2 **Busy Bees**
At Franklin Elementary

3 **Viking Hoops**
Start strong.

4 **Boom and Bust budget**
Hits lawmakers

5 **Crime is up and down**
Depending on the data.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 20 | TUESDAY 12/12/23 | smdp.com

Accusations of antisemitism prompt federal investigation of SMC

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica College (SMC) has been added to a list of educational institutions under investigation by the federal government for civil rights violations.

SMC was one of six schools added to a list of investigations last week after an initial group of educational institutions were identified by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) as under investigation for alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in November.

So far the list includes Harvard University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Lafayette College, Wellesley College, Tulane University, University of Tampa, University of Pennsylvania, University of Cincinnati, Montana State University, Union College and SMC. Several school districts are on the list including Cobb County School District, New York City Department of Education, Clark County School District, Hillsborough County Schools and Maize Unified School District.

According to the Dept. of Education, these investigations focus on shared ancestry violations, addressing discrimination and harassment, including antisemitism, anti-Muslim, and anti-Arab incidents, since the Israel-Hamas conflict in October 2023.

"Hate has no place in our

SEE **SMC** PAGE 8

A weekend of holiday spirit







Photos by Fran Lyness

WEEKEND: Santa Monicans took to Main Street and Montana Ave. over the weekend for a pair of holiday celebrations that included a chance to shop from local merchants and partake in a pair of tree lightings.

Eviction trial of disabled longtime resident delayed

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The case of a longtime Santa Monica resident concerning his current housing accommodations will be moving to a jury trial at a later date.

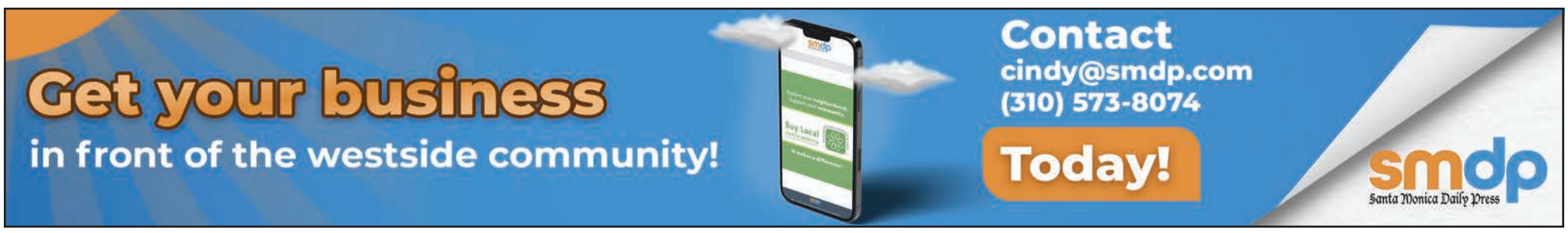
On Monday, an update on the case of 3231-3301 OPB Buildings against defendant Scott Brutzman was held at the Santa Monica Courthouse, with Monday's initially-scheduled jury trial date now moved to an unspecified date in the future.

The case concerns Brutzman's residency status at 3301 Ocean Park Boulevard, wherein the defendant has been staying at the commercial property after the closure of his insurance business at the location. Brutzman stated that the building's landlord was aware that he was living on the premises and continued to accept monthly rent payments until the notice of termination on his tenancy this year. He said this is due to the property being able to receive in the range of $1,500 to $2,000 per month instead of his $710 payment.

During the court update on Monday, Brutzman spoke with the presiding judge, recounting his myriad of current health issues and the medication he receives for them. While the 3301 Ocean Park unit isn't designed to be a home, Brutzman still is able to receive the daily care he needs from nurses, including keeping his legs wrapped and protected against infection, handling his medication and checking blood oxygen levels.

Brutzman requested that three medical professionals be present

SEE **TRIAL** PAGE 8



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Franklin busy with bees in growing TK program



Courtesy Photo

BUSY BEES: Franklin Elementary School TK teacher Danielle Eden is all smiles with her students after the creation of a campus bee sanctuary.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Within the complex ecosystem we call Mother Nature, one creature that has always fascinated the mind is the bee. From its physics-defying flight patterns to its pivotal role in worldly nutrition, the bee captures each inquisitive mind, including the highly curious students of Franklin Elementary School.

As part of Franklin and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's growing TK (Transitional Kindergarten) program, the young TK crop at the school has been involved in a project-based learning unit busy with bee knowledge and creative endeavors. Led by general education teacher Danielle Eden and special education teacher Nell Canon, the tag-team of teachers brought students into the beehive with a host of fun projects.

"It all started with this beehive plush counting toy in our classroom that our students were obsessed with, and (began) watching all the bees that were gathering by the lunch area trash cans," Eden said. "Students would even play a game at recess where they would run around the playground and pretend to sting each other and make honey ... (our) curriculum is guided by students' interests, so it made perfect sense to plan a unit all about bees."

The SMMUSD TK program began enrolling students in the 2022-23 school year as part of a statewide expansion, one which aims to make the grade the entry level into public school for all students in California. The program uses the tenets of STEAM to enhance learning capabilities, standing for science, technology, engineering, art and math; and the Franklin arm of TK is the first "TK Collaborative" classroom in the district. Half the students have individualized education plans and qualify for special education services, and the other half are general education students, with Eden stating that "the goal of a collaborative class is to promote an inclusive environment where students of all needs are supported."

Activities completed during the Franklin bee unit align seamlessly with STEAM tenets. For science, students learned about bee anatomy and the bee life cycle, and incorporated technology by making three-dimensional models of the creature. Growing math minds were supplemented by solving math story problems about how many bees the class saw at lunch, and by counting pieces of Honeycomb cereal before making a collage with them. Art was a key subject to provide learning and excitement, completing projects like making hives with bubble wrap and yellow paint, and creating "honeycomb" with hexagons.

The culminating project was the creation of a bee sanctuary for Franklin's TK-Kindergarten yard. Students reused school lunch milk cartons and filled them with nesting tubes to make "bee hotels" where

SEE **BEES** PAGE 4

Vikings hoops start strong in non-league slate



Photo by Thomas Leffler

STRONG START: The Samohi Vikings, led in part by senior big man Anton Berge Wells (#32), have started the 2023-24 campaign with a 6-3 record.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Samohi Vikings showed out in front of a home crowd Dec. 7, taking down Dorsey by a score of 71-27. The victory put the Vikings at 6-3 on the young 2023-24 season, undefeated in non-tournament play after the win over Dorsey and a season-opening win over Los Angeles High. The 60-37 win over Los Angeles High on Nov. 14 served as the 500th career victory for Vikings head coach James Hecht.

Led by junior Jayden Xu and senior big man Anton Berge Wells, the Vikings returned to action last month after a 2022-23 campaign that ended with an 18-12 record, 4-6 in Bay League play. Last season's playoff run was a short one for the squad, defeating Calvary Chapel in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 3AA Championships before falling to Hesperia.

The 2023-24 Vikings started off 4-0 with wins over Los Angeles high, Cerritos, Oaks Christian and Shalhevet; before dropping three in a row against Oak Park, Chaminade and Santa Margarita. After the overtime loss to Santa Margarita, the Vikings regained confidence with wins over Narbonne and Dorsey. The squad will face off against Whitney on Wednesday before entering tournament action in Calabasas on Friday and Saturday, facing Agoura and Crescenta Valley on those respective dates.

On the girls' side, the Lady Vikings also returned to action last month after a 19-11 record in 2022-23, good enough to make the CIF Southern Section Division 2AA quarterfinals. The Lady Vikings hit a rough patch in the first month of games, sitting at 2-7 overall with a Friday home matchup looming against Venice.

SAMOHI BOYS BASKETBALL:

Thursday, December 7: Vikings vs Dorsey
Vikings win 71-27
Vikings Record: 6-3
Next Game: Vikings at Whitney, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

SAMOHI GIRLS WATER POLO:

Tuesday, December 5: Lady Vikings at Marlborough
Marlborough wins 16-5
Wednesday, December 6: Lady Vikings vs Notre Dame (Sherman Oaks)
Notre Dame (Sherman Oaks) wins 11-10
Thursday, December 7: Lady Vikings vs Dos Pueblos- Villa Park Classic
Dos Pueblos wins 14-1
Friday, December 8: Lady Vikings vs El Segundo- Villa Park Classic
El Segundo wins 11-1
Friday, December 8: Lady Vikings vs Valley View- Villa Park Classic
Valley View wins 11-8
Saturday, December 9: Lady Vikings vs Capistrano Valley- Villa Park Classic
Lady Vikings win 6-5

SEE **SAMOHI** PAGE 4



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

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

Surf due to taper off as WNW and SW swell slowly ease. Morning winds likely favorable for spots west of Dume — some easterly wind funkiness for the points — but the deep early AM high tide won't be, improving through mid-morning.

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

Currently looking like the smallest day of the week. Likely pretty flat for the points (especially on the deep AM high tide) with spots west of Pt. Dume faring slightly better.

Weather

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 68. Northeast wind around 10 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. West southwest wind around 5 mph becoming northeast in the evening.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 69. North northeast wind around 10 mph becoming west northwest in the morning.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
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
2023/12/12	Tue	9:47 PM	3.60		H
2023/12/13	Wed	02:02 AM	2.29		L
2023/12/13	Wed	08:29 AM	6.64		H
2023/12/13	Wed	4:00 PM	-1.26		L
2023/12/13	Wed	10:35 PM	3.57		H
2023/12/14	Thu	02:42 AM	2.39		L
2023/12/14	Thu	09:09 AM	6.63		H
2023/12/14	Thu	4:45 PM	-1.26		L
2023/12/14	Thu	11:28 PM	3.55		H
2023/12/15	Fri	03:28 AM	2.50		L
2023/12/15	Fri	09:54 AM	6.43		H
2023/12/15	Fri	5:33 PM	-1.12		L
2023/12/16	Sat	12:23 AM	3.60		H
2023/12/16	Sat	04:25 AM	2.63		L
2023/12/16	Sat	10:44 AM	6.03		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: 12/9
5 25 26 40 60
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 477 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/8
21 26 53 66 70
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/9
14 19 21 32 47
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 22 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/10
8 13 23 27 28

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/10
EVENING: 1 8 7
Draw Date: 12/10
MIDDAY: 8 6 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/10
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:40.01

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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

Politicians refused to fix California's boom-and-bust tax system. They now face a $68 billion deficit

DAN WALTERS
Special to the Daily Press

It is truly amazing – and not in a good way – that California's politicians cannot grasp a phenomenon that has plagued state finances for years, known as "volatility."

It's this: The state budget is extraordinarily dependent on personal income tax revenues, most of which comes from a relative handful of upper-income taxpayers whose incomes vary year to year because much of it comes from investments.

When the affluent make lots of money, the state treasury overflows with revenue, but when the economy falters, incomes and tax revenues fall. Unfortunately, because politicians have short attention spans, they tend to increase spending when revenues surge, only to face deficits when they inevitably decline.

The syndrome's peaks and valleys have become more severe because dependence on the wealthy has increased, economic cycles have become more acute and windfalls tend to be spent on services that are politically difficult to adjust, such as public schools, health care and aid to the state's poor families.

Actually, California politicians do grasp volatility. That was demonstrated 11 months ago when Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a 2023-24 budget that addressed what he said was a $22.5 billion deficit just eight months after he had boasted of a $97.5 billion surplus.

"No other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this," Newsom had bragged in May 2022, thus encouraging his fellow Democrats in the Legislature to sharply increase spending.

When Newsom acknowledged the looming deficit last January, he blamed revenue volatility, displaying a chart showing big swings in income taxes on capital gains and saying it "sums up California's tax structure, sums up boom and bust."

Gabe Petek, the Legislature's budget analyst, revealed last week that accumulated deficits for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and the forthcoming 2024-25 fiscal years, based on spending commitments already made and current and projected revenue, are $68 billion.

"Largely as a result of a severe revenue decline in 2022-23, the state faces a serious budget deficit," Petek told the Legislature. "Specifically, under the state's current law and policy, we estimate the Legislature will need to solve a budget problem of $68 billion in the coming budget process."

Moreover, Petek's office projects deficits in the neighborhood of $30 billion a year for the remainder of Newsom's governorship.

So it's not that Newsom and legislators don't know about the corrosive effects of volatility – it's that they, like their predecessors, are unwilling to do what's necessary to counteract it: overhaul the revenue system.

When volatility first became a major problem during the Great Recession, then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders created a commission to suggest remedies. Chaired by businessman Gerald Parsky, the commission held months of hearings and finally, on a divided vote, recommended the state reduce its dependence on income taxes and shift to a revised form of sales tax.

The report was buried as soon as it reached the Legislature. When Jerry Brown returned to the governorship in 2011, he persuaded voters to create a "rainy day fund" that would absorb some revenues during boom times and cushion the impact of future downturns.

The fund now has about $24 billion and a separate school reserve has $8.1 billion. At best, reserves would cover less than half of the $68 billion deficit and none of the $90 billion in projected deficits for the three following years.

It's certainly better to have those reserves than not, but they are incomplete responses to volatility and that a judicious, even gradual, overhaul of the tax system is still the best solution, as politically difficult as that may be for a Legislature dominated by left-leaning Democrats.

Procrastination will only make the problem worse.

> "No other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this"
> - Gavin Newsom Gov.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

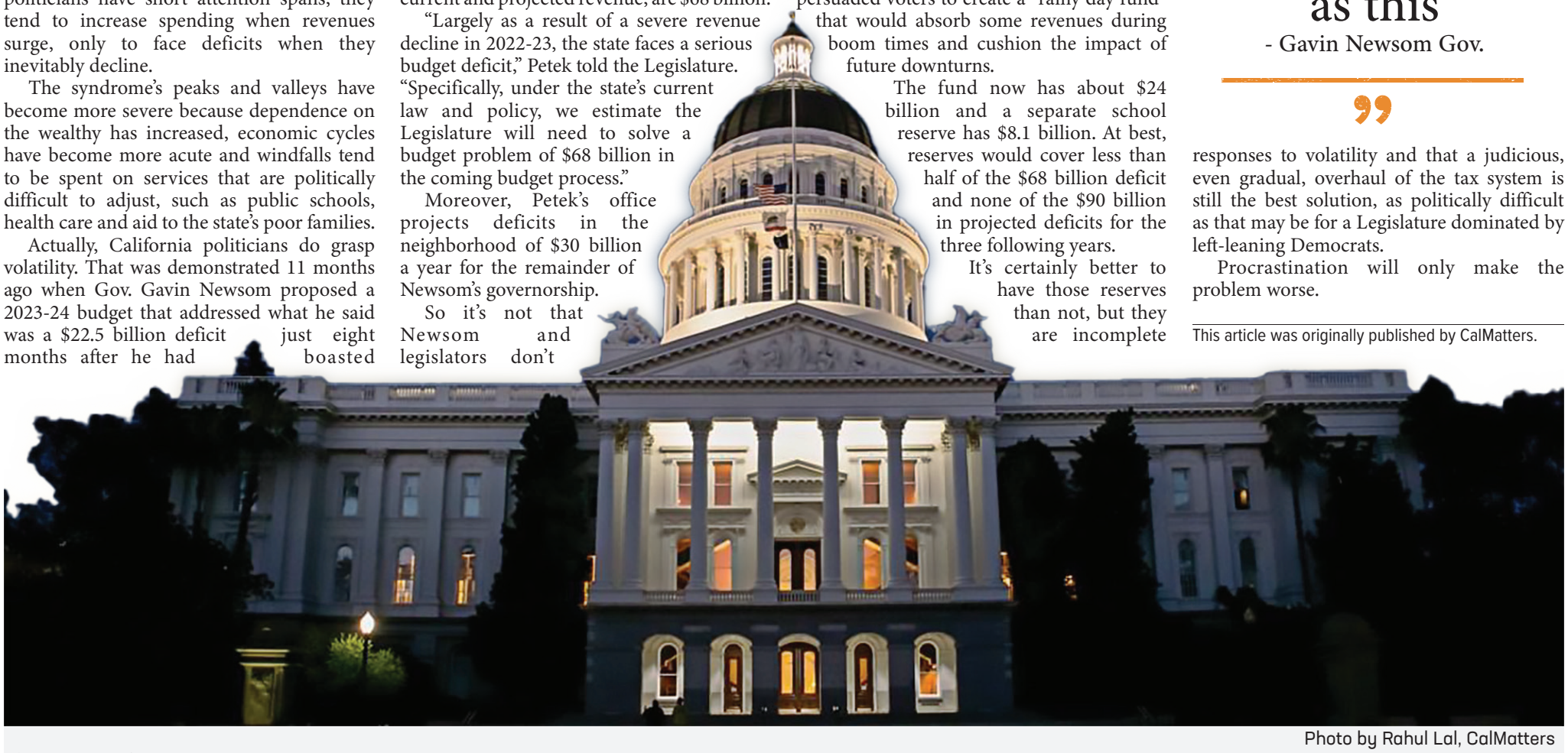


Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

STATE BUDGET: The state Capitol in Sacramento on July 6, 2022.

BEES

FROM PAGE 2

bees can rest and lay eggs into the tubes. Later, they filled dishes with gemstones and salt water, creating "bee baths" for the bees to drink and cool down in. Finally, they added lavender and rosemary plants to provide nectar and pollen, finishing off by labeling each part of the sanctuary.

Canon, who has served in the district for 10 years, has been excited at the opportunity to incorporate STEAM subjects at the TK level, thriving with the allowance of creativity given to herself and Eden.

"We try to integrate all of our pre-kindergarten sort of content, (things like) shapes and counting, all that stuff that's in these units, but we're kind of spoiled at this level because we get to do it in a fun, play-based way," Canon said.

She added that in the long term, play-based learning programs in early development fosters positive outcomes in areas like problem-solving and social skills, and the collaborative classroom allows for similar curricula to general education rooms while being able to support special education needs. Along with the collaborative room at Franklin, SMMUSD has TK classrooms at Edison, Grant, McKinley, Roosevelt and Webster elementary schools, as well as at Will Rogers Learning Community.

"We all feel like (project-based learning) is such a big piece," Canon said. "(SMMUSD) in particular really supports that model of play and the importance of play, and integrating learning throughout that. I think it's huge ... I think our district has done a really good job of rolling (TK) out in stages, and then also making sure its developmentally appropriate."

thomas@smdp.com

SAMOHI

FROM PAGE 3

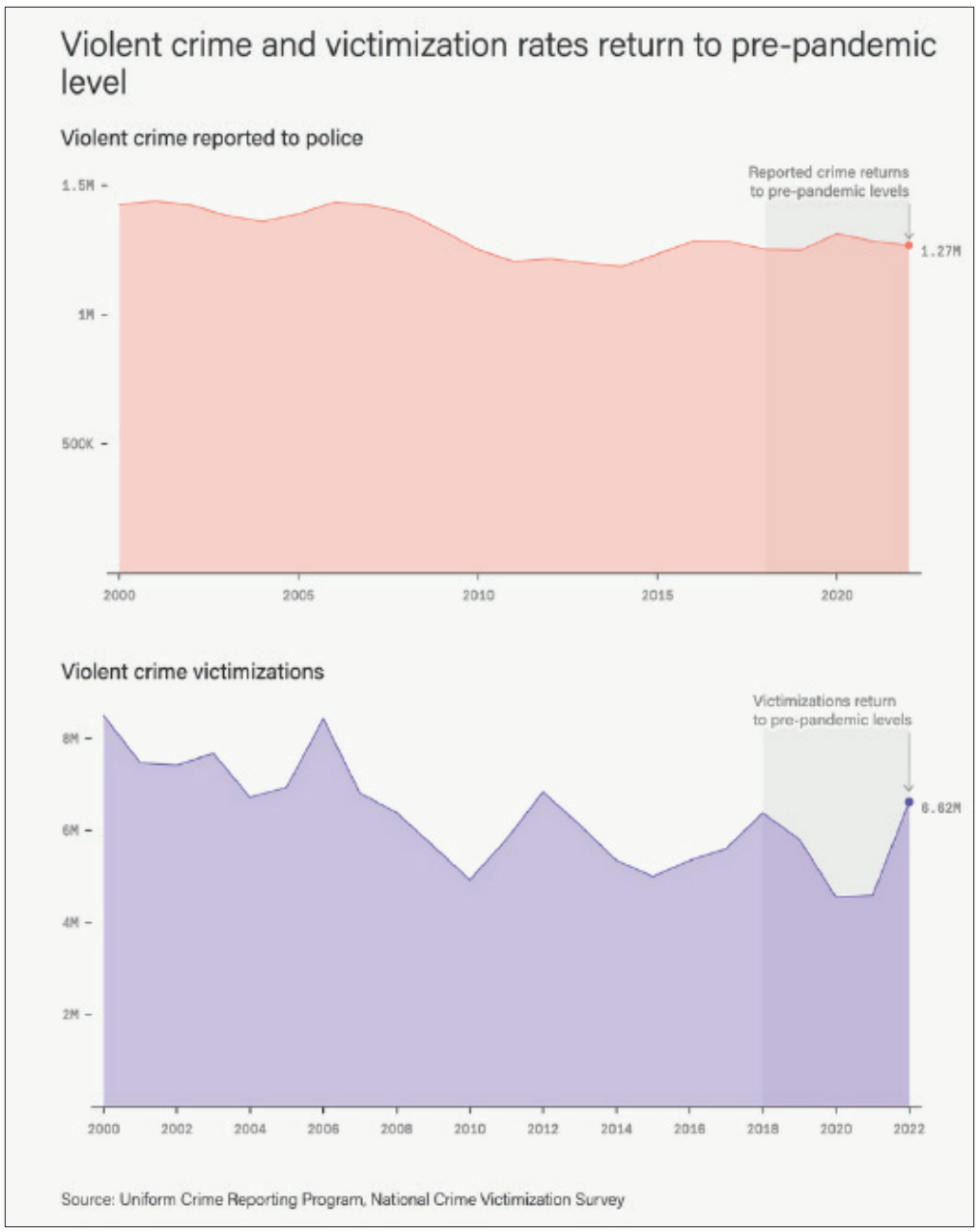
Saturday, December 9: Lady Vikings vs San Juan Hills- Villa Park Classic
Lady Vikings win 7-6
Lady Vikings record: 4-9
Next Game: Lady Vikings vs Charter Oak, Thursday, 3:30 p.m.

SAMOHI BOYS SOCCER:
Monday, December 4: Vikings at La Puente
Vikings win 5-0
Wednesday, December 6: Vikings at Salesian
Vikings win 3-2
Friday, December 9: Vikings vs Ventura- South High Tournament
Vikings win 1-0
Friday, December 9: Vikings vs Redondo Union- South High Tournament
Vikings win 2-1
Vikings record: 5-0
Next Game: Vikings vs Crossroads, Tuesday, 5:15 p.m.

SAMOHI GIRLS SOCCER:
Monday, December 4: Lady Vikings vs El Segundo
Lady Vikings win 3-0
Wednesday, December 6: Lady Vikings at Torrance
Lady Vikings win 2-1
Friday, December 9: Lady Vikings vs North- South High Tournament
Lady Vikings win 0-0 (4-3 SO)
Friday, December 9: Lady Vikings vs San Pedro- South High Tournament
Lady Vikings win 2-1
Lady Vikings record: 5-0
Next Game: South High Tournament continuation, Saturday

thomas@smdp.com

Violent crime is up ... and also down, according to new federal data



WEIHUA LI FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT
JAMILES LARTEY FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

Two key crime reports released by the Justice Department this fall reveal a changing crime landscape, even when they diverge on year-over-year trends. Property crime rose in significant ways for the first time in years. Violent crime against young people doubled. As usual, most crimes go unreported. And as a major election season looms in 2024, the deviation between the reports on recent trends in violent crime could be read selectively to score political points.

The Marshall Project looks into how while property crime and violence against young people are both up, other crime trends are murkier.

The FBI's crime reporting program and the Bureau of Justice Statistics' crime victimization survey are generally seen as the Justice Department's two major pillars of national crime statistics. While the FBI tries to collect crime data directly from more than 18,000 police agencies through its Uniform Crime Reporting program, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) interviews 150,000 families across the country. The NCVS asks questions that capture crimes that were not reported to police as well as ones that were, which are then weighted in order to estimate crime victimization for more than 120 million U.S. households.

FEDERAL REPORTS SHOW SIMILAR LONG-TERM TRENDS IN VIOLENT CRIME, BUT DIVERGE SIGNIFICANTLY ON YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGES

Both reports show a return to pre-pandemic levels of violent crime since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out three years prior, and a similar pattern: The violent crime rate exhibited significant fluctuations during the pandemic, but by 2022, it had returned to pre-pandemic levels.

During the pandemic, the country saw a significant uptick in homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults, which likely contributed to the increase seen in data reported by law enforcement. At the same time, violent crime victimizations — which included less acute forms of violent crime, such as assaults without weapons that did not lead to serious injuries — dipped. These violent crime victimizations mostly went unreported.

Murders are a good measurement for the

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 7

Holiday crowds at airports and on highways are expected to be even bigger than last year

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

More Americans are expected to fly or drive far from home over Christmas than did last year, putting a cap on a busy year for travel.

Auto club AAA forecast Monday that 115.2 million people will go 50 miles or more from home during the 10 days between Dec. 23 and New Year's Day. That's 2.2% more than AAA predicted during the comparable stretch last year.

"That desire to get away is stronger than we have seen in a very long time," said AAA spokeswoman Aixa Diaz. "People are willing to adjust their budgets in other areas of their life, but they want to keep traveling."

The AAA predicts that the holiday season will still fall 3% short of record travel in 2019, the last Christmas before COVID-19 hit the United States.

Air travel in the U.S. has already rebounded, surpassing 2019 levels.

The number of travelers going through U.S. airport checkpoints is up 12.4% over last year and 1.4% higher than in 2019, according to the Transportation Security Administration. Travel around the Thanksgiving Day holiday topped 2019 numbers, peaking at 2.9 million — a single-day record for TSA — screened on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Airlines are predicting a blockbuster holiday season.

Airlines for America says 39 million people — about 2.8 million a day on average — will board U.S. flights between Dec. 20 and Jan. 2. The trade group for big U.S. carriers expects about 3 million on the peak days - the Thursday and Friday before Christmas and the four days after the holiday.

The airlines count people more than once if they take connecting flights instead of nonstops, so their numbers are higher than those reported by TSA.

Travel is strong even though many Americans say they are worried about the economy. In an AP-NORC poll last week, seven out of 10 people surveyed rated the economy as poor. But at least inflation has cooled off a bit.

Airline passengers are getting a slight break from last year's high prices. Average fares in October were 13% lower than a year earlier, according to the government's latest data.

AAA predicts that 7.5 million people will fly in the U.S. in late December, but the club expects far more — nearly 104 million — to drive over the holidays.

Motorists will pay a bit less to fill up. The national average price for a gallon of gasoline was $3.19 at the end of last week, compared with $3.33 a year earlier, according to AAA. Gas is under $3 a gallon across a swath in the middle of the country.

Travel for Christmas and New Year's is spread out over a couple weeks, so the busiest days rarely match the Thanksgiving peaks — TSA counted a record 2.9 million air travelers on the Sunday after the November holiday.

Transportation data provider INRIX predicted that highways will be busiest on Saturday, Dec. 23, and Thursday, Dec. 28.

AAA's Diaz notes that many people are still working during the holidays. Vacationers heading to visit family will be mixing with commuters on the roads, "so rush hour could still be bad," she said. "We always say leave as early as possible if you're hitting the road or leave at night."

Associated Press Staff Writer Rick Gentilo in Washington contributed to this report.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

NOT GIVING A FIG?

One of Santa Monica's warmest holiday traditions was scrubbed this weekend with minimal notice when the Miramar hotel abruptly cancelled its annual "Meet Me Under the Fig Tree" event — after many of us had qualms about crossing a union picket line.

Shame on the Miramar for this slap in the community's face, and for choosing to continue its heartless corporate hardball instead of justly settling the strike by Miramar workers.

Many of us continue to hope those hotel workers will get to celebrate the holidays with their families unwrapping an equitable new contract, which is way overdue.

Kevin McKeown, Santa Monica

GET IT DAILY...

‘Barbie’ leads Golden Globe nominations with 9, followed closely by ‘Oppenheimer’

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie” dominated the Golden Globe Awards nominations with nine nods for the blockbuster film, including best picture musical or comedy as well as acting nominations for Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling and three of its original songs.

It was closely followed by its release date and meme companion Christopher Nolan’s “Oppenheimer,” which scored eight nominations, including best picture drama and for actors Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr. and Emily Blunt.

In a statement, Gerwig said she, “can’t wait to bring the Barbie party to the Globes.”

The revamped group, now a for-profit endeavor with a larger and more diverse voting body, announced nominations Monday for its January awards show, after scandal and several troubled years, including one without a broadcast. Cedric the Entertainer and Wilmer Valderrama presided over the announcements from the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where the show will also take place on Jan. 7.

Films nominated for best motion picture drama included “Oppenheimer,” Martin Scorsese’s “Killers of the Flower Moon,” Bradley Cooper’s “Maestro,” Celine Song’s “Past Lives,” Justine Triet’s “Anatomy of a Fall” and Jonathan Glazer’s “The Zone of Interest.”

In the best motion picture musical or comedy category, “Barbie” was joined by “Air,” “American Fiction” “The Holdovers,” “May December” and “Poor Things.”

Yorgos Lanthimos’ “Poor Things” and Scorsese’s “Killers of the Flower Moon” both received seven nominations each. “Poor Things” saw nominations for Lanthimos, its actors Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo, Willem Dafoe, and Tony McNamara for screenplay. “Killers of the Flower Moon” got nods for Scorsese, for direction and co-writing the screenplay with Eric Roth, and stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Lily Gladstone and Robert De Niro.

Stone, who was also nominated for the Showtime series “The Curse,” said in a statement that she was “Feeling extremely bewildered and thankful for it all.” She also said her “Poor Things” character Bella Baxter is her favorite.

DiCaprio praised Gladstone in his statement: “She is the soul of our film and helped to bring this sinister and painful part of our nation’s history to life,” he wrote. The film is about the murders of wealthy Osage individuals in Oklahoma in the early 20th century.

“Barbie” tied for second-most nominations in Globes history with “Cabaret,” from 1972. Robert Altman’s “Nashville” remains the record-holder with 11 nominations. It went into the morning as a favorite and got a big boost from its three original song nominations, including “I’m Just Ken,” and one of the year’s new categories, recognizing cinematic and box office achievement. One person who was not nominated was America Ferrera, who delivered the movie’s most memorable monologue.

“Succession” was the top-nominated television program, with nine nods including for series stars Brian Cox, Jeremy Strong, Sarah Snook and Kieran Culkin, followed by Hulu’s “The Bear.”

As always there were some big surprises, like Jennifer Lawrence getting nominated for her bawdy R-rated comedy “No Hard Feelings” for best performance by a female actor in a musical or comedy. She was nominated alongside Robbie, Stone and Fantasia Barrino (“The Color Purple”), Natalie Portman (“May December”) and Alma Pöysti (“Fallen Leaves”).

Barrino heard the news from her husband who she immediately called back to make sure she wasn’t dreaming.

“My voice is shot because I’ve been screaming, crying and just telling God, ‘Thank you.’ I almost allowed fear to hinder me from this role, to keep me from this role,” she told the AP through tears. She’s been on the road for work and said she’s excited to go home and experience it with her children.

“The Color Purple” was expected to do better. The adaption of the stage musical got only two nominations total, both for actors, for Barrino and Danielle Brooks for her supporting performance. Left out was Colman Domingo, who was nominated for best drama actor for “Rustin.”

Cord Jefferson’s comedy “American Fiction” also came up with only two nods, best musical or comedy and for lead actor Jeffrey Wright, who plays a frustrated writer.

“I don’t think it’s totally healthy to think about these things too much, but they’re there, so one does,” Wright told the AP Monday. “I’m really pleased that the film is being recognized more so than my own personal recognition.”

Sofia Coppola’s widely acclaimed “Priscilla” got only one nomination, for actor Cailee Spaeny’s portrayal of Priscilla Presley. Her category mates in best female performance in a drama include Gladstone, Annette Bening for “Nyad,” Sandra Hüller for “Anatomy of a Fall,” Greta Lee for “Past Lives” and Carey Mulligan for “Maestro.”

The Globes won’t have to worry about anyone criticizing its “all male” directors this year, however. Gerwig was nominated as was Celine Song, for her romantic debut “Past Lives,” alongside Nolan, Scorsese, Cooper and Lanthimos.

Netflix got the most nominations overall, with 13 total for a slate which included “Maestro,” “May December” and “Rustin,” followed by Warner Bros., which made “Barbie” and “The Color Purple” with 12.

Ridley Scott’s “Napoleon” was not

SEE **GLOBES** PAGE 8

Beach Water Quality Testing

- Ocean water bacteria level **meets State Standards**
- **Advisory;** Ocean water bacteria level **exceeds State standards** and may cause illness. Also used for all beaches during an ocean water quality rain advisory
- **Closed;** Ocean water **closed** to water contact due to sewage contaminated water or other health hazard
- No recent sample results available



smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

Data gathered at publichealth.lacounty.gov

CRIME

FROM PAGE 5

most serious violent crimes, partially because they are almost always reported to police. According to the FBI's crime statistics, the number of murders dropped by 6.1% from 2021 to 2022, but is still higher than where it was prior to the pandemic.

For some observers, the jump in serious violent crime was always bound to stabilize, as the shock from the early pandemic wore off. "Violent crime rates had been trending down for at least a decade. And when the pandemic hit, unsurprisingly, with this once-in-a-century event, you saw things shift," said Kim Foxx, state's attorney for Cook County, Illinois. "As we are coming out of the pandemic, the fact that we are now seeing those numbers trend downward again is not surprising to me."

DESPITE THE LONG-TERM TRENDS, THE TWO REPORTS DIFFER MORE THAN EVER BEFORE ON THE YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGE IN VIOLENT CRIME.

Since the methodologies for these two reports are different, it's not unusual for them to show different trends in a particular year, said Richard Rosenfeld, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri, who recently wrote about this divergence for the Council on Criminal Justice. Over the past 30 years, these two reports' difference in year-over-year violence trends has never been as big as it was last year.

In 2021, the FBI changed how it collects data from police departments, and as a result, that year's crime data missed nearly 40% of police agencies. Bureau analysts estimated the missing data with statistical modeling, but the change led to the most incomplete picture of national crime since the FBI began collecting data in the 1930s, which created confusion on how crime trends changed. Last year, the FBI reversed the change and revived the previously-retired data collection system. They also gave agencies that didn't submit data for 2021 a chance to submit their data retrospectively. Nearly 2,500 agencies took the FBI's offer and submitted crime data through the old system for 2022, but it's unclear how many did for 2021.

Experts said the lingering effect of that transition could be why the 2021-2022 trend is unreliable: If the 2021 crime data remains incomplete, it is difficult to compare it with the 2022 data.

These data gaps and disagreements create more space for politicians to spin unsubstantiated, murky narratives. When Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced his run for president, for example, he touted that Florida's crime rate has reached a record low under his administration. But he failed to mention that he relied on a crime rate estimation that was missing data from about half of the state's law enforcement agencies, which policed 40% of the state's population.

The FBI said it cannot address the difference between its crime data and the BJS' victimization survey because it "cannot comment on another agency's report."

In an interview, BJS statisticians said there's no single factor that can neatly explain the divergence — the victimization survey and police statistics are designed to complement each other, and often reflect different aspects of criminal justice and victims' issues.

"It would be nice to know what's happening with violent crime rates," said Richard Rosenfeld. "But having two contrasting reports both coming out of the Justice Department enables politicians, or anyone else who has a horse in the race, to just cherry-pick the estimate that fits best with their [priorities] and ignore the other."

PROPERTY CRIME WENT UP IN 2022

While the Justice Department's two reports diverged on recent violent crime trends, both showed an uptick in property crime from 2021 to 2022: The FBI's crime data showed a 7.1% increase in property crime, while the victimization survey showed a 14.5% jump.

In both reports, a sharp increase in motor vehicle theft and larceny were the main drivers for the increase in property crime. The former, criminologists said, can be partially attributed to the "Kia Boyz," whose videos on how to steal Hyundai and Kia vehicles went viral on social media platforms.

In Chicago, the number of stolen Kia and Hyundais jumped 35 times over a couple of months — from 45 cars stolen in May 2022 to more than 1,400 cars stolen that October, according to data compiled by Vice. Data from other major cities, like Los Angeles, Denver, and Milwaukee, showed similar trends.

Relentless inflation can also lead to more property crimes like theft and larceny, Rosenfeld said. Last summer, the inflation rate reached 9.1% — the highest in decades — which led many people to trade down on where they shop, and some traded down to purchasing stolen goods. While the inflation rate has since dropped, the 2022 crime data doesn't reflect its effect yet.

ONE UNDENIABLE TREND: VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST YOUNG PEOPLE DOUBLED

Another trend that both Justice Department reports show is that young people experienced more violence in 2022.

The FBI's crime data shows that while fatal and non-fatal gun violence against adults declined in 2022, both increased by more than 10% for young people who are under the age of 18. Similarly, the crime victimization survey shows that the violent victimization rate for people between the ages of 12 and 17 doubled last year — from 13 to 27 violent crimes per 1,000 youth, representing the age group that saw the biggest increase in violent victimization.

Researchers have theories on why violence against young people jumped, but caution that little is definitive. Kim Smith, the Director of Programs at the University of Chicago Crime Lab, points to school enrollment as a factor that might be one piece of the puzzle. Nationwide, school enrollment rates fell during the pandemic and are still yet to recover. The Crime Lab has found that in Chicago, a startling 90% of youth shooting victims were not active or enrolled at school at the time they were shot. "Education is the most protective factor against future violence involvement," Smith said.

Other analysts have pointed to the increase in gun purchases since the beginning of the pandemic, and the sense of danger that many young people feel in their neighborhoods. "We had an influx of guns during the COVID shutdown, and an enormous amount of guns that entered the country and ended up on the streets," said Jamila Hodge, executive director of the national violence prevention group Equal Justice USA. "That influx is reflected in the numbers of rising violence against young people — it's access to guns."

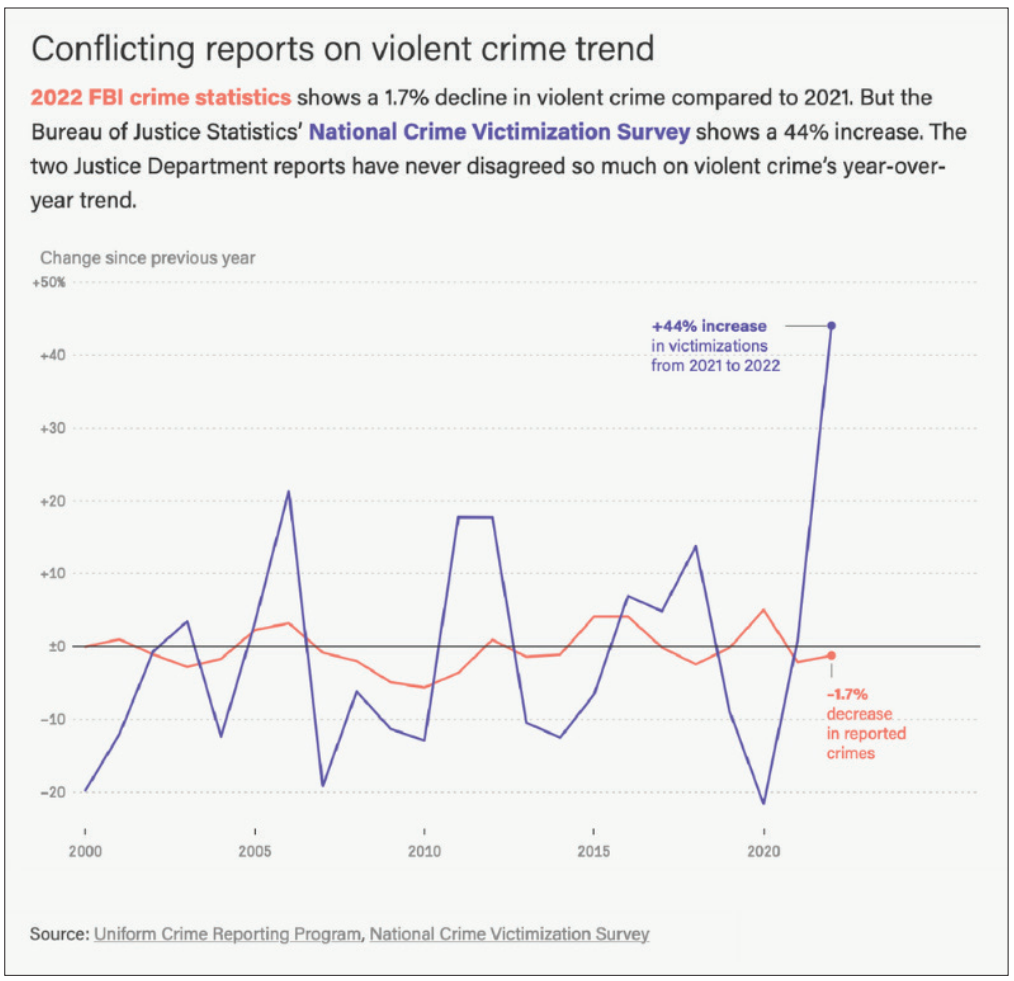
STILL, MOST CRIMES ARE NOT REPORTED TO THE POLICE

While the FBI continues trying to improve the national crime statistics, most property and violent crimes are not reported to the police, the victimization survey shows.

The survey asks victims if they reported crimes they experienced to the police. About 41% of violent crime victims said they reported the incident to the police. But the actual number of violent crimes police recorded is much lower.

While the BJS estimated more than 6 million violent crime victimizations, and estimated more than 2 million of those incidents were reported to the police, the FBI's crime statistics only recorded 1.2 million incidents. In some incidents, a reported crime is not recorded by the police.

This story was produced by The Marshall Project, a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a sense of national urgency about the U.S. criminal justice system, and reviewed and distributed by Stacker Media.





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.

AT ABOUT 7 A.M. ON DEC. 7

The victim of a stabbing flagged down officers working a transit detail near the 4th Street platform. The crime occurred in the 1500 block of 4th Street. Officers conducted a preliminary search but the suspect had already left the immediate area. While investigating, officers located surveillance video of the suspect and using the better description of his features and clothing were able to locate him and the suspected weapon sometime in the 8 a.m. hour. Jadavion Danzy, who is homeless, was booked for attempted homicide. The victim, who is also homeless, was transported to a local hospital for treatment of a non-life threatening puncture wound.

TRIAL

FROM PAGE 1

at the upcoming jury trial to speak on his current condition.

For housing, he submitted an application to the Santa Monica City Housing Authority, and was told his application has been "bumped up the list" for senior housing due to his circumstances. He also noted that he has received numerous calls of support since an original Daily Press article on the case published on Dec. 7, including former business partners living in different states.

"Quite frankly, I'm awestruck by the show of support I've received," Brutzman told the Daily Press. "I'm totally amazed by how far-reaching the (article) has spread (around) the entire country. It's put me in a good frame of mind and has prepared me to emotionally position myself for (future proceedings)."

thomas@smdp.com

GLOBES

FROM PAGE 6

nominated at all. Instead, its star Joaquin Phoenix was recognized for "Beau is Afraid" in the lead actor comedy/musical category, with Wright, Matt Damon ("Air"), Nicolas Cage "Dream Scenario," Timothée Chalamet ("Wonka") and Paul Giamatti ("The Holdovers"). Michael Mann's "Ferrari," with Adam Driver, and Wes Anderson's starry "Asteroid City" also got zero nominations.

The voting body has now grown to 300 members, following backlash to a 2021 report in the Los Angeles Times that found that there were zero Black members in the group that was then composed of only 87 foreign journalists.

Perhaps as a result, there were more international films and actors nominated in prominent categories including the Finnish comedy "Fallen Leaves," the courtroom thriller "Anatomy of a Fall" and the harrowing Auschwitz drama "The Zone of Interest."

The 81st Golden Globes will be the first major broadcast of awards season, with a new home on CBS, but no word yet on a host. It's been tumultuous few years behind the scenes in the aftermath of the L.A. Times report, which also exposed ethical lapses like its members accepting lavish gifts and travel from awards publicists and studios.

The Globes had long been one of the highest-profile broadcasts, second only to the Oscars. Before the pandemic, it was still pulling in around 19 million viewers. The show was touted as a boozy, A-list party, whose hosts often took a more irreverent tone than their academy counterparts.

Some years, the HFPA were pilloried for nominating poorly reviewed films with big name talent with hopes of getting them to the show, the most infamous being "The Tourist," with Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp. In the past decade, they've more often overlapped with the Oscars.

This year, NBC's Tuesday night broadcast got its smallest audience ever for the ceremony, with 6.3 million viewers.

AP Film Writer Jake Coyle and National Writer Jocelyn Noveck contributed from New York.



SMC

FROM PAGE 1

schools, period. When students are targeted because they are—or are perceived to be—Jewish, Muslim, Arab, Sikh, or any other ethnicity or shared ancestry, schools must act to ensure safe and inclusive educational environments where everyone is free to learn," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "These investigations underscore how seriously the Biden-Harris Administration, including the U.S. Department of Education, takes our responsibility to protect students from hatred and discrimination."

According to SMC Trustee Dr. Sion Roy, the local case stems from students excluding Students Supporting Israel (SSI) from campus activities.

SSI describes itself as "a rapidly growing Zionist international campus movement that supports the State of Israel." While the local chapter of the organization had qualified as a fully functional club on campus, students at an October meeting of SMC's Inter-Club Council's (ICC) denied SSI status as an official club citing opposition to Israel's treatment of Palestinians, in violation of federal law.

The SMC administration reversed that decision the next day.

"Based on legal advice received from Campus Counsel, there is no lawful basis to deny recognition to SSI as a student club," said a statement released by the SMC Office of Student Life the day after the meeting. "SSI will be given recognized status and full club support at 66% funding determined by the Inter-Club Council Constitution until the club can be officially recognized at the next Inter-Club Council meeting."

SMC said it was aware of the complaint and is responding to the concerns of students.

"On December 4, 2023, Santa Monica College received a letter from the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education asking us to respond to a complaint concerning the Associated Students' Inter-Club Council (ICC) meeting of October 19, 2023," said Director of Public Information Grace A. Smith. "When students brought their concerns to the attention of College administrators, the College took prompt action on October 20, 2023 and shared publicly the steps it took to immediately redress a situation in which the Associated Students' ICC failed to install Students Supporting Israel at SMC (SSI-SMC) as a club. This prompt action demonstrates the college's commitment to a discrimination-free environment for all students and was acknowledged by SSI-SMC via a post on their official Instagram account that same day. The college stands against all forms of hate, including anti-Semitism. Most recently, on Nov. 7, 2023 the SMC Board of Trustees passed a resolution in support of United Against Hate week which acknowledged the increases in anti-Semitism amid other ongoing acts of hate and discrimination against marginalized groups throughout the nation."

The club thanked the school for their action but said the incident shouldn't have happened to start with.

"The SSI at SMC team would like to thank everyone of you for the support you have shown us," the club wrote on social media. "It is through your support that the decision not to install the SSI club was rectified. As of now are installed as an official club, and thank Santa Monica College for their swift response to our concerns. Their cooperation and professionalism make us proud to be SMC students. However, let us not forget about the blatant antisemitism that caused such an issue to begin with. That is something that will not be tolerated. We love you all and with you all a Shabbat Shalom."

> This prompt action demonstrates the college's commitment to a discrimination-free environment for all students and was acknowledged by SSI-SMC via a post on their official Instagram account that same day.
>
> — Director of Public Information Grace A. Smith

In addition to overriding the student's exclusion, SMC officials addressed the issue with the Club Council informing them of their obligations under the law.

"SMC's office of student life had a prompt response in support of reinstating SSI as a recognized club and took steps to ensure an environment at ICC free from antisemitism or other forms of discrimination," said Dr. Sion Roy, Santa Monica College Trustee on social media. "All discrimination is abhorrent and the increased acts of antisemitism across the world is unacceptable, especially on our campus. The college will continue to do everything it can to make sure that all students are heard and treated equally."

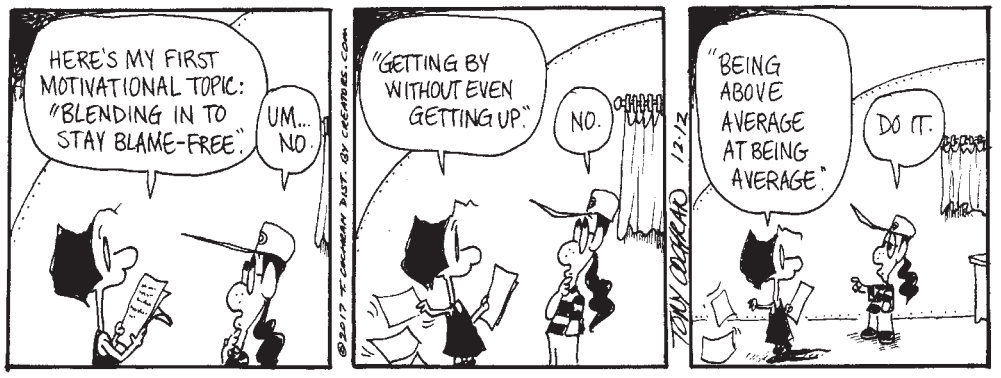
Despite the school's response, the club's advisor, Darryl-Keith Ogata, escalated the incident to federal officials saying Jewish students had been made to feel unsafe.

"As their faculty advisor I am again disappointed that SMC is unable to provide a safe environment for students to learn and experience extracurricular activities. Discrimination of any kind is not acceptable. Antisemitism has no place in public institutions of higher learning like SMC," he said in a letter to school officials following the incident.

editor@smdp.com

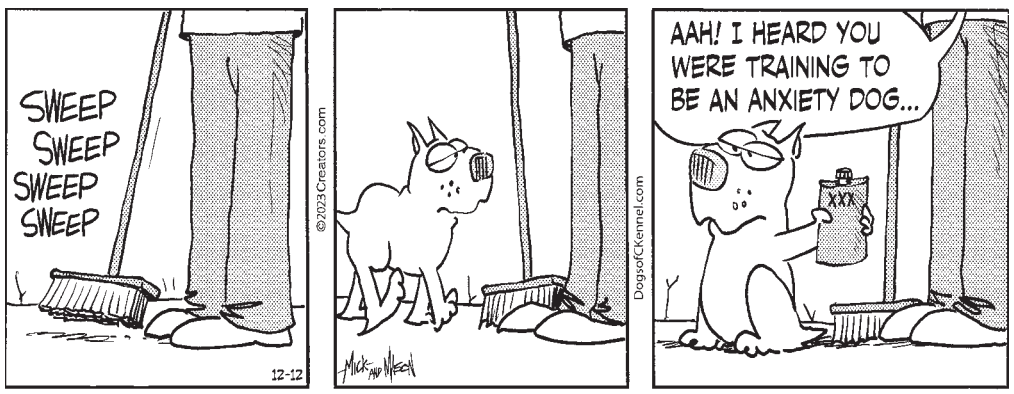
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



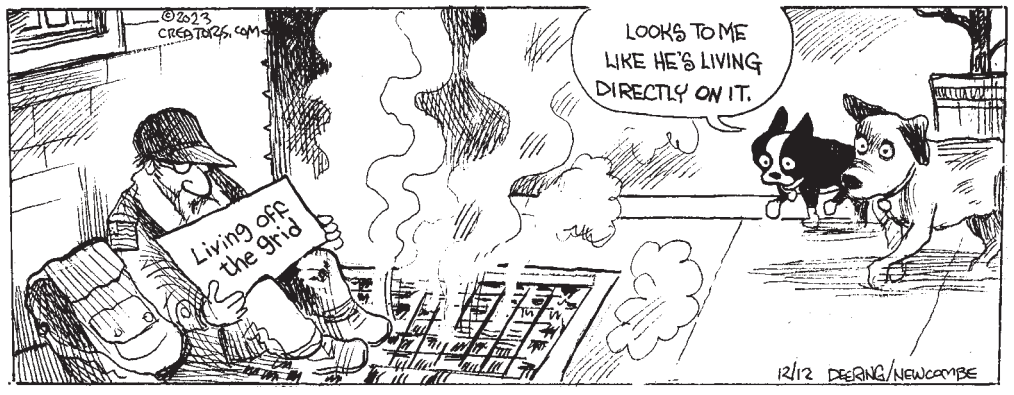
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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NSW's capital

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

Agog
Airds
Beat
Botanic Gardens
Calm
Clontarf
Como
Drama
Duet
Dundas
Dural
East
Elation
Encore
Ferry
Fish
Gymea
Harmony
Idea
Inquire
Kingsgrove
Look
Marrickville
Menai
Mezzo
Newport
Notes
Oatley
Ocean
Parks
Roads
Ruse
Ryde
Saga
Sails
Shop
Solo
Song
Surf
Swim
Tenor
Tour
Tragedy
Ultimo
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West
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 12)

This year features the sweetest version of progress, and what makes your advancement so exciting is that you get to take your best teammates with you. More highlights: Allegiances will be rewarded. Something you produce will be in high demand. You'll receive a tidy sum to invest exactly where it will yield the treasure you most appreciate. Aquarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 14, 20, 21 and 34.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You got a bum deal and it's been hard to erase the memory of it. You won't be able to, so don't try. The best you can do is reframe the event. It did make you better, introduce you to people and strengths you never knew, and it gave you a good story, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are working in a highly competitive environment. A once-abandoned ambition now comes back into your realm of possibility. In this matter, the only way to fail is to stop trying.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will act independently, precisely to prove you can — as good a reason to flex as any could be. It's normal to fear being controlled by external circumstances. You will demonstrate to those around you that you are the director of yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have talents both common and uncommon. With the second category, the average person may not recognize, utilize or praise your work. Consider if it would be worthwhile to make your offering more accessible to everyone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You seek a path that includes an element of danger, heat, buzz or exclusivity — only then does the journey seem worthy of your brave spirit. Risk and adventure are best mates; one seldom travels without the other.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your requests are reasonable, but it doesn't necessarily correlate with the other person's ability to fulfill. Stay on your toes, alert and ready to handle the unexpected. When it happens, you'll do your best work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your powers of diplomacy are legendary. Your natural state is one of cooperation. It's amazing to you that some people actually thrive on conflict. You can safely move around them. You don't have to fight to win.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There may be things you don't prefer about the situation, but you won't dwell there; you either fix it forget it. It's time to stretch and experiment. You don't want to be defined and will defy anyone who tries to do so.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A treasure of an idea is shimmering in the realm of the in between. You can sense it on the other side of a membrane between reality and the cosmic soup. It's as attracted to you as you are to it, and the union is imminent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). No matter how tight a relationship is, there will always be a distance between two separate beings. The distance might be caused by timing, locality, sensibility or lifestyle. Whatever love can't bridge, more love can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Self-development is alchemy. Just as you can't bang on lead and turn it into gold, you can't hammer improvements into yourself to feel shiny new. Fulfill your appetites and curiosities. The magic will unfold in the mysterious way it does.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You feel a responsibility to acknowledge the people you share a space in time with. Whether friend or stranger, you don't miss the chance to relax, smile and set aside your own agenda in the spirit of connection.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

	6				5	9		
		7					6	
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		9		5		3		6
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		6	8				7	

Newsday Crossword

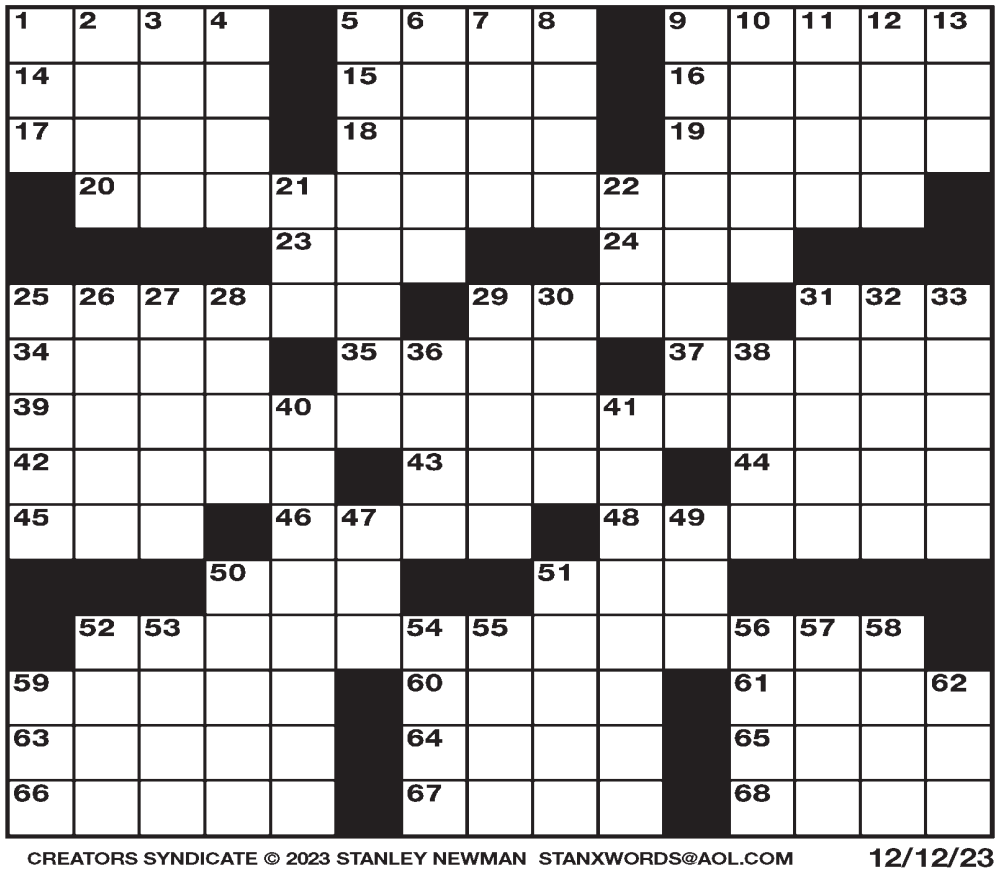
ON THE MARCH by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Make preparations
5 Pasta nutrient, for short
9 Computer infection
14 Stand up
15 Bassoon kin
16 Currently occupied
17 Leave out
18 Orderly and clean
19 Decree
20 Soldier's ABCs
23 __ Moines, IA
24 Santa __, CA
25 Where ships anchor
29 Well-qualified
31 %: Abbr.
34 Soprano's solo
35 Mexican snack
37 Steeple
39 Soldier's marching rhythm
42 Treat badly
43 Ancient Roman garment
44 Signals to actors
45 Tree fluid
46 Nevada city
48 Have a brawl, in rural slang
50 Poor grade
51 Paper towel layer
52 Soldier's instructor
59 With 5 Down, type of orchestral work
60 Duo
61 Den or kitchen
63 Santa's helpers
64 Apex
65 Zoo enclosure
66 Attentive
67 Those people
68 Took a photo of

DOWN

1 Golf instructor
2 Arm or leg
3 Korea's continent
4 Butterfly catchers
5 See 59 Across
6 Aids in crime
7 Lion's sound
8 Software test version
9 From Austria's capital
10 Gandhi's homeland
11 Devastate
12 Ocean rescue org.
13 Full collection
21 Wedding phrase
22 Suffix for proverb
25 Laughing sounds
26 Dutch Caribbean island
27 Tear to shreds
28 Flying mammals
29 Sneeze sound
30 Tennis great Bjorn
31 Devout
32 Very mean
33 Concise in speech
36 Envelope abbr.
38 One-stripe GIs
40 "Let's ask for directions"
41 Type of tea
47 Electrified fish
49 Sailor's "yes"
50 Informal eatery
51 Most important
52 Pickle flavoring
53 Rant and __
54 Minor quarrel
55 Per person
56 Curved lines
57 Biblical boat builder
58 For eating elsewhere
59 Small green veggie
62 Encountered



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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 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.

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 13

COMPUTER CLASS: HOW TO BUY A COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE
Learn what to look for when buying a device this holiday season. For beginners. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 12 - 1:30 p.m.

WINTER TALES, SNACKS & CRAFTS
Enjoy cozy winter stories read by the library's teen volunteers while enjoying winter-themed snacks and a craft. For families. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

COME SING WITH THE BAND - LIVE BAND KARAOKE
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. New Band!! New Experience!! Come in Sign up SING!

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 14

COMBAT PRINCESS USA (TOKYO JOSHI PRO WRESTLING & PRESTIGE WRESTLING)
Tokyo Joshi Pro Wrestling & Prestige Wrestling present COMBAT PRINCESS USA. Globe Theatre, 740 S Broadway 7 - 10:30 p.m. $55- $200. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combat-princess-usa-tokyo-joshi-pro-wrestling-prestige-wrestling-tickets-690414718007.

ROCK N COMEDY NIGHT
2nd Thursdays of the month. $10. 8:30 p.m. door 9 p.m. show. Comedians from Netflix, BET, Prime etc Hosted by Reid Clark. Raffles, Prizes and giveaways. 1120 Wilshire Blvd. Avoid Eventbrite Fees by sending a cashapp to $rccomedy or venmo/paypal @ reidclarkcomedy

HANUKKAH IN SANTA MONICA
Celebrate the Festival of Lights during the Hanukkah season with nightly menorah lightings on the 1400 block of Third Street Promenade (located between Santa Monica Blvd and Broadway). The lighting ceremonies will begin at sundown. The final lighting ceremony will take place at the ice rink.

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS
A LA Law Library legal research specialist helps patrons find answers to legal questions, learn about the law, or prepare to go to court. Legal research specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice, help fill out forms, or interpret the law. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 6 p.m.

LYRIC CHORUS: SONGS OF THE SEASON
Lyric Chorus of SMC Emeritus College puts you in the holiday mood with their seasonal favorites and festive Broadway tunes. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
The Library Board meets the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Main Library, Administrative Conference Room, 601 Santa Monica Public Library. The public is welcome to attend. Current and past agendas and minutes are available on smpl.org. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main Street, 6 - 8 p.m.

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING
The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 15

LA POSADA
Virginia Avenue Park and Familias Latinas Unidas invite you to their annual La Posada event. Gather in front of the library at 5PM. Processions begins at 5:30PM. Bring beach chairs and blankets to set out on the grass and enjoy the entertainment! Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 5 - 10 p.m.

SMC HOLIDAY ART SALE
Santa Monica College's 45th Annual Holiday Art Sale, featuring a wide range of creative original works at fabulous prices, will be a three-day event again this year. Here's your once-a-year chance to buy some truly unique works of art — prints, ceramics, jewelry, and more created by SMC art students, staff, and faculty — to keep for yourself or to give as gifts this holiday season. East Wing Music Hall, SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 16

VERMICULTURE WORKSHOP AND GENTLY USED TOY/BOOK SWAP
Come join organizers for a dive into the life of Worms and their part in recycling your kitchen scraps. If you are interested in starting your own worm bin at home, this is the perfect time to learn the do's and don'ts to make your project successful. They don't part with our worms easily, but if you need a handful to kick start your vermiculture campaign, they'll send you home with some hungry ones. This event is also our 3rd Annual Gently Used Children's Toy and Book Pick Up. Do you know a small child (your own, relative, neighbor, etc.) that could use some cheer over the Holidays? Be part of the Upcycle movement. Give a gift to put a smile on someone's face, with a lesson about sharing and passing along. Ishihara Park, 2909 Exposition Blvd. 9 - 11 a.m.

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of award-winning current and classic fiction, held via Zoom. Contact library@santamonica.gov for the link. December's selection is Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie. Virtual. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

UC MASTER GARDENERS AT PICO FARMERS MARKET
Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. he booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis. Market attendance is subject to change based on weather and holidays. Virginia Ave. Park 2200 Virginia Ave. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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ADULT PAINTING
Please RSVP by emailing palsds@lapl.org or stop by the Reference Desk at the branch. Come spend an afternoon learning how to paint with Martha Meade. We will be painting with acrylics on canvas and producing a masterpiece each of you can take home and hang on your wall. Martha is a Pacific Palisades-based painter who works primarily in oils on canvas. She is a long-time resident of Pacific Palisades and a member of the Pacific Palisades Art Association. Space is limited, so please RSVP to palsds@lapl.org or stop by the Reference Desk to reserve your place.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 17

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THE BIGGEST FRIENDS & GAMES SOCIAL IN LOS ANGELES
Join organizers For an Exclusive Friends & Brunch Social at Sorry Not Sorry: Everyone's Welcome! Searching for the ultimate weekend plan? Whether you're coming solo or with your crew, you're invited to an exclusive experience at "Sorry Not Sorry," the Westside's hottest cocktail lounge. We've reserved the entire venue—lounge and patio—just for you! 11520 West Pico Boulevard. $12 - $35.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-biggest-friends-games-social-in-los-angeles-tickets-771788218337

MONDAY | DECEMBER 18

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
City Hall, 1685 Main Street, 7 p.m. Agenda online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. 7 p.m. Information available online https://www.santamonica.gov/categories/programs/sustainability-and-the-environment

VIRGINIA AVE PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 7 p.m. Agenda's available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/CCS/content.aspx?id=52743

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