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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 20 | THURSDAY 12/12/24 | smdp.com

Look to eat, drink and be merry for food bank

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica will look more like Santa's Workshop on Saturday, with thousands of Santa's helpers expected to roam the streets for a worthy cause.

The 16th annual SANTA Monica Pub Crawl returns, with more than 20 of the city's best bars and restaurants expecting one of the busiest traffic nights of the year. The hefty attendee list will not only support the local businesses, but will go towards fundraising for the Westside Food Bank.

Since 2008, the crawl has raised over half a million meals for the food bank, which distributes nearly 4 million pounds of food annually to the food assistance programs of 65 Westside social service agencies. The crawl comes a month after the bank's annual Hunger Walk, which President and CEO Genevieve Riutort said raised over $100,000 for the organization.

Spin PR President Kim Koury, who created the crawl, picked the food bank as a partner from the event's origin.

"(We were) looking into the organization that was near in our backyard," Koury said. "I live a couple blocks from the actual food bank itself, and knowing that they distribute food to the entire Westside and a lot of women and children during the holiday season, (it) felt near and dear to our hearts and (we wanted) to help support them."

SEE **PUB CRAWL** PAGE 11



Courtesy Photo

CRAWL: The 16th annual SANTA Monica Pub Crawl returns Saturday to raise funds for local businesses and the Westside Food Bank.

Malibu wildfire prompts evacuation orders and warnings for 20,000, including Dick Van Dyke and Cher



LA County Fire Department

BLAZE: Crews have been working to gain a measure of control over the fire.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Officials in Southern California reported significant overnight growth of a wind-driven wildfire that has forced thousands of people, including celebrities like Cher and Dick Van Dyke, from their homes in Malibu, but forecasters said firefighters could get a break Wednesday from improving weather conditions.

With much of the coastal city under evacuation orders and

SEE **WILDFIRE** PAGE 8

The second coming of Santa Monica's beloved Nativity scenes

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The non-profit organization that creates Santa Monica's beloved Nativity scenes has found a new home for their life-size diorama for the 2024 holiday season at 2311 Main Street. The official opening was on Sunday and featured live music, refreshments and a celebration of the 70-year-old festive tradition.

"Santa Monica used to be called the 'City of the Christmas story,' it was actually on the patches that the policemen used to wear on their sleeves," said Kari Czer, of the organizers of Santa Monica Nativity Scenes, adding, "They would close off Wilshire Boulevard, they'd have a parade down Wilshire and then walk all the way to the Palisades Park, where the scenes had been set up that Saturday before and it was a huge deal."

There are 14 different scenes in total from the story of the birth of Jesus that Santa Monica Nativity Scenes (SMNS) traditionally display: the Annunciation, Joseph's Dream, the Visitation, Caesar's Decree, Rest Along the Road, No Room at the Inn, Peace on Earth, the Nativity, Herod's Court, the Three Wisemen, Presentation at the Temple, Joseph's Warning, Flight To Egypt and finally, the Return to Nazareth.

Five scenes are currently on display at the Main Street site, the Annunciation, the Visitation, Peace on Earth, the Nativity and the Three Wisemen. The work of the SMNS began back in 1953, when Herb Spurgeon, a local businessman and civic leader, collaborated with Santa Monica churches to create the

SEE **NATIVITY** PAGE 11



Scott Snowden

NATIVITY: The Nativity scenes are now open.



James Wesley Lowe

James Wesley Lowe, 68, son of John Kirby Lowe Jr. and Elisabeth N. Lowe, passed away peacefully of natural causes at his home in Santa Monica, CA. He will be missed beyond understanding by his family, including his six remaining siblings in the Atlanta area, and his many friends and acquaintances in California and Georgia.



James had a 45-plus-year career in the hospitality industry, working as a server for the finest restaurants in Atlanta, San Diego, Los Angeles, La Jolla, and Santa Monica. These spanned the Westin Peachtree Plaza to the Ritz Carlton. His customers loved him for his professionalism and endless sunny demeanor.

In addition to his six siblings, Susan, John, Eva, Guy, Bessie, and Mary, James is survived by his brothers in-law, numerous nieces and nephews, and countless friends and acquaintances across the nation, including Colin Hadlow and Steve Bolan.

James:

May the longtime sun shine upon you, all love surround you, and the sweet light within you guide your way on.

Woodlawn Cemetery arranged for Mr. Lowe's ashes to be scattered at sea.

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Roosevelt plan, budget talks headline special school board meeting



Courtesy Graphic
CONSTRUCTION: Roosevelt Elementary School could look much different with an overhaul detailed in its campus plan.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Local educational leaders will have a lengthy agenda to address on Thursday, taking some items off the calendar as 2024 comes to a close.

That night, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education will be taking on all manner of construction and monetary updates, including the adoption of a school campus plan in the former category and the 2023-24 annual district audit report in the latter.

For the campus plan of Roosevelt Elementary School, Thursday marks the potential adoption deciding to carry out the project as well as certify its final Environmental Impact Report and adopt a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. The proposed project at Roosevelt would redevelop and modernize the campus, implemented over approximately seven years in five phases.

Proposals at Roosevelt call for the removal and demolishing of 19 buildings and 12 portables and the construction of six new buildings, including an auditorium, a cafeteria/kitchen and a new library. In addition, renovations would take place in three buildings and the South Courtyard, while sports fields would be replaced and new green spaces for outdoor learning and play will be implemented.

The first phase of the project, which would include the relocation of several Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms, has a completed design with construction ready to commence in June 2025. Construction would be complete by 2027.

Another property-related matter is the approval of Agreement of Purchase and Sale and Joint Escrow Instructions for the acquisition of leasehold interest at 1631-1645 16th St., 1630-1646 17th St. and 902-926 Colorado Ave. The agreement with STG Three Properties, LLC will end the lease the company has with the district properties, allowing the district to flexibly manage the property, including the potential for a district bus yard to move to the Colorado site.

Budgets from both 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years will be examined by the board as well, with the audit firm of CWDL completing the 2023-24 financial audits for the district as well as Measures R, ES, SMS and M.

In CWDL's financial analysis, the firm noted that the district's General Fund had over $27 million more in revenues and other financing sources than expenditures in the fiscal year ending June 30. The firm attributed this to higher than projected revenues such as increased Measure R funds and an increased RDA (Community Development Funds) property tax. Expenditures were down in 2023-24 in the areas of unspent supplies and textbooks, as well as over $4.2 million in unspent "other operating costs" (covering things like legal, travel, consultants, utilities and repairs).

Finally, the board will look to approve the 2024-25 First Interim Report of the district budget, which is highlighted by $20.43 million of the 2024-24 ending general fund balance added to the 2024-25 beginning fund balance. RDA revenue also increased by $4 million, while increased operational costs were seen via a $814,000 increase in consultants.

thomas@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Californians are sour about economy. Their votes this year reflected it

DAN WALTERS

Pundits and academics who have parsed the data of Donald Trump's presidential victory five weeks ago differ on the fine points but generally agree that it reflected voters' widespread unhappiness with the status quo, particularly their personal finances and inflation.

Living costs jumped about 20% under the Biden administration. While its policies may not have been directly or fully responsible, it's a time-honored political axiom that if voters have serious economic concerns, they will punish the party in power.

As James Carville, who ran Bill Clinton's successful 1992 presidential campaign, famously said, "It's the economy, stupid." Clinton's campaign portrayed then-President George H.W. Bush as oblivious to voters' angst, just as Trump did against Vice President Kamala Harris.

California, of course, is a deeply blue state so Harris could count on capturing its 52 electoral votes. But its voters were, in the main, just as frustrated — if not more so — about the impact of inflation. The state's presidential vote reflected it.

Harris garnered roughly 9.3 million votes in California, nearly 2 million votes and five percentage points fewer than Biden received in 2020, while Trump's 6.1 million California votes were slightly higher than his 2020 showing.

A new attitudinal survey by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California quantifies the unrest behind Harris's mediocre showing in her home state.

"Over the next 12 months, 56 percent of adult residents expect bad times financially in California," PPIC pollsters wrote of the survey, which was conducted just after the election.

"Today, solid majorities of Republicans (60%) and independents (65%) are pessimistic, compared to 47% of Democrats," they added. "And majorities across income groups and state regions expect bad times financially in the next 12 months."

Furthermore, the poll found, "Only one in three Californians think that the American Dream — the notion that if you work hard, you'll get ahead — holds true. About half or more across partisan and demographic groups and state regions think the American Dream once held true, while 15 percent think it never held true. Just 25 percent of 18-to-34-year-olds and 26 percent of renters think that the American Dream still holds true."

Finally, more than 60% of those surveyed — and at least majorities of all partisan, economic and geographic subgroups — believe that the American Dream is more difficult to achieve in California than anywhere else. That belief led to 26% of adults saying that a lack of well-paying jobs in California has made them consider moving, mostly to other states.



Photo by Justin Sullivan, Getty Images
ECONOMY: A customer walks by a display of fresh eggs at a grocery store on Sept. 25, 2024 in the San Anselmo area of Marin County. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, egg prices have surged over 28 percent in August largely due to avian influenza (HPAI), also known as bird flu. Nearly 101 million birds have been impacted by bird flu since 2022 which has significantly lowered the number of eggs being produced.

Adults with children, renters and young adults are most likely to consider moving.

These attitudes reflect the reality of life in California. Everything is extraordinarily expensive here — housing especially — and the state has seen a strong outflow of population in recent years to states with lower costs for housing, utilities and other necessities of life. If it continues, California will lose congressional seats after the 2030 census and therefore its electoral votes.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and his fellow Democrats who control the Legislature have sensed voters' sour attitudes and have pledged to work on lowering living costs, but they don't have many ways to do so. The 20% inflation is already baked into the economy and the state lacks the powers of a federal government over interest rates and money supply that would be needed to have noticeable impact.

Newsom's two terms as governor will expire two years but there are at least a half-dozen Democrats who appear interested in succeeding him. If the negativism of the new poll persists, the 2026 election will be another opportunity for California voters to send a message.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.2**

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Looking like a fun day with more NW swell moving in and SW swell lingering. Favorable winds due in the morning. Best to let the 6'+ sunrise high tide back out for a while.

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

A surfable morning window if you wait out the early high tide. Lingering NW swell and some SSW energy.

Weather

Thursday: A 40 percent chance of rain, mainly between 10am and 4pm. Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 59.
Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain before 10pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 47.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 60. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/12/12	Thu	06:12 AM	6.46	H
2024/12/12	Thu	1:26 PM	-0.78	L
2024/12/12	Thu	7:45 PM	3.72	H
2024/12/13	Fri	12:25 AM	1.81	L
2024/12/13	Fri	06:52 AM	6.82	H
2024/12/13	Fri	2:12 PM	-1.31	L
2024/12/13	Fri	8:39 PM	3.77	H
2024/12/14	Sat	01:09 AM	2.02	L
2024/12/14	Sat	07:33 AM	7.00	H
2024/12/14	Sat	2:57 PM	-1.58	L
2024/12/14	Sat	9:30 PM	3.79	H
2024/12/15	Sun	01:53 AM	2.18	L
2024/12/15	Sun	08:15 AM	6.98	H
2024/12/15	Sun	3:42 PM	-1.61	L
2024/12/15	Sun	10:20 PM	3.76	H
2024/12/16	Mon	02:38 AM	2.32	L
2024/12/16	Mon	08:57 AM	6.78	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
35 37 40 45 51
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 30 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/10
12 14 26 48 52
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 670 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/7
6 7 17 19 44
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 47 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/10
12 20 21 25 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/10
EVENING: 2 4 8
Draw Date: 12/10
MIDDAY: 1 9 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/10
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:42.49

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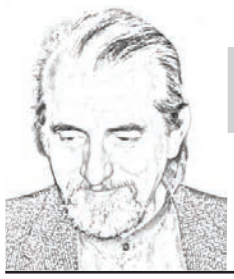
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WINNER

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Santa Monica Daily Press



OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Zubie, Schoenberg, Don't Miss

POLKAS AND... AC/DC?

I haven't been able to confirm one way or another, but the day of the traditional presidential pardon of the two Thanksgiving turkeys Peach and Blossom, one of the news stations said they had been raised on the music of AC/DC and... polkas. If it was a joke – I loved it.

RECOMMENDED:

Tonight -"KOOZA," CIRQUE DU SOLEIL – Now you don't have to drive to Vegas! This is a good bet as HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, and hopefully I will be able to report back on that, but a couple of friends gave it high marks. No one else really does what they do, on this scale. They invented it. I've only seen a few of their shows but they seem to have retained their high standards all these years, ever since I saw their first one also here on SM Beach, by the Pier, 37 years ago, that launched them to great international success. I think they know they have a rep to maintain with Santa Monicans. Thurs, Fri, Sat, next Thurs 8 p.m., Sat 4:30 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m., Santa Monica Pier, $69-310.

ZUBIN MEHTA Conducts SCHOENBERG'S "Gurrelieder," LA PHIL, LA Master Chorale – This is the Schoenberg you want to experience, the former LA denizen who took a last shot at Romanticism before diving into Expressionism (and changing classical music in the 20th century), creating a sprawling masterpiece with five vocal soloists, a narrator, several choirs and a whole lotta musicians on stage all at once. It is rarely performed because of all this and because not many conductors are willing to take it on, but former LA Phil denizen Zubin Mehta is a Schoenberg master, so we are in for a treat. Fri 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $45-195.

STEVIE WONDER, "House Full of Toys"/"Sing Your Song! As We Fix Our Nation's Broken Heart" – This year they tacked the LA stop onto the end of his sold out big city "Heal" tour, coinciding with his annual Christmastime 25th "Toy" concert, so you can get in for only 20 bucks (and an unwrapped toy or "gift of joy"), talk about a win-win. They never announce guest artists for these shows, but it is LA and a good cause, so you can count on telling all your friends about who walked on stage and performed. But even if there wasn't one, an entire show by Stevie is something you will never forget. I once saw him do more than two hours at the House of Blues – man I miss that place, what a loss to have it torn down and thrown away – solo with band and singers, and it was a gobsmack to be reminded just how many great songs this mighty musician has created. Sat 8 p.m., Crypto.com Arena, LA, $20-202.

BILLIE EILISH – It took my millennial daughter about two minutes to "get" Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell, dad maybe two years, because I didn't sit down and listen to an entire album. But song by quirky song I began to understand what a special, rare talent she is. Along with her brilliant songwriting-producing brother Finneas, they were homeschooled by their creative parents to pursue all the arts, and by 13 Billie was working with Finneas out of their Highland Park home to release a successful EP at 16 and two years later her debut album shot straight to the top of both US and UK charts. She has 32 Grammy noms and 9 wins, Finneas has 17 noms and 10 wins. She did a James Bond theme song, for Pete's sake, as a teen – and won an Oscar. She was diagnosed with Tourets at 11, and was sexually assaulted as a child. She seems to eschew the glittery trappings of pop stardom, and that's refreshing. I hope she lives to be 100. Sun, Mon, Tues 7 p.m., Kia Forum, Inglewood, $230 (but good luck, almost all shows sold out, including more next week — what is that, 85,000 tickets?!).



Courtesy photo

MUSIC: Mehta masters schoenberg.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – His decades-long Sunday night residency at Santa Monica's Harvelle's, the oldest blues bar in LA (almost a century!), is a treasure that you shouldn't assume will always be there. Toledo choreographs (literally) a truly unique show, a blend of '50s hipster jazz and his dancing dames and a most modern smokin' hot band that gets better all the time. Every Sunday 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS (also recommended): "KOOZA," CIRQUE DU SOLEIL, Santa Monica Pier, 12/12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; ZUBIN MEHTA Conducts SCHOENBERG'S "Gurrelieder," LA PHIL, LA Master Chorale, Disney Hall, 12/13, 15; STEVIE WONDER, Crypto.com Arena, 12/14; BILLIE EILISH, Kia Forum, 12/15, 16, 17, 20, 21; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 12/15, 22, 29; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 12/16, 23, 30; LOSTON HARRIS, Jazz Bakery, 12/21; SAMANTHA FISH, Fonda, 12/21; TONY GILKYSON, RICK HOLMSTROM, Cinema Bar, 12/24.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 38 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or hate mail to: therealmrmusic@gmail.com

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Meet Me Under The Fig Tree, Marina Holiday Boat Parade, & More

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes the Meet Me Under The Fig Tree event, 16th Annual Santa Monica Pub Crawl, Marina Holiday Boat Parade, and much more!

Holiday Cheer on the Pier: The SaMo Pier is bringing holiday cheer this year with holiday music and performances, puppetry, singalongs, and holiday cheer. Thursday, Dec. 12 & 19, 4:00 - 8:00p.m. https://www.santamonicapier.org/cheeronthepier/

16th Annual Santa Monica Pub Crawl: Crawl for a Cause at the Largest Holiday Crawl on the West Coast! Join Thousands of Crawlers and Help Those in Need for the Holidays! Saturday, Dec. 14. https://santamonicapubcrawl.com/

Holey Moley Mini Golf Club Now Open on 3rd St. Promenade: Choose from three different 9-hole courses inspired by pop culture & nostalgia, along with cocktails and food options, and even "Putt-putt and karaoke." 1315 3rd Street Promenade https://www.holeymoley.com/locations/santa-monica



Courtesy photo

TREE: The popular holiday event returns this week.

Taylor Swift's Birthday at Ice Santa Monica: 'Tis the damn season to celebrate TayTay's birthday! Show up in your favorite era's style (or cardigan). First (50) skaters per session will receive a friendship bracelet. Friday, Dec. 13. https://iceatsantamonica.com/santa-monica-events/

Marina del Rey Holiday Boat Parade: This year's theme is "A Margaritaville Holiday" and approx 25,000 people are expected for this 62nd Annual Boat Parade, with festivities at various viewing spots like Fisherman's Village and Burton Chace Park. Saturday, Dec. 14 https://mdrboatparade.org

Meet Me Under The Fig Tree: Expect photos with Santa under the Fig Tree, Cookie decorating, arts & crafts, bounce house & snow machine, live tunes & special performances by the SaMo High Orchestra + master pianist Jason Pelsey, eats from FIG, Emporium Thai, BOA Steak, Sushi Roku, Chef Luigi Fineo, Michael's & Shake Shack, meet the SMDP horses and check out the fire truck showcase. FREE. Sunday, Dec. 15, 1:00 - 4:00p.m., Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.fairmont-miramar.com/events/meet-me-under-the-fig-tree/

The Gourmandise School: Take-home baking kits for gifting and festive cooking classes, including The Holiday Cookie Tin and the 13th Annual Yule Log Bake & Take with classes on Dec. 14, 15, 21, 22 & 23. thegourmandiseschool.com

ONGOING: Cirque du Soleil Kooza (until 1/5); Ice @ Santa Monica (until 1/20); LiteBrite Experience

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

The Infatuation's The Best Restaurants In Santa Monica List: The updated list includes Michelin rated places like Pasjoli, Melisse, and Birdie G's, casual spots like Shirube and Crudo e Nudo, and of course Bay Cities. https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-restaurants-in-santa-monica

5 Santa Monica Restaurants Ranked in LA Times 101 Best In Los Angeles: Pasjoli ranks highest at 18, followed by Mélisse (24), Rustic Canyon (28), Birdie G's (52), and Cassia (75). https://www.latimes.com/food/list/101-best-restaurants-los-angeles

Last Chance to Dine at Rose Cafe: It closes it's doors for good after brunch on Sunday Dec. 15 after 45 years of service. More details on its history and closing in this EaterLA article.

NBC4 Video Report on AJA Vineyards SaMo Tasting Room: Watch this video to "meet founder and wine proprietor, Amanda Rubin, to learn about the brand and what makes Malibu wine so unique." https://www.nbclosangeles.com/california-live/taste-the-malibu-coast-wines-from-aja-vineyards-at-their-tasting-room-in-santa-monica/3576632/

Holey Grail Donuts Collab w/ Guelaguetza Chef Bricia Lopez: The Mole Grail donut is available through Dec. 31 in collaboration with chef, entrepreneur, and acclaimed author Bricia Lopez of the James Beard Award-winning restaurant Guelaguetza. 2441 Main St.

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 11

"What is the difference between Meghan and a Terrorist?

You can negotiate with a Terrorist."

Liz SuperLibrarian

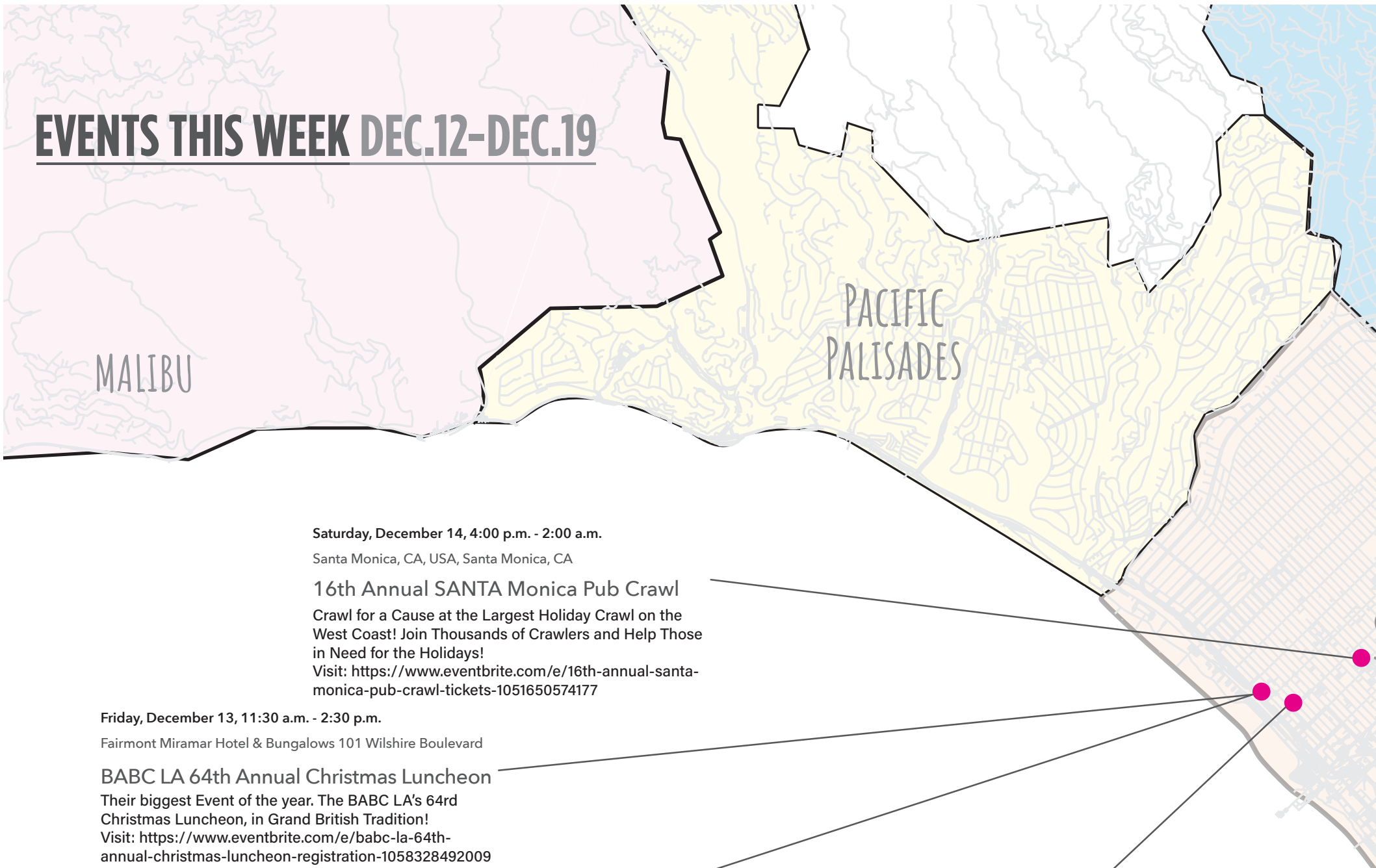
It will be a clean fight and strictly by the book!



Release date: 2 Jan 2025

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EVENTS THIS WEEK DEC.12-DEC.19



Saturday, December 14, 4:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

Santa Monica, CA, USA, Santa Monica, CA

16th Annual SANTA Monica Pub Crawl

Crawl for a Cause at the Largest Holiday Crawl on the West Coast! Join Thousands of Crawlers and Help Those in Need for the Holidays!
Visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/16th-annual-santa-monica-pub-crawl-tickets-1051650574177

Friday, December 13, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows 101 Wilshire Boulevard

BABC LA 64th Annual Christmas Luncheon

Their biggest Event of the year. The BABC LA's 64rd Christmas Luncheon, in Grand British Tradition!
Visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/babc-la-64th-annual-christmas-luncheon-registration-1058328492009

Sunday, December 15, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows 101 Wilshire Boulevard

Meet me Under The Fig Tree

Join us on Sunday, December 15, for a beloved holiday tradition filled with joy and community spirit! From 1 pm to 4 pm, our doors open to guests and locals alike for a festive, free-access celebration. Free. https://www.fairmont-miramar.com/experiences/#!/event/364ec16b-f0f4-4df5-95d0-463f1b1b6439

Sunday, December 15, 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St

All About Santa - the Rudie-DeCarlo holiday musical for kids 2 to 102

"An afternoon of theatre magic in which audience participation and brotherly love pave the way for another happy yuletide season!" raves LA Splash Magazine. It's the timeless Rudie-DeCarlo musical comedy ALL ABOUT SANTA. Where has Santa gone? And how can the inhabitants of the North Pole save the spirit of the holidays from the diabolical machinations of an all-too-commercial world? Complete with perky elves, zany inventors, toy soldiers and porcelain dolls, audiences boo the villain, cheer the heroine, and help to save the day in this delightful holiday event, perfect for the whole family! $12.50 to $15.00—$12.50 for kids 12 and under; $15.00 for adults. Visit: https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/all-about-santa.html

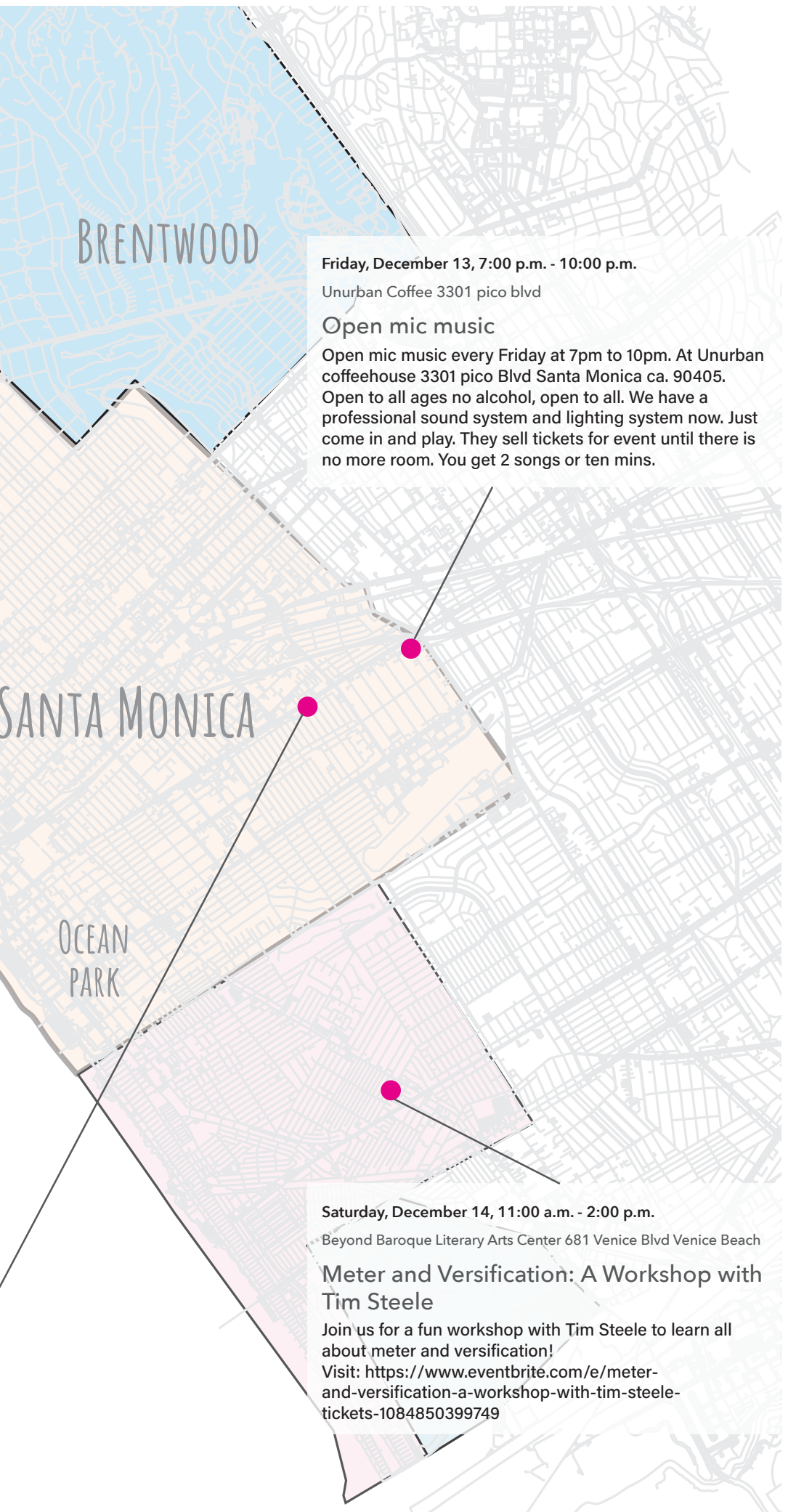
Saturday, December 14, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Ave Park 2200 Virgina Ave

Community Dog Training Classes!

People's Dog Training™, a Love At First Sit® program, offers Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class fee is $5.00, then Pay-What-You-Can after that, with class proceeds are donated to charity. Sign-up at peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training. $5.00 —Class fee is $5.00, then Pay-What-You-Can after that!
Visit: https://www.peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events



Friday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Unurban Coffee 3301 pico blvd

Open mic music

Open mic music every Friday at 7pm to 10pm. At Unurban coffeehouse 3301 pico Blvd Santa Monica ca. 90405. Open to all ages no alcohol, open to all. We have a professional sound system and lighting system now. Just come in and play. They sell tickets for event until there is no more room. You get 2 songs or ten mins.

Saturday, December 14, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center 681 Venice Blvd Venice Beach

Meter and Versification: A Workshop with Tim Steele

Join us for a fun workshop with Tim Steele to learn all about meter and versification!
Visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meter-and-versification-a-workshop-with-tim-steele-tickets-1084850399749



THURSDAY | DECEMBER 12

MUSIC CLASS FOR LITTLE ONES

10:30 - 11 a.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. A professional musician from Elemental Music leads babies, toddlers and their caregivers in this fun class which supports motor skills, language and cognitive development through singing, movement and play. For ages 4 months-3 years and their caregivers.

SONGS OF THE SEASON

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium, Santa Monica Main Library, 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.

LIHI HOD EXCLUSIVE TRUNK SHOW

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. NWLA Bridal, 1627 Montana Ave., Suite D. For Los Angeles brides, step into a world where elegance meets enchantment with the Lihi Hod Dreams 2025 "Twilight" collection debut trunk show. Discover the new collection that brings effortlessly romantic vibes and timeless style for the modern bride. By appointment only, to book visit: https://www.lihihod.com/dreams-lihi-hod-events/#/popup/event/2.

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave., Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. Dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus.

TECH & TASKS

2 - 4 p.m. Tutoring Center, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more.

Rent Control Board Meeting:

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

A TASTE OF CAYMUS VINEYARDS

7 - 9 p.m. Marina Del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey. Embark on an exclusive tasting journey with Caymus Vineyards, a renowned Napa Valley winery, and savor their exquisite collection of wines. Ticket includes three-course dinner (starter, main, dessert), three wine pairings and a take-home souvenir. Tickets $86, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-taste-of-caymus-vineyards-at-the-marina-del-rey-hotel-tickets-768686902217.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 13

BABC LA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Blvd. The best Christmas Luncheon in town, this festive event hosted by the British American Business Council has become a celebrated favorite with the British and American communities in Southern California. Festivities begin with a hosted Champagne Reception, exclusive business networking, followed by a traditional sit-down British Christmas Luncheon. Tickets $250, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/babc-la-64th-annual-christmas-luncheon-registration-1058328492009.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 14

STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

9 - 11 a.m. Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St. Stephen Reid, UC Master Gardener and assistant curator of the Rose Garden at The Huntington, will discuss practical rose care techniques, including deadheading, pruning, fertilizing, and day-to-day care. He will answer questions about your biggest rose challenges. Limited seating, please bring a chair or blanket. Join at 9 a.m. for coffee and pastries, workshop will begin promptly at 10 a.m.

BALANCED DOG GROOMING CHRISTMAS

4 - 9 p.m. 4500 Via Marina, Marina del Rey. In partnership with LA County Shelters, this is a festive celebration filled with fun for the whole family, especially pets. Experience real snow for a winter wonderland vibe, meet your new best friend at a pet adoption event, enjoy a unique dating app for pet lovers and more fun activities. To RSVP, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/balanced-dogs-4th-annual-christmas-event-tickets-1089999801749.

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WILDFIRE

FROM PAGE 1

warnings, residents waited anxiously to see whether their properties had been spared by the fire, which erupted late Monday and grew to more than 6 square miles. It was just 7% contained.

More than 1,500 firefighters were battling the blaze, with many climbing through steep canyons near lines of flames and others hosing down collapsed roofs of horse stables and charred homes. Aircraft dropped water and flame retardant.

The National Weather Service said the strongest Santa Ana winds, with gusts that reached 40 mph, have passed.

Even as the weather was expected to improve, forecasters said gusty winds will continue through Wednesday morning, especially in the mountains, and critical fire conditions remain. Santa Anas are notorious seasonal winds are withering, dry gusts that sweep out of the interior toward the coast, pushing back moist ocean breezes.

Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief Anthony C. Marrone said the blaze, dubbed the Franklin Fire, grew by nearly 40% overnight. At least 7,500 structures, mostly homes, were threatened, with at least 12,600 people under evacuation orders, officials said.

Much of the devastation occurred in Malibu, a community of about 10,000 people on the western edge of Los Angeles known for its stunning bluffs and Zuma Beach, which features in many Hollywood films. Flames burned near horse farms, celebrities' seaside mansions, and Pepperdine University, where students were forced to shelter in place on campus for a second night Tuesday.

Faculty members are determining how best to complete the semester, which ends at Pepperdine this week. Final exams were postponed or canceled, depending on the class, university spokesperson Michael Friel said. An early analysis showed little to no damage to structures on campus, the university said.

Mimi Teller, a Red Cross spokesperson who worked in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood, said many people arrived in their pajamas and were "definitely in shock." Many of the evacuees only had minutes to leave their homes.

"Nobody even had a backpack, it was 'Get out now,'" Teller said. "One lady didn't even have a leash for her dog, she just scooped them up."

Shawn Smith said he was asleep early Tuesday when someone knocked on his RV to wake him up to evacuate the Malibu RV Park around 3 a.m.

"You could see the fires rolling in, in over the canyon. It was like 'Holy crap, this is real,' " he said.

He returned Wednesday to find that the RV park had been saved — firefighters stopped the flames just before they entered the area. But for hours, Smith said no one knew whether they'd return to rubble.

"We got lucky," he said.

It's unclear how the blaze started. Marrone said seven structures had been destroyed and nine others had been damaged.

Lonnie Vidaurri's four-bedroom home in the Malibu Knolls neighborhood is one of the seven destroyed. After evacuating to a hotel in Santa Monica with his wife and two young daughters, a neighbor called to tell Vidaurri that firefighters would need to break into his house.

"It's pretty torched all around," said Vidaurri, 53. He expects that the family's pet bunnies did not survive the fire, and that they lost most of their things. "My girls cried, obviously, but it could have been worse."

Vidaurri is already looking for a temporary home to rent close to Malibu, where his daughters go to school. He thinks it will be at least six months until they can start to do repairs, and isn't expecting much help from insurance — he only has a basic fire policy with California's insurer of last resort. "I don't even know anybody with insurance in Malibu anymore," he said.

In his 10 years living here, Vidaurri has experienced four fire evacuations. "I would say you're kind of numb when you're in Malibu, you just realize that this is part of the equation."

Susanna Savee, who manages the Lucky Bee Ranch in Malibu, said they are not located in a mandatory evacuation zone yet but moved their livestock — miniature cows, goats, and donkeys — to Pierce College's large animal shelter Tuesday evening just in case.

"We wanted to make sure we could get them out before last minute," Savee said.

Van Dyke, one of many celebrities with homes in Malibu, said in a Facebook post that he and his wife, Arlene Silver, evacuated as the fire swept in. Although the couple and most of their animals evacuated safely, one of their cats, Bobo, escaped as they were leaving. "We're praying he'll be OK and that our community in Serra Retreat will survive these terrible fires," he wrote.

Cher evacuated from her Malibu home when ordered and is staying at a hotel, her publicist, Liz Rosenberg, said Tuesday.

The fire erupted shortly before 11 p.m. Monday and swiftly moved south, jumping over the famous Pacific Coast Highway and extending all the way to the ocean, where large homes line the beach and rugged inland canyons are notoriously fire-prone.

Alec Gellis, 31, stayed behind Monday night to save his home in Malibu's Serra Retreat neighborhood from the flames. He used pumps in the home's swimming pool to help spray water over the house and surrounding vegetation, turning the lush area "into a rainforest."

Gellis said there were flames within 5 feet of the home on all sides. "The whole canyon was completely lit up."

Utilities preemptively shut off power to tens of thousands of homes and businesses, starting Monday night, to mitigate the impacts of the Santa Ana winds, whose strong gusts can damage electrical equipment and spark wildfires. As of Wednesday morning, electricity was still out for about 13,500 Southern California Edison customers, including more than 6,000 in the Malibu area, said utility spokesperson Gabriela Ornelas. She said power was first shut off to most customers in Malibu around 6 or 7 p.m. on Monday.

The Woolsey Fire that roared through the area in 2018, killing three people and destroying 1,600 homes, was sparked by Edison equipment. Asked Wednesday if Edison equipment was involved in the Franklin Fire, Ornelas referred all questions regarding the cause to fire officials.

CHRISTOPHER WEBER, JAE C. HONG and GABRIELA AOUN ANGUEIRA Associated Press. Weber reported from Los Angeles and Aoun reported from San Diego. Associated Press journalists Stefanie Dazio in Los Angeles; Amy Taxin in Orange County, California; Sarah Brumfield in Washington; and Eric Thayer, Damian Dovarganes and Jaimie Ding in Malibu, California, contributed to this report.

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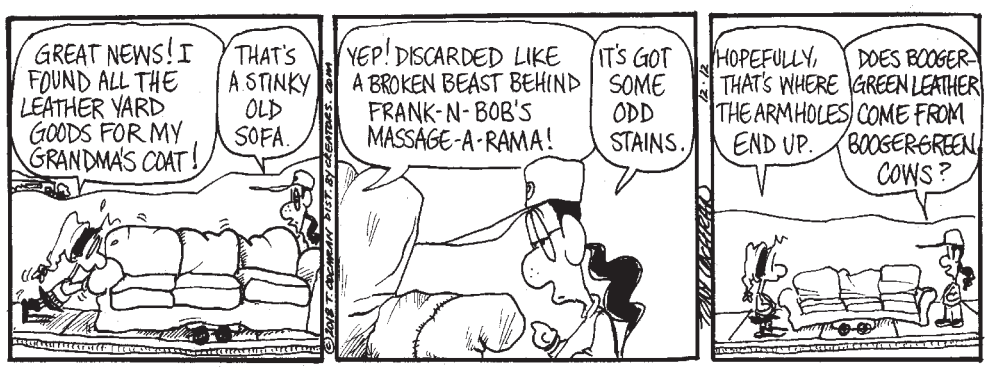


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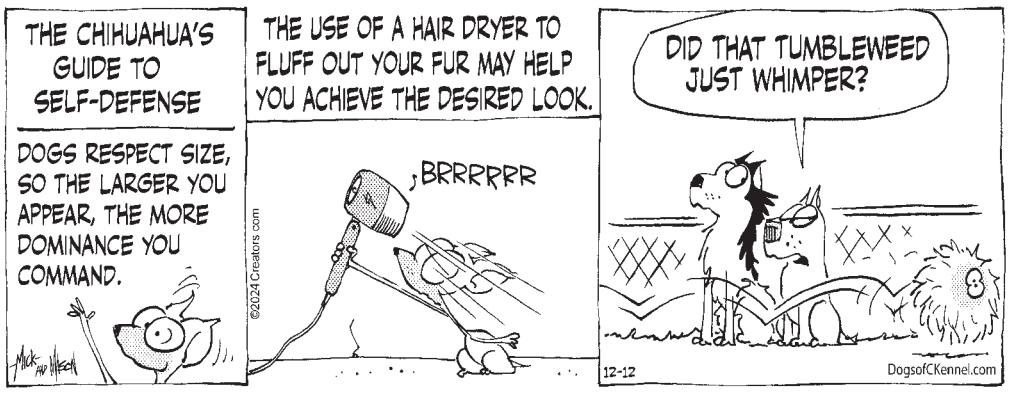
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

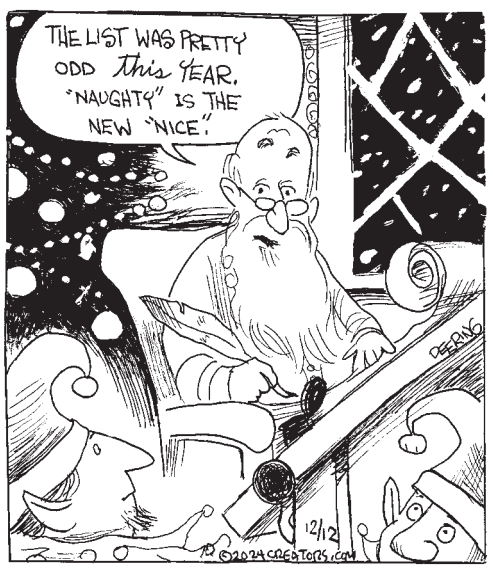
By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S THE CHRISTMAS HAM CAROL."

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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6422

High tea time

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

A la carte	Eclair	Jams	Pizza
Aperitif	Entrepreneur	Joie de vivre	Saute
Apple turnover	Etiquette	Lamb	Scones
Attache	Flour	Mousse	Slice
Beer	Fondant	Muffins	Sweet
Buns	Gateau	Pasta	Tiramisu
Cakes	Gelato	Pavlova	Trays
Cashews	Grease	Peanuts	Wine
Cocoa	Hotel	Pies	
	Icing		

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 12)

The universe is preparing you for a big role. A wave of ambition will wash over you, and you'll soon be setting sail on an adventure to new ports, skill sets and mindsets. More highlights: The demands of a project bring your inner artist alive. You'll shine at events and connect with an entirely new circle. The thing you were trying to compensate for becomes a precious asset. Virgo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 21, 30, 7, and 22.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What captivates you is a steady character, a rich inner life and the courage to be genuine. Seek those who reveal their true colors in subtle ways, as they hold the kind of strength you admire most.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're careful not to project onto people qualities they do not possess. Last time you did that, you were surprised by what unfolded, and not in a good way. So now you'll take everything at face value and be guided by proof.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you change, what will happen as a result? This is the unknown that keeps you moving forward in faith and curiosity. Surprises and unexpected delights are around the bend.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A special relationship gets attention. You'll communicate better when you see the other person differently. Assume the best, amp up the respect, get in touch with your natural warmth. Your attitude and approach win the day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When trouble follows a person, you'd be remiss not to stay vigilant and aware when you are near that person. And though they may be innocent indeed, they still pose risks you don't have to factor in when you're with the trouble-free.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll pinpoint your apprehensions about a relationship. This speaks to your merit as a partner. You're fully aware that allowing yourself to be known comes with risks, and you dive in anyway because bonds are worth it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A gift of the day -- beautifully uncomplicated spaces that are like boxes filled with nothing but potential. These spaces may be in rooms, or in the pauses between activities. These spaces may live in peaceful moments of your heart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You already know what it's like to be a tether ball, trying to get away from the pole but going in circles around it instead. So when the tether is cut, take off any way you can. Wandering, or even getting lost, will be an improvement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Happiness wraps around well-placed commitments. It's worth studying the lives of those who already hold what you're seeking. Their happiness may hold clues to fulfilling success or reveal the limitations of a particular path.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your ability to do the things you tell yourself to do and behave in a preferred manner depends on understanding your own emotional landscape. Unrecognized feelings motivate uncontrolled action.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Focus has always been a prized asset, but its worth has never been as paramount as it is in this century. Recognizing the true value of your attention sets you apart, placing you in a class above.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've built much in your life, but this relationship will form differently. It's not about creating or constructing; it's about opening up, granting trust and welcoming someone into your world. True connection happens through allowing, not building.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

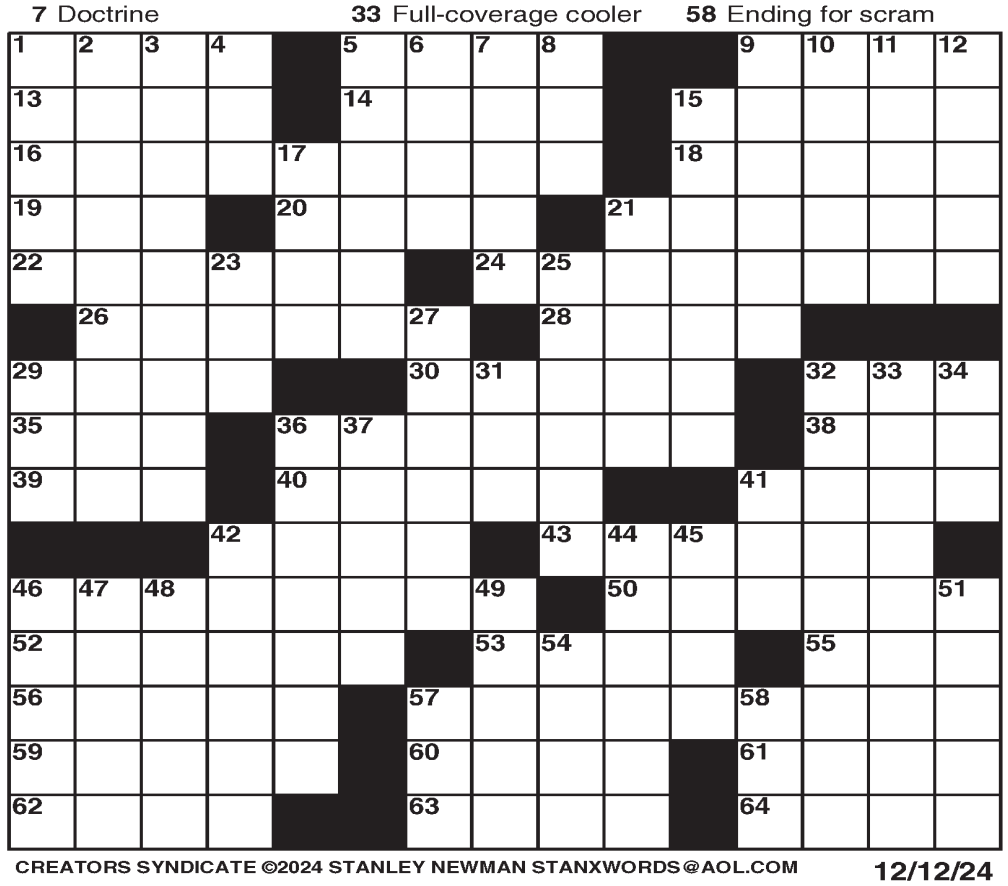
FINISHED WITH BAKING by Gary M. Larson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Carefree outing
5 Hankering
9 Return-mail encl.
13 Bath gel ingredient
14 Goo in bogs
15 Gooey sandwiches
16 Sweetie
18 Divas' deliveries
19 __-Wan Kenobi
20 Ideal for cacti
21 Unvarying
22 Really irritate
24 Resides in
26 Work schedules
28 Handed-down history
29 Minute quantity
30 Esteem to the extreme
32 Bat Appreciation Mo.
35 Sign of summer
36 Recessed spaces
38 "Innovative" prefix
39 Suffix for dull
40 Snickering sound
41 Gracious guy
42 Nautical adverb
43 EB White mouse
46 Brash newcomers
50 State strongly
52 "Good riddance"
53 Narrated yarn
55 *Mer* contents
56 Get __ on (find out about)
57 Provides the funds for
59 Cellphone diversions
60 Small snack
61 Security issue
62 Angry feelings
63 Raised, as rabbits
64 Rainbow curves

DOWN

1 Repair bill detail
2 White sculpture stone
3 Legendary bowman
4 Pivotal
5 Turkish hostel
6 Hawaiian restaurant's __ torch
7 Doctrine
8 Stags and bucks
9 Poncho relative
10 Interrogation story
11 Out of practice
12 Road curves
15 Grows up
17 Young whale
21 Conductor's reference
23 Common Korean surname
25 Garlic portions
27 Perfumed pouch
29 Taking after
31 Forest female
32 Short silent film
33 Full-coverage cooler
34 Day care participant
36 Where the world is flat
37 Impolite looks
41 Grill fuel
42 Is repentant
44 Had a discussion
45 Antivirus downloader
46 Sushi bar eels
47 Cap or bear preceder
48 Thin mud
49 Story connector
51 Elongated incisors
54 Poker opener
57 Consumer protection org.
58 Ending for scram



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12/12/24

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

PUB CRAWL

FROM PAGE 1

Starting by actually collecting food in cans and boxes, the endeavor became too difficult for volunteers to carry the offerings back to the Westside warehouse. Moving to a percentage of sales helping the food bank has provided even more food due to the nonprofit buying in bulk.

Now over a decade and a half into the fun, the 2024 edition will be packed on both Main Street and Promenade routes. A ticket to the crawl unlocks exclusive drink deals and discounted food items throughout the night, as well as a free drink for the first 500 participants on each route, beginning at 4 p.m.

Participating bars and restaurants include Jameson's, Barney's Beanery, Santa Monica Whaler, Tavern on Main, and Harvelle's which will be having live music throughout the event. A new addition is The Bungalow, which will act as the beginning of the Promenade route with activation in the parking lot such as photo booths and tastings.

A Main Street favorite, The Victorian, will be bringing the holiday spirit with live "snow" as well as photo opportunities with Santa Claus himself. There will also be Santa's Scavenger Hunt as well as prizes for the best holiday costume, opportunities Koury said will make the event "interactive and something fun that people of all ages can participate in."

"We want families and co-workers to come out and dress up and support their businesses and just spread merry good cheer and help crawl for a cause," Koury added.

Westside Food Bank will also be represented the following day at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows for the annual Meet Me Under the Fig Tree event. The Fairmont is partnering with the food bank, as well as Santa MoniCARES and Chrysalis to accept donations of canned food, gently worn clothing and monetary gifts.

The spirit of the season is a needed one for the food bank, which has faced cuts in its food purchasing budget this year due to donations being down. Through Dec. 31, The Johnny Carson Foundation and a pool of anonymous donors are matching gifts to the food bank dollar-for-dollar, making donations go twice as far.

"We're really asking the community to be as generous as they can … because we've never needed help quite as much as we do this year," Riutort said.

For more information on the Pub Crawl and to purchase tickets, visit santamonicapubcrawl.com. For more information on the Westside Food Bank, visit wsfb.org.

thomas@smdp.com

NATIVITY

FROM PAGE 1

original displays.

"These days, they've been refurbished a little bit over the years, but it's vintage though, it fits Main Street, in my opinion. You know, it's not flashy or fancy and people are used to big budget light shows these days, but we're at a crossroads, because we don't really want to take away the quietness and the truth of the stories is sold in an old fashioned way," Czer said.

In September 2003, Santa Monica City Council banned unattended overnight displays from city parks with one exception: two blocks may be used for "winter displays" in December and early January. For seven years, between 2003 and 2010, all 14 of the Santa Monica Nativity scenes were displayed at Palisades Park.

However, in 2011 the City of Santa Monica acceded to the complaints from "an out of town atheist" and the ousting of the scenes from Palisades Park began and only three scenes were permitted to be displayed.

In mid 2012, the Santa Monica Nativity Scene lost a lawsuit against the City Council, despite heavy citizen support and consequently, the Scenes were banned from Palisades Park. But later that same year, all 14 nativity scenes were displayed at the Watt Companies site on Ocean Park Blvd, near Santa Monica Airport. For the next two years, 13 scenes were displayed at Mount Olive Lutheran Church near 14th and Ocean Park Blvd. Then for the next seven years, between 2015 and 2022, the display was presented at Calvary Baptist Church on 20th Street and Broadway.

Last year, no scenes were displayed due to lack of funding, but this year Czer very much hopes it will be the beginning of a new, unbroken run.

"One year, I was setting up the character of Simeon (a priest visited by God who guided Mary when Jesus was a baby) and Mary and Joseph are standing there, and Mary's holding the baby, and so on and this man walks by as we're setting up the mannequins and he says to me, 'So that's Moses, right?' And of course I was like 'Oh, my goodness,' because nobody knows what the story is, because progressively, as a culture, we've become biblically illiterate," Czer says.

Incidentally, the story of Moses and the story of the birth of Jesus are separated by about 1,500 years.

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AROUND TOWN

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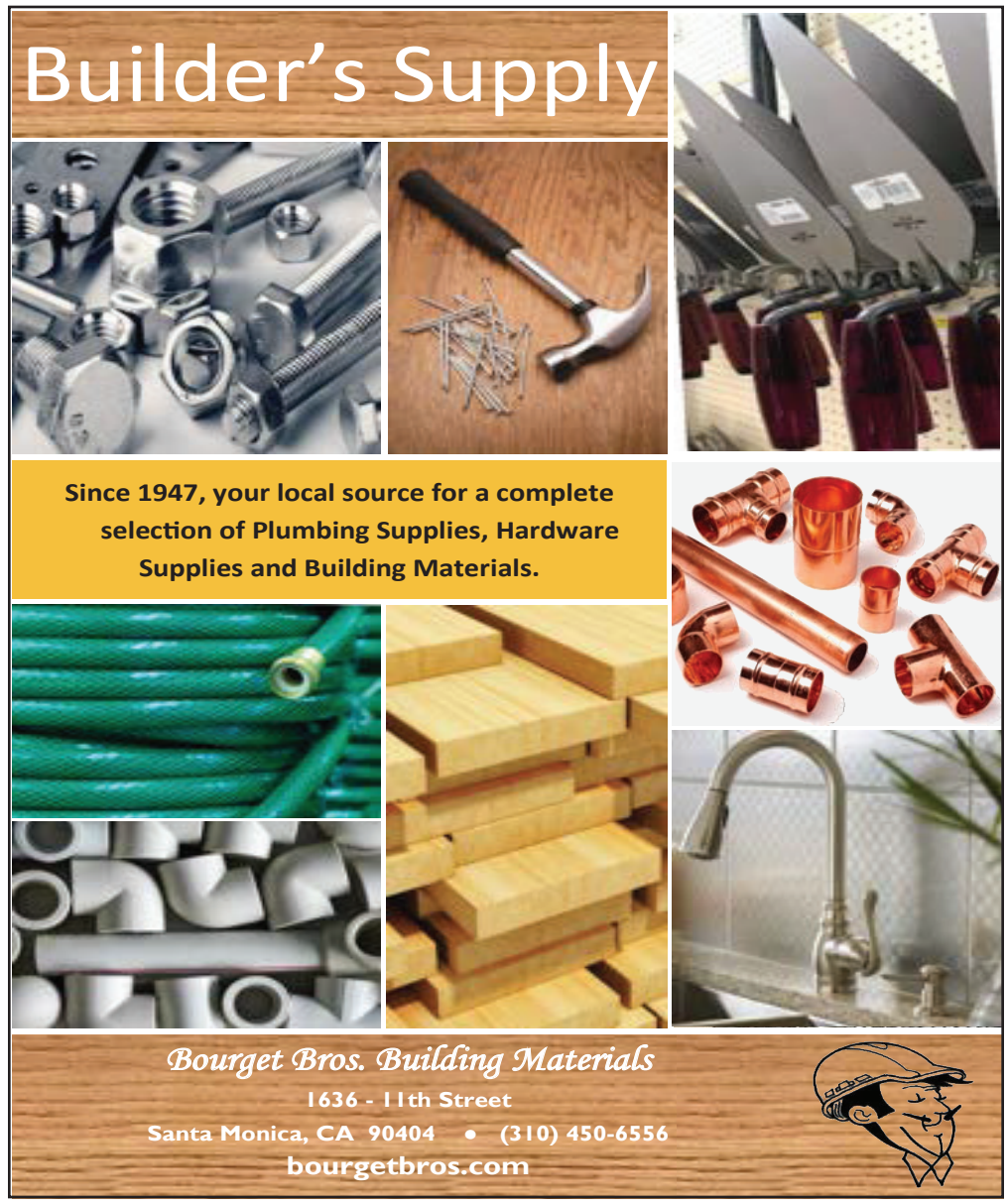
www.instagram.com/holeygraildonuts/

Fitoor Contemporary Indian Grill & Lounge Opening: The idea is to "bring fire-based Indian cooking to new heights, blending the bold, timeless flavors of tradition with surprising and modern twists" … while drawing inspiration from its beachside setting to infuse the menu with vibrant seafood creations. 1755 Ocean Ave. https://eatdrinkfitoor.com/santa-monica/

Further Afield: PetCon: Billed as "the ultimate event for pet lovers," with meet-and-greets featuring top pet influencers, pet adoptions, an agility course with Baloo the Bunny Eared Bully, a holiday market, expert speaker sessions, and more. Saturday, Dec. 14, Annenberg PetSpace, 12005 Bluff Creek Dr, Playa Vista https://www.petcon.co

Looking Ahead: Sandy Cane Lane Locals' Night on the Pier (12/19); Cthulhu Christmas (12/21)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Meet Me Under The Fig Tree, Marina Holiday Boat Parade, & More







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