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Listed by Julia Delorme & Joshua Altman,Douglas Elliman of California, Inc. Bought with Manny Harwil, Harwil Real Estate

PACIFIC PALISADES

$1,399,990

15425 Antioch St #103, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Listed by Michael Shadgou, DRE #02116859,
Realty One Group United
•shadgourealestate@yahoo.com

SANTA MONICA

$1,550,000

519 California Ave #301, Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 Beds, 2 Baths, 1,390 Sq Ft

Listed by Melissa Alt & Betsy Smith, Douglas Elliman of California, Inc.
melissa.alt@elliman.com

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Brentwood

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WESTWOOD

$2,300,000

10601 Wilshire Blvd #1203,
Los Angeles, CA 90024

2 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 2,574 Sq Ft

Listed by Mazda Hoghoughi, Elite Properties Realty
Bought with Mazda Hoghoughi, Elite Properties Realty

Santa Monica

BEVERLY HILLS

$1,580,000

318 N Maple Dr #208,
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

2 Beds, 3 Baths, 2,006 Sq Ft

Listed by Diana Shirazi, Nourmand & Associates-BH

Ocean Park

Venice Beach

Marina del Rey

SANTA MONICA

$1,550,000

2930 Neilson Way #409,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

2 Beds, 2 Baths, 1,390 Sq Ft

Listed by Maury Leitner & Laura Anderson, Keller Williams Larchmont
Bought with Kim Orchen Cooper, Compass

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

HOLIDAYS

FROM PAGE 1

encouraged to bring donations in the form of either canned food, new or gently worn clothing, or monetary gifts.

This weekend's festive fun doesn't stop at Santa Monica city limits, as beach-bound visitors can make the trek to Marina del Rey on Saturday. At 10 a.m., the Pro SUP Shop will host its second-annual Holiday Paddle Parade and Toy Drive at 4175 Admiralty Way. Staff of the shop will give a paddle lesson on the beach and two different groups will go out, depending on experience, with instructors for a guided Marina tour. New, unwrapped toys for donation benefit the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, and those bringing toys will receive a free Pro SUP Shop hat.

Later in the day, Marina's annual holiday boat parade begins at 6 p.m. after a brief fireworks display, with decorated boats in the Marina channel adorned in holiday lights and inflatables. Music and live announcements will play during the parade at Burton Chace Park and Fisherman's Village. The area's weekend concludes on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. with the Killer Rides holiday car show and toy drive, where unwrapped toys can be donated to the Los Angeles County Fire Department for children in need. The show takes place at 4211 Admiralty Way, Killer Shrimp's main parking lot, and local Fire House 110 will stop by to pick up the toys.

As December rolls on, even more options for both fun and charitable pursuits will be prevalent throughout the area. Santa Monica's premiere winter wonderland, the Santa Monica ICE rink, will be host to the final nightly Hanukkah menorah lighting on Dec. 15, with other nightly lightings taking place beginning at sundown on the 1400 block of Third Street Promenade. The rink brings in skating enthusiasts nightly, and will hold special events throughout the season including a celebration of Taylor Swift's birthday on Dec. 13 and "SaMo Night" on Dec. 27.

One of the city's other popular visitation spots, Santa Monica Place, welcomes the season with a performance of "The Nutcracker" by The Anaheim Ballet on Saturday, along with photos with Santa Clause at "Santa's House" in Center Plaza through Dec. 24. Other Santa Monica Place events include performances by dancing sensations Beach Belles and a cappella barbershop chorus Santa Monica Oceanaires.

Santa Monica's most iconic location, the Santa Monica Pier, is in the holiday swing with a "Letters to Santa" pop-up post office desk, located inside the Merry Go-Round Building on Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday-Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., through Dec. 24. The initiative is organized by the Santa Monica Pier Corp., who invite families and visitors to participate in sending heartfelt wishes to the North Pole.

"We're thrilled to bring the joy of the season to the Santa Monica Pier with our 'Letters to Santa' pop-up post office desk," said Santa Monica Pier Corp. Executive Director Jim Harris. "This initiative is all about creating magical moments for families and visitors, and we're honored to be a part of their holiday memories."







Thomas Leffler & Courtesy photos

EVENTS: From a holiday paddle to Santa at the mall, there's plenty to do this weekend.

thomas@smdp.com

Eric Uller at Police Activities League (PAL) sexually abused hundreds of children in the late 1980s – early 2000s

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METRO

FROM PAGE 2

Monica service. Metro officials heard that customers were "not very comfortable" with the lack of late-night rides, and said that re-introduction of those rides will be "very beneficial" for residents, particularly those in the service industry wrapping up late shifts.

Forgiarini added that he personally met with several stakeholders in City of Santa Monica and the city's business community to make sure locals were heard on the matter. Typical security protocols will remain similar for late-night trains, as Forgiarini said Metro will "definitely be maintaining the security coverage" on the Expo Line due to already having around-the-clock security as well as the "eyes and ears" of maintenance ambassadors.

Metro officials said that "no major changes" will be coming to buses affecting locals, such as the 4 bus and the 720 bus going to and from Downtown Los Angeles via Santa Monica Blvd and Wilshire Blvd, respectively. However, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus recently announced service improvements to several local bus routes, taking effect on December 17.

Big Blue Bus Route 1, Main Street & Santa Monica Blvd, as well as Rapid 10 Downtown LA Freeway Express and Route 18 UCLA - Abbot Kinney - Marina del Rey, will have a new westbound stop after the intersection of Broadway and 6th St. Other Big Blue Bus route changes include:

-Route 7, Pico Blvd, has an updated schedule on weekdays to improve service reliability.

-Rapid 7, Pico Blvd Rapid, weekday peak hour service improved to every 15 minutes.

-Route 9 to Pacific Palisades northbound weekday service improved to every 15 minutes during peak morning hours.

-Rapid 12, UCLA/Westwood to Expo Rapid, southbound buses will now service Washington Blvd. via Motor Ave., and will no longer travel on Keystone Ave.

-Route 16, Wilshire Blvd/Bundy Dr - Playa del Rey, discontinued stop northbound after the intersection of Glencoe Ave. and Mindanao Way.

thomas@smdp.com

RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

FROM PAGE 3

only 31 are licensed for just medicinal cannabis sales.

Medicinal cannabis is estimated to make up only around 9% of cannabis retail sales in California. The primary advantage for consumers to purchase cannabis through the medicinal market is an exemption from regular sales tax, however, this is only for those qualifying patients who present a Medical Marijuana Identification Card (MMIC) at the time of purchase (a savings of 7.25% to 10.25%, depending on the jurisdiction). The small number of patients with valid MMIC cards makes their impact on tax revenues statistically insignificant. Expanding adult-use cannabis retail in the City can also help with economic recovery efforts.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

BUDGET

FROM PAGE 5

again next year, the recovery is likely to be slow, opening up long-term funding shortfalls that could affect essential programs in future years.

"There are enough options available to address this immediate problem," Petek said. "Our high-level suggestion to the Legislature is just to be judicious about reserves because there's a lot of uncertainty ahead, so preserving some of that resilience would be helpful."

His office recommended that Newsom declare a fiscal emergency, allowing the state to dip into as much as $24 billion of its rainy-day funds, and that legislators pull back on one-time spending allocations that have not yet been distributed, potentially saving $10 billion or more that had previously been set aside for transportation, environmental and education programs.

Petek also suggested that California could cut the deficit by nearly $17 billion over the next three years by recalculating its constitutionally-mandated funding obligation to schools and community colleges, known as Proposition 98, based on the lower revenues. Though this would decrease the state's base education funding over the long term, Petek said the immediate effects could be offset with reserves.

That option, in particular, could encounter stiff resistance in the Legislature. Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, a Hollister Democrat, released a statement last week, when it became clear that tax revenues would be substantially below estimates, committing to a budget that "protects classroom funding."

Newsom and lawmakers are also likely to confront months of tremendous pressure from advocates arguing that their priorities should be protected in any budget solutions. Statements started rolling out mere minutes after the Legislative Analyst's Office published its report.

"California leaders have stepped up before to prioritize Californians who are struggling to get by and they must continue this in 2024," said Pete Manzo, president & CEO of United Ways of California.

Republican legislators chastised their Democratic colleagues for continuing to make new spending commitments in recent budget cycles even as it became clear that the economy was increasingly shaky.

"Hopefully, the supermajority will see it is time for a more realistic budget strategy," Senate Republican Leader Brian Jones of San Diego said in a statement, "instead of throwing money at a laundry list of projects that sounds nice on the national television debate stage."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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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

Santa Monica Daily Press

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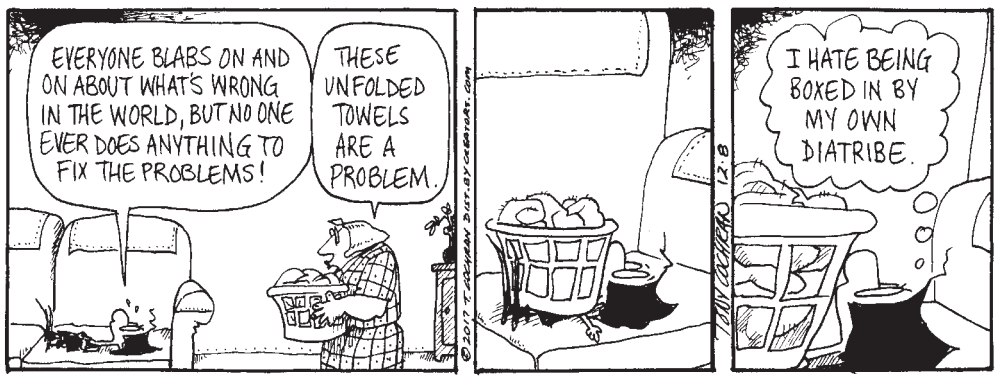
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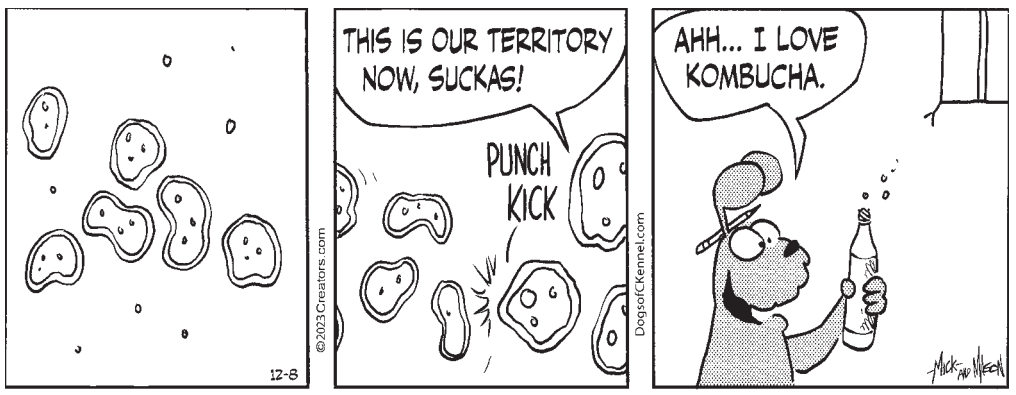
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



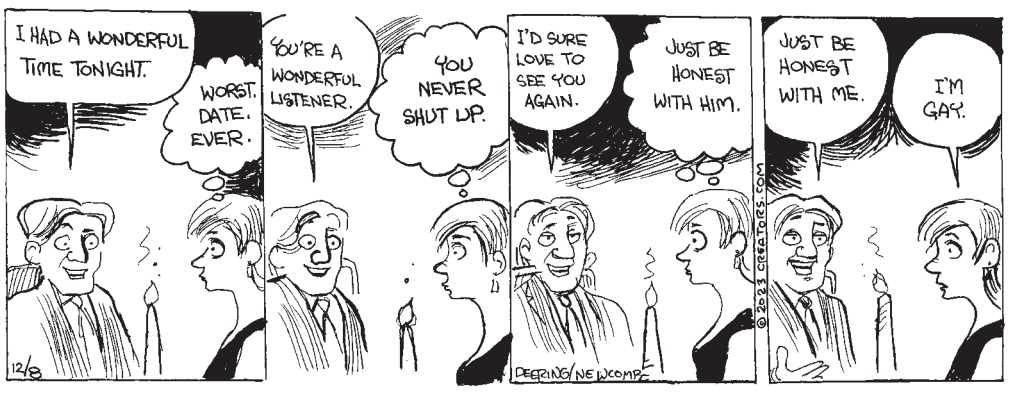
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"NOT EXACTLY 'DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW.'"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

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Celebrations

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

Adults	Diary	Kids	Sadly
Advice	Dips	Lent	Sausages
Anzacs	Ends	Lollies	School
Baby	Favours	Love	Sell
Band	Food	Memorialisation	Spoil
Bash	Gala	Nana	Start
Beer	Game	News	Tape
Booze	Gold	Play	Toast
Cadetship	Hats	Prizes	Treat
Cake	Home	Punch	Visit
Christening	House	Puppy	Whisky
Dance	Idea	Roses	Wine

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 8)

Your grace and poise make others feel at ease, but your unwavering support and encouragement are to credit for what happens in you corner; the whole group will rise as you build on each other's successes. More highlights: a special soulful connection, a run of stellar performances and the lucrative conclusion of a three-year project. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 4, 8 and 10.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The good thing about feeling stuck is that it forces your mind to show you what you want. You'll glimpse a picture of freedom that might not otherwise have been so vivid. This vision is only the start. You'll build on it in the weeks to come.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). High-intensity attractions have a way of distorting judgment. Your viewpoint will be influenced by the mesmerizing aura surrounding your focal point. Wait until you regain your sense of balance before making your next move.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your powers of manifestation are surging. You get into the spirit of an activity by pretending. It's a skill that grows your creativity and expands your sense of what's possible. When you act "as if" you often make it so.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even though you feel good about your contribution, you keep polishing and expanding your offering. You're not always sure who your gifts are for, but go forward in good faith and the right people will show up to appreciate and reciprocate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be surprised by experiences. What looks good might not feel good and what works on paper may be very different from what plays in real life. Instead of predicting, test things out. You won't know what delights you until you try it out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Once your mind's eye lands on what you want, don't let it out of your view. You'll keep chipping away at the work until reality starts to match the vision. With tenacity, you'll make wonderful things happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In all interactions, you seek a connection with a human, not a uniform. This is necessary in dealing with yourself too. You're not a role, but a person with needs both common and atypical.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It might seem awkward to make your request knowing there are so many people in the world who have far less than you. Nonetheless, you can only live one life — yours. Shouldn't it be the best you can make it? Advocate for yourself, or who else will?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can populate your mind with thoughts that help and delight you, though inevitably less-desirable ideas will get in there too. These intrusions are like internet pop-up ads, easily removed by clicking on the little "x."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll make progress with a puzzle, but this one is too complex to solve all at once. You still don't have all the information. The missing piece is significant enough to alter the entire situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you fixate on achievement, and you don't quite get where you want to be, you're likely to get frustrated and give up. But if you instead aim to learn, you'll always be doing what you set out to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sensations are elusive, especially the ones you eagerly anticipate. You work up to a moment and then it's hard to grasp, even while you're in the midst of it. This is what will keep you coming back for more.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

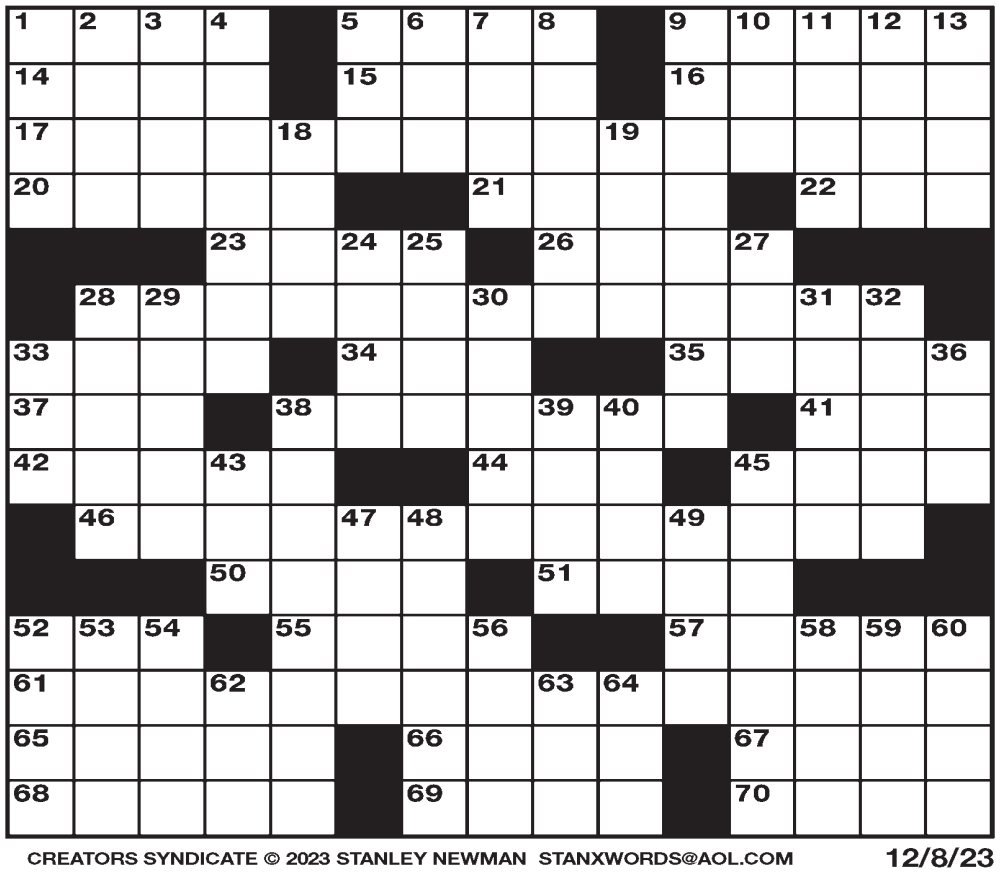
WOBBLY WARNING by Bruce Venzke
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Cry of disbelief
5 Redden and crack
9 Congressional officials
14 Bad thing
15 Former geopolitical letters
16 Tonkin Delta city
17 Start of a parent's warning to a rambunctious child
20 Boxing setting
21 If that doesn't work
22 Era divisions: Abbr.
23 Applebee's buyer in 2007
26 Chances
28 Part 2 of warning
33 Bloom that may be bearded
34 The first voice heard in *The Wizard of Oz*
35 Works hard for
37 Dickensian pseudonym
38 Symbols of royalty
41 Approx. touchdown time
42 Nissan rival
44 It's not free of charge
45 Frisky
46 Part 3 of warning
50 *. . . Millionaire* choices
51 Hard to believe
52 Just like
55 Langston Hughes poem
57 Small and merry
61 End of warning
65 Packing something
66 Restless feeling
67 Solo piece
68 Second Commandment subject
69 Inner nature
70 Natural inclination

DOWN

1 League with Sparks and Mystics
2 Appointed time
3 Pay to play
4 Non-college locals
5 Intimation
6 QVC rival
7 "___ sow, so . . ."
8 Type of opening
9 Cajoles
10 One of Harrison's heroes
11 One of Harrison's heroes
12 Shower
13 Nurses, as Nestea
18 Some laughs
19 Grain inspection agcy.
24 46th st.
25 Crusty group
27 Copious quantity
28 Extensive
29 Channing, in *Grease*
30 Out
31 Make welcome
32 Type of opening
33 Dow Jones Industrials stock
36 Did nothing
38 Wailing fliers
39 Former Mississippi senator
40 Vocalist from Donegal
43 Material that may cinch some suits
45 Beverage convenience
47 Prohibition supporter: Abbr.
48 Handsome guy
49 Designer Cassini
52 Trendy berry
53 *Downton Abbey* title
54 Biathlon need
56 Aware of
58 Prefix like pre-
59 "Here are my chips"
60 Well-planned
62 Jellied delicacy
63 Hosp. area
64 Where Penguins and Ducks play



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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

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

has proved more difficult. Los Angeles has long underinvested in interim housing.

At the core of her work is Inside Safe, an effort to close encampments and move people into leased hotel space. It's grueling and expensive, but it has helped find temporary housing for more than 1,900 people, though permanent housing only for a few hundred. Most importantly, Bass said, it has debunked the contention that those who are homeless want to stay on the streets.

For the vast majority, that is simply untrue.

Permanent housing for a few hundred people is hardly the long-term answer to Los Angeles' overwhelming issue of homelessness, but the elimination of some encampments has been noticed, and some see glimmers of hope.

Knocking down barriers has been more feasible, Bass said. She and her staff knew, for instance, that some homeless people were not receiving benefits because they lacked social security numbers or addresses, but they did not appreciate the rippling effects. Having discovered that wrinkle, Bass appealed to federal officials to waive the requirements, and she secured an agreement.

But homelessness, of course, was one of many demands on her attention and focus.

Thousands of Los Angeles residents, including some of its best known, were put out of work by strikes affecting screenwriters and actors. Bass did not grandstand her involvement, but



Photo by Mario Anzuoni, Reuters

STRIKE: The strike for film and television writers was a major test for Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and contributed to her focus on homelessness.

participated out of public view, prodding both sides to reach a deal and urging the studios to consider the larger public good. Specifically, she leaned on the studios to recognize that all employers have an obligation to pay their employees enough to support themselves in Los Angeles.

Combined, the two strikes took a toll on the region's tax collections and incomes – not just for actors and writers but for the full industry they support, from makeup artists to dry cleaners to accountants. As the year ends, both unions are back at work.

Homelessness and labor strife together showcase an inescapable fact for mayors.

"This is not a static thing," Kramer said. "Much of this is outside the city's control. … Mayors are entrepreneurs. They all have to invent a way to be both proactive and reactive."

And then there is crime. In Los Angeles, violent crime has declined in 2023 by about 4.6%. Property crime has ticked up slightly, increasing by 2.1%.

That's not exactly cause for rejoicing, but it's hardly a crime wave. Complicating the numbers, however, was the eruption of "smash-and-grab" robberies, which – while rare – nevertheless capture attention and instill fear.

"It doesn't matter what the data says," Bass said. "Whether people feel it is another matter."

Though she declined to blame any person or strategy for the persistence of property crime or the public's fear of it, Bass did note that she does not plan to endorse in the district attorney race. That's a telling change. Bass supported George Gascón when he won the job four years ago.

For Los Angeles, though, there is no crisis like a traffic crisis, and Bass' first year closed with an opportunity to shine. When a fire just after Thanksgiving threatened the structural integrity of Interstate 10 in the downtown area, Bass was quick, decisive and effective. A project initially estimated to take three to five weeks was completed in eight days.

The freeway was, in one sense, a perfect problem for Bass. It required relationships with officials in Sacramento and Washington D.C., places where she has served. It required a cool head, which her background has equipped her for. And it served her well to be not just a doer but a listener, a quality not all mayors – or elected officials at any level – possess.

Indeed, it is that last factor that may set Bass furthest apart from some of her predecessors. That allows her not just to govern but to learn, and 2023 has been, for Bass, a year of declarations and programs, of cajoling, directing and responding but also of learning.

"There's no metric for listening," Kramer said, but it is vital. As Bass enters her second year, Kramer predicted that the lessons of the first will help the mayor structure the most important and underappreciated aspect of her work: the daily decision about where to apply her attention.

"What is the most valuable resource of a mayor?" Kramer asked rhetorically. "Her time."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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